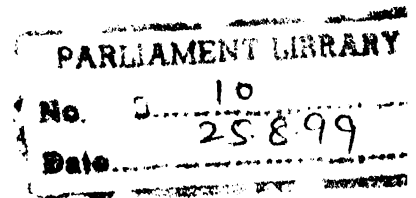


LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. II contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, June 3, 1998/ Jyaistha 13, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Condition of Farmers

*102. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared any specific programme to improve the condition of farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said programme is likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c) Government is implementing a number of crop-specific production programmes covering cereals, pulses and oilseeds, horticulture, sugarcane, jute and cotton. These programmes provide input and other support measures to the farmers. New initiatives are proposed to be undertaken to exploit ground and surface water potentialities of the high potential low-productivity areas in the country to exploit in full the production potential of these regions. A Technology Mission on Cotton will be launched and efforts at watershed development accelerated on the basis of the 25 year perspective plan prepared by the Planning Commission. Schemes for the revitalisation of the cooperatives and the rural credit structure are on the anvil. For accelerating the completion of on-going irrigation projects an accelerated irrigation benefits programme has been launched. The Rural Infrastructure Development Fund under NABARD, employment and income generating schemes, and the subsidised supply of inputs like fertilizers, high-yielding variety seeds, water and power besides the remunerative price support system are aimed at improving the productivity and thus the economic lot of farmers. All these programmes as well as efforts aimed at doubling food production in the country in the next 10 years would make

the country hunger-free and improve the condition of farmers all round.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to my question, the hon. Minister has mentioned various schemes of irrigation, power supply, financial loans and other schemes launched for the welfare of farmers. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards an important problem which has not been taken up.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, farmers suffer huge losses due to natural calamities, be it hailstorm, heavy rains, scanty rain, drought flood or loss caused by insects. In the existing laws there is no provision to provide compensation for the losses suffered by farmers due to damage of crops by these natural calamities. Farmers do not get any compensation for their crops and this leads to deterioration in their financial condition and they are compelled to fall in debt trap. There is no provision in legislation to write off this debt and thus farmers have to face hard times. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Agriculture whether he proposes to enact any legislation for providing compensation to farmers for losses suffered by them due to damage to crops by natural calamities ?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not that there is no provision for compensation for losses suffered due to natural calamities. Tenth Finance Commission had made two types of recommendations for it. National Development Council accepted these recommendations and constituted Natural Calamities Relief Fund for the period of 1995 to 2000 and a National Calamities Relief Fund. Natural Calamities Relief Fund has been set up for providing compensation to farmers whose crops are damaged due to natural calamities. State Governments are responsible for payment of this compensation. The Government of India provide 75 per cent subscription to this relief fund and remaining 25 per cent is paid by State Governments. State Governments make arrangements for providing compensation. In certain circumstances when State Governments are unable to provide compensation due to resources crunch then they inform the central government accordingly. *prima facie* the government finds that state government is unable to meet the contingency with its own resources, then a study team is sent which submits its report to the National Development Council. The Committee of National Development Council which consists of five Chief Ministers and three Cabinet Ministers as its members, takes decision on it as per the fixed guidelines, principles and rules and allocation of funds is made accordingly for providing compensation.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Mutai region of Madhya Pradesh 27 farmers were killed during firing by police on farmers, who staged demonstration to seek compensation for losses suffered due to natural calamities. In the same way many farmers of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra had committed suicide. I do not feel that farmers were given any relief or aid under the above mentioned schemes.

My second question is about the various schemes of providing loan, credit policy scheme and irrigation projects

launched by the government as has been mentioned by the hon. Minister. In Madhya Pradesh lands of almost 1.5 lakh farmers have been auctioned by the Land Development Corporation and several irrigation projects are lying pending and thus fields could not be irrigated. I would like to say that several such schemes are formulated but these could not be implemented. I would like to know whether the government has any plan for immediate implementation of such schemes.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question asked by the hon. member relates to the Department of Water Resources. However, most of the projects relating to water resources are implemented by the State Governments. I would like to say that in the current budget allocation has been increased by 58 per cent for the Extended Irrigation Benefit Scheme. This will result in additional facilities for irrigation. It has been emphasized that irrigation projects in final stage should be completed at the earliest so that additional arrangements for irrigation could be made in next two three years. The Central Government follows it and central loan assistance is provided under this scheme.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply given by the hon. Minister it has been mentioned that the government propose to make optimum utilization of ground and surface water in the regions of low productivity with higher potential. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has identified the areas of low productivity with higher potential and whether Bhind, Satna, Reewa, Seadhi, Shahdol, Panna, Chhatarpur and Tikamgarh areas of Madhya Pradesh come under it or not?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. member is quite correct when he says that mostly poor people live in those areas which lack proper irrigation facility and are, therefore, areas of low productivity. The Government has formulated a National Watershed Development Project for the areas depending on rainfall. A project has been formulated for the areas which lack water resources including perennial rivers, where canals cannot be dug or are non-existent and where rainfall is also scanty. I would like to inform that Planning Commission has formulated a 25 year project which will cost Rs. 75800 crore and it will be implemented during the next Five Year Plan. This will bring additional 64.3 million hectares of land under Irrigation. In the current budget Rs. 677 crore have been allocated for it. The areas, mentioned by the hon. Member fall under the area of low productivity and these projects would be implemented there.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have another supplementary question related with it (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramanand Singh, please sit down.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR
Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the hon. Prime Minister was kind enough when he came to Dhulia in his first election meeting to announce that he will look into the problems of the farmers and go in for agricultural insurance scheme also.

I do not know as to what has happened to that scheme I would like to know from the hon. Minister, since he is saying that he is taking steps to improve the conditions of the farmer, whether the Maharashtra Government's Scheme of Monopoly Cotton Scheme would be extended for five years.

The conditions of the farmer depend upon the soil conditions. I would like to know whether you are going to make efforts to analyse the soil conditions of different parts of the country using the new technology that is available, so that the farmer knows as to what kind of fertilizer to be used and in what quantum it is to be used.

SHRI SOMPAL : So far as the insurance scheme is concerned, there is already one scheme in operation which is known as the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme. But, recently we have taken a decision to come out with another scheme which will be known as Modified Crop Insurance Scheme wherein we have seen to it that there will be no limit to the amount insured. The earlier scheme had a limit of Rs. 10,000 and it was applicable to only small and marginal farmers. This insurance will cover all the crops and all the farmers. They will have two components; one will be the loanee component. Under this it will be made compulsory to have insurance to any amount which a farmer has taken as loan. This second will be voluntary; even those farmers who have not taken loan also come under this scheme. For this Rs. 100 crore has already been earmarked in this Budget. We will come out with a proper legislative framework as well as institutional set up and the damage assessment system in due course and soon it will be made operational.

Coming to the second part of the hon. Member's question about soil testing facilities, I do confess that soil testing facilities are not adequate in rural areas and this scheme has to be updated with adequate number of soil testing facilities and the latest techniques should be there. Our Krishi Vigyan Kendras, various universities, State Institutions and the research centres are doing their job, but it is not adequate and it must be updated as well as sufficient number of testing facilities should be provided.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : He has not replied to my question about the Cotton Monopoly Scheme. It is a very important question.

SHRI SOMPAL : Maharashtra is the only State where this scheme is in operation.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : I would like to know whether you would grant extension.

SHRI SOMPAL : Immediately I cannot say; I will send the information.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are many questions but I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister towards one small issue. There was one scheme for sprinkler and drip irrigation. For that purpose, 50 to 75% grant was being allocated during my tenure. When Deve Gowdaji came to power, he announced that 75% grant to ordinary farmer and 90% grant to farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes would be given. But later on, it was found that grant was not being given and even if it was given, it was very less. In some places, they give Rs. 5000 per acre and in some place they give Rs. 7000 per acre. They do not give the remaining amount. This scheme will be more beneficial only in the area where there is no irrigation facility and where you want to produce more. There is no other method as good as this is to eradicate poverty and to save water. The Prime Minister is present here. Thank god, he has come. 'Kufr tuta Khuda- Khuda Karke.' That day when you did not come, I felt hurt. Will the hon. Minister tell us the time by which that scheme will be implemented because in this budget there is no mention of this scheme? No allocation has been made and hence consequences will be fatal.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the subsidy scheme under which advanced techniques of irrigation were used for optimum use of water and to increase production still exists and grants are being given to the farmers under this scheme. Right now, I do not have the figures regarding the percentage of grants.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Can you give us information as to how much grant is being given, and when and in what form the grant will be released?

SHRI SOMPAL : Even today 70% of subsidy to general farmers and 90% to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women farmers is being given.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I am saying that grant was not given.

SHRI SOMPAL : Rs. 15,000 per hectare is being given for this purpose.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : No limit was fixed for land, howsoever little may be the size of land holding because it is a matter of country's interest. Therefore, I want you to give reply after considering this point. Hon'ble Prime Minister, it is the best scheme about which we are referring to.

SHRI SOMPAL : I will send this information to you as to how much grant is being given.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has in his reply stated that farmers will be provided with all facilities through different schemes within the next ten years. Besides, efforts have been made to improve their condition and to ensure all round development. Now rainy season has started but there are many dry regions in Gujarat where farmers have to face difficulty every time.

There is lack of resources in Gujarat. In every village there is one pond. If the pond is deepened then it is filled with water during rainy season and the villagers can use that water for irrigation and for drinking purpose throughout the year. The number of JCB Machines in Gujarat is very small. I would like to tell you, for example, that in one Tehsil two machines are working and the farmers in such areas are very happy. If JCB machines are provided there in every village for two or three days, the farmer can deepen the pond with his labour. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would make any effort to provide JCB Machines to Gujarat government from the Central Government.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member has raised a very important issue. The area which wholly depend upon rainwater and the area where there is less rainfall, there is no other way out except collecting rainwater in surface and underground water resources. I have mentioned about the project prepared by the Planning Commission and it is to be implemented in Five Year Plan and its estimated cost is Rs.75,800 crores. Under this project, Water Shed Management Technique was adopted to collect and recharge water in ponds, lakes and other natural sources. The government considers this programme as part of the project and propose to revive it. The Central Government will provide assistance for it. The Central Government is providing hundred per cent contribution for this project to the State Government.

I have already informed the House that the revised estimate for the year 1997-98 was Rs. 517 crores which has been increased to Rs. 677 Crores this time.

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a lot of programmes are being taken up for improving the conditions of farmers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would like to constitute a Parliamentary Committee consisting of hon. Members with agricultural background from both the Houses to assess the effectiveness of these programmes and to assess how much money goes towards the benefit of the farmers

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member through you that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture is already working in this direction. If the Hon'ble Member is interested, he can get himself nominated in this committee through his party and attend its meeting.

This Committee is already working in this regard and is accomplishing a very important task. I have been associated with it.

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in his reply has stated that under the 25 years perspective plan formulated by the Planning

Commission, efforts will be made to produce better quality of cotton and other crops. The second thing which he has stated is that Government is going to initiate the schemes to strengthen the co-operative societies and rural credit system.

[English]

The agricultural growth rate has reached a stagnation point. It is because there is a decline in soil fertility due to water-logging, salinity and over-use of pesticides. I would like to know what steps are being taken by the Government to stop this decline.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you pay attention towards it, you will see that if a factory owner does not repay the loan worth crores of rupees taken from the banks, his loan is written off. However, if a farmer takes loan from the bank or from any other organisation..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the supplementary question. You are not supposed to make a speech.

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH : Yes, I am only asking the supplementary question.

[Translation]

If a farmer does not repay the loan taken from Bank or from a co-operative society, he is sent to jail. Whether the Hon'ble Minister would like to state that if there is any plan under consideration of the Government to consider the factory owner at par with farmer and likewise he should also be sent to the jail. This will resolve the injustice done to the farmers.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Shri Surendra Singh has raised many question. The last question which he has asked is about the recovery of loans. I would like to remind the Hon'ble Member through you that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has stated in this Budget Speech that farmers will not be arrested for non-recovery of loans from them. Necessary directions are going to be issued in this regard to Reserve Bank, all nationalised banks and other loan sanctioning Institutions. Efforts are being made to simplify the process of lending and recovery of loans. Arrangements are being made for the settlement of loans so that farmers may not be harassed. This Government has already announced this policy and we will implement it.

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a complete reply to my question has not been given. The main reason behind the mass suicide by the farmers in South India was their incapability to repay the loan taken from the banks or from the cooperative societies..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, Shri Surendra, please sit down. You can not ask the question like this.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I belong to the Jaisalmer and Barmer area of Western Rajasthan. You may be aware of the fact that on an average during eight out of ten years drought conditions prevail there. There are no means of irrigation in that area. The water level of the wells and underground water is going down. Difficulties are being faced by those who have made investment there. We have noticed that 55% people live below poverty line there, whereas national average is 34%. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister through you that whether there is any package or any scheme for the poor and famine stricken peasants of Western Rajasthan so that they could be benefitted (Interruptions) The Hon'ble Prime Minister had also gone there. I had written him earlier also that on the lines of hilly areas and North-east, vast desert regions should also be given some concessions..... (Interruptions) It concerns the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask supplementary question.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking the supplementary question. There is no source of water there, only recently a canal has been dug upto Rajasthan. I would like to know whether any package is being provided to these farmers or not? If you cannot do that, then at least give them the same concessions which have been given to the hilly areas of North-east region. It will help them to maintain means of living. As on today, about 55-56% of the farmers have migrated to various other places like Ganga Nagar, Haryana and Gujarat..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

[Translation]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important Question. We seldom get the opportunity to speak. (Interruptions) There is no one to look after Western Rajasthan. The area is in the grip of poverty. All the leaders work for the hilly areas and north-eastern regions but nobody cares about this desert area..... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Sir, we have spent almost 25 minutes on this question. We have to take up the next question which is also a very important question (Interruptions)

[Translation]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : I would like the Hon'ble Prime Minister to give a considered reply. Recently nuclear tests have been conducted in Pokhran. In 1974 also, nuclear test was conducted there. I would like to say that something should be done for the development of this area (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Lucknow Package is there.

PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Member has raised a question with regard to an area which is the most neglected area of Rajasthan. It is a desert area. I do agree with him that we have not launched any special scheme for the development of this area as we have done for some other areas. He has given a very good suggestion. It will be taken into consideration and action will be taken in this regard (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 103, Shri Mukul Wasnik

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already allowed eight hon. Members to put their supplementaries. The next question is also more or less on the same subject. Shri Mukul Wasnik.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. A discussion under Rule 193 is also going on, on the same subject, even then I have allowed eight hon. Members to put their supplementaries. Please understand the position and take your seats.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down first .

[English]

Anti Poverty Programme

*103. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people living below poverty line ;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any study to assess the effectiveness of the on going anti-poverty programmes ; and

(c) 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) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per the latest available information 320.37 million persons are estimated to live below the poverty line in 1993-94. This is 35.97% of the total population.

(b) and (c) The Government reviews the implementation of rural poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes, namely the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), and the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) from time to time in the Central Level Coordination Committee (CLCC), State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) and at the district level by the Governing Body of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs). These programmes are also reviewed through regular progress reports from the states on key indicators and through an intensive regimen of field inspections by officers of the centre, state and implementing agencies. Periodic review meetings with State Secretaries incharge of Rural Development and Conferences of Project Directors of DRDAs are also held to review the progress in the implementation of these schemes. Monitoring and Vigilance Committees have been set up at the State, district and block levels in which elected representatives of the people have been associated to monitor the implementation of these schemes.

Furthermore, to assess the overall impact of various poverty alleviation programmes, in relation to their specific objectives, the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment undertakes periodic concurrent evaluations of their major schemes through independent recognised institutions/organisations.

Some of the positive points listed among the main findings of the latest Concurrent Evaluation Report on IRDP (September 1992- August 1993) were that : (a) While 15.96% families assisted crossed the poverty line of Rs. 11,000 per annum, the additional annual income of more than Rs. 2,000 was generated to a large percentage (57.34%) of families. The Annual income from the assets was more than Rs.6,000 in 29% cases (b) 95% of the beneficiaries felt that the type of assets provided to them were according to their choice. A large number of beneficiaries also found the assets to be of a good quality. The areas of concern reported were : (a) a very poor linkage of IRDP with Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA); and that (b) In 45% cases the settlement of claim preferred by the beneficiaries for perished assets remained unsettled.

Similarly some of the positive points revealed in the Concurrent Evaluation of JRY (1993-94) were that (a) Construction of rural link roads received the highest priority by the Village Panchayats at the all India level. Besides linking villages to other parts of the country, rural roads created more employment opportunities for the rural poor. (b) In almost all the States/UTs barring Punjab, the average wage paid per manday to the unskilled workers were more or less equal to the minimum wages prescribed under the Act. (c) In 86.87% of JRY works, Muster rolls were

maintained and were available with the village panchayats. (d) The JRY workers were almost unanimous in reporting that the assets created were useful for the poor people. The Areas of Concern reported were that : (a) Only 42.56 % heads of elected panchayats were imparted training for implementation of JRY works. (b) The share of women in the employment generated was only 16.59%; and (c) Only 35.7% panchayats had displayed the details of works undertaken on the notice boards for the information of public.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to have some information (Interruptions)

Please listen for a minute (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Please do not waste the time of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not asking any question(Interruptions)

I am saying that

MR. SPEAKER : This is Question Hour and you can ask only questions during it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take it easy.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I would like to make a submission that when all this was going on between India and Pakistan then we were quite close to Nepal (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : At that time attention was not paid towards it and even now no attention is being paid towards it (Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question relates to farmers (Interruptions) so far no committee has been sent to Maharashtra even after the assurance given by the hon. Prime Minister..... (Interruptions) You are not allowing me to raise my point (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you a chance.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : What are you talking (Interruptions) How is it that only you will speak here? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you a chance later on. Please take your seat .

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very important question and the Prime Minister must reply to it (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already called Question No. 103.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chavan, I have already called Question No. 103 and the hon. Member is on his legs.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : From the reply tabled by the hon. Minister, it seems that the Government is conducting a regular review of the poverty alleviation programmes and employment generation programmes of the Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation Department. Moreover, from the reply, it seems that the Government is very much satisfied with the implementation of the various programmes. I personally would like to state that I am absolutely not satisfied with the implementation of the poverty alleviation programmes. The implementation has been extremely poor. We are dealing with questions regarding those people who live below the poverty line. As per the information submitted by the hon. Minister, even now we have 320 million people who live below the poverty line. That is the latest information which the hon. Minister could furnish.

I have the Report of the Standing Committee which went into the Demands for Grants of the Department of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation. I would just like to quote some of the figures. The schemes were opening with unspent balance or accumulated amount, as reported in 1996-97 on the various poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes, are :

IRD P	- Rs. 376.91 crore
DWCRA	- Rs. 19.81 crore
TRYSEM	- Rs. 36.4 crore
Improved tool kits to rural artisans	- Rs. 11.31 crore
Jawahar Rozgar Yojana	- Rs. 832.27 crore
Indira Awas Yojana	- Rs. 198.44 crore
Million wells Scheme	- Rs. 228.09 crore
Employment Assurance Scheme	- Rs. 959.55 crore
DPAP	- Rs. 106 crore
DDP	- Rs. 35.73 crore

The amount which has not been spent come to Rs. 2700 crore. It is an accumulated amount. I am not blaming anybody. It is an unspent amount of the poverty alleviation programmes.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister the efforts planned by the Government to ensure that all the funds which are earmarked for the poverty alleviation programmes and employment generation programmes are utilised and utilised properly.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, it is true that there have been many deficiencies in the implementation of the poverty alleviation programmes. If you read my reply carefully, you will find that I have said like this which you have also stated: "The areas of concern reported were (a) a very poor linkage of IRDP with TRYSEM and DWCRA." Even in our evaluation programme, we have observed that these are the areas of concern. I am giving you the information based on facts. So, it is true that the amounts are not spent; we will try our best to ensure that these programmes are improved. On the basis of their experience, even the hon. Members can suggest the improvements needed these schemes, wherever they are required. The schemes can be improved and we are open for improvement. But I must tell you the fact that whatever has happened was based on the report of the evaluation. So, it does not mean that we are satisfied. When 35 per cent of our country are below the poverty line, it definitely is a concern of all. We will try to improve their lot.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : The Parliament, through the Constitution (Seventy-third) Amendment had mandated the Government to delegate substantial administrative and financial powers to the Panchayati Raj institutions. Several poverty alleviation programmes are run and implemented by the Panchayati Raj institutions at the district, block and village levels. But it has come to our notice that in several States, the powers have not been sufficiently delegated to the Panchayati Raj institutions. This has adversely affected the implementation of the poverty alleviation programmes.

I would like to give an example from Maharashtra State. Even in Maharashtra, today - after so many years - we see that the powers are more with the officials than with the elected representatives of the Panchayati Raj institutions. The Centre had given directions that Presidents of the Zilla Parishads will be the Chairmen of the district-level committees under the DRDA. But in many States, even today, the chief executive officers of the Zilla Parishad and in some States, the Collector is the Chairman of the DRDA district-level committee.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what are the steps which the Government plans to take to ensure that the Constitution (Seventy-third) Amendment is fully implemented in letter and spirit and the Panchayati Raj institutions get their powers so that the poverty alleviation programmes are implemented properly.

I would like to appeal specifically to the Prime Minister that we are entering into the 21st Century and the state of

affairs is not satisfactory. Several million people live below the poverty line. Therefore, an all-out effort should be made to ensure that we are able to uplift the people who live below the poverty line. So, I would like to have intervention of the hon. Prime Minister in this regard.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, it is certainly true that the programme implementation agencies are still having a sort of bureaucratic hold on them. This issue was discussed by the last Lok Sabha in detail. It was decided that even the Members of Parliament should play a meaningful role. Instructions were issued in 1997. But from my experience, I would say that the instructions are not followed in letter and spirit. It will be the responsibility of this Government that the scheme is followed in letter and spirit.

I would urge upon the hon. Members that if they find in their areas that the officers concerned with Panchayati Raj system and the Zilla Parishad are not functioning properly, complaints against such individuals can also be given. But it should be the responsibility of the Government. We will see that the bureaucracy works accordingly.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Members of Parliament are not associated with all these Programmes. MLAs are given full powers in it.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, in the reply that has been given about the areas of concern, I thought that at least Shri Ram Naik would read the next sentence. There is a mention about no coordination and also about rural youth, self-employment and development of women and children.

Then, on page 2 of the reply, it is stated that under the JRY, the share of women in the employment generated was only 16.59 per cent. We are 50 percent of the population. But the work is available only for 16.59 per cent. Is this the way to empower women? If not, may I know what steps are being thought about by the Government to improve this situation in this particular context?

SHRI RAM NAIK : I think, you are aware of the position and you also had been a Member of the Study Group that was constituted for this purpose. That is why, I have clearly said in my reply that it is an area of concern. I have not said, as the hon. Member Shri Wasnik tried to say, that I am satisfied or the Government is satisfied with the progress of the scheme. The Government is certainly not satisfied with the progress. That is why we have said that the share of women in employment generation was only 16.59 per cent.

If you refer to the first paragraph of the reply, I have mentioned about that area of concern and I quote:

"A very poor linkage of IRDP with training of TRYSEM and DWCRA".

DWCRA, as you know, was a scheme intended for giving benefits to the women. That is an area of concern

and that is what we have said. I am saying that we will ensure that the scheme is effected properly. At any place if you find any fault with the operators, we will take your suggestion and act accordingly.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has told that 320.37 million persons are living below poverty line. Sir, through you, I would like to say that people living in areas below poverty line are compelled to migrate to other parts of the country every year due to non-availability of work. I would like to know whether the government propose to formulate any special programme to check such migration? Besides, I would like to know

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : I am asking the supplementary. Primitive tribals of Madhya Pradesh like Kamar, Gunjhiã, Bega, Korba, Korbu and Beerhor are living below poverty line and due to lack of employment opportunities even today they live in utter poverty and face starvation. Has any special programme been formulated for them?

SHRI RAM NAIK : In response to the issue raised by the hon. Member, I would like to say that the Employment Assurance Scheme has been launched for this purpose and efforts are being made to provide employment for 100 days. As I have mentioned in the reply given to other questions that if people are ready to work and they are not getting it, they can send their proposals through District Council or Panchayat Committees. Then it could be done.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : PMRY had been a total failure in Madhya Pradesh and millions of people are migrating from Chhatisgarh every year.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important question. Firstly, I would like to request the Government to review this programme. There are so many programmes that we do not even remember them when we go for the meetings. Our Government did review these programmes during our regime but we could not shorten the number of programmes.

The second part of my question is that the State Governments construct the *Kutchra* roads, because rural roads are one of the outcomes of the JRY and rural roads are a prime requirement in this country. If rural connectivity takes place then further development of the country will certainly take place. Now, is the Central Government ready to accept the suggestion that if the State-Governments construct a *Kutchra* road then the Central Government would

convert it into a cement or a *Pucca* or a bitumen road by providing funds from the Centre? It should be as a matter of general policy for the whole country that if a State Government constructs a rural road from out of their funds then the Central Government would get it converted into a *Pucca* road. By this process, rural connectivity would pick up faster and your utility of funds, which my colleague just now said was Rs. 2,700 crore, could be utilised for better purposes. Is the Government ready to accept this suggestion?

SHRI RAM NAIK : We are ready to accept this suggestion. But I must say that when the JRY was evaluated it was found that most of the provisions in the JRY was utilised for constructing our village roads. Now, these provisions are made from the Central grant. So, further improvement can be done in the JRY.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You make it a policy.

SHRI RAM NAIK : On the second part of your question about the review of the schemes, I would like to submit that there are a plethora of different schemes and we find it difficult to remember them. So, if, we at our level, tend to forget them, then at the administrative level it becomes more difficult. But we would certainly review the schemes where these could be integrated in a proper way. I also must state that the Finance Minister in his Budget speech has indicated that the Government would integrate such schemes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the question, hon. Minister has stated that as per the latest figures of 1993-94, 320.37 million people are living below poverty line. It is 1998-99 now and if figures of 1993-94 are considered latest, then what are the old figures, the Government should consider this matter seriously. Why the latest figures are not available? Main reason behind it is that Union Government spends money on conducting such survey but it does not have proper control on state Governments and as a result thereof the whole money is wasted. For example the funds allotted for Indira Awas Yojana, Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme are being wasted. This amount runs into crores of rupees but actually not even five per cent is being utilised properly. The people living below poverty line are not at all benefitted by it.

A provision has been made under Indira Awas Yojana that houses should be constructed for people living below poverty line. So far as the position of this scheme in my constituency is concerned, I may tell you that persons already having *pucca* houses are getting houses under this scheme and not the poor people living below poverty line. The same may be the situation in other areas also.

The second point is that the role of MPs is negligible in executing any scheme for which Union Government provide funds(Interruptions) State Governments being the executing authority for these schemes are responsible to MLAs. They pay no heed to suggestions or recommendations made by MPs. I would like to know whether the Government

will issue a white paper on it stating the amount of funds allocated by the centre to states and how much money out of it is meant for SCs, STs and weaker sections of society.

[Translation]

How much of it is actually utilised? Is it even utilised or not? The funds provided by the Union Government are given under the custody of the Collectors and M.Ps have no say in this regard. Hence my submission is that the M.Ps. should be given due recognition, they should also be given certain powers and their recommendations should also be considered (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as for the Hon'ble Member's contention about furnishing latest figures and that these are the figures pertaining to the year 1993-94, it is true that these are the figures for the year 1993-94. Statistical survey is held after five years just as the Census survey is held only after ten years. The Statistical survey is going to be held in 1998-99 and we will be able to gather the latest information on that basis. As for the issue raised about the poor, it takes some time to collect all such data at national level and analyse it and furthermore, we are going to conduct a survey in 1998-99. I have already stated in this context that keeping in view the role of the M.Ps. and taking into account the complaints made by Hon'ble Members, whatever improvements are required, to be made, will be made after the Hon'ble Prime Minister holds a meeting with all the leaders and discusses it with them ... (Interruptions)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is indeed quite an interesting experience that now after coming into power, the same complaints are being repeated before us as we used to make in this House while sitting in the Opposition benches (Interruptions) All the complaints made are genuine complaints. All of us have experienced such problems. We have been raising this issue for years together but still have not been able to make the situation favourable in this regard. I feel that there is a need to take concrete steps in this regard. This matter does not pertain solely to all the parties or any particular party and it is not a question of the Government or the Opposition. So long as the representatives of the people do not have any say with regard to the manner of utilisation of funds released by the Union Government and so long as the Members of Parliament are not given the powers to supervise it, either the funds will not be properly utilised or they will not be utilised at all.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : The funds are not utilised at all.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I agree with your suggestion and I will be holding an all party meeting very soon and such a policy will be laid down after seeking the suggestions of all so that the Members of the Parliament and the representatives of the people are able to participate

actively in case of decentralisation of power. I do admit that the funds released by the Union Government under MPLADS....

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : You had also signed it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This money is sent directly to the District Officer. We submit our proposals to the District Officer and thereafter the representatives of the people do not have any say in the development work or implementation thereof. The Members of Legislative Assemblies are not involved either. Such is the situation in the villages and it will have to be changed. A provision will have to be made to involve the Members of Parliament in a proper manner.

As for the data, Shri Paswan has raised the matter of old data being furnished. The latest data available with the new Government is being furnished.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully endorse the views expressed by Shri Mukul Wasnik regarding decentralisation of power.

MR. SPEAKER : Ask your pointed supplementary, please.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, the area of jurisdiction of a Zilla Panchayat is same as that of the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), The DRDA's power is totally confined to the rural sector. So, there is no need of such a DRDA. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the powers conferred upon the DRDA will be transferred to Zilla Panchayat which is having the same jurisdiction.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, we passed a constitutional Amendment in this regard and it was converted into an Act. Whatever decisions we take now will have to be in consonance with the Constitutional (Amendment) Act which we passed, under which we gave more powers to Gram Panchayat, Zilla Panchayat and Taluka Panchayat. We will have to examine it from that angle. As the hon. Prime Minister has assured, when we consider all these issues, this issue also will be taken into consideration (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you.

..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister that the funds are released by the Union Government and the State

Government is the implementing agency and I would especially like to raise the matter pertaining to Bihar and the Secretary in the Department of Rural Development, Shri N.C. Saxena had also written thrice to the Chief Secretary of Bihar and the Government of Bihar and the Government of India that all the funds being released by the Union Government, whether they are being released under the Employment Assurance Scheme, Indira Awas Yojana or Jawahar Rojgar Yojana are ultimately being plundered in Bihar and not even five per cent work is being done in Bihar.

Through you, I would like to know from the Government as to whether the Union Government will take any action with regard to looting of public money and the financial irregularities being committed in Bihar. Besides, in case of the funds being released by the Union Government and I am not talking about the entire country, but whether the Government propose to constitute District level implementation Committees under the chairmanship of the Members of Parliament to supervise the utilisation of funds in Bihar.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have stated in my reply that we keep on evaluating the implementation of this scheme. Whatever the Hon'ble Member has stated about Bihar is broadly well-known but we will definitely ensure that whatever evaluation has to be made in case of funds released for the year 1997-98, and it has to be carried out in all the states of the country separately. However we will undertake the evaluation work in Bihar first so as to find out the actual state of affairs there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Mohan Singh.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Two questions are being covered in an hour's time and I have been affected. My right is being affected (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you a chance.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Only two questions are covered in an hour's time. The two questions have taken the whole time (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : This is most unfortunate (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not waste the time of the House.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Mohan Singh.

..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the number of people under the poverty line has risen by 12 per cent in 1994 as compared to 1990 figures, the reason being that the State Government deducts as administrative expenses about 18 to 30 per cent of the funds allocated by the Union Government. Another reason is that whereas the expenditure should be incurred as daily payment for providing work to those under poverty line, the work is instead handed over to the contractors and thus the money is being looted by the mafia and the administration. Will the Union Government try to ensure that the objectives with which the scheme was started, are met. The money reaches the poor; they are given work and work is not handed over to contractors. Apart from this, the vigilance Department of the Central Government should look into it and give an assurance that all this work is done directly by the poor and not through the contractors.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member's contention that the percentage of people living below poverty line has increased by 12% in the past five years, is not correct. For your information, I have got figures of planning and statistical organisation. According to those figures, what you had said is not correct. I would like to tell you that in 1993, 44% and in 1987-88, 49% of people were living below poverty line. But at present 35.96 i.e. 36% of people are living below poverty line. You have said that it is increasing but I would like to say that it is not increasing rather it is going down. Perhaps you would have seen old statistics which is not correct. On this issue an expert committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Lakkarwala to determine the poverty line, determined by them. Old statistical figures have been revised because the source of information getting was not correct. Therefore, those figures were revised. These are the upto date figures.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Relation with China

*104. SHRI SURESH KURUP :
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the stage at which efforts to improve relations with China stand at present ;

(b) whether any discussions are in progress between India and China on the outstanding issues; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c) With a view to promoting mutual understanding

and building confidence, and addressing outstanding issues with a view to finding a mutually acceptable solution, exchanges at the governmental, parliamentary, non-governmental, people to people and other levels have been taking place.

The process of high political level exchanges recommenced in February 1979 when the then External Affairs Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, visited China. During that visit, the two sides agreed on the need to maintain peace and tranquillity along the India-China border.

The visit of the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to China in December 1988, marked the resumption of political dialogue at the highest level. Both sides agreed to develop relations in various fields and to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful and friendly consultations. The Joint Working Group was set up to discuss the boundary related issues and to ensure maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas; a Joint Economic Group was established to give focus to our economic and S&T relations.

During the visit of the Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao to China in September 1993, the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity Along the Line of Actual Control in the India - China Border Areas was signed. China's President, Jiang Zemin, visited India in November 1996. The two sides agreed to build a constructive and co-operative relationship oriented towards the 21st century. During the visit, the two sides signed the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas. In the agreement, the two sides agreed to speed up the process of clarification and confirmation of the Line of Actual Control.

Exchanges in diverse fields, including in the military field, have continued to develop in recent years. The then Defence Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar, visited Beijing in July, 1992, which led to the commencement of exchanges between the military establishment of the two countries.

Bilateral trade between the two countries has recorded a rapid growth in the last few years. Bilateral trade for 1997 amounted to US \$ 1.83 billion, an increase of 30.2% over 1996. There is considerable potential to expand our economic and commercial co-operation.

The on-going process of high political level dialogue has provided the opportunity for exchange of views on issues of mutual concern. This has been supplemented by the exchange of view at the official level, including in the framework of the Joint Working Group. In these exchanges, we have conveyed to the Chinese side our concerns arising from actions affecting our sovereignty, territorial integrity and security. Our effort, through such exchanges, has been to enable China to appreciate that our concerns need to be addressed in a meaningful manner with a view to finding early resolution. The Indian people must feel secure that

friendship with China is a factor for peace and stability and will contribute to enhancing our security.

We do not seek a confrontation with China. We seek a relationship in which both sides are responsive to each other's concerns. We remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding differences.

We seek friendly, co-operative, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China, our largest neighbour, on the basis of Panchsheel.

Anti - Dumping Duty

*105. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :
SHRI DINSHAW PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board had approached the Government for imposing Anti-Dumping Duty on imported milk products as these products are highly subsidised in the country of their origin; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Limited and the National Dairy Development Board have suggested to the Government imposition of anti-dumping duty on the import of skimmed milk powder and butter oil. The basis of the request is that the advanced dairy nations have been allegedly subsidising the export of dairy products, leading to the dumping of these products into India, thereby restricting the growth and competitiveness of the Indian dairy industry. The proposal was considered by the Ministry of Commerce and it has been suggested that a formal petition be filed before the Designated Authority for initiation of anti-dumping investigation. The formal petition is yet to be filed on behalf of the Indian dairy industry.

Review of Agricultural Subsidies

*106. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission are considering reviewing agricultural subsidies during the Ninth Plan,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have conducted any evaluation study regarding the impact of discontinuation of subsidy on agricultural growth; 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 Draft Ninth Five Year Plan, 1997-2002 approved at internal meetings of the Planning Commission which was released on March 1, 1998 by the then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, states that because of various reasons a clear-cut input subsidy policy should be evolved for Ninth Plan. The Government have decided to review this Draft so as to suitably reflect the altered priorities, as enunciated in the National Agenda for Governance. Detailed action plans are already under preparation which will, upon finalisation, be integrated with the existing draft.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Government have not discontinued agricultural subsidies, nor conducted any study to evaluate the impact discontinuation of subsidies would have on agricultural growth.

Import of Coconut

*107. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether import of coconut oil, copra and coconuts has caused reduction in price of coconuts produced by farmers of the country ;

(b) whether import of these items is likely to continue as they are allowed in the canalised list of imports ;

(c) whether coconut farmers are the worst sufferers due to fall in price of their produces on account of import ; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to safeguard the interest of Indian farmers and also to get them remunerative price of their products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) As per the Export & Import Policy in the past and in existence, the import of coconut, copra and coconut oil is canalised through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited. No change in this policy is under consideration. As the import of coconut/Copra and coconut oil has been very minimal, any fall in the prices of copra/coconut cannot be attributed to their imports.

(d) To safeguard the interest of the farmers, the Government of India announces every year the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to give incentive to the farmers for higher investment in agriculture and adoption of modern technology. The MSP is announced on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) which takes into account a number of factors, namely, cost of production, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, trends in market prices, demand-supply situation, parity between prices paid and prices received, (terms of trade for agriculture), international prices

and effect on industrial cost structure, general price level and cost of living.

The Government fixes MSP keeping in view the recommendations of the CACP, the views of the concerned Central Ministries and State Governments as well as other relevant factors. The Government is also implementing various plan programmes for development of coconut. Financial assistance/incentives are provided for planting materials, pest and disease control, inputs and extension and training etc.

Food Processing Units

*108. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up food processing units in collaboration with Japan and other countries; and

(b) if so, the number of units proposed to be set up under collaboration agreements to be signed with Japan and other countries and location thereof, state-wise ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Global Peace.

*109. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has extended full support to UN Secretary-General in his efforts in establishing a multi-polar world and to bring about global peace and development;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken by him in that direction; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto during the past months?

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

(a) to (c) The UN Secretary-General has proposed a reforms package in July 1997 to revitalise the UN. The Government has welcomed the UN Secretary-General's efforts in this direction and is actively participating in the discussions underway in the General Assembly on these proposals with the objective of making the UN more responsive to the concerns of the majority of its member countries viz. the developing countries.

Research in Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries

*110. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have agreed to carry out joint research in the field of agriculture, livestock and fisheries with Brazil ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the time by which the joint research is likely to start in these fields ; and

(d) the details of the projects likely to be undertaken under the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Agriculture has not signed any Agreement with the Govt. of Brazil to carry out joint research in the field of agriculture, livestock and fisheries. However, the Indian Council of Agriculture Research has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) on 30.8.95 with the objective to strengthen cooperation and to stimulate interest in the broad areas of plant science, soil science, agriculture biotechnology and other related areas of interest.

(c) For implementation of the activities under the MOU, ICAR prepared a Workplan for the biennium 1996-97 under which the training of the Brazilian scientists in India was undertaken. Further activities from both sides are expected to be undertaken during 1998-99.

(d) Under the Workplan, the activities include exchange of scientists between ICAR and EMBRAPA for study visit and training in the areas of interest identified for cooperation. In addition, one joint research project has also been proposed on "Production of disease free nursery plants and search for resistance in citrus against *Phytophthora* diseases". The Workplan also includes exchange of scientific information and germplasm between ICAR and EMBRAPA.

[Translation]

NCES Potentials

*111. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any survey of the potential of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in the country particularly in the State of Rajasthan ;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the full potential of NCES in the country is likely to be exploited?

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 (d) Various Studies have been sponsored/undertaken by the Government which have indicated broad potentials of various Non-Conventional Energy Sources on country-wise basis. The broad potentials of Non-Conventional Energy Sources estimated on country-wise basis including in the State of Rajasthan, are given in enclosed Statement-I.

State-wise potentials have been estimated in respect of biogas, improved chulha, small hydro power (upto 3 MW) and bagasse based co-generation in sugar mills, which are given in enclosed Statement -II.

The full exploitation of the potential of Non-Conventional Energy Sources will depend on the availability of financial resources, both public and private and technical feasibility and economic viability of available technologies.

Statement - I**Board Potential of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in the Country**

Source/System	Approximate Potential
1. Biogas Plants (No.)	120 lakh
2. Improved Chulha (No.)	12 crores
3. Biomass	17,000 MW
4. Bagasse based Cogeneration	3500 MW
5. Solar Photovoltaic	20 MW/sq. km
6. Solar Thermal	35 MW/sq. km.
7. Wind Power	20,000 MW
8. Small Hydro Power (upto 15 MW)	10,000 MW

MW = Mega -Watt.

Sq.Km.= Square Kilometre.

Statement-II**State-wise Potential Estimates for Major Non-Conventional Energy Sources**

Sl. No.	States	Family Type Biogas Plants (Nos. in lakh)	Improved Chulhas (Nos. in lakh)	Small Hydro Power upto 3 MW	Bagasse Based Cogeneration*(MW)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.656	97.08	35.69	200
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.075	1.5	342.10	
3.	Assam	3.077	36	32.47	
4.	Bihar	9.399	123.83	191.66	200
5.	Goa	0.080	1.17	2.60	
6.	Gujarat	5.540	50.72	75.28	200
7.	Haryana	3.000	20.61	20.55	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1.256	8.53	153.03	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.285	11.75	111.52	
10.	Karnataka	6.800	60.76	80.98	300
11.	Kerala	1.505	40.73	158.43	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	14.912	101.58	54.20	
13.	Maharashtra	8.970	96.5	88.74	1000
14.	Manipur	0.387	2.64	51.99	
15.	Meghalaya	0.240	2.54	22.53	
16.	Mizoram	0.022	0.73	42.32	
17.	Nagaland	0.067	2.01	8.90	
18.	Orissa	6.055	54.55	50.55	
19.	Punjab	4.116	25.38	65.26	150
20.	Rajasthan	9.153	55.54	27.26	
21.	Sikkim	0.073	0.73	27.26	
22.	Tamil Nadu	6.158	80.16	91.17	350
23.	Tripura	0.285	4.65	4.30	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	20.210	187.45	159.17	1000
25.	West Bengal	6.950	98.72	120.40	
26.	Andamnan & Nicobar	0.022	0.4	1.14	
27.	Chandigarh	0.140	0.66		
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.020	0.25		
29.	Daman & Diu	-	0.1		
30.	Delhi	0.129	9.06		
31.	Lakshadweep	-	0.1		
32.	Pondicherry	0.043	0.59		

* A potential of 100 MW of Bagasse-based Co-generation in Sugar Mills also exists in States other than the 8 states for which potential of bagasse-based cogeneration have been indicated in the Table.

*[English]***Farm Sector**

*112. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the draft approach of Ninth Five Year Plan has given top priority to the farm sector ;

(b) if so, the main points mentioned in the development of farm sector by the Planning Commission;

(c) whether the target has also been fixed for the growth of job creation at 4.5% in this sector;

(d) whether the Government have accepted these recommendations; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to implement the recommendations for the farm sector along with the allocation of funds to be given during the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The approach paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan 1997-2002 approved by National Development Council (NDC) has given high priority to agriculture rural development with a view to generating adequate production, employment and eradication of poverty. It envisages an annual growth rate of 4.5% in the agriculture sector during the Ninth Plan. In the Ninth Plan, targets will be realised through a regionally differentiated strategy based on agronomic, climatic and environment-friendly conditions. At the macro level, the agriculture development strategy will be differentiated by broad regional characteristics of agro-economic situation in North-Western high productivity region, Eastern Region with abundant water, water scarce region - Peninsular India including Rajasthan, Ecologically fragile region including Himalayas and Desert areas.

(c) No specific target has been fixed by the Planning Commission for the growth of job creation.

(d) and (e) The Draft Ninth Five Year Plan, 1997-2002 approved at internal meetings of the Planning Commission was released on March 1, 1998 by the then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. This plan is yet to be considered by the National Development Council. The Government has decided to review this draft so as to suitably reflect the altered priorities, as enunciated in the National Agenda for Governance. Detailed action plans are already under preparation which will, upon finalisation, be integrated with the existing draft. This revised document will then be submitted, through due process, for consideration and approval of the National Development Council.

For the year 1998-99, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has been allocated Rs. 1941.00 crore Gross Budgetary Support (Central Sector).

[Translation]

Transfer Of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

*113. SHR: KANTILAL BHURIA :
SHRI V.K. KHANDELWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to transfer the Centrally sponsored schemes along with funds to the States ;

(b) if so, whether the transfer of funds would be done on the basis of Gadgil formula to the States ;

(c) whether the big States like Madhya Pradesh which are far behind in development as compared to the other States would get the proper share of Central assistance on the basis of Gadgil Formula in transfer of funds ; and

(d) whether for transfer of Central assistance the Government would include the population load, the population living below poverty line, the population of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, the number of landless labourers the level of employment, women illiteracy and child death rate in the existing Gadgil Formula so that the backward States can come at par with the developed States?

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) An exercise was done in the Planning Commission on the question of transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) to the States including alternative modalities of allocations. A note on the subject was sent to concerned Central Ministries/Departments and all States/UTs for their comments. Based on the replies received, a revised note on the subject is being processed for the consideration of the National Development Council (NDC).

(c) and (d) Normal Central Assistance to State Plans including Madhya Pradesh is currently allocated on the basis of the revised Gadgil Formula, approved by the National Development Council in 1991, which *inter-alia* takes into account population and backwardness measured in terms of per capita income.

Launching of Satellites

*114. SHRI VIJAY GOEL:
SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Satellites launched by India so far;

(b) the details of cost and achievements by each of these Satellites;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch more Satellites in future for research ;

(d) if so, the details of progress made in this regard ;

(e) whether any foreign assistance, has been taken/ sought for these Satellites ;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Union Government have received requests from some other countries to launch their Satellites by Indian Scientist after successful launching of Satellites by India recently from its own land; and

(h) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government or the policy of the Government in this regard?

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

(a) The number of Indian Satellites launched so far is 28.

(b) Details of cost and achievements of these Satellites are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to launch about 12 Satellites during the remaining Ninth Five Year Plan period. Detailed definition, design, development and fabrication of these Satellites are in various stages of progress.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. Based on request to received from various International customers, M/s Antrix Corporation, the commercial wing of Department of Space, has signed Agreements with three foreign Agencies to launch micro Satellites weighing upto 100 kg. as piggy-back payloads along with the primary Satellites (IRS Satellites) to be flown in Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-Continuation (PSLV-C) Missions.

Statement*Details of cost and achievement of Satellite launched by India*

Sl.No.	Satellite	Cost (in Crores)	Launch Date	Achievements
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Aryabhata	5.09	19.04.1975	Successful. First Indian satellite. Provided technological experience in building & operating a satellite system. Launched by Russian launch vehicle Intercosmos. Free launch.

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Bhaskara -I		07.06.1979	Successful. First experimental remote sensing satellite. Carried TV. and microwave cameras. Launched by Russian launch vehicle Intercosmos. Free launch.
3.	Bhaskara -II		20.11.1981	Successful. Second experimental remote sensing satellite similar to Bhaskara-I. Provided experience in building and operating a remote sensing satellite system on an end-to-end basis. Launched by Russian launch vehicle Intercosmos. Free launch.
Cost of Bhaskara -I and Bhaskara-II is Rs. 7.95 crores.				
4.	Ariane Passenger Payload Experiment (APPLE)	17.97	19.06.1981	Successful. First experimental communication satellite. Provided experience in building and operating a three-axis stabilised communication satellite. Launched by the European Ariane launch vehicle. Free launch.
5.	Rohini Technology Payload (RTP)		10.08.1979	Unsuccessful. Intended for measuring inflight performance of first experimental flight of SLV-3, the first Indian launch vehicle. Could not be placed in orbit due to launch vehicle failure. Indigenous developmental launch.
6.	Rohini (RS- I)		18.07.1980	Successful. Used for measuring in flight performance of second experimental launch of SLV-3. Indigenous developmental launch.
7.	Rohini (RS-D I)		31.05.1981	Successful. Used for conducting some remote sensing technology studies using a landmark sensor payload. Launched by the first developmental launch of SLV-3. Indigenous developmental launch. -
8.	Rohini (RS- D2)		17.04.1983	Successful. Identical to RS-D1. Launched by the second developmental launch of SLV-3. Indigenous developmental launch.
Total Cost of Rohini series is Rs. 2.62 crores				
9.	Stretched Rohini Satellite Series (SROSS-I)		24.03.1987	Unsuccessful. Carried payload for launch vehicle performance monitoring and for Gamma Ray astronomy. Could not be placed in orbit due to failure of first developmental flight of Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV). Indigenous developmental launch.
10.	Stretched Rohini Satellite Series (SROSS-2)		13.07.1988	Unsuccessful. Carried a remote sensing payload of German space agency in addition to Gamma Ray astronomy payload. Could not be placed in orbit due to failure of the second developmental flight of ASLV. Indigenous developmental launch.
11.	Stretched Rohini Satellite Series (SROSS-C)		20.05.1992	Successful. Launched by third developmental flight of ASLV. Carried Gamma Ray astronomy payload. Indigenous developmental launch.
12.	Stretched Rohini Satellite Series (SROSS-C2)		04.05.1994	Successful. Launched by fourth developmental flight of ASLV. Identical to SROSS-C. Still in service. Indigenous developmental launch.
Total cost of SROSS series is Rs. 13.26 crores				

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Indian National Satellite (INSAT-IA)		10.04.1982	First operational multi-purpose communication and meteorology satellite procured from USA. Worked only for six months. Launched by US Delta launch vehicle.
14.	Indian National Satellite (INSAT-IB)		30.08.1983	Successful. Identical to INSAT-IA. Served for more than the design life of seven years. Launched by US Space Shuttle.
15.	Indian National Satellite (INSAT-IC)		21.07.1988	Same as INSAT-IA. Served for only one and a half years. Launched by European Ariane launch vehicle.
16.	Indian National Satellite (INSAT-ID)		12.06.1990	Successful. Identical to INSAT-IA. Launched by US Delta launch vehicle. Still in service.
Total cost of INSAT-I series including launch is Rs. 468.57 crores				
7.	Indian National Satellite (INSAT-2A)		10.07.1992	Successful. First satellite in the second generation Indian built INSAT-2 series. Has enhanced service capability compared to INSAT-I series. Launched by European Ariane launch vehicle. Still in service.
8.	Indian National Satellite (INSAT-2B)		23.07.1993	Successful. Second satellite in INSAT-2 series. Identical to INSAT-2A. Launched by European Ariane launch vehicle. Still in service.
Total cost of INSAT-2A & INSAT-2B including launch is Rs. 527.94 crores.				
9.	Indian National Satellite (INSAT-2C)		01.12.1995	Successful. Has additional capabilities such as mobile satellite service, business communication and television outreach beyond Indian boundaries. Launched by European launch vehicle. Still in service.
10.	Indian National Satellite (INSAT-2D)		04.06.1997	Identical to INSAT-2C. Launched by European launch vehicle. Became inoperable on October 4, 1997 following a power bus anomaly.
Total cost of INSAT-2C, INSAT-2D and INSAT-2E (to be launched) including launch is Rs. 1265.80 crores.				
11.	INSAT-2DT	US\$ 40 million		In-orbit satellite acquired from ARABSAT to partially augment INSAT capacity depleted by loss of INSAT-2D.
12.	Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-IA)		17.03.1988	Successful. First operational remote sensing satellite. Launched by a Russian Launch Vehicle, Vostok.
13.	Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-IE)		29.08.1991	Successful. Same as IRS-IA. Launched by a Russian Launch vehicle, Vostok. Still in service.
	Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-IE)		20.09.1993	Unsuccessful. Carried remote sensing payloads. Could not be placed in orbit due to failure of first developmental launch of PSLV.
Total cost of IRS-IA, IRS-IB and IRS-IE is Rs. 105.29 crores				

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-P2)	17.90	15.10.1994	Successful. Carried remote sensing payload. Launched by second developmental flight of PSLV.
26.	Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-IC)		28.12.1995	Successful. Carries advanced remote sensing cameras. Launched by Russian Molniya launch vehicle. Still in service.
27.	Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-ID)		29.09.1997	Successful. Identical to IRS-1C. Launched by India's PSLV. Still in service.
	Total cost of IRS-IC including launch and IRS-ID is Rs. 246.50 crores			
28.	Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-P3)	28.75	21.03.1996	Successful. Carries remote sensing payload and an X-ray astronomy payload. Launched by third developmental flight of PSLV. Still in service.

[English]

Support Price for Soyabean

*115. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices takes into consideration the proposed minimum support price suggested by the State Governments while fixing the support price;

(b) whether minimum support price for soyabean (black and yellow) and gram is likely to be fixed in the coming years in accordance with the proposed minimum support price of the State Governments; and

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to revise the support price of soyabean and gram to provide remunerative price to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) While recommending the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities including Soyabean (yellow and black) and Gram, the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) takes into account a number of factors like cost of cultivation, demand and supply, input and output prices, the terms of trade for agriculture, inter-crop parity in prices, international prices, etc. The information elicited through a detailed questionnaire from the State Governments and other interest groups on various issues relating to the above aspects are also taken into consideration.

The Government fixes the minimum support prices each season for major agricultural commodities including Soyabean (black and yellow) and Gram on the basis of the report of the CACP and the views of State Governments and Central Ministries as well as other relevant factors. The minimum support prices fixed by the Government cover not only the cost of production but also provide a reasonable margin of profit.

The minimum support price fixed by the Government for Soyabean (black and yellow) and Gram for the current agriculture year (1997-98) are as follows :

Commodity	MSP		Increase in 1997-98 over 1996-97	
	1996-97	1997-98	Absolute	Percentage
Soyabean				
Black	620	670	50	8.1
Yellow	700	750	50	7.1
Gram	740	815	75	10.1

The system in vogue for fixing the MSPs would be continued in coming years also.

Review of Administrative Laws

*116. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Commission to review Article 309 of the Constitution and also all administrative laws enacted thereunder;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Commission; and

(c) by when the Commission is likely to submit its report to the Governments?

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) While Government have not constituted any Commission to review Article 309 of the Constitution, a Commission has been set up on May 8, 1998 on review of administrative laws. A copy

the terms of reference of the Commission is given in the closed Statement. The Commission has been given months' time for submitting its report.

Statement

The Terms of Reference for the Commission on Review Administrative Laws are as follows :

- (a) To undertake an overview of steps taken by different Ministries/Departments for the review of administrative laws, regulations and procedures administered by them, and the follow-up steps thereafter, for repeal and amendment.
- (b) To identify, in consultation with Ministries/Departments and client groups, proposals for amendments to existing laws, regulations and procedures, where these are in the nature of law common to more than one Department, or where they have a bearing on the effective working of more than one Ministry/Department and State Governments, or where a collectivity of laws impact on the performance of an economic or social sector, or where they have a bearing on industry and trade.
- (c) To examine, in the case of selected areas like environment, industry, trade and commerce, housing and real estate, specific changes in existing rules and procedures so as to make them objective, transparent and predictable.
- (d) To make, on the basis of this exercise, recommendations for repeal/amendments of laws, regulations and procedures, legislative process etc.

Plant Quarantine Measures

*117. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Ant, Fruit and Seeds Order, 1989 to strengthen plant quarantine measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be amended; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) A group has been constituted recently by the Government of India to suggest amendments to the Plant, Fruit and Seeds Order, 1989. The recommendations of the group are being considered.

Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

*118. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations is on the verge of abandoning a long standing proposal for declaring the Indian Ocean as "Zone of peace";

(b) if so, whether the Committee was set up in 1972 to implement the General Assembly resolution calling for the establishment of a "Zone of peace" in Indian Ocean;

(c) whether the three countries - US, UK and France have been opposing this resolution;

(d) if so, whether India has once again pressed the UN that the resolution should be implemented and the Indian Ocean be declared as a peace zone; and

(e) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard ?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) India sponsored the resolution, along with the NAM countries, on the implementation of the declaration of the Indian Ocean as Zone of Peace in the 52nd UNGA.

(e) India is a member of the 44-member *ad hoc* Committee established to implement the Resolution on declaring Indian Ocean as Zone of Peace. India actively participates in the meetings of the *ad hoc* Committee. The Non-Aligned Movement's Ministerial Meeting in Cartagena in May 19-20 has again re-affirmed the validity of the objective of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as Zone of Peace. They re-affirmed the importance of international co-operation to ensure peace, security and stability in the Indian ocean region.

[Translation]

Percentage of Irrigated Land

*119. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether only one-third of total agriculture land is under irrigation at present.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the agriculture land is getting salined due to lack of proper drainage system in the country;

(d) if so, the total agriculture land being affected by water-logging and salinity in the country; and

(e) the details of the future plan of the Government to protect such land from this problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) As per Land use Statistics (LUS) brought out by Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1994-95 (latest), Net Irrigated Area (NIA) out of Net Sown Area (NSA) in the country constitutes about 37%. State-wise details of the same are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) One of the reasons of salinisation of agricultural land is lack of proper drainage system.

(d) As per the estimate made by National Commission on Agriculture (1976), an area of 8.53 million hectares is suffering from waterlogging and 7.62 million hectare from salinity. These areas cover both irrigated and unirrigated areas. Subsequently, a Working Group set up by the Ministry of Water Resources, in its Report (1991) on "Problem Identification in Irrigated areas" has assessed areas under Irrigation Commands affected by waterlogging and soil salinity as 2.46 million hectares and 3.06 million hectares respectively.

(e) The Government has taken various policy and programme initiatives to control the problems of waterlogging and soil salinity of the agricultural land in the country. These include emphasis on improved water management practices, promoting conjunctive use of surface and ground water, as well as drip and sprinkler system, construction/improvement of drainage system and reclamation of waterlogged and saline lands.

Statement

Sl. No.	States	Net Sown Area (NSA)	Net Irrg. Area (NIA)	% of NIA to NSA
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10365	3959	38.20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	150	36	24.00
3.	Assam	2777	572	20.60
4.	Bihar	7380	3535	47.90
5.	Goa	138	23	16.67
6.	Gujarat	9609	3002	31.24
7.	Haryana	3559	2719	76.40

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	572	100	17.48
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	733	305	41.61
10.	Karnataka	10419	2325	22.32
11.	Kerala	2239	358	15.99
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19662	5822	29.61
13.	Maharashtra	17897	2567	14.34
14.	Manipur	226	65	28.76
15.	Meghalaya	201	45	22.39
16.	Mizoram	65	8	12.31
17.	Nagaland	206	62	30.10
18.	Orissa	6303	2090	33.16
19.	Punjab	4210	3944	93.68
20.	Rajasthan	17021	4858	28.54
21.	Sikkim	95	16	16.84
22.	Tamil Nadu	5790	2902	50.12
23.	Tripura	277	35	12.64
24.	Uttar Pradesh	17315	11670	67.40
25.	West Bengal	5464	1911	34.97
Total States		142673	52929	37.10
Total UTs		146	70	47.95
Grand Total		142819	52999	37.11

Note : Figures are as per land Use Statistics brought out by Ministry of Agriculture for 1994-95 (latest) and are Provisional.

Regional Passport Offices

[English]

* 120. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JHANJIHARPUR) :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for opening of new Regional Passport Offices in the country;

(b) whether several State Governments have requested the Union Government to open more Passport Offices in their states;

(c) if so, the places identified so far by the Union Government ;

(d) whether there is great delay in issue of passport; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government for speedy disposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (e) The opening of new passport offices is governed by certain criteria such as the location of existing passport offices, volume of applications from a particular region and recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament for External Affairs that there must be at least 50,000 applications per annum from an area for a new passport office to be opened.

At present, 27 passport offices and 10 passport collection centres are functional all over the country. A passport office at Pune is to be opened shortly. Government has not received any request from any State Government for opening additional passport offices. In fact, Government took the initiative to write to all North-Eastern States with the request to help open Collection Centres in these States.

Government is constantly endeavouring to improve and streamline the existing passport issuing system to ensure that no delays take place. A number of measures have been taken recently to facilitate early issue of passports which, *inter alia*, are computerisation of procedures for receipt and processing of applications despatch of passports by Speed Post in select cities, automatic reissue in the case of expired passports without prior police verification, increasing the validity period of passports to 20 years, opening new Passport Offices and Collection Centres and augmentation of staff strength in the various passport offices.

Ravi Beas Water Dispute

* 121. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement was signed by the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana on December 31st, 1981 for distribution of surplus Ravi Beas Waters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this matter has been referred by the Union Government to the Eradi Tribunal for clarification;

(d) if so, whether the meetings of this Tribunal have not taken place for so many years which caused great suffering to the State of Rajasthan;

(e) whether the Union Government are contemplating to implement the decision taken in the inter State meeting held on 29-30 July, and 6 August, 1992; and

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

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

An agreement was signed on December 31, 1981 between the Hon'ble Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, allocating the surplus waters of Ravi-Beas system amounting to 21.19 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) among the three states of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan at 5.21 BCM, 4.32 BCM, 10.61 BCM respectively and on fixed share basis to the State of J&K and Delhi Water Supply at 0.80 BCM and 0.25 BCM respectively, with a provision for variation in case of change. It was also agreed that since Rajasthan was not in a position to utilise its full share, Punjab shall be free to utilise the water surplus to Rajasthan requirement. It was also agreed that the Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal project shall be implemented in a time bound manner so far as the canal and its apurtenant works in Punjab territory are concerned, within a period of 2 years from the date of this agreement so that Haryana is enabled to draw its allocated share of water.

(c) and (d) Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal headed by Hon'ble Justice Eradi was set up by Central Government on 2.4.1986 and referred the following two matters for verification and adjudication by the Tribunal :

- (1) The farmers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan will continue to get water not less than what they were using from the Ravi-Beas system as on 1.7.1985. Water used for consumptive purposes will also remain unaffected. Quantum of usage claimed shall be verified by the Tribunal.
- (2) The claim of Punjab and Haryana regarding the shares in their remaining waters will be adjudicated by the Tribunal.

The Tribunal gave its interim report in January, 1987. The Tribunal restarted its hearing on further references for clarifications in September, 1987 and continued its hearings upto October, 1988. The Tribunal remained dormant from October, 1988 to June, 1997 for various reasons including prevailing situation in Punjab and resignation of one of the members of the Tribunal on 9.3.1989. Further hearings of the Tribunal have again started with effect from 5.7.97. However, Bhakra Beas Management Board is regulating releases of surplus Ravi Beas Waters to Rajasthan and concerned States on *ad-hoc* basis keeping in view the Inter-State Agreement of 1981.

(e) & (f) Certain Inter-State issues among the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan were discussed among the Chief Ministers of three respective States in the meeting held on 29-30 July, 1992 and 6th August, 1992. The decision taken in these meetings were to be further discussed by the Chief Ministers of the three States. Further meetings however could not take place, as such the issues remained unresolved.

Letters from M.Ps

1110. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the letters received from the MPs are being replied by the Ministries/Departments according to guidelines laid down in the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure ;

(b) if so, the details of said guidelines; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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 detailed guidelines to deal with the references received from Members of Parliament (MPs) have been issued to all ministries/departments vide paras 57, 60 and 122 of the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure (MOP). These guidelines provide that Communications received from MPs will be attended to promptly and replied to within 15 days. However, where delay is anticipated in sending a final reply or information is to be obtained from another ministry or another office, an interim reply will be sent within a fortnight indicating the possible date by which a final reply can be given.

Assessment of Population

1111. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the expected average increase in the rural and urban population in the country by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the result of the assessment ;

(c) whether the basic amenities are likely to become insufficient by 2002 AD because of increase in the urban/ rural population;

(d) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme to augment the existing systems of drinking water, sanitation, housing roads, etc ; and

(e) if so, the total amount likely to be spent thereon?

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 Technical Group on Population Projection had projected that over the Ninth Plan period urban population will increase

from 25.44 crores in 1996 to 29.84 crores in 2002; over the same period rural population will increase from 67.98 crores to 72.92 crores.

(c) to (e) In order to complement the efforts of the States in providing basic amenities, Basic Minimum Services Programme was introduced in 1996-97. Additional Central Assistance was allocated to states to bridge the critical gaps in the felt needs for 7 basic minimum services (safe drinking water, primary health care, primary education, housing assistance, supplementary nutrition, rural connectivity, public distribution system). The States were given the flexibility to make their own inter as allocation of ACA among the seven basic minimum services as per their felt needs/priority. The Centre had allocated Rs. 2244 crores during Annual Plan 1996-97 and Rs. 3300 crores during Annual Plan 1997-98 as Additional Central Assistance for meeting these needs.

The National Agenda for Governance envisages expansion and improvement for social infrastructure—drinking water, housing, education, health care and sanitation. Throughout the Ninth Plan period the States and Central Government are expected to provide funds on a priority basis to these sectors aimed specifically to reduce the gap between requirement and availability both in urban and rural areas.

Anomaly Committee of Pay Commission

1112. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number and details of the complaints received by the Anomaly Committee after implementation of the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission; and

(b) the action taken 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. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) As per the instructions issued by the Department of Personnel & Training, the Anomaly Committee of the National Council (JCM) will deal with anomalies common to two or more Departments and in respect of common categories of employees. The Anomaly Committee at the Departmental level will deal with anomalies pertaining exclusively to the Department concerned. As the anomalies are to be dealt with by more than one Department, the relevant information is not maintained by this Department.

Ground Water

1113. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Paanch Sal men Khatam

ho jayaga Jaipur mein Bhujal" appearing in the *Rashtriya Sahara*, dated May 8, 1998;

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

(c) whether any study has been conducted or any plan prepared to harvest rain water for recharging of ground water; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to implement the said plan expeditiously?

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

(b) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown a situation of both rise and fall in the level of ground water in Jaipur area. There has been excessive withdrawals of ground water in some parts of the city exceeding the normal replenishment which has led to progressive decline of 5-10 metres during the last decade. The decline has not been of 120-25 metres as mentioned in the report published in *Rashtriya Sahara* of 10.5.98. Presently, water is available at a depth of 15-40 metres in various parts of Jaipur. The position regarding availability of water in Vidya Nagar, Vishwakarma, Vaishali Nagar, C. Scheme Area, Civil Lines and Tonk Phatak is given in the enclosed Statement. Keeping in view the static reserve and normal replenishment, withdrawal @ 270 M.L. per day or non supply of water from the Bisalpur Project is not likely to result in exhausting of ground water resources in Jaipur in the next five years.

(c) and (d) Central Ground Water Board has recently conducted studies in ground water recharge, including rain water harvesting, in the states of Karnataka, Maharashtra, NCT of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh. Various programmes of water management and water harvesting techniques prepared and under implementation by various departments of the Government include :

1. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation :

- (i) Soil Conservation in Catchments of River Valley Project.
- (ii) Soil Conservation in Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers.
- (iii) National Watershed Development Project for rainfed agriculture.
- (iv) Watershed Management in Areas of Shifting Cultivation.

2. Department of Waste Land Development :

- (i) Integrated Watershed Development Programme.

3. Department of Rural Employment & Poverty Alleviation :

- (i) Drought Prone Area Programme.
- (ii) Desert Development Programme.

Statement

Location	Depth of ground water level in metres			
	May 1996	Jan. 1997	May 1997	Jan. 1998
1. Vishwakarma	36.75	36.71	36.78	37.20
2. Vidyadhar Nagar	36.46	35.27	35.29	not measured
3. Vaishali Nagar area	30.11	28.61	28.82	28.80
4. C-Scheme area	16.93	18.16	18.51	14.60
5. Civil lines	17.00	18.16	18.51	14.51
6. Tonk Phatak	14.45	13.57	14.45	14.60

[Translation]

Cauvery Water Dispute

1114. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Alagh to solve the Cauvery water dispute;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government ;

(c) the details of the recommendations suggested by the Committee in this regard ; and

(d) the reaction of the government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Linking of Rivers

1115. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the project of connecting River Mahanadi and Malaprabha has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details of progress made by the Governments of Goa and Karnataka in this regard; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Super Computer

1116. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has designed its own Super Computer on the basis of the Super Computer received from Russia;

(b) if so, the specifications of the Super Computer made by India;

(c) whether Indian made Super Computer is being utilized;

(d) if so, the fields where it is being put to use; and

(e) the average expenditure incurred on the development of Super Computer by India and the percentage of foreign components used in the development of indigenous Super Computer?

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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Super computers are currently being used in Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL).

(e) The expenditure on development of super computer is estimated at Rs.100 crores. High end components are imported with an average cost of 35% of total cost.

Indian Foreign Service

1117. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of officers in Indian Foreign Service, post-wise;

(b) the number of officers belonging to SCs/STs and OBCs out of them;

(c) the number of total vacancies in these categories post-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government so far to clear the backlog?

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

(a) The grade-wise number of officers of the Indian Foreign Service in position as on 1.5.98, is as follows: (i) Grade-I of IFS-26 (ii) Grade-II of IFS-33 (iii) Grade-III of IFS-164 (iv) Grade-IV of IFS-130 (v) Jr. Admn. Grade & Sr. Scale of IFS -169 (vi) Jr. Scale (incl. Probationers)-56.

(b) The number of SCs and STs among them is as follows : (i) Grade -I-1 SC & 1 ST (ii) Grade -II-1 SC (iii) Grade III-25 SCs & 13 STs (iv) Grade-IV-26 SCs & 8 STs (v) Jr. Admn. Grade & Sr. Scale-28 SCs & 12 STs (vi) Jr. Scale-9 SCs & 4 STs . The reservations in the OBC category commenced from the 1995 batch. The officers belonging to this category are therefore all in the Junior Scale of the IFS and number 11.

(c) The total number of vacancies in these categories is 8 (all at the recruitment level, i.e. Jr. Scale). of which 3 are for SCs, 1 for ST and 4 for OBCs.

(d) There is no backlog in recruitment. Some vacancies which exist are being filled as per the recruitment rules. As reservation in the Group 'A' Services exists only at the stage of recruitment, the question of backlog in the higher grades of Indian Foreign Service does not arise.

[English]

Jurisdiction of CAT

1118. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3487 on August 13, 1997 and state:

(a) whether concerned Ministries/Departments have supplied the requisite information;

(b) if so, whether the request to bring employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan under the jurisdiction of CAT has been acceded;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) The question of bringing the employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and some other organisations under the jurisdiction of CAT is dependent on the assessment of additional workload as a result thereof on the CAT. The additional information called for for this purpose has not been received from all the concerned Ministries/ Departments.

Economic Relations with South Korea

1119. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to improve bilateral economic relations with South Korea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a scope to further expand economic cooperation with that country;

(d) if so, the areas in which economic cooperation has been established in the past; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by both the countries to expand both Indo-Korean bilateral economic relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (e) Government of India has been maintaining close contacts with the Government of the Republic of Korea (RoK) in the matter of expanding economic relations between the two countries.

The visit of the Indian Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, to RoK in September, 1993 and that of the RoK President Kim Young Sam, to India in February, 1996 gave a strong impetus to our economic and commercial relations.

India-RoK trade has been steadily increasing. There has been a notable growth in RoK's investments in India in recent years. Presently it is the fifth largest investor in India.

With a view to maintaining regular exchange on economic matters, an agreement to set up a Joint Commission between the two countries was signed during the RoK President's visit to India in February, 1996.

There is continuing cooperation between the two countries in areas of trade, investment, joint ventures, ship-building, science & technology, technical training and related fields.

[Translation]

Departmental Competitive Examinations

1120. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Sub-Rule-4 of the Central Secretariat Services to provide same criteria of four years service to the promoted Assistants as being provided to the direct recruited Assistants for appearing in Section Officer's Limited Departmental Competitive Examination ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government would like to amend said rule?

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) For determining the eligibility for appearing in the examination, the 'approved service' was reckoned from the 'actual' date of appointment in the Assistants' grade. However, consequent upon an amendment to the rules issued on 21.6.95, such service is reckoned from a national date of the 1st July of the year following the year of the examination in the case of directly recruited Assistants and of the Select List year in the case of promotees. Due to this change, it has been decided in consultation with the UPSC and other concerned Ministries not to change the existing criteria regarding the length of eligibility service.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Right to Information

1121. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating empowering all the citizens to seek information on the functioning of all public authorities in the country;

(b) if so, whether existing policy of the Government regarding classification of documents will not come in the way;

(c) the modalities for seeking such an information; and

(d) if so, whether there will be quick remedial measures in case such an information is refused?

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 (d) With a view to introducing greater transparency and openness in functioning of Government and Public bodies, the Government had constituted a working Group on "Right to Information and promotion of open and Transparent Government" under the Chairmanship of Shri H.D. Shourie. The Working Group submitted its report to the Government on the 21st May, 1997. It has prepared for consideration of the Government a draft "Freedom of Information Bill". In order to ensure that flow of information to the public is not impeded by other laws and rules, the Group has recommended amendments to section 5 of the official Secrets Act, 1923, Sections 123 and 124 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 together with consequential amendments in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, Rule 11 of the CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964 and the Manual of Departmental Security Instructions relating to classification of information. The "Freedom of Information Bill" also contains modalities for seeking information as also remedial measures in cases where access to information is refused.

The recommendation of the Working Group for legislation of the "Freedom of Information Bill" is in an advanced stage of consideration. The Ministries/ Departments administering the aforesaid Acts and other provisions are separately taking action in respect of these recommendations.

[Translation]

Generation of Power

1122. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme to generate power bagasse of sugar-cane is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of electricity in Megawatt likely to be generated from the bagasse of sugarcane; and

(d) the demand of electricity likely to be fulfilled by this source?

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) A National Programme on Bagasse based Cogeneration is under implementation. The Programme provides for capital support of upto Rs. 2 Crore per MW for twelve demonstration projects for optimal cogeneration. The Programme also provides for financial incentives ranging from Rs.15 Lakhs per MW to 35 Lakh per MW, depending on the project parameters, in the form of Interest Subsidy to the Financial Institution(s) to reduce interest rates for the Term Loan(s) provided by them for such cogeneration projects. In addition, promotional activities such as organisation of training etc., are also supported under the Programme.

(c) and (d) The potential for bagasse based cogeneration is estimated to be about 3500 MW; so far 19 cogeneration projects aggregating 82 MW of surplus power generation have been set up in the country. 17 projects aggregating to about 100 MW are reported to be under various stages of implementation.

[English]

Net working of various Departments

1123. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received by National Informatics Centre from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka for net working of its various departments as a step towards total computerisation ;

(b) the status of work completed and work in hand at present;

(c) whether there is undue delay in execution of the project;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the project are likely to be completed?

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) In the case of Maharashtra, during the NIC State Coordination Committee meeting held on 6th October 1997 under the Chairmanship

of Chief Secretary of Govt. of Maharashtra, Govt. of Maharashtra proposed to jointly set up a State of the art of high speed local area network in Mantralaya and New Administrative Block at Mumbai.

A proposal was formulated in consultation with Govt. of Andhra Pradesh for implementation of total File Monitoring System which has since been completed. Another proposal was received for establishing a structured high speed LAN within the Secretariat complex.

A proposal has been received from Govt. of Karnataka for networking its offices.

(b) NIC submitted to Govt. of Maharashtra detailed proposal in January, 1998 which has been approved by the Govt. of Maharashtra recently.

In the case of Andhra Pradesh State, NIC has completed its portion of work regarding providing of active components of the LAN, while State Govt. is laying fibre optic and UTP cabling.

In the case of Karnataka, a Comprehensive proposal to network the Govt. offices located at Vidhan Soudha has been submitted to the State Govt. NIC is awaiting their approval.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In the case of Maharashtra, NIC can complete its part of the project within three months after State Govt. completes its portion of the project relating to cabling/ducting etc.

In the case of Karnataka, approval of the State Govt. is awaited.

In the case of Andhra Pradesh, NIC has completed its part of the proposal.

Policy on the Price of Fertiliser

1124. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced any policy on the price of fertilizer;

(b) if so, the main features of the policy ;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to reduce the price of fertilizers for helping small and marginal farmers;

(d) whether the Government are considering to distribute fertilizer on concessional rates to the farmers having land below two acres; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Under the existing scheme, Urea is the only fertiliser under statutory price control. In the case of decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic fertilisers like Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP), Single Super Phosphate (SSP) and Complex fertilisers, a scheme is in operation to provide concession to manufacturers and importers to enable them to sell these fertilisers at a reduced price indicated by Central/ State Governments.

(c) to (e) Urea, which is the only controlled fertiliser is available to the farmers, including small and marginal farmers, at a subsidized statutory farm-gate price. Decontrolled fertiliser like DAP, MOP, SSP statutory farm-gate price. Decontrolled fertiliser like DAP, MOP, SSP and complexes are also available to the farmers at concessional rates.

Special Status to Goa

1125. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give special category status to Goa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) States including among the Special Category States, for the purpose of Central Assistance for Plan Financing, are those which have a strategic location on the border with neighbouring countries and are hilly states, some with large tribal population and/or which have been constituted out of former small Union Territory/ districts, with limited and weak resource base compared to their development needs.

Goa, though carved out of erstwhile Union Territory, has no such handicap. It is one of the richer states with a well developed fiscal framework and possesses a known potential for resource mobilisation from tourism, minerals and mineral based industries. As such, the State of Goa does not qualify for status of Special Category State.

Sale of Onions

1126. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government are aware of distress selling of onions by rupee one a kg. in some districts of West Bengal as a result of hailstorms;

(b) if so, the necessary measures taken by the Government to save the peasants of these areas ; and

(c) the quantum of Central Relief Fund released so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The necessary information from the State Government of West Bengal is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The Central Government had released an amount of Rs. 10.67 crores, in advance, in March, 1998 in the form of the first quarterly instalment for necessary relief and rehabilitation measures in the areas affected by natural calamities during 1998-99, under Calamity Relief fund.

[Translation]

Construction on Dams in Bihar

1127. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to start an irrigation project by constructing dams on the river Falgu and Morhar in district Gaya and near Panchampur in Bihar;

(b) if so, the time by which the projects are likely to be taken up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No such proposal has been received in Central Water Commission from the State Government of Bihar.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Per Capita Income

1128. SHRI MANIK RAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of per capita income of each State and Union Territory alongwith the National average thereof;

(b) whether the per capita income in Maharashtra State is less than the National average;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to take any action for bringing per capita income of Maharashtra at par with the National average ; and

(e) 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) State-wise Net State domestic Product alongwith National All India per Capita Net National Product and Net domestic Product at current and constant prices for the period 1980-81 onwards is given in the enclosed Statements - I and II.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Statement - I

Per Capita Net State domestic Product at Constant (1980-81) Price (1980-81 to 1997-98) as on 22.5.98

S.No.	State/UT	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95(P)	1995-96(96(P)	1996-97(97(Q)	1997-98(98(A)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)
1.	Andhra Pr.	1380	1556	1540	1569	1488	1530	1438	1545	1747	1790	1779	1788	1736	1871	1973	2059	2130	-
2.	Arunachal Pr.	1571	1750	1755	1821	1937	2119	2194	2265	2374	2363	2710	3012	3013	3369	3265	3304	3059	-
3.	Assam	1284	1402	1437	1470	1447	1510	1437	1468	1446	1517	1544	1575	1557	1583	1585	1606	1628	-
4.	Bihar	917	947	935	1003	1074	1074	1135	1050	1158	1116	1197	1105	1017	1019	1037	986	1010	-
5.	Goa	3145	2866	3239	3214	3283	3091	3196	3498	4195	4328	4883	4786	5381	5497	5552	5483	-	-

(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)
Gujarat	1940	2084	2008	2343	2293	2186	2276	1986	2737	2844	2649	2381	3091	2887	3496	3375	3717	-
Haryana	2370	2399	2487	2479	2513	2893	2825	2709	3289	3254	3509	3499	3421	3498	3686	3668	3956	-
Himachal Pr.	1704	1773	1678	1726	1599	1781	1877	1850	2046	2250	2241	2213	2267	2315	2395	2518	-	-
J & K	1776	1772	1782	1794	1837	1832	1809	1571	1736	1730	1786	1775	1804	1832	1886	1926	-	-
0. Karnataka	1520	1583	1586	1663	1750	1644	1764	1853	1978	2055	2039	2262	2278	2399	2454	2551	2641	-
1. Kerala	1508	1469	1485	1406	1473	1507	1453	1482	1614	1705	1815	1826	1932	2114	2169	2264	2363	-
2. Madhya Pr.	1358	1360	1388	1427	1327	1409	1315	1459	1529	1523	1696	1538	1618	1747	1753	1791	1875	-
3. Maharashtra	2435	2641	2480	2579	2558	2705	2666	2781	3000	3414	3483	3399	3849	4110	4274	4598	4853	-
4. Manipur	1419	1462	1447	1530	1553	1598	1588	1669	1707	1687	1739	1841	1884	1896	1986	1993	-	-
15. Meghalaya	1361	1379	1361	1354	1385	1412	1397	1485	1455	1596	1733	1764	1617	1681	1673	1714	-	-
16. Nagaland	1448	1577	1720	1695	1681	1653	1768	1907	1983	1986	1976	2006	2239	2170	-	-	-	-
17. Orissa	1314	1290	1191	1407	1316	1442	1436	1365	1623	1699	1383	1530	1476	1543	1580	1608	1595	-
18. Punjab	2674	2875	2909	2904	3073	3249	3302	3410	3526	3730	3730	3825	3931	4022	4112	4172	4371	-
19. Rajasthan	1222	1285	1276	1525	1379	1338	1428	1295	1791	1716	1942	1755	1975	1776	2053	1996	2247	2215
20. Sikkim	1571	1611	1750	1758	1919	2917	2297	2678	2924	3118	3369	3492	-	-	-	-	-	-
21. Tamil Nadu	1498	1640	1527	1582	1758	1798	1755	1837	1987	2094	2235	2268	2355	2551	2767	2744	2880	-
22. Tripura	1307	1248	1339	1261	1262	1240	1274	1398	1538	1601	1671	1681	1709	1856	1949	-	-	-
23. Uttar Pradesh	1278	1276	1344	1364	1354	1375	1402	1433	1584	1593	1652	1627	1615	1630	1646	1668	1763	-
24. West Bengal	1773	1689	1719	1883	1892	1929	1962	2022	2061	2086	2145	2267	2295	2419	2601	2668	2830	-
25. A & N Islands	2613	2604	2414	2660	2445	2639	2644	2695	2817	2715	2580	2302	2884	3079	3395	3287	-	-
26. Delhi	4030	4163	4495	4206	4201	4665	4765	4975	5185	5438	5388	5788	5453	5630	5683	6049	-	-
27. Pondicherry	2849	2814	2956	2909	2988	3043	3135	3072	3124	3170	3254	2983	2571	2770	2841	2954	-	-

All India

Per Capita NNP at factor Cost 1630 1693 1691 1790 1811 1841 1871 1901 2059 2157 2222 2175 2243 2337 2473 2608 2761 2847

Per Capita NDP at factor cost 1625 1692 1699 1804 1827 1857 1893 1929 2099 2198 2267 2226 2298 2394 2533 2664 2814 2897

P: Provisional Q: Quick Estimates : (—) Not made available by the concerned State Governments.

Source : Directorates of Economic & Statistics of respective State Governments and C.S.O. for All India Per Capita NNP and NDP. The figures of Per Capita NDP are not published in NAS.

Note : 1. Owing to differences in source material used the figures for different States/UTs are not strictly comparable.

Note : 2. The State of Mizoram prepares these estimates at current prices only.

Note : 3. The UTs of Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep do not prepare these estimates.

Statement - II*Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices (1980-81 to 1997-98) As on 22.5.98*

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (P)	1995-96 (P)	1996-97 (Q)	1997-98 (A)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)
1.	Andhra Pr.	1380	1655	1751	2034	2067	2268	2358	2833	3500	3941	4728	5556	5718	6900	7884	8938	9867	-
2.	Arunachal Pr.	1571	2040	2294	2526	2877	3401	3733	3866	4407	4461	5397	6524	7518	8852	9413	10205	10887	-
3.	Assam	1284	1625	1803	2113	2430	2612	2767	3060	3204	3723	4281	4683	4973	5520	6017	6286	6663	-
4.	Bihar	917	1044	1145	1281	1504	1601	1798	1906	2253	2312	2660	2868	2998	3417	3737	3524	3835	-
5.	Goa	3145	3369	4026	4181	5039	4660	5484	5966	6865	7988	8797	10693	12800	15332	15630	16148	-	-
6.	Gujarat	1940	2376	2457	3128	3188	3221	3660	3564	4908	5304	5891	6243	8235	8945	11668	11977	13932	-
7.	Haryana	2370	2668	2980	3160	3365	4004	4106	4445	5714	6233	7508	8775	9037	10526	12283	13518	16199	-
8.	Himachal Pr.	1704	1953	2032	2273	2249	2649	2870	3185	3934	4375	4910	5991	6390	6896	7846	8747	-	-
9.	J & K	1776	1970	2190	2428	2669	2874	3099	2954	3517	3618	3625	3755	4024	4244	5099	6181	-	-
10.	Karnataka	1520	1707	1855	2192	2416	2495	2810	3159	3620	4044	4598	5889	6321	7216	8317	9384	10279	-
11.	Kerala	1508	1576	1809	2092	2296	2398	2676	2937	3233	3718	4200	5140	5768	6524	7597	8324	9066	-
12.	Madhya Pr.	1358	1437	1605	1834	1822	2085	2103	2649	3048	3306	4049	4157	4544	5508	5909	6518	7445	-
13.	Maharashtra	2435	2673	2817	3385	3375	3826	3995	4638	5430	6570	7439	8242	10080	11799	13195	15457	17295	-
14.	Manipur	1419	1677	1729	1997	2205	2322	2590	3211	3502	3574	3976	4659	5026	5930	6543	6914	-	-
15.	Meghalaya	1361	1516	1626	1831	2047	2250	2479	2922	3074	3836	4375	4891	5272	5934	6402	6826	-	-
16.	Mizoram	1289	1383	1471	1724	2139	2658	3165	4077	4026	4135	4474	5941	6599	7517	7743	-	-	-
17.	Nagaland	1448	1704	1966	2203	2453	2591	2781	3385	3708	4334	5498	6166	6652	6638	-	-	-	-
18.	Orissa	1314	1443	1501	1902	1846	2175	2335	2308	2871	3218	3077	3907	4114	4662	5369	6192	6422	-
19.	Punjab	2674	3119	3382	3673	4123	4578	4940	5719	6487	7624	8318	9872	11140	12936	14525	16044	18213	-
20.	Rajasthan	1222	1392	1544	1914	1849	1978	2095	2310	3089	3241	4191	4501	5197	5335	6406	6959	8481	9215
21.	Sikkim	1571	1701	1931	2137	2635	3023	3472	3886	4241	4686	5302	5728	5722	5729	-	-	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	1498	1776	1777	2024	2341	2620	2885	3374	3782	4370	4978	5795	6670	8041	9180	9868	11215	-
23.	Tripura	1307	1499	1650	1765	1904	2025	2167	2422	3015	3185	3370	3688	3773	4252	4376	-	-	-
24.	Uttar Pr.	1278	1338	1529	1658	1784	1999	2157	2360	2771	3087	3590	4069	4335	4783	5333	5874	6733	-
25.	West Bengal	1773	1930	2127	2450	2771	2893	3079	3658	3836	4220	4673	5298	5541	6247	7636	7851	8805	-
26.	A & N Islands	2613	2847	2948	3435	3549	3985	4412	4436	4641	5334	5590	5937	6277	8720	10504	11147	-	-
27.	Delhi	4030	4462	4969	5082	5535	6545	7170	8011	9114	10019	10931	13697	14567	16354	17845	19779	-	-
28.	Pondicherry	2849	3087	3377	3803	4219	4580	5050	5386	6071	6611	7275	7932	8631	8545	10555	11319	-	-
All India																			
	Per Capita NNP at factor cost	1630	1861	2004	2304	2504	2730	2962	3285	3842	4347	4983	5603	6262	7196	8403	9578	10771	
	Per Capita NDP at factor cost	1625	1861	2013	2317	2523	2749	2986	3319	3898	4416	5073	5721	6397	7335	8547	9725	10919	

P: Provisional Q: Quick Estimates : (—) Not made available by the concerned State Governments.

Source : Directorates of Economic & Statistics of respective State Governments and C.S.O. for All India Per Capita NNP and NDP. The figures of per Capita NDP are not published in NAS.

Note : 1. Owing to differences in source material used the figures for different State/UTs are not strictly comparable.

Note : 2. The UTs of Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep do not prepare these estimates.

Production of Software and Electronics

1129. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of software and electronics have increased during last three years;

(b) if so, the target set and achievement made in this regards during each of the last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the export of these items; and

(d) if so, the programme prepared thereon for the Ninth Plan?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production targets and achievements of electronics and software industry during last 3 years are as under :

(Rs. Crores)

	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Electronic Hardware	25,550	18,100	33,400	20,340	30,150	22,100
Computer Software	1,800	4,240	2,600	6,300	9,750	9,970
Total :	27,350	22,340	36,000	26,640	39,900	32,070

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Export of software and electronic goods has been given high priority in the strategy for the Ninth Plan. An export target of Rs.48,930 crores, at a compound annual growth rate of 52% has been set for terminal year of the 9th Plan. i.e. 2001-02, for the electronics sector. The programme include manpower development, provision of infrastructure, stimulation of R&D efforts; quality assurance, liberalisation of EXIM Policy (1997-2002) ; and simplification of procedures under various export promotion schemes for electronics sector.

Rise in prices of Major Agricultural Inputs

1130. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of rise in the prices of major agricultural inputs during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 ;

(b) the percentage of rise in the support price of major foodgrains during the said period ; and

(c) the percentage of increase in the production of foodgrains during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) A Statement -I showing percentage rise in the index number of wholesale prices of major agricultural inputs during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 is enclosed ;

(b) A Statement -II showing percentage rise in support prices of major foodgrains during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 is also enclosed.

(c) The production of foodgrains, which rose by 10.5 per cent in 1996-97 as compared to 1995-96, is likely to record a fall by 2.6 per cent in 1997-98 over 1996-97.

Statement - I

Percentage rise in prices of major agricultural inputs

Agricultural Inputs	Annual percentage rise	
	1996-97	1997-98
High Speed Diesel	14.8	27.5
Light Diesel Oil	29.6	0.0
Lubricant	45.2	0.0
Electricity	12.0	6.7
Electricity for Irrigation	No Change	4.0
Cattle Feed	13.5	0.6
Fertilizer	4.9	0.4
Pesticides	0.1	3.7
Non-Elect.Mach.& Parts	8.8	0.4
Tractors	11.6	3.8
Power driven Pumps	16.3	2.0

Statement - II

Percentage rise in support prices of major foodgrains

Commodity	Annual percentage rise	
	1996-97	1997-98
	(According to Crop Year)	
Paddy	5.6	9.2
Jawar	3.3	16.1
Bajra	3.3	16.1
Maize	3.2	12.5
Ragi	3.3	16.1
Wheat	25.0	7.4
Barley	3.4	14.8
Tur (Arhar)	5.0	7.1
Moong	5.0	7.1
Urad	5.0	7.1
Gram	5.7	10.1

Agricultural and Livestock

1131. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the assistance provided by the Union Government to various States for development of agriculture and livestock during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Union Government propose the enhance the assistance during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Government of India is implementing a number of Central/Centrally sponsored schemes to help the States in the development of agriculture and livestock. The details of assistance provided to State Governments during the last three years were as follows :

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
1995-96	886.05
1996-97	971.41
1997-98	922.82 (Provisional)

(b) to (d) Funds would be released to the State Governments under various Central/Centrally sponsored schemes based on the proposals received from the State Governments, total allocation in the budget of the Department and the amount remaining unutilised out of earlier releases made.

[Translation]

Extension of Canal from Narora Dam

1132. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the canal from Narora Dam up to Dataganj in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) If so, the details thereof ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No such proposal has been received by Union Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Cashewnut Cultivation

1133. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the steps are taken by the Government to promote cashewnut cultivation in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereon?

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

(b) Government of India has launched a Centrally sponsored scheme during VIII Plan on Integrated Development Programme of Cashew with a plan outlay of Rs.47,85 crores. The Scheme was continued during 1997-98 with an outlay of Rs.16.00 crore and it is being continued during 1998-99 also. The following programmes have been taken up under this scheme :

- (i) Multiplication and supply of planting material of improved and high yielding varieties.
- (ii) Improving productivity of existing plantation.
- (iii) Adoption of improved production and pest management practices.
- (iv) Training of farmers.

Subarnarekha Irrigation Project

1134. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI A. KHARABELA SWAIN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds earmarked and spent on the Inter-State Subarnarekha Irrigation Project as on date;

(b) the progress made on construction work of the project;

(c) the extent to which the States of Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal are likely to be benefitted after completion of the project;

(d) whether the Union Government are contemplating to take over this project for its early completion ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) A Statement-I is enclosed.

(b) A Statement-II is enclosed.

(c) The proposed annual irrigation benefits due to Subarnarekha project in the State of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal are as under :

- (i) Bihar 2.370 lakh ha.
(ii) Orissa 1.875 lakh ha.

(iii) West Bengal 1.300 lakh ha.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement - I

Subarnarekha Project	Latest Estimated cost	Expendt. upto 3/92	VIII Plan outlay as approved by working Group	VII Plan (antd. expenditure)	Total antd. expenditure upto 3/97	1997-98 outlay	Antd. exp. 97-98
1. Bihar portion (at 1996 price level)	2376.15	561.19	335.00	205.37	766.56	35.00	25.56
2. Orissa Portion (Including Common Components in Bihar State) (at 1995 price level)	1270.50	179.92	795.00	127.26	307.18	-	40.43
3. West Bengal portion (at 1997 price level)	595.00	4.72	60.00	9.79	14.51	6.00	6.00

* Including Rs. 4.4 crores paid to Govt. of Bihar for share cost.

Statement - II

PROGRESS UPTO MARCH 1998

Subarnarekha Project (Bihar Portion)

- (a) Chandil Dam - 97% (except installation of gates)
(b) Icha Dam - 30%
(c) Galudih Barrage - 98% (except installation of gates)
(d) Kharkai Barrage - Yet to be started
(e) Chandil LBC - 70%
(f) Icha LBC - 30%
(g) Galudih RBC - 70%
(h) Icha RBC - 50%
(i) Galudih LBC - Yet to be stated
(j) Kharkai RBC - 25%
(k) Kharkai LBC - NIL

Subarnarekha Projects (Orissa Portion)

- (a) **Jambhira Dam**
Earthwork 98%
Embankment 88%
Concrete & Masonry 82%
Rock toe & Rip-rap 54%

- (b) **Haldia and Baura Dams**
Yet to be started

(c) Canals	Earthwork	Lining	Structures
(i) Subarnarekha Main Canal	84%	—	31%
(ii) Subarnarekha branch Canal	Yet to be started		
(iii) Betnoti branch Canal	74%	—	16%
(iv) Jambhira right Bank Canal	42%	—	11%
(v) Jambhira LBC	Yet to be started		
(vi) Distribution system	Yet to be started		

Subarnarekha Project (West Bengal Portion)

No appreciable work done so far.

Pensioners

1135. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government feel that there is any discrimination between pre January 1, 1996 pensioners and January to September 1996 pensioners as in their pensions (basic) is concerned; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures 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) and (b) In accordance with the provisions contained in Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 for the purpose of computation of pension, emoluments drawn by a Government servant during the last 10 months of his service are taken into account. Accordingly in the case of Government employees who retired within 10 months from the date of introduction of new scales of pay i.e. 1.1.96, emoluments drawn in the pre-revised scales of pay for the period prior to 1.1.96 and pay in the revised scales for the remaining period have been taken into account. In the case of Government servants retiring within 10 months from the date of introduction of new pay scales, in addition to basic pay, dearness allowance as well as IR(I) and IR(II) drawn during the period prior to 1.1.96 have also been treated as emoluments for the purpose of computation of pension. However, the revised pension sanctioned to post-1996 pensioners after the introduction of the new pay scales is in no case less than the original basic pension sanctioned to them based on the pre-revised scales. In some cases the pension so fixed has resulted in less pension than their counterparts who retired by pre-1996. However, those employees who have retired or will be retiring between 1.1.96 and 31.12.97 have an option to retain the pre-revised scales of pay and have their pension and death-cum retirement gratuity calculated under the rules in force immediately before coming into the effect of these orders. The pension and death-cum-retirement gratuity in such cases will be regulated in accordance with the orders in force prior to 1.1.96.

The post -1996 retirees also receive 40% instead of 33% of commutation amount, enhanced gratuity upto Rs 3.5 lakhs based on the last pay drawn and Dearness Allowance admissible thereon and 300 days leave encashment in the new scale as against 240 days in the old scale by pre-96 retirees. Hence full terminal benefit received by pre-96 and post 96 retirees cannot be compared.

Compensation to Victims of Mina Fire

1136. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI E. AHAMED :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have announced compensation to the next of kins of those Hajis who died in Mina fire tragedy in Saudi Arabia in 1997 and those sustained injuries thereof ;

(b) if so, the amount paid in each category ;

(c) whether compensations have not yet been remitted so far; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Immediately after the Mina fire tragedy during Haj 97, Prime Minister had announced a package of relief measures which consisted of :

- (i) ex-gratia payment of rupees one lakh to the next of kin of the pilgrims killed in the fire ;
- (ii) ex-gratia payment of rupees one lakh to those who were permanently disabled; and
- (iii) ex-gratia payment of rupees ten thousand to those who had been injured in the fire.

2. The Ministry of External Affairs received 114 claims from the next of kins of the deceased pilgrims. It has already sent cheques of rupees one lakh each in respect of 24 claimants to the District Magistrates concerned. Again, 33 claims have been processed recently and passed for payment, the cheques are under preparation.

3. Cheques in respect of 2 claims received from permanently disabled pilgrims are under preparation.

4. Out of a total 424 injured pilgrims, payments of Rs. 10,000 each have already been made in respect of 181 pilgrims. For the remaining injured pilgrims, Consulate General of India, Jeddah has been authorised to make the payments, which will be completed shortly.

5. The delay in setting the dues of the remaining 57 claims from next of kin of deceased pilgrims has been on account of difficulties being faced by the claimants in obtaining Succession Certificates from the Law Courts. Following suggestions from the members of state Haj Committees, Government relaxed this requirement and has

directed the District Magistrates concerned to obtain these certificates from the Tehsildars; 9 such Succession Certificates have been received recently and payments to the claimants will be made shortly. In the remaining cases, District Magistrates have been reminded to expedite action.

Indian Gulf

1137. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indians in Gulf Prisons as on date, country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to get them released ?

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

(a) According to available information, the number of Indians in prisons in the Gulf countries as on 20.5.98 is as follows (the figures available for Saudi Arabia are only of those convicted since 1998):

(1) Bahrain	-	113
(2) Iraq	-	4
(3) Kuwait	-	53
(4) Oman	-	207
(5) Qatar	-	170
(6) Saudi Arabia	-	2702
(7) United Arab Emirates	-	800

(b) In case of arrest of an Indian national, a request is made to the host government for seeking consular access. An officer of the Indian diplomatic mission/post visits the detainee and tries to ascertain the circumstances leading to his arrest. Where necessary, the mission/post takes up the matter with the host government for speedy and fair trial and also for review of the sentence. The prisoners are released normally on completion of their terms of imprisonment. However, on humanitarian grounds, a number of missions have succeeded in getting remission of sentences in deserving cases.

World Bank Assistance

1138. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has announced to provide \$197 million for development of agricultural research and its dissemination among farmers in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the agricultural fields in which the above amount is proposed to be invested; and

(d) the extent to which the farmers are likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOM PAL) : (a) Yes Sir. The assistance agreed is US \$ 196.8 million.

(b) The World Bank has approved to support National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) as a joint venture of the Department of Agriculture Research & Education (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) and the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation at a total cost of US \$ 239.7 million out of which US \$ 196.8 million will be financed by the World Bank covering a credit of SDR 73.8 million (equivalent to US \$100.00 million) from IDA and a loan of US \$ 96.8 million from IBRD.

(c) The amount will be invested to support technology generation assessment and dissemination in priority areas of natural resources management, nutrient and water management, integrated pest management, biodiversity, post-harvest technology and value addition and bio-technology for resolving problems facing major production systems in the country.

(d) A large number of farmers will be benefitted by improved supply of relevant and sustainable technologies delivered at lower unit costs, and their dissemination through innovative models envisaged under the project.

[Translation]

Farakka Barrage

1139. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that after the construction of Farakka Barrage on the river Ganga in West Bengal a large scale devastation occurred in Northern India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 2.5 crore acre land in West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh adjoining Ganga and its tributaries came under water-logging for ever; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Cotton Procurement Schemes**

1140. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought two years extension from the Centre to its monopoly cotton procurement scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereto;

(d) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ;

(e) the steps being taken to improve effective implementation of the scheme cutting down substantially losses, heavy administrative overheads/expense ; and

(f) the details of complaints received on serious financial irregularities/manipulations/fraudulent deals reportedly committed under the cotton monopoly procurement scheme and the action taken by the Union Government on the reported irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (f) The Ministry of Textiles has received a request from the State Government of Maharashtra for extension of the Maharashtra Monopoly Scheme for a further period beyond 30.6.1998. The request of the State Government is under consideration.

Stolen Passports

1141. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several hundred passports have been stolen from the Indian Embassy in Madrid for probable sale to illegal immigrants;

(b) if so, the total number of passports stolen;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the matter for fixing up the responsibility; and

(d) the outcome there of and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) A total of 189 passports were found stolen following a forced entry into and burglary of the Chancery premises of the Embassy of India in Madrid on March 23, 1998.

(b) 189 passports were found stolen of which the nationality wise break-up is: Indian -4; Spanish-178; US & Swiss-2 each; British, French & German - One each.

(c) and (d) The Spanish police authorities are conducting an investigation. Physical security arrangements at the Indian Embassy have also been strengthened.

Economic Development of North-Eastern Region

1142. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the economic development of the North-Eastern Region;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to bring the North-East-Council under the aegis of the Planning Commission for an integrated development of the region;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; 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) The economic development of North East Region as measured by the growth rate of per capita State Domestic Product over the year of 1984-85 as per latest available information for different States is given in the attached Statement.

(b) to (d) A decision 'in principle' has been taken by the Government to restructure the North East Council and bring it under the administrative jurisdiction of the Planning Commission. Necessary action to give effect to these decisions has been initiated.

Statement

Growth rate of per capita state domestic product for North Eastern States (In percentage per annum)

Sl.No.	States	Growth rate
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.73 (for 1984-85 to 1994-95)
2.	Assam	1.74 (for 1984-85 to 1994-95)
3.	Manipur	2.39 (for 1984-85 to 1993-94)
4.	Meghalaya	2.85 (for 1984-85 to 1994-95)
5.	Mizoram *	
6.	Nagaland	2.88 (for 1984 -85 to 1993-94)
7.	Tripura	3.93 (for 1984-85 to 1992-93)

* The State of Mizoram prepares these estimates at current prices only and hence they are not comparable.

Heavy Water Plants

1143. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of heavy water plants being run in the country and performance of each plant during the last three years;

(b) whether the country is self sufficient in heavy water at present ;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to export heavy water and to set up new heavy water plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) There are eight heavy water plants in the country of which seven are in operation and have performed generally well during the last three years. Operation of one plant located at Talcher in Orissa had to be suspended since 1994 due to non-availability of the feedstock. (ammonia synthesis gas) from the nearby fertilizer plant of the Fertilizers Corporation of India Ltd. with which this heavy water plant is integrated.

(b) to (d) The present level of production and availability of heavy water in the country is such that apart from meeting the domestic demand for nuclear power generation, it is possible to also offer some quantities for export as and when such opportunities arise. Actual export, however, depends on competing price bids. Some export orders for heavy water standards of various concentrations have been executed in the past and shipment of 100 metric tonnes of heavy water has recently been made. In view of the foregoing position, there is no need for additional heavy water plants at present.

Sardar Sarovar Project

1144. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has stayed the further constructor work of the Sardar Sarovar Project recently ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Gujarat has approached the Union Government for vacation of stay given by the Supreme Court;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government for early vacation of the stay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) In the matter of Civil Writ Petition No. 319/94 filed by Narmada Bachao Andolan in April, 1994 in the Supreme Court regarding Sardar Sarovar Project, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 5th May, 1995 ordered that for the time being the effective height of the dam would be maintained at EL81.5 m.

(c) to (e) The Government of Gujarat has filed an Interlocutory Application before the Supreme Court on 9.12.1996 seeking permission to raise the effective height of the Spillway portion of the Dam from the present level of 81.5 metre to 85 m. Union of India has also filed an Affidavit on 22.8.1996 alongwith an application for directions with regard to construction of the Sardar Sarovar Dam without any constraint on height as long as it is built in accordance with Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award and requesting modification in the Supreme Court order dated 5.5.1995. While hearing the matter on 3.3.1997, the Supreme Court held the view that no modification in the earlier interim order of 5.5.1995 is called for. The Union of India has also filed a 'Written Submission' on 11.4.1997 pleading that under Article 262 of the Constitution read with section -11 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, the Supreme Court has no jurisdiction to go into the matter arising out of a water disputes. This issue of jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in the matter was referred by the Supreme Court vide its Order dated 29.4.1997 to the constitution Bench hearing the Cauvery matter. However, the issues relating to the implementation of the Resettlement & Rehabilitation measures of the Project Affected Families raised in the petition of the Narmada Bachao Andolan are being heard existing Bench of the Supreme Court. The matter was last heard on 16.4.1998 and has now been listed for further hearing on 13.8.98.

[Translation]

President visit to Brazil

1145. SHRI RAGHVENDRA SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the President has recently visited Brazil ;

(b) if so, the issues discussed with the Government of Brazil during the visit ;

(c) whether talks for supporting India's permanent membership in UN Security Council were held with the Government of Brazil, and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government of Brazil in this regard?

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

(a) The President of India made a State visit to Brazil from 3rd May to 8th May, 1998.

(b) The President of India held talks with President Cardoso of Brazil in the presence of the two delegations. The two Presidents reviewed the progress of bilateral relations between India and Brazil. It was noted that there was scope for further expansion of bilateral relations, especially in trade and economic cooperation in areas like electronics, Computer Software, telecommunication, aviation, railways, steel, pharmaceuticals, traditional Indian medicine, automobiles, motor-cycles, scooters and cycles. Possibilities of collaborations and joint ventures in some of the areas were also discussed. The Brazilian side has shown keenness to obtain fresh genetic material from India for their cattle. About 80% of the Brazilian cattle is from Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. An Implementing Arrangement for cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine under the bilateral agreement on Science & Technology was also signed. A Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of India and the Rio Branco Institute of Brazil was also signed. In the multilateral area, the two Presidents discussed reform of the UN system and expansion of the UN Security Council.

(c) and (d) During the discussions on reform of Security Council, India and Brazil renewed their support for each other's candidature for the permanent seat in the Expanded Security Council as pledged in the Joint Declaration issued at the end of President Cardoso's visit to India in January, 1996. Both countries agreed to work closely together to achieve this objective.

Distribution of River Water

1146. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether water distribution work in different parts of the country is not working smoothly;

(b) if so, the remedial steps being taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Disputes leading to river water distribution in five river basins were referred to Government of India and in turn Government of India constituted following five tribunals in accordance with the provision of Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 to adjudicate the disputes :

- (i) Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal
- (ii) Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal
- (iii) Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal

(iv) Ravi-Beas Water Disputes Tribunal

(v) Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal

The first three Tribunals have given their final awards. Ravi-Beas Water Disputes Tribunal has given a report on 30.1.1987 & the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has given an interim order on 25.6.1991.

No policy guidelines for water allocation of inter-state rivers have been finalised by the Government.

Pending Projects of Bihar

1147. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of projects of Bihar are pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, since when these projects are pending with the Union Government ; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

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 Project of Bihar is pending for action in Planning Commission for investment clearance.

Status of Industry

1148. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:
SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to grant the status of industry to the agriculture;

(b) if so, the manner in which it is likely to benefit to the farmers; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The National Policy on Agriculture currently under formulation envisages a positive trade and investment climate for agriculture at par with industry. The intention is to bestow on the agricultural sector, in as many respects as possible, benefits similar to those obtaining the industry such as easy availability of credit and other inputs, free movements of agricultural products and infrastructural facilities etc.

*[English]***Market Bonds**

1149. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several plans of Maharashtra Government have suffered a setback for want of Centre's consent for floating of tax free and market bonds to raise funds to meet the Annual Plan expenditure;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not according the consent by the Central Government so far; and

(c) the present status of these plans and the time by which consent is likely to be accorded?

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.

*[Translation]***Agreement between India and Nepal**

1150. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Nepal regarding river valley projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed Karnali Jalkundi and Pancheshwar projects in Uttar Pradesh are pending with the Government for clearance;

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking any decision on these projects ; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to clear these projects expeditiously?

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

(b) India and Nepal entered into an agreement in April, 1954 (revised in December, 1966) for construction of a barrage on Kosi river. Another agreement in December, 1959 (revised in April, 1964) was entered into for construction of

a barrage on Gandak river. Both the barrages lie in the territory of Nepal near the Indo-Nepal border and had been in operation for the last three decades. These barrages serve the purpose of irrigation and hydropower generation benefitting both the countries. During February, 1966, India and Nepal signed a Treaty on Integrated Development of Mahakali River for which the centrepiece is the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project proposed to be located on Mahakali river at a stretch which forms the boundary between the two countries. Irrigation and hydropower benefits are envisaged from this project for both the countries and for which a detailed project report is under preparation jointly by India and Nepal.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

*[English]***Command Area Development Programme**

1151. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the funds released by the Union Government to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for the development of Command Area in the State under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme during each of the last three years; and

(b) the details of the target fixed and the achievements made in this regard during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Funds released by the Union Government to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for the development of Command Areas in the State under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme during each of the last three years i.e. 1995-96 to 1997-98 are as follows:

(Rs. in lakh)	
Year	Amount
1995-96	2204.128
1996-97	2022.600
1997-98	3057.828
Total	7284.556

(b) The details as given by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, the targets fixed and the achievements made in this regard during the period 1995-96 to 1997-98 are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of works	Units	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98*		Total	
			Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Topographical Survey	000 ha.	75.00	117.92	115.00	130.00	104.00	129.59	294.00	378.37
2.	Planning and Design	000 ha.	75.00	108.45	115.00	125.50	104.00	120.79	294.00	354.74
3.	Area Covered under on-Farm Development Works	000 ha.	75.00	117.08	121.00	126.00	99.625	112.02	295.625	355.10
4.	Kacchi Gul (Unlined field channel)	Kms.	5250	7686.22	7670	8364.40	7095	7817.39	20015	23868.01
5.	Pucchi Gul (Lined field channel)	Kms.	1050	751.54	1296	1244.22	1424	813.76	3770	2809.52
6.	Drains	Kms.	525	416.67	685	563.00	581	446.60	1791	1426.27
7.	Structures	Nos.	10500	8134	13480	12581	11590	7907	35570	28622
8.	Osrabandi	000 ha.	300	198.42	225	205.79	155.00	170.25	680	574.46

Note : * These figures are tentative.

[Translation]

Spurious Pesticides

1152. SHRI MOTI LAL VORA:
SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM:
SHRI A.C. JOS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the companies producing spurious pesticides identified during the last year in the State of Karnataka;

(b) whether the farmers have to suffer heavy losses due to the use of these pesticides and whether the provisions of the present law are sufficient to check their production ;

(c) if not, whether necessary provisions are likely to be made in this regard;

(d) whether honey bees are also affected by pesticides and a large number of people in these two States have fallen sick due to affect of pesticides on vegetables and fruits also;

(e) the quantum of chemicals and fertilisers is ton (metric) used in Andhra Pradesh during this year;

(f) whether the milk of Mother Dairy in Delhi is contaminated by DDT and BHCD; and

(g) the steps taken by the Union Government to prevent use of pesticides in such a large scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Names of the companies producing mis-branded pesticides identified during 1997-98 in the State of Karnataka is given in the enclosed Statement. Out of these, 4 companies have their manufacturing units in Karnataka.

(b) and (c) Use of misbranded pesticides is one of the many reasons identified for loss of crop in Karnataka. Although the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 and Insecticides Rule, 1971 are sufficient to check the quality of pesticides, some lacunae have been observed in their implementation. As a result, the Government is considering suitable amendment to the relevant provisions.

(d) Pesticides have variable toxicity to honey bees. However honey bees are not affected by pesticides if good agricultural practices are followed.

No categorical information regarding people fallen sick due to effect of pesticides on vegetables and fruits is available in respect of Karnataka.

(e) The estimated consumption of pesticides in Andhra Pradesh for the year 1997-98 is 7291 MT (Tech. Grade). The estimated consumption of fertilizers for 1997-98 is 36,63,730 M.T.

(f) Milk of Mother Dairy in Delhi is not contaminated by DDT or BHC as per analysis of samples of milk lifted from Mother Dairy in the recent past under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

(g) The Union Government has taken the following steps to prevent large scale use of pesticides:

(i) Adoption of Integrated Pest Management Strategy.

(ii) Promotion of biopesticides and plant products and their registration under liberalised criteria as per Insecticides Act, 1968.

(iii) Phasing out/banning/restricting the use of hazardous pesticides.

(iv) Human Resources Development (HRD) in IPM through establishment of "Farmers' Field Schools" and conduct of "Season Long Training" Programmes for imparting IPM training to farmers, Agricultural Extension, Officers and subject Matter Specialists. Publishing of literature on IPM practices in Rice, Cotton, Vegetables, Mustard, Groundnut, Pigeonpea and Gram.

(v) Large scale production of biocontrol agents by educating farmers about the techniques of production and through State Biocontrol Laboratories. Financial assistance has been given to each State to set up at least one Biocontrol laboratory.

Statement

List of Companies producing misbranded pesticides during the year 1997-98

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Name of the Chemical (s)
1	2	3
1.	Pesticides India Ltd., Udaipur	Dichlorovas 76% EC
2.	Agrochem Industries, Bangalore	Methyl Parathion 50% EC Monocrotophos 36% SL Copper Oxy Chloride 50% WDP Dimethoate 30% EC
3.	Sardar Patel Chemicals, Hyderabad	Malathion 5% DP
4.	Vantech Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., Madak (A.P.)	Fenvelarate 20% EC Fenvelarate 0.4% DP Endosulfan 35% EC
5.	Industries & Chemicals, Ranipet	Dimethoate 30% EC
6.	J.K. Ltd., Gujarat	Monocrotophos 36% SL
7.	Voltas India, A.P.	Carbondazim 50% WDP Quinolphos 25% EC

1	2	3
8.	Searia Agro Chemicals, Bombay	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP
9.	Northern Minerals, Gurgaon, Haryana	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP Monocrotophos 36% SL
10.	Cencca ICI Agro Chemicals, Madras	Cypermethrin 25% EC
11.	United Phosphorous, Bombay	Cyberusthrin in 25% EC
12.	Meerut Agro Chemicals, Meerut	Mancozeb 75% WP Monocrotophos 36% SL Endosulfan 35% EC Methyl Parathion 50% EC
13.	Vaigal Agro Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., Salam	Chlorpyrifos 20% EC Fenvalerate 0.4% DP
14.	Blue Crystal Agro Chemicals, Bangalore	Fenvalerate 20% EC
15.	Golden Agro Chemicals, Hyderabad	Malathion 5% DP
16.	Devi Pesticides, Tamil Nadu	Quinolphos 25% EC
17.	Anu Products, Haryana	Dimethoate 30% EC Fenvalerate 0.4% DP Phorate 10% G
18.	Baskar Agro Chemicals, Hyderabad	Acephate 25% SP
19.	Karapur Agro Pvt. Ltd., Goa	Azadirachtin 0.15% EC
20.	Sri Ramcides, Madras	Quinolpphos 25% EC
21.	Sanya Raksha Industries, A.P.	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP
22.	Pesto Chem. India, (Delhi)	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP
23.	Seris India, Medak (A.P.)	Chlorpyrifos 20% EC
24.	Devi Pesticides, Madurai	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP Malathion 5% DP Quinolphos 25% EC Malathion 5% DP
25.	K.A.I.C., Raichur	Malathion 5% DP
26.	Ashoka Pesticides, Baroda	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP
27.	Rhyme Organics & Chemicals, A.P.	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP
28.	Bharat Pesticides & Industries Ahmedabad	Fenvalerate 0.4% Dp
29.	Winfield Chemicals Ltd., Vijayawada	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP
30.	Madusudan Industries, Chennai	Endosulfan 35% EC Quinolphos 25% EC

1	2	3
31.	Rajasthan Pesticides & Fertilisers, M.P.	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP
32.	Rallis India, Bombay	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP Chlorpyrifos 20% EC
33.	Druva Pesticides, Bhopal	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP
34.	Makam Agro Industries, Bangalore	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP
35.	Haryana Chemicals & Pesticides	Endosulfan 35% EC
36.	S.P.I.C., Madras	Chlorpyrifos 20% EC
37.	Swastik Pesticides, U.P.	Malathion 5% DP
38.	Sri Ganesh Minerals, Himathnagar	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP
39.	Paushak Ltd., Vadodara	Quinolphos 1.5% DP
40.	Rathra Agro. Chemicals, Nalgonda	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP
41.	Super Crop Safe Ltd., Ahmedabad	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP
42.	Hindustan Anti Biotics Hyderabad	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP Monocrotophos 36% SL Acyphate 75% SP
43.	Sulphur Mills, Bombay	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP
44.	Parul Chemicals, Vadodara	Endosulfan 4% DP Quinolphos 1.5% DP
45.	Gujarath Pesticides, Ahmedabad	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP Quinolphos 1.5% DP
46.	Akola Chemicals India Ltd., Akola	Fenvalerate 0.4% DP
47.	Scientific Fertilizer, Trichi	Quinolphos 20% EC
48.	E.R.D. Party, Madras	Chlorpyrifos 20% EC
49.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., New Delhi	Monocrotophos 36% SL
50.	Tropical Agro Systems India Ltd., Madras	Tridamofan 25% WP Acephate 75% SP
51.	Phyto Chemo India Ltd., Hyderabad	Carboryl 50% WP
52.	Tuticorin Alkali Chemicals, Madras	Monocrotophos 36% SL

[English]

Saving-cum- Relief Scheme

1153. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the need for making the Saving-cum- Relief Scheme for marine fishermen a permanent scheme;

(b) whether the Government are considering to enhance the Central contribution to this scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The component of saving-cum-relief was incorporated in the National Welfare of Fishermen' Scheme during the year 1991-92 and the same is being proposed for continuation in the Ninth Plan period.

(b) to (d) Modifications to this Scheme can be considered when the proposals for the Ninth Plan period are finalised.

Indians in Pak Jails

1154. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of Indians are languishing in Pak jails;

(b) if so, whether Union Government have raised this issue with the Government of Pakistan to release them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The issue of early release and repatriation of Indian prisoners under detention in Pakistan has been repeatedly taken up with the Government of Pakistan. The matter was also discussed in the meetings of our External Affairs Minister with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan in December, 96 and April, 97 as well as in the meeting of the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan in Male in May, 97. This issue was taken up in the third round of Foreign Secretary talks held in September, 1997, and it was decided that concerned authorities of both countries would expedite the release of civilian prisoners belonging to either side. Our efforts to secure the early release and repatriation of Indian prisoners under detention in Pakistan would continue.

Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act,-1984

1155. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984 to make the functioning of co-operative societies more democratic and autonomous;

(b) if so, the details of changes likely to be made in existing Act; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) As announced in the Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance on 1.6.1998, Government will shortly bring forward a model cooperative law to replace the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act of 1984. The proposed Law would be a part of a concerted programme to revitalise the co-operative sector. The thrust of the proposed legislation would be to provide greater functional autonomy to Multi-State Cooperative Societies to manage their affairs. After completing procedural formalities, the proposed legislation will be introduced in Parliament.

[Translation]

Bargi Dam

1156. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cracks have developed in Bargi Dam;

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

(c) whether there is apprehension of loss of life and property in any area due to leakage in Bargi Dam; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Upper Krishna Project

1157. SHRI C.P.M GIRIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether land required for ongoing Upper Krishna Project has not been acquired so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether several land acquisition cases related to this project are still pending in various courts;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto and the remedial steps being taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) Irrigation being a state subject, execution of irrigation projects including land acquisition is done by the State Governments themselves. As per information available with the centre, the project authorities of Upper Krishna Project have programmed rehabilitation and resettlement activities to be synchronous with raising of Almatti Dam.

National Agenda

1158. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the policies and programmes which have been given preference in the National Agenda;

(b) whether there are certain issues in which difficulties are being experienced in their implementation; and

(c) 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) to (c) The National Agenda for Governance, inter alia, reflects the commitment of the Government to the people to give a stable, honest, transparent and efficient Government capable of accomplishing all-round development. The main thrust areas in the National Agenda include :

(a) The reform process will be given a strong Swadeshi thrust to ensure that national economy grows on the principle that 'India shall be built by Indians'.

(b) Reforms will be reappraised and revitalised through giving primacy to removal of unemployment, and to an accelerated development of infrastructure, particularly energy and power production

(c) The necessary steps are proposed to be taken to expedite implementation of policies and programmes in accord with national interests and give the entire national development efforts a humane face with total eradication of poverty as the ultimate goal.

- (d) The process of globalisation will be calibrated by devising a time table to suit national conditions and requirement so as to not undermine but strengthen the national economy the indigenous industrial base and the financial and services sectors will also to be analysed.
- (e) Earmarking of 60 per cent of the Plan Funds for public investment in agriculture, rural development, irrigation etc.

The National Agenda for Governance also outlines the policy initiatives in areas such as labour, eradication of unemployment, food security and price stability, health and drinking water, education for all, housing for all, empowerment of women, harnessing Yuva Shakti, children, population, constitutional and legal reforms, corruption, new States, National Security, internal security, international relations, genuine secularism, SCs, STs and backward classes, environment, Prasar Bharati, Science and Technology, Information Technology, and a new norms for Governance by consensus

The Government has initiated measures to ensure that the goals set in the National Agenda for Governance are achieved expeditiously. In this context Action Plans are being evolved in the following priority areas:

- (a) Doubling food production and making India hunger free in 10 years.
- (b) Expansion and improvement of Social infrastructure - drinking water, housing, education, health care and sanitation - provision of drinking water to every settlement in the country within 8 years.
- (c) Rapid expansion and improvement of physical infrastructure - power, oil petroleum and renewable sources of energy, roads, transport, ports, airports, telecommunications and financial services.
- (d) Unveiling a National Water Policy so that no water goes waste and our water resources are cleaned up.
- (e) Make India a global information technology power and one of the largest generators and exporters of software in the world within 10 years.

Linking of Rivers

1159. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finally decided to link Ganga and Brahmaputra as well as Ganga and Cauvery rivers to resolve the perennial drought, floods and famine problems in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to undertake the implementation of the said river linkage in phases; and

(c) the details of projects and works propose to be implemented during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Gobar Gas Plants

1160. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of schemes formulated by the Government for promoting Gobar Gas Plants;

(b) the number of such plants set up during each of the last three years; state wise;

(c) the total amount spent thereon, state-wise; and

(d) the number of such plants likely to be set up by the end of Ninth Plan, State-wise?

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) Two central sector schemes are being implemented for promoting gobar gas (biogas) plants. The National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD) provides for central subsidy for setting up of family type biogas plants, turn key job free with first three years' free maintenance servicing, staff support/service charges, State level Biogas Training Centres, District level Biogas Extension Centres, various types of training, publicity and extension etc. Under the second scheme, namely Community, Institutional and Night-soil based Biogas Plants (CBP/IPB/NBP) Programme, central financial assistance is given for installation of large sized gobar gas plants.

(b) Information on number of family type and community, institutional and night-soil based biogas plants set up in different States and Union Territories during the last three years is given at Statement-I and Statement-II, respectively.

(c) Information on the total amount sanctioned to different States and agencies during the last three years under NPBD and CBP/IPB/NBP Programmes is given at enclosed Statement-III.

(d) A Plan target of setting up of 7.50 lakh family type biogas plants and 800 community, institutional and night-soil based biogas plants has been proposed for the Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997-2002). Depending upon the

allocation of budget, State-wise targets are worked out on an annual basis in consultation with State Governments and nodal agencies. The State-wise targets proposed for 1998-99 are indicated at enclosed Statement -IV.

Statement- I

Number of family type biogas plants set up in different States and Union Territories during the last three years (1995-96 to 1997-98)

State/Union Territory	Number of family type biogas plants set up		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Andhra Pradesh	23720	15132	20823
Arunachal Pradesh	61	60	105
Assam	2531	5978	5601
Bihar	6951	5510	6779
Goa	55	163	247
Gujarat	20812	19582	12794
Haryana	1872	2412	2251
Himachal Pradesh	1500	1427	1360
Jammu and Kashmir	150	196	160
Karnataka	22028	26448	20006
Kerala	3040	3484	3822
Madhya Pradesh	20040	20758	18027
Maharashtra	17544	15276	19206
Manipur	142	201	271
Meghalaya	50	20	65
Mizoram	100	120	147
Nagaland	182	182	131
Orissa	12968	12237	13152
Punjab	4052	4468	6274
Rajasthan	4237	1879	1675
Sikkim	224	201	187
Tamil Nadu	7862	3938	2723
Tripura	83	87	117
Uttar Pradesh	15822	16917	18778
West Bengal	14109	13000	19533
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5	7	5
Chandigarh	5	-	-
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	3	-
Delhi	7	9	-
Pondicherry	2	2	-

Statement- II

Number of community, institutional and night soil based biogas plants set up in different States and Union Territories during the last three years 1995-96 to 1997-98

State/ Union Territory	No. of Community, Institutional and night-soil biogas plants set up		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Andhra Pradesh	6	11	4
Assam	-	-	2
Bihar	4	5	4
Goa	1	-	-
Gujarat	7	3	10
Haryana	1	6	8
Karnataka	5	2	6
Kerala	2	-	2
Madhya Pradesh	2	4	5
Maharashtra	55	31	7
Orissa	-	1	34
Punjab	57	66	43
Rajasthan	2	-	3
Tamil Nadu	27	38	8
Uttar Pradesh	175	148	116
West Bengal	6	9	4
Delhi	3	6	-

Statement - III

State wise and agency-wise details of funds sanctioned during the last three years (1995-96 to 1997-98) under the National Project on Biogas Development, and Community, Institutional & Night-soil based Biogas Plants Programme

State/ U.T./Agency	Rupees in lakhs sanctioned during 1995-96 to 1997-98		
	NPBD		CBP/IBP/NBP Programme
1	2	3	
Andhra Pradesh	1540.45	0.63	
Arunachal Pradesh	8.06	-	
Assam	75.17	3.16	

1	2	3
Bihar	1.40	2.37
Gujarat	1137.00	32.20
Goa	7.53	-
Haryana	172.90	-
Himachal Pradesh	193.82	-
Jammu and Kashmir	2.95	-
Karnataka	1237.78	4.98
Kerala	73.93	2.98
Madhya Pradesh	1242.97	41.40
Maharashtra	1473.78	82.61
Manipur	22.14	-
Meghalaya	5.53	-
Mizoram	27.60	-
Nagaland	26.80	9.62
Orissa	740.86	-
Punjab	294.38	238.10
Rajasthan	191.92	1.27
Sikkim	34.15	-
Tamil Nadu	116.57	167.99
Tripura	10.06	-
Uttar Pradesh	685.09	299.18
West Bengal	650.09	299.18
Khadi and Village Industries Commission	3830.31	385.55
Others	440.64	-

Statement IV

Physical target allocated to different States and Agencies for 1998-99 under National Project on Biogas Development and Community, institutional and Night-soil based Biogas Plants Programme

State/U.T./Agency	No. of Plants	
	Family Type Plants	Community, Institutional and Night-soil based Plants
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	14,000	2
Arunachal Pradesh	100	-
Assam	500	2

1	2	3
Bihar	500	1
Gujarat	10,200	5
Goa	75	-
Haryana	1,500	-
Himachal Pradesh	750	5
Jammu & Kashmir	50	-
Karnataka	12,500	5
Kerala	1,000	2
Madhya Pradesh	13,000	3
Maharashtra	12,000	25
Manipur	200	-
Meghalaya	100	-
Mizoram	200	-
Nagaland	200	1
Orissa	6,000	5
Punjab	4,500	40
Rajasthan	1,000	5
Sikkim	200	1
Tamilnadu	1,500	10
Tripura	100	-
Uttar Pradesh	8,500	40
West Bengal	8,510	10
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5	-
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5	-
Pondicherry	5	-
Khadi and Village Industries Commission	30,000	150
others	2,800	38

Linking of Roads

1161. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government have approached Bangladesh Government to allow transportation of goods to North-Eastern States via Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and response on Bangladesh Government to this proposals?

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

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The protocol between the Government of India and the Government of Bangladesh on Indian Water Transit and Trade, last renewed on November 11, 1997, provides for the transportation of goods on inland waterways via Bangladesh to points in Assam. The issue of transit by road was raised again while discussing the modalities of a Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) in September 1997. A draft agreement has been handed over to the Government of Bangladesh.

[English]

Special Allocation for North-East

1162. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government had decided last year that Central Ministries would allocate ten per cent of their budget to the North-East Region;

(b) if so, the total amount allocated during 1997-98 and actually spent so far;

(c) whether the Government propose that the funds allocated for the North-East Region should not lapse and use them by placing it in a central pool of funds for completion of on-going projects in the region; 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) Yes, Sir. The concerned Central Ministries/Departments were directed to allocate atleast 10% of their budget for specific programmes in the North Eastern States.

(b) The information is being collected and would be furnished.

(c) and (d) It has been decided to create a non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for funding specific projects in North Eastern States and Sikkim. Projects for the development of these States would be identified in consultation with the State Governments and North Eastern Council.

Issue of Licences

1163. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications received for the issue of licences for Food Processing Industries during the last three years till date; and

(b) the total number of licences issued out of the applications received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translisation]

Pending Projects of Gujarat

1164. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects received from Gujarat are awaiting approval of the Union Government;

(b) the reasons regarding the pendency of these projects so long; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be approved?

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 position is being reascertained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Tungabhadra Reservoir

1165. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had received a proposal from the Government of Karnataka for the construction of balancing reservoir to Tungabhadra reservoir to solve the shortage of water in some districts of the State:

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether the State Government have sought any Central assistance for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the assistance is likely to be provided to the State Government?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

National Water Resource Council

1166. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka had made any representation opposing the Inter-State Council's recommendations on " equating tribunal awards with Supreme Court's decrees" and compulsory implementation of Tribunal awards within two years from the date of its notifications; and

(b) if so, the action taken on the above representation if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The State Government of Karnataka wrote to the Government of India that the tribunal awards should not have the force of court decrees and implementation of tribunal awards within any fixed time limit should not be insisted upon.

These suggestions of the Karnataka Government were made before the fourth meeting of the Inter-State Council held on 28th November, 1997. The Karnataka Government suggested that the minutes of the fourth meeting of the Inter-State Council should be amended accordingly.

The Central Government sent a reply to the Karnataka Government stating that it would be inappropriate now to amend the minutes drawn up and circulated, but the State Government of Karnataka will have the opportunity to raise these issues before the Inter-State Council in its ensuing meetings.

One Crore Jobs

1167. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are committed to its declaration to provide one crore jobs per year; and

(b) if so, the mode of providing these jobs?

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) Normally, the Five Year Plans project the employment opportunities for the country and the strategy to be pursued. The Approach to Ninth Plan states that a primary objective of the Ninth Plan will be to generate greater productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and under employment.

The Approach to Ninth Plan does not specify the number of jobs to be provided each year.

Sanctions by Several Countries

1168. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several powerful countries have announced sanctions against India;

(b) whether it is a fact that several projects in various stages which are underway with help of these countries will now come to standstill;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of several projects, State-wise ; and

(e) the alternative steps Government propose to take for the revival of these projects?

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

(b) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Mahi Bajaj Sagar Project

1169. SHRI MAHENDRAJEET SINGH MALVIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided financial assistance to the Mahi Bajaj Sagar Project in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the funds provided by the Union Government and spent thereon so far;

(c) whether the construction work of the Anandpuri and Sagwada canals which was undertaken 13 years ago under the above project has not been completed so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the construction work of the above canals is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Central assistance to States is provided in the form of block loan/grant and is not tied to any project or sector of development.

(c) The construction work of both the canals is in the initial stages.

(d) and (e) Irrigation projects are executed by the State Governments as per their own priority.

[English]

Upper Krishna Project

1170. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance from the World Bank has been received by the Government for the execution of Upper Krishna Project in Karnataka;

(b) If so, whether some irregularities and misappropriation of funds in the execution of work of the project has come to the notice of the Government;

(c) whether a team of M.Ps. has submitted a Memorandum to the Government for a CBI inquiry into the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Upper Krishna Phase-II Project was implemented from 16.06.89 to 30.06.97 with World Bank assistance (US \$ 45 Million as loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and US \$ 160 million credit from International Development Agency).

(b) Government of Karnataka have received complaint regarding irregularities.

(c) A team of Member of Parliament, visited Upper Krishna Project in April, 1998 to see the progress of project, however no memorandum was submitted.

(d) In view of (c) above Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Sardar Sarover Project

1171. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cracks have developed in Sardar Sarover dam recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

1172. SHRI T.R. BAALU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the G8 countries had urged India to sign Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT);

(b) if so, the reaction of Indian Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the eventualities if the individual countries impose sanctions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir. In a statement issued during their recent summit meeting (17th May, 1998), leaders of the G-8 Countries, *inter alia* called on India "to rejoin the mainstream of international opinion (and) to adhere unconditionally to the NPT and CTBT".

(b) Government have declared that India would be willing to consider being an adherent to some of the undertakings of the CTBT. However, Government have also stated that these decisions cannot be taken in a vacuum but would depend upon reciprocal responses.

(c) Government has conveyed its disappointment to the countries which have imposed sanctions, as it reflects an inadequate appreciation of India's legitimate security concerns. The implications of the sanctions by individual countries are being assessed. Government will take all necessary steps to safeguard our economic and other interests in the context of these measures.

Funds for Backward Areas

1173. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to provide sufficient funds to meet the finances in developing backward areas in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the amount provided so far?

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) Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for that purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Planning Commission allocates Central Assistance for State Plans as a whole and spatial and sectoral allocations are made by the State Government. However, Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments including Andhra Pradesh in overcoming the problems of development of backward areas through various area programmes viz. Tribal Sub-Plan, Drought Prone Area Programme, Desert Development Programme etc.

Mango Production

1174. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a drastic failure of the Mango crop this year in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the failure of the Mango crop ; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the output of Mango crop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) There has been less production of mango crop in parts of Andhra Pradesh. The low production is attributed mainly to the adverse weather conditions like extended rainy season, fluctuating temperature resulting in reduced flowering and subsequently failure of pollination and pollen germination added with pest and disease attacks.

(c) The State Government have taken a number of steps to improve crop production. These steps include organising training programmes to the orchardists in adopting integrated pest management, plant protection measure, ensure optimum supply of inputs like insecticides and pesticides.

Scheme for Andhra Pradesh

1175. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent some schemes to the Planning Commission for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof including their locations; and

(c) the time by which these schemes are likely to be approved?

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) Planning Commission have no schemes pending for approval.

[Translation]

Nuclear Tests

1176. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries which have expressed their desire to cooperate with our country out of those which had stopped cooperating with our country after the nuclear test conducted by India at Pokhran in Rajasthan on May 18, 1974;

(b) whether the nuclear power countries had refused to give nuclear technique to India to generate power during the last few years;

(c) the reasons for this refusal and whether the Government are reconsidering its nuclear policy keeping it in view ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) A number of countries which stopped co-operation after the nuclear test conducted by India at Pokhran on May 18, 1974 have expressed varying degrees of interest in resuming co-operation with our country.

(b) to (d) In the last few years, countries with capabilities in nuclear power generation have expressed their inability to provide inputs of technology, materials and equipment in the light of their being a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or their membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). Russia has, however, continued its interest in setting up a 2000 megawatt nuclear power station as this related to a commitment entered into with India in 1988, prior to its membership of the NSG. Government is taking all necessary steps keeping in mind the national development needs and national security perspectives.

Construction of Bridges over Canals

1177. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether bridges constructed in Uttar Pradesh over different canals have been damaged;

(b) if so, whether the irrigation department is not repairing these bridges;

(c) the amount spent by the Government for repair of these damaged bridges on different canals in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years; and

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

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

(b) to (d) The bridges over canals in Uttar Pradesh are inspected and repaired as and when required by their Public Works Department. An amount of Rs. 26.48 lakhs has been spent during the last three years (1995-96 to 1997-98) on the repairs of these bridges.

National Water Catchment Area Development Scheme

1178. SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated funds under National Water Catchment Area Development Scheme during Ninth Five Year Plan as compared with that of the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects and in the catchments of Flood Prone Rivers, are under implementation. For these schemes, during Ninth Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 550 crores is allocated against Rs. 520 crores in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

[English]

Starvation Deaths

1179. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the report in the *Hindu* of April 17, 1998 captioned "Women dies of starvation" reporting recovery of dead women's body and other family members writhing in pain from Bhadoti town of Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that nobody dies of hunger and starvation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) As per information received from the Government of Rajasthan, the death was due to disease and not due to starvation.

Solar Energy

1180. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Solar Energy generation plants set up in the country during the Eighth Plan along with their installed capacity;

(b) the quantum of Solar Energy being generated in the country at present and the possibilities of its increase, state-wise;

(c) the details of the use of solar energy;

(d) the proposals mooted to increase the generation of power through Solar Energy during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the position of the country in the world in the field of solar energy generation?

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 two principal routes and technologies of solar energy utilisation are (i) the thermal route using the heat for heating, cooking, drying, water purification and power generation; and (ii) the photovoltaic route which converts the light into electricity which can then be used for a variety of purposes such as lighting, (pumping, communication, battery charging, refrigeration and power generation.

The details of the solar energy systems installed in the country during the Eighth Plan period (1992-93 to 1996-97) are given in the attached Statement.

Solar Photovoltaic systems of about 32 MWp aggregate capacity are estimated to have been installed in the country for various applications. In addition, 4.1 lakh sq.m of solar thermal collectors and 4.57 lakh solar cookers have been installed. These systems are capable of generating about 48 million units of electrical and 353 million units of thermal energy annually.

There is an average estimated potential of 20 MW per sq. Km. of electrical energy generation from solar energy in the country. There is an enormous potential for increasing the generation of energy from solar radiation in all the States. It is, however, difficult to estimate the possibilities of its

increase for the country and state-wise as the practical exploitation of the potential depends on several technical & economic parameters, besides the area that can be set aside for the solar energy use.

(d) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has proposed targets of 5 lakh solar lanterns, 1.5 lakh home lighting systems, 5,000 water pumping systems and 2.6 MWp of SPV power plants and other SPV systems during the Ninth Five Year Plan period. In addition 2.5 lakh sq.m. solar thermal collectors for water heating systems and 2 lakh solar cookers are proposed to be installed during the Ninth Five Year Plan period.

The Ministry also proposed to support the establishment of a 140 MW integrated solar combined cycle power project with 35 MW solar thermal power component at Mathania in Jodhpur District in Rajasthan.

(e) India is one of the leading countries in the world to harness solar energy for various applications like lighting, water pumping, telecommunications, water heating and other uses. It has a pool of trained scientific and technical manpower, research laboratories and industries involved in harnessing the solar energy resource.

Statement

State-wise progress on installations of Solar Energy Systems during 8th Plan period (1992-93 to 1996-97)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Solar Thermal System		Solar Photovoltaic system		
		Solar Cookers (No.)	Solar heating systems (In sq. m. of collector area)	Solar Lighting (No.)	SPV Plants (KWp)	Water Power Pumps (No.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10267	2012	5459	5.6	3.80
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	624	58	1957	5.9	-
3.	Assam	80	60	908	1.0	45
4.	Bihar	730	1006	20520	-	92
5.	Goa	415	743	-	-	14
6.	Gujarat	10576	7987	4161	-	19
7.	Haryana	8379	1752	8354	4.3	17
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12131	3065	11288	-	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	345	36	6722	-	15
10.	Karnataka	-	36140	483	-	103
11.	Kerala	39	2617	23069	4.74	241
12.	Madhya Pradesh	96253	6331	6933	249.0	15
13.	Maharashtra	14122	11956	1674	110.0	114
14.	Manipur	-	128	543	-	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	Meghalaya	332	120	2075	27.72	—
16.	Mizoram	48	33	2442	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	1761	576	2608	3.75	1
19.	Punjab	7199	3826	722	2.0	89
20.	Rajasthan	9245	2569	6422	152.15	146
21.	Sikkim	—	154	122	—	—
22.	Tamilnadu	52	7558	2070	187.0	453
23.	Tripura	6	104	539	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	14137	6595	56145	322.0	66
25.	West Bengal	3875	9291	3640	39.10	44
26.	A&N Island	68	20	315	110.0	5
27.	Chandigarh	790	93	—	—	7
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	7403	1404	4808	—	42
31.	Lakshadweep Islands	—	—	890	20.0	14
32.	Pondicherry	—	1027	217	—	28
Total		198877	107260	175086	124426	1953

Externally Funded Scheme of Assam

1181. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of externally funded schemes being implemented in the hill areas of Assam;

(b) whether Autonomous Hill Councils of the area are the implementing agency of all such externally funded schemes;

(c) if so, the fund released to the Hill Councils of Assam during the last three years, the details thereof year-wise and scheme-wise;

(d) whether Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council have demanded that the Councils should be the implementing agency of all externally funded schemes for the hill areas; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in response to the demand of the Autonomous Hill Councils?

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) The information is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

Canadian Assistance in Nuclear Field

1182. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Canada propose to assist India in the field of nuclear energy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Talks have been held with the Canadian side on the issues related to collaboration in the refurbishment of reactors which were initially constructed with Canadian assistance and according to the CANDU (Canada Deuterium Uranium) design in Rajasthan. The first two reactors in Rajasthan were the only ones built with such assistance. However, there has been no outcome of these talks so far.

Wrong presentation of J & K in Foreign Maps

1183. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the maps of foreign countries Jammu & Kashmir is not shown as a part of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) All instances of incorrect depiction of the map of India, including of the state of Jammu & Kashmir, which come to Government's notice, are taken up with the concerned authorities.

ISRO Spy Scandal

1184. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has absolved all the accused including foreign nationals involved in ISRO spy scandal case from being chargesheeted;

(b) if so, the details and the present position of the case;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has been responsible for keeping in custody a foreign lady and others for long inspite of the contrary reports by the CBI;

(d) whether the innocent persons confined in jail for long will be compensated in any manner; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Special Leave Petitions were filed by all the six accused (including two foreign nationals) and others before the Hon'ble Supreme Court challenging the order of Hon'ble High Court of Kerala which held the Notification issued by the Kerala Government for further investigation as valid. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 29.4.1998 has allowed the appeals in the Special Leave Petitions and has quashed the Notification of the Kerala Government ordering further investigation.

(c) By the time the CBI filed a report in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ernakulam, under section 173 Cr. PC on 30.4.1996, stating *inter-alia* that the allegations of espionage were not proved and had been found to be false praying for the discharge of all the six accused, all the accused had been granted bail, except the two Maldivian nationals. As they could not furnish the bail bond, they continued to be in judicial custody. The aforesaid Maldivian nationals were also detained under National Security Act by the Government of Kerala. One of the Maldivian National who completed a period of 12 months detention under the National Security Act was released and has gone back to Male before the Judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The other foreign national, it is learnt has also been released after the judgement.

(d) and (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 29.4.1998, has directed the Government of Kerala to pay a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 (Rupees one lakh) to each of the six accused - appellants as costs. Action lies with Government of Kerala in complying with the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Erosin in Credibility of CBI

1185. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of continuous erosion in the credibility and prestige of CBI during recent past;

(b) if so, whether a critical review of performance of CBI and other intelligence Agencies have been undertaken with a view to strengthen these agencies to tackle the

emerging new challenges of curbing crimes and corruption at high places and dubious nexus at higher levels during the crores of rupees of country in terms of taxes;

(c) if so, the initiatives taken by the Government during the last one year; and

(d) the action taken on Dorai Committee report by the Government so far?

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) The credibility and prestige of the Central Bureau of Investigation is reflected in the increasing general demand for CBI inquiry and also the large number of cases referred to it by various State Governments, the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

(b) and (c) The Independent Review Committee was constituted by the Government in September, 1997 *inter alia* to examine the functioning of the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate and to suggest the changes, if any, needed to ensure, among other things, that offences alleged to have been committed by any person, particularly those in position of high authority, are registered, investigated and prosecuted fairly and expeditiously and that there is no pressure, arbitrary transfer of personnel etc. in the Central Bureau of Investigation. The Committee submitted its report in November, 1997. The Supreme Court incorporated many of the recommendations of the Independent Review Committee in its directions while also giving several other directions. Government have already decided to implement the judgment of the Supreme Court.

(d) In pursuance of Dorai Committee Report disciplinary proceedings were initiated against Joint Director (East)/CBI which have since been set aside by the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court.

[Translation]

Upper Koel Irrigation Project

1186. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to clear and implement the long pending Northern Koel and Leelajan Irrigation Projects in Bihar;

(b) if so, the time by which these projects are likely to be implemented ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) North Koel Irrigation Project was accepted by the Technical Advisory Committee in September 1989 for Rs.439.03 crores subject to clearance from forest angle by Ministry of Environment and Forest. The State Government has not obtained forest clearance so far.

In case of Leelajan Project Bihar Government is required to submit modified project report after complying with the observations of Central Water Commission.

Further irrigation projects are planned, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources as per their own priorities.

[English]

Production of Cotton

1187. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

SHRI K.P. NAIDU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total cotton produced during the last three years and proposed estimates for 1997-98 seasons, State-wise;

(b) the total cotton crop lost during the current season, State-wise, reasons for losses and help provided by the Union Government to farmers, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to use new technique and better pesticides to increase cotton production in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken to encourage farmers to use new technique of farming;

(e) whether the Government propose to delay cotton future in view of poor crop this season;

(f) the measures being taken to meet the shortfall in production including imports; and

(g) the details of quantity fixed by Government for export and domestic use of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The state-wise Cotton produced during 1994-95 to 1996-97 and estimated production during 1997-98 is enclosed in the attached Statement.

(b) As compared to cotton production during 1996-97, the quantity of cotton loss in the concerned States during

1997-98, are as under:

State	Estimated production loss (thousand bales of 170 kg/each)
Andhra Pradesh	679.8
Haryana	379.0
Karnataka	120.0
Maharashtra	1283.3
Punjab	1017.0

The losses in cotton production occurred due to inclement weather conditions and incidence of diseases and pests. Under the Calamity Relief Fund, following total amount was allocated during 1997-98:

State	Amount allocated (Rs. in crore)
Andhra Pradesh	131.05
Haryana	26.44
Karnataka	44.16
Maharashtra	71.97
Punjab	57.15

In addition, an amount of Rs. 12.00 crores was released to Andhra Pradesh under National Fund for Calamity Relief.

(c) and (d) In order to encourage the farmers to increase cotton production, Government of India is implementing an externally sponsored scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme in major cotton growing States mostly on 75:25 sharing basis; Government of India and implementing States. Assistance is provided for the transfer of technology to the farmers through demonstration on crop production, integrated pest management and farmers training as well as supply of critical inputs like certified seeds; plant protection equipments sprinklers etc. Besides, the Central Integrated Pest Management Centres are continuously monitoring diseases and pests situation and providing training to farmers on integrated pest management in various parts of the country.

(e) to (g) In order to meet the shortfall in production, the import of cotton is allowed under Open General Licence with zero import duty. So far in the 1997-98 Cotton season, the Ministry of Textiles has released 7.2 lakh bales for export.

Statement

State-wise Area, Production and Yield of Cotton

State	Area (Thousand Hectares)				Production (Thousand Bales of 170 kgs. each)				Yield (Kg/Ha)			
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (ADV)*	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (ADV)*	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (ADV)*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	844.5	1058.7	1007.4	899	1425.6	1610.1	1848.8	1169	287	259	312	221
Assam	1.7	1.7	1.7	2	0.8	0.8	0.8	1				
Bihar	0.2	0.0	0.0		0.5	0.1	0.0					
Gujarat	1204.7	1410.0	1484.0	1479	2269.3	2202.0	2657.0	2758	320	265	304	317
Haryana	557.0	646.0	649.0	655	1373.0	1283.0	1504.0	1125	419	338	394	292
Himachal Pradesh	0.2	0.1	0.3		0.4	0.2	0.3					
Jammu & Kashmir	0.1	0.1	0.1		0.2	0.0	0.2					
Karnataka	635.8	673.8	668.1	456	822.0	849.1	932.0	812	220	214	237	303
Kerala	13.8	12.3	12.3	14	21.8	19.4	20.2	21	269	268	279	255
Madhya Pradesh	477.0	513.6	526.6	513	345.7	423.5	437.2	907	123	140	141	301
Maharashtra	2759.9	3065.4	3084.7	3139	2500.3	2795.8	3143.3	1860	154	155	173	101
Manipur	0.1	0.1	0.1		0.1	0.3	0.3					
Meghalaya	7.5	7.6	7.5		5.3	5.3	5.3					
Mizoram	1.1	1.0	1.0		2.8	2.5	2.6					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Nagaland	0.1	0.2	0.2		0.3	0.4	0.4					
Orissa	6.6	10.9	14.0	22	9.7	21.8	28.0	36	250	340	340	278
Punjab	606.0	750.0	742.0	725	1779.0	1950.0	1925.0	908	499	442	441	213
Rajasthan	485.9	606.3	654.2	596	875.2	1338.3	1363.3	1389	306	375	354	396
Tamil Nadu	255.3	260.8	259.5	222	440.0	339.4	373.4	411	293	221	245	315
Tripura	2.0	1.1	1.1		2.4	1.7	1.6					
Uttar Pradesh	10.5	14.5	7.8	9	11.6	15.1	7.3	8	188	177	159	151
West Bengal	0.1	0.1	0.1		0.1	0.3	0.3					
Pondicherry	0.9	1.0	0.6		1.5	1.6	1.0					
Others				12				13				
All India	7871.0	9035.3	9122.3	8743	11887.6	12860.7	14252.3	11418	257	242	266	222

*Advance estimates.

[Translation]

Pending Schemes of Himachal Pradesh

1188. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes of Himachal Pradesh Government which are pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) the present status of these schemes; and

(c) the time by which the decision on these schemes is likely to be taken?

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 scheme pertaining to the State of Himachal Pradesh is pending at present with the Planning Commission for clearance.

Nuclear Tests

1189. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently conducted the nuclear tests in Pokharan area in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of such tests ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Three nuclear tests were conducted on May 11, 1998 and two on May 13. The tests on May 11 were a thermonuclear device with a yield of about 45 kt (of T.N.T.), a fission device with a yield of about 15 kt and a low yield device with a yield of about 0.2. kt. The two tests carried out on the 13th May, 1998, were sub-kiloton nuclear tests with yields of about 0.5 kt and 0.3 kt. All the tests were fully contained with no release of radio activity into the atmosphere. The measured yields are in line with expected values.

Bansagar Inter-State Project

1190. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bansagar Inter-state Projects is being monitored by the Union Government with the contribution of the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments of the Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are delaying the completion of the project by not giving their contribution;

(c) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has already invested about 1000 crores of rupees on this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government are contemplating to make the requisite funds available to get this project completed expeditiously; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) and (d) Government of Madhya Pradesh has incurred a total expenditure of Rs. 531.71 crores on this project, out of which Rs. 393.45 crores is on Dam portion and Rs.138.26 crores on canals.

(e) and (f) The Union Government is providing funds for this project for early completion under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. The year-wise releases are Rs. 23.25 crores in 1996-97 and Rs. 65.50 crores in 1997-98.

Indian Management Watershed and Farming System

1191. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN:
SHRI MOTI LAL VORA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had received a proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh during the year 1991 for setting up of Indian Management Watershed and Farming System;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon by the Union Government till now; and

(c) the time by which decision/approval is likely to be accorded on the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. No proposal to set up 'Indian Management Watershed and farming system' has been received from Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Delayed Public Sector Project

1192. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 200 projects under construction in public sector are behind their original schedule;

(b) if not, the factual position in this regard;

(c) whether the delay in the construction of these projects is likely to result an escalation of about 44,000 crores of rupees in their cost; and

(d) if not, the original estimate prepared for these projects by the Government in this regard?

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) As on December 1997, out of 454 projects costing of Rs. 20 crores and above on the monitoring system of the Department of Programme Implementation, 211 projects were behind schedule with respect to their original schedule.

(c) and (d) These 211 delayed projects together have reported cost escalation of Rs. 34,865.7 crores with respect to their original cost estimate of Rs. 63392.2 crores.

[English]

Funds for Irrigation

1193. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total requirement and availability of water for irrigation purpose in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar at present;

(b) whether the Union Government proposing to provide additional funds to both the State Governments for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The water resources availability is assessed river basin-wise and not State-wise. The ultimate irrigation potential of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar States are assessed as 25700 thousand hectares and 12400 thousand hectares respectively. The corresponding assessed irrigation water requirement for the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is of the order of 167 billion cubic metres and 80.6 billion cubic metres.

(b) and (c) Under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) launched by the Government of India during 1996-97, the Central Loan Assistance provided to the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for selected major and medium irrigation projects during 1996-97 and 1997-98 are as under :

State	(Rupees in Crores)	
	Total Central	Loan Assistance
Uttar Pradesh	43.50	78.00
Bihar	13.50	14.04

Increase in Export of Processed Food

1194. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of processed food;

(b) if so, the achievements made during each of the last three years in that regard;

(c) the names of the countries importing processed food from India, and

(d) the amount of investment made by those countries in India's processed food market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Government is providing financial assistance to exporters, growers,

cooperative societies and food processing units for development of infrastructure facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units; establishment of pre-cooling/storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems and setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing units. The Government is also arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important International Fairs and Exhibitions. Special efforts are being made to improve processing facilities and to implement Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) to meet the quality standards imposed by the European Union and USA. Government also assist in development of data base and dissemination of information.

(b) and (c) As per attached Statement.

(d) The foreign investment approved in food processing sector since liberalisation, i.e., July 1991 and till 31.3.1998 is Rs. 8756 crores.

Statement

*Export of Agricultural and Processed Food Products
Quantity in thousand Metric Tonnes, value in Rs. Crores*

Product	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97		Major Markets
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	
Processed fruits & vegetable. (Mango Plup, Pickles and chutneys etc.)	144.32	348.21	93.50	491.59	175.25	473.77	UAE, Srilanka, Singapore, USA, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UK, Netherlands, Russia
Animal products (Meat, Poultry and Dairy Products)	164.10	448.38	183.89	682.58	185.92	803.59	Malaysia, UAE, Philippines, Oman, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, USA, South Africa, Bangladesh, Germany, Russia, Portugal, Netherlands, Spain, France, Zaire, Schelles
Other processed Foods (Guar gum, Cereal Preparations and Alcoholic Beverages etc.)	176.88	415.48	1007.33	1171.97	1324.07	1853.91	Indonesia, UK, Singapoure, Malaysia, Philippines, USA, Germany, Japan, Netherland, Belgium, Srilanka, France, Bangladesh, Nepal, Italy, UAE, Bhutan, Russia, Yamen
Cereals(Basmati & Non-Basmati Rice)	490.60	1205.57	4914.00	4568.06	2511.96	3172.35	Saudi Arabia, USA, Kuwait, UK, UAE, Russia, Shrilanka, South Africa, Bangladesh
Marine Products	307.30	3575.27	296.27	3501.11	378.19	4121.36	Japan, USA, UK, Germany, Italy, Spain, China, Holland

Energy Production

1195. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed by Government for energy production from non-conventional sources during the last three years and the targets achieved, state-wise;

(b) whether in the absence of an uniform policy, the targets have not been achieved;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(d) the total amount allocated to States for production of energy in this field;

(e) whether the Government propose to allocate more funds to States for producing energy from Non-conventional Energy Sources to meet the growing demand; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and 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) The targets fixed by Government for energy production from Non-conventional sources and the targets achieved, during the last three years, in respect of programmes under which state-wise targets are fixed are given in attached Statement-I. In respect of programmes in which there are no state-wise targets fixed, state-wise achievement during the last three years are given in the attached Statement-II.

(b) and (c) Most of the non-conventional energy programmes are implemented through the State Governments and the achievement of targets depend mainly on availability of matching funds from State Governments

wherever required, availability of administrative infrastructure for implementation and availability of conducive policy for encouraging generation of power from renewable sources.

The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has taken a number of steps in order to promote the production and utilisation of non-conventional energy in the country. The progress of implementation of programmes is monitored regularly and intensively. States are persuaded continuously, to strengthen the implementation machinery, provide necessary funds for and accord priority to the implementation of non-conventional energy programmes. The Ministry has issued guidelines to States for announcing policy for evacuation, wheeling, banking, third party sale and buy-back by SEBs of power generated for renewable energy projects.

(d) The total amount released to States for generation of energy from non-conventional energy sources during last three years is Rs.310.95 crores.

(e) and (f) In order to meet the growing demand for generation of energy from non-conventional energy sources, the Ministry has proposed an outlay of Rs. 1700 crores during 9th Five Year Plan period, the programme-wise details of which are given in the attached Statement -III.

Statement - I

State-wise targets and achievements under Non-Conventional Energy Programmes under which state-wise targets are fixed, during the last three years i.e. from 1995-96 to 1997-98

Sl.No.	State/UT	Biogas		Improved Chulha		PVLS		SPV Power Plants	
		Target (Nos.)	Achievement (Nos.)	Target (Nos.)	Achievement (Nos.)	Target (Nos.)	Achievement (Nos.)	Target (KWp)	Achievement (KWp)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	48000	57781	6,00,000	749304	15050	5383	3.00	8.76
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	160	226	21000	2578	4036	1142	-	-
3.	Assam	3400	8784	105000	21803	800	350	4.50	2.00
4.	Bihar	1250	13381	145000	38030	32696	23544	-	-
5.	Goa	270	12224	196000	24504	50	45	-	-
6.	Gujarat	51000	40636	25000	232581	9200	6127	-	-
7.	Haryana	52000	6190	135000	77244	16734	12759	-	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3600	4069	96850	107785	17300	14485	-	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	300	346	115000	65000	18780	4840	83.70	-
10.	Karnataka	57500	60941	323000	245626	2900	1168	-	-
11.	Kerala	4200	8051	257000	201177	25815	18268	-	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	54000	57185	730000	846750	4308	5050	-	-
13.	Maharashtra	32500	48228	500000	511207	2600	319	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Manipur	550	614	25000	13235	2534	2706	-	5.00
15.	Meghalaya	275	70	12550	500	1600	750	3.00	3.00
16.	Mizoram	420	367	21000	8950	550	401	-	-
17.	Nagaland	700	485	15600	2607	-	-	-	-
18.	Orissa	29500	33333	440000	516293	11590	2724	-	-
19.	Punjab	14000	13044	215000	196000	7430	1724	21.00	-
20.	Rajasthan	3000	7642	450000	492661	17400	10513	-	153.95
21.	Sikkim	600	599	15000	15439	50	183	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	15000	13785	525000	637602	9282	2447	-	-
23.	Tripura	200	242	50000	18996	4087	2396	-	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	33000	44779	770000	755871	56500	58222	-	47.00
25.	West Bengal	25000	38083	450000	540864	8150	5267	103.00	27.00
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	20	17	5500	5749	-	352	-	15.00
27.	Chandigarh	30	5	61000	2550	1175	200	-	-
28.	Dadar & Nagar Havelli	16	6	3200	3199	-	-	-	-
29.	Daman & Diu	-	-	29500	-	-	-	-	-
30.	Delhi	24	16	950	23739	5300	2153	-	-
31.	Lakshadweep	-	-	10250	896	700	1195	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	20	4	-	10385	1500	164	-	-
33.	Others	-	-	-	2489982	-	-	-	-

CBP= Community Biogas Plants; NBP= Night Soil Based Biogas Plants; IBP= Institutional Biogas Plants; PVLS= Photovoltaic Lighting Systems; SPV= Solar Photovoltaic; KWp= Kilo Watt-Peak.

Statement-II

State-wise achievements under Non-Conventional Energy Programmes under which there are no state-wise targets fixed, during the last three years i.e. from 1995-96 to 1997-98

Sl.No.	States/UT	Biomass Gasifier installed (Nos./KWh)	IREP Blocks Covered (Nos.)	SADP Sanctioned (Nos.)	Solar Cooker (Nos. Sold)	Solar Photovoltaic Water Pumps Installed (Nos.)	Sanctioned (Nos.)	Wind Pumps
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	105/6760	32	10	3491	236		3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	10	4	198	-		-
3.	Assam	1/300	21	3	-	25		-
4.	Bihar	-	56	9	-	81		-
5.	Goa	-	5	1	527	12		-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Gujarat	11/532	25	3	7810	19	98
7.	Haryana	-	38	5	2878	20	-
8.	Hamachal Pradesh	-	45	3	3664	6	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	28	-	259	12	-
10.	Karnataka	10/1820	42	9	250	153	21
11.	Kerala	10/615	44	11	6	284	70
12.	Madhya Pradesh	18/2500	85	9	40196	35	-
13.	Maharashtra	6/1211	37	10	6053	90	28
14.	Manipur	-	19	7	165	12	-
15.	Meghalaya	-	16	-	200	42	-
16.	Mizoram	-	11	3	-	28	-
17.	Nagaland	-	25	-	-	-	-
18.	Orissa	-	45	4	756	1	-
19.	Punjab	-	40	11	6231	80	-
20.	Rajasthan	-	36	3	2292	188	150
21.	Sikkim	-	4	-	-	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	13/540	21	7	8	412	25
23.	Tripura	-	6	3	35	-	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	-	115	3	7780	97	-
25.	West Bengal	5/500	34	3	2022	32	-
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	-	5	3	-	-	2
27.	Chandigarh	-	1	2	165	7	-
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	-	1	-	-	-	-
29.	Daman & Diu	-	1	-	-	-	-
30.	Delhi	-	5	8	446	42	-
31.	Lakshadweep	-	1	-	-	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	-	6	2	74	-	-

IREP- Integrated Rural Energy Programme; SADP- Special Area Demonstration Programme.

Statement - II — (Contd.)

State-wise achievements under Non-Conventional Energy Programmes under which there are no state-wise targets fixed, during the last three years i.e. from 1995-96 to 1997-98

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Small Hydro Power installed (MW)	Wind Power Installed (MW)	Biomass Power/ Cogeneration Installed (MW)	Solar Photovoltaic Power Sanctioned (No.x kw)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.00	50	1.00	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.00	-	-	-
3.	Assam	0.20	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
4. Bihar		0.04	-	-	-
5. Goa		-	-	-	-
6. Gujarat		-	99	-	-
7. Haryana		-	-	-	-
8. Himachal Pradesh		0.32	-	-	-
9. Jammu & Kashmir		2.06	-	-	-
10. Karnataka		13.85	16	1.00	1x100
11. Kerala		3.50	2	-	1x25
12. Madhya Pradesh		2.05	12	-	1x100,1x25
13. Maharashtra		3.24	3	4.50	-
14. Manipur		1.40	-	-	-
15. Meghalaya		-	-	-	-
16. Mizoram		2.00	-	-	-
17. Nagaland		-	-	-	-
18. Orissa		0.76	-	-	1x50
19. Punjab		-	-	-	-
20. Rajasthan		2.30	-	-	-
21. Sikkim		2.35	-	-	-
22. Tamil Nadu		-	433	68.00	2x25
23. Tripura		-	-	-	-
24. Uttar Pradesh		5.76	-	14.50	1x100,1x25
25. West Bengal		0.52	-	-	1x25
26. Andaman & Nicobar		-	-	-	-
27. Chandigarh		-	-	-	-
28. Dadar & Nagar Haveli		-	-	-	-
29. Daman & Diu		-	-	-	-
30. Delhi		-	-	-	-
31. Lakshadweep		-	-	-	-
32. Pondicherry		-	-	-	-

Statement -II**Bhakra Beas Management Board****Programme-wise proposed 9th Plan Financial Outlays**

		9th Plan outlays (Rs. in Crores)
Biogas	NPBD	264.00
	CBP/IBP/NBP	30.00
Improved Chulha		84.00
Biomass/Gasifier		19.34
Integrated Rural Energy Programme		168.00
Urjagram		0.00
Special Area Demonstration Programme		6.90
Animal Energy Programme		2.76
SPV Demonstration Programme		162.50
SPV Pumps		66.50
SPV R&D		15.00
Solar Thermal Energy Programme		60.00
Solar Energy Centre		24.00
Wind Pumps & Hybrid Systems		8.00
Wind Power		63.00
Small Hydro Power		147.00
Biomass Power		126.00
Solar Power		63.00
Energy from Urban & Industrial Wastes		42.00
New Technology		
	Chemical sources of Energy	6.00
	Hydrogen Energy	3.50
	Alternate fuels for transportation	6.50
	Ocean Energy	2.00
	Geo-Thermal Energy	2.00
Information and Public Awareness		12.25
International Cooperation		4.88
TIFAC Cell		1.95
Seminars		0.97
Regional Office		1.95
Equity of IREDA		250.00
National Institute of Renewable Energy		48.00
State Nodal agencies -NE		8.00
	Total (DBS)	1700.00
Counterpart funding for externally aided project of IREDA		299.62
IEBR		1741.61
	Total	3741.23

NPBD= National Project on Biogas Development
 CBP/IBP/NBP= Community/Institutional/Night Soil based Biogas plant.
 SPV= Solar Photovoltaic, TIFAC= Technology Information
 Forecasting and Assessment Council, DBS= Domestic Budgetary
 Support IREDA= Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency
 IEBR=International and Extra Budgetary Resources.

1196. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in accordance with the provision of Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 the control of head works of Ropar, Harike and Ferozepur are vest with Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB);

(b) if so, whether the Government of Punjab has handed over these head works to BBMB;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to issue some directions to the Government of Punjab in this regard;

(d) if so, the time by which these directions are likely to be issued; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

The Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 (31 to 1966) provides for the Administration, Maintenance and Operation of the irrigation head works of Ropar, Harike and Ferozepur by Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).

(b) No, Sir.

The control of these head works remains to be transferred to BBMB by Punjab Government.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Power and BBMB have requested Punjab Government to transfer the head works of Ropar, Harike and Ferozepur to BBMB. However, Punjab has not agreed to the transfer of control of these head works so far. According to BBMB the share of partner States in surplus Ravi-Beas and Sutlej waters in made available through various contact/control points in Punjab and Haryana and transferring the control of head works alone will not serve the purpose. The best arrangement, according to BBMB, would be that all the partner States honour the distribution made by Technical Committee of BBMB in which all the concerned States are represented and deliver the correct supplies at various control points.

Use of Thorium

1197. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Scientists have developed any new technology to use Thorium as a fuel for power generation by nuclear reactors; and

(b) if so, the time by which the Thorium based nuclear power plant is likely to be put into operation?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. With research and development (R&D) work carried out over the years in the research reactors at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Trombay, Thorium has been successfully converted into Uranium(233). The reprocessing of Uranium (233) from the irradiated Thorium rods also has been carried out both at the BARC and the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research(IGCAR), Kalpakkam. The R&D work of the Department of Atomic Energy in the field of nuclear power generation is oriented towards a long-term strategy involving three stages, namely, the current generation of pressurised heavy water reactors as the first stage, plutonium-fuelled fast breeder reactors as the second stage and reactors operating on the Uranium (233)- Thorium fuel cycle as the third stage.

(b) The advanced heavy water reactor, designed to produce most of its energy from Thorium, is under engineering development at present. It is too early to state the time by which the Thorium based nuclear power plants is likely to be put into operation.

[Translation]

Indian Missions Abroad

1198. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any committee to evaluate the impact of the publicity being carried out by the Indian Missions abroad; 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.

Production of Soyabean

1199. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of soyabean has declined this year;

(b) whether the Government propose to import soyabean in view of the demand and supply of soyabean; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. The production of Soyabean during 1997-98 has been estimated

to be 65.21 lakh tonnes whereas the production during 1996-97 was 52.02 lakh tonnes. This is all time highest production achieved in Soyabean.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Commerce have considered import of one million tonnes of Soyabean subject to fulfilling the quarantine norms against import of harmful pathogens. No imports have been allowed so far.

[English]

Promotion of Horticulture/Floriculture

1200. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial assistance has been provided by the Union Government to promote horticulture and floriculture in the States during the year 1997 till date;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any progress report regarding horticulture and floriculture development; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The States have been provided assistance to promote horticulture and floriculture development to the tune of Rs.182.42 crores under various horticulture schemes of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during the year 1997-98. A number of States have reported progress in respect of area expansion, supply of planting material, adoption of drip irrigation and training for increasing production and productivity. Based on available information, an additional area of 53,809 hectares has been covered under various horticulture crops during 1997-98.

Expenses in Embassies

1201. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred country-wise in the preceding year on Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates in various countries; and

(b) the total amount spent country-wise by these Embassies annually on entertainment and transportation for the last available financial year?

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

(a) The information in respect of total expenditure incurred by Missions/Posts abroad is given in the attached Statement.

(b) The practice followed by the Ministry has been to keep these figures for internal use only.

Statement

Expenditure incurred by the Indian Missions Abroad for the Financial Year 1997-98

Mission/Post	Total Expenditure (In Rupees)
1	2
Abidjan	16777962
Abu Dhabi	50689680
Accra	21076500
Adis Ababa	16722580
Algiers	20751319
Almaty	31554973
Amman	10119396
Ankara	32117331
Ashgabat	14584329
Athens	17108499
Baghdad	12694243
Bahrain	38471244
Bangkok	43703798
Beijing	82343174
Beirut	23700882
Belgrade	17317504
Berlin	26353611
Berne	4730525
Birmingham	33051951
Bishkek	26853628
Bogota	26109033
Bonn	121361396
Brasilia	33787388
Bratislava	21134997
Brunei	25642587
Brussels	59912811
Bucharest	16195243

1	2
Budapest	21346652
Buenos Aires	40096621
Cairo	42082029
Canberra	30856413
Cape Town	13990658
Caracass	21549481
Chicago	48689107
Chiangmai	5027863
Chittagong	9975614
Colombo	53569376
Copenhagen	26353751
Dakar	13121610
Damascus	25610459
Dar-Es-Salaam	27611727
Dhaka	58977689
Doha	33135031
Dubai	57722837
Dublin	20823630
Durban	32279377
Dushanbe	19002393
Frankfurt	26668326
Gabarone	20255262
Gaza	11206722
Geneva	98563779
Georgetown	16448080
Glasgow	22284455
Hague	41981647
Hamburg	4210365
Hanoi	37494584
Harare	17212272
Havana	20064682
Helsinki	17551897

1	2	1	2
Ho Chi Minh City	19537448	Mexico	20993279
Hong Kong	63817536	Milan	20214220
Houston	38616379	Minsk	16702810
Islamabad	78907590	Mombasa	5867585
Istanbul	18084313	Moscow	104205903
Jakarta	33867194	Muscat	35652097
Jeddah	131992630	Nairobi	26742122
Johannesburg	23992417	New York(CGI)	60699305
Kampala	20935676	New York(PMI)	119172510
Kandy	10472936	Nicosia	12736099
Karachi	139180	Odessa	5821236
Kathmandu	63022744	Oslo	26153393
Khartoum	100067459	Ottawa	38813255
Kiev	39730452	Ouagadougou	4986239
Kingston	14680173	Panama	25491153
Kobe	33009905	Paris	124464081
Kualalumpur	40857588	Phnom Penh	18285763
Kuwait	56202701	Phuntsholing	2682676
Lagos	18535187	Port Louis	32080793
Lima	15408163	Port Moresby	19613330
Lisbon	19408163	Port Said	3825821
London	264504126	Prague	41150995
Luanda	16352271	Pretoria	54196111
Lusaka	22740250	Pyongyang	10171958
Madagascar	15946470	Rabat	21651292
Madrid	33905926	Rajshahi	1170027
Mahe	13560208	Reunion Islands	10406560
Male	28322009	Riyadh	62305533
Malta	6997839	Rome	4855050
Manila	17473381	San Francisco	42077719
Maputo	14865961	San'aa	13771734
Medan	4551848	Santiago	19115816

1	2
Sao Paulo	28967461
Seoul	31374145
Shanghai	41407613
Shiraz	5235486
Singapore	54059315
Sofia	17218159
St. Petersburg	19125630
Stockholm	25936660
Surinam	14511205
Sydney	20929825
Tashkent	29851169
Tehran	41391178
Tel Aviv	57789853
Thimpu	28043536
Tokyo	107892374
Toronto	20380181
Trinidad	21845968
Tripoli	26661540
Tunis	8805070
Ulanbator	22380717
Vancouver	27202453
Vienna	51687784
Vientiane	11036812
Vladivostock	10498013
Warsaw	27715492
Washington	207188448
Wellington	22702884
Windhoek	18290578
Yangon	33746459
Zagreb	15658040
Zahidan	4507799
Zanzibar	5744680

Shrimp and Fish Culture

1202. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some World Bank assisted shrimp and fish culture projects are being run in the country;

(b) if so, the name of the States where these projects are being run;

(c) the amount of World Bank assistance obtained for those projects so far;

(d) whether any of these projects is being run in Orissa; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The World Bank assisted Shrimp and Fish Culture Project is being implemented in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) The total amount received as assistance from the World Bank for this Project upto July 1997 is Rs. 43.90 crores.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. In Orissa under the Shrimp component, a total area of 283 ha. is being developed at Jagatjore-Banapada in Kendrapra District. In addition, 79 reservoirs, covering 28364 ha. have been included for development under fish component, in a phased manner.

MPLADS

1203. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the *Hindustan Times* New Delhi edition dated May 4, 1998 captioned "MPs Local Area Scheme, CAG flays Andhra Pradesh for loopholes in Plan"; and

(b) if so, the details and the steps being taken to see that the guidelines are not violated by the District Collectors in sanctioning the project and release of 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) and (b) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has received the draft review report of CAG on MPLAD Scheme for the year ending 31.3.97 where in certain deviations from the guidelines have been brought out. They have instructed the Collectors to follow the guidelines scrupulously while sanctioning and implementing the works under MPLADS Scheme.

Milk Cattle/Cattle Feed

1204. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of milk cattle in the country state-wise;

(b) whether the State of Kerala has reordered a high rate of growth in population of milk cattle over the past few years;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) whether the Government of Kerala has sought any funds for expansion of cattle feed plants in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The State-wise number of milch cattle in the country, as per the last livestock census in 1992 is given in attached Statement.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The annual growth rate of milk cattle in Kerala during 1987 to 1992 declined to 0.69% from 1.64% during 1982 to 1987.

(d) and (e) The State Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Finance seeking bilateral financial assistance for setting up a modern scientific feed analytical laboratory.

Statement

No. of Milch Cattle 1992 (Prov.) (In 200 Nos.)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Cattle					
		Crossbreed			Indigenous		
		In Milk	Dry	Total	In Milk	Dry	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	153	52	205	1269	902	2171
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	1	5	40	33	77
3.	Assam	82	40	122	1697	891	2588
4.	Bihar	35	24	59	1767	3187	4954
5.	Goa	3	1	4	11	13	24
6.	Gujarat	95	26	121	1220	658	1878
7.	Haryana	100	38	138	338	139	477
8.	Himachal Pradesh	84	29	113	301	235	536
9.	J. & Kashmir	167	49	216	417	264	681
10.	Karnataka	184	74	258	1698	1698	3396
11.	Kerala	583	259	842	467	292	759
12.	Madhya Pradesh	60	28	88	4146	4284	8430
13.	Maharashtra	549	278	827	1999	2443	4442
14.	Manipur	13	12	25	68	59	127

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Meghalaya	6	2	8	95	59	154
16.	Mizoram	2	1	3	9	6	15
17.	Nagaland	25	10	35	38	13	51
18.	Orissa	153	85	238	1691	1986	3677
19.	Punjab	456	186	642	262	124	386
20.	Rajasthan	27	13	40	2084	2088	4172
21.	Tamil Nadu	506	219	725	1420	808	2228
22.	Tripura	29	14	43	137	103	240
23.	U.P.	367	218	585	3356	2412	5768
24.	W. Bengal	290	107	397	2943	1716	4659
25.	Sikkim	9	4	13	23	15	38

Union Territories

1.	A & N Islands	1	-	1	10	7	17
2.	Chandigarh	3	2	5	-	-	-
3.	Dadra & N. Haveli	-	-	-	4	7	11
4.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	1	1	2
5.	Delhi	7	1	8	15	2	17
6.	Lakshdweep	-	-	-	1	-	1
7.	Pondicherry	18	8	26	7	4	11
Grand Total		4011	1781	5792	27534	2449	51953

Linking of Rivers

1205. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made an estimate on the total quantum of water of the major rivers going waste into the sea annually;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Commission has been set up to prepare an integrated plan for the development of water resources of the country;

(d) if so, the terms and reference thereof;

(e) whether the Commission has been entrusted with the task to prepare an operational plan to link the Himalayan rivers with the Southern rivers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As per assessment made by Central Water Commission, the average annual flow available in rivers is around 1869 billion cubic metres. Owing to the topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilisable surface water has been assessed at 690 billion cubic metres in addition to the annual replenishable ground water resources which is about 432 billion cubic metres. As per 1994 data about 606 billion cubic metres of surface and ground water is being utilised leaving 516 billion cubic metres of utilisable water as unutilised.

(c) to (f) A National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan has been set up by the Government of India on 13th September, 1996. Its terms of reference are as under:

- (i) To prepare an Integrated Water Plan for development of water resources for Drinking, Irrigation, Industrial, Flood Control and other uses;
- (ii) To suggest modalities for transfer of surplus water to water-deficit basin by inter-linking of rivers for achieving the above objectives;
- (iii) To identify important on-going Projects as well as New Projects which should be completed on priority basis together with phasing;
- (iv) Identify a technological and inter disciplinary research plan for the water sector with a view to maximise the benefits;
- (v) To suggest physical and financial resources generation strategies for the water sector; and
- (vi) Any other related issue.

Development of Animal Husbandry

1206. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great potential for the development of animal husbandry and dairy in several States particularly in Bihar and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any time-bound programme to develop the animal husbandry and dairy in the country especially in Bihar and Maharashtra to attain the self-reliance;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up any research centre for this purpose in the country particularly in Bihar;

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

(f) the target fixed for dairy development in each state during the current year?

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

(b) and (c) Animal Husbandry is a State subject. For supplementing the efforts of the State Government to develop animal husbandry and dairy, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying has been implementing various animal husbandry schemes. The major schemes are given below:

1. Extension Frozen Semen Technology and Progeny Testing Programme.
2. National Bull Production Programme.
3. National Ram/Buck/Rabbit Production Programme.
4. Assistance to States for Integrated Piggery Development.
5. Assistance to State Fodder Farms.
6. Assistance to State for control of Livestock Diseases.
7. National Project on Rinderpest Eradication Programme.
8. Integrated Dairy Development Project in Non Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas.

Besides, the department also operates livestock farms (cattle, sheep, poultry, fodder etc.) to distribute quality germ plasm to the states.

(d) and (e) No Sir. ICAR has set up 15 research centres in the country which are taking care of the research needs in the animal husbandry sector.

(f) The target under dairy development are fixed by the State Governments.

[Translation]

Hydel Power Projects

1207. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI . Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some small hydel power projects in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof, state-wise;

(c) the locations identified for this purpose, state-wise and

(d) the details of resources and technology to be mobilised for 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) and (b) Small Hydro Power Projects aggregating to 155.38 MW capacity have already been installed in 24 States, and a capacity of 230.4 MW is under construction in 23 States. The State-wise break up of these projects, which are upto 3 MW station capacity, given in the attached Statement.

(c) Nearly 2700 sites in 26 States/UTs, having a total potential of about 2000 MW, have so far been identified.

(d) The Projects taken up so far have mainly been in the State sector for which resources are mainly provided in the respective State Plans. For new projects private sector participation is also being encouraged by different States so as to bring about additionality of resources. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is also encouraging setting up of small hydro power projects up to 3 MW station capacity through financial incentives. Indigenous technology is available for these projects. Equipment is generally being supplied by domestic manufacturers.

Statement

State-wise List of Small Hydro Power Stations Installed / Under Construction Upto 3 MW Station Capacity

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Capacity Installed (Nos.)	Capacity Installed (MW)	Capacity Under Construction (Nos.)	Capacity Under Construction (MW)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Haryana	1	0.2	1	0.1
2.	Himachal Pradesh	14	9.49	18	11.19
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	15	4.37	10	11.20
4.	Punjab	4	3.90	8	9.50
5.	Rajasthan	5	4.32	1	0.54
6.	Uttar Pradesh	61	32.54	25	19.73
7.	Gujarat	1	2.00		
8.	Madhya Pradesh	5	3.25	8	14.40
9.	Maharashtra	5	6.82	4	6.20
10.	Andhra Pradesh	7	7.01	36	42.10
11.	Karnataka	12	17.20	18	23.17
12.	Kerala	4	3.52	6	14.00
13.	Tamil Nadu	3	4.75	4	6.40

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Bihar	4	0.04	5	2.46
15.	Orissa	3	1.26	7	9.92
16.	Sikkim	8	9.25	2	3.20
17.	West Bengal	8	7.98	7	9.23
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	30	20.15	17	20.63
19.	Assam	2	2.20		
20.	Manipur	6	4.10	4	3.50
21.	Meghalaya	1	1.51	7	0.28
22.	Mizoram	9	5.36	9	8.80
23.	Nagaland	5	3.17	4	5.50
24.	Tripura	2	1.01	1	0.10
25.	A & N Island			1	2.25
Total		216	155.38	208	230.40

Renewal of Passport

1208. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passport holders face lot of difficulties in renewal of passport, in changing the address and in getting duplicate passport in case of loss of the original passport;

(b) the number of complaints received in this regard during the last three years, passport office-wise; and

(c) the number of officials against whom action has been taken on the basis of the complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) Procedures have been prescribed for provision of various services to passport holders including for renewal, change of address and issue of duplicate passport. All passport offices have standing instructions to address the requirements of such applications promptly provided all documentation is complete. Passport Offices also have an enquiry/information counter for the guidance and benefit of applicants.

(b) There is no statistical record of complaints relating to the specific services cited at (a) above for the last three years. A public grievance redressal mechanism is functioning in the Ministry of External Affairs and all the Passport Offices for the purpose of redressing complaints received from the general public.

(c) Action against errant officials is taken when a case has been proved. No complaint against any official of a Passport Office relating to the specific services cited at (a) above has been substantiated in the last two years.

National Projects Construction Corporation

1209. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC) have not been paid their salaries for the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether measures are being taken by the Government to pay their salaries expeditiously; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. NPCC has not been able to pay salaries/wages to about 1100 employees posted in non-performing units.

(b) NPCC Ltd. is a sick public sector undertaking and has been incurring heavy losses since 1989 onwards due to high employment cost, surplus manpower, interest burden on loans, low recovery of outstanding dues from project authorities and insufficient generation of funds by the performing units.

(c) and (d) A revival plan on future course of action has been finalised. This Ministry has also been providing loan assistance to NPCC Ltd. for meeting the statutory liabilities for payment of salaries/wages.

[English]

Industries Based on Fruits

1210. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up industries based on mango, lychee, grapes and other fruits in the country particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the schemes being implemented or proposed to be implemented in this regard and cooperation of department of horticulture, National Horticulture Board and National Cooperative Development Corporation in this direction ; and

(d) the funds provided by these departments to each State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up Food Processing units in any State on its own. However, financial assistance in the form of loans and grant in aid is provided under its plan scheme to Non-Governmental Organisations, co-operatives, public sector undertakings and industry for setting up/expansion/modernisation of Food Processing Industries.

(c) The Schemes of Ministry of Food Processing Industries are:

(i) Scheme for development of instructional facilities.

(ii) Scheme for setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing industries.

The National Horticulture Board operates the schemes:

(i) integrated project on management of post-harvest infrastructure of horticultural crops; and

(ii) development of marketing of horticultural produce.

Similarly, the National Cooperative Development is implementing a scheme under which financial assistance is provided to fruit and vegetable cooperatives for setting up of fruit and vegetable processing units.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recruitment/Promotion Rules

1211. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued orders changing the rules relating to recruitment and promotion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates;

(b) if so, the date on which these orders were issued and the details of the changes made;

(c) whether the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was consulted before making these changes;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Commission has objected/protested against these changes;

(f) if so, the details of the objections raised; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Office Memoranda dated January 30, July 2, July 22, August 13, and August 29, 1997 respectively relate to review of seniority of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who on account of reservation policy are granted promotion in priority to their senior general candidates; Introduction of post-based roster; withdrawal of relaxations of qualifying marks and standards of evaluation for SCs and STs in matters of reservation in promotion; continuation of reservation in promotion for SCs and STs beyond 15.11.1997 and ceiling of 50% on total reservation for all categories.

(c) National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was consulted before issue of Office Memoranda dated July 2 and August 13, 1997 and was not consulted in the case of other Office Memoranda dated January 30, July 22 and August 29, 1997.

(d) None of the Office Memoranda has been issued at the initiative of the Government.

(e) to (g) Details of objections raised by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the reaction of this Government are contained in the Special Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to be laid on the Table of the House by the Ministry of Welfare.

Illegal Trafficking of Women

1212. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangladesh Government has sought assistance from India to stop illegal trafficking of women and children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether both the countries have discussed the issue and any final strategy formulated to face the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The problem of illegal trafficking of women and children has been discussed between the Government of India and Bangladesh. Both countries have agreed to cooperate to curb the trafficking in women and children and have underlined the need to take appropriate measures by involving the civil administration and the local police. The matter was also discussed with Bangladesh and other SAARC member countries at the IX SAARC summit at Male when it was decided to examine the feasibility of establishing a Regional Convention on Combating the Crime of Trafficking in women and children for prostitution.

Earthquake Victims in Afghanistan

1213. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had offered substantial relief for Afghan earthquake victims of February this year;

(b) the extent of devastations caused in terms of loss of life and property caused by the earthquakes; and

(c) the details of relief provided by Government for the quake-victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India sent 17 tonnes of relief supplies. These included medicines, woollen blankets, rice and tea.

(b) According to a UN report, 4868 persons died in the earthquake and 720 sustained injuries; in all 31,610 persons were affected. While there was extensive loss of property no estimates are available.

CBI and CVC

1214. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revamp/restructure the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Central Vigilance Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any expert body has been constituted;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the new set up of CBI and CVC is likely to be effected?

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) The Supreme Court in its judgement in the case of Vineet Narain & Ors (reported in) (1998) 1 SSC 226 has given wide-ranging directions which relate to the structure and functioning of the Central Bureau of Investigation as well as the Central Vigilance Commission. The Government has decided to implement the judgement.

(b) The directions concerning the CBI/CVC contained in the judgement delivered on 18.12.1997 in the case of Vineet Narain & Ors are given in the attached Statement.

(c) to (e) The Independent Review Committee was constituted by the Government in September, 1997 *inter alia* to examine the functioning of the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate and to suggest the changes, if any, needed to ensure, among other things, that offences alleged to have been committed by any person, particularly those in position of high authority, are registered, investigated and prosecuted fairly and

expeditiously and that there is no pressure, arbitrary transfer of personnel etc. in the Central Bureau of Investigation. The Committee submitted its report in November, 1997. The Supreme Court incorporated many of the recommendations of the Independent Review Committee in its directions while also giving several other directions. Government have already decided to implement the judgement of the Supreme Court.

Statement

I. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

1. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) shall be given statutory status.
2. Selection for the post of Central Vigilance Commissioner shall be made by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, Home Minister and the Leader of the Opposition from a panel of outstanding civil servants and others with impeccable integrity, to be furnished by the Cabinet Secretary. The appointment shall be made by the President on the basis of the recommendations made by the Committee. This shall be done immediately.
3. The CVC shall be responsible for the efficient functioning of the CBI. While Government shall remain answerable for the CBI's functioning to introduce visible objectivity in the mechanism to be established for overseeing the CBI's working, the CVC shall be entrusted with the responsibility of superintendence over the CBI's functioning. The CBI shall report to the CVC about cases taken up by it for investigation; progress of investigations; cases in which chargesheets are filed and their progress. The CVC shall review the progress of all cases moved by the CBI for sanction of prosecution of public servants which are pending with the competent authorities specially those in which sanction has been delayed or refused.
4. The Central Government shall take all measures necessary to ensure that the CBI functions effectively and efficiently and is viewed as a non-partisan agency.
5. The CVC shall have a separate section in its Annual Report on the CBI's functioning after the supervisory function is transferred to it.
6. Recommendations for appointment of the Director, CBI shall be made by a Committee headed by the Central Vigilance Commissioner with the Home Secretary and Secretary (Personnel) as members. The views of the incumbent Director shall be considered by the Committee for making the best choice. The Committee shall draw up a panel of IPS officers on the basis of their seniority, integrity, experience in investigation and anti-corruption work. The final selection shall be made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) from the panel recommended by the Selection Committee. If none among the panel is found suitable, the reasons thereof shall be recorded and the Committee asked to draw up a fresh panel.
7. The Director, CBI shall have a minimum tenure of two years, regardless of the date of his superannuation. This would ensure that an officer suitable in all respects is not ignored merely because he has less than two years to superannuate from the date of his appointment.
8. The transfer of an incumbent Director, CBI in an extraordinary situation, including the need for him to take up a more important assignment should have the approval of the Selection Committee.
9. The Director, CBI shall have full freedom for allocation of work within the agency as also for constituting teams for investigations. Any change made by the Director, CBI in the head of an investigative team should be for cogent reasons and for improvement in investigation, the reasons being recorded.
10. Selection extension of tenure of officers upto the level of Joint Director (JD) shall be decided by a Board comprising the Central Vigilance Commissioner, Home Secretary and Secretary(Personnel) with the Director, CBI providing the necessary inputs. The extension of tenure or premature repatriation of officers upto the level of Joint Director shall be with final approval of the Board. Only cases pertaining to the appointment or extension of tenure of officers of the rank of Joint Director or above shall be referred to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) for decision.
11. Proposals for improvement of infrastructure, methods of investigation, etc. Should be decided urgently in order to strengthen CBI's in-house expertise, professional from the revenue, banking and security sectors should be inducted into the CBI.
12. The CBI Manual based on statutory provisions of the Cr.P.C provides essential guidelines for the CBI's functioning. It is imperative that the CBI adheres scrupulously to the provisions in the Manual in relation to its investigative functions, like raids, seizure and arrests. Any deviation from the established procedure should be viewed seriously and severe disciplinary action taken against the concerned officials.
13. The Director, CBI shall be responsible for ensuring the filing of chargesheets in courts within the stipulated time limits, and the matter should be kept under constant review by the Director, CBI.
14. A document on CBI's functioning should be published within three months to provide the general public with a feedback on investigations and information for redress of genuine grievances in a manner which does

not compromise with the operational requirements of the CBI.

15. The limit of three months for grant of sanction for prosecution must be strictly adhered to. However, additional time of one month may be allowed where consultation is required with the Attorney General (AG) or any other law officers in the AG's office.
16. The Director, CBI should conduct regular appraisal of personnel to prevent corruption and or inefficiency in the agency.

II. Prosecution Agency

1. A panel of competent lawyers of experience and impeccable reputation shall be prepared with the advice of the Attorney General. Their services shall be utilised as Prosecuting Counsel in cases of significance. Even during the course of investigation of an offence, the advice of a lawyer chosen from the panel should be taken by the CBI Enforcement Directorate.
2. Every prosecution which results in discharge or acquittal of the accused must be reviewed by a lawyer on the panel and, on the basis of the opinion given, responsibility should be fixed for dereliction of duty, if any of the concerned officer. In such cases, strict action should be taken against the officer found guilty of dereliction of duty.
3. The preparation of panel of lawyers with the approval of the Attorney General shall be completed within three months.
4. Steps shall be taken immediately for the constitution of an able and impartial agency comprising persons of unimpeachable integrity to perform functions akin to those of the Director of Prosecutions in U.K. On the constitution of such a body, the task of supervising prosecutions launched by the CBI Enforcement Directorate shall be entrusted to it.
5. Till the constitution of the aforesaid body, Special Counsel shall be appointed for the conduct of important trials on the recommendation of the Attorney General or any other law officer designated by him.

[Translation]

Production of Pulses

1215. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had launched the National Pulses Development Programme during 1986-87;

(b) if so, whether per hectare production of pulses is very less in the country in comparison to other countries;

(c) if so, whether the Government are taking concrete steps to increase the per hectare production of pulses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The average per hectare production of Pulses (1994-95 to 1996-97) is 595 kilograms against the world's per hectare production (1994-95) of 809 kilograms. As such, difference between per hectare production comes to 245 kg./ha.

(c) and (d) For increasing production and productivity of pulses, the Government of India brought pulses under the ambit of Technology Mission in 1990. The production of pulses is being encouraged under the National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) by way of expansion of additional area under non-conventional cropping system and adoption of improved production technology in the farmers' fields through frontline/Block demonstrations, use of improved seeds, integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management, and micro irrigation system and providing minimum price support system. The farmers are given financial assistance for key inputs. The cost of project is shared on 75:25 basis between Government of India and State Government.

[English]

River Valley Projects

1216. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds provided by the Union Government for the River Valley Projects in Sikkim during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the funds utilised during the above period;

(c) whether any financial irregularities have come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Funds are allocated to the State Governments as block loans /grants not tied to any specific sector/projects.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Cotton Technology Mission

1217. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to contribute 25% of the total outlay for the proposed Cotton Technology Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government is likely to be benefited by 25% contribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The proposal to set up Technology Mission on Cotton has not yet been finalised.

Desilting of Tungabhadra Reservoir

1218. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the fact that there is tremendous fall in water storage capacity of Tungabhadra reservoir due to huge accumulation of silt in it;

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

(c) whether the State Government of Karnataka have sent any proposal demanding funds from the Union Government for quick desilting of reservoir; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

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

(b) about 21.5 thousand million cubic feet out of 133 thousand million cubic feet of gross storage capacity has been lost during 1953 to 1993. The situation is due to top soil erosion of the catchment area.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Nuclear Tests

1219. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nuclear test conducted recently would adversely affect the economic and political situation of the country ; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Government constantly monitor all developments having and bearing on national security and national development and due measures are taken to protect national interest.

[English]

Modernisation of Kurnool Cuddapah Canal

1220. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have given clearance to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to take up modernisation work of Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Japan is the funding agency of this project, and

(d) the total assistance provided by the Union Government for this project so far?

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

(b) Kurnool - Cuddapah Canal Modernisation Project is being implemented with the objective of stabilisation of existing ayacut of 1.064 Lakh ha. in Kurnool and Cuddapah districts by rehabilitation, improvement and modernisation of existing age old irrigation system.

(c) Yes, Sir. Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan is assisting this project with a loan assistance of 16049 million Yen (Approximately Rs. 555.33 crore)

(d) No central assistance has been provided by the Union Government. However, external assistance is released to the State Government in the form of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) by the Government of India which is the case for this project as well.

Disposal of Claims

1221. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian who fled Kuwait during Iraq occupation;

(b) the number of claims preferred by Government of United Nations Compensation Commission for clearance;

(c) the total amount so far received and number of claims still pending with Commission for clearance; and

(d) efforts made by Government to make quick disposal of remaining claims?

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

(a) At the time of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, estimated population of Indian nationals in Kuwait was 1,72,000 (one lakh and seventy two thousand). Government of India evacuated approx. 11,33,000 (One lakh and thirty three thousand) Indians during the Gulf crisis.

(b) Government of India have received, and have forwarded to the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) 1,05,010 claims under category A; 258 claims under category B; 39,435 claims under category C and 937 claims under category D. (A total of 1,45,640 claims). These are all individual claims.

Besides, the Government have also sent to UNCC 118 "Corporate" claims, under category E.

(c) The total amount of compensation - money received so far from UNCC is US \$ 72048788 (US Dollars Seven crores twenty lakhs forty eight thousand seven hundred eighty eight.) The number of pending individual claims is 1,13,783. This includes all 937 claims under category D.

(d) Government have, from time to time, impressed on the UNCC to expedite settlement of Indian claims. Government also remain in constant touch with the Commission to safeguard the interests of our claimants. Moreover, once funds have been received from the UNCC, Government ensures that they are distributed quickly among the successful claimants through the designated banks.

Review of Draft for Ninth Plan

1222. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU:
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present Government have decided to revive the Ninth Plan draft; and

(b) if so, the priorities of the Ninth Five Year 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) and (b) The draft Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) approved at the Internal Meetings of the Planning Commission was released on March 1, 1998 by the then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. This plan is yet to be considered by the National Development Council. The Government have decided to review this draft so as to suitably reflect the altered priorities, as enunciated in the National Agenda for Governance. Detailed Action Plans are already under preparation which will, upon finalisation, be integrated with the existing draft. This revised document will then be submitted, through due process, for consideration and approval of the National Development Council.

Pending Irrigation Projects

1223. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for irrigation projects are pending with the Union Government for clearance at present and the period of pendency of each proposal, State-wise;

(b) the details of projects sanctioned by the Government during 1996-97 and 1997-98, State-wise;

(c) the number out of them likely to be undertaken with the assistance of foreign countries and international agencies, State-wise; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to clear remaining proposals expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The State-wise details about the number of pending projects is given in the attached Statement-I.

(b) The State-wise details of projects approved by the Planning Commission during 1996-97 & 1997-98 is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(c) Irrigation projects are posed for assistance of foreign countries and international agencies, only after they have been approved by the Planning Commission from investment angle.

(d) The clearance of irrigation projects is linked with compliance of observations made by the various Central appraising agencies by the State Governments.

Statement - I

Position of Schemes (Multipurpose, Irrigation) received from States for obtaining approval of Planning Commission as on 31.05.1998

State Name	Major Schemes					Medium Schemes					Total				
	A	B	C	D	Total	A	B	C	D	Total	A	B	C	D	Gr. Total
1. Andhra Pradesh	2	6	0	0	8	0	2	0	0	2	2	8	0	0	10
2. Assam	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	3
3. Bihar	4	3	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	1	4	4	0	0	8
4. Gujarat	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	3
5. Haryana	5	1	0	0	6	2	0	0	0	2	7	1	0	0	8
6. Himachal Pr.	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2
7. J & K	0	0	0	0	0	12	2	0	0	14	12	2	0	0	14
8. Karnataka	3	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	4
9. Kerala	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	3
10. Madhya Pr.	1	8	0	0	9	2	1	0	0	3	3	9	0	0	12
11. Maharashtra	5	8	1	0	14	17	5	0	0	22	22	13	1	0	36
12. Manipur	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2
13. Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Orissa	3	2	0	0	5	2	2	0	0	4	5	4	0	0	9
16. Punjab	2	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	4
17. Rajasthan	4	1	0	0	5	1	3	0	1	5	5	4	0	1	10
18. Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Tamil Nadu	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	3
20. Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21. Uttar Pradesh	2	7	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	0	0	9
22. West Bengal	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
23. Arunachal Pr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24. Goa, Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	35	41	2	0	78	44	18	0	1	63	79	59	2	1	141

Status : (a) Under Correspondence.

(b) Put up to Advisory Committee & Accepted Subject to observations.

(c) Deferred by Advisory Committee.

(d) Pending with Planning Commission for investment clearance.

Statement-II

State-wise details of projects approved by the Planning Commission during 1996-97 & 1997-98

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Estt. Cost Rs. in crores	Benefits in Th.ha.	Date of approval by Planning Commission
1	2	3	4	5

A. Major Projects:*Andhra Pradesh*

1.	Modernisation of K.C. Canal	674.29		16.04.98
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Assam

2.	Modernisation of Jamuna Irrigation Project	60.27	28.29	17.12.97
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Himachal Pradesh

3.	Shahnahar Irrigation Project	143.32	24.76	21.2.97
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Maharashtra

4.	Wan	46.85	19.18	15.04.97
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Madhya Pradesh

5.	Sindh Phase- II	510.94	162.10	17.03.98
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Orissa

6.	Rengali Irrigation Sub-project L.B.C.-II	705.15		14.07.97
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Rajasthan

7.	Indira Gandhi Nahar Project-II	3398.91		11.3.98
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8.	Bisalpur Drinking Water-cum-Irrigation Project	309.07	49.89	16.12.97
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Uttar Pradesh

9.	Jarauli Pump Canal	47.92	39.75	23.03.98
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B. Medium Projects*Gujarat*

1.	Goma Irrigation Project	47.59	7.04	30.12.97
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Maharashtra

2.	Rordahegaon	16.27	2.22	10.11.96
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1	2	3	4	5
3.	Benetura	12.12	2.29	25.02.97
4.	Upper Manar	26.18	8.28	15.04.97
<i>Orissa</i>				
5.	Baghalati Irri.	45.44	6.05	21.05.96
<i>Rajasthan</i>				
6.	Bandi Sendra	13.04	4.09	10.12.97
7.	Sukli	18.70	3.89	10.12.97
8.	Modernisation of Gambhiri Project.	11.76	9.60	16.12.97

Test Fire of Missile

1224. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY:
SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan test firing a missile having a range of 1500 kms. has created serious security imbalance in this region ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to ensure India's security in the changed security scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)
(a) and (b) India is concerned about Pakistan's missile programme and its impact on the region's security. Government closely monitors all developments including those relating to Pakistan's missile programme. Government of India is committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard its security and national interests in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

[Translation]

Agriculture Based Products

1225. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted a study to find out the agriculture based products having per hectare production at world level:

(b) if so, the names of such products ; and

(c) the average per hectare production of wheat, paddy, cotton and oilseeds in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government have not conducted any such study. However, as per the Production Year Book of the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the average yields of various crops in India are generally lower than the world average.

(c) The average per hectare yield of wheat, rice, cotton and oilseeds in the country during 1996-97 was 2671 Kgs. 1879 kg., 266 kg. and 931 kg. respectively.

[English]

Modernisation of Irrigation Projects

1226. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to modernise irrigation projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Irrigation is a State subject. Upto and of VIII plan out of 170 Extension, Renovation and Modernisation(ERM) projects undertaken in the different States, 60 were completed.

[Translation]

Shifting of Pulses Directorate

1227 SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pulses Development Directorate located in Madhya Pradesh is being shifted from the State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the sanctioned strength of posts of this Directorate alongwith the number of posts lying vacant and since when these have been lying vacant; and

(d) the time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal.

(c) The sanctioned strength of the Directorate is 31 out of which 8 are in position. The details of the vacant posts are in the attached Statement.

(d) The process for filling up the vacant posts has already started.

Statement

Details of sanctioned strength and posts lying vacant in the Directorate of Pulses Development Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)

Sl. No.	Name of the post and sanctioned strength	Post filled	Post lying vacant	Date since lying vacant
1.	Director (1)	-	1	4 12 92
2.	Joint Director (1)	1		
3.	Dy. Director (2)	-	2	13.9.91 and 31.3.95
4.	Asstt. Director (1)	-	1	Created in June, 96
5.	Admn. Officer (1)	-		-do-
6.	Sr. Tech. Asstt. (4)	1	3	-do-
7.	Stat. Investigator (1)	-	1	-do-
8.	Accountant (1)	-	1	-do-
9.	Sr. Stat. Clerk (1)	-	1	
10.	Steno Grade-II (1)	-	1	-do-
11.	Steno Grade-III (2)	1	1	8 6 90
12.	Jr. Hindi Translator (1)	-	1	Created in June, 96
13.	U.D.C. (2)	1	1	-do-
14.	L.D.C. (4)	-	4	3 created in June, 96 and 1 since 13.12.91
15.	Daftary (1)	-	1	Created in June, 96
16.	Peon (4)	2	2	-do-
17.	Safaiwala (1)	-	1	do-
18.	Chowkidar (1)			
19.	Car Driver (1)	1		
Total (31)		6	23	

*[English]***Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

1228. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some centrally sponsored agricultural extension schemes are being implemented in different States;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes; and

(c) the allocation of fund made to the States under those schemes during the last three years?

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

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

Seeds and Fertilizers

1229. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI:
SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the farmers are not getting seeds, fertilizers and pesticides in several States including Maharashtra in time and the yield of agricultural production is declining as a result thereof;

(b) if so, the details of concrete steps proposed by the Government to provide improved quality of these items and subsidy to the farmers;

(c) the number of incidents of bungling in purchase of these items by the Government Departments and their poor quality in the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka has been brought to the notice of the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Making available adequate quantity and quality of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides to farmers in all States including in Maharashtra is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government. The Central Government, however, reviews availability position of these inputs during Zonal Conferences/Kharif/Rabi Conferences and make

arrangements for inter-state supply/movements. There has been no decline in the productivity of foodgrains (yield per hectare) due to shortage of inputs as indicated in the following table:

	<u>1994-95</u>	<u>1996-97</u>
	(Yield per hectare in kgs.)	
All India	1546	1601
Maharashtra	852	1058

(c) and (d) No case of bungling in the purchase of these inputs including their poor quality has been reported from the State of Maharashtra and Karnataka.

*[Translation]***Tubewells in Tal Areas**

1230. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not accorded sanction to the shallow tubewells related projects for irrigation in the Tal areas so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Minor irrigation schemes which include shallow tubewells are planned, funded and executed by the State Government from their own budgetary resources. These schemes do not require any sanction from Union Government.

Incentives of Rabi Crop

1231. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial benefits which are likely to be given to the farmers for Rabi Crop maize having yield of seven or eight tonnes per hectare;

(b) if so, the shortage of wheat which is likely to be made up by the crop of maize;

(c) if so, the time by which the special incentives are likely to be provided; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a), (c) and (d) For promoting maize, incentives to farmers for both kharif and

rabl Maize Crop are being given under Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP). Incentives include subsidy for use of certified seeds of hybrids/improved varieties of maize, improved implements and the seed mini-kits of maize. Besides, frontline demonstrations and field demonstrations on improved crop production technology and demonstrations on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) on farmers' fields are also conducted by providing inputs. Farmers' training on crop production technology are also conducted under the programme to transfer the latest technology to the farmers. These incentives are not linked with any productivity level.

(b) The target for the production of maize is fixed separately and included in the overall target of production of cereals along with wheat, rice and other coarse cereals. During 1997-98 against a target of 11 million tonnes the maize production is expected at 11.15 million tonnes.

Rice Cultivation

1232. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted proposals for increasing the production of rice cultivation in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the decision of the Government to the said proposals with allocation made for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government of Kerala has not submitted any proposal as such for increasing the production/cultivation of rice or for the allocation of funds under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-RICE)". However considering the norms and programmes implemented in previous years by the State under the ICDP-Rice, an allocation of Rs.134.78 lakhs, as Central Share, has been made for 1998-99.

Norms for Below Poverty Line

1233. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI K.P. NAIDU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed certain norms to identify the people living below poverty line in the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons identified so far particularly in Maharashtra and Karnataka;

(c) whether State Governments have opposed the existing norms of identifying the persons below poverty line;

(d) if so, the views of State Governments in this regards, and

(e) the reaction of Union Government thereto?

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) to (e) As per the latest information, 320.37 million persons in the country are estimated to live below this norm in 1993-94. The number of persons living below the poverty norms in Maharashtra and Karnataka was 30.52 million and 15.65 million respectively in 1993-94.

Allocation of Fund

1234. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any suggestion/proposal from Government of U.P. to allocate more funds or increase the plan outlay amount for plans/projects pertaining to various Ministries;

(b) if so, the plan-wise/ Ministry-wise details thereof as on date;

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard so far; and

(d) the time by which more funds is likely to be allocated to Government of U.P.?

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) Planning Commission has not received any such proposals except a request from the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for enhanced allocation of Special Central Assistance (SCA) under Hill Areas Development Programme.

(b) to (d) The above proposal will be considered when the Annual Plan 1998-99 for the State of U.P. is finalised.

Breed of Animals

1235. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the cattle population particularly of cows, bulls, she-buffalos and buffalos in Bihar in each of the last three years;

(b) the number of improved breed of animals, category-wise in previous three years;

(c) the details of work undertaken relating to improvement in the breed of animals; and

(d) the financial assistance extended by the Union Government for improvement of the breed of animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The projected population of cattle and buffalos in Bihar for the last three years is given below:

Year	(Nos. in lakh)			
	Cows	Bulls	She buffalos	He buffalos
1995-96	109.4	120.5	41.0	15.6
1996-97	110.7	122.0	41.8	15.9
1997-98	112.1	123.5	42.6	16.2

(b) The estimated population of cross-breed animals for the last three years is as under:

Year	(Nos. in ' 000)		
	Cross-breed Cattle	Cross-breed Sheep	Cross-breed Pigs
1995-96	204	46	28
1996-97	209	46	29
1997-98	213	47	29

(c) and (d) Under the Central Sector Plan Scheme, Technology Mission on Dairy Development, an investment of Rs.138.84 lakhs (provisional) has been made till 31.3.98 for strengthening the frozen semen stations of Patna and Ranchi. Further an amount of Rs.156.50 lakhs (provisional) has been released under this scheme for reviving the non-functional artificial insemination centres in Bihar.

SCs/STs Reservation

1236. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Office Memoranda dated January 30, 1997, July 22, 1997 and August 13, 1997 issued by the Department of Personnel and Training is likely to affect adversely the interest of SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for the issuance of these memoranda;

(c) whether the Government propose to review such memoranda; 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) and (b) Office Memoranda dated January 30, July 2, July 22, August 13, and August 29, 1997 respectively relate to review of seniority of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who on account of reservation policy are granted promotion in priority to their senior general candidate. Introduction of post-based roster, withdrawal of relaxations of qualifying marks and standards of evaluation for SCs and STs in matter of reservation in promotion, continuation of reservation in promotion for SCs and STs beyond 15.11.1997 and ceiling of 50% on total reservation for all categories.

(c) and (d) All the above Office Memoranda except the Office Memorandum dated August 13, 1997 have been issued to implement the law laid down by the Supreme Court in various judgements and, hence, there is no scope for review. Office Memorandum dated August 13, 1997 provides for continuation of reservation in promotion for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes beyond 15.11.1997. But for this Office Memorandum reservation in promotion would have ceased after 15.11.1997 in view of Supreme Court judgement in the case of Indira Sawhney. Review of this Office Memorandum is not called for.

Missile Boat

1237. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the new-item captioned "Pak building missile boat with Chinese assistance" in the *Hindustan Times*, dated May 2, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the construction of missile boat by Pak has created tension in the region;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to have discussion with Chinese/Pakistani counterparts on this issue, and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government have seen reports regarding the construction of a missile boat by Pakistan with China's assistance. Government have made it clear that such developments pose a threat to India's security and are not conducive to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

(c) and (d) Government have consistently indicated India's willingness to engage in a constructive dialogue with

Pakistan on all issues, including on "Peace and security" issues, based on mutual respect and regard for each others concerns. Government have also conveyed to the Chinese side our concern arising from the proliferated environment in our region and the importance of paying adequate attention to each other's concerns on vital issues affecting each other's security and territorial integrity.

[Translation]

Indian Origin Citizens

1238. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the families of Indian Origin residing in Afghanistan and other foreign countries have been assaulted by soldiers or civilians during last three years; and

(b) if so, the country-wise, details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) No credible reports about assault on families of Indian origin residing in Afghanistan, by soldiers or civilians, have been received during the last three years. Sporadic incidents of violence against families of Indian origin have been reported in the following countries: Canada (one); Czech Republic (two); Iran (two); and Turkmenistan (one). Some incidents of harassment of persons of Indian origin have also been reported in Indonesia, Russia and Zambia.

[English]

Regional Passport Office, Bangalore

1239. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of passport issued during January 1997 to the end of February 1998 by the Bangalore Passport Office;

(b) the number of passports renewed during the above period;

(c) the minimum time taken to issue new passports and to renew the existing passports; and

(d) whether Single Window Agency is functioning at the above passport office?

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

(a) the number of passports issued by the Passport Office at Bangalore is 1,09,478 during the fourteen months period from January 1997 to the end of February, 1998.

(b) the number of passports renewed by the same office during the above period is 23,669.

(c) Every effort is made to ensure that a fresh passport is issued within a period of five weeks from the date of application and renewal is undertaken within a period of one week, provided all documents are in order.

(d) Passport application together with supporting documents is required to be submitted at any single counter only. Fee is paid at a separate counter.

Export of Nuclear Material

1240. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India have entered into export of nuclear material;

(b) if so, the total export of nuclear material made during the last two years, country-wise;

(c) whether western producers of nuclear material have tried to keep India away from this field by reducing their prices ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to boost export nuclear material?

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

(a) and (b) Apart from meeting the domestic requirement of various materials and components needed for the indigenous nuclear programme, efforts are made, when such opportunities arise, to offer expertise as well as some nuclear related material available in the country to other countries for peaceful uses. Some time back, Government of India entered into a contract with a South Korean power company for export of 100 metric tonnes of nuclear grade heavy water (valued at U.S.dollar 22.75 million) which is being shipped at present. Heavy water standards of various concentrations and valued at US dollar 35,800 have also been exported to South Korea during the last two years. Some quantity of nuclear grade zircaloy material worth about US dollar 5.84 lakh was also exported to South Korea during the last two years.

Thorium oxide ceramic buttons (500 pieces) valued at US dollar 15,000 were exported through an Indian representative company to General Electric, USA in July 1997.

(c) India has to naturally compete with some other countries for export of nuclear material like heavy water etc. However, there is no conclusive evidence that the competing countries are trying to keep India away from becoming an exporter of nuclear materials. It is possible that as a matter of business strategy in the existing market conditions, the exporting entities in some of these countries quote low enough prices to secure orders. However, in the absence of evidence to this effect, such competitive bidding need

not be interpreted as an attempt to edge India out of this market.

(d) Attempts are made to offer competitive prices in response to international enquiries to obtain export orders, when such opportunities arise and the domestic demand-supply position so allows.

Autonomy to CBI

1241. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give over all autonomy to CBI as per the directives of the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) The directives of the Supreme Court in its order dated December 18, 1997 are aimed at further improving the functioning of the Central Bureau of Investigation. Government have decided to implement the directions and some steps like constituting the 'CBI Selection Board' for making recommendation for appointment of the Director and other officers have been taken already.

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

Demands of Cotton Growers

1242. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Sanghathanas of cotton growers have decided to have All-India agitation to highlight the problems of cotton growers in the country;

(b) if so, the main demands of the cotton growers;

(c) whether the Government are considering to accept their demands; and

(d) if so, the time by which the demands of cotton growers is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Ghauri Missile

1243. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan has denied that Pakistan has acquired foreign technology for Ghauri missile;

(b) if so, the reaction of Indian Government thereto;

(c) whether Pakistan is also developing Ghaznavi, a powerful surface to surface missile;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to counter this threat?

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

(b) Government are fully aware of consistent external support to Pakistan in this field despite the existence of multilateral export control regime, unilateral declarations of restraint and supply restrictions in supplier countries.

(c) to (e) Government has seen press reports that Pakistan is also developing Ghaznavi missile with a range of 2000 kms. Government of India is committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard its security and national interests in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

[Translation]

Production of Agricultural Products

1244. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of wheat, paddy, cotton, oilseeds and pulses per acre in foreign countries is more than that of in India;

(b) if so, the names of countries where per acre production of wheat, paddy, cotton, oilseeds and pulses is highest and the per acre production thereof; and

(c) the names of foodgrains having the highest per acre production in India is comparison to other countries of the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. In several countries, the yield of wheat, paddy, cotton, oilseeds and pulses is more than that of India.

(b) The countries having the highest per hectare yield in wheat, paddy, cotton, oilseeds and pulses are as under:

Sl.No.	Crop	Country	Yield(kg/hect.)
1.	Wheat	Ireland	8997
2.	Paddy	Buerto Rica	8333
3.	Cotton	Guinea	1200
4.	Oilseeds		
	(i) Safflower	U.S.A	2050
	(ii) Linseed	China	3125
	(iii) Sasame	Handuras	1267
	(iv) Rapeseed	Maxico	11111
	(v) Sunflower	Switzerland	2727
	(vi) Castorbeans	Paraguay	1382
	(vii) Groundnut	Israel	5400
	(viii) Soyabeans	Italy	3435
5.	Total Pulses	France	4769

(c) None.

Rao Sagar Project

1245. SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rao Sagar Project in Madhya Pradesh is a inter state proejct of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) if so, the total area of land of these States propose to be irrigated separately and power in M.W. is likely to be generated by this project;

(c) the estimated cost earmarked and expenditure incurred thereon till date;

(d) the total funds made available by the Union and States Governments for the purpose, separately;

(e) the percentage of construction work of the dam and canal completed under this project; and

(f) the time by which the rest of the construction work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (f) There is no irrigation project by the name Rao Sagar Project in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

1246. SHRI MADHAVRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds provided during 1997-98 to various State Governments for large projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, State-wise;

(b) the funds actually released so far, State-wise ; and

(c) the irrigation potential likely to be created as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) A Statement giving details of Central loan assistance released under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme to large projects of various States during 1997-98 is enclosed.

(c) The total irrigation potential likely to be create on completion of projects receiving Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme assistance is of the order of 12.63 Million Hectares.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State	C.L.A. released during 1997-98 (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74 00
2.	Assam	12 40
3.	Bihar	14 04
4.	Goa	5 25
5.	Gujarat	196 90
6.	Haryana	12.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	6.50
8.	Karnataka	90.50
9.	Kerala	15.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	114.50

1	2	3
11.	Maharashtra	55.00
12.	Manipur	26.00
13.	Orissa	85.00
14.	Punjab	100.00
15.	Rajasthan	42.00
16.	Tripura	5.10
17.	Uttar Pradesh	78.00
18.	West Bengal	20.00
TOTAL		952.19

Coconut Cultivation

1247. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI A.C. JOS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether coconut cultivation is facing problems in the State of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has sought any assistance from the Union Government to improve coconut cultivation;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon.

(e) whether the Government propose to increase the minimum support price of coconut; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Coconut palms in Kerala are affected by debilitating root (wilt) disease which cause decline in production and productivity of coconuts. As per latest survey conducted during 1997-98, about 245 lakh palms in 8 southern districts of Kerala are affected by this disease.

(c) and (d) A project for development of Coconut Farming Systems in Kerala at a total cost of Rs.562.31 crores was submitted by Government of Kerala during September, 1997. The project envisages eradication of root (wilt) affected disease advanced coconut palms to check the spread of the disease and improve productivity of existing palms. Most of the measures suggested in the project, viz., cutting and removal of root(wilt) affected palms; replanting /new planting; training, extension and publicity; productivity improvement; intercropping/mixed farming; irrigation facilities; support for

harvesting and value addition etc. are already being supported under various programmes of the Coconut Development Board. During 1997-98, out of a total allocation of Rs. 19.75 crores for various coconut development programmes, the Board released Rs. 10.28 crores to the State of Kerala.

(e) and (f) The proposal to fix minimum support price of Copra for the 1998 season is under active consideration of the Government.

Power Generation

1248. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power plants functioning under the Nuclear Power Corporation (NPC); and

(b) the location, installed capacity and performance of each unit during the last three years?

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

(a) Presently, there are five nuclear power plants, four with two reactor units each and one (Rajasthan) with one reactor unit, under the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL). One plant (Rajasthan Unit-I) is owned by the Government but operated by NPCIL.

(b) The location, installed capacity and performance of each unit during the last three years is given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Location	Unit	Design Capacity (MWe)	Utilisation (Capacity Factor-%)		
			1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6
Tarapur Maharashtra	TAPS-1	160	79	30*	84
Tarapur, Maharashtra	TAPS-2	160	32*	46*#	68
Rawatbhatta, Rajasthan	RAPS-1	100	\$	\$	40\$
Rawatbhatta Rajasthan	RAPS-2	200	\$	\$	\$
Kalpakkam, Tamilnadu	MAPS-1	170	76	51	49
Kalpakkam, Tamilnadu	MAPS-2	170	18	83	78
Narora Uttar Pradesh	NAPS-1	220	67	71	90

1	2	3	4	5	6
Narora, Uttar Pradesh	NAPS-2	220	75	75	89
Kakrapar, Gujarat	KAPS-1	220	58	83	48
Kakrapar, Gujarat	KAPS-2	220	70	83	63
Total		1840			

- * The low capacity utilization of this Unit was on account of the inservice inspection carried out during the period to meet regulatory and safety requirements.
- # Non-availability of one of the recirculation pumps also contributed to the low capacity utilization during the period.
- \$ RAPS-1 and RAPS-2 were shut down in the year 1994 due to Over Pressure Relief Device Leak and Coolant Channel Replacement work respectively. RAPS-1 was restarted on 31st March, 1997 and its Capacity Factor achieved during 1997-98 is 40% based on the operating power level of 100 MWe from April '97 to June '97 and 150 MWe from July '97 to March '98 as permitted by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. The capital maintenance work of RAPS-2 is in the final stage.

Foreign Secretary Level Talks

1249. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Foreign Secretary level talks/meetings held by the Government with the neighbouring countries during the last three years till date;

(b) the names of the countries alongwith the dates and venues of such talks/meetings;

(c) the points of deliberation and the points on which consensus was reached at ; and

(d) the complete details of the achievements made as a result of these meetings?

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

(a) to (d) Country-wise details of Foreign Secretary level talks held with neighbouring countries during the last three years are as follows:

China

Foreign Secretary Level talks with China were held on August 18-20, 1995 (New Delhi), October 16-18, 1996 (Beijing), August 3-5, 1997 (New Delhi) during the 8th, 9th and 10th meetings respectively of the Joint Working Group on Boundary question.

At the 8th JWG meeting, the issue of close proximity in the Sumdorong Chu valley in the Eastern Sector was resolved. At the 9th meeting, efforts continued to clarify the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas. Confidence Building Measures between the border personnel were also discussed. The two sides agreed to continue and expand exchanges between defence establishments. At the 10th meeting, the two sides, apart from reviewing developments in bilateral relations and exchanging views on regional, multilateral and international issues of mutual interest, also addressed issues relating to the India-China border and clarification of the Line of Actual Control. The two sides exchanged the Instruments of Ratification in respects of the Confidence Building Measures agreement and concluded a protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China.

Pakistan

At our initiative, bilateral dialogue at the level of Foreign Secretary was resumed in 1997. These rounds of Foreign Secretary Level talks have been held in New Delhi from 28-31 March, 1997, in Islamabad from 28-31 June, 1997 and in New Delhi from 15-18 September, 1997. The third round was adjourned with the two sides deciding to meet at mutually convenient dates.

At the second round of talks in June 1997, the Foreign Secretaries had identified eight subjects, viz. (a) Peace and Security, including Confidence Building Measures; (b) Jammu and Kashmir; (c) Siachen; (d) Tulbul Navigation Project; (e) Sir Creek; (f) Terrorism and drug trafficking; (g) Economic and Commercial Cooperation; (h) Promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields, for discussion between the two countries. They had also decided to set up a mechanism to address all these issues.

The discussion at the third round of talks focussed on these mechanism for talks. The Foreign Secretaries thereafter met in Edinburg in October, 1997 during the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting and at Dhaka in January, 1998 during the India-Bangladesh-Pakistan Business Summit. In Dhaka, our Foreign Secretary handed over to his Pakistani counterpart a set up of proposals regarding the modalities for dialogue. Pakistan is yet to revert with its views on these proposals.

Nepal

Foreign Secretary Level talks were held at New Delhi on June 9, 1995, at Kathmandu from November 17-19, 1995 and at New Delhi on August 20, 1997. These meetings enabled discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The issues discussed at the above three meetings covered a diversity of fields, including bilateral economic cooperation, matters relating to trade and transit, water resources, management and demarcation of the India-Nepal border and the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship between India and Nepal.

The Foreign Secretary Level meetings have provided the opportunity for friendly and frank discussions. Both sides have felt that such meetings have been useful and productive and enabled a valuable exchange of views.

Bhutan

Foreign Secretary Level meetings were held at Thimpu on October 28-29, 1995, May 2-8, 1996, November 24-25, 1996, March 2-3, 1991, April 25-27, 1997 and July 21-24, 1997.

Relations between India and Bhutan have been close and cordial and relatively trouble-free. An important factor in nurturing and sustaining this relationship is the well established tradition of frequent and extensive exchange of views between leaders/officials of the two countries. Foreign Secretary level talks is a part of this regular exercise which enabled a comprehensive review of the entire gamut of Indo-Bhutan relations as well as exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Bangladesh

Foreign Secretary Level talks were held at Dhaka on June 23-25, 1995, on July 5-7, 1996, and at New Delhi on August 6-9, 1996.

During Foreign Secretary's visit to Bangladesh on June 23-25, 1995, bilateral issues of mutual concern were discussed. When Foreign Secretary visited Bangladesh as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister on July 5-7, 1996, besides delivering a letter from our Prime Minister to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, during his meeting with the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh he conveyed the goodwill and desire of the Government of India for cooperative relations in all fields of mutual interest. These sentiments were reciprocated by the Bangladesh side. When the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh visited India as a Special Envoy of Prime Minister of Bangladesh on August 6-9, 1996, during Foreign Secretary level talks matters relating to bilateral trade, water resources, transportation, telecommunication, etc. as well as SAARC related matters were discussed. Both sides also felt the need to encourage direct contacts between the private sectors of the two countries.

Maldives

Foreign Secretary level talks were held at Male on November 26, 1997 during which matters relating to convening of the 4th Session of Indo-Maldives Joint Commission, visit of the President of Maldives to India, bilateral cooperation in a variety of fields, including health and education were discussed. Foreign Secretary had visited Male to attend the meeting of the Standing Committee of SAARC Foreign Secretaries and the 19th Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers.

[Translation]

Monitoring of reservation

1250. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has set up any panel for monitoring implementation of 27% reservation for other backward classes and 22.5 % reservation of Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes in Government Services;

(b) if so, the composition of the panel and the details of its terms of reference and *modus operandi* ; and

(c) the details of the present position regarding filling up of due quota of OBC in Government services and whether any time bound scheme has been chalked out for the purpose ?

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) No Sir.

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

(c) Every endeavour is made by the administrative ministries/departments to fill up the due quota of OBCs subject to observances of 50% ceiling on reservation for SCs/STs & OBCs taken together. Therefore, a time bound scheme to fill up all the posts of OBCs at one go is not feasible.

[English]

Russian Missiles To Pakistan

1251. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Russian Missiles may find their way to Pak from China" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated April 4, 1998;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on such deal;

(c) whether the Government propose to raise such issues in the international forum to diffuse tension; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, this news item appeared in the *Hindustan Times* issue of 28th April, 1998.

(b) to (d) Government are aware of the ongoing military cooperation between Russia and China including the sale of some ships which have the capacity to carry supersonic anti-ship missiles SSN-22.

Government are also aware of the transfer of missiles and missile technology from China to Pakistan. Our concerns about such transfer are well known and have been conveyed in our bilateral discussions with various countries.

[Translation]

Haj Pilgrimages

1252. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pilgrims who visited Saudi Arabia during the last three years;

(b) whether all the Haj Pilgrims travel by air or some still travel by ships;

(c) the state-wise number of the Hajjis propose the visit to Saudi Arabia during next year; and

(d) the details of the average expenditure on air and sea voyage, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) The number of Indian pilgrims who went to Saudi Arabia for Haj in the last three years, is as follows :

(i) 1996	75,000 (approximately)
(ii) 1997	87,516
(iii) 1998	95,119

2. Since Haj 1995, all Indian Haj Pilgrims travel only by air.

3. For 1999, Government have not yet fixed the quota of Indian pilgrims performing Haj through the Haj Committee. This is expected to be done in the next one month after which State-wise quota will be determined by the Haj Committee.

4. The air fare paid by pilgrims who go for Haj through the Haj Committee is Rs. 12,000.

[English]

Production of Butter and Ghee

1253. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the demand and the production of butter and ghee in the country during the last two years till date;

(b) whether the country has become self sufficient in this regard; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirement of butter and ghee in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The demand of butter and ghee varies according to the price, consumer preference, purchasing power, availability of substitutes in the market. The production is dependent on demand and hence it also varies. A major portion of butter and ghee is produced in the unorganised sector for which no estimates are available. The butter and ghee produced in metric tonnes during the last two years in the co-operative sector is as follows:

Period	Table Butter	Ghee
1996-97	33180	47264
1997-98*	30477	51650

*Provisional.

(b) The import/export of milk fats are only marginal and hence by and large India is self sufficient in butter and ghee production.

(c) In view of (b) question does not arise.

Cotton Varieties

1254. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether the Indian Textile Industry has requested for immediate withdrawal of a few varieties of cotton grown in the country;

(b) if so, whether any final decision has been taken in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the total varieties of cotton likely to be grown in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) No. Sir No proposal has been recieved by the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation) for withdrawal of some varieties of cotton grown in the country. However, the East India Cotton Association, Mumbai has requested the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for elimination of obsolete varieties of cotton. If any proposal is recieved for de-notifying any variety under section 5 of the Seeds Act, the matter will be considered at the appropriate time. However, even if a variety is de-notified, there is no bar under the Seeds Act on farmers growing the de-notified cotton varieties.

Agreement with Russia

1255. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Russia has signed a work plan for 1998 and 1999 for cooperation in agriculture and allied areas ;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement signed ;

(c) to what extent India is likely to be benefited by the said agreement; and

(d) the time by which the agreement is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The following two agreements have been signed with the Government of Russia/Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (RAAS):

- (i) Agreement between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and RAAS on 5.10.95 for Cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research and related subjects.
- (ii) Agreement between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on 25.3.97 for Cooperation in the field of Plant Quarantine and Plant Protection.

In pursuance of Article II and III of the Agreement dated 5.10.95, a Work Plan was signed between ICAR and RAAS on 25.11.97 for 1998 and 1999 for co-operation in Agricultural research and related subjects. Under this work plan, 36 scientists from different ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities shall get training in the Institutes of RAAS to enhance their knowledge and skills in disciplines of crop sciences, animal sciences, fisheries, horticulture, biotechnology, soil etc. The ICAR will also get germplasm of temperate fruits, forage crops, small ruminants, pigs etc.

No Work Plan has been signed under the agreement in the field of Plant Quarantine and Plant Protection. This agreement aims at the prevention of penetration and spreading of quarantine pests, plant diseases and weeds on the territory of both countries, as well as for further development of trade and exchange of planting material, and agricultural, forest and plant produce between the two countries.

(d) The Work Plan signed between ICAR and RAAS under the Agreement dated 5.10.95 stipulates implementation by 31.12.1999.

Technology Mission on Black Pepper

1256. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sought help for improving the quality and quantity of black pepper and the spice cultivation in the State ;

(b) if so, whether the assistance has been provided by the Union Government to the Government of Kerala for launching the Technology Mission on Black Pepper; and

(c) if so, the details of the assistance extended by the Government for increasing the production/cultivation in Kerala State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Government of Kerala had submitted a report on Technology Mission on Black Pepper to the Planning Commission for improving production, productivity and quality of black pepper in the State. The State Government of Kerala has proposed the Technology Mission for Black Pepper for implementation as a State activity and envisages to pool the available resources and efforts and integrate the activities of all State and Central institutions/agencies located in the State involved in the development of black pepper.

(b) and (c) Since the activities identified in the Technology Mission Black Pepper involve inter-governmental and inter-Ministerial coordination, Planning Commission has sought the views of the concerned departments. Final decision has not been taken with regard to financial implications of various participating agencies/departments on the proposed Mission.

Ministry of Agriculture has, however been supporting the production programme for black pepper and other spices under its Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Development of Spices (IPDS). Under this programme, the Government of India have released Rs. 1349.92 lakhs to Government of Kerala during 1997-98. Of this Rs. 9.24 crores were earmarked for development of black pepper, which include most of the production components of the proposed Technology Mission. These programmes are proposed to be continued during 1998-99 as well.

Dairy Development

1257. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal received from the Government of Kerala seeking funds for Technology Mission on Dairy Development is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any funds were made available to the State of Kerala for the project during 1996-97;

(d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and

(e) the funds proposed to be made available for this project during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. Government of Kerala did not submit any proposal to avail of assistance under the Technology Mission of Dairy Development.

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

Production of Vegetables

1258. SHRI A.C JOS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to the Union Government regarding an extensive programme for increasing the production of vegetable cultivation in the State;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed programme/scheme and the decision taken by the Union Government on the said proposal; and

(c) the estimated cost of the project and the way in which this scheme is likely to help the marginal vegetable farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala submitted project proposal for increasing vegetable production to attain self-sufficiency in the State.

(b) The project includes seed production programmes, area expansion, strengthening of research and post harvest handling and marketing of vegetables in the State. The Government of India suggested the Government of Kerala to revise the project proposal to avail the assistance for setting up of cold storage and post harvest management facilities for the ~~satate~~ in the light of the guidelines of the National Horticulture Board and submit it to the Executive Director, National Horticulture Board directly for funding.

(c) The estimated cost of the project proposed was Rs 2863.32 lakhs. The marginal vegetable farmers are likely to benefit through distribution of subsidised improved/hybrid vegetable seeds minikits, training and demonstration programmes etc under the project.

[Translation]

Flood Control

1259. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to control the floods in the country so far, State-wise ;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to preserve the rainy water for irrigation purpose ;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any plan to control the floods occurring every year in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Flood Management being a State project, investigation, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the respective State Governments. The Centre renders assistance that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

Government of India constituted Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) in 1976 to evolve a comprehensive approach to the flood problems of the entire country. The RDM in its report (1980) had made 207 long term and short term recommendations which have been sent to all the States of the country for implementation. Further, for the severe flood prone basins of Ganga and Brahmaputra, the Central Organisation of Ganga Flood Control Commission and Brahmaputra Board had prepared comprehensive plan for flood management which have been sent to State Governments for formulating detailed schemes and their implementation. Besides, during 1987, two committees were constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (WR) for studying the flood problems of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa and North Eastern States. The recommendation of these committees were further examined by an Empowered Committee set up by the Ministry of Water Resources and the conclusions of the Empowered Committee were sent to the concerned State Governments and Organisations in 1991 for follow up action. Also, the Central Government is operating 157 Flood Forecasting Stations on inter-state rivers for providing timely flood forecasting services to the State Governments for mitigating flood damages. Central Government is also providing financial assistance to carry out important flood management works in the state of Assam and border states of northern as well as north eastern India. Central assistance is also being provided to north Bihar for carrying out flood proofing programme. The State-wise achievement is given in the attached Statement.

(b) Creation of storages across rivers in order to preserve water for making proper utilisation of rain water for irrigation and other purposes has been given emphasis in successive five year plans resulting in the creation of a large number of storage reservoirs in the country. At present reservoirs with total live storage capacity of 77 billion cubic metres are under various stages of construction and reservoirs with total live storage capacity of 132.3 billion cubic metres are under consideration.

(c) and (d) Uttar Pradesh State is traversed by many

rivers, major among them Yamuna, Ramganga, Gomati, Betwa, Tons, Ghagra, and Ganga. Comprehensive plans for flood management for all these river systems prepared by the Ganga Flood Control Commission have already been sent to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for framing up detailed schemes and their implementations. The measures suggested in the comprehensive plans includes construction of embankment, improvement of drainage systems, anti-erosion works etc.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise physical achievement of works under Flood Management

Sl. No.	Name of States/ UTs.	Length of Embankment (Km)	Length of drainage channels (Km)	Towns/ Village protection works	Village raised protected (Nos.)	Area benefited in million ha.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	572	13569	52	21	1.0123
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	4566	957	89	16	1.7269
4.	Bihar	2788	365	47	-	1.8890
5.	Goa	10	12	4	6	0.0001
6.	Gujarat	952	271	229	30	0.4410
7.	Haryana	662	3922	180	90	1.7300
8.	Himachal Pradesh	58	11	-	-	0.0120
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	80	14	12	5	0.1834
10.	Karnataka	-	-	-	-	0.0570
11.	Kerala	113	28	4	6	0.0518
12.	Madhya Pradesh	21	-	37	-	0.0040
13.	Maharashtra	26	-	26	-	0.0010
14.	Manipur	300	76	1	1	0.0900
15.	Meghalaya	112	-	8	2	0.0896
16.	Mizoram	1	1	-	-	-
17.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Orissa	1068	131	14	29	0.4800
19.	Punjab	1370	6622	3	-	2.6750
20.	Rajasthan	145	197	25	-	0.0816
21.	Sikkim	-	-	6	-	0.0002
22.	Tamilnadu	87	19	46	4	0.1220
23.	Tripura	128	94	11	-	0.0308
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1811	3593	64	4511	1.5320

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
25.	West Bengal	1184	1648	48	-	2.0770
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-	-
27.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-
29.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-
30.	Delhi	83	453	-	-	0.0780
31.	Lakshdweep	-	-	-	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	61	20	-	-	0.0093
Total for India		16200	32003	906	4721	14.3740

[English]

Vacant Post

1260. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the post of the Chairman of the Coconut Development Board is lying vacant ;

(b) if so, since when ; and

(c) the steps being taken to fill up the post expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The post of the Chairman of the Coconut Development Board had fallen vacant on the expiry of the term of the then incumbent w.e.f. 2.9.97. Steps are being taken to fill up the post on regular basis. Accordingly, applications from suitable candidates have been invited by circulating the vacancy to the agencies concerned. The process for the constitution of a Selection Committee has been initiated.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency

1261. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) propose to increase power generation and diversify in activities in Ninth Five Year Plan period ;

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

(c) whether the World Bank has also sanctioned fund for the purpose ; 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) Yes, Sir. IREDA has proposed a target to finance 1150 Mega Watts (MW) through Renewable energy in Ninth Five Year Plan period. These planned activities involve sanction of estimated loans of Rs. 3594 crores and disbursements of Rs. 2554 crores during the Ninth Five Year Plan. Details are given in the enclosed Statement -I. IREDA has also planned diversification of its activities to energy efficiency, consultancy services, and export promotion, during the Ninth Five Year Plan period.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details are given in the enclosed Statement II.

Statement I

Proposed targets for financing power generation projects through Renewable Energy by IREDA during the Ninth Five Year Plan

Sl. No.	Sector	Sanctioned Capacity (MW)	Estimated Loan Amount (Rs. Crores)	Loan Disbursement (Rs. Crores)
1.	Wind	600	1800.00	1250.00
2.	Small Hydro	250	780.00	380.00
3.	Cogeneration	200	540.00	540.00
4.	Biomass Power	70	150.00	150.00
5.	Solar P.V	15	310.00	210.00
6.	Biomass Gasifier	15	14.00	14.00
Total		1150	3594.00	2544.00

Statement II**Details of the funds sanctioned/disbursed by IREDA under World Bank assisted project****I. Details of First Line Of Credit under World Bank assisted India Renewable Resources Development Project (IRRDP)**

(A)	Sanctioned
Line Of Credit from IDA	US \$ 115 million
GEF grant	US \$ 26 million
SDC grant	US \$ 4 million
DANIDA	US \$ 15 million
Total	US \$ 160 million

* The assistance is meant for three sectors, viz. Wind, Small Hydro Power & Solar PV.

(B) Out of the above, the following has been disbursed as on 31.3.1997 (End of Eighth Plan)

		Disbursed	
		(In Rs.)	(In US Dollars)
IDA Credit	Rs. 104.78 Crores	US \$ 29.93 million *	
GEF grant	Rs. 52.09 Crores	US \$ 14.9 million	
SDC grant	Rs. 1.65 Crores	US \$ 0.5 million	
DANIDA	Rs. 14.24 Crores	US \$ 4.0 million	
Total	Rs. 172.76 Crores	US \$ 49.37 million	

* 1 US\$ = Rs. 35.00

(C) The Balance Amount of US\$ 110.63 million shall be disbursed during the Ninth Plan period.**II. The Second Line of Credit from World Bank under Second Renewable Energy Project has been negotiated with the World Bank during April, 1998, the details of which are under:**

International Development Association (IDA) Credit	US \$ 50 Million
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) Loan	US \$ 80 Million
Global Environment Facility (GEF) Grant	US \$ 5 Million
Total	US \$ 135 Million

*The assistance is meant for two sectors viz. Small Hydro Power and Energy Efficiency (Demand Side Management)

IDA = International Development Association

GEF = Global Environment Facility

SDC = Swiss Development Cooperation

DANIDA = Danish International Development Agency

Schemes for North-East Areas Of Assam**1262. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :**

(a) whether total of forty one projects in the North-East have been identified including nineteen for immediate implementation in the meeting of the Prime Minister with the Chief Ministers of North Eastern States held on May 8, 1998 ;

(b) if so, the number of these schemes meant for the hilly districts of Assam including the names with projects outlay of each one; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take specially to bring the backward hilly areas of Assam at par with the rest of State as well as with the nation?

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) In the meeting of the Chief Ministers of North-Eastern States and Sikkim with Prime Minister held on 8th May, 1998, it was decided that a project approach would be adopted for the development of these States for which projects would be identified in consultation with the State Governments and North-Eastern Council.

(c) The efforts of the State Government of Assam for the development of designated hill areas namely North Cachar and Karbi-Anglong districts are supplemented through the allocation of Special Central Assistance under Hill Areas Development Programme. In addition to this, Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 10 crore was also sanctioned to the Government of Assam for the Annual Plan 1997-98 for the Autonomous Council of North Cachar Hills district.

Approved Outlay Plan**1263. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :**

(a) the Ninth Plan approved outlay for Assam, Bihar, Goa, J&K, Karnataka, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tripura; and

(b) the name of the States and Union Territories against whom the percentage of plan outlay had been increased considerably taking into account of First Plan outlay to Ninth Plan outlay, Plan-wise?

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) A Statement containing the details of approved outlay for First Plan to Eighth Plan, percentage increase and Ninth Plan projections for all the States/UTs including the States of

Assam, Bihar, Goa, J&K, Karnataka, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tripura is attached.

Statement

Originally Agreed/Approved Outlay from First Plan (1951-56) to Ninth Plan (1997-2002) (At current prices)

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	First Plan (1951-56)	Second Plan (1956-61)	%age increase over First Plan	Third Plan (1961-67)	%age increase over Second Plan	Fourth Plan (1969-74)	%age increase over Third Plan	Fifth Plan (1974-79)	%age increase over Fourth Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	114.14	219.19	92.04	305.00	39.15	420.50	37.87	1333.58	217.14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.21	9.51	125.89	7.15	24.82	17.99	151.61	63.30	251.86
3.	Assam	21.67	57.94	167.37	120.00	107.11	223.75	86.46	473.84	111.77
4.	Bihar	68.67	194.22	182.83	337.04	73.54	531.28	57.03	1296.06	143.95
5.	Goa	@	@		23.04\1		39.50\1	71.44	85.00\1	115.19
6.	Gujarat	30.49	55.59	82.32	235.00	322.74	455.00	93.62	1185.76	160.51
7.	Haryana	@	@		@		225.00		601.34	167.26
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5.70	14.72	158.25	27.93	89.74	101.40	263.05	238.95	135.65
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	12.74	33.92	166.25	75.00	121.11	158.40	111.20	362.64	128.94
10.	Karnataka	50.92	84.37	65.69	250.00	196.31	350.00	40.00	997.67	185.05
11.	Kerala	31.28	71.95	130.02	170.00	136.28	258.40	52.00	568.96	120.19
12.	Madhya Pradesh	83.68	230.19	175.09	300.00	30.33	383.00	27.67	1379.71	260.24
13.	Maharashtra	159.86	266.25	66.55	390.00	46.48	898.12	130.29	2347.61	161.39
14.	Manipur	1.55	6.25	303.23	12.88	106.08	30.25	134.85	92.86	206.98
15.	Meghalaya	@	@		@		38.00		89.53	135.51
16.	Mizoram	@	@		@		2/		46.59	
17.	Nagaland	@	@		7.15		40.00	459.44	83.63	109.06
18.	Orissa	21.23	99.97	370.89	160.00	60.05	222.60	39.12	585.02	162.51
19.	Punjab	44.62	162.68	264.59	231.39	42.24	293.56	26.87	1013.49	245.24
20.	Rajasthan	27.28	105.27	284.9	236.00	124.19	302.00	27.97	709.24	134.85
21.	Sikkim	@	@		@		@		39.64	
22.	Tamilnadu	90.20	173.06	91.86	290.88	68.08	519.36	78.55	1122.32	116.10
23.	Tripura	2.29	8.47	269.87	16.32	92.68	34.66	112.38	69.68	101.04
24.	Uttar Pradesh	129.83	253.10	94.95	497.00	96.37	965.00	94.16	2445.86	153.46

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
25.	West Bengal	76.45	153.66	100.99	250.00	62.70	322.50	29.00	1246.83	286.61
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3.83	5.92	54.57	9.79	65.37	14.00	43.00	33.72	140.86
27.	Chandigarh	@	@		1/		7.75		39.76	413.03
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	@	@		1/		2.30		9.41	309.13
29.	Daman & Diu	#	#		#		#		#	
30.	Delhi	6.79	16.97	149.93	81.75	381.73	162.65	98.96	316.01	94.29
31.	Lakshadweep	@	@		0.97		2.00	106.19	6.23	211.50
32.	Pondicherry	0.73	4.76	552.05	6.93	45.59	12.50	80.38	34.04	172.32

Originally Agreed/Approved Outlay from First Plan (1951-56) to Ninth Plan (1997-2002) (At current prices)

(Rs. Crore)

Sl No.	States/UTs	Sixth Plan (1980-85)	%age increase over Fifth Plan	Seventh Plan (1985-90)	%age increase over Sixth Plan	Eighth Plan (1992-97)	%age increase over Seventh Plan	Ninth Plan (1997-2002)	%age increase over Eighth Plan
1	2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3100.00	132.46	5200.00	67.74	10500.00	101.92	25150.00	139.52
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	212.00	234.91	400.00	88.68	1155.00	188.75	3569.89	@@ 209.08
3.	Assam	1115.00	135.31	2100.00	88.34	4662.00	122.00	8983.93	@@ 92.71
4.	Bihar	3225.00	148.83	5100.00	58.14	13000.00	154.90	16680.00	28.31
5.	Goa	192.00/1	125.88	360.00/1	87.50	761.00	111.39	1500.00	97.11
6.	Gujarat	3680.00	210.35	6000.00	63.04	11500.00	91.67	28000.00	143.48
7.	Haryana	1800.00	199.33	2900.00	61.11	5700.00	96.55	9310.00	63.33
8.	Himachal Pradesh	560.00	134.36	1050.00	87.50	2502.00	138.29	5700.00	127.82
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	900.00	148.18	1400.00	55.56	4000.00	185.71	9500.00	137.50
10.	Karnataka	2265.00	127.03	3500.00	54.53	12300.00	251.43	23400.00	90.24
11.	Kerala	1550.00	172.43	2100.00	35.48	5460.00	160.00	16100.00	194.87
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3800.00	175.42	7000.00	84.21	11100.00	58.57	20075.00	80.86
13.	Maharashtra	6175.00	163.03	10500.00	70.04	18520.00	76.38	36700.00	98.16
14.	Manipur	240.00	158.45	430.00	79.17	979.00	127.67	2426.69	@@ 147.87
15.	Meghalaya	235.00	162.48	440.00	87.23	1029.00	133.86	2500.62	@@ 143.01
16.	Mizoram	130.00	179.03	260.00	100.00	763.00	193.46	1618.51	@@ 112.12
17.	Nagaland	210.00	151.11	400.00	90.48	844.00	111.00	2006.43	@@ 137.73
18.	Orissa	1500.00	156.40	2700.00	80.00	10000.00	270.37	15000.00	50.00

1	2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19.	Punjab	1957.00	93.10	3285.00	67.86	6570.00	100.00	11500.00	75.04
20.	Rajasthan	2025.00	185.52	3000.00	48.15	11500.00	283.33	22525.83	95.88
21.	Sikkim	122.00	207.77	230.00	88.52	550.00	139.13	1600.00	190.91
22.	Tamilnadu	3150.00	180.67	5750.00	82.54	10200.00	77.39	25000.00	145.10
23.	Tripura	245.00	251.61	440.00	79.59	1130.00	156.82	2577.39 @@	128.09
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5850.00	139.18	10447.00	78.58	21000.00	101.01	46340.00	120.67
25.	West Bengal	3500.00	180.71	4125.00	17.86	9760.00	136.61	16900.00	73.16
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	96.60	186.48	285.00	195.03	685.00	140.35	1535.00	124.09
27.	Chandigarh	100.75	153.40	203.10	101.59	400.00	96.95	685.00	71.25
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	23.09	145.38	46.29	100.48	80.00	72.82	205.00	156.25
29.	Daman & Diu	#		26.00		65.00	150.00	165.00	153.85
30.	Delhi	800.00	153.16	2000.00	150.00	4500.00	125.00	15541.28	245.36
31.	Lakshadweep	20.35	226.65	43.90	115.72	120.00	173.35	270.00	125.00
32.	Pondicherry	71.54	110.16	170.00	137.63	400.00	135.29	1300.00	225.00

@ : Was not State / UT then.

@@ : Provisional.

: Included under Goa.

\1: Includes provision for Daman & Diu also.

\2: Included under Assam.

[Translation]

Indo-Canada Ties

1264. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed recently between India and Canada to constitute a task force to control terrorism and to take measures essential for expansion of various areas multi-dimensional bilateral relations; and

(b) if so, the details of agreement and the progress made in this regard ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. During the visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada in January, 1997, it was decided to set up an India-Canada Joint Working Group on Terrorism (JWG). The group provides a mechanism for coordinating and monitoring the cooperative efforts of the two countries for combating terrorism.

The External Affairs Minister of India and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada in January, 1997 also exchanged notes to establish an India-Canada Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) to enhance the political relations between India and Canada alongwith trade and economic relations

(b) The Joint Working Group on Terrorism held its first meeting in New Delhi in April, 1997. The two sides reviewed bilateral and multilateral cooperation in this important area. Both the sides also agreed to intensify on-going co-operation and exchange of information and to continue the process of consultations in the Working Group

The JMC has not held any meeting so far

[English]

Reserved Vacancies

1265. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN .
SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of vacancies reserved for SC/ST/OBC in the country as on date, State-wise and category-wise.

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies ;

(c) whether any assistance is being provided by the Union Government to States for the purpose; and

(d) 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. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) Information relating to vacancies reserved for SC/ST/OBC in the country State-wise and category-wise is not maintained. The reservation policy of the Union Government is applicable to Central Services only. For services under the State Governments, the reservation policy of the respective State is applicable. Therefore, question of assistance by the Union Government to the State Governments does not arise.

US Cooperation in Nuclear Field

1266. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether US and India propose to sign an agreement for peaceful use of nuclear energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this co-operation will be confined to peaceful use of atom only; and

(d) the time by which the agreement is likely to be signed?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

..... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, Q. No. 3 is very important (Interruptions)

Please, give time for this..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you tomorrow.

..... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, you must allow me to speak (Interruptions) You must hear me, Sir.

..... (Interruptions) You have to hear me, Sir..... (Interruptions) This is very unfortunate. Only two questions have been taken up in one hour (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please raise it tomorrow. I will allow it tomorrow.

..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, please.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It was a very important Question, that is why I allowed so many Members.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Sir, there is a solution to this impasse (Interruptions) Please, allow him to speak (Interruptions) Please allow this point to be discussed after this (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you after this.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Nothing will go on record.

..... (Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundarpuram) : Sir, Q. No.3 is very important (Interruptions) It is regarding our relations with China (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you after this

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let this item be completed.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I urge upon you to allow us to speak. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, please take your seat.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this?

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : After this.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker Sir, this is a very important Question (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, I allow Shri Rajesh Pilot to speak.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker Sir, there is a feeling in the House that this question is very important and allowed to be raised. It is on Indo-China relations. Please allow half-an-hour discussion on this subject. Please agree for this.

MR. SPEAKER : If the House agrees, I have no objection in allowing half-an hour discussion on this.

..... (Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : We are agreeable to this.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, kindly allow this half-an hour discussion tomorrow (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not dictate to the Chair whatever you like. What is this?

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : How can you dictate to the Chair? I have agreed for allowing half-an-hour discussion on this.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The Speaker has agreed for allowing half-an-hour discussion on this. Why are you interrupting ? The speaker has agreed for half-an-hour discussion on this. This is not correct. We are all responsible people (Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Statement on payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Ordinance 1998 etc. (Hindi and English Version)

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 350/98]

Annual Report, Audited Accounts and review of the working of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. New Delhi etc., for the year 1996-97

[English]

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) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited, New Delhi for the year 1996-97, 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 351/98]

(3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Economic Growth, Development Planning Centre, Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts

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

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 352/98]

(5) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited and the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources for the year 1997-98

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 353/98]

[Translation]

Annual Report, Audited Accounts and review of the working of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd., etc. by the Govt. for the year 1993-94

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

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Agatti, for the year 1993-94.

(ii) Annual Report of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Agatti, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited

Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon,

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 354/98]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited Agatti, for the year 1994-95.

(ii) Annual Report of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Agatti, for the year 1994-95 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon

[Placed in Library. See No. 355/98]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Goa Meat Complex Limited, Panaji, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Goa Meat Complex Limited, Panaji, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Three Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 356/98]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of co-operative Sugar Factories Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 357/98]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Federation of Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Federation of Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.

(6) Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 358/98]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 359/98]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Heavy Engineering Cooperative Limited, Pune, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Heavy Engineering Cooperative Limited, Pune, for the year 1996-97.

(10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 360/98]

(11) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Narmada Control Authority, for the year 1996-97.

(12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 361/98]

(13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the J & K State Sheep and Sheep products Development Board Srinagar, for the years 1994-95 to 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the J & K State sheep Products Development Board, Srinagar, for the year 1994-95 to 1995-96.

(14) Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 362/98]

(15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, for the year, 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, for the year 1996-97.

(16) Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 363/98]

(17) A copy of the Notification No. VC/CAU/14 (Estt)/93 (No. 1 of 1997) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 1997 approving and notifying the first Ordinance regarding establishment of the College of Home Science as a constituent college of the Central Agricultural University at Tura, made by the Vice-Chancellor of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, under sub-section(2) of section 43 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 364/98]

(18) A copy of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Privileges, Properties and Funds, Accounts Audit, Winding up and Execution of Decrees, Orders and Decisions) (Amendment) Rules 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R 75(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 1998, under sub-section (3) of section 109 of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 365/98]

[English]

Notification regarding Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations 1998 etc., and Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, etc., 1998

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) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under the sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:

(i) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Admendment Regulations,

1998 published in Notification No.G.S.R. 58 in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 1998.

(ii) The Indian Administrative Service(Pay) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 59 in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 1998.

(iii) The Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 413 in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 1997.

(iv) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Third Amendment Rules, 1997, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 414 in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 1997.

(v) The Indian Administrative Service(Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fifth Amendment Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 739(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1997.

(vi) The Indian Police Service(Fixation of Cadre Strength) Seventh Amendment Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No.G.S.R. 740 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1997.

(vii) The Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Third Amendment Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 741(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1997.

(viii) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Second Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R 75 in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 1998.

(ix) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Second Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 76 in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 1998.

(x) G.S.R. 378 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th November, 1997 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G S R. 597(E) dated the 17th October, 1997

(xi) The Indian Administrative Service (Regulation of Seniority) Amendment Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G S R.736 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1997

(xii) The Indian Police Service (Regulation of Seniority) Amendment Rules, 1997, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 737(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December 1997.

(xiii) The Indian Forest Service (Regulation of Seniority) Rules 1997 published in Notification

No. G.S.R 738(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st Decemeber,1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. 366/98]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Grih Kalyan Kendra, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Girh Kalyan Kendra, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

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

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 367/98]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Government Employees Consumer Co-operative Society Limited (Kendriya Bhandar), New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Government Consumer Co-operative Society Limited (Kendriya Bhandar), New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 368/98]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English veriosns of the Central Civil Service Cultural and Sports Board, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

(7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 369/98]

(8) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the working Group on Right to information and Promotion of Open and Transparent Government.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 370/98]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith audited accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

(10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 371/98]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Vigilance Commission New Delhi, for the period from the 1st January,1993 to the 31st December, 1993.

(ii) A copy of the Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for non-acceptance of the Commission's Advice.

(12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 372/98]

(13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi, for the period from the 1st January, 1994 to the 31st December, 1994.

(ii) A copy of the Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for non-acceptance of the Commission's Advice.

(14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 373/98]

(15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi, for the period from 1st January, 1995 to the 31st December, 1995.

(ii) A copy of the Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for non-acceptance of the Commission's Advice.

(16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 374/98]

(17) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1995:

- (i) The Central Administrative Tribunal (Group A Posts) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 472(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th August, 1997.
- (ii) The Central Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 61(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 375/98]

12.05 Hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA - *Laid*

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

- (i) "In accordance with the Provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 1998, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd June, 1998."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Chemical Weapons Convention Bill, 1998 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd June, 1998."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 1998 and the Chemical Weapons Convention Bill, 1998, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 2nd June, 1998.

12.06 hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I beg to present a Petition signed by Shri Kankar Posak and others of Bankura Bidi Shilpi Co-operative Society Limited, Rabindra Sarani, Bankura requesting to make necessary amendment in the provisions of Workers Provident Fund and Pension Act for exemption of Compulsory deposit of Provident Fund amount with retrospective effect for the workers of Bankura Bidi Shilpi Co-operative Society Limited.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 377/98]

12.07 hrs.

MOTION RE : CONSTITUTION OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : I beg to move:

"That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen members, ten from this House and five from the Rajya Sabha, who shall be elected from amongst the members of each House in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote:

"That the functions of the Joint Committee shall be-

- (i) to examine the composition and character of all existing "Committees" [other than those examined by the Joint Committee to which the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, 1957 was referred] and all "Committees" that may hereafter be constituted, membership of which may disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament under Article 102 of the Constitution;
- (ii) to recommend in relation to the "Committees" examined by it what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify;
- (iii) to scrutinise from time to time the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 and to recommend any amendments in the said Schedule, whether by way of addition, omission or otherwise.

That the Joint Committee shall, from time to time, report to both Houses of Parliament in respect of all on any of the aforesaid matters;

That the members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for the duration of the present Lok Sabha.

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number member of the Committee;

That in other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and to communicate to this House the names of the members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committees."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That a Joint Committee of the House to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen members, ten from this House and five from the Rajya Sabha, who shall be elected from amongst the members of each House in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote:

"That the function of the Joint Committee shall be :

- (i) to examine the composition and character of all existing "Committees" [other than those examined by the Joint Committee to which the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, 1957 was referred] and all "committees" that may hereafter be constituted, membership of which may disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament under Article 102 of the Constitution;
- (ii) to recommend in relation to the "committees" examined by it what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify;
- (iii) to scrutinise from time to time the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, and to recommend any amendments in the said Schedule, whether by way of addition, omission or otherwise;

That the Joint Committee shall, from time to time, report to both Houses of Parliament in respect of all or any of the aforesaid matters;

That the members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for the duration of the present Lok Sabha;

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee; the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Committee;

That in other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and to communicate to this House the names of the members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committees."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : Item No. 9 - Shri P.R. Kumaramanglam.

..... (Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I gave a notice of breach of privilege against the RSS Secretary, Mr. Sudharshan (Interruptions) Sir, will you allow me to make a presentation? (Interruptions) I am not talking about China. I am talking about the notice of breach of privilege against the RSS Secretary for slandering Parliament..... (Interruptions) Sir, I have given you this notice of breach of privilege on the 22nd May. I met you in your Chamber and you said that you would allow me to raise it in the House. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Subramanian Swamy, it is under consideration. Please take your seat.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Sir, you said in your chamber that I could raise it in the House. You either reject my application or (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, it is under consideration. It is also sent to the concerned Department.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : You mean that you have asked for an explanatory statement from the RSS Secretary, Shri Sudharshan for slandering Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER : Now item No.9.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI A.S. JOS (Mukundapuram) : Sir, I want to mention about Kerala. In Kerala the situation is different. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please take your seat. This is not Zero Hour.

12.11 hrs.

ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSIONS BILL*

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commission, rationalization of electricity tariff, transparent policies regarding subsidies, promotion of efficient and environmentally benign policies and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, rationalization of electricity tariff, transparent policies regarding subsidies, promotion of efficient and environmentally benign policies and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I have given a notice under Rule 72.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 3-6-98.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I have given a notice before 10 o' clock to oppose the introduction of this Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I have given a notice under Rule 72. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia please.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I have moved an objection under Rule 72.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I am coming to you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the Cabinet decided to convene the Parliament Session on 25th April and this Ordinance was promulgated a day after the Government had decided to convene Parliament. This action of the Government to promulgate Ordinance a day after deciding to summon Parliament is not only an act of impropriety and indiscretion but it also amounts to bypassing the authority of Parliament.

Sir, this Bill was introduced in the Eleventh Lok Sabha and it was referred to the Standing Committee on Energy. Shri Jagmohan was the Chairman of that Committee. The Standing Committee on Energy discussed several issues pertaining to that Bill. Certain decisions were also taken. One such decision was that as 'Power' being in the Concurrent List, the Committee desired that the comments and opinions of the State Governments should be obtained.

MR. SPEAKER : Please be brief.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Let me come to the point.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, I have a point of order. I think it is important. It is a point of order. I may be heard. Don't you be brief? Courtesy demands that the point is heard first.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, as part of this, it was intended to force the State Government to introduce legislation in the State Assembly to create a Regulatory Authority within three months. (Interruptions) How can the Central Government force the State Government to constitute a Regulatory Authority in the State?..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please be brief.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Minister of Power tried to impress upon the corporate world (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is only Introduction stage. What are your objections?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I have a point of order.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: (Interruptions) Not only

the State Government led by the Opposition but also (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is your objection?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am coming to my objection (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please come to your objection.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Please tell your objections. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Their allies are affected by this Ordinance.

MR. SPEAKER: You mention your objection.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How can the Central Government force? I can refer to Clause 29 (3) and (4) of the draft Bil where it has been stated that provided that if the State Government considers it necessary, it may allow consumers in the agricultural section to be charged rental.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, please, Hon. Minister, would you like to say anything?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is subject to the condition that (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. It is not an objection. Will the hon. Minister like to say anything ? Would you like to clear his objection?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I would like to.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Bill is anti-farmer, anti-agriculture and against our constitution. That is why I oppose the introduction of the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, would you like to clear his objection?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I would like to

Mr. Speaker, Sir, being a very senior Member my hon friend should have been and must be aware that at the stage of Introduction (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have also filed an objection.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not received your objection Please wait.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: He should be aware that at the stage of introduction the only issue that can be raised is the legislative competence of the House and I would like to make it very clear that under entry 38 of List III which is the Concurrent List, this House has the jurisdiction.... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have also filed an objection.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I am coming to you.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: This House has the jurisdiction to legislate in the matter of electricity which is a concurrent subject and under the laws of this Parliament it would be binding. But my friend has raised some things which are not so much legal but moral issues and I am duty bound to reply to it.

The first point is that in respect of duties under 29(3) and (4) we are pressurising the State to adhere to them.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jos, you are not supposed to talk like that. First of all, take your seat.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I am sorry, it is not done in Parliament. What happened to the Congress Party?
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing him also. Please take your seat.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have given a notice
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, he is clearing your objection. Then I will allow Shri Radhakrishnan.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I have not seen senior members standing up without even asking for leave.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadeep): You did not hear me. The hon. Member has given a notice.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: What is that about?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, what is your objection?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have filed an objection under sub-clause (2) of Rule 72. The Speaker is bound to hear me.

MR. SPEAKER: I am hearing. Please tell me what your objection is.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The objection is that this is a matter beyond the competence of the legislative powers of this House. That is my first objection. On that point you should listen to me.

Now the question is that the Bill which is being introduced contains two provisions under Clauses 28 and 29. Clause 28, tariff policy is exclusively the domain of the States. A particular section of the Central Electric Supply Act of 1948 gives the power to the State to determine the tariff policy.

It is the power of the State to determine the tariff policy. That section is very clear. Sections 28 and 29 of the present Bill take away the powers of the State vested under the Electricity Supply Act of 1948. This is an encroachment on the powers of the States. It is against the federal structure of the Constitution. It is a clear case wherein the Centre is making an attempt to encroach upon the powers given to States. Electricity is a concurrent subject. Both the Centre and States have equal powers. But the present Bill will limit the powers of the States. Sections 28 and 29 of the present Bill deals with the determination of tariff which is exclusively dealt with by the State Electricity Boards. Their powers have been curtailed by the present Act. So, I submit that this is a case wherein we have no legislative competence.....
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat. The Minister is clarifying

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I think, I should clarify to my friends that the earlier time when I was called upon by you to reply, it was on a point of order that normally at the time of introduction, it should be the legislative competence of the House in considering the Bill that should be challenged. On a point of order I raised it when my friend was talking about other issues. I also did say, since he has raised certain moral points of view, I went to reply.

I want to make one thing clear that so far as the legislative competence goes, under List 3 which is a Concurrent List- 38 is the Entry for Electricity. The original Act, Central Electricity Act itself was passed only under this provision. But let me make it very clear that the jurisdiction of this House exists. It is a part amendment in the sense that powers which existed for fixation of tariff was between the Central Government and the State Government. In fact, it is the Central Government under the Central Electricity Act. But, now, the issue that I wish to bring to the notice is that while I will be moving the Bill for consideration, I will be moving two amendments. I think, it is necessary for the hon. Members to know about it. I would be moving an amendment for deleting sub-section(3) of section 29 as well as
(Interruptions) You should learn to listen. It is not like that. It is not passed
(Interruptions) How can you do this? It is not like that.
(Interruptions) How can you go on doing this?
(Interruptions) He has shouted at me.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed the Minister. Please take your seat.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I cannot be shouted out in the House. It is not that one side has challenged it
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I am as much a Member of this House as the hon. friend is. Nobody is senior, nobody is junior. (*Interruptions*) I must be given a chance to speak. (*Interruptions*)

We are, therefore, making it very clear by these two amendments which I propose to bring at the time of consideration. One is to clause 29(3) and another is to subsection (1) of section 17 where the option will be on the States whether they wish to implement this Act or not. If they do not wish to do it, the choice is theirs. But, then, the consequences or the fruits are to be borne by the States. (*Interruptions*)

So far as the legislative competence goes, the House has got the competence and I believe that the House will permit me to introduce the Bill. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, rationalisation of electricity tariff, transparent policies regarding subsidies, promotion of efficient and environmentally benign policies and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I introduce** the Bill. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER Item No.10, Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam.

.... (*Interruptions*)

12.25 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: ELECTRICITY REGULATORY
COMMISSIONS ORDINANCE - Laid

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Ordinance, 1998.....(*Interruptions*)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 378/98]

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): We have asked for a division, Sir(*Interruptions*)

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): How can you ignore the request for a division, Sir?.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh): We want a division, Sir(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member from Kerala has raised the objection logically. We have listened to him. His logic is that till they do not amend section 29(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Amendments can be moved only at the time of consideration of the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pilot, he has already replied
....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No, we want a division
....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied and Shri Radhakrishnan has also agreed.

....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: One minute please. I am hearing Shri Karunakaran.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I think the hon. Members know that amendments are moved only at the time of consideration of the Bill. I have only expressed my intention to move an amendment at the time of consideration of the Bill(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the way in which a very senior Member who has been a Speaker of the Kerala Assembly, has been shouted at(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM What about his shouting at me?(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Not like this. Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, please take your seat

....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, please sit down. Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATERJEE: Sir, the point raised by Shri Radhakrishnan was wholly justified. The Minister admitted that without another amendment, this Bill could not be workable without impinging on the States' rights. Therefore, as an afterthought.(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt. The Minister can give the clarification.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Now the Minister says they are going to bring two more amendments which till today do not find any mention anywhere. Maybe, they

are having wisdom, every time they are having wisdom every 5-10 hours later as we have seen in the case of petrol price and the urea price. They are becoming wiser and wiser. Now, here also they decided to bring this Bill. Therefore, I am also saying that this is not the way to conduct Government business. If they have done some mistakes, they should have the gesture to admit it, they should have the humility to do that. He may be an energised Minister, I do not know, and after the Pokhran, he may be even further energised. I do not care for that. But he must also follow the rules of the game. He cannot just take up an attitude that he will not allow other Members to speak being a Minister taking points of order.....(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: How can he say that, Sir? He was not in the House when a very senior Member shouted at him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Therefore, I submit that when on this matter a division is asked for, it cannot be denied. It is my submission that it should be allowed.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I am allowing Shri K. Karunakaran.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN (Thiruvananthapuram) : Sir, before him, the hon. Member Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan raised a very pertinent point, the competence of this House to consider this Bill. He said that there are certain provisions which prevent this House from going into it where future amendments will not help. The Minister's explanation is something that it does not come with the purview of this Bill. He may correct it. This Bill is before the House. It cannot be considered now, because the objection raised by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan is very pertinent, unless that is removed. Now, the Minister cannot do it because it is the property of this House. We want a ruling of the Chair. Without the ruling of the Chair, the Minister cannot proceed further.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you. Please take your seat.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram): We should be permitted to submit.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI A.C. JOS : I have a right to do that.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your submission?

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, my submission is very good. My submission is(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ajit Jogi, please sit down.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, my submission is that now the Minister agrees that some amendments will come. Without those amendments, this Bill cannot be introduced because it takes away the jurisdiction of this House. Without those amendments formally brought in, this Bill cannot be introduced. That is why, we are objecting. It is illegal, it is transgressing into the power of the earlier Act. The earlier Act prevent this Act to be introduced. So, I am submitting that the Minister in his better wisdom may bring it tomorrow with proper amendments formally incorporated.(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I made it clear, when I was replying, in categorical terms that under entry 38 in List III of Schedule VII of the Constitution, the jurisdiction of this House exists for this Bill, in fact, for the Bill to be passed as it is. It is only ... (Interruptions). May I draw the attention? In fact, under entry 38, it is very clear "electricity" and I think that the hon. senior Member, Shri Somnath Chatterjee would also agree that in so far as the legislative competence of this House is concerned, it exists. In so far as the point that we are interfering with the jurisdiction of the State Governments under the Central Electricity Act of 1948 is concerned, I said that this is not so. It is the Central Government which has the power to establish the tariffs, and the State Governments, wherever so warranted under the circumstances. That is under an Act. This Act tends to amend that Act. I have said, however, that since there is a feeling among people that we are going to tread on that, we are giving every State the privilege by an amendment which I will move. At that time, it will be taken into consideration.

Under the rules, it can only be moved at that time. There are rules which restrain me from moving it at the time of introduction. Let us be clear where it is under the rules. There is a time at which I can move the amendment and under the rules, I can move the amendment only at the time of consideration. I just showed my intention(Interruptions) I am sorry(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. P.J. Kurien please.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Sir, if he would like to have certain amendments, why does he not reintroduce the Bill with those amendments? There is no need of introducing them in this House(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. P.J. Kurien may please continue.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: There is no need of introducing this Bill in the present form. Since the Minister himself says that he is going to amend certain provisions of the Bill, especially clause 29(3), in such a case what is the purpose of introducing this Bill? Does it serve any purpose?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: How does it matter to you? Are other clauses not there?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: He may please take back the Bill, change the Bill and reintroduce it tomorrow. There is no

need of discussing it. Sir, we are unnecessarily wasting our time.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister reply now.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, if I may submit very clearly we were only on a very limited topic.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali): Why did you not say this earlier?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I said it as a point of order when I was, in fact, pulled up by the hon. senior Member for raising a point of order with regard to another colleague. I still stand by what I said and I have already introduced the Bill now. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, when did he introduce the Bill?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, it has already been introduced.

12.36 hrs.

THE BEEDI WORKERS WELFARE CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1998 *

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976."

The motion was adopted.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take up Matters Under Rule 377, Shri Rama Nand Singh.

..... (Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, what about the Zero hour?

MR. SPEAKER: There are only 12 matters Under Rule 377. We will come to the Zero Hour after this is completed.

..... (Interruptions)

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 3-6-98.

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Special Mentions Under Rule 377 are always taken up after the Zero Hour. So, I request you to kindly follow the same procedure.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. I have got the list of Members who want to speak during the Zero Hour. I think the first name is of Shri Vaiko.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If every Member speaks for two or three minutes I can allow all the members who have given notices for the Zero Hour. Shri Vaiko.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. Through this Special Mention of the Zero Hour, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the pathetic plight and problems faced by over three lakh Extra-Departmental Postal employees who have been suffering as bonded labour for the past 50 years

Sir, there had been four Committees to look into their problems and the Supreme Court also, in the year 1977, gave a verdict that these people are not agents, but they are civil servants. The Parliamentary Committee also had recommended pensionary benefits and service benefits to be given to them, but nothing was implemented

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vaiko, there are 35 names. I have to call all the names. So, please be brief.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, I will take only two minutes. Therefore, in the year 1995 a Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Justice Charanjit Singh Chauhan and that Committee had already submitted its recommendations. The paramount recommendation was to change the nomenclature from Extra-Departmental Postal System to Rural Postal System and from Extra-Departmental Postal Employees to Rural Postal Employees.

Sir, the Committee has also recommended that the condition for appointment, that is, adequate independent livelihood, is constitutionally invalid and that it should be deleted. So, it is high time that the Government should implement the recommendations of the Talwar Committee, at least, in the Golden Jubilee Year of our Independence so that these people will be emancipated from the bonded system. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jogi, I am going by the list that is before me.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura). Sir, when all the unions of the Postal Department went on strike in the month of December 1994, the then Minister of Communications made a statement on the floor of the House that a Committee would be constituted to examine the demands of three lakh extra-departmental employees of the postal Department. Even after 50 years of our independence, the slavery system is still continuing. These extra-departmental employees are getting only Rs. 700 per

month. Their demand was to have a pay-scale and, therefore, the Talwar Committee was constituted. This Committee had submitted its recommendations long back, but the Government is yet to implement the recommendations of the Talwar Committee. Still, the slavery system is continuing.

The Finance Minister is here and I demand that he should respond to this. How long will these extra-departmental employees of the Postal Department have to suffer? Why are the recommendations of the Talwar Committee not being implemented although they were submitted long back? The recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission in respect of the Central Government employees have already been implemented, but these three lakh extra-departmental employees of the Postal Department are deprived.

I demand that the Government of India should take immediate action to implement the recommendations of the Talwar Committee in respect of the extra-departmental employees of the Postal Department.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, we also support this very serious issue. This was discussed day before yesterday also.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, please take your seat.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, the day before yesterday, this issue was discussed. The Finance Minister is present here and we would like to have a response from him.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Shri Jag Mohan to speak

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Only the speech of Shri Jag Mohan will go on record.

..... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I have called Shri Jag Mohan.

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : Sir, in my letter the point that I had made was that Shri Gujral, in his speech, had made some observations which were untenable. I have written to him and I would like to wait for his reply. So, for two days, you may kindly defer this request of mine as I am yet to receive his reply, or else I will give a fresh notice after that. Sir, I have endorsed a copy of my letter to you.

MR. SPEAKER: I will go through it.

RE: BUDGETARY HIKE IN THE PRICES OF PETROL AND UREA

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a very important issue.

*Not recorded.

The untowards situation which prevailed in the country after the hike in petrol prices was an unprecedented one in the history of independent India. It resulted in the increase of Rs. 4 instead of Re. 1 on petrol pumps. It was also published in the newspapers that crores of rupees were charged extra from the consumers. Some newspapers have reported the extra amount charged to the tune of 7 crores.

Hon'ble Finance Minister is present here. Through you, I would like to request that due to the mistake of Government, consumers faced the burden of price hike. Therefore, the extra money charged at petrol pumps should be refunded to the consumers who have purchased the petrol against the receipt. P.A.C had also recommended that the extra money charged in this manner should be deposited in Consumer Welfare Fund. This should be done immediately. I would also like to request that by increasing the prices of urea by Rs.70 on a 50 kg. bag, Government has burdened the consumers. Yesterday the increase of Rs.70 was rolled back after our intervention. However, the farmers are not yet satisfied. Still the price is being over charged by Rs. 70 per bag. The whole House is discussing the plight of farmers for the last 3-4 days. Today, the farmer is forced to commit suicide. The Government have put too much burden on the farmers (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram): I have given a notice. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? I have allowed Shri Ajit Jogi. I am calling the hon. Members one by one. There is a procedure. You must follow the procedure.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad): The Finance Minister may reply to this. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You must follow the procedure. There is a procedure. You are senior Members.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI: Sir, thousand of farmers from Punjab and Haryana are coming to Delhi daily and are demonstrating. Whatever they are stating is correct..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

..... (Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua): Due to the mistake of the Finance Minister, farmer suffered a lot.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ajit Jogi, please complete. The Chair has to decide whether the hon. Finance Minister has to respond or not, but not you.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request that the farmer of country will not be satisfied till the urea prices are rolled back to earlier price level. Tax has been imposed on Food Processing Industries for the first time in this anti-farmer budget. For the first time tax has been imposed on tractor and also for the first time urea prices have increased so much and you are stating that..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Finance Minister would like to respond. Please take your seats.

..... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I am going by the order of the Hon. Speaker. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Konijeti Rosaiah will now speak. Do you like to speak on the same point, Shri Konijeti Rosaiah?

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Konijeti Rosaiah to speak. Please take your seats.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I want to say something. I want to respond.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Marasaraopet) : Kindly hear me. Then you can reply to all the points.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am in the hands of Hon. Speaker.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : The amount collected by way of excess charge was to the tune of Rs.7 crores, according to reports which appeared in the newspapers. It may be even much money. My submission is, it is not a question of arranging refund of the amount to those people who were charged high. Apart from it, I would like to say that it is an irregular collection.

There is the Essential Commodities Act which regulates the sale price of petroleum products, kerosene and the other essential commodities. Under that provision, a case has to be launched against each petrol dealer for collecting excess rate from the consumers (Interruptions) It is the responsibility of the Government to book cases in order to

arrange refund promptly to all those people who were charged in excess. This is what I wanted to say (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, you have got only one minute.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jos, after Shri Jaipal Reddy makes his point, you can speak.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar): Sir, I do not want to take the time of the House to deplore what has happened because the Government stands squarely self-condemned. One estimate is that the daily consumption of petrol at the national level is 15,000 tonnes. In that case, the loss inflicted on the consumer is of the order of Rs. 500 crore and not rupees five crore or seven crore. This is one of the authentic estimates provided by the newspapers and the economists. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon. Finance Minister as to what he will do in this regard ... (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C.JOS: Sir, unlike the other States, in Kerala, Sales Tax is imposed in terms of the rupees. In other States, the Sales Tax is imposed on the litre of petrol one takes. So adding the excise duty as well as the amount of one rupee added by the Finance Minister for the purpose of making a Fund for the National Highways, we have to pay more. Yesterday, the price that ruled at Calicut was Rs. 4.87. In Thiruvananthapuram, it was rupees five. It cannot also be changed. If the money, which you have levied, is said to be for the purpose of making a Fund for the National Highways, then the Sales Tax element need not be there. So my submission is that the hon. Finance Minister has to take these things seriously. Whatever steps you take in respect of Delhi or any other State will not ameliorate the hardships caused to the people of Kerala. The people of Kerala have to pay more. Even with all these things, the people of Kerala have to pay rupees five more. So, my submission is that the element of Sales Tax should not be there (Interruptions) The one rupee that you are taking from the consumers is for the purpose of the National Highways Fund. So, there is no necessity for the Sales Tax. Therefore, my submission is that the Finance Minister should bestow special consideration regarding Kerala. Please calculate the Sales Tax and ask them to withdraw the Sales Tax which you are not levying (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (Bikaner) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Finance Minister is present in the House and I would like to make him a request. The House is discussing the plight of the farmers for the last three days. Farmers are committing suicides. Nobody commit suicide deliberately. When one becomes helpless, only then he takes such an extreme step. Not one or two but 500 people have taken this step. Today also, the House is discussing the same

issue. Instead of giving a hearing touch, Government has added insult to injury. It is not correct. You should be sympathetic in the matter of urea and roll back the increased prices. Besides, increased prices of food stuffs are also needed to be reduced. Farmers need a healing touch. You should extend helping hand to them instead of increasing their hardships.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Minister can reply. Yesterday, we discussed the matter. Today also, he has raised it. Please take your seat.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ahamed, please take your seat.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): I want to say only one thing. While speaking, the hon. Minister has stated in Parliament that we have to pay only one rupee more on petrol. Now, he is taking rupees five. What will the people think of our Parliament? (Interruptions) People are constrained to pay rupees five more. This is really wrong..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ahamed, yesterday also, you had raised the same matter. Please take your seat.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to mention this House and especially those hon'ble members sitting on opposite benches that those who live in glass houses do not throw stone at others (Interruptions) If you have the courage, listen to me (Interruptions)

[English]

If you have the courage, listen to me (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of the Finance Minister.

..... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, Just see, (Interruptions) You are very much concerned about the farmers (Interruptions) Do you remember what happened in 1991. I would like to remind my Congress friends, who are so concerned about the farmers today, that on 25.7.91 during the tenure of Rao's Government when Shri Manmohan Singh was Finance Minister and he presented the Budget on 25th July, 1991 in this House (Interruptions) What he had done in that Budget (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kurien, let him reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: You have very much sympathy for the farmers. On 25th July, 1991 the price of urea was Rs. 2350 which was raised to Rs. 3300 in the budget, an increase of 42% (Interruptions) What happened thereafter. Prices of urea rolled here back to Rs. 3007 within 20 days after a great hue and cry by the members in this House. For 20 days farmers continued to pay more than Rs. 300 per tonne. Whether that money was refunded? Are you even today going to return that money to those farmers (Interruptions) What are you doing (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Why are you allowing this? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Please listen to me. What you are talking about the farmers is (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what the Finance Minister is saying .

..... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : In September, 1994, the prices were again increased to Rs. 3320, a hike of 20.30%. Where was your love for farmers at that time? I would also like to address to the United Front representatives present in the House that on 21.2.97, the prices of urea were hiked by 10% by the then United Front Government.

[English]

Shri Jaipal Reddy , when you were a Minister, the prices of urea were raised by over 10 per cent. Now you are trying to preach me that this Government is anti-farmers! What was the role of yours ? (Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to state in no uncertain terms that in this Budget, the interests of farmers have been properly taken care of (Interruptions). These people are playing politics (Interruptions)

[English]

This is pure politics and nothing else. They have no right to speak about it. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir,

Hum Aah Bhi Bartey hain to ho jatey hain badnam, Vo katal bhi kartey hain to charcha Nahi hoti. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE (Thane) : They did not want the hon. Minister to reply. Now, we do not want to listen to him (Interruptions)

[Translation]

These people did not let us to listen to the hon'ble Minister, now we will not let them listen.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The 'Zero Hour' is over.

Now, we come to Item No. 20, that is Discussion Under Rule 193. Shri R. L. Jalappa to start.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, they are making allegations on us (Interruptions) ...Please permit me to speak (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : If you want discussions on this, I am ready for discussions at any point of time (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North - West) : Sir, everytime they are disturbing like this (Interruptions) What is this going on? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, please sit down.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will take only one minute (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Paranjpe, please take your seat first.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, please take your seat.

..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : The question was asked about the petrol but the answer is being given is regarding the urea (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Paranjpe, please sit down. I will allow you.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : Sir, urea can be discussed in the Budget also. There are so many other important issues which we want to raise now..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you later. Please sit down now.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I will take only one minute, Mr. Speaker, Sir (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE . What is this going on? Sir, you first allow this hon. member to raise his point (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, if they want further discussion on this, they should give prior notice. The hon. Minister has clarified the point. Now the matter is ended (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonia) : If everybody has to speak, I will also speak. Much bungling has taken place in Panchyati elections. Discussion should also be held on this issue (Interruptions) When Finance Minister is ready for discussion (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please take your seat.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No discussion, only clarification.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : If you will speak, then I will also. I have also been elected. I will also raise the problems of my constituency (Interruptions) It is not that only you have the right to speak here (Interruptions) Do not take the advantage of being senior. You should go by the rules (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajveer Singh, please take your seat.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : It is not proper. You have already declared in the House that Discussions Under Rule 193 will take place.

MR. SPEAKER : No discussion, please. Please Take your seat.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not like that. Please take your seat.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : It is not possible. It is not that they will consume all the time of the House. We have also got our problems. We have to raise our constituency matters. You cannot give this opportunity to senior Members only.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If they allow the House to function, they will have ample opportunity. Please allow them also (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I am on a point of order. On which subject and under what rule the Hon'ble Member is speaking? (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have not even uttered a single word so far (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Kindly tell us about the subject and the rule about which you are speaking (Interruptions) We should also be heard during the Zero Hour..... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Before I could speak (Interruptions) They cannot stop our voice like this at all. If they think that they can stop our voice by this method, they are mistaken (Interruptions) Sir, you have called me, I am unable to speak in this House. You have called me to speak and I cannot speak (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate with me. I will allow you

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Before anybody else is called, I must be allowed to speak. If the Speaker's decision can be nullified, then let us not be here. You are regulating the proceedings.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : You have already given your ruling, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : We are not discussing the issue again; only a clarification is being sought.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : If they do not allow us to speak, we will also not allow them.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Under what rule he is seeking clarification ? What is the subject ?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You have allowed him to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. There will be no more discussions; he is asking only a clarification.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : How long should we discuss this issue ? You have already announced Discussions Under Rule 193. Is he going to speak on the same subject again ?

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are not allowing any discussion, only a clarification is being sought.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I know the Hon. Finance Minister himself realises the importance (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Hon. Members, please take your seats.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ajit Jogi, please take your seat.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, you may allow Somnath Babu for a minute but you must permit Hon. Members from this side also to say what they want to say. And hon. Members belonging to the Opposition benches must have some patience to listen to us also (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet 2 p.m.

13.11 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at seven minutes past
Fourteen of the Clock*

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU *in the Chair*]

..... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Just a minute. Please sit down.

..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR (Tenali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this morning, two issues were raised. One was with reference to the price of urea and other was reference to the refund of petrol price that was collected at a higher rate.

We are in the Opposition. The Treasury benches should realise that our duty is to oppose the matters which the Treasury benches bring in, which are not in the public interest. Our duty is also to make a consistent effort to depose the Government from office. This is generally the duty of the Opposition.

So, we brought these matters to the notice of the Treasury benches when the hon. Finance Minister was there so that he could take note of what we were saying and he could react. But we have never seen such a Finance Minister. We had also been sitting on that side for a considerable length of time. No Finance Minister has become so emotional, so arrogant and so lost in temper to say that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones at others. This is not way to speak. Further, he did not answer the issues. What is the answer that has been given to the two issues that have been raised by us? Not a single word have been spoken about them. What has made us a little upset is the bravado spirit in which the Finance Minister tried to speak, without answering the various issues that we have raised.

This is a matter of great concern and anguish to us. If this is the way the Treasury benches act and if they do not act with restraint as they ought to act, it is unfortunate. We are here for the purpose of trying to pick holes in their working. This is our duty. But if they do not restrain themselves and if they try to misbehave with us – I will go to the extent of saying that they were saying that we were misbehaving; let us assume for a moment that it was so - their conduct is unfortunate. Then, the very parliamentary system cannot work.

I regret the manner in which the Finance Minister has treated himself in the morning. His conduct has really given a great anguish to us.

And it is unfortunate that no answer has been given. We expect that the Finance Minister should come to this House, apologise for his conduct and give answers to the issues that have been raised so that the matter ends. This should be the approach.

AN HON. MEMBER : Without that, the House will not work (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not necessary.

..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please hear him first. This is not the way.

..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. I had given chance to your leader.

..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down

..... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA)
Please listen to me (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what is this ? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Is this the way
.....(*Interruptions*)

Will you go on speaking without listening to other
Members(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI A.C JOS (Mukundapuram). The Minister of
Parliamentary Affairs has no precedence(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jos, the Minister of Parliamentary
Affairs is on his legs. Kindly hear him first. This is not the
way to speak.

.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not fair on your part. Please
sit down and cooperate .

.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

.....(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI A. C. JOS : Sir, you are kind enough to give him a
chance to speak. Then, naturally, the reply should come
from the leader of the House and not from others
.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is the Minister of Parliamentary
Affairs. He would like to say something. Please hear him
first.

.....(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : He cannot arrogantly deal with the House. Let him first call the Finance Minister. Let this arrogance go. They cannot run the Government with arrogance.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : He should apologise, Sir.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If all of you shout like this, then he will not be able to speak.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are all senior members. Is this a way to behave ? Everybody is standing up to speak. Please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Finance Minister is on his legs. Please sit down. You are a senior Member.

.....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I have heard what you are said(Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal) : When you were speaking, we all heard in silence and with patience, but you do not hear what the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to say (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Khanduri, please sit down. The Finance Minister is on his legs. Please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a discussion is being held in the House regarding the prices of petrol and Urea since yesterday. I had clarified the position in the House yesterday. I was under the impression and I was hopeful also that the subject would be closed after my clarification, but Shri Ajit Jogi has raised the same issue again under yet another rule. Hon'ble Spaker permitted other hon'ble Member also to take part in it and I was expected to reply to it. You are aware of the convention of the House that whenever an issue is raised, the Government can express its views. One of the other Minister rises on behalf of the Government to express its reaction. I was present in the House, hence I expressed my views. Just now I was sitting in my room and listening to the speech being made by hon'ble Shiv Shanker ji here. Hon'ble Shiv Shanker ji and I have been the members of the other House also. Today I am a member of Lok Sabha. Both of us have been the ruling party and in the opposition

as well. Personally, I hold him in high esteem and respect him very much. Hence, when I noticed that Shiv Shanker ji was raising this issue, I listened to him attentively, I regret to state that he has used such words while referring to me that I was speaking with bravado and that I was misbehaving with the House(Interruptions) The word misbehaving is there in the records. You may go through it. Shiv Shanker ji, you have said so(Interruptions) I did not expect it from you that we could ever utter such words about one another. I cannot compare you with Shri Jaipal Reddy. I have known him for several years now(Interruptions) I am well conversant with his way of speaking due to our association of so many years. He is often unable to express his sentiments in proper words. This is a problem with him(Interruptions)

[English]

You will get a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : First, he will complete his speech.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : It is a personal humiliation.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wait.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, let him complete his speech.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you a chance. Please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: First, the hon. Minister will complete his speech. Then, I will give you a chance. Please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you a chance later on. Please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. First, he will complete his speech. Afterwards, I will give you time to speak.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Except Finance Minister's speech, nothing will go on record.

.....(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; I will give you chance later.

Not recorded.

First, he will complete his speech.

.....(Interruptions)

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you a chance, Shri Jaipal Reddy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I have not used a single unparliamentary word.(Interruptions) Let anybody talk that I have used an unparliamentary word(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Let him apologise
.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Why don't you listen to him. Listen to what he has to say and after that you may put forth your views.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jaipal Reddy, I will give you a chance later on.

[English]

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No prompting please. Please maintain silence.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

[Translation]

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I would like to submit that if my friend, Shri Jaipal Reddy has any objection to what I have said, I am ready to seek apology. However, Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly listen to me for a minute. I have never had the intention to make any such remark in the House regarding any hon'ble Member which may hurt his sentiments. Jaipal Reddy Ji is my old friend. I would like to say to him that if(Interruptions) he has been displeased by any of my comments or he has been hurt, I seek an apology in front of the entire House. If it has hurt his sentiments, I had no intentions to do so.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I would like to say to Hon'ble Member, Shri Shiv Shanker ji that I was prepared to speak on all the points and I am still prepared to do so. If the House wishes to listen, I will reply to all the points(Interruptions) However, I would expect the House to listen to me as peacefully as I have listened to their views (Interruptions) I am prepared to reply to all the points but I say this with full confidence that when I intervened just now or during the morning session, I never made any such statement, on the basis of which it could be claimed that I have misbehaved(Interruptions) I have only stated and this is very much accepted in the Parliamentary debate(Interruptions) I am not expressing any reaction over the kind of terminology being used to refer to me since yesterday(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I request you to listen to the Hon'ble Minister(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: My request to all the hon. Members is that first the hon. Minister will complete his speech. Then, I will give a chance to everybody. Please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; please sit down. I will give you chance.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shiv Shankar, you raised a point and the hon. Finance Minister is replying to that.

All I wanted to say during the morning session was that deep concern has been shown regarding the problems faced by farmers and the increase in the price of urea and I rose in the House to apprise it of the profile of those expressing utmost concern. I tried to place the facts before the House. When the Congress was in power, the price of urea was increased twice in five years. I also apprised the House of the fact that when United Front was in power, the price of urea was increased on February 21, 1997 i.e. a week prior to the presentation of budget. The then Government gave the clarification in this House as well as the other House regarding the reasons for which such an increase was made. I also gave my clarification yesterday in the House. However, I would like to say that if an attempt is made to gain political mileage out of it leaving aside the concern for farmers, I shall give a political reply. Regarding the budget, you may.....(Interruptions) I am telling you about the petroleum. I did mention the price of petroleum yesterday in the House. What I felt was that a discussion was to be held on the budget for three days and all these issues could have been raised at that time. When I give my reply, I shall cover all these points. First the issue of urea was raised and thereafter the issue of petroleum was raised. It is true and I said yesterday that it was not the intention of the Government to do so but somehow it got converted into an order, on the basis of which additional price was charged for 24 hours
.....(Interruptions)

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Mumbai South) : This is the failure.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as soon as I got this information(Interruptions)

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Now prices were charged last evening after you made the announcement.

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It is because the new prices came into effect from the midnight of yesterday. The petroleum prices, as you are aware respected Shri Murl Deora, are generally changed from midnight.

On the 1st of June also, they were changed at midnight. On the 2nd of June also, they were changed at midnight. The Government should be complimented that it moved in immediately to correct the mistake which had occurred. We did not take full 20 days, like the Congress Government in 1991, to correct the prices. We corrected them within 24 hours(Interruptions) Why are you disturbing me? We had agreed that the House would listen to me(Interruptions) Whatever you have to say please say when I have finished.

I mentioned to this House yesterday that I had issued instructions. If you look at my speech here, I did not lay down the prices of petrol products. I will read paragraph 142 of my speech. This is a point on which Shri Jaipal Reddy has called me dubious. I quote, "I propose to charge an additional tax at the rate of Re.1 per litre with immediate effect." I did not prescribe, because I could not, the prices of petrol per litre after an increase of one Rupee.

In paragraph 147, I am talking about the changes in the duty structure, but I am not prescribing the prices of motor spirit. I am not prescribing the prices of petrol because it is not something which is done in the budget speech or in the Finance Ministry which fixes the prices on the basis of the duty changes. And, as I said, the moment that was realised, we moved in and corrected it.

Now, as issue has been raised here. What about the monies which have been collected. The monies have been collected(Interruptions) Just a minute. Please listen to me.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will you yield me for a minute?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Kurien, please cooperate. The Minister is giving all the details.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I am not yielding. I will complete within a minute. You can speak after I have finished. You are such senior Member.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: There is a difference between mistake and the policy change. What happened in the case of petrol was a mistake and what happened in the case of Urea or other fertilizer was a change of policy. So, do not

compare a change of policy with a mistake which you have committed.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Who is comparing it? I am not comparing it. I have never compared it. You are comparing it.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Therefore, the mistake which you have committed in the case of petrol, has to be corrected by either refunding(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I was coming to that point(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hear him.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: The congress party members are not allowing him to complete his point. They must behave properly(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, do not make noise. The Minister is on his legs.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I was coming to the point which had been raised by a number of hon. Members. What happens to the extra money which has been collected during these 24 hours? I was trying to explain that monies have been collected at two different points. Firstly, the money was collected by the petrol dealer from the customers who went to the petrol station to buy it. A point was also raised that this was illegal. This was not because there was a Government notification which permitted it. So, there is no illegality in it.

Secondly, the dealer who had picked up the petrol from the depot had also paid at the enhanced rate. What is it that we have decided? We have decided that the extra money which has been paid by way of excise duty by the various dealers spread all over the country, has also come into the Government coffers and that is the money—be it Rs.7 crore. Rs. 8 crore or Rs. 20,000 crore—which will flow to the National Highway Authority in the same manner in which the cess of one Rupee will flow. This is what it is. This completely clarifies the whole situation and I do not think there is anything left which needs to be explained.

SHRI A.C.JOS: There is a small clarification. I mentioned about the sales tax in Kerala.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I heard the point raised by the hon. Member and I will respond to it.

I said that we were imposing a road cess of Re.1. There is a system of State Sales Tax on petroleum products also. Whenever any duty is imposed by the Central Government, they calculate the Sales Tax after adding that duty to the total price. Therefore, you will notice that the hike in the price of one litre of petrol in Delhi will be Rs. 1.11 or so, and it will be Rs.1.35 or so in Chennai. It is because the rate of

Sales Tax is higher there. The point which the hon. Member has raised is not within my competence. It is a point which has to be tackled by the State Government. The State Governments impose Sales Tax, I do not impose it. So, according to the formula if they are charging a little more than that one rupees, it is a question which you should take up with them. I cannot find a solution to that !

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar): Mr. Chairman, I must thank the Finance Minister for the generous regret he offered. I concede to him the privilege of making a mistake in haste and expressing regret at leisure. Be that as it may, he offered some clarification in regard to the problem caused by the so-called confusion on petrol price. My submission is, he should have made this clarification soon after the Question Hour, in which case much of this problem could have been avoided. Secondly, he said that there was no need to collect the excess money from petrol retailers because the petrol retailers had paid higher price at the depots. Is it the case the Minister, that every retailer in the country had collected petrol from the depots yesterday in the morning? After all certain reserves had continued from the day before! Therefore, that money needs to be taken back from the petrol retailer. It is not our case that this money should be returned to every consumer. It is not practicable. We concede that it is not possible. Therefore, let the Finance Minister assure the House that in the case of each retailer an assessment would be made and that money would be reimbursed to Government to be given either to the National Highways Authority or to the consumer fund. A similar mistake took place in the past. In that case, the proceeds went to the National Consumer Fund. Therefore, let the Minister clarify.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : Mr. Chairman, I do not want to say anything on the merits of what has been said already. But, I sincerely consider that the Finance Minister has misled himself in appreciating an expression that fell from my mouth. Sir, you will kindly appreciate that while speaking here, I spoke about the duty of the Opposition. In the context of the duty of the opposition I said, "Assuming that we misbehave you cannot afford to misbehave." I never meant that he personally had misbehaved. I was addressing the Treasury Benches. I was speaking in the context of the duty of the Opposition. I said that we can oppose and we have to depose, both the acts we have to do. It was in that context that I was saying it. I have not meant him personally. I was addressing the Treasury Benches. That is one part of it.

The second part of it is that my friend, Shri Digvijay Singh, who is normally a very sober speaker, in his intervention has used one expression

[Translation]

"behave properly"

[English]

I would request him to withdraw that word.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Banka): As per his advice, I withdraw that word(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up Discussion Under Rule 193.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajesh Pilot, would you like to raise the point on the same issue?

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ajit Yogi, I have given chance to your party leader, Shri Shiv Shanker. Now, Shri Rajesh Pilot is on his legs.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

- SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Minister of Finance was in an aggressive mood in the morning. This is the truth and God knows why he was aggressive. Now you have spoken more rationally(Interruptions) Kindly allow me to raise the issue of farmers. It is possible that he might do a favour to us in such a mood(Interruptions) Hon'ble Minister of Finance made two points this morning. He said that the price of Urea was increased when we were in power. We never denied it. We remained in power for forty years but we never said that urea was being sold at the same price since 1952. Prices have been increased. We are not saying that price has been increased for the very first time. We are also not claiming that we have not increased the prices of these items when we were in power. We raised this issue day before yesterday. We objected to it, at which a statement was made by the Minister of Agriculture and not by you. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you a farmer. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has come up with a new theory that price is being increased because urea is affecting the fertility of soil. I had stated that this is not the true position. If the rate is to be maintained, the prices of phosphate and potassium may be lowered and the price of urea may not be increased. This burden has to be borne by the farmers. At present, the price of urea has increased by Rs. 65 per bag. Hon'ble Minister of Finance is very intelligent, educated and an experienced man. When he refers to us, he quotes, the increase in terms of quintals that we increased the price from Rs. 2025 to 3000 whereas he talks in terms of Kilos in his own case(Interruptions) The increase made by us is referred to in terms of quintal(Interruptions) I would like to make three requests to the Hon'ble Finance Minister(Interruptions, we are prepared to listen to Shri Rajveer Singh. You may say that the price of urea should be increased and we are ready to accept it(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the Hon'ble Members elected to this House are of the view that farmers have been burdened due to increase in price of urea. All the members of the House, whether they belong to one party or the other, are of this view. I would request the Minister of Finance to roll back the price of urea. Even the increase of 50 paise should be withdrawn. This will come as a relief to the farmers. This is not the first time that the farmers have committed suicide. I am not saying that such a situation has arisen in two months. However, the present position is that 500-550 farmers have committed suicide and even now the farmers are feeling burdened. Hence, at this juncture, it is essential for you to lighten this burden and roll back the hike in price of urea. The entire House will be grateful to you. If anyone from the other side has any objection, he may say so. If you agree with me, you should also ask for rolling back of the hike in price of urea.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No further discussion on this issue.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh): The issue relates to the entire House. How can you say: "No further discussion on this issue."(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ajit Jogi, everytime you are raising this issue. I have given time to your leaders. The Minister of Finance wants to say something. If you want to say something.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, matters under Rule 377.

I will give you a chance after matters under Rule 377.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Except matters under Rule 377, nothing will go on record.

.....(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given a lot of time on this.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramanand Singh, please proceed.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you chance to speak. Please cooperate.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you chance after matters under Rule 377.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not fair.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will call you later. The hon. Minister is on his legs. Please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI: You should withdraw the hike in urea(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not good. You take your seat first.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not proper. I have given time to your leaders to speak.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI: You do not wish to withdraw the hike in prices of urea.(Interruptions) People are listening to this that you do not wish to withdraw the hike.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jogi, this is too much. Please take your seat now.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister is on his legs. He wants to say something

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pilot, please ask your Members to take their seats. The hon. Minister wants to say something. Listen to him.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate. The hon. Minister is on his legs. He wants to say something. Please take your seats.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pilot, Members from your party are not cooperating.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister wants to say something and they are not cooperating.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you are not allowed to say anything. I have requested the hon. Minister to speak. Please take your seat. Please cooperate.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the way to elicit information? Please sit down. I have asked the hon. Minister to speak?

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, I will give you chance later.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that Hon'ble Member, Shri Rajesh Pilot has stated that the Members of both the ruling and the opposition parties agree on this count that the farmers of the country have been affected due to increase in price of urea. Hence, through you, we would like to request Hon'ble Minister of Finance to roll back the price of urea(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. RAVI MALLU (Nagar Kurnool): Sir, please allow me to speak.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Ravi Mallu, the hon. Members have expressed their views.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Finance Minister, do you want to say something on this issue?

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I have always respected your sentiments, however, I feel that(Interruptions) All right, I have the same regard for my partymen. I respect your sentiments and all these points will be taken into consideration(Interruptions) I feel that big farmers like Shri Ajit Jogi are also there in the country(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the hon. Minister is on his legs, why is he interrupting?(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI: I have got 50 acres of land. I am not a big farmer but there are people on your side with 10,000 acres of land. They are the big farmers(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): The definition of a 'big farmer' in India is ten hectares and above. You belong to that category(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI: But you are having ten thousand hectares(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL: I am ready to exchange it with you(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ajit Jogi, every time you are standing and speaking. Please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur): I have noticed that whenever an issue is raised in the House, Shri Ajit Jogi gets very agitated over it. He is not aware that other members also have the privilege to speak on that subject. Personally, I would not level any such allegations but the way the Ministers from Madhya Pradesh talk about him and the kind of things that are said about him(Interruptions) Please sit down, I know you well.(Interruptions) Right now, the issue of urea is being discussed. I know that Shri Ajit Jogi is not even remotely concerned with the hike in price of urea(Interruptions) We are also farmers(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have something to say on this, you please say that. Please do not provoke other Members. We are discussing a sensitive issue.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: I am raising this issue only because we are prevented from putting forth our views due to these partymen on the other side who rely on their lung power. I am raising this matter only because it is not as if only they are related with the suffering underwent by the farmers and the villagers(Interruptions) We are also associated with villages(Interruptions) We are also concerned about the hike in the price of urea(Interruptions) I am much more in touch with the farming activities compared to you. The hike was rolled back, due to which the farmers were pleased and so was I(Interruptions) As for the issue raised by Shri Rajesh Pilot that the Minister of State of the Ministry of Agriculture has stated that price of urea was hiked because it was affecting the fertility of land. All right, this fact can not be ignored(Interruptions)

Please listen to me first(Interruptions) I am not touching that point(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: It is true that the fertility of land is being affected due to the use of Chemical fertilizers. However, it is not connected with the issue of hike in price. Minister of Finance has hiked the prices but the entire House is aware of the reality behind the hike in price. The fact is that during the regime of the previous Government, which is now in the opposition, Shri Rak Lakhan Singh was the Minister of Chemicals.(Interruptions) At that time, he favoured this move.

At that time Shri Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister. During his tenure an unknown company was given the contract. In that deal Rs. 135 crore were embezzled.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. He is speaking. Your colleague is speaking. The hon. Minister of Finance please.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have raised this question that today they are showing very much concern about the farmers. However, farmers would have been benefited more if the same concern had been shown at that time(Interruptions) The whole House would like that the farmers should be benefited.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Sir, I would also like to speak on this issue.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever you want to say, you may say but please be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, First of all, I would like to thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister for reducing the rates of petrol and thereby correcting the mistake. He rolled back the increase in the prices of urea by 50%. I would like to thank him for this(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not interrupt. We are losing time. Why do you unnecessarily interrupt him? He will say something?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: It is true that now the farmer is not in a position to bear the increased price. It has also

came to our notice that the use of chemical fertilizer especially urea reduces the soil fertility. It has been discussed in the House and scientists also have the same opinion that urea should be used to the minimum. Our friends in the opposition are watching only one side of the coin. They are not thanking the Finance Minister for reducing the prices of super phosphate and D.A.P. Fertilizers. They are not discussing the matter completely. Time and again they have mentioned that Government have first increased the urea price and then rolled back it. They have not mentioned about the reduced rates of D.A.P. and phosphate. They should mention this also. My request is(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. He is speaking. Why are you standing?

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Do not make a speech. If you want to give your suggestion, you please give.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Our friends in the opposition are raising this issue again and again for getting political mileage. I would like to ask whether in the ensuing time, discussion will not held on Budget? I want to know whether speeches regarding the Budget will be completed today? Will the speeches and discussion in this regard not be held tomorrow? Has the time for the Budget discussion not been fixed? My request is that if discussion on the Budget will not be continued for tomorrow, then it should be completed today and voting should also take place. If not, this discussion should end(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is speaking. Is this the way? Please sit down.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing any further clarifications. Please sit down.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At this juncture there is no point of order. I am not allowing anybody. Please sit down. Please cooperate. I have given a lot of time. Please cooperate. Otherwise we will lose time on an important matter like the suicidal deaths. First you listen to the hon. Finance Minister's statement.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. The Finance Minister is on his legs. Please sit down. Please cooperate with the Chair. We have taken so much time on this issue.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Kindly allow me on procedure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No procedure now. It is a clarification sought by a Member.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The hon. Member from the Opposition and an eminent leader, Shri Shiv Shanker has told us now about the collective responsibility of the Opposition. I concede that the Opposition has the right just to criticise the Government. But I am raising a point.

We are new Members. We have an individual right. We are new MPs from our constituencies. Except Zero Hour submissions and matters under Rule 377, we did not get any chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. You will get opportunities.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I have not got many chances to speak. I have got the only chance to speak during the Zero Hour and raising matters under Rule 377. I want to say that at this rate even one year will pass and the people from my constituency will say that here is an MP whom we elected and he has not opened his mouth in the Lok Sabha for one year.

[Translation]

DR. PRABHA THAKUR (Ajmer): Please give me only one minutes time(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, he is speaking . Please sit down.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : In this way the opposition is killing the individual rights of Members. I want you to give a ruling, whatever ruling you may give. Please state it. I have a right to talk about my constituency.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please sit down. You are unnecessarily talking. Please sit down.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Whether it is urea or petrol they may discuss. But I have a right to speak for my constituency. I have a right to speak for my people. They are giving me time. If the Members want to have a separate discussion on those subjects let there be a discussion. But Zero Hour submissions and depositions under Rule 377 should be curtailed under any circumstances. This is my submission. Kindly listen to me. Otherwise we will never allow them to speak. I have also got a right to speak for my people.

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur): Mr. Chairman Sir, since long I am seeking your permission to speak.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): If you adopt this attitude, then I will not let you speak ..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. I am requesting the hon. Members not to quarrel with each other

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. I will give you time. There are opportunities. Tell me if you are interested or not. There are lot of issues. Zero Hour submissions, matters under Rule 377, Discussions under Rule 193 and so on are there. Is this the way to conduct the House? I have given a lot of time on this issue. The Chair will also look into your problem. Please cooperate. Please sit down.

Now the Finance Minister. Everybody is waiting for the Finance Minister's reply. Please sit down. You may please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was submitting that I have always respected the feelings of the members and this House and will do the same in future as well.

15.00 hrs.

We all are people's representatives here. We raise the issues of public interest. However, it seems that instead of thanking me on what I have done yesterday by rolling back the prices from Re. 1 to 50 paise a decrease of 50%. Congress members have raised this matter only for getting political mileage(Interruptions) They are not worried about the farmers. They have come here just to walk out on this issue(Interruptions) Therefore, they are not ready to accept it(Interruptions)

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (Churu): Mr Chairman, Sir, the attitude of the Government is not proper. They are not speaking in the interest of farmers(Interruptions)

15.01 hrs.

Shri P. Shiv Shanker and Some other hon. Members then left the House

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, this subject is over. You take whatever stand you want to take.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you a chance after Matters under Rule 377.

SHRI ANIL BASU : What the hon. Minister of Finance has stated is very objectionable. We are also walking out.

15.1½ hours

(Shri Anil Basu and some other hon. Members then left the House)

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA (Kaisarganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we oppose the urea prices hike by the Government and walk out from the House on this issue*(Interruptions)*

15.02 hrs.

(Shri Beni Prasad Verma and some other hon. Members then left the House)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we will take up Matters under Rule 377.

15.02 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need for early completion of Vaan Sagar Project in Satna District of Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the year 1978 the then Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai laid the foundation stone of Vaan Sagar Inter-State Irrigation and power Project in Satna District of Madhya Pradesh. He had announced to complete this project with an outlay of Rs.600 crores in 6 years.

Vaan Sagar Irrigation and Power Project will provide electricity and irrigation facilities to the three states—Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. 20 years have since passed. Due to the increase in the plan outlay, now its present, cost is reported to be Rs.3200 crores. The farmers whose lands have been acquired for this project were neither paid any compensation nor any arrangement for their rehabilitation is being made. Farmers are very disturbed due to it. Now Centre and State Governments are not providing money for it. Around 1600 crore of rupees have been spent but the project is still incomplete. It is being estimated that Rs. 1600 crores more will be spent on it. On the completion of this project electricity worth 1600 crores will be generated every year.

Therefore, in the interest of the country, the Government should take initiative in this matter to get this project completed at the earliest by putting pressure on the above three State Governments.

(ii) Need for early completion on Rajghat Project so as to provide drinking water in Sagar Parliamentary Constituency

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, drinking water problem is increasing day by day in my

constituency Sagar. In spite of sufficient rainfall, people are facing acute water shortage. In order to tackle this problem, Rajghat project was to be implemented on river Bebas but work on this project has not yet started. On one hand, there is urgent need to provide drinking water, while on the other, steps are required to be taken to expedite the work on this project by providing more funds in this regard.

I, therefore, urge the Central Government that action should be taken to get this important project completed on priority basis.

(iii) Need to bring Units of Hindustan Cables Limited under the Administrative Jurisdiction of Ministry of Communications

[Translation]

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Kodarma): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hindustan Cables Ltd. is an industrial company set up under the Ministry of Industry for manufacture of telecom cables. Department of Telecommunications is its only buyer. This company was set up in 1952 with huge investment and with the advice and approval of the Department of telecommunication. Its 3 units are located at Roopnarayanpur, Hyderabad and Naini (Allahabad) and their entire production capacity gives an annual turnover of 600 crores. This company is serving the Department of Telecommunications for the last 45 years with its 5000 skilled and efficient employees. Its three units are having quality certification I.S.O.-9002. This company earned profit continuously from 1952 to 1991 but as a result of the liberal industrial policy of the Government and due to under utilisation of its capacity and utilisation of funds for modernisation, it is incurring losses for about three years.

So, due to heavy losses, this company is facing paucity of funds for running this industry.

It is worth mentioning here that till 1993, the Department of Telecommunications has made separate provision of funds and orders for this company in its annual budget. However later on D.O.T. continued to place orders with ITI and HTL and providing 75 per cent of the amount in advance, but it deprived H.C.L. of this facility. In this situation, this industry can only be saved by transferring it to the Ministry of Communications from the Ministry of Industry. There is every possibility that country's entire communication system will be struck with the use of cables of inferior quality manufactured by other industries. It will be in the welfare of the country if the Government finds out the possibilities to enable this industry to complete in the international market.

(iv) Need to Declare Bangalore as A-1 City

[English]

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH (Bellary): Sir, the population of Bangalore city exceeds 70 lakhs. It is the fastest growing city in the whole country and the cost of living is very high. The National Confederation of Central Government

Employees and workers of Karnataka have already requested the Government to declare Bangalore city as A-1 city along with Chennai, Mumbai, Calcutta and Delhi.

I, therefore, request the hon. Prime Minister to declare Bangalore as A-1 city so as to enable the Central Government employees to become eligible for 30 per cent HRA.

(v) Need to Provide Financial Assistance from Prime Minister's Relief fund to the people of Orissa affected by heat wave and to include Heat wave as a Natural Calamity in the Relief Code

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Berhampur) (Orissa):
Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the unprecedented heatwave condition sweeping the country, particularly the Orissa State where about 500 persons against the all India figure of 828 have already lost their lives. The heatwave, like an epidemic, is afflicting mostly the poor and those who are working in the fields. Sambalpur and Balangir districts are the worst affected by heatwave. Nevertheless, the people of Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and other coastal areas are also dying in large number due to the unrelenting heatwave which has been continuing for more than a week without any respite, due to which the people of the whole State are panicky.

Such a high temperature is not recorded in other States. According to the latest temperature recorded, the highest temperature recorded from Calcutta was 38, Bhopal 43, Hyderabad 43, Patna 38 degrees Celcius whereas the temperature recorded this year from Bhubaneswar was 44 and from Titlagarh of western Orissa 49.1 degrees Celcius. Such an anomalous situation in climatic conditions, therefore, calls for examination and research by meteorologists, environmentalists and scientists to find out the cause of the calamity.

This year the coastal Orissa, which used to experience comparatively less rigorous heatwave conditions, is facing the most severe conditions of heatwave. Therefore, I urge the Government to immediately provide financial help to the affected families from Prime Minister's Relief fund. I also demand for treating heatwave as a natural calamity and including the same in the Relief Code.

(vi) Need to Release a Commemorative Stamp in the Memory of Dr. Bhausaheb Panjabrao Deshmukh on the Occasion of his Birth Centenary

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati): The birth centenary of Dr. Bhausaheb Panjabrao Deshmukh is being observed in the country for the whole current year. Dr. Bhausaheb Panjabrao Deshmukh was an eminent personality of the nation. He was a Union Minister holding many portfolios, such as agriculture etc. He was the founder of Bharat Krishak Samaj. He was a great leader of the farmers and dedicated his life for the cause of the farmers. He was a great educationist and started a number of educational institutions in the country. He was a great social reformer. He was a

member of the Constituent Assembly to draft the Constitution to which he rendered a great contribution. It is therefore, befitting to release a postal stamp in his memory. I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India and particularly the hon. Prime Minister to look into this matter and release the stamp in his memory.

15.11 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

(vii) Need to take necessary steps to repair the very old and Dilapidated Bridge at Kuzhithurai in Trivandrum-Kanyakumari National Highway (N. H. 47)

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil): There is an urgent need and necessity to replace the very old and dilapidated bridge of Kuzhithurai in the Trivandrum-Kanyakumari National Highway (N.H. 47). It is posing a grave danger to the passenger and vehicular traffic. There are many cracks and holes in the bridge. The basement of the pillars of this bridge is gravely damaged and the supporting temporary angular pillars subsequently provided are also damaged and washed away away by river water. It has reached a stage that at any time, it would collapse. Such an eventuality would be disastrous. The National Highway, is one of the prestigious and busiest roads in the country

Realising these aspects the Government have graciously included the construction of a new bridge in the Eighth Five Year Plan. The acquisition work is completed. But steps have not yet been taken for the commencement of this very important and urgent work. So, I request the Union Government to take immediate steps for the construction of the bridge without any delay

(viii) Need to take necessary steps to upgrade Doordarshan Network in Hilly Areas of Assam

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI (Autonomous District - Assam): The hilly area of Assam comprising the districts of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar hills are having the poorest Doordarshan network in the North-East and probably, in the entire country. The whole area of more than fifteen thousand square kilometres, at present, possesses two low power relay centres at Diphu and Haflong. These two centres hardly cover 20 per cent of the total area. The coverage from nearby centres of the valley district is also very poor because of mountainous terrain. Some parts of the hilly districts although gets transmission from the Kendras of neighbouring Nagaland State, the news and programmes produced in the context of State of Nagaland are not of much relevance to the viewers of the hilly region of Assam. Therefore, practically, 80 per cent of the above mentioned areas inhabited by overwhelming tribal population is deprived of essential and effective Doordarshan programmes. In order to do away with this disparity, I demand that new Doordarshan Kendras be established at Hamren, Bokajan Rongmongve of Karbi Anglong and Unrongso, Langting of

North Cachar hilly districts and the existing Kendras of Diphu and Haflong be upgrated with enhanced transmission capacity alongwith facility for studio, recording etc. so that programme can be produced there locally, taking into account the very rich and diversified tribal folk culture of the area. I urge upon the Government to take urgent and positive steps on the issues raised above.

(ix) Need to connect villages of Ajmer district experiencing acute problem of drinking water with Beesalpur Project for permanent solution to the problem of drinking water

[Translation]

DR. PRABHA THAKUR (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people of 644 villages out of 1000 villages of Ajmer District in Rajasthan are forced to drink water having fluoride content. Due to drinking of this water, people are in danger of suffering from deformities like hump and disability. Efforts are required to be made on war footing to resolve this problem. I request the government that special priority may be given to this matter so as to save the people of Ajmer District from becoming disabled and all villages facing the problem of potable water may be linked with Beesalpur project for providing clean potable water to the people of the above area.

(x) Need to make sufficient appointments in lower categories in Telecom Department through Employment Exchanges to provide better telecom facilities in Kerala

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Communications to the telecom problems in Kerala. There is a waiting list of nearly seven lakhs in Kerala. In may area, Kannur SSA is also having a huge list of applicants of nearly two lakhs. Telecom authorities in Kerala have declared that they are going to provide new connection to 3.25 lakh applicants. Even then there will be a huge list of backlog. The main hurdle in the way of development of telecom in Kerala is the acute shortage of manpower. Since 1984 no appointments have been made especially in the lower categories. I wonder how the telecom authorities can fulfil their pledge to provide 3.25 lakh new connections. The telecom subscribers are affected badly due to poor services. The only remedy is to make appointments in lower categories through employment exchanges. The Supreme Court's judgement is clear regarding the claims of temporary employees.

So, to speed up the developmental works and better services of maintenance and repair, I request the Minister of Communications to make sufficient appointments through employment exchanges.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the discussion under Rule 193 Shri R.L. Jalappa

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in the morning I requested the hon. Speaker to permit me to raise an important issue during the Zero Hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Zero Hour is over. You can raise it tomorrow.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH: Sir, I will not even take two minutes. Kindly permit me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give notice tomorrow morning before 10 o' clock and then you can raise it tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday also there was no Zero Hour and every today there was no Zero Hour.(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, tomorrow you will get a chance to speak.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the last two days we are not getting any chance to speak in the Zero Hour. I gave the same matter to be raised in the Zero Hour and also under rule 377. The Zero Hour was lost yesterday, it was lost today also and you have not called me. What do I do now? I throw up my hands. I am under your protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give notice again tomorrow.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I know that I would give notice tomorrow and again it would be lost. So, what do I do? Kindly help me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, why do you not allow all the Members who want to raise some Zero Hour matters for about 10 to 15 minutes?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not possible now.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, we will read withir two or three minutes.(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Today, we had Zero Hour for about an hour from 12 Noon to five minutes past one o' clock. Please take your seat now.

....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I have called the name of Shri R.L. Jalappa.

....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give notice tomorrow and you can raise it tomorrow.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet): Sir, just a little while ago, the Chairman said that he would call me after the completion of Matters under Rule 377. Probably you must have been hearing that. Kindly permit me to raise an important issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are a number of hon. Members who gave notices but they were not allowed to raise their matters.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, I have also given notice

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mohan Singh, please speak tomorrow.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, would you consider today's notice for tomorrow?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): You give notice tomorrow also.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will have to give notice again. You should give your notice before 10 o' clock.

15.17 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

Incidents of suicide committed by farmers in various parts of the country due to Non-payment of Remunerative Prices for their Agricultural Produce - Contd.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA (Chikballapur): Sir, I thank you for having given me this opportunity. It is most unfortunate and pitiable that we are speaking about the suicides of some of our brethren farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): When Barnala Saheb will introduce his Bill?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: After this matter is over then that Bill will come.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, we had our Independence 50 years ago and we are celebrating the 50th year of our Independence now. But for all these years, successive

Governments have unfortunately neglected the peasantry of our country ... (Interruptions). Sir, either I should be allowed to speak or they should be allowed

Sir, we must know that a strong peasantry is more deterrent to the war than the bombs. If the economic position of the farmers of this country is allowed to deteriorate further, hundreds of nuclear bombs would not be able to save our country. We must understand this. The hon. Minister, Shri Sompal was telling yesterday that a very good plan has been prepared and that it is kept in the Library. The hon. Minister should know that the committees are constituted to give their recommendations so that they can be implemented and appropriate action is taken. They are not meant for keeping in the Library or for worship. That is why, I would request that a National Agricultural Policy is a must at this hour. It should be prepared as early as possible.

Sir, 50 years of negligence has resulted in gradual eating away of the bones of peasants. What is the result? A Group 'D' employee of the Government of India is much better off economically than a farmer who owns 30 to 40 acres of dry land. I think, Shri Sompal would agree with me. If he wants I can give him the statistics. So, what is the question which he should address? People have died and we cannot do anything to them. We can only see that their families are given some compensation and their hardship is ameliorated.

But to stop the farmers from committing further suicides, the Government should take immediate action. There are four or five things which are necessary for the development of agriculture, that is, water, credit facilities, good seeds, pesticides and fertilisers and, ultimately, marketing

Yesterday, Shri Jakhar was saying that the irrigation potential is only 37 per cent in this country. It means the remaining 63 per cent is subject to the vagaries of monsoons. So, providing water facilities to the farmers is a very important thing. We are planning to take up big irrigation projects, but it will take a long time, that is, eight to ten years, to complete them. In our country, no project has ever been completed within the stipulated or scheduled time. Thus, we have been not only wasting our time but are also spending eight to ten times more than the estimated amount. This is the case not only in my own State but also in other States as well. That is why, we have to immediately take up small irrigation projects and encourage the use of groundwater by sinking borewells or tubewells. We have a very good technology in this regard. Many agriculturists and Ministers have gone to Israel. We have to use such technologies immediately. Right now, lakhs of small and medium tanks are silted, especially in Southern India. These tanks' capacity to hold water is almost zero, and this has resulted in causing serious damage to the farmers.

The open wells have been dried up. Even if we dig to a depth of 100 feet, we are not getting any water in these open wells. So, we have to sink borewells at a depth of 500 feet or 600 feet. So, the first thing that the Government should think about is how to recharge this underground water. This can only be done by deepening these small and medium

[Shri R.L. Jalappa]

tanks. I do not mind if you were to spend Rs. 2,000 crore or Rs. 3,000 crore on this because it is a very important thing. These tanks must be desilted. Secondly, we did not give much attention to the contour bunding and also for afforestation. This afforestation is a must. So, we must take up desilting, afforestation and contour bonding on a war-footing

Now, my next point is about credit facilities. I was the President of the District Central Cooperative Bank; I was also the President of the land Development Bank of Karnataka and, fortunately or unfortunately, I was also the Minister for Cooperatives. I know about the shortcomings of credit system in our country. In the case of long-term loans, the banks have give loans to the extent of 40 per cent, and the extent of 28 per cent to 30 per cent in the case of short-term loans. As per my experience, what I wish to submit before this House is that all sorts of loans, be it long-term or medium-term or short-term or consumption loans, must be given across one counter. This will avoid duplication of cooperative societies and also reduce the operational expenses. This is a must and this must be done immediately.

Sir, adequate finance must be made available to the farmers. But how will you find out what amounts to 'adequate financing'? That is why, I request the hon. Minister to see that in the National Agricultural Policy there is a plan prepared for every family.

We must know what the farmer should grow. We must tell him what he should grow and how much money is required. If we are able to provide so much of finance to the farmer as early as possible, we will be helping him a lot.

Commercial banks are not so liberal. Once upon a time, during the days of Madam Gandhi, they were liberal. Many loan melas were held. But now recently when I went to my constituency, I was told by some of the agriculturists that unwritten instructions have been issued to the managers of the banks not to be liberal in giving loans to these small people. They can give loans to bigger people, say Rs. 1 crore or Rs. 2 crore or Rs. 5 crore for industry, but not for agriculture, because they are afraid that the recovery may be very low. That is why, I was told that unwritten instructions have been issued to the managers of the commercial banks. I do not know whether it is a fact. If it is a fact, it is most unfortunate. I request the hon. Minister to please see that liberal finance is made available through these banks.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): If you tell me that this Government has issued such instructions, we will have them promptly removed. But if the previous Government has done it, I will have to consider.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Recently about 15 days ago, I was in my constituency. I am not talking about the previous Government where I was one of the parties.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Kindly at least give us the information who has done it.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I do not know. They were telling me. Please find out.

While the interest rates are charged at 10 per cent to 15 per cent, can a farmer repay the money, paying this much of interest? What is the amount involved in the scams, thousands of crores of rupees. Can you not reduce the interest to the farmers who are feeding this country? The farmers were responsible to see that this country has self-respect. When we were suffering without food and when we were going with a begging bowl to America under PL 480, it is our farmers who saved us from that embarrassment and humiliation. Can you not give them a lower rate of interest? I am told that development loan in other countries is 1½ per cent to two per cent. Here we are charging up to 15 per cent. Commercial banks are charging 18 per cent. This has to be reduced to minimum of four per cent. You do not lose much. On the other hand, whatever is now being looted by way of scams, please try to save it and see that amount is utilised economically and profitably by these farmers.

Secondly, whenever such calamities are there like floods, we have got this calamity relief fund. It is a limited one. What is it we doing? For farmers, we will convert their loan into medium term loan and ask them to pay back money within three or five years along with interest. He is finding it difficult to borrow and repay for the first year. He has to borrow further and also pay back the instalments of last year or the previous year. It is too much of a burden. Most of them have failed. On the other hand, I suggest that the Government should waive complete interest and then collect the principal in ten instalments, if it is not possible to waive the principal. I can understand it is not so easy to waive of the principal because the money is borrowed from NABARD and also from depositors. I know it. But to a certain extent, the Government should come to their rescue. For your information, when I was the Minister of Cooperation in 1983, in Shri Ramakrishna Hegde's Government, I have done it.

I had completely waived off the interest. I told the farmers that if they shell out the principal on a stipulated date, I would write off the entire interest portion of it. In addition to that, I had also done one more thing.

There was the practice of lending loans for sinking open wells. In those days, borewells were less in number. Whenever the wells failed, if the farmers did not get water after spending so much money, he used to be on the streets. His properties were brought for auction. I was the President of the State Land Development Bank. When I became a Minister, I had requested the then hon. Chief Minister Shri Ramakrishna Hegde to help the farmers. He was gracious enough to waive off all the interest and principal of all those people who had not got any water after spending so much of borrowed money. When a State Government could do it, the Centre should be able to do it. I know that the NABARD has taken objection to that. Mr. Minister, now you are telling that in Andhra Pradesh and other places, the NABARD and the Reserve Bank of India have come

down a little bit. You have mellowed them down. If that is the position, you can also convince the NABARD to accept this condition. For heaven's sake, if you want to help the farmers, please do it.

Now I come to Insurance. About Insurance, I know what are the deficiencies of the Insurance Scheme. The Government is further applying it to 24 districts. I do not know how far it will be successful. I have got my own doubts. Anyway, I wish you best of luck and I also wish the farmers of those 24 districts best of luck. But we will not satisfy ourselves only by introducing this insurance cover.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: I have taken not even four minutes. I have been waiting for three days.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken 15 minutes. A large number of Members are there to speak. We will have to take up the discussion on the Railway Budget also. So, please try to conclude.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: About the insurance cover, there are so many problems. If the Minister concerned were to invite us, we can also give our suggestion about insurance and the private moneylenders. Most of the people who had committed suicide had borrowed money from the private individuals paying an enormous rate of interest. So, please regulate them.

About seeds, now every Tom, Dick and Harry is supplying seeds. I was also a seed producer once upon a time. That National Seeds Corporation is there for supplying quality seeds. For heaven's sake, please encourage the National Seeds Corporation. Of course, the Agriculture Universities have their own farms. I would request the Government to encourage them. If the Government is going to give seed production to the private individuals, have a strict vigilance over them. For God's sake, please do not encourage the State Farms because I have no belief in them since they are not bothered about it. One has to get up by four or four-thirty in the early morning and has to remove the pollen shedders poles etc. All these things are there. They may not do it because they are getting their monthly income. So, they are not bothered about these things. When they are getting their monthly income, they are not bothered about the farmers.

There is another aspect also. Good quality of seed is a must. Supply of spurious seeds must be dealt with seriously. We must find out whether the usual agronomic practices are properly followed or not. What is the guarantee of purity of seed? Is it only in respect of germination or genetic purity that they are looking to? As far as I know, the truth full label or some such thing was there. In almost all such cases, only the germination aspect of it will be tested and not the genetic purity which is tested. If genetic purity is not there, yield will not be there. We must look into the genetic purity also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: In many cases, adulterated fertilizers are supplied. Agriculture Department in the States are not at all working. We cannot see those extension officers on the field. They must be activated. Stress must be given on organic and green manures. If organic and green manures are not available and if we go on using these fertilizers, then I am sure, the fertility of the soil as also the crop will suffer. Rotation of crops must be encouraged wherever it is possible. If they have got eight acres, we must tell them to use four acres of land for cotton this year, next year, that portion of land could be used for groundnut or for any other crop and the third year again that portion of land could be used for cotton. But they grow cotton every year on the same field without using organic or green manure. This is one of the reasons why our farmers have lost their cotton crops. Most of the people who have committed suicide are cotton growers. In our state, Tur gram growers have also lost their lives. Pesticide is also one of the ingredients.

Finally, I have read somewhere that in another ten years or by 2010 there would be an enormous food shortage of the order of 36,000 crore tonnes in our country. I do not know whether it was Dr. Swaminathan or someone else who said this. In China, the shortage would be of the order of 1,24,000 tonnes. My friend Shri Sompal will be knowing about the Malthusian theory of population. Most of my friends sitting here must be knowing about the Malthusian theory of population. We are not showing enough interest to see that farmers are given adequate facilities to produce more. The Malthusian theory will operate in our country, one-third of our population will perish after ten years. Thank you.

With this, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request the Members to be very brief as there are seven more names with me.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon): Three days have elapsed but my party has not been given the opportunity(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): There should be some time fixed and also there should be some planning in this regard.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH (Satna): Sir, this is very objectionable.(Interruptions) Only eight to ten members are speaking continuously.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

"Jor aur zulm ke hone se shuru hoti hai,

Kisi garib ke rone se shuru hoti hai,

Bhasm hote hein takhat-e-taus,

Jab aag kisi kone se shuru hoti hai."

[Shri Ramakrishna Kusmaria]

Sir, today the condition of farmers is similar to this only. Many farmers in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have committed suicide. In Multai in Madhya Pradesh, the farmers were fired upon when they demanded compensation for the extensive damage to their crops due to hailstorm and heavy rains.

We should all pay attention towards the condition of farmers. In their constituency, members praise the farmers and get votes. But when they are sitting in the House they do not discuss about them. The injustice and atrocity on farmers start from here only. We enact laws. Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that according to R.B.C. 4(3), there is a provision for the payment of relief to the farmers in the event of damage to the crop but there is no provision for the payment of compensation. Their damage is not estimated and even today British criterion is followed in providing relief. The collector instructs the Patwari that the extent of damage in drought affected areas should not be shown more than 30%. The result is that farmers cannot get any benefit. Even the amount of relief is negligible i.e. Rs. 100 per acre and that too is given to a person who is holding 'khatadari.' The farmers with land holdings of more than 10 acres do not get even the relief. If any farmer is holding more than 10 acres of land in which share of other family members are also there even then he is not eligible for relief. Mr. Chairman, Sir, these rules need to be amended in such a way that in the event of sub-division of land holding, the other share holders in that land holding should also be eligible for relief, only then farmers could get benefit. I want to say that even the farmers who are holding more than 10 acres of land are not rich or industrialists. They do not have much property therefore they should also be eligible for relief and compensation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is quite an old law and amendments should be made in it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no provision for insurance in this regard. In some places insurance scheme has been introduced which is not practicable because this insurance cover has been provided for realisation of loan taken by farmers and not for crops. Therefore, a crop insurance scheme should be introduced. In view of the plight of farmers it has been said by some learned person that -

[English]

'Kisan takes birth in debt; lives in debt; and dies in debt'

[Translation]

Why the farmers lives in debt? Farmers take loan in distress. Farmers face two types of calamities. One is the natural calamities like hailstorm, heavy rains, frost, flood and drought etc. and the other calamities are caused by the faulty policies of the Government. I would like to make a submission that(Interruptions) We have formed Government recently whereas your party was in power for the last 50 years and you have troubled the farmers a lot by creating problems for them ... (Interruptions) The faulty

process has ruined the farmers economically. Ceiling on agricultural land has been imposed time and again whereas no ceiling has been imposed on industries and urban properties. Now farmers do not have economic land holdings, yet we talk about implementation of land reforms. I would like to say that farmers should have economically viable land holdings so that he could support his family. Hon. Chairman, Sir, our system of providing loan to farmers is faulty. Farmers also deposit surety for getting loan but no interest is paid on it whereas the farmers have to pay interest. If interest on surety is calculated, that money will be far more than the interest charged on the loan taken by farmers. This will improve the economic condition of farmers. Now many farmers have committed suicide as they were unable to repay their loans. It is really shameful that we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Independence and farmers who produce food for us, feed us and is like a God for us are committing suicide due to their miserable condition. We all should think over this issue and protect the interest of farmers by enacting laws for their welfare.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA (Kaisarganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a serious issue and it is being debated in this House for the last three days. In the meantime the budget was also presented main thrust of which was on farmers. It is really ironical that in our country about 76% people are dependent on agriculture. Even 50 years after independence people of that very section are committing suicide. Agriculture is considered backbone of our economy. We may make utmost efforts to strengthen the financial condition of the country through industry but it is impossible. Economic position of the country can be strengthened only by improving the financial condition of farmers and bolstering agriculture.

Since independence, population of our country has grown three fold and farmers also increased the agriculture production three-fold but his economic condition also deteriorated continuously. Farmers have to take risk of weather and natural calamities and even then he is not sure of getting remunerative price for his produce. Exploitation by Government machinery is a different thing. Now 50 years after independence we have reached this situation due to these faulty policies with the result that more than 500 farmers have committed suicide. This issue is also being debated in the upper House. I am not levelling any allegation on the Government or politicizing the matter but the Government have not been sensitive on this matter.

Yesterday, hon. Minister of Agriculture was making a psychological analysis. He may be a psychologist but not a scientist. The Government would not have increased the prices of urea had it taken the issue of farmers sensitively. The argument given in support of increasing prices of urea is that due to excessive use of urea agriculture is being affected adversely. Hon. Minister has stated that the use of potash and phosphate is decreasing. But I feel that prices of urea should not be increased for this. Though later on prices of potash and phosphate has been lowered. I may agree with this argument but the farmers would not agree

with it. We should seek guidance and advice of China for increasing agricultural production. In comparison to India China cultivates less area and yields 1½ times more than us. During the last 50 years studies have been conducted on various subjects including agriculture. But so far no remarkable progress could be made. In this field although the total agricultural production has increased three folds in our country. It was not the Government that has brought this change but this was due to farmers own contribution. Government maintains silence and indulge in sophism at the time when farmers suffer due to natural calamities.

Farmers face problems every year but now the situation has become so grim that farmers have been forced to commit suicide. Sometimes potato rots and sometimes sugarcane crop is not utilised properly. But no one enquires about it. Farmers are backbone of this country. Our country cannot become self sufficient without improving the financial condition of farmers. It is really unfortunate that we win elections by the vote of the farmers and in this House we start advocating the cause of Industrialists. This is the reason why economic condition of this country have not improved so far. The present Budget has also affected the farmers adversely as it attempts to boost industrial sector and benefit industrialist. Where is farmer today ? The incidents of committing suicides by farmers have been reported from two-three regions because we are not getting full information of facts and figures in this regard. Such incidents have also taken place in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. People are committing suicides out of self repentance and financial problems. This problem has affected the whole country whether we get information about it or not ? A serious thought should be given to it and efforts should be made to solve this problem. You should know about the financial condition and standard of living of farmers who possess 1 or 2 acres of agricultural land. Big farmers are also not very rich and it is just a concept only. There are only 1 or 2 per cent farmers in this country who earn Rs. 1 or 2 lakh by selling their agricultural produce. Though Rs. 10 or 20 lakhs is not a big sum for people who play tricks. Rs. 1 lakh is a big sum for farmers who work hard for feeding the people of this country. Government officials, officers of the police exploit the farmers. He has to pay bribe for getting loan, and later on, for recovery of loan the farmer is insulted by the official and also arrested in tehsil. It is a good proposal that farmers would not be arrested for recovery of loan, it should be implemented effectively.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon. Beni Prasad is a good farmer and has been in the State Government as well as in Central Government for a long time. I do not say that what he is saying is wrong. Through you, I would like to say that he is a good administrator and very well know about these facts. This House also knows about it and nobody has any objection so there is no need to repeat it. I request him to give good suggestions, in this regard.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA : I am coming to that.

SHRI SOMPAL : Please come to that only. Time of the House is wasted in this repetition.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA : He is a minister of Agriculture but he is not ready to listen to the problems of farmers then how he would be able to solve them

SHRI SOMPAL : I have not said that. What is being said by the hon. Member is a fact. I have not said that I do not want to listen to it. I am saying that some important and useful points should be made in this regard.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA : What I am saying is necessary or not ?

[English]

It is not your duty to interrupt. This is the duty of the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL : I have also made the request to the Hon. Chairman.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA : Sometimes ministership goes to ones head.

SHRI SOMPAL : It is not so in my case

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA : You do not want to listen to the problems of the farmers and blame us for it(Interruptions) I do not want to politicise it(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Verma ji, please address the Chair

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA : Sompal ji is the minister of Agriculture. I am proud that even today, I myself look after my fields and personally know about the problems of farmers. Perhaps hon. Minister does not have that much experience in this field but I know about the cost incurred and profit earned by the farmers by selling their crops. Hon. Minister has been my friend and we had been in the same political party. I know him. I am more affected and concerned over this issue because except agriculture, I have no other business

16.00 hrs.

Where should we raise our problems, if not here in this House. Should we tell our problems to Press persons. You do not want to listen to our problems. What is the reasons behind it. Today Globalisation is being promoted. China cultivates 26 crore acres of land and produces 33 crore tonnes of foodgrains whereas in our country 32 crore acres of land is cultivated and our production is just 1¼ crore tonnes only. Attention should be paid towards it. I accept that after independence period of 50 years has been wasted. I am not levelling allegations in the air. You have

[Shri Beni Prasad Verma]

joined them. The severe damage has been done by the members of the ruling benches sitting besides you. You have come here to cure it but for this you must know about the ailments.

16.01 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not an allegation but a fact that since independence various irrigation projects have been implemented on paper only and our country has made various achievements in this field by furnishing wrong figures and fascinating speeches delivered by various leaders. Farmers have been exploited by the Governmental machinery and now the situation have become grave to such an extent that farmers are committing suicide. I would like to make a suggestion that a high-powered commission or committee consisting of experts should be set up to find out the measures to improve the financial condition of farmers. This will not only benefit the farmers but improve the economic condition of the country. Today America is the most prosperous country of the world and the main reason behind their prosperity is that it has not started with development of industries but with Agriculture. Their agriculture developed 200 years ago which strengthened its economic condition and today America is the super-power of the world. We have better conditions for agriculture. It is a separate thing that population of the country has increased rapidly. Proper attention has not been paid towards the agriculture. How can we lead the world when 76% population of this country is leading life below poverty line. We may say and give figures that number of people living under poverty line is declining but it is not so. Even today 52% people are living below the poverty line and most of them are the people living in villages and dependent on agriculture. They earn just Rs.10 per day or less than that, 25 per cent people get only Rs. 2, 2½ or just Rs. 3 per day. How they can survive? This is the reason for committing suicide. The Government should protect such persons. If the hon. Minister really cares for farmers, in his reply he should suggest some measures to boost their morale improve their financial condition so that such incidents of committing suicide by farmers could be stopped. A message should be conveyed from the House so that such incidents would not recur. Such incidents hang our heads in shame. The members of ruling party should be ashamed of such incidents. It is not a matter of fun or argument. We should not say that excessive use of urea is ruining agriculture or give figures in support of that. It is cruelty to farmers. The Government should be sensitive on such issues. I except that in his reply hon. Minister would alleviate farmers from their sufferings and not aggravate it further. With this I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI NAKLI SINGH (Saharanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on this subject. Ours is an agricultural country. Since long it has been said that

"Uttam Kheti madham baan, nikhand chakri beekh nidan" (Agriculture is the best, business is medium and service is inferior most).

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA: Now the reverse is true

SHRI NAKLI SINGH: As the hon. former minister is saying it, the position is reverse now. Now-a-days, Chakri or service has become the best profession and agriculture is the inferior most. Farmers have committed suicide in several states. Farmers are considered better as they grow foodgrains for us.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, foodgrains support our lives and we are alive because of farmers, who produce foodgrain for us thus he is a life saver. Now circumstances have compelled farmers to commit suicide. It is a big tragedy. It is not an issue on which political mileage should be taken. A serious thought is needed to be given to solve this problem. Suggestions should be given to improve the economic condition of farmers and for it we can take guidance from our past.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sir Chhotu Ram was leader of farmers. At that time India was not independent, our country was under British rule. At that time Punjab was not a small State like it is now but it consisted of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and even Lahore was in Punjab. Sir, Chhotu Ram took the charge of Agriculture Ministry in the cabinet of Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan. He enacted a law that no money-lender could auction the fields, pair of bullocks and house of farmers despite the fact that he owed a huge amount to the money lender. The rule further laid that the loan should be divided into hundred instalments if the farmer was not in a position to pay it in lump sum. Such rules provided farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the law of Kautilya's economics, the amount of interest should, in no case, exceed the principle amount. Therefore, if the interest on the loan taken by the farmer has increased manifold, the payment of interest should be waived off. My learned and able colleagues are present in this House and a deep thought should be given to this subject. Sardar Patel and Choudhary Charan Singh launched movements for the farmers. We should think as to why farmers have resorted to such an extreme step of committing suicide. No one wants to die. Yaksha had put a question to Yudhishthira that death is inevitable even then everybody tries to escape death. In reply to this question it was stated that no one wants to die. But why farmers are dying. If we look into this matter we will find that none is paying attention towards farmers' problems. What is happening today is that crops of farmers are destroyed either due to natural calamities or due to use of spurious pesticides or insecticides. Their crops get destroyed and Government has done nothing to relieve them of their sufferings. Farmers would not have committed suicide, had the Government provided them interest free loans for cultivation for the next crop and waived off the loan taken by farmers earlier.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, agriculture is the only profession in which farmers do not stop cultivation if they suffer losses. Shopkeepers or factory owners close their business if they suffer loss due to some accident, but in spite of so many problems and sufferings farmers continue their work.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I remember the period of 1965 when Pakistan attacked India. At that time our country was not self-sufficient in production of foodgrains which was imported from America. During the war America threatened to stop supply of foodgrains. Lal Bahadur Shastriji was the Prime Minister of India at that time. He did not kneel before the threatening and raised the slogan 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' and stated that people of this country would not beg for foodgrain even if we may have to skip one time's meals. After that inspired by this slogan, farmers of the country worked very hard and we are not only self-sufficient in foodgrains but also export foodgrains to other countries.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I myself worked very hard when I was a farmer. I remember incident of a day. Our fields are on a height. In the severe cold days of December I was in the field to irrigate crops. Due to height of field the water started flowing in other direction. I remember that I entered that drain and asked the servant to put earth on it so that direction of flowing water could be changed. Farmers leave no stone unturned and put all their efforts for producing foodgrains. Now in month of June farmers are working in their field under scorching heat of the sun. We should think over all these points. This situation has raised a question of survival before farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, farmers of our country are brave. About 75 per cent farmers are working in Defence forces. Farmers are the biggest class of voters, consumers and producer of goods in our country. We should think about the welfare of the farmers who are in majority in our country. We have learned Members in this House. Members of all party should think on this problem collectively. We have many a prominent scientists in our country, the nuclear tests at Pokhran has proved their capabilities. We can again bring green revolution if the entire House takes collective measures to solve this problem. If we do so, the farmers will not be compelled to commit suicide. We should waive off not only interest of loan but the principal amount of loan taken by the farmers to improve the financial condition of farmers. With these words I conclude. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

The discussion regarding suicide committed by farmers is taking place under Rule 193. It is the first time that we are witnessing such a serious situation. I do not think that such a situation had arisen in the past. During the last fifty years, we had seen several natural calamities, whether it was drought or flood. We have seen so many calamities but unfortunately, farmers attempting to commit suicide has happened for the first time and is really of great

concern. This issue should not be politicised. Suicide was committed by farmers first in Andhra Pradesh during the period of United Front Government last year. During the election, this issue was debated. When the hon. Prime Minister went there for election campaign, he actually made an assurance to do something for these ill-fated farmers. During his reply on the motion of thanks for President's address, he made a categorical assurance about Andhra Pradesh and mentioned it as one of the major tragedies. Similarly, in other States also, such tragedies have taken place. This House has to take a collective decision. I do not want to blame anybody on this particular issue. We have to take a collective decision. I request every Member of this House with folded hands to take a collective decision to overcome the problems of the farmers. I am not going to say that only one party is interested in farmers and the other party is not interested about them. That is not the issue now. How to solve the problem is the issue before all of us, irrespective of parties.

Sir, the basic issue is, the way in which we are providing financial support to the farmers. After the nationalisation of banks, the late Prime Minister Shrimati Gandhi had taken a decision. At that time, she fixed 18 per cent as priority lending for the farming sector. Of course, at that time, it was the highest support to the farming community. It is not only my opinion but it is also a hard reality that, even though 18 per cent was earmarked for the farming sector being the priority sector, no bank had cooperated. We have not reached that target even for a single year.

It is not a question of blaming one another among ourselves. No bank has tried to find out the reason. They try to attribute their own reasons.

During my short tenure as Prime Minister, I tried to persuade them. In 1996-97, we reached a target of 14 per cent. But we were also unable to reach the target of 18 per cent. According to the information that I got, from April to January, the bank advancement last year was hardly 9.1 per cent.

The question of fertiliser price rise was debated. The hon. Minister of Finance was telling, "During your period also, it had been done." Last year, some increase was there. I was not there in office. It is a different matter. Now, I do not want to find fault why the price was hiked. We all should agree. We are more scared of the organised sector. We are more worried because they are the people who try to mould the opinion of the politicians.

Last year, Rs 19,000 crore were given to the Government employees. Has anybody opposed it? No. Nobody is prepared to oppose it. In one lump, Rs 19,000 crore were given to those who represent hardly two per cent of the population. I am not against them. But is our financial position better? We are going abroad to get aid because of very recent political developments. I do not want to enter into this controversy particularly on this issue. We have borrowed more than \$ 95 billion.

[Shri H.D. Devegowda]

Shri Balram Jakhar, coming from an agriculturist family, was a Minister of Agriculture. Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala was also Minister of Agriculture when Shri Morarji Desai was the Prime Minister. We are all coming from the same category. Let us apply our mind. When you are prepared to give Rs. 19,000 crore to only two per cent of our population, are we in a position to give Rs. 10,000 crore or Rs. 5,000 crore for a population of 65 crore of this country who are feeding a population of 100 crore?

Yesterday, I was not here. Our hon. Minister of Finance was saying about 'Rise of new India.' What rise of new India? You are providing Rs. 100 crore for watershed programme and Rs. 500 crore for irrigation. Let us think over this issue collectively. Is that the only solution to this problem? Why are the farmers dying in Andhra Pradesh or in Karnataka or in Maharashtra or in other States? It is because we are unable to cover all the farming community. From the institutional finances, they are bound to go to the private moneylenders with abnormal interest. There are no other options. When the crops fail, the private lenders engage their own organisers. They never care. They will humiliate them. The farmers always live for self-respect.

Sir, when the private lenders go to their houses and try to humiliate them, then it is natural that the farmers would succumb and take recourse to suicides. This is where we have to think over.

Sir, I would not like to take much time of the House. This is a wider issue. In my opinion, a Committee should be constituted consisting of Members of this House, cutting across party lines, to go into this matter. We have to collectively apply our mind to this problem. Let us not quarrel on this issue on political lines.

Sir, I wrote a letter to the Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission about whether or not we could increase the rate of institutional finance from 18 per cent to 30 per cent. The Planning Commission recommended to the Reserve Bank of India an increase to 28 per cent. The Government could check up whether after I laid down office, the recommendation was referred to the Reserve Bank of India or not. The Reserve Bank of India has got their own problems. They say that it is not possible for them to do it because of so many reasons.

I would like to impress upon this House about the fact that there is a non-recoverable debt of Rs. 43,000 crore from the Nationalised Banks in the industrial sector. It could be checked from the balance sheet for the year 1994-95. It is time that we collectively think over this and apply our mind to it. What is the solution for this? We are not going to auction their property and it is because they have got some status in society. They have got their own methods. The management of the banks, the Boards of the banks have got the powers to waive off the interest component or even the principal component of the loan. The Boards have the right to take a decision to this effect. But in case of the farmers, if their crops fail totally, who is going to take steps about waiving off their loan? Is there any mechanism? Let us think over it.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister was saying that the Government wanted to monitor the functioning of the Industries by appointing an evaluator between the States and the Centre. What type of a mechanism are we thinking about to help the farming community in this country? Would it be by way of providing timely financial help? What is the position in regard to marketing? The price of onions went up to Rs. 20 to Rs. 21 per kg. Today it costs Rs. 6 per kg. Nobody bothers about them. They have only to try their luck. Is there any mechanism to help them?

Sir, I do not have any aversion or prejudice against the industrial sector in this country but the issue is that when 30 per cent of the GDP accrues from the agricultural sector and 65 per cent of the work force is from the agricultural sector, what is it that we are doing for them?

Sir, past is past. Let us collectively apply our mind to the fact that whether or not we could take the opinion of the experts and scientists in this regard. Let any Member of this House-like Dr. Balram Jakhar or anybody from any side-become the Chairman of the Committee to be constituted. I am not interested in names of any party.

The Government proposes to reduce the customs and excise duties to help certain sections of the society; and in order to protect our domestic industries, the Government is also thinking in terms of removing excise and customs duties. I do not want to talk about the Budgetary provisions so far as this particular issue is concerned. There are so many issues which have been covered in the Budget. But what is the protection that the Government progress to give to the farming community? It is a vital issue.

Even to complete our on-going irrigation projects, we require about Rs. 48,000 crore. I was unable to provide more than Rs. 900 crore in 1996-97. Last year the Government provided only Rs. 1500 crore, out of which the actual outlay was only Rs. 800 crore or Rs. 900 crore. We cannot make wonders in two years or in 18 months because a number of constraints are there. We are not prepared to touch the vulnerable section of our society. You want to give further concession to a person who is taking about Rs. 28,000 or Rs. 30,000 salary a month, by raising the income tax slab from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000. You cannot even have a 10 per cent surcharge, on such people.

When I was the Prime Minister, I did discuss it with many officials. So many officers came to me and I said that I am not going to accept the recommendations of the Pay Commission and that I must not go before the Chief Ministers. I called the Chief Ministers' Conference to take their opinion. I wanted to know its financial implications even on the States. I thought, all these things will have to be taken into consideration before taking a final decision on the matter. Then I made a statement to that effect in the very same place. Past is past.

Everybody tries to cajole or earn the favour of organised sector or the privileged class. Some people think that the farmers are rich. Today, the holdings of more than 78 per cent of the farmers are just one or one-and-a-half hectare

In addition, fragmentation is taking place every year. Today, the Government has announced the abolition of urban land ceiling. But so far as farming community is concerned, nobody can prevent fragmentation of their holdings. Keeping in view such a situation, we have to consider the question of giving subsidy, providing sufficient marketing, storage facility and so on. Lending policy is one of the major policy decisions which the Government has to take. The present rate of lending cannot be 10, 12, 13 or even 9 per cent. We cannot allow it. You may think over it. My only appeal to all sections of the House is to sit together, irrespective of the party affiliations, to find out a solution for this ill-fated, unorganised sector.

MR. SPEAKER: For the last three days, we are discussing the same issue. We have to complete it today. There are 20 more hon. Members who want to speak on the subject. So, I would request the hon. Members to conclude within three to five minutes so that more Members can be accommodated. Now, I call Shri Premchandran.

16.29 hrs.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon): The subject matter of the discussion is the suicides committed by the farming community of India, specially in three States, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. At the outset, I would like to say that this is not the picture of just three or four States but the real picture and image of the whole of the farming community of India.

There is no dispute on the point that the basis of Indian economy is agriculture. It is an undisputed fact that the backbone of Indian economy is agriculture. There is no dispute about it that interests of farmers should be protected. But, what has been happening over the last few years? Over the last few years, agricultural production has been declining. During the 50s and 60s, the contribution of agriculture to the GDP was 50 per cent. Now it has come down to 30 per cent. What are the reasons for it?

The point which I would like to highlight is that the farmers are not being provided adequate security. They have not got enough protection even after eight Five Year Plans. I remember the slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan," of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. What is the position of that 'Kisan' now? Hundreds of farmers are not able to get remunerative prices for their produce. Their crops are getting destroyed due to natural calamities. The Administration is not able to safeguards their interests. All this is resulting in the farmers getting a feeling that there is no other way available to them to come out of their pathetic situation but to commit suicide. That is the picture of Indian farmer after fifty years of Independence.

Welfare measures should be taken to improve the situation. I fully endorse the views of the former Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda. There is nobody to speak for the farmer. The life of a Government servant is secured. If a Government servant dies in service, his next of kin is given the opportunity of employment. A government servant get pension after retirement. He gets all other benefits. Workers too get their benefits. There are so many legislation in the country to ensure the welfare of workers

I do agree with it. We all stand for workers' welfare

What is the position of the farmers in our country? Is there adequate welfare legislation to protect the poor farmer? What will happen to the family of a farmer after the death of the bread-earning member? It is a pathetic situation that is prevailing in our country. In addition to this, the natural calamities leave their trail of destruction. We cannot prevent natural calamities. What we can do is to take timely relief measures. What is the relief that can be provided to the farmers? As already said, there are many welfare measures like moratorium on loans etc., which we can take

Sir, I would like to suggest something regarding pension. I would appeal to the Government to think of a pension scheme for the farmers. With the contribution of farmers, the State Governments, and the Central Government, let the Government evolve a pension scheme or some such welfare scheme so that the family is protected even after the death of a farmer and also even when a farmer is no longer able to perform farming activity. We should think about such a welfare measure. We are implementing such a scheme in Kerala. It has not yet completed. Such a welfare measure has to be implemented in other places also.

Irrigation facility is essential for farming. The Finance Minister has specifically mentioned in his budget speech that 37 per cent of the land in India is under irrigation. The rest 63 per cent of the land has not got the Irrigation facilities. So, priority should be given to irrigation facilities.

Last year, the United Front Government had prepared the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. I would like to say that irrigation programmes which are being modelled and norms for which are being prescribed by the Central Government should be implemented.

The Ninth Five Year Plan has already started. I would like to cite an example from Kerala. In the State of Kerala, in the first year of the Ninth Five Year Plan, we have made a model saying that planning should start from the grassroot level at Gram Sabha, in the village, in the block, and in the Panchayat.

Whatever may be the programme, let the Centre finance the State Governments. Let the State Governments formulate their own programmes whether it is minor irrigation or lift irrigation or community irrigation programme. Let them conduct the survey according to the geological conditions, availability of water and other facilities. Let them take into consideration the realities of the State.

I would like to suggest that we should decentralise the powers to the States. All the powers are vested with the Central Government. In the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, no power was devolved upon the State other than the powers which have already been conferred upon the State. Those powers have been transferred to the three-tier Panchayat system and the Nagar Palika system. All the

[Shri N.K. Premchandran]

powers that are vested with the Centre are still with the Centre.

As far as agriculture and rural employment are concerned, who knows the position of the State better than the State itself. In the Budget Speech also, there was a paragraph regarding the devolution of powers. A committee has been appointed; a Task Force has been appointed under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, but we have yet to receive the report of the committee. As far as agriculture is concerned, top priority should be given. A very important role should be accorded to the three-tier Panchayat Samiti so that it takes care of better production and better irrigation facilities under various programmes including the minor irrigation programme.

What is the attitude of the nationalised banks in regard to the extension of credit facilities? I do admit that credit facilities are also given by the cooperative societies. They are doing a better job in our State. In almost all the places, these farmers' cooperative societies are doing better work. What is the attitude of the nationalised banks when a poor farmer approaches them? They are grossly neglected. As Shri Devegowda has just stated, as far as the industry is concerned, the behaviour, the character and the attitude of the banks and its authorities are entirely different. There is neglect; there is discrimination as far as farmers are concerned.

We have to take a fresh look as far as the procedure, the formalities and the modalities of payment of loan are concerned. They have to be reviewed.

I would like to say a few words about two or three points concerning my State. I am not going into the details of the issues.

Our learned friend, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has already stated in his first speech. I do admit that farmers have committed suicide. It is really sad. It is a shameful act for the whole nation. Hundreds of farmers have committed suicide because of this reason. They are not able to lead a decent life by following this profession. Their livelihood is mainly dependent on agriculture. We are not in a position to protect them. That is why, they have the reason for committing suicide. Thousands and lakhs of people are in the brink of suicide. That is the position which has been illustrated by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

I am not going into the details of the coconut growers, rubber growers and cash crop growers of Kerala. The minimum support price of coconut has not yet been declared by this Government. Earlier this year, it was Rs. 5,000 per quintal and the same has come down to just Rs. 2,000 per quintal now. There is a gap of Rs. 3,000.

MR. SPEAKER: You please conclude.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : I am concluding, Sir.

As far as rubber is concerned, a very grave situation is existing. A huge loss had occurred when they cultivated cocoa. After that, everything was cut off and they had started rubber cultivation. Now, the farmers are forced to distract the cultivation of rubber also. This position is going on.

Rubber and Polyurethane are being imported. There is a decline in the production of agriculture. The main reason for this state of affairs is because of the Exim Policy and the new economic policy. We cannot forget it. This is also one of the consequences for the decline in the agricultural production.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government that the minimum support price for rubber should also be taken into consideration. Otherwise, the people of Kerala and the farmers of Kerala will also be forced to commit suicide. Attempt to commit suicide is an offence under the Indian Penal Code. I once again request the Government to take care of all these issues.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA (Rohtak) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion is going on for the last three days and this is very serious problem. Everyone is concerned about it. It is not a party or political matter. Our country mainly depends on rural economy. Our villages have typical caste occupational structure. One is general caste which is known as land owning class, the other is backward classes who are artisans, third is Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, they are agricultural labourers and among these the most deprived class in terms of means and material is Scheduled Caste. The marginal and small farmers and backward classes have negative savings and if we take into account their position the marginal farmer have a debt burden of 18.1%, small farmer have a debt burden of 20.7%, medium farmer have a debt burden of 27.7% and the big farmer, who take more loans, have a debt burden of 31.7%.

Sir, I would like to give one example. I will not raise the issue of my State. I am talking about Punjab. It is a well known fact that the farmer of Punjab is considered to be most prosperous but today the lands of 98% small and marginal farmers is mortgaged with banks and money lenders and they have no money to get their land back. 90% farmers have a debt of Rs. 5700 crores. In Punjab there are 11 lakh farmers families out of which only 60,000 families are such who have got more than 15 acres of land and they have debt of Rs. 6000 per acre. This is the case of Punjab. You can yourself imagine the position of Andhra Pradesh and other States about which we are discussing. Out of the total population which has increased in cities 50% of population which has migrated from villages. In this migration, all prosperous persons are shifting towards cities. The condition of villages is deteriorating. Shri Deve Gowdaji has mentioned about decreased land holding. Today per capita average is 0.3 hectare and it may be even less. As far as question of irrigation is concerned, in Asia our percentage is more, but if we compare production. Japan is producing 5 times more per hectare and we have not been able to utilise our irrigation potential fully whether it is due to some disputes or due to some other reasons. If we fully utilise our potential in one lakh hectares of land then this sector can provide maximum employment. No other sector in the country can provide this much

employment. Shri Deve Gowdaji had mentioned that at the time of Independence that our G.D.P. was 58%, if we see figures of that time, we will find that today national income from agriculture reduced to 30%. But in that investment is only 12%. How can we make progress with such a meagre investment. In 1961 the per capita income in agricultural sector was 912 and those who are working in non-agricultural sector their per capita income was 4054 but today in agriculture the per capita income have increased to only 1087 from 912 whereas those who are engaged in other sector their per capita income is 6672 and today it is more than 7000 also. I am talking about 3 years back, there is so much disparity. In agricultural sector the increase in income is only 25% whereas in other sectors, it is 138%.

You can take the case of education. The total average in education is 64.13. In rural areas it is 57.87 and in urban areas it is 81.89. In villages, the education among women is 30% whereas in cities it is 64%. This is the condition of education. The children living in our villages can at the most become soldiers in army or conductor or driver in buses. They are asked to compete with those who are studying in Convent schools. This competition is not between students at equal level.

As far as unemployment is concerned after 4 years from today, out of 10 crores unemployed people, 70 per cent will be in villages(Interruptions) How will you solve that unemployment?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Sir, I have been waiting for three days to speak. I will take only two or three minutes more.

[Translation]

Reservation should be there but alongwith that there is also need for making reservation for rural children in the educational institution. They should be given opportunities. I am not making any politically motivated statement. Today much has been discussed. It has been said about our party that we were ruling for years. I would like to say that the present situation of farmers is the result of cumulative effect of all these things. But today suicides are being committed. If I say something rising above politics then the people who are sitting in treasury benches may also be responsible for this. In 1950, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had said that.

[English]

"Everything can wait but not agriculture."

[Translation]

We launched Irrigation Projects and worked for increasing the production of farmers. When Indiraji nationalised banks, your party, which was known as Jansangh, had opposed that. Due to nationalization,

farmers were benefitted. When Rajiv Gandhi said that when the Government releases one rupee the beneficiary gets only 16 paise, at this you arrived on the scene with a new politics of Mandal-Kamandal and diverted the attention from agricultural sector to this issue. I have reached this conclusion that.

[English]

The Indian agriculture has lost to the industrial sector in share of financial allocation. Agriculture has lost to the grand alliance of urban elites and industrialists

[Translation]

If we ask any economists about the budget presented by our Finance Minister, he will say only one thing that full protection has been given to industry.

[English]

Protection to industry results in loss to agriculture, it is at the cost of the farmers.

[Translation]

During the discussion on urea the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture said that there is no balance in this regard. I do agree with him. However, balance cannot be maintained by increasing the rates of urea. It can only be maintained by reducing the rates of phosphorus and potash. Balance cannot be maintained by just imposing it on the farmers and this will never be in the benefit of the country. You have to maintain this balance in Industry and Agriculture also. You have given protection to industry but unless protection is given to farmer, this country cannot make progress. I have mentioned three reasons. Cumulative effect is there as Deve Gowdaji has mentioned. As far as credit position is concerned, the farmer get only 35 per cent credit from organised sector - whether it is from cooperative bank and he has to depend on private sector for the remaining 65 per cent. Today Hon'ble Finance Minister has assured that no farmer will be handcuffed. But this can be said about cooperative banks only, but what will happen in regard to the 65 per cent of the loans taken from the private parties. The other point is with regard to inadequate storage facility. In villages, there is no storage facility where the farmers could keep their produce. There are no ware-houses or godowns anywhere. Atleast such arrangements should be made that the farmer could keep his produce in the ware-houses and could get bank loan against it and sell it when he is able to get remunerative price for it. Our country has growers as well as consumers.

If we give Rs. 100 to producer and Rs. 500 to farmer who produces wheat then according to that there should not be margin of more than 20% only then we can maintain balance. Unless this balance is maintained the farmer cannot make progress and neither the consumer gets satisfaction. FCI and many other agencies are also involved in it.

[Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda]

Today, we are discussing the issue of suicides committed by farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Punjab. What were the immediate reasons for committing suicide? Shri Balram Jakharji went there along with one Parliamentary Committee. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has promised that it will provide seeds at cheaper rates but they have not provided it. Instead farmers were provided seeds at price which is more than 10 times its actual cost. Due to this crops was damaged. There is no Crop Insurances Scheme for namesake. Unless there is any Crop Insurance Scheme, the farmers cannot be self-dependent. Here nothing has been discussed about pesticides. Hon'ble Finance Minister has said that is farmer friendly budget but there is not even a single item of input where he has given concession to farmers. Prices of fertilizers have been increased. Farmers are unhappy as there is no single window system. You have not made any arrangement for it.

When Shri Deve Gowda was M.P., he had said that crop loan should not be more than 6%. When he became Prime Minister, he could not do that. It can be possible that you may also not be able to do anything but efforts should be made. Today farmers are committing suicide. You should not be so unconcerned about farmers. The Government have created National Calamity Fund but it should have formed a Parliamentary Committee also. The members belonging to all the parties should find out as to why the farmers are committing suicides and how this problem could be solved.

[Translation]

There are many things to say but the time is limited. I know the Agriculture Minister. I am also aware of his ideas. You must be having some constrains due to which you are not expressing your ideas about urea whole heartedly. Prices of urea should be rolled back immediately. Credit system should be improved and a Parliamentary Committee should be set up to look into the reasons for the suicidal step taken by the farmers and also to evolved an immediate solution for this problem. The debt of the farmer should be waved off.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the apex House of the country is discussing the problems of the farmers very seriously for the last three days. Discussion is still continuing on this issue. The proposal of hon'ble Shri Vilas is being discussed.

160 crore farmers are there in the whole world. Out of which 50 lakh farmers belong to the 5 highly developed countries. Today, Indian farmers have been totally sidelined from economic-socio process. Efforts should be made to bring them back in the mainstream so that the farmers who are the backbone of our country could be brought back to its nucleous position.

I would like to draw the attention of the House towards some figures. If we see figure of last year's price rise, the ratio of the income of rural and urban population has

increased. It is a horrible situation. Per capita income of rural population in 1951 was Rs.195.50 and that of urban population was Rs. 813. This was the proportion of average income. Later this proportion was increased to 1:4. Thus this economic and social disparity has converted the farmers into a class which lacks confidence. In an agriculturist country, like India we give respect to peon, driver and a conductor but not to a farmer. This is due to our socio-economic structure.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, the price of hoe has increased by 18 times than it was in 1967. The price of blade of the plough has been increased by 30 times. The price of the coarse cloth which the farmers used to wear has increased more than 10 times. Just see the rates of tractor-since 1967, 67 times increase has been registered in its price. Prices of brick and steel have also been increased by 130 and 167 times respectively. Against this just see that the support price of main crop like paddy in 1990-91 was Rs. 205. In 1996-97 it has become Rs. 380. The price of wheat during 1991 was Rs. 225 which was increased to Rs. 415 during 1996-97. In this way we can calculate 21 other commodities. Many scholars and eminent members present in the House are aware of these facts and there is no need to inform them.

From production point of view, Punjab has remained the model State of India. In case of foodgrains where we are producing the maximum 3061 kg., our average production of paddy is 1 quintal 83 kg. Against it the production in China is 5067 kg in Burma 3085, in Japan 701 and in Egypt it is 5768. Thus, we are lagging behind in the production of a major crop like paddy. There was a mention of Swaminathan Committee here. Green Revolution was also mentioned here. I am quoting the figures pertaining to the period after Green Revolution. I find only one reason for this i.e. eco-scientific reason. Farmers are not getting the remunerative price of their produce. Farmers are affected under all circumstances whether it is rain, drought or flood. He does farming in every condition. He sells his produce and purchases other basic necessities of life like cloth, cereals or books for children and oxen for farming. Farmers can grow only one crop whether it is sugarcane, Cotton, rice, wheat or any other crop, he has to sell his produce on low cost while he purchases all other necessities of life at higher cost. This year due to the natural calamity, the crop of wheat and rice is selling at half the price of support price in the area of Madhya Pradesh which is known as mono crop area. You can also enquire from that area that Government agencies are not purchasing the produce and the farmers are compelled to sell it on the price lower than the support price. I have the figures of cost price of all the commodities. Through you, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister that if Government fail to provide the remunerative price of their produce, they will never be able to stand on their foot

17.00 hrs.

I would like to bring one more issue to your notice. Today morning, a discussion was going on about 25 year

perspective plan. This plan should not only be for cash crop but also for the foodgrains. How long we will continue to import foodgrains? If we fail to produce it in our country from how many places we will import the wheat. The wheat which is being imported from Australia, contains a weed naming Felosis Minor. Our Agro Scientists have warned that this weed is contributing in the spread of gajar and congress agrass which is responsible for destroying the crop in the whole country. If this weed continue to grow, then you must take the decision whether the farmers should continue farming or not. And if he continues, then kindly encourage and protect him. I do not believe that the farmers will survive only with the Government protection. If all the circumstances and the system goes against the farmers then he will definitely suffer. I would like to make a point that the disintegration of Russia was not the result of different ideologies but because of the fact that the agriculture was discarded there. If our country follow the same path then that day is not far off when our condition will be worse than that of Russia. Through you I would like to give a warning that the agriculture should not be discarded. Even under adverse circumstances we must remain firm on the stand that India remains an agriculture country. Farmers whether small or big can not be neglected, under any circumstances. While making reference of the statement given by hon'ble Agriculture Minister, I would like to conclude my speech with a mention that till the farmers are not happy, the country can not prosper and there is a need to change this prevailing situation. With these words I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI ANUP LAL YADAV (Saharsa): Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I won't take much time of this august House. First of all, I would like to thank you. The issue that is being discussed here is a very vital issue facing our nation. Discussions have been held regarding the farmers a number of times. You might be aware of the condition of the farmers since independence. Mr. Speker, Sir, there is an organised and an unorganised sector. The farmers of our country come under unorganised sector. They have no organisation. There are some organisations in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and some other States which hold demonstration at Boat Club at times. Sometimes, we have to court arrest. I have such an experience, as I have been a member of Bihar Legislative Assembly for 25-26 years and have had the chance to be in the Government as well. Serious discussions are held regarding the issues of farmers time and again, still the issues remain unresolved. The previous Government had made an announcement last year that wheat will be procured at the rate of Rs. 525 per quintal. I would like to submit that not a single centre was set up anywhere in Bihar and especially in District Supaul where the foodgrains produced by farmers could have been procured. There are no arrangements for storage either. I would like to know about the measures taken to resolve the problems being faced by the farmers. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sompal has been our colleague.

He is a very capable and intelligent person. He is aware of their position. He is concerned about the farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know that when our country has taken such great strides in the field of science, why doesn't we make progress in the field of production as well? Through you, I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister as to why doesn't he direct the factory owners manufacturing the big tractors to manufacture small tractors. The Union Government could make it compulsory for the factories manufacture big tractors at present to manufacture small tractors as well, it could change the entire scenario in the field of agriculture. Such is the situation in Bihar that the farmers are making use of age old agricultural implements used in the times of their forefathers. They are still using the same plough. Whereas new modern agricultural implements have been developed, age-old implements are being used for cultivation in Bihar. Now can then one hope to increase the yield? Through you, I would like to make a request in this House that the Government can change the situation completely in the field of agriculture by ordering the large factories to manufacture small agricultural implements.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has made the tractors costlier by imposing additional taxes on tractors. What was required was that taxes on the tractors should have been brought down to make them cheaper so that small farmers could also afford them. The previous Government had announced a subsidy of Rs. 30,000 for farmers for the purchase of tractors so that more and more farmers could purchase the tractors, however, not a single paisa has been released in the name of subsidy to farmers for purchase of tractors. The price of tractors has increased to such an extent that small farmers or medium farmers can not afford to buy a tractors. Would the Government ensure the well-being of the farmers by allowing the large factories to manufacture small tractors and other small agricultural implements.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say this with regard to Bihar and almost all the states of the country that except Haryana and Punjab, the condition of the farmers is not very good in the rest of the states and especially in Bihar it is even worse. Hence the agricultural labourers of Bihar are migrating to Haryana, Punjab, Delhi and other states of the country. The yield is very low. At certain places, there is a yield of only 10 maund to 15 maund per acre. The Government of Bihar does not have proper arrangement for the procurement and the storage of the crop as well. You should consider all these points seriously.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to irrigation facilities, I would like to tell the Union Government that the arrangements made in Bihar for irrigation have collapsed completely. No farmer is getting water for irrigation his field. Silt has accumulated in the major canals which has created a big problem. Due to this, the capacity for irrigation has been virtually nullified. I would like to bring it to the notice of Hon'ble Minister of State of the Ministry of Agriculture and say to him that due to silting, the flow in the canals has been reduced to a trickle. There are no facilities for irrigation

[Mr. Anup Lal Yadav]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to invite you to visit Bihar and see for yourself the fury of flood. You are well aware that Kosi river originates from Nepal. If irrigational facilities are provided, the condition of the farmers, of the country can be changed. I would like to submit that if the Government wishes to ensure the well-being of the farmers, sufficient water should be provided for irrigating their fields which would make the farmers prosperous. Though there are tubewells in Punjab, Haryana and around the city of Patna, there is no such arrangement anywhere in our area, as the power generation is insufficient and no power connections have been provided either.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, jute is produced in abundance in our area, however, the Union Government has not fixed any minimum price of jute so far, due to which the farmers are setting afire their crop of jute. The farmers producing jute are holding demonstration and burning effigies. The Union Government should consult the Jute Corporation of India and fix the price of jute at Rs.1000 per quintal. The jute produced by us is classified as Hessian and Ressian jute and hence rejected. Also, no price is fixed. Therefore, through you, I would like to request Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to pay attention towards procurement of jute and fix the procurement price of jute in Bihar at Rs.1000 per quintal after consulting the Jute Corporation of India. I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri T. Subbarami Reddy.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got the chance to speak after such a long wait.

[English]

Sir, for the last three days, a number of hon. Members of Parliament have been giving their valuable views on this most important subject. I really feel very sad that in the modern society, after 50 years of getting independence and when we are going to march twenty-first Century, still in some States poor farmers are committing suicides. This is something unbelievable. It is a matter of regret for the entire country. Now, the point is : what is the solution? This is the most important thing. I do not believe in giving a lengthy speech; I would like to give a very brief and point to point speech.

First of all more than 300 cotton growing farmers in Andhra Pradesh committed suicide. Then, it spread to the States of Karnataka and Maharashtra. Perhaps, if you do not prevent, it might spread to all other parts of the country also which might be a very dangerous situation. That is why, everybody is having concern about the subject. Why have the cotton growers committed suicide? The first most important reason was the extreme climate, drought and heavy rains. Either you may have floods or you may have complete drought conditions. In some parts of Andhra Pradesh, there were extreme weather conditions, there was no rain and there was a total drought. So, the ryots who had been growing cotton got into a serious problem.

Secondly, they have been using totally wrong agricultural methods. They are not educated, they are not

trained and they have no knowledge. Thirdly, they have been using spurious pesticides, innocently and ignorantly. So they have suffered. Their fourth problem is of getting loans. As some friends also told, if a farmer, the poor fellow goes to bank or a financial institution, they will not respond. For their own reasons, they cannot give loan to him. Then, they have to go to a private fellow who charges 30 or 40 per cent interest. As a result, they have a serious problem of money.

With these four reasons, in Andhra Pradesh, it started when the crop failed totally and they had the problem of not paying the money to the moneylenders. They have got into this problem also due to the use of spurious pesticides. Then, they could not bear it and committed suicides. The same thing spread to other States also.

Then, the Government took some action and sent some High-Powered Committee to study and examine the reasons for these suicides and also to give suggestions as to what decisions the Government should take so that they are able to give better credit facilities to the farmers. They have studied it and come back. I think that they must also have given some report. But as on today, I want to know from the hon. Minister what they have given and what action they are taking. It has two points—first, how to give help to a family whose members committed suicide and who is in a state of sorrow? And second, how to prevent such suicides and solve the problems of growers in future?

Sir, Andhra Pradesh requested that Rs. 500 crore be given to the State in order to enable it to help all those people who have suffered. They asked this amount before elections and the Government was considering it. Now, the new Government has come and, of course, the new Government is dreaming to give glorious results. We are happy about it. It is a challenge for the Government to give a maximum amount of Rs. 500 crore to Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, they must give some assistance to Karnataka and Maharashtra, and proportionately to other States also.

Sir, I bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the hon. Prime Minister of India has assured in the Rajya Sabha that he would give the compensation immediately for the victims of these deaths. But till now, nothing has been done. So, Shri Sompalji must accelerate that and request the Prime Ministerji so that it also comes with the assistance.

For future, what I precisely suggest is that now the Ministry of Agriculture and the Government should take it as a challenge. Irrespective of political affiliations, we are all Indians and must see the glorious and prosperous progress of this country. We must see that no poor farmer should be made to suffer. Irrespective of political affiliations, everybody is concerned. As Shri H.D. Deve Gowdaji has told clearly—it was a very good point—that all Members should together form a committee and give valuable, practical, constructive and effective suggestions, not imaginative. Some persons made a plea to insure the crops of the entire country, but it is impossible and impractical. Somebody says you give some pension. It is also impossible and impractical. The practical suggestion is

that first you take small portions of a few districts for crop insurance and make the insurance companies also to have the confidence to experiment. You should also make the farmers to feel the importance of it. Similarly, I do not think that the pension scheme, as is given to a Government employees, is possible for farmers.

Then, in future, you must train the farmers and also make an effort to see that spurious pesticides are not given. Regarding credit facilities to the farmers, the banks and financial institutions should be given clear-cut instructions by the Ministry of Finance in the Government of India, the Reserve Bank of India and the Prime Minister that they must give top priority to the farmers in a reasonable way.

Sir, nobody, can give a blank cheque to the farmers. It is not practicable. Therefore, as far as possible, when a poor farmer, who is genuinely growing cotton or any other produce, gets struck with any extreme climate or other circumstances, he should be helped on top priority basis by taking the suggestions of the State Governments also.

Sir, a lot of our hon. friends here spoke about the farmers in a general way. That is not the issue here. The issue is, in Andhra Pradesh, only cotton growers have committed suicide. So, we must investigate the reasons for it and find out what was the problem.

Then, a comprehensive agriculture policy should be formulated by the Government to help the farmers and it should include aspects like mechanised farming, streamlining of crop patterns in an effective and practical way etc. If that is done, it would be very helpful to the farmers.

Sir, there is already a Tobacco Board. So, I would suggest that on the line of the Tobacco Board, a cotton Board should be formed to train the cotton growers which would also help the cotton growers.

In conclusion, let us expect from Shri Som Pal and also from the Government a glorious result at the end of this debate to see that an immediate compensation of Rs. 500 crore is given to Andhra Pradesh and a proportionate amount is also given to Karnataka and Maharashtra. Then, let us take a pledge to see that such tragedies do not happen again in Indian history and see that maximum help is given to the farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very important subject is being discussed for the last three days and you have given an opportunity to most of the members to speak and we are grateful to you for that. The hon'ble members have covered almost all the points in a very good manner. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the farmers of those regions which formed the part of princely states in the pre-independence period. They are leading life of 16th Century even after 50 years of independence. In the states like Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar there are small farmers who possess only 2 to

5 acres of land. I request the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to conduct a study of the pitiable condition of these farmers. He may set up a study group in this regard for study and report. I would like to say that farmers belonging to the areas of feudal and princely states of Madhya Pradesh are still in a condition which is worse than that of labourers. These Ilakedars have grabbed all cooperative movements. Land Development Banks and Cooperative Banks and mortgaged the lands of the farmers. I regret to say that in Madhya Pradesh, land of more than fifty thousand small and marginal farmers has been mortgaged. Since their land has been taken away by the Land Development Banks, Cooperative Banks, they are compelled to flee to other states to earn their livelihood. The irrigation land in Madhya Pradesh is half of the total irrigation land in India. But there are several areas in Chhattisgarh and Vindhya where it is less than three per cent. Due to Central Forest Act, 1980 about 344 medium and small irrigation projects of backward state like Madhya Pradesh are lying incomplete in which State Government have spent lakhs of rupees and Government of India have also provided financial aid

I would urge the hon. Minister of Agriculture to have consultation with the Minister of Irrigation and Forests and give clearance to these projects.

The cost of Bann Sagar Irrigation project in Vindhya has increased from Rs. 600 crore to Rs. 3200 crore. Half of the work have been completed. But in this project three States- U.P., Bihar and Madhya Pradesh are involved. Their work is not going ahead. The land has been acquired from the farmers, they have been displaced without making any arrangement for their rehabilitation. Thousands of workers are getting their salary there. Similarly, the work on right canal of Narmada Dam is not being done for the last 15 years. It could have irrigated the drought affected area of Vindhya.

There is one more subject of study. I do not know whether the Hon. Minister of Agriculture or previous Government have conducted any study about the plight of farmers of such areas of the country where average irrigation is 10% or less than 5%. I think, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India should get it studied. They have stated in their National Agenda that they would bring specific schemes for the development of backward areas in the country. I am afraid that the declaration made by this Government may not remain on papers as that of the previous Government. We have to see that whatever declaration is made by the Government, is implemented sincerely.

There is a need of thorough probe of cooperative movement in Madhya Pradesh. The Ilakedars, feudals and influential people have exploited the poor people more than money lenders. They made them debtor by getting their thumb impressions. The poor people say that they have not taken the loan but nobody is listening to them. You and I have not enough time. Therefore, I shall make my speech brief.

[Shri Ramanand Singh]

I would like to suggest that the Government should evolve a National Agriculture Policy and give agriculture a status of industry. Crop Insurance Scheme should be made applicable all over the country and till this scheme is implemented, the farmers should be compensated for their loss due to natural calamities like flood, drought, hailstorm and fire. Recently, I was on tour to Satna district where I got the applications of villagers of six villages submitted to collector. The maximum compensation is one thousand rupees. Now it should be clearly decided and hon. Minister of Agriculture should make a declaration that farmers would get at least 50% of the damage if the standing crop is damaged by fire due to fault of electric current. But the fact is that the crop worth rupees 50 thousands has burnt and you are giving only Rs. 500 to the farmers and Patwari and Tehsildar are also asking for their shares from it.

Similarly, I would say that Agriculture Price Commission is constituted but it is also controlled by IAS Officers. They will enhance their salaries, enhance the salary of Governor. The salary of Governor will enhance to Rs. 60,000. They will say that the salary of President should be Rs. 1 lakh. Salaries of Members of Parliaments should be increased. We people here, at the cost of farmers, can take food at a subsidized rate of Rs. 5 and farmer of village may not get food even at the cost of Rs. 50 per Thali and that price is also fixed by the I.A.S. Officers wearing full pant and spectacles. My suggestion is that there should be 80% representation of farmers in Agriculture Price Commission. I hope that the Minister of Agriculture who is a son of a farmer, will try to do it. Similarly, the farmers apply for power connections for irrigations. In Madhya Pradesh, farmers have deposited the security money seven years back. Now they are asked to take temporary connections. For temporary connection Rs. 1500 is taken in three months. Therefore, today after this debate it should be decided that after the well is dug, pump is purchased and security is deposited by the farmers, the power connection will invariably be given within three months. Otherwise the electrical Engineer will not merely be suspended but terminated. This clear cut decision should be taken. Similarly, the farmers were killed in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, they have committed suicide. At present our Jogiji is not sitting here. He should advise his Chief Minister that if the farmers resort to agitation and demonstration, they will not be fired at. The farmers of Madhya Pradesh demonstrated because their Soyabean crop destroyed completely.

The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh gave orders of firing, 18 farmers were killed in Multai, 9 farmers died in prisons and hospitals due to lack of medical aid.

Our leader Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiaji had said that in democracy there is no scope for suppression by bullets. It is really shameful that even after 50 years of independence farmers have been meted with such a cruel behaviour. It is a slap on the face of democracy that farmers are compelled to commit suicide. The Government is resorting to firing.

Such a Government should not be allowed to remain in power at all. The Government which has given orders for lathicharge and firing on farmers staging demonstration for their demands should be dismissed immediately.

I hope that while replying hon. Minister of Agriculture would make announcement regarding implementation of our suggestions. There should be some positive outcome of this debate going on for the last three or four days. That would be a true homage to the farmers who had committed suicide or were killed in firing. Government should provide some more facilities to farmers so that they could feel that their elected representatives are not only worried about their welfare but are also working for that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak and I conclude my speech.

17.26 hours

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvatupuzha): Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important matter.

Sir, the issue of suicides by farmers has rocked the nation and we are trying to find out the ways and means to protect the interests of the farmers so that they will not commit suicides and they should never go to this extent. We all understand that this serious situation that has arisen is something which has to be overcome by putting our heads together. We all endorse the suggestions which have come and we all support the view that everybody should rise above party politics and come together to find solutions for this particular problem.

I would like to suggest one or two things and then I have done with it.

Sir, one of the most important things is credit facility. Now, some steps have to be taken to see that the farmers get their loans from nationalised and other banks in a less cumbersome way. A farmer must get immediate loan from a bank the moment he submits his application and whatever he has as security. Sometimes, he should be given loans without any security also or at the most with some personal or other guarantees that put lesser penalties on him.

Sir, with regard to the credit facility to be given to the farmers, the 18 per cent target which was fixed was never reached. The banks should not only be given the targets but we have to see that they are implemented. Your Ministry in proper coordination with the Finance Ministry has to see that banks give the targeted amount of credit to the farmers. This matter should be taken up very seriously. Further, if a farmer finds it difficult to pay back, then he must be given an opportunity to explain his position. A farmer is never given an opportunity to explain as to why he is not able to pay back in time. In this respect, there must be some sort of a moratorium. We have extended the benefit of

moratorium to the industry on so many occasions. The industrialists and other persons do take the advantage of moratorium before paying back the debts. They also get the facility of write-offs, which the farmer never gets.

So, I would suggest that we must find out some way to monitor these things and to ensure that the farmer gets the credit facility. If a farmer explains about his inability to pay back in time, maybe because of crop damage or weather conditions or natural calamities, he must be given sufficient time and there should also be a reduction in the interest being charged.

Sir, other aspects have already been dealt with. So far as the minimum support price which is intended to be given to the farmers is concerned, it is an opportunity for the farmer to get a proper price. But we never declare the minimum support price in time.

There is no system by which minimum support price in respect of many of the commodities is declared. Unfortunately, the whole land of Kerala has been converted to cash crops now. It is rubber, coconut, cloves, nutmeg or coca and what not? these farmers are put to a great loss because the price of each commodity which I have mentioned above and of other commodities, has come down very steeply. For instance rubber which was sold at Rs. 65 per kilo has come down to Rs. 25 now. How can a farmer get along?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.C. Thomas, please conclude. Please cooperate.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I will just mention that one daily newspaper in Kerala, *The Deepika* has published in its front page about a month back showing a rubber farmer cutting a rubber tree which was seven years old which has just given yield. He has cut all the 300 trees he had. This is the condition. We have to find a solution to the problem of farmers committing suicide. These farmers are also on the verge of committing suicide.

One simple thing which I should say is that this is an agricultural crop. But this is not being considered as an agricultural crop. This is put in the Ministry of Commerce which will only view things with a commercial mind. They do not have agricultural mind at all. This is the plight of many other farming commodities also.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Kailasho Devi to speak now.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I am concluding. I would just suggest that these commodities for which minimum support price has been fixed and declared is made uniform for all agricultural crops and something has to be done immediately so that farmers are saved from this calamity.

[Translation]

DR. PRABHA THAKUR (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, women MPs are not being given an opportunity to speak.

17.33 hrs.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN (Sheohar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the last many days a serious debate is going on in this House on the issue of suicide committed by farmers. I thank you for allowing me to speak.

Today police opens fire on farmers staging demonstrations for their demands. At some places farmers are committing suicide to press their demands, which is a serious matter. In the beginning they are taking their lives to justify their demands and convince people. But these killings continue when no attention is paid towards their problems. Farmers are unorganised. By taking their lives farmers are drawing the attention of this House and leaders of the country and the Government towards their problems. But if their demands remain unheard in this way, the day is not far off, when farmers will become violent and instead of committing suicide they would start killing. The Government should pay attention and take action to protect the interests of farmers. It is essential.

Indian farmers takes birth in debt and dies in debt. It is a tragedy that farmers grow potato, vegetables, wheat, rice, maize and many other things but their prices are fixed by traders, exploiters and the Government that represents the exploiting class. It is the actual position. Today in this House we are discussing not only the matter relating to the country but we are discussing farmers who earn their livelihood by agriculture. 70 per cent population of our country are farmers and 80 per cent people earn their livelihood by agriculture.

Even in this House most of members, about 70-80 per cent belong to farmers' families. In such a situation, who are preparing budget here? who has hold over the budget? It will be astonishing that the people involved in preparing budget have no concern about farmers or farming. But it is a fact. It is the tragedy of farmers. Presently, the budget has been prepared by BJP Government and Yashwant Sinha is a big farmer. I do not intend to hurt feelings of the hon. Members. I can understand if on such a subject person like Jakharji, Devegowdaji, Barnalaji, Sompal ji, and not so important persons like me and Ramanandji express their views and give speeches but one can imagine the consequences when on such a subject suggestions come from Subbaramiji and Vinod Khannaji. This is the real position(Interruptions) Those who have nothing to do with agriculture prepare budget and give suggestions. We welcome your suggestions if these are given for film industry. Do not meddle in this matter .. (Interruptions) Please let me speak. Prabhunathji has left the House in between(Interruptions) I would like to make a suggestion that difference in agricultural produce as well as goods produced by factories should be reduced.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): It is a suggestion that you don't give suggestions.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN: Please do not make suggestions in our matter(Interruptions) you pay

Rs. 10 thousand for producing film. During shooting of film artificial houses are made on sets which are dismantled later on. But there is no such provision in agriculture(Interruptions) It is the real situation. Therefore, I would like to say that we would be ashamed for the huge difference prevailing between rates of goods produced by factories and agricultural produce.

Sir, farmers produce cotton and do not get remunerative prices. But when cloth is manufactured by the same cotton, its price increase. Farmers produce sugarcane and get little money for it but sugar is manufactured by it and costs much. In the same way remunerative prices are not paid for jute whereas jute cloths are sold at quite higher rates. This is the tragedy with farmers. I would like to say that no socialist ideology can be successful and dreams of 'Gandhiji and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiaji would be realised so long the prosperity of farmer is not ensured. Farmers is backbone of our economy, so a serious thought should be given to this problem.

Our country became free 50 years ago and the situation is that when our brethern, uncles stage demonstration to press for their demands, bullets are showered on them. Rubber bullets, teargas shells are not used and orders for lathicharge are not issued to control such demonstrations. This is our justice to farmers and we proclaim to be well whisher of farmers. The policy of 'vote hamara, raj tumhara' is being followed. Our vote forms Government, we run the economy and feed people and such an action is taken against us. It is cheating fraud is being committed on us. We have no court to fight against this system. The prices of pump sets, tractors and urea have been increased. Our hon. Minister proclaims to bring a revolution for the poorest of poor. I would like to know from him as to whether new revolution is being introduced in this manner? I feel that no revolution can be successful here if green revolution is neglected.

Our country can not make progress by ignoring famers. I would like to say that excess is being committed against farmers. Ceiling on land has been done but no ceiling has been imposed on wealth. Our ancestors were made to understand not to keep more than 15 acres of land. I would like to repeat the words of Lohiaji that "Tillers should be given ownership of agricultural land." It is not justified that farmers are restricted to have not more than 12 or 15 acres of land whereas other people are free to have as much wealth as they want. This imbalance should be removed.

Sir, I would like to raise some more points here but due to paucity to time I would say that "Shanti nahin tab tak, jab tak sukh bhag na nar ka sum ho, na hi kisi ko bahut adhik ho, na hi kisi ko kum ho.

SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN (Balaghat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I come from such a district of Uttar Pradesh where agriculture is the only occupation. Balaghat parliamentary constituency situated between Chhattisgarh and Mahakaushal is a rice producing region.

There is need to find out the reasons for deteriorating financial condition of farmers in paddy producing districts to such an extent that they are compelled to commit suicide. Sir, this year the paddy crop of Balaghat district and the whole state of Madhya Pradesh has been affected of heavy rains, hailstorm and crops have been infested of insects. The paddy crop has been totally destroyed. The figures given to the Chief Minister of the state by the collector of Revenue department reveal that 40 districts of the states are in grip of natural calamities. In such a situation what is responsibility of the state. Government is totally indifferent towards farmers. This problem is being taken lightly. On the one hand Madhya Pradesh Government get electricity from public sector undertakings but on the other hand farmers are not getting adequate electricity supply. The present state Government has come to power by raising popular slogans of providing power connections upto 5 horse power free of cost. But in reality only a few connections have been provided to farmers during the last four years.

Sir, I would like to raise another one more point. I have done M.Sc. in agriculture and still engaged in agricultural activities and through my political and social activities. I am serving the public. For the last two days we are discussing here the issue of prices urea increased by this Government. In place of raising prices of urea the Government should make arrangements that stringent action should be taken against those companies which produce spurious fertilizers. We should produce mixture fertilizers. The fertilizers produced in our country have NPK ratio of 20:20:0 and these do not have potash at all. In some fertilizers, this ratio is 12:32:16 which cannot be considered balanced. How farmers would be able to provide additional potash to soil to increase fertility if it is not in fertilizers used by them. Farmers use urea for growth of crops and raising production. But excessive use of urea increases incidence of insects which aggravate further in rainy season. Sometimes the situation becomes out of control. I would like to say that balanced NPK ratio should be ensured in fertilizers. We have district-wise figures regarding NPK ratio required in fertilizers in my state. Licences of those fertilizer companies should be cancelled which do not use mixture potash in fertilizers produced by them. The Government has reduced the 50 per cent increase in price of urea but I request that this proposed increase should be rolled back. There is need for reducing the prices of potash and phosphorus. Farmers will not be able to use potash and phosphorus until their prices are lowered by the Government.

I can prove that excess use of urea declines the fertility of soil. It hardens the surface of earth and air cannot pass through it which is essential. Mr. Speaker, Sir, farmers of Madhya Pradesh have been ruined financially. He is supplied inferior quality seeds at higher rates by the seeds corporation. The farmers producing seeds are paid a sum of Rs. 100 or 150 per quintal additional for it but at the time of selling seeds double rates are charged. In such circumstances how farmers would do their work. The

subsidy given to seed supplying agencies should be doubled so that farmers could use certified and improved seeds. Otherwise due to low purchasing power they will not be able to use it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, farmers have become defaulter in case of repayment of loan taken by them from banks. A policy should be formulated for providing loan to them. Farmers are not being given power connections. In Madhya Pradesh itself 2 lakhs 15 thousand power connections of farmers are lying pending.

Recently farmers have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Farmers of Madhya Pradesh have also resorted to this practice. Farmers of Goti-Usmara in Balaghat district have also committed suicide. Why such incidents take place and how this could be stopped? I would like to make a suggestion in this regard. There is need to provide more and more relief to farmers. The Government should withdraw the surcharge increased on purchase of tractors.

While concluding I thank you for allowing me to speak.

17.48 hrs.

DR. PRABHA THAKUR (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The problems of farmers are being discussed in the House for the last three days. India is an agricultural country; 75 per cent of the total population as also the economic conditions of the country depend on agriculture. Farmer is the backbone of our economy. We give due respect to the slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' in our country. However, today, the reality is somewhat different. The country has never witnessed such a degrading state ever before. Several hundred farmers have committed suicide in recent past. There have been incidents of suicide in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and even in the prosperous state like Punjab. What has compelled the farmers to commit suicide? Who is responsible for it? If our farmers are constrained to commit suicide, all the tall claims about development and achieving nuclear capability are nullified. Through you, I would like to submit that whatever number of nuclear tests we may conduct, unless we safeguard the interests of farmers, we would not be able to safeguard the security of the country. Today, the condition of the farmer has deteriorated to such an extent because he is financially incapable and finds himself unable to fulfil the financial requirements of his family. When he gets under debt worth thousands and lakhs of rupees, he is compelled to commit suicide.

This is really very pathetic and deplorable condition. Even after span of 50 years of independence, the farmer who provides foodgrain to the entire country is in such a miserable condition. Farmers constitute 70-75 per cent of the total population. I do not know how much percentage of the economic resources is spent on them and what plans have been formulated for their upliftment. Do the Government propose to spend 70-75 per cent of our resources on their upliftment, development and making them economically strong? The farmers in Rajasthan receive very meagre compensation when their crops are

hit by hailstorms or some other natural calamity; sometimes Rs. 75 or Rs. 90, the amount not even sufficient to meet the cost of seed. Today a farmer has to spend Rs. one lakh rupees to get electricity connection for his well, as single pillar costs Rs. 9000. The cost of submitting an application form to seek an electricity connection was Rs. 20-25, which has now increased to Rs. 2000. There is no insurance scheme which may provide relief to farmers at the time of natural calamity. Through you I would urge to Government that the farmers should get remunerative price for their produce and a uniform price policy in this regard should be implemented in all states. The farmers should get adequate compensation when their land is acquired. They should be issued pass book having all the details regarding land dealings, so that they are not directed by a "Patwari" or "Tehsildar".

In this end I would like to submit that the Government should take measures for the welfare of farmers. They should not have double dealings by just assuring farmers economic development and doing nothing. The Government must take all the possible measures to strengthen the financial conditions of farmers and to prevent the problems faced by them. This is my only submission.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very important matter which is being discussed here at present. The duration of the House should be extended by at least one hour. One member of the Samajwadi party has got the opportunity to speak. So, I may kindly be allowed to speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanji): Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is an Agricultural country. When the newspapers reported that farmers in this country were committing suicides, people in rural areas were alarmed. Even members of both the sides here were also concerned as to why farmers in rural areas were compelled to take such an extreme step of committing suicide.

There are about seven lakh villages in this country. The condition of the rural areas have never been reviewed properly nor a serious thought has ever been given to this aspect. None of the three essentials - food, clothing and housing facilities is being properly provided there. Farmers in rural areas do not have any housing facility. They, who provide us food, are not able to get proper clothing. Their children avail neither adequate education facilities nor proper medical facilities. Even they do not get clean drinking water. What is this happening in the country? Why there is so much discrimination?

There is no law for the welfare of farmers. Just now Shri Anand Mohan referred to the policy makers who enjoy the luxuries of life in Delhi and formulate policies for farmers; unless these laws have a bearing of ground realities in this regard, they will not serve any purpose. The prevailing situation in rural areas is just a contrast to that in urban areas. In cities like Delhi there is a widespread misuse of electricity, whereas in villages farmers find

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

themselves unable to get power supply to irrigate their land. In cities water is wasted in fountains installed to add the beauty, whereas in villages the crops are damaged due to lack of water. Injustice is being done to the farmers and the Government must pay a serious attention in this direction.

The land ceiling Act has been enacted which provides that a farmer cannot acquire more than 15 acres of land, whereas this law does not apply in Delhi. Land in rural areas is still very cheap and sells at a rate of Rs. 2000 per acre whereas in Chandni Chowk area in Delhi, the value of land is Rs. 25 lakhs per Katta.

[Translation]

Land is being sold at the rate of 25 lakh rupees per "kutta" in Chandni Chowk in Delhi. If land Ceiling Act has to be implemented, please give us 10 "kutta" of land in Chandani Chowk and we promise to give 50 acres of our village land in exchange of it. There are many anomalies in the Act which create a lot of problems for the farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister towards Bihar. North Bihar and Central Bihar depends on Agriculture. Central Bihar is a hilly region and Northern Bihar is a sandy area. There are no means of irrigation there. The Government of Bihar was extending canals but the work on canals has not been completed so far. The funds spent by Government on this account have been diverted and swindled by politicians and bureaucrats alike. The farmers suffered on two counts. First their land was acquired paying them a meagre compensation in the name of constructing canals, second the canals were not constructed. Today farmers of North Bihar are facing difficulty due to water logging because crops are damaged in thousands of acres of land. Farmers are unable to sow and crops are also damaged due to floods and natural calamities.

I will conclude my speech by giving one last suggestion. I would urge the Government to give agriculture the status of industry. I remember that the rate of cement was increased from Rs. 32 to Rs. 103. The industrialists here fix their prices by adding up their capital investment, the cost of labour and the material used and after calculating their profit, get it sanctioned from Government of India. Their products are sold on that price but who will fix the price of crops produced by farmers? Therefore I want that a Farmers Committee should be constituted at the state level consisting 80% representatives of farmers, representatives of professionals and Government representatives who should fix the price of agriculture produce bearing in mind the cost of seed, fertilizers, water and electricity. The Central Government and State Government should approve that price and accordingly their crops should be sold in market on that price.

I would like to make one small request to Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture through you. In our area there is one sugar mill in Mehwaat. Chhapra and Gopalganj are sugarcane producing areas. It is unfortunate that for the last six years Rs. 8 crores of the farmers is outstanding

against this sugar mill. The farmers are on the verge of starvation. The Minister of Agriculture is present here. I would urge the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and the Government to expedite payment of this outstanding amount of Rs. 8 crore to the farmers. Mere speeches and debates are not sufficient. I would like to say that Government should enact practical laws keeping the interests of farmers in view.

With these words, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

18.00 hrs.

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshetra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am waiting for the last two days to speak about farmers of my Haryana state. I may kindly be given only two minutes of time. No one has spoken from Haryana state(Interruptions) I would like to draw your attention towards this thing that in our Haryana state(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not now .

[English]

Madam, your name was called, but you were not present in the House.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now , Shri Virendra Singh may please speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA SINGH (Chail) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given my name to you since morning. We are all new members so we may also be given time to speak.(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGAR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, I would like to speak on this important subject. So I must be given a chance to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you a chance to speak. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the time of the House may be extended(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the time of the House may be extended for another half an hour and this discussion should be completed today itself. The three days which you have given(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Still a few more members are there to participate in the discussion. If the House agree we may extend the time by one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House may be extended for one hour.

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all agree with this proposal that House may be extended for one hour. All members, who want to speak over this subject, may be given time to speak.

18.02 hrs.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is today discussing the matter of suicides committed by the farmers in many states of this agrarian country. It is quite sad that the farmers of a country that boasts to be an agriculturally dominated country belonging to the farmers, a country of villages and rural folks, should resort to committing suicides. The question is why did the farmers take refuge in such an extreme step? The answer lies in the simple fact that the farmers are not adequately rewarded for the sweat they shed while labouring in their fields. To my mind, that is why they have committed suicide. This problem is not confined to certain states alone. Given such circumstances, it may not be long before the farmers of all the states will feel constrained to commit suicide and in order to contain this trend, it becomes imperative for the Members of this side as well as the other side to generate a consensus on the point of avoiding the circumstances that lead to farmers' suicides. The reason that forced the farmers of south India to commit suicide was that they did not get satisfactory dividend in return of toiling hard in their fields and their produce was devastated due to natural calamity or may be any other reason. There have been such stray incidents in north India as well.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with an aim of making the farmers prosperous tractors are offered to them on loan so that they can rapidly plough their fields on a large scale and augment production. But sadly enough the farmers does not earn a handsome amount from his produce that would suffice to repay the loan taken by him for purchasing the tractor. Under the loan policy framed by the Government, the farmer's land is kept mortgaged by the bank in lieu of the loan advanced to him which is auctioned once he fails to reimburse the loan amount.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmer's land is auctioned at throw-away prices.

18.05 hrs.

[MR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, under the Government's loan policy the farmer's land mortgaged by the bank in lieu of loan for tractor is put to auction on account of the farmer's failure to repay the loan, thus rendering him landless. I would like to put forth a suggestion for the kind attention of the hon'ble Minister which if honestly implemented may prove helpful in solving the farmers problem and save them from being rendered landless. The farmer's dream of prosperity is shattered when his land gets auctioned for his failure to repay the bank loan. He can be pulled out of that crisis. The suggestion is that instead of auctioning his land, the bank may manage his land till the time he is able to repay the loan amount and once the loan is recovered, the land may be transferred back to him so that he can toil on the land and earn a livelihood. The only way to make the farmer prosperous is to make a provision for him and the loan advancing bank to enter into such an agreement. Otherwise, the present circumstances will soon lead to the north Indian farmig community too committing suicides.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, ours is an agrarian country, a country of villages which has the capacity to produce a yield sufficient for feeding the whole world. But that is not so because whereas the prices of the steel products manufactured in an iron and steel facoty are determined by the factory owner, those of the farm produce and the milk and milk products belonging to the farmers are determined by the Ministry of Agriculture headed by such people who have not even stepped into the fields in their whole lifetime. Formerly, we sat on the opposition benches, but now, we are occupying the treasury benches, yet, I think that while debating agriculture we all speak with one voice throughout India. Mine may be a bitter suggestion but I do not hesitate to put forth a bitter suggestion to my Government. I would like to suggest to the hon. Agriculture Minister that the farmers should be given the right to determine the prices of their produce. The name of the hon. Minister will go down in the annals of history as a revolutionary and historical Minister since 1952 once he takes this exemplary decision to that effect. There have been great personalities like Shri Jagjivan Ram as his predecessors who have held the portfolio earlier but such a decision will make him different from others and win him accolades. Therefore, I reiterate that Government should formulate a policy entitling the farmer to determine the prices of his farm produce, including milk and milk products. If this is not done, there lies the danger of the suicide cases of farmers being reported from the north India as well.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make another important point. We are noticing the dominance of foreign companies in the agriculture sector. Not only the Government, but the whole House is one in raising the slogans of 'Swadeshi' and 'Swawlamban' but I can't understand how can the slogan of 'Swadeshi' be termed as red, green, yellow etc. Let me tell Shri Anand Mohan that "Swadeshi" is the other name of patriotism

If he is credulous about his patriotism, he should not equally doubt the patriotism of the Members of this side

[Shri Virendra Singh]

There is no dearth of people in the BJP and its allied parties who are concerned about the rural India and its prosperity. Let him not harbour the misnotion that since we are in the Government, we should be least concerned about the rural India. If somebody does not show concern about the rural India, the treasury benches(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is scarcity of time and list of Members who want to speak is long. Therefore, please sit down now.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Through you, Sir, I would like to make one thing clear(Interruptions) You will not feel bad of what I am going to say(Interruptions) While in the Chair you usually say that(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I feel bad if the hon. Members do not get time. It is, therefore, pertinent to brief.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: I am speaking in brief only. You also deliver long speeches so how can you expect us to speak in brief when you are in the Chair. You also make the same point when you are in our position so you should not be saying such thing when you are in the Chair.

I would like to say through you that ruling as well as the opposition benches in this House have to decide that the foreign companies should not get a hold on our agricultural sector. To make our country self-reliant and to awaken the feeling of patriotism in the country, we should strengthen the villages of India, we should strengthen people working in fields only then the tendency of committing suicides can be checked. In the end, I will conclude my speech by saying one thing. The gangetic plains are the most fertile land throughout the world. You will be worried as well as wonder-struck after listening about the fact that that region at present is accounting for the lowest yield. I would like to tell Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that if Gangetic plains were irrigated then I can guarantee that gangetic plains alone can provide sufficient foodgrains to all the nations of world.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my constituency Mirzapur Bhadoi is a hilly area. The government should formulate a special plan for such areas. I would suggest that if small irrigation projects are taken up on small rivulets in the area, thousands of acre of land can become cultivable. As a result thereof, the farmer will get benefit of agriculture and they will not commit suicide. In an agricultural country like India, if we want to prevent the farmers from committing suicide, we should make collective efforts through this House and we should not accuse that Bharatiya Janata Party is in power and it is due to their policies that farmers are committing suicide. This situation is confronting the entire nation, the House the largest Panchayat and if all of us discharge our responsibility then I feel that the farmers will be prosperous. With this, I conclude my speech.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, we were listening

to this debate with great enthusiasm for the last three days. I am pained by seeing the condition of farmers in India because I am also a son of farmer.

[English]

I would like to convey my affluent stream of sorrow, compunction and condolence to all the bereaved families of those farmers who had sacrificed their valuable lives by committing suicides at the altar of the struggle of millions of the down-trodden farming community of the country.

Today, I would like to pay my tributes to the farmers who have sacrificed their lives by committing suicide as martyrs of the struggle for emancipation of the peasants of our country. The condition of most of the farmers is very-very deplorable.

[Translation]

I do not know this as to how much attention you have paid towards the incidents of suicide that took place in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra and towards the conditions of farmers of our entire north-eastern region. Though there has been no such incident of suicide in our Bodoland area i.e. Assam, even then.

[English]

Such a situation is coming which is likely to push our downtrodden farmers also to commit that sort of suicides. The sort of privileges and facilities that should have been provided to the tribal farmers in the entire territory of Assam, particularly within the proposed Bodoland, have not yet been provided.

Since last year, there is a serious drought-like situation in the entire Bodoland. During last year, I called on the then Union Minister of Agriculture, Shri Chaturanan Mishra. I had requested him to declare the entire Bodoland as 'severely drought-affected region' and also to sanction a minimum of Rs.100 crore as a direct Central grant for the well-being development of the affected farmers. But that sort of action has not been taken. Through this august House and also through the hon. Chairman, I would like to request the Government of India to declare the entire Bodoland Territory as a severely drought-affected region and to sanction a minimum of Rs. 100 crore as direct Central grant for the well-being development and protection of the languishing tribal people i.e. the tribal farmers-of the entire territory of Assam with special reference to the Bodoland.

[Translation]

There the question of fertilizer does not arise. The amount is being given by the Government of India, from that amount, how much amount is given to the people of Bodoland area. This is the main question.

[English]

That is why I would like to appeal to the Government of India to set up a high-level inquiry commission to go into

detail of what the successive State Governments of Assam have done in regard to this matter.

I would also like to urge upon the Government of India to take certain concrete steps and prepare an action plan for constructing some viable multi-purpose Irrigation Projects on the rivers flowing down from Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh along the Bodoland Territory. As on today only two irrigation projects have been constructed in Bodoland. But these two projects also have not yet been commissioned. But mysteriously, what we have been observing is that these two projects have already been announced by the previous Congress Government as having been commissioned.

[Translation]

It was stated that water is being used for irrigation. However, this is not the factual position, because till now the water has not reached the agricultural lands.

[English]

On a particular irrigation project, which is called the Champa Irrigation Project, a sum of Rs.100 crore has already been spent. While

[Translation]

Even today people are not getting water.

[English]

Sir, I would like to request the Government of India to set up a high level enquiry commission to look into the irregularities committed by the concerned authorities. I would also like to appeal to the Government of India to set up a Central Agriculture University at Kokrajhar so that the tribal youths of our region could have the opportunity to become agricultural scientists and agricultural technocrats. It is because the other non-tribal officers are not willing to serve within the Bodoland area.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: O.K. Please conclude in one minute.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Therefore, I have one more suggestion that

[English]

throughout the country there should be a separate fund allocation for the tribal farmers.

[Translation]

The government should give subsidy on tractors to tribal farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: O.K. Now please conclude

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, with these few words, I am concluding my speech. But again I would like to appeal to the Government of India that they should very seriously address the burning problems of the region and the untold sufferings being faced by the Bodos and other tribal farmers who, have been languishing in the proposed Bodoland territory since time immemorial.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri K.D. Sultanpuri. Please be brief as several other Hon'ble Members are yet to make their submissions.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been waiting for a chance to speak since yesterday. Now that you are in the Chair, I shall be able to get some additional time.

I express deep regrets over the death of farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab and Haryana. The State Governments have also asked the Union Government in this regard to provide them money so as to enable them to pay compensation. The State Governments have made a request to the Union Government, however the Central Government has still not given any directions as to how much money has been given to these State Governments. Similarly more financial assistance should be given to such states throughout the country where such incidents of deaths have occurred, whether it is Bengal, where a number of people have died due to flood or Orissa, where again a number of deaths have occurred. The Union Government has sent a team there. I would like to submit that I am especially mentioning Himachal Pradesh because this matter relates to the farmers of that area as well. 120 farmers died in Himachal Pradesh when an earthquake occurred at village Chargaon in Rohru sub-division falling under my constituency. The earthquake rocked the mountain, as a result of which, their houses were destroyed and everything was wiped out. Most of the damage was done in Uttar Pradesh. The Paonta District in the Sirmour Valley (H.P.) was flooded. The land of the farmers was damaged due to soil erosion caused by flood. The farmers have had to suffer heavy losses due to flood.

I would also like to submit that fruit is produced on large scale in my area. Crops of apples, potatoes and stone fruits are grown there which help strengthen the financial position of people of that area. This crop has been damaged by insects and it has turned rotten after being ploughed by certain diseases. Damage has also been caused to an extent due to hailstorm which has occurred in all the 12 districts of Himachal Pradesh.

I would like to submit that the farmers are not in a position to bear these losses. I am of the view that no Government should order opening fire on farmers. Three

[Shri K.D. Sultanpuri]

farmers were killed in my constituency due to firing a long time ago. They were making a demand for fixing of support price for apples but nobody listened to them. The then Government ordered firing due to which three farmers were killed. All these farmers belonged to my area. My friend Shanta Kumar ji is present here. He was the Chief Minister of the State at that time. It was during his tenure that firing was done and three persons were killed.

I request for a support price of Rs. 5 per kg. for apple for the farmers. The members from Kerala, Bihar and other states who have participated in the debate have also raised a demand for fixing of support price. If we were to throw a glance at the constitution of the committee set up to fix the support price, we shall find that it has no representatives from the farmers, the farmers union and none of the leaders of the farmers has been included in the committee. Some bureaucrats and scientists drawing hefty salaries fix the price and Hon'ble Minister reads out the report prepared by them. I would like to submit that if you are a well-wisher of the farmers and if you wish to fix a support price and improve the lot of farmers of all the states, the farmers' organisations and the Members of Parliament who have participated in the debate, should be involved in this exercise. Hon'ble Minister is very intelligent. He has the experience of being both in the ruling as well as in the opposition party. I am hopeful that he will surely think about the well-being of the farmers. I am saying that he has had the experience of being on the other side because he has been in the opposition party for quite a long time and presently he is in the ruling party. He belongs to a family of farmers and is a gentleman. Hence he should surely think as to how he can ensure the welfare of the farmers as he was desirous of ensuring their well-being when he was in the opposition.

So long as irrigation system is not improved in the mountaineous region, development cannot take place. You had stated while replying to a question this morning during the Question Hour that all the mountains are being denuded due to rain water. This is a fact. The mountains have been shorn of trees. People are mining limestone. Similarly the mining of limestone is being carried out at a large scale at Dehradun in Uttar Pradesh and also at Shilai region close to Paunta. The Forest Department of the Central Government is functioning there. Earning to the tune of crores of rupees is being made. However the farmers are suffering losses. The trees are being felled in the mountaineous region which is giving rise to soil erosion. Damage is being caused to Punjab as well because it has to face the fury of floods. The agricultural area is being affected. We wish to plant trees. If there are no trees on the Government land, it should be allotted to the residents of that area so that they may plant apple trees. This will help them improve their financial condition and will benefit the country as well. The Forest Department will also not run into losses. The farmers will work for free and will be able to increase their income. They won't cut the trees. If the Government does not check the large scale felling of trees in our area, Punjab will face the fury of flood and the

agricultural production will be affected as well. The farmers are facing worse condition every year. The Government speaks of afforestation. The issue of constructing canals is raised during elections but such projects do not materialised. Crores of rupees are spent, still the work remains incomplete. The farmers are worried as they are not getting water for irrigating their fields. Such is the situation in the neighbouring states also that the farmers find themselves helpless. I hope that you will pay attention towards it and benefit the farmers. You will strive to help them. The Scheduled Caste people are harassed on one hand by the landowners and on the other by the Government.

The land allotted on patta has been allotted for the benefit of the poor. They should be provided loans by the bank. Such a treatment should not be meted out to them that they are made to visit the bank every day and still the loan is not sanctioned by the Bank Manager. The farmers should be helped in the manner. So long as we do not help them, they can not progress. Even if it is the case of deaths occurring in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Bihar and Bengal, all the people throughout the country have deepest sympathy for them. I feel that you will surely take some effective steps in this regard. The support price of the crop should be announced for the farmers of Himachal Pradesh to ensure their prosperity. I have written to Hon'ble Prime Minister. I will read it out that this much loss has been incurred. I have got a reply that this much money has been given to the Government whereas the Government of Himachal Pradesh had asked for a grant of Rs. 400 crore, but you have reduced it(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, please conclude now. The letter has been sent and it will be read there. There is no need to read it out here. Please conclude.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Attentions should be paid towards the farmers. Support price of Rs. 5 per kg. should be fixed for apples. With this, I conclude.

18.32 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No.15/98 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to reduce excise duty from 35 per cent *ad valorem* to 32 per cent *ad valorem* on goods, commonly known as petrol, under sub section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 376/98]

18.33 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Incidents of suicide committed by farmers in various parts of the country due to non-payment of Remunerative prices for their Agricultural Products—contd.*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshetra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is discussing a very sensitive issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Agriculture Minister wants only suggestions.

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: An introduction has to be made. It is a very serious matter. After all, why the farmer was compelled to take such an extreme step? when the farmer did not get adequate reward for his hard work and did not see a ray of hope anywhere, he took such a suicidal step in much desperation. We can not shirk of our responsibility simply by evolving a solution of this problem in our own way. Everybody says that farmer is the backbone of the country. However, when it comes to do something for their welfare, everybody shirks his responsibility. The foremost requirement is to provide electricity and water to them. There is a big problem of water and electricity in my Haryana state. During my visit to my constituency, I have been told that sometimes villagers do not get water and electricity for 15 days altogether. Today, the government of HVP and BJP alliance is in power in Haryana. This Government had given thrust to three main issues in its election manifesto. The first was that Dadupur-Nalvi and also a link canal between Satluj and Yamuna will be constructed in six months. Ganga water from Haridwar will be made available within 90 days to the state and Crop Insurance Scheme will be implemented. However, even after the 2 years rule of this Government none of these promises have been fulfilled.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Central Government should compel the Haryana Government to implement these plans without any further delay till the BJP Government is in power at Centre and an alliance of HVP and BJP is in Haryana. In my Parliamentary Constituency, crops in hundreds of acres of land is destroyed in Kehva, Thanesar and Dadri in Shahbad every year due to the devastating flood in Ghaghar and Markanda rivers. No steps have been taken by the Centre and State Governments till today to check the floods. Farmers have to bear heavy loss due to this, State Government adds insult to injury by paying a cheque of Rs. 50 as compensation. This should not be done. How will India survive without farmers. I strongly appeal to the Central Government to solve the problem of flood by constructing dam on Dangra, Ghaghar and Marcanda rivers without further delay. Farmers are having bumper crop in Peheva and Kula regions. Along with all these problems, leasing of land is also a burning problem. Central and

State Government should be compelled to evolve a permanent solution of leasing problems. Crop Insurance Scheme should be implemented not only in Haryana but all over the country. Water and electricity should be provided to the farmers free of cost. I think all the problems of farmers can be solved if the Central Government implement these two suggestions honestly.

Sir, farmers should also be provided marketing facility for their produce. The storage facility should also be provided to them. Prices of their produce should also be raised in proportion to the increased prices. The Central Government should make provision to waive off the loans to some extent. Prices of Urea raised by the Government should also be rolled back. In the present situation, price of wheat should be fixed at 700 rupees per quintal. In the Agricultural Commission where prices of crop are fixed farmers should be given adequate representation so that they could raise their voice and their right could be protected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All points have been covered. now please conclude.

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: It will be possible only when Central and State Governments will be compelled to implement all these schemes honestly.

If more and more provision is made in the budget for agriculture, then these problems can be solved. I strongly appeal to the Central Government that at least these two schemes should be implemented at national level without any delay. Alongwith it, crop insurance scheme, water and electricity facilities should be provide to them. Farmers not only feed the hungry masses of the country but also make our country self dependent. It is the farmer who saved our country from begging foodgrains from other countries. If we can import the foodgrains from Australia at higher cost, can't we increase the production of foodgrains in our own country by providing water and electricity free of cost and also other facilities to the farmers at lower cost

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: Sir, these are national problems. Farmer should be made prosperous otherwise suicides which are being committed in one state will spread to other states also. Farmers will continue to take a suicidal step. Farmers have been shot dead in Tohana and other regions of Haryana even during the Congress rule. However, at present HVP and BJP alliance is in power.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: Farmers were fired upon in Matiyali region also. I would like to say that if the farmers are continued to be killed in such a way, it will be an ill omen for our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Be calm. Please take your seat.

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI : Sir, I would like to say that if these schemes are implemented honestly the problems of the farmers can be solved.

*SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharwar- South): Mr. Chairman Sir, first of all let me thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this very important discussion concerning the welfare of farmers, who are the backbone of our nation's economy. On behalf of my party, Lok Shakti, I would like to dwell upon few very important issues related to the serious problems of farmers. So far many of my honourable colleagues have expressed their views and gave very valid suggestions in support of our farmers. I am also joining my colleagues to support the cause of farmers. About a hundred years ago, the Britishers had enacted the "Corn Act of England" in their country during the year 1913 to safeguard the interest of their farmers. Unfortunately, in our country even now we do not have any law to protect the farmers from destruction. I, therefore, urge upon the honourable Minister to set up a Committee at least to save the farmers. A few days ago one marginal farmer of Kadapatti village, Kundagol Taluk, Darwar district, Karnataka, committed suicide by consuming pesticide. I personally went to his house and enquired the matter. He had only two acres of land. Hence he took another 10 acres of land from his neighbours on contract basis and grew chilly. He had taken a loan of one lakh rupees. The chilly yield was very low. He got only 20 to 25 kilograms per acre. He could pay neither the interest nor the instalment of the loan. This is the cause of his death.

Sir, the farmer cultivated chilly and my surname is also Manasinakai (chilly). I am mentioning this as an example to show how the farmers are suffering in our country.

On one hand it is humiliating to mention that there is no support price for important crops like paddy, govina jowar, jowar and ragi and on the other the Centre have very recently increased the support price of wheat by one hundred rupees per quintal. Why is this discrimination? The merchants particularly in Karnataka do not come forward to buy ragi, paddy, jowar, etc. The farmers cannot sell their foodgrains at a very low price. These causes are dragging the farmers to commit suicide one after another. Hence it is high time for the Centre to realise the importance of support price particularly for crops like ragi, jowar and paddy. There is an urgent need to bring an Act to protect the farmers. The support price should be reviewed and increased in accordance with the prevailing situation. Otherwise, mere speeches in this august House may not come to the rescue of the hopeless farmers.

**SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (Ramanathapuram) : Hon'ble Chairman, I deem it a privilege and feel proud to speak in Tamil in this august House. At the same time when I feel proud to render my speech in Tamil, I also feel anguished, agonised and ashamed to speak during this

discussion on the sorry plight of Indian farmers who are forced to commit suicide at a time when our country is celebrating the fiftieth year of our independence.

Our beloved founder-leader of our party Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Late lamented Dr. Puratchi Thalaivar (Revolutionary leader) MGR made a movie "Nadodi Mannan" in 1956. In that movie, a revolutionary hero, a common man would get an opportunity to occupy the throne of the king. Making use of that opportunity he would be enacting a law to benefit the poor. The law so enacted would enable the farmers to get two pairs of bulls to plough the fields. Ploughshare would be given to the farmers free of cost. Agriculturists would also be entitled to get two bags of seeds free of cost. He acted in that movie directed by himself and released in 1956. He would then make an announcement that multi-storeyed buildings would be constructed to house the poor. One of his advisors in the Council of Ministers would then ask him as to what should be done with the slums in which the poor were dwelling all along. As they would not be required any further he would then prefer them to be torched and removed. Such was his zeal and ambition to see that all the poor are made well-to-do. I who hail from Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam founded by such a great visionary a leader would like to participate in a discussion to highlight the agonising problems faced by the farmers of this country.

India is an agricultural country with about 70% of the population taking to farming activity as their occupation. Ever after the country became independent so many Prime Ministers and so many parties have come to power highlighting this feature of the country. But today we find farmers ending their lives committing suicides in several states of the country. We cannot afford to approach the problems of the farmers with a common yardstick. There cannot be a uniform policy for this vast country. There are farmers from hill areas. There are farmers in the river valleys and deltas who get the irrigation from great rivers that flow unceasingly. There are farmers who rely only on ground water, deep underground water. There are farmers who look forward to rain as the only source in the absence of rivers and ground water potential. Such land and such tillers of the soil are found all over the country in many States, many districts. The natural and geographic conditions vary from region to region. If we are going to evolve plans and schemes in a uniform way for the whole of India sitting from here in this Parliament at the seat of power in the Union Government we may not derive the benefits fully. We may not be passing on the benefits in a complete fashion to all the farmers of the country. This is what happened for the past 50 years.

I would like to cite an instance: For the past 10 to 15 years the Union Government are allocating and spending crores of rupees on a project called construction of percolation ponds. Under this scheme Rs. 20 thousand was given for a single percolation pond. This amount was fixed some 10 years ago. With this money a wall across a rain water stream used to be raised to conserve rain water

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

** Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

This was aimed at increasing the ground water potential. The bureaucrats sitting here evolved this scheme may be without going in to the ground realities. With that money only a wall of 3½ feet could be raised. All the rain water flowing through the stream could not be conserved. With that structure short of meeting the requirement, the water so saved would not last for more than 10 days or one month a maximum. The agricultural department under the aegis of the Union Government has been making tall claims that they have evolved strategies and schemes to augment the ground water potential avoiding the wasteful flow of rain water streams and other flash flood streams into the oceans. They have been saying that they have spent crores on this. They have been showing accounts as mere accountants sitting pretty here. But the real benefits of those schemes did not percolate down the line. They failed to yield tangible results.

Several fertilizers most of them with false labels are brought out by several fertilizer companies. This Government is giving them all subsidy. But the farmers resort to suicides. What are the factors that lead them to this peril? On one hand our farmers do not get remunerative prices for their agricultural produce. On the other hand their crops are destroyed by natural disasters time and again. There is one more reason that the respective State Governments are not taking adequate steps to protect the interests of the farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : Sir, I come from a party that has 18 members here. Let me be given some more time if not half-an-hour to complete my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Continue your speech.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY: So I would like to point out that we have not got enough of benefits inspite of our allocating and spending so much. It is only because of the indifferent attitude of the Government we witness suicide deaths of the farmers. These kind of deaths are found there in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and not in Tamil Nadu. But it will not mean that Tamil Nadu farmers are happy. They are a deprived lot but still they have a self-esteem. There is a saying in Tamil. 'If a farmer goes in to his income and expenditure account there is nothing left behind.' The lot of the farmers needs to be improved. The toiling tillers face several hardships. The paddy farmers do not get remunerative price now. Ordinary rice costs about Rs. 10 per kilogram in Tamil Nadu today. The paddy of that variety do not get buyers from among the traders. Th levy price offered by the Government is not merely far from lucrative but really disappointing. The Government pays just Rs. 3 per kilogram of paddy for that variety. Three fourths of a kilo of rice is obtained from one kilo of paddy which fetch a mere three rupees. So it is evident that middlemen and traders make money by way of selling that rice for Rs. 10 per kilogram. The State Administration, the Government of Tamil Nadu is hand in gloves with them. Right from the day when soil was formed from the rocks,

paddy is being cultivated in the south especially Tamil Nadu. The sorry state of affair there is that the paddy cultivation is not remunerative. There is no proper procurement mechanism. In order to offset the problems faced by the farmers they have a levy mechanism. But there is discrimination(Interruptions)

SHRI M. SELVARASU (Nagappattinam): I am objecting to his remarks. Please avoid attacking the State Government.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY: What is happening now in Tamil Nadu as regards to the procurement of paddy from the farmers is something unusual. Only those farmers who managed to get a recommendation letter in the form of a chit from the office bearers of DMK, the ruling party, would enable them to have their paddy procured by the Government under the levy system. I also understand that such farmers also part with almost three per cent of the amount they get for their paddy as procurement price from the Government machinery. This is a sorry state of affairs found in Tamil Nadu. DMK men are making money as a middlemen. This has been highlighted by our leader, the General Secretary of our party and the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. When the attention of the Government of Tamil Nadu was drawn to this anomolous practice by the ruling partymen by our leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivar (revolutionary leader), the Government came with a reply that they have to pay this as brokeregge. It is a shameful thing that the poor farmers have to shell out three per cent of the procurement price amount to the ruling partymen in Tamil Nadu. So the Government of the day have a responsibility to save the farmers and improve their lot. I am afraid the Union Government that has our support is also taking it lightly. At a time when farmers are suffering and resorting to suicides, the Government has proposed to increase the price of fertilizers that are used by the farmers. I would like to express displeasure the manner in which this Government has sought to increase the price of urea by one rupee per kilogram. This must be brought down. Just because the opposition raised an objection, our Finance Minister came forward to reduce it by fifty paise. This proves a point that it is meaningless an act to have increased the price by one rupees at the first instance. Our Agriculture Minister asked some of the Hon. Members whether they were prepared to come for a debate. He was even trying to justify the urea price increase. He should not have argued that way. Most of the farmers are poor. We depend on them. Our survival is only due to them. Everyone has a forum and fight for their rights. But farmers are not organised and are not able to make themselves heard. If farmers decide to have their say we may not be able to continue in this seat of power. I would like to point out that we the Indian politicians and political parties are dividing the farmers from getting united. They are unable to fight for their cause unitedly. I would like to caution the body polity that we would be driven to save our skin if the farming community unitedly resort to a mass upsurge. If you want to protect the farmers, subsidies, grants, grant-in aids and

[Shri V. Sathiamoorthy]

ex-gratia payments should be increased. Every farmer should be given a grant of Rs. 2000 per acre. I would like to point out that we may have to consider this seriously and a time will come to have it implemented in future. Whatever may be the party in Government the needs of the farmer have to be met. Not only this Government any Government that may come may have to abide by this claim from the farmers. That day will come.

[English]

DR. RAVI MALLU (Nagar Kurnool): Hon. Speaker, Sir, about 357 cotton farmers committed suicide in the State of Andhra Pradesh. After Independence, this is the first time in the history of post-independence that a large number of farmers committed suicide. It is not only high in Andhra Pradesh but also when we compare it with other States, Andhra Pradesh stands first in the suicidal death.

It will indicate how much distress the farmers are facing in Andhra Pradesh. As you know, face is the index of the mind and the total number of suicidal deaths indicates under what conditions the farmers are living in Andhra Pradesh.

Suicidal deaths will be the last option of anybody. Particularly farmers are resistant to many problems as against students and ladies. But farmers also have taken the course of committing suicides in Andhra Pradesh.

When we come to the reasons for committing suicides, the first reason will be the loss of hope to live in that State under the present circumstances. Another thing is, loss of confidence in the Government which is now there in Andhra Pradesh. Nothing like not getting a loan; we can get the loan from the nationalised banks or the cooperative banks. Or if they use sub-standard pesticide they can get better pesticides for the next crop. If one loses a crop this time he will get better one afterwards. But now what is happening in the State is that the farmers have lost all the hope that they cannot live in future and they are losing the confidence in the very system in which they are living. This is a very dangerous and alarming situation. This has to be immediately attended to either by the Central Government or by the State Government.

Whenever they have gone for the cotton plantation at that time they approached the nationalised banks, the commercial banks and the cooperative banks. There, they have not given any crop loans to the farmers.

I would like to tell you that in Andhra Pradesh the commercial banks have given the least crop loans to the farmers. It is a fact and the cooperative banks also have not give sufficient crop loans in Andhra Pradesh. So, the farmers were forced to go for loans from the private people. They have taken loans from the private people for the plantation of the cotton seeds. Unfortunately there is a chronic drought situation in Andhra Pradesh.

Particularly in the Telangana area there is one district, Warangal where maximum suicidal deaths have taken place. One hundred and ten suicidal deaths have taken

place in Warangal district only of Telangana area. These deaths have taken place and before that when they have planted the cotton there was no rain and the groundwater had gone down so it could not be used for the cotton plantation. It was known to the Government. That was from June to September. From September to December the cotton plants were affected by pests. At that time they have used the sub-standard pesticides which has resulted in losses. There was no effect of insecticides due to which the whole crop has gone.

All these things were observed by the Government and the Agriculture Department. But instead of taking care of the farmers at that level, they have not taken any care and the farmers had committed suicide. The Government, particularly the Chief Minister had gone to the farmers' houses. He has just announced ex-gratia of one lakh of rupees for each farmers and other facilities to them. Without bothering about taking any preventive measures he has announced that. There hundred and fifty-seven deaths have not taken place on one day or one week. These deaths have taken place in a period of three to four months.

It shows that the Government that these things are happening but they could not prevent the deaths by creating confidence among the farmers that there was a Government which would take care of their cash loans, which will take care of the bank loans, loan for the next crop. All these things they could not take care. They have only announced the ex-gratia amount. They have only given them on the paper the ex-gratia loan of one lakh and other things which have not stopped the suicidal deaths of the farmers.

19.00 hrs.

I would like to tell you another important thing. I come from a place called Telangana where the farmers have committed suicides. It comes under my Parliamentary constituency also. Unfortunately, the State Government and the State Government officials are trying to get the cotton farmers who are committing suicides under another list so that the Government can conveniently avoid paying rupees one lakh as compensation. This is done in a planned manner by the Government itself. So, I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to see that this is rectified by talking to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. (Interruptions), I am not just trying to tell any other thing for the sake of saying(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your time is over. The time is no more.

.....(Interruptions)

DR. RAVI MALLU (Nagar Kurnool) : Sir, you have given much time to many hon. Members. The farmers have committed suicides.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Please complete and give your suggestions.

.....(Interruptions)

DR. RAVI MALLU : The Government has given chance to us to bring the distressing condition of the farmers to the

notice of this august House so that something at least now can be done because the farmers are the people who are giving foodgrains to the people of this country.

Now, we have got the green revolution in this country. But we are forgetting about the facilities that are to be extended to the farmers so that they can continue to produce foodgrains.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

DR. RAVI MALLU : Sir, I want to take two more minutes. There are other crops like groundnut, redgram, etc. which are totally lost in Telangana(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

DR. RAVI MALLU : You are the champion of farmers. When you are sitting in the Speaker's seat you are not allowing the farmers' issue. But when you are in the other side, you speak about farmers.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All members have given important suggestions, your time is over, now you please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. RAVI MALLU : So, I was telling that the redgram crop is also totally lost. However, the officials are not paying proper compensation to the farmers. They are just giving it in a piecemeal way to some of the farmers and not giving to majority of the farmers which is leading to suicides and tensions among the farming community. This is also a very important point which I would like to point out to this august House.

The sweet-lime gardens in Telangana are drying up along with fruits due to lack of water as the ground level water has gone down too deep due to drought conditions. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has given compensation to the farmers in coastal area who grow coconut, bananas, etc. I have represented the matter of sweet lime gardens to the hon. Chief Minister of Agriculture of Andhra Pradesh, and also to the Director of Horticulture for payment of compensation.

So, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Agriculture to take up this issue of compensation with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh so that we can save the lives of farmers of Telangana from committing suicides any more. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is only announcing ex-gratia and other benefits on paper only and they are not reaching the actual victims. I would like to say that any section of the society can be ignored but not the farming community which is giving foodgrains to this nation.

The State Government has made a lot of request to the Central Government for sending funds to them to help

the farmers. So, I want to request the hon. Minister to set up an all-party Parliamentary Committee to find out solutions to this issue permanently. Unless the Government takes this issue seriously now, I am sure, there will be calamity in Telangana areas. So, I urge upon the hon. Minister to set up a Parliamentary Committee, find out the solutions and try to take care of the farmers so that they can continue to produce the foodgrains for our country.

I thank you very much for taking up this issue in Parliament.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture will speak.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we may also be given time to speak(Interruptions)

19.04 hrs.

At this stage Shri Shailendra Kumar and Shrimati Reena Choudhary came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The discussion has been held on the subject for 7 hours now.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have allowed so many people to speak. We are also waiting for long to speak. You please extend the time of the House by half-an-hour(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM DEO KESHARI (Kalahandi): Sir, taking the sense of the House, kindly extend the time of the House by one hour more because this is a matter of urgent public importance relating to the life and death of farmers.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The discussion has been held on the subject for 7 hours now.

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Sir, it is a very serious matter, fifty people have committed suicide in Karnataka. You allow us also to speak, Sir(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, with the consensus of the House time is extended for another half-an-hour

19.05 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Shailendra Kumar and Shrimati Reena Choudhary went back to their seats

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please accommodate everyone(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Everyone is allowed to speak for two minutes.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I thank you for extending the House first for one hour and after for half-an-hour on my request. You are holding highest chair in the House. The members of this House, especially the newly elected members have great expectations from you.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the motion moved by Shri Vilas Muttemwar in this House under rule 193 regarding incidents of suicide committed by farmers due to non-payment of remunerative prices for their agricultural produce. I would like to thank him. I would like to request that the women Member who is sitting besides me may be allowed to speak as she wants to speak for the first time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shailendra Kumarji, first you finish what you want to say. First you speak, after that her turn will come.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, 76 per cent of our country's population depends on agriculture and especially we people who belong to the ideology of Samajwadi party and believe in Lohia and Hon'ble Mulayam Singhji are attached to the sentiments of people and farmers. In our parliamentary constituency also, there are rural areas. In my Lok Sabha Constituency, there are four rural segments. Just now Hon'ble Minister was saying to one of our hon'ble Member that you are also a farmer. Therefore, you should give suggestions to improve the condition of farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will express my views only in the form of suggestions. Today, farmers are facing a lot of problems, be it in the matter of manure, water, electricity, vagaries of weather and spurious medicines or fertilizers ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, you have mentioned the problems of farmers.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in rural areas, water fails to reach the tail end of the minor or major canals. Hence, the canal system should be done away with because Government is spending crores of rupees every year in the name of irrigation and instead, tubewells should be installed for providing irrigation facility to the farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, that is sufficient. You want that water should be made available to farmers for irrigation purposes. Now you please sit down.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, many hon'ble Members have raised the issue of electricity. Even if you see in your constituency, you will find that electricity is in short supply. Here in Uttar Pradesh, the government is saying that it will provide electricity for 18 hours whereas they are releasing power only for 10-15 days in a month.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, you have made your point. Improvement should be made in the supply of electricity. This is what you want to say. Two minutes are over. Now you please sit down.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to mention one more thing that today the condition of farmers is pitiable. Some farmers staged Dharna in our Kaushambi district of Uttar Pradesh. But there the police brutally lathi charged them. The police and administration there are committing atrocities on farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. You have made your point that atrocity should not be committed on farmers. Now you please sit down.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to mention one more thing*(Interruptions)*

I would like to make one more point that in the matter of loans whether it is from cooperative Bank or other private sector, the farmers should be provided loans at lower rate of interest so that all farmers could make use of this facility.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to mention many things but since there is shortage of time, I would like to mention only one thing that very little land is being given to farmers in the name of lease. The land should be given to them on lease hold according to the size of their family so that they could cultivate the land. In the end, on behalf of this House, I pay homage to those farmers who have committed suicide and I would request the Hon'ble Minister that the list of families of farmers who have committed suicide should be prepared and compensation should be given to them and it should be ensured that incidents of suicides do not recur. I would also like to say that the Hon'ble Minister should pay attention towards this incident concerning farmers. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the major issue was that of suicides committed by the farmers. Shri Mukul Wasnik and Shri Chavan raised the issue of suicide committed by more than 500 farmers in the last three years in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and the Prime Minister had admitted that a discussion should be held on this subject. I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that the issue was as to how he could provide immediate relief in the states where the farmers had been forced to commit suicide. However, the scope of discussion has become so vast so as to encompass the issues confronting the farmers all over the country and a very serious discussion is being held in this regard. I welcome the discussion, but I would also like to draw your attention towards the relief proposed to be given by the Central Government and the Department of Agriculture to the states where there is a need to provide immediate relief to the farmers. We have witnessed a

trend during the last session and the present one also that when Hon'ble Sompalji and Shri Yashwant Sinha were the members of Rajya Sabha, they used to consider the national issues seriously like serious members, however their attitude has changed now that they have become Ministers. I have no idea as to whether they have undergone this change because now they are in the ruling party or because they have become Ministers(Interruptions) I would like to say to Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that the reason behind such suicides in Maharashtra is that the crop has been destroyed for consecutive three years due to hailstorm, scanty rainfall, or excessive rainfall. The financial position of the farmers was affected and they were in dire straits. Besides they did not receive help through the State Government in the same measure as was expected. The Chief Minister had made an announcement that one lakh rupees would be given to the families of the farmers who had committed suicide, but a grant of one lakh rupees was given only to 18 people out of 52 and the rest did not get any monetary assistance due to paucity of money in the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. If there is no money in the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, the Central Government may provide assistance but an immediate assistance is required to be given.

The other problem that the farmers are facing, pertains to Vidarbha. In Kerala, the monsoon has already set in and it will cover the entire country in the next 10-15 days. I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister that the State of Maharashtra and especially Vidarbha—the area to which I belong—is a paddy producing area. Cotton, paddy is grown extensively in Chandrapur, Gurupuchi, Bhandara and Nagpur etc. There is an acute shortage of cotton seed and paddy seed. I would ask the Hon'ble Minister to inform us in his reply as to whether he is making any arrangements for providing seeds immediately in these states through National Seed Corporation and District Council. Secondly, the loans given by the co-operative banks are due against the farmers, hence they are not being given any fresh loans. The State Government had announced that it will make arrangements for disbursing loans to farmers by converting the short term loans into long term loans, but nothing has been done so far. If such an arrangement for providing loans to the farmers is not made within one month, the farmers of Maharashtra and Vidarbha region will be in trouble.

I would like to submit to Hon'ble Minister that when these farmers are provided assistance through NABARD, Land Development Bank or Co-operative Banks, 10% of the amount is deducted in each case as their share money. Such deductions are being made for the last 25-30 years. Thousands of rupees of farmers are locked in these banks as share money. The Government deducts 10% amount as the share money. No interest is given for the share money deposited with the bank. Whenever the farmers face problems, their share money deposited in the banks should be converted into a loan. This is my request. The Minister

of Agriculture should consider this request seriously and he should convert the short term loan into long term loan.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are aware that we have a monopoly scheme in case of purchase of cotton and Hon'ble Minister is also aware of it. In this case also, 3% amount is deducted as tax. Thus thousands of rupees of farmers have been pooled for the last 25 years. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to return that money to the farmers. If that money is returned, each farmer can get approximately 30,000 to 40,000 rupees. This suggestion should also be taken into consideration.

As ours is a tribal area it has a large forest cover. For the last 30-40 year, the tribals have started cultivating the land after clearing the forests. There are 25,000 farmers in District Gadchiroli who have been ploughing this land for 40 years but the State Government has not provided them any facility as they do not have patta (lease) of the land. They have not been given the compensation of Rs. 1000 per hectare and they are not given any seeds either. My suggestion is that such farmers who do not have the lease of the land but who have the possession of the land for the last 30-40 years and they have been cultivating it also, should be given seeds and other assistance and the assistance of Rs 1000 per hectare denied so far should also be given.

Similarly, the debate should be divided into two parts - firstly, immediate assistance should be given to such states where the incidents of suicide are occurring and secondly, Hon'ble Minister should keep in mind that his constituency has been the constituency of Chowdhary Charan Singh. This area is known for its prominent farmers and it provides foodgrains for the country. We are going to have a special session of Parliament on 13-14. August to mark the Golden Jubilee of Independence. I would request that a discussion should be held regarding the farmers of the country and the rural development in this session. This request may please be conveyed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

I thank you for giving me time to speak

19.17 hours

(English)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in this Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193.

Today, we are discussing the issue regarding the suicide of farmers in Andhra Pradesh. It is a matter of serious concern that the farming community has been neglected for the last 50 years when the Congress Party was ruling the country. Their anti-farmer policies have taken the farming community to such an extent that there was a point of no return. That is why they had to commit suicide.

Sir, as you are aware, the suicides in Andhra Pradesh had taken place in the Telangana region. It has been seen

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

that the Telangana region was one of the neglected regions of Andhra Pradesh for quite some time. The people of that area had resorted to agitations for having a separate State and eventually they got a special provision under article 371 of the Constitution. Under that article, some facilities are to be given to them. But it has been seen that these farmers in the Telangana area were completely neglected by the Government. They could not repay their loans due to lack of agricultural extension services.

Sir, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research had conducted an inquiry into the deaths of farmers and the loss of crops. It was found out that the wrong use of pesticides led to the destruction of crops. It shows that the agricultural extension services, which were supposed to be given in that area, were not available. So, it clearly proves that the previous Government was responsible for that.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI(Ghosi): Why were wrong pesticides given to them?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: That was due to the lack of agricultural extension services in that area.

SH. K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Please do not bring party into this issue. This is an issue relating to the farmers and we have to unitedly fight for the cause of the farmers.
.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given you two minutes time. Please give concrete suggestions. Do not give rise to controversy.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, the farmers were driven to pangs of poverty and they committed suicide. It has been the Congress habit to follow anti-farmer policy which is evidently viewed in the State of Orissa. The Chief Minister of Orissa also happens to control the Department of Agriculture in Orissa. There is a big scam in the Department of Agriculture the State of Orissa
.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will go through it. Please be quite. I'll look into it and it will be expunged if found objectionable.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be quite. Please sit down. I have given the ruling. Please maintain peace. Please conclude now.

[English]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Sir, he is talking irrelevant
.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I said that I'll look into it.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, today the Congress Party in Orissa has betrayed the cause of the farmers by supplying substandard seeds. That has been made clearly evident by the Secretary, Department of Agriculture of Orissa who has opened the Pandora's box
.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you have any concrete suggestion to make?

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Sir, he is politicising the issue
.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everything will be seen.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, the bank loans cannot be repaid by the farmers. So, I request the hon. Minister that these loans should be re-scheduled and should be converted into the long-term loans.

Lastly, the Reserve Bank of India and NABARD should come to the aid of this Government and help it out in solving the problems of farmers. It has come to a critical stage due to the Congress Party's apathy
.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Minister will speak. You kindly give your suggestions to the hon. Minister in writing.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Minister.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now there is no time left. Kindly take your seat and listen to the reply of the Government.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY (Mohanalaganj)
Mr. Chairman, Sir, please allow us to speak for two minutes
.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Please allow us to speak for one minute. Kindly allow the lady member to speak for one minute
.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go to your seat.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Hon'ble Mr. Chairman. Sir, please give us one minute. She will only make two points
.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no time left.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: She will make two points in one minute's time.

[English]

DR. RAVI MALLU: Sir, please give him two minutes' time.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a problem regarding agriculture. If you don't listen to us, who will?

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no time now. It cannot continue endlessly.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, it was in Karnataka where 29 cotton growers have committed suicide first and then it happened in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. It is a very important issue. So, please allow me to speak for two minutes.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time of every party is over. Instead of four hours the debate continued for eight hours. The time of all parties is over. Considering the interest of all hon'ble members, I have tried to accommodate everyone but now, there is no scope. Now the Hon'ble Minister will give reply

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. RAVI MALLU: Sir, please give him two minutes time.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, I am the only speaker from this side.(Interruptions)

SHRI M. SELVARASU (Nagappattinam): Sir, we did not get any opportunity to speak and, I think, we are the last speakers.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, I will give one minute each.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. In this august House, 80 per cent of the Members of Parliament belong to the farming community. The hon. Minister should take some decision in the interests of the farmers, a few of these committed suicide, belonging not only to the State of Karnataka but also in States like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. It is a very serious matter. Where the farmer is not in a position to repay the money, he has committed suicide and his family is on the roads now. That is why, it is a very serious matter.

I do not want you to appoint any Committee. There is already a Standing Committee on Agriculture. The Minister

should ask for a special report from the Standing Committee on Agriculture. For this purpose, the Minister need not appoint another Committee.

Sir, there are three types of farmers. The first category of farmers depend on water from canals and rivers for irrigation. The second category of farmers depend on borewells that have been dug at depth of 500 feet or 600 feet. The third category of farmers depend on rainwater for irrigation. Now, you have take into account these three variations. Loans have been given to big, medium and small farmers. Lakhs and crores of rupees have also been given to the industrialists. In the case of an industrialist, nobody can question him though he has taken lakhs and crores of rupees. But it is not case if a farmer is not in a position to pay. It is not correct to think that his intention is not to pay. He has not repaid because there was no rainfall.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute is over. Please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, 80 per cent of the Members of Parliament belong to the farming community. I think, Shri Sompal also belongs to a farming community.

Sir, this is a very serious matter concerning the farmers in our country. So, the Standing Committee on Agriculture may be requested to submit a special report to safeguard the interest of farmers in this country. Thank you.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (Ramanathapuram): Sir, we are going on extending the time though there is no quorum. We have no power to discuss without the consent of the House. How can we discuss? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI M. SELVARASU: I wish to make only seven points. Why are the farmers committing suicides? It is because the farmers are facing so many problems. One of their problem is lack of water, and it has not been solved till now. Second is about proper remunerative price. There is no proper remunerative price, and there is no incentive either from the State Government or Central Government.

The third point which I want to make is, no modernisation of the canal system has been made till now. We have the Fifth Five Year Plan, The Eighth Five Year Plan and so many other Plans. But there is no modernisation of the canal system. This work is pending even now.

The Fourth point is the prices of fertilizers and pesticides should be reasonable. There are many plant diseases.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can give a written statement of your speech to the hon. Minister.

SHRI M. SELVARASU: The fifth point is about natural calamities like floods and monsoon failures.

[Shri M. Selvarasu]

The sixth point is, the nationalised banks and the State Cooperative Banks provide loans to the farmers at 14 per cent interest. But the Reserve Bank of India give loan to NABARD and the Cooperative Banks at 4 per cent interest. If the Cooperative Bank is giving the loan to farmers at 14 per cent interest with penalties, how can the farmers repay the loan?

The farmers are, therefore, committing suicide. The State Governments and the Central Government should take necessary action in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. There are some problems in my constituency which I would like to mention in brief because there is shortage of time.

The farmers of my constituency are facing very complicated problems. There is lot of water logging in my constituency as a result of which the farmers cannot cultivate their fields. On the other hand, there is no water in this canals. There is no arrangements for electricity. In the event of natural calamities and fire to the crops at the threshing place, compensation should be paid to the farmers speedily. Facility of loan at lower rates of interest should be made available to the famers. Crop Insurance Scheme and Farmer Insurance Scheme should be implemented. Farmers are not getting remunerative price for their produce. Traders are selling wheat for rupees 510 per quintal, which they are purchasing from farmers for rupees 450 per quintal. Still wheat is not available to farmers even for rupees 510. With these words, I conclude my speech. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI S. MALI IKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): Sir, the number of total deaths that has taken place in my State is 29 and the Government has given some ex-gratia payment to these people.

There is no electricity in our area. There is a river called Kumaradhara which is flowing in our area. If the Government of India were to come forward to divert that West-going river to East, naturally the dry areas where the people have succumbed to deaths will be greatly benefited and it comes under irrigation.

My area is a copra growing and cocount growing area. A minimum rate of Rs. 6000 shall have to be allowed to copra and for coconut, it should be Rs. 5,000.

Minimum support price has to be fixed to Govina Jawar and to other kinds of Jawar and to ragi.

So far as wheat is concerned, Rs. 100 more is given in the North. In the same way, the minimum support price has to be fixed to the above foodgrains and for coconut and copra.

The desilting of tanks is absolutely essential. The water in the tanks has virtually gone very deep and it has

ceased to be within the reach of hand-pumps. Therefore, desilting of tanks is absolutely essential.

If any farmer happens to be a defaulter, his agricultural implements should never be seized by the Government. This is the law. When carts are being replaced by tractor, tractor is an agricultural machinery. When that is the case, it should not be seized.

Since the bullock-carts are being replaced by tractors, tractors should also be exempted from seizure. So, these are the essential things which I wanted to highlight.

Lastly, I would like to point out that if there is any damage to coconut trees, areca trees and banana trees, the Government of Karnataka and also the Central Government give only Rs.150 as compensation. Whenever land is acquired and whenever coconut trees are being acquired for public purposes, the farmers are given Rs.1500 as compensation. Whereas when a damage has happened, only Rs.150 is given. So this disparity should go. Electricity shall have to be supplied to the people. Loans shall have to be given freely. If interest-free loan is given, that would be helpful. For example, in the Life Insurance Corporation, if a worker is to build a house, interest-free loan is given. Even in banks also, interest-free loans is given. If the farmers are not given interest-free loan, at least four per cent interest shall have to be levied.

Finally, my humble request is this. Kindly allow the agriculturists to live happily in this country. Thank you.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to express my gratitude to Hon'ble Speaker and say that this debate is going on for the last three days where as short duration discussion was proposed for this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees then the time of the House may be extended till the Hon'ble Minister completes his reply.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

SHRI SOMPAL: Before initiating this discussion the Hon. Speaker had called upon Hon'ble Members that this is very serious issue. It is a matter of concern because farmers were forced to take their lives due to some reasons. Considering this situation, all Hon'ble Members were requested to take part in this discussion by rising above party lines. The Members were asked not to make general comments but to give concrete suggestions. The enthusiasm with which members took part in the discussion match the sentiments expressed and the call given by Hon'ble Speaker. Still the Members are desirous of participating in the discussion and putting forth their views.

Sir, it was Shri Vilas Muttemwar who initiated the discussion and suggested about sending a Central Study

Team to Maharashtra and thus repeated the sentiments of Hon. Speaker. I would like to inform him that the procedure is that first the State Government sends one memorandum to Central Government, but till now no such memorandum has been received from the State Government of Maharashtra. Under the constitution, in a federal set up, the Central Government do not send any team unless a letter is received from the State Government. This provision has been made in the Constitution. Even then, on behalf of Central Government, I would like to assure the Hon. Members that we shall hold consultations with the State Government in this regard and order inquiry into the matter and tell them that if there is a need, they may send one memorandum to us so that we can send a Central team there.

Shri Vilas Muttemwar has mentioned about compensation also. He has correctly said that whether it is train journey or air journey, wherever such a loss occurs, arrangement is there for the compensation, but there is no arrangement for the payment of compensation to farmers. If there is unanimity in the House, then I would like to say that this should be considered positively and if both sides of the House lend their cooperation and agree to it; then there is no reason that such arrangement cannot be made. As far as the Question of giving compensation in such cases is concerned, I would like to repeat that two types of relief arrangement has been made after the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission.

The first is calamity Relief Fund which has a kitty of about Rs. 6000 crore or probably more than Rs. 5000 crore for the period 1995 to 2000. The contribution to this fund is shared by the Central and State Government in the ratio of 75:25. This amount is released by the Ministry of Finance automatically on the first day of each quarter and this money has been released regularly. In some special circumstances, if it seems that previously allocated fund has exhausted, then the Finance Ministry also releases advance instalment. For instance, the centre released funds this year for Bengal, Orissa and some other states and under this arrangement, basically(Interruptions) Please listen to me now, I have not interrupted you(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : It is not a question of natural calamity(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : You are not asking it. But I am responding to the Member who had spoken about it(Interruptions)

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: You are diverting the funds of natural calamity(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, through you, I would request the Members that I am responding to the points raised by the hon. Members. Shri Muttemwar did raise it. He belongs to his party. If I do not respond, you would say that this point has not been responded to. Please bear with me. I am

responding to all the points raised by your party Member Shri Vilas Muttemwar.

[Translation]

Similarly, National Calamity Relief fund was made with a provision of Rs.700 crores for 5 years. In 1996-97 an additional amount of Rs.120 crores was added in it and now it has been exhausted. It was provided that a State Government can inform the Central Government to send a study team if it finds itself incapable to combat the calamity with its own resources and relief fund. Study team assess the situation there and submits its report and on the basis of which funds are granted by a sub-committee of National Development Council which consists of Chief Ministers of all the states as its members. Sub-committee comprises of Chief Minister of 5 states and 3 Central Ministers. Some guidelines and rules have been laid for this sub-committee in which it has been stated that the funds will be provided only to pay compensation to marginal and small farmers and for the inputs to be made available on the next crop. For this, there is a limit of Rs. 500 per hectare. Central Government have no discretionary quota in this regard. Sub-committee decides about it. These are the two arrangements.(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund) : Please tell which states have been included in it

SHRI SOMPAL: Information regarding it will be given. As far I remember, there are 8 members in this committee including West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and perhaps north-eastern state Meghalaya with Union Agriculture, Finance and Health Ministers. Shri Vilas Muttemwar has requested to waive off the debt burden on farmers and also to postpone the recovery of debt. He has also mentioned to relax some interest. I would like to inform the august House that the study team of NABARD and Reserve Bank of India had visited Andhra Pradesh and took some relief measures including re-scheduling of debt, moratorium on loan recovery and exemption in interest etc. I will provide you the details in this regard later on. I do agree with the provision to provide adequate loan facilities to the farmers. I would also like to inform the House that only 17% of the total development loan was provided to the farmers by the Government or Financial Institutions during the 7th Five Year Plan which is definitely inadequate.

The situation worsened during 8th Five Year Plan. Against the 18% target fixed by Reserve Bank of India, only 14.1% loan was granted by all the nationalised Banks during the year before last year. Except one or two banks, none achieved this target and on the whole it had been below 13%. Hon'ble Members have rightly expressed their concern that adequate arrangements should be made to provide loan facilities to the farmers. Therefore, we would like that the flow of funds should be doubled in the ensuing year. It is not possible to do so only in a year because it is an old legacy. You all will accept that it is not possible to change or to remove the existing infrastructure overnight.

[Shri Sompal]

I do agree with you that the process of granting loan should be simplified for which efforts are being made in the National Agriculture Policy, the draft of which is being prepared. Hon'ble Finance Minister has made an announcement in his budget speech to provide credit card to farmers also. The necessary direction will be issued to Reserve Bank of India, NABARD, all nationalised banks, Regional co-operative banks and other Financial Institutions in this regard. A provision will be made that loan limit should be fixed on the basis of market price of the land in possession of the farmer. He can take loan to that extent and pay the interest on the remaining money. Under the existing arrangement until the farmers does not repay the full amount of his loan, he cannot get the loan further. It was in regard to the commercial and industrial loan to farmers. This facility will be provided like cash credit limit.

Farmers were being oppressed at the time of recovery of loan. They were even arrested. I have seen such incidents. Choudhary Harisingh of my village was handcuffed for a sum of only Rs. 64.20. Members are very much right that no person who took commercial or industrial loan has ever been arrested for non-payment of loan. Our Prime Minister and Finance Minister have already state that the discrimination against the farmers will be stopped. Shri Vilas Muttemwar has mentioned to provide equal amount of fund to all the states in regard to such incidents. I would like to place it for the consideration of the House and the Government would not have any objection to implement the same if the House will be unanimous to do so.

He also mentioned about the condition of Vidarbha region. I am personally aware of the condition of that area. I have gone there for so many times. There is shortage of water. It is a Plateau region with lack of soil. Underground water level which was low has further gone down. During Question hour in morning, I informed the House that a proposal of a 25 year project has been made to harness the ground water and use it throughout the year.

Planning Commission propose to allocate 5 thousand crores of rupees in the Budget. An amount of Rs. 677 crores has been allocated in this Budget. This much of amount has never been allocated for a single year under this Head earlier. Only 11 hundred crores of rupees were allocated in 8th Five Year Plan. When the Standing Committee on Agriculture asked for information regarding it from the officials in Agriculture Ministry. It was estimated that 260 years will be needed to cover the whole country through rain water collecting technique with such a meagre allocation. I would like to inform you that the Planning Commission has formulated this 25 year plan with the recommendation of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture.(Interruptions) There will be no question left if you will listen to me carefully. The condition of the farmers in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra is really pitiable. Most of the farmers there are small farmers and productivity is quite low alongwith lack of water facilities. One of the Reseach centre of cotton is situated in Nagpur. It has been

suggested to take measures to improve the condition of the damaged cotton crop through integrated facts management and crop practices.

I will speak further on this point. Members have mentioned about poor quality of pesticides. All the members have shown their concern in this regard. Administrative efforts should definitely be made in this regard. Generally it is the responsibility of the State Government. But it does not mean that Central Government will not play any role in this regard. Central Government is prepared to provide financial assistance as well as consultancy in this regard.

Shri Amarpal Singh who hails from my district Meerut in Uttar Pradesh has mentioned about the shortcomings in the procurement of the cotton. It has been reported from some places that prices of cotton are coming down. This year prices of cotton remained higher than the minimum support price. The matter under discussion was that the farmers were compelled to committ suicide as they were not getting remunerative prices, but it is not true. Though the difficulties are there, but they are due to the damage of crops and not due to decrease in the prices that farmers were compelled to commit suicide. House should note this point and members should not take it otherwise.

An hon'ble Member has mentioned about the price of rubber. Price of rubber increased very much during last year and the year before it and have gone to Rs. 55-56 and Rs. 60. This year prices have gone down. Support prices in this regard are fixed by the Ministry of Commerce and not by the Agriculture Price Commission. A decision has been taken by the Cabinet a week and a half ago and Rs. 34 has been fixed as appropriate procurement price for the rubber. Necessary instructions have been issued to STC for procurement of rubber. We do not import rubber from other countries. It is imported only for those goods which are to be exported under Advance Licensing Scheme. That rubber is not imported for indigenous market. I would like to clear this point here.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Regarding rubber, as you said it comes under the Ministry of Commerce. The real problem is though this is an agricultural crop, it does not come under your Ministry. We are really aggrieved. They simply say that advance licence is something which brings in a little rubber. But that is not the case. The price did not go up just for a year. It was not like that. The price was maintained for quite a number of years at Rs. 50 or more. Suddenly it started coming down. It steeply went down from Rs. 65 to Rs. 25 and it was lying lower than Rs. 25. How can the farmer sustain himself? But the Commerce Ministry, which sees only the commercial side, is not dealing with this at all. We would like to have a separate Ministry or at least a Department under you. That would be better.

SHRI SOMPAL: It is not that the Agriculture Ministry is not concerned with it. It is not that we are not concerned

with it at all. It is not that we are not seized of the matter. I have already informed you that the Cabinet has taken a decision and it has directed the STC to effect purchases at a price which is Rs. 34. I have agreed that the prices have gone quite low and therefore we are coming out in support. I have to inform you that the STC has also been asked not to market it in the indigenous market. They will store it for a while, so that the support is provided because if on the one hand they purchase and sell it in the market on the other hand, it will have a dampening effect on the prices. This has already been decided(Interruptions)

[Translation]

I will answer all the questions. Please don't be impatient. I am listening to you for the last three days.

Shri Amar Pal Singh has stated about the relative less prices of farmer's produce for their produce as compared to the prices of commercial goods. It is a historical fact. If we see the price graph during the British Regime and also during the Post Independence era, we will find that except for 1970-71, 1971-72, 1972-73 and to some extent in 1973-74, the agricultural price index has remained at between the level of 84-94 if the terms of trade are considered as 100.

It has resulted in an annual loss of 12 or 12.5% to agriculture sector which has increased the difference in per capita income between farmers and the people engaged in other occupations. According to an estimate the difference which was 1:2 in sixties and seventies has increased to 1:4 within 7-7½ years and as per another estimate it has risen to more than 1:6. It means income of the people engaged in other occupations is more than 6 times than that of the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no two opinions that development has taken place in agriculture after independence, and the condition of farmers has improved. Yet economic development has not taken place with the desired pace. Farmers and the rural community did not get the required benefit due to which farmers' condition has deteriorated and resentment has spread among the villagers. Even farmers have staged agitations. At some place these agitations have turned violent. Everybody accept it and it should be seriously considered. I would like the attention of the House in this regard and request the Members to send their suggestions after seriously considering the recommendations of Agricultural Cost and Price Commission in regard to the agricultural produces. The Standing Committee on Agriculture will review those suggestions. Every year Standing Committee on Agriculture review the recommendations made by the C.A.C.P. Any member can express his views in this committee. If they find that the formula is not right, they can give suggestions. However, I would like to brief the House regarding the process by which prices are being fixed.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh): Participation of farmers should be more in price fixation.

SHRI SOMPAL : You can participate by being a member of Parliament. You can show your participation by attending the meetings of the Committee.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: It is not adequate.

SHRI SOMPAL : It is not inadequate. If 543 members cannot do then how two members of the Committee can. It depends upon the interest you show. I would like to submit that instead of discussing here, take more interest in the Committee.

While fixing the cost of production and the prices of the agricultural commodities, C A C P takes into consideration the relative price of agricultural inputs and agriculture produce also and the changing prices. Market prices of agricultural produces, inter-crop prices and also the estimated prices of industrial products and manufactured goods alongwith the normal price index are also taken into consideration. The prices are recommended by the C.A.C.P. on the basis of the rates on which the farmers buys and sells the product. Such prices are fixed in three different stages. First stage is C.1. which concerns with the direct expenses. C2 concerns with the domestic labour and C3 is the cost pertaining to the management which farmer incurs. It is called managerial cost of profit and 10% of it is being added while making the recommendations. While reserving the cost, the expenditure upto C3 stage is considered for all the produces. To announce the price is one part while maintaining its level later on is another. Farmer has to face the hardship because of the fact that between sowing and harvesting, he has to incur expenditure on various things like payment of interest, household expenses and farming expenses. He has no fixed regular income like that of service class, business people or industrialists. It becomes difficult for him to keep patience and it results in distress sale of the produce. The market people takes maximum advantage of such a situation. Therefore, Government must play its role in this respect

20.00 hrs.

To support the farmers, the main arrangement made is to buy the paddy, wheat and other produce through FCI which helps to maintain a uniform price. Similarly, Jute Corporation of India buys jute, Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) buys the cotton and NAFED buys potatoes, coconut and other vegetables. Through such efforts an attempt is made to ensure that the farmers should not sell his produce below the cost price. This year we have got the information that at some places prices of many produces have fallen below the support price. I have the list of such produces and I do not want to hide them from the House. Price of wheat was declared as Rs. 510 which included Rs. 55 as bonus but the price of Rs. 480 has been reported from Rajasthan. Rs. 500 from Udaipur and Rs. 490 from West Bengal(Interruptions) If I will speak first you will not have anything to say. You people are very impatient. Let me read out the complete information. Minimum price of Bajra was fixed at Rs. 360 while on the contrary, it has been sold for Rs. 305 in Jaipur, Rs. 310 in Bhāratpur and Rs. 210 in

[Shri Sompal]

Agra, U.P. and Rs. 350 in Delhi. The minimum price of Maize was fixed at Rs. 360 but it has been sold at low price in Banswara (Rajasthan) Bhilwara (Rajasthan) and Behraich (U.P.) Similarly, the price of Ragi was much lower in Andhra Pradesh and Kepra in Kerala. So far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned, as per my information the prices fell below the minimum price at some places. But its main reason was that the wheat was damped due to rain. In this regard, the Ministry of Food has been asked to relax the F.A.Q. norms regarding the fixation of average quality--so that such wheat could be procured. It has also been recommended that the time of procurement may be extended with bonus. Ministry of Food will send the necessary instructions in this regard.

SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN (Balaghat): Hon'ble Minister, in Madhya Pradesh, Government has fixed the rate of paddy at Rs. 350 while it has been sold there at Rs. 200 per quintal.

SHRI SOMPAL: This information is not with me. On the receipt of such information, the matter will be looked into. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will request the hon'ble Members not to interrupt again and again. Already we have taken a lot of time.

SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are not interrupting. We only want that the farmer should get their right and the correct price for their crop.

SHRI SOMPAL: We have the information for lower price of coconut and as far as the minimum price is concerned, with your permission, I would like to inform the House that the previous Government had not issued any notification regarding the price and it was said that the coming Government would take decision in this matter. Now we have got the power at the Centre but it is required that necessary file have to be moved again to the Ministry with fresh notings. You must be aware of this procedure. All these formalities have been completed and as soon as it is placed before the cabinet, the price will be announced. I do not want to conceal the fact that the delay has been caused in announcing the prices which generally should have been declared in February.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: When is it expected?

SHRI SOMPAL: Very soon.

[Translation]

Shri Amar Pal Singh has mentioned about the restrictions imposed on the movement of the produce from one place to another. I would like to inform the House that the Government of India has not imposed any such restriction. Earlier Dr. Manmohan Singh had declared, which we have also repeated that some restrictions are being imposed by the State Governments of Karnataka, West Bengal, Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh by virtue of

their powers under the state law. But, I would like to make a request that such restrictions are unfavourable for produces. At the place of produce, the supply exceeds the demand which lowers the price. Even then, the producer has to pay unnecessary payments due to restrictions. Many a time he has to give bribe also. When he moved his produce from one place to another, the price of the produce increases which results in the difficulty for consumer. I am reminded of such an episode of 1993. Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the price of wheat was between Rs.395 and 400 per quintal in Moga, Hapur, Karnal and Delhi, its price in Mumbai was Rs.850 to 1100 per quintal. I want that all the State Governments cooperate with us and I shall be eager to discuss this thing with them. Central Government will also try to make them agree for this. No restriction will be imposed on the two and fro movement of agricultural produce whether they are foodgrains of cash crops. All the barriers should be removed for the convenience of the producer and to help the consumer to get the produce at the right price.

Shri Amar Pal Singh has rightly pointed out about the restrictions on the agricultural based industries and their products. Two- three years ago farmers were not allowed to sell rice from paddy. I request the Hon'ble Member not to take it otherwise. I would like to tell the hon. Members from that side that during their regime of 45-46 years, farmers were not allowed shelling of paddy to get rice from the paddy grown by them. 3-4 years ago, this matter was taken up by the Parliamentary Standing Committee. On the recommendation of this Committee, Rice Milling Act was repealed. Likewise, there are so many other restrictions which are required to be removed. Even today there is total ban on sugar which is a kind of injustice not found anywhere in the world and is beyond my comprehension. Khandasari industry is a small rural based industry and has a decentralised ownership base. Its resources and profit are being divided in a proper democratic way which helps to provide employment in rural areas. In 1931, British Government imposed restrictions on Khandasari units that could not make use of latest vacuumpan technology and this restriction continues till this year despite the recommendations of the Standing Committee to remove it. We have taken a historical step by removing this restriction. Due to such an restriction, the country was deprived of the additional 24.30 lakh tonnes of sugar production. Due to the time limitation, I will not go into the details of advantage that the farmer will enjoy by using such technology available to them. Likewise, it will be our endeavour to remove the restriction on Molasses Industry.

I request Shri Amar Pal Singh and other Members to tell to Government to remove all such restrictions including that of exports. We will also support them. Ministry of Commerce has stated that barring some foodgrains on which the decision will be taken after considering the country's internal requirement, the restriction on the remaining items shall be removed, whether it concerns cotton, jute or any other commodity.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether permission to use the vaccum pan technology will be applicable in the case of old khandsari units or not?

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL: So far as I know, the existing khandsari mills will be permitted, whereas new units will not be allowed to be set up in the reserve area of the mill. This is the information I have.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dr. Balram Jakhar, who has remained the Minister of Agriculture for quite a long time and has drawn our attention towards all such issues which we have bringing to his notice and he never listened to us. Unfortunately, he is not present. Still I shall reply to all the points made by him. He has mentioned the issue of certified seeds and poor quality pesticides. All the Members of the House agreed that an arrangement should be made, however, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to ensure this and I would reiterate that we will also co-operate. I have already mentioned the position regarding legislation for repayment of loan. I have also clarified the point regarding procurement by the Cotton Corporation of India. So far as the issue of non-payment of sugarcane arrears is concerned, some such reports are being received from certain quarters, but in our state, it is about 86%. During your tenure, i.e. last to last year, the arrears were to the tune of Rs. 1386 crores and at that time such an arrangement had to be made. So far as the issue of moratorium on repayment of loan is concerned, such instructions have already been issued to Reserve Bank and NABARD. At places, re-scheduling has been done and moratorium has also been allowed. He had also suggested that we should make direct intervention by-passing the State Governments. However, as I have stated that such a course of action is neither possible and nor desirable under our constitution. We can offer them our support but so long as they don't allow us, it will be unfair on our part to intervene in their affairs.

He has also raised the time of insurance scheme. The Minister of Finance stated in his budget speech and just now I also mentioned with regard to the modified crop insurance scheme that there was a comprehensive insurance scheme wherein there was a ceiling of Rs. 10,000. It was proposed to be introduced in some districts. We have taken a decision in principle regarding the new scheme proposed to be launched and 100 crore rupees have been provided in the budget for this purpose. It was proposed to be launched in 24 selected cities. We have made a provision of loanee and non-loanee component and have made it optional. The details regarding the legal system, institutional system and the procedures proposed to be adopted for the assessment of the losses and whether a separate corporation will be set up or it will be covered under the GIC, all these details will be conveyed to the House very soon and this will be done after holding discussion in the House.

He has raised the issue of subsidy also and all the members have raised it as well. A misconception is prevalent regarding the grant of subsidy in the agricultural sector in the country. For instance, the traders and the industrialists feel that a huge subsidy is being given. However if we were to take into account the total value of Gross Agricultural produce of the country, subsidy accounts for only 9.34 per cent as per an assessment, some of it and particularly that which has been given to the fertiliser factories, is not fully passed on to the farmers. Compared to the present level, more subsidy has never been given to the agricultural sector in the country. If we were to compare the position with other countries, I could give you the relevant data. You will be surprised to know that in Japan, subsidy stands at 68 per cent of the Gross Agricultural Produce. In European Economic Community, this figure stands at 48 or 43%. I have also got data pertaining to USA and I'll convey that to you as well. It is a misconception that a huge subsidy is being given and there is no such need as well. I personally feel and you will agree that it is not fair to push the farmers into a position of a beggar wherein they have to beg for something and their self respect is lost, there can be nothing more humiliating for the farmers. If remunerative price is ensured for their produce, they will no longer need to ask for subsidy. As it is the well planned objective policy of the country to provide foodgrains at cheaper rates to some weaker sections and those drawing fixed salaries. Also cheap raw material is required to be provided for some industries. Although this is a British bureaucratic policy which has been continued to be followed even after gaining independence. The term of trade are the part of the same policy. This has been the policy that along with the elite class settled in the cities, there are other classes including the labour class. The British Government had set up industries and later on, the trend was continued in the country. There is a need to make changes by formulating a policy for providing cheap raw material and foodgrains. Hence providing relief with respect to certain items, the grant of subsidy is a must for the farmers. He has to ask for it and I don't favour this. If he is compelled to do so, the Government should come to his rescue.

The issue of post harvest technology and storage was also raised. In this regard, I would like to submit that we are going to make a provision in the agricultural policy proposed to be formulated that the arrangements for storage of agricultural produce, foodgrains and other produce like vegetables, fruits, milk may be made only in the rural areas. It will be beneficial in many ways as the land is quite costly in the cities. In Narayana and Lawrenceganj, where such storage arrangements exist, the land is available at the rate of 50 to 60 thousand per yard and going in for such a land can not be termed as a very rational decision from economic point of view. The land, raw material and the labour is quite cheap in the villages where we have produce in abundance. The capital with the farmers may be invested there and the rental can be distributed proportionally. Thus, we will be able to provide storage facilities in the rural areas. It will help in checking the wastage that takes place while transporting produce

[Shri Sompal]

from one place to another. It will also help in reducing the load transportation system of the country and it will also reduce the present density of population in the cities. We also wish to provide an additional facility. The Government proposes to set up a chain of licensed godowns and a receipt will be issued to the farmers which will help them in seeking loans from the bank. Such a provision will also be made. It would be also a part of our policy.

Similarly, with regard to the setting up of cold storages and other food processing and agriculture based industries, I would submit that if the House agrees and if there arises a need to pass a law in this regard, it will be done.

The issue of irrigation, and propagation of new technologies and techniques was raised. It was resolved to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras, however, only 211 such centres have been set up. The previous Governments changed the decision and stated that more such centres will not be set up. I would like to convey this information that the Planning Commission and the present Government have decided to set up a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in each district as per the resolution passed and these centres will play an important role in providing such information and impart training to the farmers.

All the members have discussed the position of irrigation. Agricultural activity is a human effort wherein the land, water and the bio-assets are utilised to produce something. This is termed as cultivation. The Government is going to formulate a policy for optimum, long term and stable utilisation of these three resources. As regards the water resources, I have already submitted that we shall lay emphasis primarily on two points. One is that the irrigation projects which are nearing completion and we have identified 103 such irrigation projects. If an amount of 4000 crore rupees is invested, we will be able to provide irrigation facility in 9,75,000 hectares of additional land in two years' time. An amount of 1300 crore rupees has already been provided in the present budget for this purpose. The rest of it would be provided next year. Secondly, the Planning Commission has drawn up a 25 year plan costing 677 crore rupees, which will help create additional capacity for 64 million hectare of land. This is a very comprehensive, integrated and all round plan wherein it is proposed not only to collect rain water but to ensure the all round development in the field of agriculture based on rain water catchment areas and watershed.

With regard to the waterlogging of land and scheme pertaining to the drainage, the example of Pilibanga has been given. It will also be covered.

Hon'ble Shri Jakhar has raised the issue of new technology for irrigation. The relief given for sprinkler set and drip irrigation has been continued and it is 90% for women, scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and 70% for the rest. I would like to make a submission in the House in this regard. I have always suggested that the taxes imposed on pipe and other parts used in the drip irrigation and sprinkler set and on other items being used for their

production or on new material, such as import duty, sales tax or excise tax should be removed and price could be hiked slightly at the first point. On one hand, we have a large number of people to collect these taxes and on other hand, we have an equal number of people to provide subsidy and the House is well aware of the extent of corruption that is prevalent in both the systems. This could be avoided. The farmers will be able to utilise it. This infructuous exercise is beyond my comprehension. I would like to consider this suggestion of mine.

[Translation]

Import of wheat was also mentioned. Last year when crop was sown at that time, all parties, all classes and all those people who are concerned with it, had apprehension that production of wheat, which is main foodgrain, might be less because crop was not sown at right time due to late rains. At that time, the then Government decided to import 1.5 million tonnes of wheat from Australia. Though it is true that 69 million tonnes were produced last year but there were apprehensions that perhaps it may be around 61-62 million tonnes. But afterwards due to long spell of cold climatic conditions, production of crop fortunately improved and now it is being estimated that production would be more than 66 million tonnes. From that point of view, production was not that much less as it was estimated. Since an agreement was already signed so we had to import wheat. But Hon'ble Balam Jakhar Saheb said that there is weed in the wheat imported from Australia. This is true that there are 36 kinds of weeds in that wheat but the Government of Australia had already sent its complete list and their samples. In that, some weeds are of very serious nature and there is apprehension that if they spread to wheat producing areas, then they will not allow other crops to grow. Therefore, it was decided that it will be off loaded at ports in non-wheat producing areas and will be absorbed in those areas only. It is being used in this way.

It has been said that underground water level has decreased. We have mentioned the scheme of National Watershed Development Projects for rainfed areas. Through this scheme it has been decided to tackle this problem.

Shri Radhakrishnanji had raised the question of rubber and copra. In this connection I have already clarified the position. Shri Sarpotdarji had mentioned about import of wheat, Agricultural Policy and price of milk, which I have already discussed. As regards taking of loans from money lenders is concerned, I have also given its reply.

I have also heard the speech of Hon'ble Raghuvansh Prasadji who is now occupying the Chair. This speech was full of sentiments and socialistic fervour. Agricultural Insurance will not remain mere formality as you were apprehending. I had said this earlier also. There is difference in present arrangement and the proposed draft. It will certainly be made practical. We have not kept that impracticable. Earlier all schemes were impracticable because they were formulated with grants.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Earlier district was the unit.

SHRI SOMPAL: There is no doubt that afterwards village will be treated as unit and it will be done on Panchayat level. Even this also you had said and I was about to say this.

[English]

The village will be reckoned as a unit and it will be applied to all agricultural products in due course
.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Shri Raghuvansh Prasad has rightly said that the contribution of agriculture to GDP has decreased and this is not an unusual thing. This is true in the case of all those countries which have passed through development process. Unfortunately, in agriculture sector GDP has decreased but since population depending on agriculture has not decreased in that proportion, per capita income has also decreased. Unless alternative occupational arrangement is made available in rural regions, this problem cannot be solved. We had instructed NABARD to raise Rural Infrastructure Development Fund from Rs. 2500 crore to Rs. 3000 crore under basic infrastructure. We had made other arrangements also so that conditions of roads, primary education, primary health services, storage and distribution system should be improved.

There is no doubt that the ironic picture of wealth alongside poverty presented by Bihar cannot be found in any other place in India. It appears that Bihar is an ancient civilization and so they want to come out in the modern times. Biharis have a habit of going to extremes whether it is prosperity or downfall. It is probably the latter phase now. I had been sitting with them and several times I had tried to give suggestions but the insensitivity shown by the administrators of Bihar is also incomparable. Water logging in Gandak command area and water shed management were mentioned here. Development of minor irrigation schemes has also been mentioned. It is true that the area under Green Revolution i.e. the 37 per cent irrigated area of the country has increased the agricultural production. The second stage of Green Revolution should be brought in those areas which get good rainfall but do not have proper irrigation system in which we have already marked eastern states and north-eastern state and only their contribution would be more in these water storage scheme and small irrigation development scheme. It will not be possible without the cooperation of State Governments. Through you, I would like to tell this thing to eastern states particularly Bihar.

Shri Rajveer Singhji has correctly said that these suicides are not result of any single reason but many reasons which we have already discussed. He had mentioned about Agricultural Policy also. Farmers' community is not organised and loss of their bargaining capacity is their

helplessness. Therefore, Government have to interfere in that. This is happening in the entire world. In a country like America where only 1.3 per cent of population depends on Agriculture, even there also, this type of support is given to Agriculture which was started in 1930 in the form of one chapter of Roosevelt's New Deal Policy. Even now this support is being given. I had mentioned Japan, European Economic Community and Canada. There also, such support is being given.

I would like to warn the House that indiscriminate use of fertilizers and poisonous chemicals are affecting the fertility of soil. This should not be made political issue and this allegation is wrong that I have raised this issue because I am in the ruling party. I have got many example

When I was in the opposition, I asked many Question in Rajya Sabha in this connection and mentioned this in my speeches also. If members desire, I will sent copies to them. It is not a new subject for me. Fertility of soil is not only affected by unproductive fertilizers but it is also adversely affected by fertilizers of phosphatic potash it increases toxicity and enters into the whole series of food Disease like cancer, existence of most dangerous insects which came into being due to this and are adversely affecting crops and disease resisting capacity of crops has been reduced. Unless we increase the price of urea, we shall not be able to check it. It is upto the House to decide. I do not want that this should be used as slogan. In India 40 per cent urea goes waste due to its over use. Its direct use affects the structure of soil, its taxturer, composition and chemical structure and due to deposits of nitrate, water, soil and all the eatables are becoming polluted. As per the international standard, the presence of poisonous residues is manifold. We can take the example of milk. 1172 samples were collected from 52 districts. The presence of residues acceptable in International Code Act is 0.05 particles, but it is 4.5 in our country. It means it is 90 times more than what is necessary. We are drinking all these poisonous matters

[English]

DR. RAVI MALLU : We do agree with all these things. But we disagree with you so far as increase in the rates of urea is concerned. We totally agree with you with regard to various scientific explanations which you have given. We are disputing only the increase in the rates of urea
.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : Let me please clarify it. I have not taken a decision

DR. RAVI MALLU : We are not blaming you

SHRI SOMPAL : I have just offered it for the due indulgence of the Members and the House. If they decide the other way, I do not have any contention. It is just for the due reflection of the House. If the Members feel, they can take a decision and if we all agree that we should continue to take all these things, I do not have any objection

SHRI VENKATARAMI ANANTHA REDDY (Anantapur): Is it your personal opinion? What has been the decision of the Government?

SHRI SOMPAL : I have given my perception but as a Minister too(Interruptions) How can I act ambivalently?

DR. RAVI MALLU : As a Minister, you explained yesterday the theory of imbalance. We agree to it. We are only objecting the increase in the rates of urea.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL: It has been stated that river water is going waste and underground water level is also going down drastically. Government are also well aware that hundreds of blocks have been declared as dark and black areas—where 65 to 85% of underground water has been exploited. Due to this over exploitation its level is going down further. There is also a technique for collecting rain water. As far as the water level of rivers is concerned, I would like to inform you that the rainy season lasts only for 70-80 days in our country. We have to use that much water throughout the year by storing it. 17.25 % of the rain water in India is utilized and rest goes waste and alongwith it washes away the fertile soil. It's proper use would also form a part of this policy.

Shri Bhaskar Rao has said something about Andhra Pradesh. He stated about giving bonus to the farmers on wheat but not on paddy. Bonus on wheat was given under special circumstances. Some payments have been made in his state in this regard. I have the released figures but not at this moment. I will provide the data later on. As far as imparting education and training to the farmers is concerned, I have already mentioned about the insurance cover.

[English]

Ex-gratia payment to the farmers is no solution. I do agree with it. But in such acute cases, extremities and severities, this is at least one consolation which should be given to the next of the kin. But this is not the ultimate solution. I do agree with him. The things which we are discussing, are the ultimate solutions which are short term, long term as well as medium term solutions.

The hon. Member has said that the farmer is unable to fix the price. I have already responded to this phenomenon saying that the farmers are not an organised lot. Therefore, they are price-takers and not price-bidders.

[Translation]

Shri Digvijay Singh has stated about storage, agriculture policy and other issues. He has also mentioned about the pleatu and semi-pleatu regions of Bihar. Priority will be given to these areas for setting up rain water collecting techniques. Such areas will be identified on priority basis and hundred per cent grant will be provided to such states by the Central Government.

Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra has also raised some important points. I do agree with the Members that such type of information should be imparted to the farmers by the Government and other agencies.

[English]

He mentioned about crop failure also and some other things which I have already included in my submission.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu asked for special relief from Prime Minister's Relief fund. The Prime Minister is already considering it. I do not know what decisions has been taken, but it is already under consideration. So far as other things are concerned, the relief from(Interruptions)

SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): We made a suggestion for the appointment of a Committee to visit the areas where farmers committed suicide and find out the reasons.

SHRI SOMPAL: I am coming to that. It is already in my list.

So far as sale of spurious pesticides, particularly the incidents which have been noticed in the case of Andhra Pradesh, is conceme, it is really very sad. Again, this is the responsibility of the State Governments. It is reported that in Andhra Pradesh all these shops are owned by the people who are moneylenders. They compel the farmer to approach them and take these things from them, whether they are of good quality or not. This is not a healthy state of affairs. This must be checked by the State Government we are ready to provide it.

Equally important is to educate the farmer on the use of proper pesticide of proper stage. The obstinate Ball Worm is in epidemic form in all the States including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Punjab. This Ball Worm has the tendency of entering the pod of the cotton. Once it enters the pod of becomes invincible because no pesticide spray would affect it. So, it is essential to have a proper spray at proper time. Secondly, we have developed a virus for the new techniques of bio-controls of such diseases. If the eggs of this virus are spread on the crop, within three days it will germinate and eat up all the harmful insects. It is a pre-dater and it also dies because it runs out of its food. We are trying to establish chains of such production facilities in all cotton-growing areas. For this also we are trying to have the cooperation of the States. We are trying to give this technology to people in the private sector also. I think, within the next two years, enough production facilities will be available.

There are certain other techniques also like sowing marigold flowers in rows which has been developed by ICRIASAT at Hyderabad. Farmers should be educated to use such techniques of in-crop pest management based on bio-controls and reduced dependence on toxic chemicals.

Shri Goplasamy, our friend who is newly named as Vaiko, participated in the debate. He also gave a suggestion which I have already covered. Shri Dhananjaya Kumar also

said almost the same things. It was a repetition. Shri Jalappa— who, as the then Textile Minister, did not listen to me on removal of export restriction on cotton *nawars* - is now exhorting the present Government to do it. But we are surely giving due consideration to his suggestion.

[Translation]

I do agree with Shri Kusmaria who said that the relief provisions which were made during British period are still prevelant today. That should be changed. We will discuss it with the Government and Agriculture Committee. We will initiate that discussion.

Shri Beni Prasad Verma has also mentioned some points. But despite being an ex-Minister he gave a wrong figure that 32 crore Hectare land is used for Agriculture though the total geographical area of our country is 32.9 crore hectare.

Only 14.2 crores hectare of land is being used for agriculture purposes. However, he has not given any sugestion and his speech is polittically motivated. Shri Nakli Singh has also expressed his views. The most sentimental speech was given by the former Prime Minister. He himself was Prime Minister. So I do not comment upon what ever he has said. He is our respected leader. The work which he himself could have performed has assigned us to do so. It would not be proper to comment in his absence.

[English]

Shri N.K. Premchandran has also advanced certain suggestions. But I do not think that there is any new suggestion except the extension of irrigation benefit scheme. In this regard, we have already allotted Rs.13,000 crore in the current year's Budget and this takes care of his suggestion on rubber and other things.

He has pointed out something about polyurethane. I wish to inform him, through you, Sir, that polyurethane is being imported for some other uses, namely, for producing foam. There is an industry which has come up on the basis of polyurethane. It is not a substitute to rubber. There is no impact on that. Therefore, it is being allowed and it will be continued.

[Translation]

Most of the suggestions given by Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda have already been given.

Shri Chandrashekhar Sahu and Shri Anup Lal Yadav have mentioned about soil conservation and the loss due to flood in North Bihar. They have also stated about the price jute I would like to draw your attention towards the price of jute. Jute Corporation of India purchases jute to save the jute prices and support price similar to that done by Food Corporation of India in regard to the foodgrains. This Corporation was set up with a capital of Rs. 5 crores and now it has raised it to Rs.112 crores. On the request of

West Bengal Government, jute is supplied to Jute Manufacturing Association. Several hundred crores of rupees are due against this Association. Manufacturing Association is not repaying the money to Jute Corporation of India which is affecting its purchase operations. Farmers have to suffer due to it. Efforts are needed to be made in this regard. I am making efforts in this direction and seek the support of other members also.

[English]

Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy has made certain suggestions which have already been covered. He made a specific suggestion about Technology Mission on Cotton. We have already declared that a provision of Rs. 9 crore has been in the Budget. This year, this Technology Mission on Cotton will be made operational to have a focussed approach on the production of cotton and cotton crop.

[Translation]

Hon. Member from Bihar Shri Ramanand Singh has raised the issue of small projects regarding legislation of land ownership. This issue pertains to State Government. We have already given grants to State Governments for small units. Shri Anand Mohan and Shri Gauri Shankar Bisen has raised an important issue regarding supply of balanced fertilizers. It is an essential matter. Prabha Thakurji of Maharashtra, Prabhunath Singhji from Bihar, Shri Virendra Singh and Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwismurthiary have raised issue regarding Bodo region. He has given a suggestion for creating a pool for north - eastern states with the help of a contribution of 10 per cent fund by each Ministry. A special arrangement can be made for your state in this pool. We will discuss this matter with you.

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISHMUTHIARY .
Excuse me, Sir, I have referred to the demand of
.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwismurthiary, we will discuss this. I undertake to discuss this. We will take a constructive view of your suggestion.

[Translation]

Shri K.D. Sultanpuri has raised the issue of waste land in hilly regions. Though it is a state subject, but our Agriculture policy consists of this suggestion. There is 80 million hectare waste land in India which can be utilized equally for afforestation and cultivation. This can become a national property and economically viable if in an organised manner it could be distributed among landless labourers, small and marginal farmers, educated unemployed youths, Agriculture graduates and ex-servicemen. This would help in protecting cultivable land from soil erosion. The issue regarding regularisation of land given on lease has also been raised. The State

[Shri Sompal]

Government can take up the matter of Garhchirauli with the Centre. Shrimati Kailasho Devi has raised mostly political issues. Shri B.M Mensinkai from Karnataka has raised the issue of chilly growers. Though this issue pertains to State Government does not comes under the purview of CACP and support price, even then we will discuss it with the State Government.

Shri V. Sathiamoorthy, Dr. Ravi Mallu, Shri Shailendra Kumar and several hon. Members from Uttar Pradesh have raised the issue regarding shortage of water in canals due to silt and sand accumulated in them which has reduced their capacity of carrying water. It is really a serious matter. A comprehensive and integrated plan is being formulated for it under the Command Area Development Authority. Shri Naresh Puglia has requested to send a study team to Maharashtra. I have already made submission in this regard that it would be discussed with the State Government. A Study Group would be sent there if our assistance is required in this regard.

Sir, all the Members have suggested for constituting a Committee in this regard. I would like to say that a Standing Committee on Agriculture is already there. This responsibility can be assigned to it. The Committee can give a time bound report on this issue.

[English]

DR. RAVI MALLU : We have asked for a Parliamentary Committee, consisting of all parties, only to find out the reasons for the suicides and to suggest preventive measures in that regard.

SHRI SOMPAL: It is upto the Speaker. He can appoint such a Committee. But the Standing Committee on Agriculture of Parliament is an all-party Committee which can be asked to go and find out the causes of suicides. Without creating a new Committee, this work can be assigned to that Committee. I do not think, there is any harm, but this is for the consideration of the hon. Speaker.

DR. RAVI MALLU: But Sir, this Standing Committee looks after the Budgetary proposals and other things. Keeping in view, the acuteness of the issue of suicides, I would request you to kindly appoint a special Committee so that the farmers are paid special attention.

SHRI SOMPAL: Hon. Members can send their suggestions to the hon. Speaker and a Parliamentary Committee can go into them. We have no objection.

DR. RAVI MALLU: Sir, Andhra Pradesh is one of the States where majority of suicides have taken place.

SHRI SOMPAL: I have agreed.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Speaker can constitute such a Committee. As per the statement of hon. Minister he is agreed to do so.

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, there is a necessity for an Expert Committee in the Ministry of Agriculture to go into the causes.

SHRI SOMPAL : Let me inform the hon. Members that the Members, who have agricultural background, are the best experts on this matter. Please do not depend on experts. We are the experts. If we cannot find out what the ground reality is, then there is no other person who can find that out.

SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY: Alongwith the Members of Parliament, there can be some agricultural economists also.

SHRI SOMPAL : They are already there in the States.

[Translation]

Shri Bikram Keshari Devo, Shri K.H. Muniyappa - from Karnataka, Shri Selvarasu - Tamil Nadu, Shrimati Reena Choudhary - Mohanialganj, Uttar Pradesh and the former Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Shri Mallikarjunaiah have raised issue regarding diversion of some river. This issue pertains to the State Government but Union Government would provide assistance in its implementation if the project is viable.

Sir, with these words, I again thank this House, hon. Speaker and all the Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Lok Sabha is adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Thursday, June 4.

20.43 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday June 4, 1998/Jyaishta 14, 1920 (Saka)