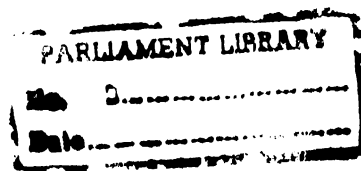


LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. II contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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(English Version)**

Wednesday, December 8, 1999/Agrahayana 17, 1921 (Saka)

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<u>Col./Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
(i)/2	Vol.VII	Vol.II
(ii)/9	A-310	A-130
23/3 468/B	PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU	PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU
39/30	THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES(DR.R.P.THAKUR)	THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES(DR.C.P.THAKUR)
71&72/3(Col.5)	0.80	0.080
75&76/14	Add "8.75" under Col.9	
113&114/9(Col.7)	0.3000	0.300
115&116/13 (Col.9)	8.6000	8.600
117&118/4	For Col. 4	
	-- 2.000 5.000 10.000 17.000 14.0000	
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123&124/2(from below) Col.4	74.725	74.7725
125&126/13(Col.4)	37.725	3.7725
151&152/5 (Col.6)	0.34	0.30
311/10	BWISMUTHIARY	BWISWMUTHIARY
320/17	104.39	104.9
386/1	SHRI SOMANTH CHATTERJEE	SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE
397/15	SHRI S. JAIPAN REDDY	SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY
399/10	Ministers	Members

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 8, 1999/Agrahayana 17, 1921 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Illegal Migrants from Bangladesh

*141. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether agreement signed in 1990-91 between the India and Bangladesh Governments on the question of illegal migrants is still continuing;

(b) if so, the details of its implementation; and

(c) the steps taken for resolving the outstanding issues between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

At the first India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group meeting held in New Delhi from March 29-31, 1994 it was agreed to revive the ground arrangements of 1991 between the BSF and the Bangladesh Rifles to deal with the cases of illegal cross border movement. These arrangements were amended during the second JWG meeting held in Dhaka from April 19-21, 1995. The arrangements provide for the return of persons under various specified circumstances. The Government of India has been taking up the issue of illegal migrants from Bangladesh regularly, at various meetings, including during the Home Secretary's visit to Dhaka in November 1998, and the Director General-level meeting between the BSF and the Bangladesh Rifles in Dhaka from October 24-28,

1999. Both sides agreed to adhere to the specific procedures agreed upon during the second JWG meeting in this connection. As friendly neighbours, both countries are committed to resolving all outstanding issues through dialogue.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: Sir, it is an admitted fact that the population of Tripura has abnormally increased after Independence. Before Independence, it was about 7 lakhs and at present, it comes to 32 lakhs. It is due to illegal migrants. It is also an admitted fact that after the Indira-Mujib Pact in the year 1972, people illegally came to India from Bangladesh and to check this illegal infiltration, Border Security Force was deployed in the State of Tripura which is very thin. The Tripura-Bangladesh border is about 856 kilometres and the distance between two BSF posts ranges from 100 kilometres to 125 kilometres whereas in other international borders like Indo-Pakistan border in Kashmir and Punjab, the distance between two BSF posts is about 15 kilometres.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Baju Ban Riyan, you may ask your supplementary. The Minister will give the required particulars.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: I would like to know whether the policy of deployment of BSF along the Indo-Bangladesh border would be uniform with that of Indo-Pak border.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, the deployment of the Border Security Force is, of course, governed by many factors including terrain and it is determined by not simply checking illegal immigration including illegal activities like smuggling, etc. But the hon. Member is correct when he points out that if there could be such a thing as empirically objective criteria of deploying forces in accordance with the size of the border, then perhaps, deployment of BSF in Tripura would not match with the deployment in other sectors of the international border. But that is not the only criterion. I am aware of the fact that Tripura itself has raised the question that there is a certain deficiency in the number of BSF battalions that are there. That deficiency ought to be made good. If the hon. Member's suggestion is that the ratio of deployment be uniform all along the international border, then that would not be a tenable suggestion. But if the hon. Member is suggesting that there is a deficiency pointed out and that deficiency ought

to be met, then I assure the hon. Member that we are aware of the deficiencies as indicated by the BSF.

Steps are being taken to make good that requirement.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: I suggest to the Government to man the border in such a way by increased BSF deployment in order to face the situation in Tripura just like it is facing in other parts of the country.

My second question is about Indo-Bangladesh talks. The Indo-Bangladesh talks are going on at present. Among the many talks, one is relating to the question of transportation of goods to Tripura from other parts of the country through the Bangladesh territory. So, this is one of the talks that is going on and the other one is to destroy the extremist hide-out camps at Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Government, on their own, should do it or with joint venture with the Government of India should allow the Indian security forces to operate jointly to uproot the camps of the insurgents.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If I have understood the question correctly, there are two parts of it. One part relates to extension of the communication links between Bangladesh and Agartala. The second one relates to terrorist activities and the alleged safety and security that such terrorists obtain in the neighbouring countries. On the first part about extension of transport links between India and Bangladesh, as you are aware and I am sure the hon. Member is also aware, during the recent visit by the Prime Minister, the Calcutta-Dhaka Bus Service was inaugurated. On that occasion, the hon. Prime Minister indeed both the Prime Ministers - agreed, in principle, to the extension of this Bus Service. A proposal was put from India's side about extending the Bus Services from Calcutta to Agartala. The proposal was then further expanded and there is an "in principle" agreement on it to restore the communication link between India and Bangladesh a multimodal communication link which includes not just road transport but other modes of transport as well.

On the second part relating to terrorist activities within Tripura or other parts of the North-East and the alleged shelter that these terrorists obtain, I might inform the hon. Member that the Government is very conscious of the dimension of the problem, not simply in Tripura but the entire North-East. What we are receiving from Bangladesh is an understanding in regard to India's concern and a very cooperative attitude.

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply the hon'ble Minister has made a mention of the meetings convened during 1991-1999. I had asked as to how many unresolved cases were resolved in the meetings held during 1991-1999. This problem is becoming grave and the number of illegal migrants is increasing continuously. Earlier this problem was limited to big cities but now they are spreading in villages. It is a danger for the security of the country and they are burdening the country economically too. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how many such cases have been resolved. It has been stated that meetings are held regularly but this point has not been clarified.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble member has asked as to how many cases have been resolved in the meetings held during 1991-1999. He has also stated that the magnitude of this problem is increasing and it is taking serious proportions. It is neither practicable nor desirable, perhaps to give details of the meetings held between 1991-1999. But it is a fact that during every meeting, the issues raised by both the sides are considered practically and constructively. Such issues are taken up with the Government of Bangladesh time and again. I would like to tell you that last year about 65,000 migrants were deported. This number of 65,000 migrants itself reveals the gravity of the problem. I agree with the view of hon'ble Member that it has become a very serious problem. Economic condition, growing population and geography of our border are the main reasons behind this problem. In view of these reasons, the Government is fully alert and is taking all possible measures in this regard.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the hon. Minister's statement in his initial reply that the issue of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh has been taken up by the Government of India regularly at various meetings, would he please let us know whether the Bangladesh Government have been informed of the arrangements that we have made under the Illegal Migrants Detection Act (IMDT) and the cooperation we are securing from them in receiving back into Bangladesh those illegal migrants who have been detected after following due procedure under that Act?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, this matter is relating to the Act and is an exercise of the management of the

situation by our country. The Government of Bangladesh is, indeed aware of this matter and cooperation from Bangladesh is forthcoming. I cited a figure that between 1990 and 1999, 65,000 illegal immigrants have been repatriated. The procedure to be followed is laid down in the guidelines and the guidelines specify what procedure has to be followed and how it has to be followed. The difficulty that is encountered is in reference of the people who are intended to be repatriated or that the B.S.F. wants to repatriate. Then, a reference has to be made by the Bangladesh Rifles to their authorities on the identity of the persons concerned and this, necessarily takes a certain amount of time. But, otherwise, we are constantly raising this matter in every successive meeting and it is an issue about which the Government is fully aware.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the name of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, the Bengali people have to suffer a lot in this connection, Shri Ajit Panja, myself and Shri Akbar Ali Khandokar had been to Mumbai last year and met the hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra to sort out the problem. The people speaking Bengali and who are genuine Indian citizens go there for their livelihood and to do their business, but they are being harassed unnecessarily. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra was kind enough and he took an all out initiative to see that the problems are sorted out, but still complaints are coming from them.

So, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has any specific information and what is the normal existing system as far as the deportation is concerned. I would further like to know whether the Governments of other States, who arrest those people in the name of Bangladeshi immigrants, send them directly to Bangladesh or send them through the State Government of West Bengal. If so, how many such Bangladeshis have been deported to Bangladesh through the State Government of West Bengal and does the hon. Minister have any such record with him?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, there are two aspects to this question. Since illegal immigrants are to be deported, innocent citizens of India should not suffer. It is a perfectly valid point and it is no one's contention that citizens of India, who are valid citizens and have every right to live in any part of India, should be deported only because they are suspected. That will not occur.

The hon. member knows about the Calcutta High Court judgment in this regard which came one-and-a-half months back, and in fact, it supports that. I would not go into the details of it. No State Government can deport

anyone directly to Bangladesh. It has to be through proper procedures. Those procedures have been laid down as per the Working Group's agreements. In those procedures, the aspect of any State Government other than West Bengal being able to do so is not possible.

The third part of the query was about the number of illegal migrants deported by or through West Bengal. That figure is not available with me just now. But I will let the hon. Member have that figure.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: My question relates to part (c). There are outstanding issues. You know that the exchange of Indian enclaves with that of the Bangladesh enclaves is pending for a long time. The hon. Prime Minister is here. He knows that it was decided in the Nehru-Noon-Agreement in 1958. Thereafter, it was also decided in the Indira-Mujib Pact in 1973. After that, do you know the conditions of those people, two lakh Indian citizens, who are living in the Indian enclaves? They are governed by the jungle rule. There are no police and administration. There are also no schools and not even primary health centres. They are living under inhuman conditions.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister very clearly when this problem of exchange of Indian enclaves with that of the Bangladesh enclaves will be solved or for how long it will be kept pending. Next time also, you will only say that it is 'pending'.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I appreciate the hon. Member's concern. He has often discussed this issue with me personally. In the question itself, there are some suggestions for action which I welcome.

Now, I also tend to agree with the hon. Member that the conditions in the enclaves are, in fact, not to our satisfaction. But that is not simply a question of satisfaction to us. Neither country is satisfied. Bangladesh is also not satisfied with the conditions in the enclaves. That is why I am bold enough to assert that both countries are actually keen that the process of exchange is completed as soon as possible.

We have agreed to work out modalities and, in the meantime, also to conduct a census in the enclaves.

I will explain it further because this is a matter of very deep concern to the hon. Member. According to legal advice, the sequence of steps that would enable the exchange of enclaves includes the completion of demarcation, the passage of enabling legislation in

Parliament in consultation with the State Governments concerned and ratification and implementation of the India-Bangladesh boundary agreement. But both sides have agreed on the lists of their respective enclaves.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: But the only thing is that has been pending for the last 42 years.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I accept that it is pending. That is the factual position. But I have also explained the reasons or the difficulties as to why it is pending.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this problem has become very grave and at present there are around 2 crore unauthorised Bangladeshi migrants living in the country and their number is around 4 lakh in Delhi alone. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Governor of Assam has written any letter in this regard and if so, what action has been taken on it. Besides, Estimates Committee of Parliament has given its report in this regard. I would like to know that when this report was presented and what action has been taken on it? As the report has strongly suggested that due to infiltration by Bangladeshi migrants the economic, political and social life of the people in West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram have changed totally. Alongwith it I would like to know as to what action has been taken in regard to the programme of barbed wire fencing on Bangladesh border?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question has many aspects. Firstly, the hon'ble Member has asked whether the Governor of Assam has written any letter in this regard. I would like to say that hon'ble Governor has written a letter but I cannot give you any information about the contents of this letter. I cannot discuss in this House the contents of letter written by the hon'ble Governor to the hon'ble President. Secondly the hon'ble Member has stated that it is a serious problem and has given figures in this regard. When hon'ble Indrajeet Gupta was the Home Minister he had given some figures in the House. This is all illegal migration. It is not possible for me to give any consensus figure about their number as on date. Their number is estimated in many ways. One estimate is based on the rate of increase in population of those districts of Assam which are adjacent to the border areas of Bangladesh. All these figures are with the hon'ble Member. Thirdly, the hon'ble Member has asked about the report of the Estimates Committee in this regard. He has asked as to when the report was presented and what recommendations were

made therein and what happened to them. The report of the Estimates Committee was presented ten years ago and two suggestions were given regarding illegal migration. Before the presentation of this report District Magistrates had the power to issue citizenship certificate. Estimates Committee had given a suggestion that issuance of citizenship certificate by District Magistrates caused disorder and hence this power should be withdrawn. The Government then withdrawn this power and now citizenship certificate can be issued only by the Central Government. Second suggestion was regarding restriction on visa. As hon'ble Members know very well that it was an aspect of Indira Mujeeb accord that Bangladeshi citizens can visit India on a visa of six months and it was not necessary to give information about their purpose of visit and location of their stay during the period. This condition is still valid as before. I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that the problem of illegal migration is not linked with visa alone because illegal migrants do not enter the country on visa. There are several other reasons behind it. If you want you can have discussion on it in any other form.

[English]

So far as the issue of fencing is concerned, The total boundary with Bangladesh is 4096 kms. of which the proposed fencing is for 2430 kms. the 790 odd kms. are riverine and 59 kms. is simply not possible to fence due to terrain. Fencing is at a distance of about 150 yards from the 'Zero Line' and only 817 kms. of the fencing has so far been completed out of the proposed 2430 kms.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that the Minister, in reply to Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay's question, has said that under no circumstances, the genuine citizen should be harassed and heckled.

About 42 kilometres of my area is adjacent to Bangladesh. The vast area of my adjacent constituency, Karimganj is adjacent to Bangladesh. What is happening in the border is that the Border Security Force impose curfews in the evening hours and they start harassing only the Indian citizens and not checking the infiltrators. I myself had written several letters to the Home Ministry when I was an ex-MP and also now, as a Member of Parliament, but no action has been taken.

Sir, you will be shocked to know that recently, just before the elections, one of the boys, the brother of the BSF personnel, who was moving from one house to the other was shot and killed. An inquiry is being done by the Home Ministry on that. I am glad about that.

...(Interruptions) I am telling about Assam. So, my point is that all political parties are totally with you that infiltration must be stopped but the human factor of those living in the border areas should be considered. There should be a strict instruction given to the BSF that they must not harass them. They are settling the case by taking something on the left hand. That should be stopped. You have said that. I am glad about that.

Sir, you know about Assam. You were behind the Assam Movement. I know it very well. I will request you very candidly to take some action so that the Indian citizens, who are residing all along the border areas in Tripura, are not harassed and also infiltration is checked. We are totally with you.

MR. SPEAKER: It is only a request, a suggestion. There is no supplementary.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I will take this opportunity to point out that I made a slight error in the figures that I have cited. My alert officials have been kind enough to send me the accurate figures because I do not want to go wrong on record here. The total proposed fencing is 3,247 kilometres; of which 817 kilometres have been done and 2,430 kilometres remain.

I sympathise and agree with the hon. Member that no Indian citizen ought to be harassed by any agency of the State only because a larger problem is to be addressed. This is a suggestion, Sir, which I will, in all faithfulness, communicate to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, please put a very pointed supplementary.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, looking at the number of persons actually declared as illegal migrants or Bangladeshis by the Illegal Migrants Determination Tribunal Act. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, other questions are also important. This question has taken 30 minutes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that I am allowing it because of the importance of the Question.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, you take those figures of people actually declared as illegal migrants by the

Tribunal. Does the Government not realise that the entire dimension of the influx of Bangladeshis is rather over-exaggerated looking at the figures of the number of persons actually declared as Bangladeshis by the Tribunal? Then, there are, as you know, complaints about innocent citizens being harassed.

Simply sympathising with us or agreeing with us that innocent citizens should not be harassed does not solve the problem. Will you consider some way of monitoring, some way of supervising in view of the large number of complaints that the agencies which are detecting should not and do not indulge into this particular harassment of innocent citizens? So, there should be some monitoring about it. Some vigilance should be there. So many complaints have come. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, this Question has already taken half-an-hour.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Even we have the decision of the Calcutta High Court. After that what action has been taken in order to see that harassment does not take place?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will not comment on the opinion or the view expressed by the hon. Member, but as to whether the Government will take seriously any complaints, I would say yes, the Government will take them seriously.

Radiation Leakage

*142. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases of radiation leakage reported at Atomic Power Stations in the country during the last three years; and

(b) the preventive measures taken by the Government to arrest such radiation-leakages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Some amount of radioactivity is permitted to be discharged from every Nuclear Power Plant (NPP). The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has specified the limits for the discharge of radioactivity for each of the NPPs.

In the last three years, there has been one incident where this limit was exceeded. Subsequent to a leak in a moderator heat exchanger of RAPS Unit-2 on May 5, 1998, heavy water containing tritium activity got released into Rana Pratap Sagar Lake. Though the limit on the tritium discharge was exceeded, the annual radiation dose to the public due to this release was estimated to be less than 25 microsievert compared to the annual limit 1000 microsievert prescribed by AERB.

There was another incident, in MAPS Unit-2, of heavy water leak due to failure of seal plug during coolant channel inspection on March 26, 1999. This incident led to release of some radioactivity through the stack, which was well within the specified limit. There was no release through the liquid route.

(b) Periodic inspection of equipment, prevention of leakages and careful control and monitoring of radioactive discharges are the preventive measures that continuously remain in force to ensure that radioactive discharges/leakages do not exceed the limit laid down by AERB. That these measures are effective, is amply demonstrated by the fact that there has been only one event in the last three years (as described above) of exceeding the specified limit.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Though a statement was made by the Government and laid on the Table, it refers to an incident in RAPS Unit No. 2 and MAPS Unit No. 2. A major accident was averted in 1996 at Narora due to an oil seepage in the pipeline. A suggestion was made to avoid such type of seepage which leads to an ultimate dastardly accident of radioactive leakages. All such pipelines have aluminium claddings, an insulating material. The turbine has to be coated with some kind of a special material or component. That was probably implemented in the Narora plant. So, I want to know whether the same suggestion was implemented in all other atomic power plants also. There is an Atomic Power Station at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu where there was a report of such oil seepage. I would like to know from the Government whether all other atomic power stations in the nation have also implemented the suggestions.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, this Question relates to the safety issues within the DA installations. I would just like to go through that first and assure the Member that adequate safety margins are provided to ensure that accident do not occur. There are several levels of safety which are built into the design, into the construction and the operation of these plants; and the personnel who operate these plants are also highly qualified and trained. We also have a Safety Review Committee which reviews these situations from time to time.

A reference has been made to Narora and also to MAPS regarding a situation which arose on 26th March, 1999. I would like to tell the Member that the incident which took place at Narora and the one which took place at MAPS are first of all different. However, I would still like to impress upon you the importance that one lays or the Department lays or the Government lays on the safety standards within the Units. I would also like to mention that the AERB came up with some 134 safety regulations, out of which these are placed in four categories. Out of these, the first deals with the hardware-related issue which deals with effective components; the second one deals with the aging processes; the third one leads to the confidence-building measures, which means we have to look at some analytical studies and computer based calculations; and the last one also deals with upgradation which you were virtually talking about.

These plants have been built as per some earlier safety standards. We are looking into this. As far as the 134 issues are concerned, 90 of these were closed after completion of the agreed Action Plan. Twenty-three of these issues are of a continuous nature and they are being followed by the Safety Review Committee for operating plants and the remaining 21 safety issues are being followed by a dedicated cell which has been set up in the AERB.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Selvaganpathi, put your supplementary please.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, I have no supplementary to put. Thank you for the details.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: The question of the safety of nuclear plants and the impact of mishaps are something which the whole world is looking at today. I am referring specifically here to the Kaiga Nuclear Plant in North Kanara, which is in my constituency. The dome collapsed during construction earlier and there was a panic. It was reconstructed. Now very recently, about a

month ago, there was a short circuit and a fire in the plant. There was a panic all round, not knowing what the causes were and what the impact would be.

My question to the hon. Minister is this: what are you doing by way of confidence-building among the people living in this area because there is panic? Even earlier when I asked about the collapse of this to the Minister in-charge, I was told: "We do not make information public". It is all confidential. I agree with that. But the point is that the people living in the neighbourhood are asking as to what is the cause, and what is the impact.

As far as Kaiga is concerned, earlier there was an agitation about the health hazards to the people living in the vicinity, and the Central Government had made a commitment to release Rs. 2 crore for the specific purpose of looking after the health condition, research and other social support systems for those who might be affected in the long run, which has not yet been released by the Government.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to please assure us that commitments made to the people living in the vicinity are kept and I would ask that whenever there are mishaps, whether it is possible to issue an appropriate statement so that the people know what has happened, and what the actual problem is so that there is no panic and wrong propaganda which create trouble in the area.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I would like to assure the hon. Member that safety and security of the plants are priority for the Government. But I do agree with what you have just spoken about Kaiga. It is an important installation and it would exercise the Members here. However, I would like to assure you that we will look into what you have just spoken about. But apart from that, as a matter of public awareness, we are making a programme, and newsletters are being issued. They highlight the various issues which have been underlined by AERB; along with that we are issuing Annual Report and the Annual Report contains information regulatory restrictions imposed by the AERB. This is a public document; along with that we are encouraging people to visit the plant. We are also asking through Press Conferences for making information known to the people. All these incidents that occur, whether they are incidents or whether they are deviations, are shared internationally through the INES, which is an international event scale and through the IRS, which is the incident reporting system. We would like to take away and demistify this. We want the people to be able to understand this. We would like to assure you that we will do our best to see

that the safety and the security standards are in no way compromised.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: The money promised has not yet been released by your Ministry, which we want you to assure us, that you will do.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: The money that you have spoken about, I will certainly look into and come back to you.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: The hon. Minister has mentioned about the incidents at RAPS Unit-2 and MAPS Unit-2 in March, 1999.

In the United States, there was an accident at Thousand Islands. A big accident occurred in Russia and there was another big accident in an atomic power plant in Japan.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister, keeping in mind all the precautions from these accidents, whether any investigation has been taken up and reports were called for. We have to take all the precautions for the future units and in the existing power stations also. Would the hon. Minister be able to go into those details that in spite of all the precautions that are normally recommended by these people, major accidents have occurred? I would only request the hon. Minister to inform whether any investigations have taken place on this matter and reports were called for or not.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is responsible to the accidents happening in India only.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: The hon. Member has just spoken about the incident that took place at Tokaimura in Japan on September 30, 1999.

So far as we are concerned, there is a table according to which we grade the international nuclear events.

Most of ours have been below zero. These are called deviations. In the incident stage, there have been only two and those are MAPS and RAPS. I would just like to say over here that we have given a detail in the answer about the situation that arose out of RAPS in Rajasthan and the MAPS in Madras. Here, I would like to go back over it. This was an incident which occurred in March, 1999 during an inspection of a coolant channel. But I would also like to tell you that the ventilation system at the reactor discharge was very very minute. At this

moment, I have gone over the 134 safety issues that we are looking at. I am also wanting to underline the fact that the Safety Review Committee for the operation of the plants of the AERB after the Japanese disaster has taken and recommended that as a matter of abundant caution, we should again review this and re-examine it, and we are in the process of doing that.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, with the recent accidents that have taken place in countries which are highly developed as far as atomic energy is concerned, and in an age when technology is very fast moving, I would like to know if the Government is constantly upgrading its technology as far as safety technology is concerned, on the one hand, and detection technology is concerned, on the other, because the hon. Minister has just said whilst talking about a particular atomic plant that the systems there were a little obsolete and outmoded. So, is there a constant upgradation taking place in keeping with the fast moving technology, both from the safety angle and from the detection angle? Nuclear accidents have become a reality in the modern world and, therefore, has the Government formulated a rapid evacuation manual so that in the event of some major accident or some major leak taking place, immediate steps can be taken in accordance with that rapid evacuation manual so that fewer people will be harmed in the process?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, the hon. Member just spoke about the upgradation of outmoded technologies. I was not speaking about Kaiga. The upgradation that is required is in the older plants and the older plants are those at Tarapore, Rajasthan and Madras. These were built in the Sixties and the Seventies. The other plants are in a different category altogether.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I did not ask about Kaiga; I asked about nuclear plants. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: He is the deputy leader and senior to you. He is not simply hon'ble Member.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: I have said honourable Member in English and I shall say 'Manniya Sadasya' in Hindi.

MR. SPEAKER: You can address him as brother also.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I just wanted to underline the fact that these reactors are showing some signs of aging because they had been built in the Sixties and the Seventies. They were built to the standards of that time and with the experience and the advancement in technology, as the hon. Member has mentioned, these standards are being revised and the upgradation, which is called for, is due to this aging. Now the AERB has reviewed the status of the safety systems and they have compiled a list of the upgradation requirements. The AERB evaluation has not revealed any dangerous deficiency existing in any of the DAE installations which currently warrants a restrictive action on its continued operation. So, the areas of possible safety upgradation are identified in the document and they are now trying to work on this.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The hon. Minister is confused, Sir, On the one side she is saying that it is obsolete and, on the other side, she is saying that there are major upgradation reviews taken up.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: There is a point of order. Sir, this is between brother and sister! Under the rules, there is nothing irregular in brother asking the sister.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: What is it, Sir? Are they outmoded or do they come under the safety parameters? It is quite justified that the Government has an upgradation plan which is under review. When are they going to implement it?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I have just made the facts very clear and I think, maybe, I should continue to remove the confusion from the mind of the hon. Member. I said that there are three plants which are slightly outmoded because they were built in the Sixties.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: So, you have a plan for the upgradation. That is what I am asking. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Would you please listen to me for a minute? The AERB has reviewed the safety norms. They have compiled a list of things that have to be done and they are in the process of doing it.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: That is all I wanted to know. Thank you very much. Have you got any evacuation manual? If you do not have, I would suggest that you think about it.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: There are safety measures which have been built in at every level, including evacuation.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 143. Shri C.N Singh — absent.

Shri Nawal Kishore Rai — absent.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, it is very sad that such an important issue should be neglected by those who asked the Question.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I have always been asking the hon. Members to be more serious about this House.

[*Translation*]

Loss of Agricultural Production

*144. SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI AJIT SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 10 per cent of the total agricultural production of the country is destroyed due to lack of proper facilities to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have contemplated corrective measures to check this loss;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to implement these measures effectively?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Assessment of post harvest losses made from time to time vary between 5% to 10% of production of foodgrains and 20% to 30% in case of fruits and vegetables.

(c) to (e) In order to reduce post harvest losses in fruit and vegetables and to give a major thrust to cold

storage/storages government has recently launched a credit linked Capital Subsidy Scheme under which capital subsidy amounting to 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs for other areas and 33.1/3% subject to a maximum of Rs. 60 lakhs per project for North Eastern States would be provided by National Horticulture Board. Under the new scheme the creation of new 12 lakh tons and modernisation/rehabilitation of 8 lakh tons of cold storage capacity and addition of 4.5 lakh tons onion storage is targetted.

Financial assistance is also being provided by the National Cooperative Development Corporation for cooperatives and by NABARD to both cooperatives and private sector to construct godowns. The Central and State Government agencies have also set up large capacity of storage mostly for food grains. Besides steps have been taken by the Government for popularisation of scientific methods of storage of foodgrains through education, training and demonstration under the 'Save Grain Campaign'.

[*Translation*]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply given by hon'ble Minister a mention has been made about losses and it has been stated that 5 to 10 percent losses were incurred in foodgrains and 20 to 30 percent losses in fruits and vegetables in the country, population of which is 100 crores. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that in the reply it has been stated that 5 to 10 percent losses have been incurred in the case of foodgrains but actually it is 10 to 20 percent and in the case of fruits, it is between 25 to 40 percent. You have been a protector of farmers' interests and I would like to ask a question regarding achieving the target of food production. In 1996-97 and 1997-98 the losses incurred in the case of paddy was more than Rs. 1000 crore in Punjab alone. Hon'ble Prime Minister is present here. At that time Akali Dal-BJP alliance government was in power in our State. The Chief Minister of the State had given a statement that a compensation of Rs. 300 crore should be given to Punjab for these losses. I would like to make a submission that the State Government is giving 65 percent foodgrains to the Central Pool, so in view of the losses, would you not to compensate this loss?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, reply has been given regarding post harvest losses which is 5 to 10 percent in the case of foodgrains and 20 to 30 percent in the case of fruits and vegetables. At present the total storage capacity of the country is 768.59 lakh tonnes. In Ninth Five Year Plan a working group was constituted for it which felt that it fulfil our requirement at macro level but at lower levels more storage facility is required

and in view of this, a scheme for creating 34 lakh 20 thousand tonnes of additional storage capacity has been prepared for the Ninth Five Year Plan. It will cost Rs. 718.81 crore. This is a Government scheme. Besides a new scheme has been formulated for cold storage for fruits and vegetables. The Government is going to provide 25 percent subsidy in this capital subsidy scheme. In this way we are planning to increase our storage capacity so that losses of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables could be minimised.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: You have not replied to my question. I have asked a pointed question about compensation of Rs. 300 crore which was announced due to losses incurred there. For a whole month crop was not purchased in the market and the whole paddy production was burnt to ashes there itself. Storage is a different thing. What is being done with regard to providing compensation. You have made a mention of providing godown facilities. But in our State you will find that 65 percent of foodgrains are supplied to the Central Pool; and foodgrain worth millions and billions of rupees have been destroyed. There is no godowns for it and no inquiry has been conducted into it. In connivance with the bureaucracy a scandal involving several thousand crores of rupees has taken place there. Are you going to take any action in this regard? Are you ready to provide any assistance in this budget to farmers for setting up godowns in every village. I would like to know the names of places where godowns are proposed to be set up by the Government indicating the number of godowns at each place?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: His question is regarding a specific loss in a particular area. So a separate notice should be given for this specific question.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: I have told you about it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will you not listen to me and keep on asking questions.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: I always listen to you.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The second point raised by you in your question is whether any subsidy will be given to farmers. I would like to say that like Horticulture, a Scheme is being formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture for setting up godowns in rural areas and this scheme is under consideration with the Government. Under this scheme also we propose to provide 25 percent subsidy.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you whether the hon. Minister is aware that the charges of the cold storage being so high and the poorer peasants cannot use these, that being the situation, naturally only the richer peasants will have the benefit. In view of this, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how he can help the poorer peasants.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The charge of cold storage does not have any relation with it. But under the forthcoming scheme it has been envisaged that there should not be any control order of any State Government. Similarly, assistance will be provided for the scheme of the State Governments of constructing new cold storages.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: That is just for use. Is it not? ..*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has said in his reply that the new cold storages are being built. The arrangements are being made for storage of 4.5 lakh tonnes of onions. In Nasik alone, 55 lakhs metric tonnes of onion has been produced this year. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the number of cold storages being built in and having been provided funds in Maharashtra in the reply you have mentioned that the demonstrations for teaching and training are held in many States. I would like to know the names of and the places in the States where such training demonstrations are organised?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding his first question about the storage of onions in the country, I would like to say that at present, a scheme for developing storage capacity of 9 lakh tonnes of onion is under consideration. The present storage-capacity is worth 4.6 lakh tonnes. Therefore, during this remaining period of the Ninth Five Year Plan, a scheme for developing a storage capacity of four and a half lakh tonnes onions has been envisaged. This scheme is not confined to a particular State but is open for all the States.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: The maximum production of the onion is in Maharashtra.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The people of Maharashtra can seek as much help under this scheme as they want. It is open for all. This is also open for private sector and co-operative sector. Anybody can take help under it. I would suggest the hon'ble Member that more and more promoters should come forward to take advantage of this scheme.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second question of the hon'ble Member is about "Save grain campaign." I would like to tell him that there are 17 centres for it and one of which is in Maharashtra.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Minister for drafting a scheme for godowns, but that is only a part of the scheme. I hail from the Madhya Pradesh. Opium, soyabean, rice and vegetables too are produced in Madhya Pradesh, but there is neither an adequate number of cold storages nor of godowns there. He had announced for providing subsidy for constructing cold storages and godowns. But hon'ble Sir, I would like to tell you that there are many areas in Madhya Pradesh in which a lot of potato was produced last month and not a single farmer agreed to keep his potatoes in godowns owing to their very high rate of rents and the produce could not be sold even in the open market due to its large scale availability. Therefore, there is a need to maintain a balance.

MR. SPEAKER: Patelji, there is not much time left, so ask your supplementary immediately.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as only one solution will not work and there is a need for evolving more effective solution, I would like to know as to whether the hon'ble Minister has drafted or will draft an extensive scheme in this regard?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: If the hon'ble Member has any ideas, then he can give us specific suggestions, we will consider it.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I want to ask the hon. Minister...

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to the questions raised by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee and the hon. Member who has raised a question just now.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Aiyar, please sit down.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, he has not answered the questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has said that steps are being taken by the Government for popularisation of scientific methods and storage of foodgrains through education, training and demonstration under the 'Save Grain Campaign'. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the scientific methods that they have applied and whether they have considered irradiation of food for maintaining standards and quality till the farmers get the support price in the market. Irradiation has been accepted worldwide. Has it been promoted to the Indian farmers at all? Is the department aware of it?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: "Save grain Campaign" is being run by Department of Consumer Affairs and Distribution and they provide training under it.

[English]

Under it, training is given to farmers, traders and extension officials on practical aspects of proper preservation of foodgrains.

[Translation]

It is a component of training. Under it, training is given to preserve the foodgrains. This component is not a recent one but is very old.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has not replied what I have asked. I have not asked as to whether this component is new or old. I have asked whether they have considered irradiation of food. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is nothing to tell in it. Had the hon'ble Member asked a specific question, then I would have replied. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: This is a very specific question. Can it be more specific than this?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I can give you the entire details of 'Save Grain Campaign'. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: She is a senior Member.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. UNMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, the post-harvest losses are alarming. Every year, we are losing about 20 million tonnes out of 200 million tonnes of foodgrains that are being procured, which cost about Rs. 8,000 crore. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I want a reply from him. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, which question am I supposed to answer - his or her?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ummareddy.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I want a reply.

MR. SPEAKER: He will send the reply.

...(Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Member has repeatedly been asking, I would like to say that "Save grain campaign" is an old scheme.

[English]

It is an old scheme, it is a continuing scheme.

[Translation]

It is a Department of Consumer Affairs run scheme. If you want to know as to what happens under the "Save grain campaign" scheme, it is difficult to reply because it will take a lot of time to read. If you want, I will send its reply to you.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want a reply in one line in yes or no?

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Linking of Rivers

*143. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the findings of the Committee constituted to study the viability of creating Southern Peninsular Water Grid;

(b) the efforts made by the Government to inter-link the major Southern peninsular rivers with the Himalayan rivers to solve the perennial drought, flood and famine problem in several parts of the country;

(c) whether this plan has been included in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the steps taken by the Government to inter-link Himalayan rivers with Southern Peninsular rivers; and

(g) the time by which the work on this plan is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (g) No committee has been constituted to study the viability of the Southern Peninsular Water Grid. However, the erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and the Central Water Commission formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development in the country which envisages inter linkages among the various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of waters from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilisation of water resources. This perspective plan comprises two main components viz. (a) Himalayan Rivers Development and (b) Peninsular Rivers Development. For firming up the proposals of inter-linking Peninsular as well as the Himalayan rivers, the Government of India have set up the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982.

The present mandate of NWDA is to prepare feasibility reports of the links. Suitable provision for this purpose has been made in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Implementation of Water transfer link proposal depends on how soon the detailed project report are prepared, consensus is reached among the concerned States and availability of funds.

[*Translation*]

Convention by Lashkar-E-Toiba

*145. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Pakistan's decision outrageous: India" appearing in *Hindustan Times* dated November 4, 1999;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on the deliberations of the meeting;

(c) whether India has lodged strong protest with Pakistan on the comments against India during the annual convention of Lashkar-e-Toiba held in Lahore during November, 1999;

(d) if so, whether such terrorist outfits and fundamentalists organisation pose a threat to our national security;

(e) if so, whether it is a fact that military regime in Pakistan is patronising insurgent activities threatening our internal security; and

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

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

(b) to (f) Government had lodged an official protest with the Government of Pakistan about the vicious and communal anti-India propaganda, also the threats held out against India by the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba during its recent congregation near Lahore. It was conveyed to Pakistan that there had been no reports, either of any action having been taken by Pakistani authorities against the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba for such blatant terrorist threats, or of any official statement condemning it. This is yet another manifestation of Pakistan's support to and instigation of international terrorism. Government have also reiterated their call to Government of Pakistan to abandon its irresponsible support to cross-border terrorism.

Government have appropriately and effectively brought to the notice of the international community Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism and its attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of India. The facts regarding Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism have also been highlighted in international fora and highlighted in bilateral discussions with world leaders. The international community now better recognises Pakistan's state-sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India. Government remains firm in their resolve to take all measures necessary to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

[*English*]

Safety Measures

*146. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "nuclear accident may occur anytime in India" appearing in the *Times of India* dated October 22, 1999;

(b) if so, the details of matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the safety measures being taken to safeguard the nuclear installations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The news item attributes certain statements to Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan, former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). These statements were made in the background of an accident which happened in a uranium conversion facility in Japan.

The Indian plants for processing nuclear fuel and for reprocessing spent fuel are designed conservatively. Adequate safety margin is always provided to ensure that accidents do not occur. There are several levels of safety

built into the design, construction and operation of these plants duly evaluated by a multi-tier regulatory mechanism of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. Personnel who operate these plants are highly qualified and trained. Safety systems are engineered into the plants to prevent criticality accident. In view of these an accident similar to that which occurred in Tokaimura is highly unlikely to happen in India.

However, the Safety Review Committee for Operating Plants (SARCOP) of AERB, which reviewed the Japanese accident has recommended, as a matter of abundant caution, that relevant plants should be subject to reexamination.

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board is receiving all the required inputs from the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) units to take decision of safety significance. AERB is able to enforce regulatory actions wherever found necessary. DAE units have always complied with AERB stipulations.

AERB report prepared in 1995 lists 134 safety issues in DAE installations. These have been followed up for implementation. Majority of these have been resolved. Implementation of the remaining is in progress.

Salination of Land

*147. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the soil of the cultivable land in coastal areas becomes salinated due to use of these lands for aquaculture/pisciculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this leads to sea erosion also; and

(d) the preventive measures taken/proposed to be taken to check the salination of cultivable land in coastal area?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d) Salinization of land in coastal areas is a general problem in the coastal tracts of the entire country. Aquaculture practices are generally taken up in coastal lands that are unsuitable for agriculture. Guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Agriculture in August, 1995, to ensure that agricultural lands are not converted for coastal aquaculture. There is no evidence to suggest that aquaculture leads to sea erosion.

Research Centres for Development of Betel Leaf

*148. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has set up research centres for the development and for increasing the production of betel leaves in the country;

(b) if so, the details of research being done and the places where the centres are established;

(c) whether such centres have been set up in Madhya Pradesh as this State has been leading in the production of betel leaf; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has established an All India Coordinated Research Project on betelvine to conduct researches on varietal improvement, standardization of production technologies and control of pests and diseases at nine centres located in different parts of the country namely, Jorhat (Assam), Bapatia (Andhra Pradesh), Kalyani (West Bengal), Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), Sangli (Maharashtra), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Pusa (Bihar) and Sirugamani (Tamil Nadu).

(c) and (d) One centre in Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya at Jabalpur is working in Madhya Pradesh on research and development under this project from 1981.

[Translation]

Employment Generation Programme of KVIC

*149 SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of employment generation programmes implemented by the Khadi and Village Industry Commission; and

(b) the criteria followed for adoption of districts for implementation of programmes by the Khadi and Village Industry Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP).

Under REGP, the Khadi sector as well as the village industries sector are eligible for receiving financial assistance from the KVIC. Financial assistance to the khadi sector is given in the form of Interest Subsidy whereas in the village industries sector, it is in the form of Margin Money.

(b) All districts are covered under the REGP.

[English]

Retirement Age

*150. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK:
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the retirement age of Central Government employees from 60 years to 58 years;

(b) if so, the rationale behind it;

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

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government to implement the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Promotion of Aquaculture

*151. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADYAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have evolved any scheme to promote aquaculture industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such industries already set up, State-wise;

(c) the steps being taken to promote shrimp aquaculture in States like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and other coastal areas;

(d) the number of requests received for setting up such units during the last three years; and

(e) the present status of each application as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) A package of technical, financial and extension support is given to fish/shrimp farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Development of Freshwater Aquaculture and Integrated Coastal Aquaculture. A network of 422 Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) and 39 Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAs) have been established for this purpose. The State-wise details of such agencies are given in Statement I.

(c) The BFDAs established in all the coastal States/ Union Territory including Karnataka (2), Andhra Pradesh (6), and Orissa (7) provide assistance for undertaking shrimp aquaculture in a scientific and sustainable manner as detailed below:

(i) 25% of capital cost for construction/renovation and total cost of inputs for the first crop, subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000 per hectare, will be provided as subsidy to a beneficiary. The Government of India's contribution to each BFDA per annum for developing 50 ha. area and administrative cost will be limited to Rs. 7.63 lakh per annum.

(ii) Payment of stipend of Rs. 25 per day and travelling allowance limited to Rs. 140 per trainee (beneficiary) for two months training.

(iii) The subsidy will be shared between the Centre and the State Government on 50:50 basis, whereas it will be in the form of 100% Central

grant in the case of UTs. The administrative cost will also be shared between the State and Centre on 50:50 basis; for UTs the Centre will provide 100% cost as grant in aid.

(iv) Private/public sector will be provided assistance for establishment of prawn seed hatcheries of 2 to 5 million capacity of post larvae (PL 20) per annum. Assistance to the extent of Rs. 1.00 lakh per hatchery or 10% of the cost, whichever is lower will be granted.

(v) Public sector enterprises/companies/corporations and private entrepreneurs who construct new ponds will be eligible for the same rate of subsidy as under BFDA (*i.e.*, maximum of Rs. 30,000 per ha) to undertake scientific prawn farming.

(d) and (e) The status of applications received by the Aquaculture Authority from the State Level Committees of coastal States/Union Territory till November, 1999 and the approvals issued for setting up of shrimp farms in coastal areas is given in Statement-II.

Statement I

State-wise details of Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) and Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAs)

S.No.	State/UT	No. of FFDAs	No. of BFDAs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	6
2.	Arunchal Pradesh	2	—
3.	Assam	23	—
4.	Bihar	49	—
5.	Goa	1	1
6.	Gujarat	17	3
7.	Haryana	16	—

1	2	3	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	—
10.	Karnataka	18	2
11.	Kerala	14	7
12.	Madhya Pradesh	45	—
13.	Maharashtra	29	4
14.	Manipur	8	—
15.	Meghalaya	2	—
16.	Mizoram	5	—
17.	Nagaland	8	—
18.	Orissa	30	7
19.	Punjab	17	—
20.	Rajasthan	15	—
21.	Sikkim	1	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	17	5
23.	Tripura	4	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	56	—
25.	West Bengal	18	3
26.	Pondicherry	1	—
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	1
Total		422	39

Statement II**Present Status of Applications Received from State Level Committees
for Approval of the Aquaculture Authority**

S.No.	States/ Union Territory	Total no. of applicat- ions received	Applicat- ions processed for consider- ation	Applicat- ions approval so far	Applicat- ions rejected/ sought clarificat- ions so far	Approvals issued so far (1998-99)	Approvals under issue	Applicat- ions pending for Approval
1.	West Bengal	88	72	56	16	53	3	16
2.	Orissa	1352	543	297	246	211	86	809
3.	Kerala	327	327	327	Nil	327	Nil	Nil
4.	Gujarat	177	152	147	5	147	Nil	25
5.	Karnataka	6	6	6	Nil	6	Nil	Nil
6.	Maharashtra	34	34	30	4	17	13	Nil
7.	Andhra Pradesh	168	168	111	57	111	Nil	Nil
8.	Tamil Nadu	105	50	12	38	12	Nil	55
9.	Goa	31	26	26	Nil		26	5
10.	Pondicherry	6	6	6	Nil	6	Nil	Nil
Total		2294	1384	1018	366	890	128	910

Central Legislation on Construction Labour

*152. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Nation Convention of Construction Labour was organised by the National Campaign Committee for Central Legislation on Construction Labour;

(b) if so, whether the convention has demanded amendments of Central Acts on Construction Labour to

include Tripartite Construction Labour Board, regulate their employment and wages;

(c) the details of demands accepted by the Government;

(d) whether convention have also expressed serious concern at the total apathy of the Central and State Governments in enforcing various Central labour laws;

(e) if so, the details of other demands of convention; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The National Campaign Committee had demanded amendment to the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996 in order to include, *inter alia*, Tripartite Construction Boards for regulation of employment and wages, provide social security and welfare measures as well as provide a mechanism for dispute resolution.

The Convention has expressed that construction workers are often unable to get their notified wages under the Minimum Wages Act, face many accidents on construction sites, are denied compensation, maternity benefit, old age pension or any medical benefits. One specific recommendation suggesting transfer of cess, collected, to the State Boards has been fully accepted by the Government. In some other cases, Government have partially accepted the suggestions while in some cases, after due consideration, it has not been found possible or practicable to accept the suggestions. Moreover, the rules under the Acts were notified only recently and, it is a little premature to consider any amendments to the Acts and Rules at this stage. Further, the State Governments are in the process of framing their rules, constituting the Welfare Boards and appointing the appropriate authorities for implementation of the Acts and Rules.

Bokaro Steel Plant

*153. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of steel in Bokaro Steel Plant is decreasing continuously;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken to increase the production of Steel in this plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir. The production of Saleable Steel in Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) had declined from 1996-97 to 1998-99. However, the production in April to November, 1999 has grown by 49% over the corresponding period last year.

(b) The reasons for decrease in production of Saleable Steel in BSL from 1996-97 to 1998-99, *inter alia*, are:

(i) sluggishness in the demand of steel particularly in flat products, due to which production had to be regulated;

(ii) shut down in the Hot Strip Mill for 39 days in 1998-99 for modernisation; and

(iii) voltage dips and high frequency of power supplied by Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC).

(c) Operating personnel are being trained on the modernised facilities for their efficient utilisation. Foreign experts have also been deployed for stabilisation of modernised facilities, particularly in continuous casting.

Abolition of Child Labour

*154. DR. V. SAROJA:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to abolish child labour completely;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to rehabilitate children employed in various industries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) Government is committed to the goal of elimination of child labour. Considering the nature, magnitude and complexity of the problem, a gradual, progressive and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour beginning with the rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations.

Government has taken a series of steps to address the problem of child labour in the country. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 the employment of children is prohibited in 13 occupations and 51 processes listed in the schedule to the Act. The employment condition of children in other occupations and processes is regulated under the Act. State/UT Governments have enforcement machineries to enforce the provisions of the Act.

Apart from legal measures, Government has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations through the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs). Under the scheme, special schools/Rehabilitation Centres have been set up for the withdrawal and rehabilitation of working children with provisions for non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition stipend, health care etc. So far, 85 child labour projects have been sanctioned in the child labour endemic states for coverage of 1.8 lakh children. Under the scheme of Grants in Aid to Voluntary Agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations and Voluntary bodies are extended financial assistance to the extent of 75% of the project cost for taking up welfare projects for the benefit of working children. India has been participating in the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). The long-term objective of IPEC is to contribute to the effective abolition of child labour. Under the IPEC, 154 action programmes on child labour have been taken up for coverage of more than 90,000 children.

[Translation]

Criteria for Special Allocation

*155. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for providing special allocation to each State during the current Plan period;

(b) the measures taken to bridge the gap between plan and the allocated amount;

(c) whether any discussions were held with the States regarding those problems due to which funds are required constantly; and

(d) whether the Planning Commission has taken any decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Central Assistance to States comprises (i) Normal Central Assistance (NCA) based on the Gadgil Mukherjee Formula approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in December 1991; (ii) Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Externally Aided Projects (EAPs); and (iii) ACA for Special Area Programmes such as Basic Minimum Services (BMS), Slum Development, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Border Area Development Programme (BADP), Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), Hill Area Development Programme etc.

(b) The gap between the development plan of States and the allocated amount is financed through additional resource mobilisation by the States themselves.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. These issues are discussed with the State Governments during the finalisation of their Annual Plans. The decisions of the Planning Commission in this regard are set out in the Chapter on Resources and Allocation of the Ninth Five Year Plan document.

[English]

Rural Industrial Units

*156. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Rural Industrial Unit in each of the most backward districts;

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

(c) the total funds, provided to each State Government for the purpose during the current financial year; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to develop mat weaving, basketry making and coir-thread making industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

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

(d) The activities of mat weaving, basket making are covered under the ongoing programmes of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. In addition to providing margin money grant to the units, the KVIC also provides technical guidance and training for the development of mat weaving and basket making industry. The Coir Board is providing technology, finances and raw material to develop coir yarn spinning, weaving and product development through research and development, training, extension and financial assistance scheme.

[Translation]

Water Logging

*157. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that several hectares of agricultural land are becoming saline in different States, particularly in Bihar due to lack of proper water drainage system;

(b) if so, the total area of agricultural land affected by water logging and salinity, State-wise; and

(c) the future plan of the Government to solve the problem of water logging and salinity?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. R.P. THAKUR): (a) The Government are aware that some areas of agricultural land are becoming saline in different States including Bihar and one of the reasons of salinisation is lack of proper drainage system.

(b) As per the estimate made by Ministry of Agriculture (1984-85) an area of 8.53 million hectare is suffering from water logging and about 7.17 million hectare from salinity and alkalinity (NCA 1976). State-wise details of the same are enclosed as Statement-I. These are under both irrigated and unirrigated areas. However, a Working Group constituted by Ministry of Water Resources on "Problem Identification in Irrigated Areas" in its Report

(1991) has assessed that an area of 2.46 million hectares is suffering from water logging and 3.06 million hectare under salinity in commands of irrigation projects. State-wise details of the same are enclosed as Statement-II.

(c) The Government has taken various policy and programme initiatives to control the problems of water logging 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 installation of drip and sprinkler systems, construction and improvement of drainage system and reclamation of waterlogged and saline lands. A new component "Reclamation of waterlogged areas in irrigation commands" as also been included since 01.04.1996 under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme.

Statement I

(Unit : lakh ha)

Sl.No.	State	As per MoA (1984-85) Waterlogged Area	Area affected by salinity alkalinity by NCA (1976)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.39	2.40
2.	Assam	4.50	—
3.	Bihar	7.07	0.04
4.	Gujarat	4.84	12.14
5.	Haryana	6.20	5.26
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.10	—
7.	Karnataka	0.10	4.04
8.	Kerala	0.61	0.16
9.	Madhya Pradesh	0.57	2.42
10.	Maharashtra	1.11	5.34
11.	Orissa	0.60	4.04

1	2	3	4
12.	Punjab	10.90	6.88
13.	Rajasthan	3.48	7.28
14.	Tamil Nadu	0.18	0.04
15.	Uttar Pradesh	19.80	12.95
16.	West Bengal	21.80	8.50
17.	Delhi	0.01	0.16
Total		85.26	71.65
M.ha.		8.53	7.17

MOA = Ministry of Agriculture

NCA = National Commission on Agriculture, 1976

Statement II

(Unit: 000' ha)

Sl.No.	State	Working Group (1991) of Ministry of Water Resources	
		Waterlogged Area	Saline Area
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	266.40	5.00
2.	Bihar	619.70	224.30
3.	Gujarat	172.59	911.00
4.	Haryana	249.00	125.20
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.20	—
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.50	—
7.	Karnakata	24.54	34.23
8.	Kerala	11.61	—

1	2	3	4
9.	Madhya Pradesh	73.12	—
10.	Maharashtra	15.35	5.35
11.	Orissa	196.26	—
12.	Punjab	200.00	490.00
13.	Rajasthan	179.50	70.00
14.	Tamil Nadu	16.19	48.00
15.	Uttar Pradesh	430.00	1150.80
Total		2455.96 (24.56 lakh ha.)	3063.88 (30.63 lakh ha.)
M.ha		2.46	3.06

Underground Water*158. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received reports from the State Governments regarding fall in the ground water table and water getting contaminated in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the causes of contamination of ground water;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the functioning of Central Ground Water Board;

(d) if so, the outcome of the review; and

(e) the steps being taken up by the Government to provide safe drinking water to the people of such areas where the ground water is not fit for human consumption?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown a situation of fall in the level of ground water in various parts of the

country. The names of the States/districts showing pockets where fall in ground water level for more than 4 meters (1980-1999) has been observed are indicated in *Statement I*. The names of the States and locations where ground water has been found contaminated and reasons thereof is indicated in *Statement II*.

(c) and (d) The function of the Central Ground Water Board has been reviewed by a Committee headed by Shri P.V. Rangayya Naidu which has already submitted its report. With a view to examine the recommendations

made by the Rangayya Naidu Committee, an Empowered Committee has been set up.

(e) Provision for providing safe drinking water is planned, financed and implemented by the State Governments. The Central Ground Water Board provide technical services to the State Governments in this endeavour. Further the Department of Drinking Water Supply in the Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Urban Development extend financial and technical support to the State Governments in their efforts to supply safe drinking water, in such areas.

Statement I

Name of the State/District showing pockets with fall in Ground Water level of more than 4 meters (1980-99)

Sl.No.	State	Districts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Shrikakulam, Chittoor.
2.	Maharashtra	Akola, Nagpur, Jalgaon, Osmanabad, Aurangabad, Sangli, Buldhana, Amravati.
3.	Punjab	Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ferozpur, Ludhiana, Patiala, Sangrur, Faridkot, Fatehgarh.
4.	Haryana	Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Mehandargarh, Jind.
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Gonda, Farukhabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Fatehpur, Allahabad, Banda, Nainital
6.	Bihar	East Singhbhum, Ranchi, Samastipur, Chapra, Dharbanga.
7.	West Bengal	Puriia, Midnapur.
8.	Orissa	Korapat, Mayurbhanj.
9.	Rajasthan	Nagapur, Bikaner, Jaipur.
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain, Dewas, Shajahanpur, Dhar, Sagar, Bilaspur, Raipur, Surguja, Guna, Narsinghpur.
11.	Karnataka	Bijapur, Belgaum, Dharwar, Bellari, Shimoga, Bangalore, Mysore, Gulbarga.
12.	Tamil Nadu	Salem, South Arcot, Combatore, Madurai, Tanjavour, Paddukottai, Kamrajar, Thirunaganar, North Kannada.

Statement II**Statewise Details of Contamination of Ground Water in some areas of the Districts due to various contaminants**

Sl. No.	State	Salinity	Iron	Fluoride	Nitrate	Arsenic	Heavy metals
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam	—	Prakasam, Nellore, Anantpur, Nalgonda, Rangareddy, Adilabad	Vishakhapatnam, East Godavari, Krishna, Prakasam, Nellore, Chittoor, Anantpur, Cuddapah, Kumool, Mehboobnagar, Rangareddy, Medak, Adilabad, Nalgonda, Khammam	—	Anantapur, Mahboobnagar, Prakasam, Vishakhapatnam, Cuddapah, Nalgonda
2.	Assam	—	Northern bank of Brahmaputra	—	—	—	Digboi
3.	Bihar	Begusarai	Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Munger, Deoghar, Madhubani, Patna, Palamau, Nalanda, Nawada, Banka	Giridih, Jamui, Dhanbad	Palamau, Geya, Patna, Nalanda, Nawada, Bhagalpur, Sahabganj, Banka	—	Dhanbad, Muzaffarpur, Begusarai
4.	Gujarat	Banaskantha, Junagarh, Bharauch, Surat, Mehsana, Ahmedabad, Surendranagar, Kheda, Jamnagar	—	Kachch, Surendra Nagar, Rajkot, Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Panchmahal, Kheda	—	—	—
5.	Haryana	Sonepat, Rohtak, Hissar, Sirsa, Faridabad, Jind, Gurgaon, Bhiwani, Mahendragadh	—	Rohtak, Jind, Hissar, Bhiwani, Mahendragadh, Faridabad	Ambala, Sonapat, Jind, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Hissar, Sirsa, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Rohtak, Bhiwani, Mahendragadh	—	Faridabad
6.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	Kulu, Solan, Una	—	Purwanoo, Kale amb
7.	Karnataka	Bijapur, Belgaum, Raichur, Bellary, Dhanwar	—	Tumkur, Kolar, Bangalore, Gulbarga, Bellary, Raichur	—	—	Bhadrawati
8.	Kerala	Ernakulam, Trichur, Alleppey	—	Palghat	—	—	—
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior, Bhind, Morena, Jabua, Khargaon, Dhar, Shivpur, Shejapur, Guna, Mandsoor, Ujan	—	Bhind, Morena, Guna, Jabua, Chhindwara, Seoni, Mandla, Raipur, Vidisha	Sehore	—	Bastar, Korba, Rattam, Nagda

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	Maharashtra	Amravati, Akola	—	Bhandara, Chandrapur, Nanded, Aurangabad	Thane, Jalna, Beed, Nanded, Latur, Osmanabad, Solapur, Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, Dhule, Jalgaon, Aurangabad, Ahmednagar, Pune, Buldhana, Amravati, Akola, Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli	—	—
11	Orissa	Cuttack, Baleswar, Puri	Parts of coastal Orissa	Bolangir	—	—	Angul, Talcher
12	Punjab	Bhatinda, Sangrur, Ferozkot, Firozpur	—	Ludhiana, Ferozkot, Bhatinda, Sangrur, Jalandhar, Amritsar	Patiala, Ferozkot, Firozpur, Sangrur, Bhatinda	—	Ludhiana, Mandi Gobindgarh
13	Rajasthan	Bharatpur, Jaipur, Nagpur, Jalore, Sirohi, Jodhpur	Bikaner, Alwar, Dungarpur	Barmer, Bikaner, Ganganagar, Jalore, Nagaur, Pali, Sirohi	Jaipur, Churu, Ganganagar, Bikaner, Jalore, Barmer, Bundi, Swai Madhopur	—	Pali, Udaipur, Khetri
14	Tamil Nadu	Karaikal, Pondicherry, Nagapattanam, Quide- Millet, Pudukotai, Ramananthapuram, North Arcot-Arnedkar, Dharmapuri, Salem, Tiruchy, Coimbatore	—	Dharmapuri, Salem, North Arcot-Arnedkar, Villipuram-Padayatchi, Muthuramalingam, Tiruchirappalli, Pudukottai	Coimbatore, Periyar, Salem	—	Manali, North Arcot
15	Tripura	—	Dharmnagar, Kaulshaher, Khowai, Ambasa, Amapur and parts of Agartala valley	—	—	—	—
16	Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Mathura, Mainpur, Banda	—	Bulandshahr, Aligarh, Agra, Unnao, Rae-Bareilly	Orai, Jhansi, Lalit- pur, Faizabad, Sultanpur, Maharajganj, Gorakhpur, Deoria	—	Singrauli, Basti, Kanpur, Jaunpur, Allahabad, Saharanpur, Aligarh
17	West Bengal	—	Midnapore, Howrah, Hoogly, Bankura	Birbhum	Uttar Dinajpur, Maida, Birbhum, Nadia, Midnapore, Howrah, Murshidabad, Purulia Howrah	Malda, South 24 Paraganas, Nadia, Hoogly Murshidabad, Bardhaman,	Durgapur, Howrah, Murshida- bad, Nadia
18	NCT of Delhi	Najafgarh, Kanjhawala & Mehrauli blocks	—	—	City, Shahdara, & Mehrauli blocks	—	Alipur, Kanjhawala Najafgarh, Mehrauli, City and Shahdara blocks

[*English*]

Development of Food Processing Industries

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

(a) whether Fruit processing industries are being encouraged;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Assistance, Aid from abroad, Aid from European Economic Community are also made available for such industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Food Processing Industries provides all kinds of support to facilitate overall growth of food processing sector including fruit processing. Under the Plan schemes, the Department provides concessional finance to food processing industries. The other agencies like National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural & Processed Food Products & Development Authority (APEDA), and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) also provide assistance under their respective schemes. This sector has also been included as a priority sector for providing loans by the financial institutions.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A statement indicating details about Central assistance and that available from abroad including European Economic Community is enclosed.

Statement

(A) Assistance available from Central Government and other Central agencies for fruit processing

(i) Department of Food Processing Industries: Under the plan schemes operated by the Department, financial assistance ranging from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 2.00 crores depending upon the nature of the organization, is available as grant/loan. The quantum of grant/loan is limited to 50% cost of plant & machinery and technical buildings.

(ii) National Horticulture Board: Under the plan schemes operated by the Board up to Rs. 100 lakhs is available as loan.

(iii) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority: Under the schemes operated by the Authority, financial assistance up to Rs. 25 lakhs is available as grant.

(iv) National Cooperative Development Corporation: It provides financial assistance in the form of loan/grant for establishment of post-harvest management infrastructure by fruit and vegetable cooperatives so as to enable them to market and process agricultural produce. It ranges from 60% to 95% of the project cost.

(B) Aid from abroad

Several foreign Governments and other agencies such as European Union, Commonwealth Development Council, International Finance Corporation and Middle East funding agencies provide aid for food processing industries. The details of aid from some of these agencies are as under:—

French Government

French Government extends French assistance for agro food projects such as fisheries, cattle breeding, dairy industries, food processing equipment and technologies, post harvest equipment. French aid normally is not available to private sector projects. French credit is available only for imports of goods and services from France with minimal local cost financing.

New Zealand

New Zealand Government extends assistance for agro & dairy projects.

European Economic Commission

European Union provides assistance for projects having appropriate social as well as commercial value. The assistance is up to 20% of equity. It also provides funding for upgradation of capability and for training of manpower.

Commonwealth Development Council (CDC)

CDC is providing assistance in various sectors and food processing is a priority area for them. It not only gives help for identifying joint venture partner, but also

provides equity participation up to 30% of capital investment.

International Financial Corporation (IFC)

IFC provides soft loan as well as equity participation up to 20% IFC equity is primarily for projects in areas involving hitech capability like cryogenics or laser technology. IFC funds are available provided the project is viable and results in social as well as economic benefits to the society.

Middle East Funding Agencies

Agencies like OPEC, Kuwait Funds, Saudi Fund and Abu Dhabi Fund provide soft loan for developmental projects in various fields including agriculture.

Canadian International Development Agency

CIDA Assistance is in the form of outright grants. Apart from providing assistance for bilateral projects, Canada is also funding various NGOs.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

*160. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given any assurance to the US Administration about signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Policy on Pakistan

1416. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the fact that the military has overthrown the democratically elected Government in Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government in this regard?

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

(b) Pakistan is now effectively under what amounts to martial law. Government have concerns about the direction in which the situation is moving and continue to monitor developments.

Recruiting Agencies

1417. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of agents, who send job seekers abroad have set up their offices particularly in Azad Market, Jama Masjid, Nizamuddin, Nehru Place, Okhla, Jamia Nagar, Paharganj and other places in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether such agents are doing the said business illegally;

(c) if so, whether it is not the responsibility of the Ministry to take action against these agents working illegally;

(d) whether the Government propose to take action against the illegal agents who are sending people abroad;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (f) Under the Emigration Act, 1983, only such of the recruiting agencies as are in possession of the registration certificates issued

by the Registering Authority can carry on the business of recruitment of Indian workers for placement with the foreign employers. 198 agencies which are in possession of the valid Registration Certificates are operating from different places in Delhi as under:

Azad Market	01
Jama Masjid Area	08
Nehru Place	04
Nizamuddin	05
Okhla	23
Jamia Nagar	03
Pahar Ganj	05
Other Places	149
Total	198

Carrying on the business of recruitment of Indian workers for placement with the foreign employers by agencies which are not in possession of the registration certificates is a cognizable offence. With a view to checking the activities of such unauthorised agencies, Central Government have written to all the State Governments/Union Territories to keep a watch on such unauthorised agencies and to register cases against them. As and when the incidence of recruitment by the unauthorised agencies comes to the notice of the Government, immediate action is taken to refer to the case to the concerned police authorities for appropriate legal action.

[English]

Budget of N.E. States

1418. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 10 percent of the Budget of Ministries/Departments had been earmarked for the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 to make additional expenditure

on specific programmes of upliftment in the north eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this special measure was decided and declared by the Prime Minister in October, 1996 with the programme on new initiatives for the North Eastern Region; and

(d) if so, the financial and physical achievements made during the last three years with reference to the Central special measures for the States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) The then Prime Minister's statement regarding "New Initiatives for the North Eastern Region" made at Guwahati on 27th October, 1996 envisaged earmarking atleast 10% of the Budgets of Central Ministries/Departments for Specific Programmes in North Eastern States. A proposal was formulated for creation of Central Pool of Resources for the North East from out of unspent amount(s) from 10% of the Budget(s) of the various Union Ministries/Departments earmarked for these States. The proposal was, approved by the Cabinet, in principle, on December 15, 1997. This however, required the approval of Parliament and, therefore, had to await the constitution of the twelfth Lok Sabha. The Pool could, therefore, become operational during 1998-99 only.

During 1998-99, an amount of Rs. 121.95 crores was identified for the Central Pool and assistance to this extent was released for various projects in the North East and Sikkim. A list of projects is given in the Statement.

As regards 1999-2000, an exercise to identify the availability of funds in the Central Pool and to finalise the projects for assistance has since been initiated.

Statement

List of projects for which assistance was released from the Non lapseable Central Pool of Resources during 1998-99

State	Name of Projects	Release during 1998-99 (Rs. crores)
Arunachal Pradesh	(i) Ranganadi Transmission	10.00
	(ii) Itanagar-Naharlagun Water Supply	5.00
Assam	(i) Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshtra Project	4.85
	(ii) Diguncherra to Airport Road	0.25
	(iii) 89 Minor Irrigation Schemes	11.21
	(iv) Flood Control Management Schemes/different locations of Brahmaputra and Barak Valley	5.00
	(v) 220 KV D/C Kathalguri-Tinsukia Line (30 kms)	2.00
	(vi) Namrup Sub-Station 2x50 MVA 220/132 KV.	2.50
	(vii) Tinsukia Sub-station 2x50 MVA, 220/132 KV.	3.00
Manipur	(i) Leimakhong Heavy Fuel Based Power Project	10.34
	(ii) Infrastructure for National Games	10.00
Meghalaya	(i) Greater Shillong Water Supply Sch.	3.79
	(ii) NH-51 Widening the formation and Strengthening	5.00*
Mizoram	(i) Aizwal (PH-II) Water Supply Scheme	4.00
	(ii) State Referral Hospital	5.00
Nagaland	(i) Hospital at Kohima	8.00
	(ii) Likimro HEP	11.01
	(iii) Administrative Training Institute	1.00
Sikkim	(i) Rural Water Supply Scheme	10.00
Tripura	(i) Transmission Schemes	10.00
Total		121.95

*This amount could not, however, be sanctioned by the concerned Central Ministry to the State Government during 1998-99 as the work relating to the project was yet to be awarded to them.

Setting up of Aquarium

1419. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an aquarium alongwith research facilities into marine life at Digha in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details worked out therefor; and

(c) the time by which the same will be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The Government of India has so far no plan to set up marine aquarium alongwith research facilities at Digha in West Bengal.

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

[*Translation*]

Bhaisajhal Irrigation Scheme

1420. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on Bhaisajhal Irrigation Scheme of Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh has been suspended;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total fund spent by the Government on this Scheme so far; and

(d) the time by which the work on the scheme is likely to re-commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The reference has been made presumably to Arpa Project across river Arpa near village Bhaisajhal. As per the Working Group discussions of Planning Commission for Annual Plan 1999-2000 for the State of Madhya Pradesh, an expenditure of Rs. 4.01 crores was incurred on the Project upto March '97 against the revised estimated cost of Rs. 265.71 crores. No outlay was made for IX Plan.

Irrigation being a State subject, Irrigation projects are surveyed, planned and executed by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources as per their own priorities.

[*English*]

Dairy Development Project

1421. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted a plan for development of Integrated Dairy Development Project;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) the funds allocated and released for both Phase-I and Phase-II projects;

(d) the steps being taken for early implementation and completion of the projects; and

(e) the measures being taken to make role of rural women in dairy industry more effective?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India has already received and approved two Integrated Dairy Development Projects (IDDP) in the State of Maharashtra during the years 1995-96 and 1997-98. A project proposal for IDDP - III was received from the State Government in December, 98. The proposal was, however, found to be incomplete and not prepared according to guidelines. The State Government was therefore requested in February, 99, to send a revised proposal, which has not been received. Approved outlay and funds released for IDDP I & II projects are as under:—

(Amount Rs. in lakh)

	Approved Outlay	Total Fund released upto 30.11.99
IDDP - I	1985.235	1923.38
IDDP - II	1941.55	475.26

(d) A Technical Management Committee (TMC) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary incharge of Dairy Development in the State to monitor the progress of project and speedy implementation of the project. Further the State Government has been advised a number of times to speed up the implementation and

completion of both the projects. The State Government has informed that distribution of milch animals and civil construction works are in progress and that the projects are being reviewed in monthly review meetings.

(e) The State Government has informed that, under the project, 30% of the milch animals are distributed to women beneficiaries.

[Translation]

Digging of Wells

1422. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar have sought financial assistance from the Union Government for digging 15,000 wells in the State for irrigation purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total acreage of land likely to be irrigated in the State after digging these wells; and

(d) the time by which the said amount is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Government of Bihar had forwarded to the Central Ground Water Board a pilot project envisaging construction of 2358 dug wells and 5625 shallow tubewells in the State. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 23.15 crore. The total acreage of land likely to be irrigated in the State under the project is 1.44 lakh acre.

(d) The Central Ground Water Board in consultation with the concerned State Governments including Government of Bihar has formulated a centrally sponsored scheme for investigation and development of ground water resources in the eastern States comprising Bihar, Orissa, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Eastern Madhya Pradesh. The Scheme is at consultation stage.

[English]

Assistance to Paddy Cotton

1423. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to assist the paddy and cotton growers of various States particularly in Karnataka who had suffered severe losses during the recent drought;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the assistance actually given so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to undertake rescue, relief, restoration and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities, including drought, from the allocation under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), which is allocated to the States every year. The Centre and the States contribute to this Fund in the ratio of 3:1. Central share is normally released in four equal quarterly instalments. No report on damage to crops due to recent drought has been received from the Government of Karnataka. However, reports on drought situation during the current year have been received from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal. While the entire Central share of CRF allocated to the State for 1999-2000 has been released to Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, three quarterly instalments of Central share have been released to the other States mentioned above. To supplement the efforts of the State Governments, allocation is made under the Integrated Cereals Development Programme on Coarse Cereals (ICDP-CC) and Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP). A statement indicating State-wise details of release of Central share of CRF, funds allocated under ICDP-CC and ICDP is attached.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	State	Central Share of CRF Released	1999-2000	
			Funds Allocated Under ICDP-CC	ICDP
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10769.00	—	208.97
2.	Gujarat	9078.75	217.35	86.58
3.	Himachal Pradesh	1752.75	—	—
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	1281.75	—	—
5.	Karnataka	2721.75	—	122.50
6.	Madhya Pradesh	4429.00	723.72	59.56
7.	Manipur	161.25	—	—
8.	Mizoram	82.50	—	—
9.	Rajasthan	11643.75	959.85	99.36
10.	Tripura	292.50	—	—
11.	West Bengal	3337.50	—	—

Use of Cultivable Land

1424. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any scheme to make use of the total cultivable land for agricultural purpose;

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

(c) the amount allocated to each State in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) A Statement showing schemes which are being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to increase productivity in different States of the country as well as the State-wise allocations made under these schemes during 1999-2000 is attached.

Statement

Statement Showing different Schemes being implemented in different States in the Country and the Allocation made under these schemes during 1999-2000

(Rs. in crores)

States/UTs	RVP/FPR	ALKALI	ALKALI (EEC)	WDPSCA	NWDPR
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	7.80	—	—	—	9.00
2. Arunchal Pradesh	—	—	—	1.60	0.20
3. Assam	0.70	—	—	1.20	2.00
4. Bihar	2.00	—	1.00	—	1.00
5. Gujarat	5.00	2.50	—	—	20.00
6. Haryana	2.50	2.00	—	—	1.00
7. Himachal Pradesh	9.00	—	—	—	3.00
8. Jammu & Kashmir	6.00	—	—	—	0.45
9. Karnataka	15.00	—	—	—	20.00
10. Korala	1.00	—	—	—	10.00
11. Madhya Pradesh	24.00	0.00	—	—	25.00
12. Maharashtra	10.00	—	—	—	20.00
13. Manipur	—	—	—	1.60	3.00
14. Meghalaya	—	—	—	1.60	2.50

	1	2	3	4	5	6
15. Mizoram		0.50	—	—	4.00	4.00
16. Nagaland		—	—	—	4.00	5.00
17. Orissa		3.00	—	—	—	5.00
18. Punjab		0.50	3.00	—	—	0.25
19. Rajasthan		19.60	—	—	—	40.00
20. Sikkim		0.50	—	—	—	2.00
21. Tamil Nadu		4.00	—	—	—	17.00
22. Tripura		0.50	—	—	1.00	3.50
23. Uttar Pradesh		24.50	2.50	19.00	—	25.00
24. West Bengal		3.50	—	—	—	7.50
25. Goa		—	—	—	—	0.10
26. A&N Islands		—	—	—	—	0.48
27. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		—	—	—	—	0.02
Total:		139.60	10.00	20.00	15.00	227.00

- RVP/FPR — Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Project/Flood Prone Rivers
 ALKALI — Reclamation of Alkali (Usar) Soils
 ALKALI (EEC) — Reclamation and Development of Alkali Soils with EEC assistance
 WDPSCA — Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas in NE Region
 NWDPRRA — National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas.

Assistance for Cultivation of Coconut

1425. SHRI G.S. BASAVRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production and area under the coconut plantation during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the assistance provided to the States for cultivation of coconut during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to increase the production of coconut?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) The latest available State-wise estimates of production and area under coconut plantation for the years 1996-97 to 1997-98 is given in Statement I attached.

(b) The funds released to States under various programmes of the Coconut Development Board for

cultivation of coconut during the last three years (1996-97 to 1998-99) is given in Statement II attached.

(c) Coconut Development Board is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on "Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India" during 9th Plan with an outlay of Rs. 105.00 crores. Under this Scheme, for increasing production and productivity of coconuts following programmes are being implemented:—

- (i) Production and distribution of quality planting material;
- (ii) Area expansion;
- (iii) Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement;
- (iv) Integrated control of leaf eating caterpillar;
- (v) Extension and publicity.

Besides, Government of India is providing assistance for drip irrigation for horticulture crops including coconut.

Statement I*State-wise Production and Area Under Coconut for the years 1995-96 to 1997-98*

State/Union Territory	Production (Million (nuts))			Area (thousand hectares)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1. Andhra Pradesh	1231.3	685.9	779.9	90.0	90.0	94.9
2. Assam	140.3	118.4	126.9	18.2	19.6	19.7
3. Goa	119.0	119.6	120.9	24.7	24.7	24.9
4. Karnataka	1450.9	1497.9	1492.5	278.8	291.4	286.8
5. Kerala	5908.0	5835.0	5911.0	982.1	1005.7	1020.3
6. Maharashtra	169.2	263.8	226.8	8.2	15.1	15.1
7. Orissa	246.8	271.6	271.5	47.3	53.0	53.0
8. Tamil Nadu	3257.6	3811.6	3716.1	322.5	319.8	319.8
9. Tripura	5.9	6.0	6.1	8.8	9.1	9.1
10. West Bengal	279.4	313.1	306.2	23.2	24.3	24.3
11. A&N Islands	85.4	86.6	80.6	24.4	24.7	24.7
12. Lakshadweep	26.5	27.5	27.7	2.8	2.8	2.8
13. Pondicherry	32.0	24.6	24.0	2.1	2.1	2.1
All India	12952.3	13060.9	13096.0	1833.1	1890.6	1897.5

Statement II**Details of Funds Released to States Under various Programmes of the
Coconut Development Board for Cultivation of Coconut**

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54.124	1295.830	113.035
2.	Assam	11.498	19.146	22.881
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.536	—	1.738
4.	Bihar	16.295	26.190	18.596
5.	Goa	4.609	4.501	5.704
6.	Gujarat	1.299	0.543	0.850
7.	Karnataka	187.050	207.245	222.282
8.	Kerala	1322.758	1243.852	1238.981
9.	Maharashtra	—	—	3.585
10.	Madhya Pradesh	10.676	13.200	13.511
11.	Manipur	0.408	1.110	—
12.	Orissa	18.638	14.733	23.325
13.	Nagaland	4.401	6.016	4.865
14.	Mizoram	0.188	0.483	1.114
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	0.329

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Pondicherry	1.348	4.963	9.854
17.	Rajasthan	—	0.226	0.80
18.	Tamil Nadu	126.381	138.138	192.044
19.	Tripura	7.980	4.362	4.779
20.	West Bengal	9.933	11.397	8.797
21.	A&N Islands	6.552	9.539	15.153
22.	Lakshadweep	—	3.160	1.340
Total:		1786.674	3004.634	1902.843

[Translation]

Motorisation of Boats

1426. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the production of traditional country boats in various parts of the country since 1997 till date, State-wise;

(b) the details of the assistance being provided to the fishermen for the production of country boats;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide assistance to the fishermen for converting their country boats into motor boats;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of fishermen benefited from this scheme, State-wise;

(f) the amount allocated and spent for this purpose since 1997 till date;

(g) the details of the amount to be allocated for the purpose from December 1, 1999 to December 31, 2002, year-wise; and

(h) the measures taken by the Government to ensure that this amount actually reaches to the fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The State-wise details on number of traditional crafts are given in Statement-I.

(b) No scheme is under implementation at present to provide assistance to the fishermen for production of country boats.

(c) to (e) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Motorisation of Traditional Craft" is under implementation since Seventh Five Year Plan in maritime States and Union Territories with the objectives of technological upgradation of the traditional fishing sectors. This scheme helps traditional fishermen in extending their area of fishing

operations and subsidy is provided to traditional fishermen which is limited to Rs. 12,000/- per Inboard Motor and Rs. 10,000/- per Outboard Motor. The cost of subsidy is shared equally between the Centre and the States and met fully by the Centre in the case of Union Territories. The details indicating State-wise number of traditional craft sanctioned for motorisation alongwith funds released towards Central share are given in Statement II.

(f) The amount allocated and released by the Centre for motorisation of traditional crafts and expenditure incurred by the States/Union Territories during the last three years are furnished as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Amount allocated	Amount released	Expenditure
1996-97	400	101.21	101.21
1997-98	400	77.65	77.65
1998-99	300	36.83	

Expenditure details not received.

(g) The details of amount allocated during 1999-2000 and tentative allocation made during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are furnished as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Amount
1999-2000	400
2000-2001	400
2001-2002	500

(h) The implementation of the Scheme is closely monitored by the Central and State Governments. The Regional/District Level Officers in the State Government

are directly involved in the implementation of the Scheme who ensure that the subsidy is being released to the beneficiary fishermen only after purchase and installation of the engine in their crafts.

Statement I

State-wise details of number of Traditional Crafts

States	Traditional Crafts (Number)
1. Gujarat	14613
2. Maharashtra	10256
3. Karnataka	22744
4. Kerala	40786
5. Tamil Nadu	53222
6. Andhra Pradesh	53583
7. Orissa	10249
8. West Bengal	4361
9. Lakshadweep	1078
10. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1552
11. Pondicherry	6265
12. Goa	2194
Total:	220903

Statement II

Statement indicating financial assistance given to fishermen in the form of subsidy under the scheme "Motorisation of Traditional Craft" during the last 3 years

(Amount in Rs. lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs.	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		Total	
		Amount	No. of craft sanctioned for motorisation	Amount	No. of craft sanctioned for motorisation	Amount	No. of craft sanctioned for motorisation	Amount	No. of craft sanctioned for motorisation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50.00	1000 (OBMs)	25.00	500 (OBMs)	15.00	125 (OBMs) 175 (IBMS)	81.25	1625 (OBMs) 175 (IBMS)
2.	Goa	2.45	100 (OBMs)	3.45	100 (OBMs)	5.41	100 (OBMs)	11.31	300 (OBMs)
3.	Karnataka	2.14	79 (OBMs) 18 (IBMS)	10.00	200 (OBMs)	10.42	315 (OBMs)	21.48 1.08	594 (OBMs) 18 (IBMS)
4.	Kerala	25.00	500 (OBMs)	25.00	500 (OBMs)	—	—	50.00	1000 (OBMs)
5.	Maharashtra	9.62	22 (OBMs) 162 (IBMs)	—	—	—	—	1.10 8.52	22 (OBMs) 162 (IBMs)
6.	Orissa	4.00 (OBMs)	80 (OBMs)	7.00	140 (OBMs)	—	—	11.00	220 (OBMs)
7.	Pondicherry	8.00	80 (OBMs)	—	—	6.00	60 (OBMs)	14.00	140 (OBMs)
8.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	7.20	40 (IBMs)	—	—	7.20	40 (IBMs)
Total:		101.21	1861 (OBMs) 180 (IBMs)	77.65	1440 (OBMs) 40 (IBMs)	36.83	600 (OBMs) 175 (IBMs)	215.69	3901 (OBMs) 395 (IBMs)

OBM - Outboard Motor.

IBM—Inboard Motor.

*[English]***Fishing Harbour**

1427. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and location of fishing harbours functioning in the country, State wise;

(b) the details of each project and the cost involved therein; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the speedy implementation of the projects especially fishing harbour at Ponnani in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The State-wise list of fishing harbours functioning in the country alongwith their details and sanctioned cost is given in attached Statement.

(c) The fishing harbour projects sanctioned by the Government of India are stipulated with a fixed time period for completion. Further for timely completion the States/ Union Territories are required to constitute Project Monitoring Committee for each sanctioned site. The Project Report for Ponnani Fishing Harbour in Kerala received from the State Government in November, 1999 has been referred to the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery, Bangalore for technical examination.

Statement

State	Name of Harbour	Sanctioned Cost (Rs. in lakh)	Year of Sanction	Facilities available
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	1. Visakhapatnam	2138.00	1975	Quay, auction hall, slipway and ancillary facilities.
	2. Kakinada	973.17	1969	Landing quay, berthing quay, auction halls, boat repair facilities and Ancillary Facilities.
	3. Nizamapatnam	157.66	1974	Auction hall, berthing quay, maintenance workshop, administrative building, and ancillary facilities.
	4. Bhavanapadu	340.00	1978	Quays, auction hall, boat repair yard and ancillary facilities.
Gujarat	1. Veraval	900.00	1966	Berthing quay, landing quay, auction hall and ancillary facilities.
	2. Mangrol	200.00	1978	Quays, jetties slipway, auction hall and ancillary facilities.
	3. Porbandar	276.00	1966	Quays, jetties slipway, auction hall and ancillary facilities.
	4. Mangrol Stage-II	701.00	1994	Landing & berthing quay, auction hall & other ancillary facilities.

1	2	3	4	5
Tamilnadu	1. Madras Stage-I	1350.00	1973	Breakwaters, slipway, auction hall and other facilities.
	2. Tondi	56.56	1982	Jetty, auction hall and mending shed and ancillary facilities.
	3. Vallinokkam	77.00	1981	Breakwater, quay wall, jetty auction hall and ancillary facilities
	4. Pazhayar	67.00	1982	Quay, auction hall and other ancillary facilities.
	5. Kodiakarai	14.40	1975	Berthing jetty, auction hall and ancillary facilities.
	6. Tuticorin	210.00	1967	Berthing jetty, auction hall and ancillary facilities.
	7. Mallipatnam	10.60	1974	Jetty, auction hall & other ancillary facilities.
Karnataka	1. Malpe	426.00	1966	Slipway, wharf, jetties, auction hall and other facilities.
	2. Honnavar	75.00	1966	Slipway, wharf, jetty and ancillary facilities.
	3. Karwar	30.00	1967	Landing quay, auction hall and other ancillary facilities.
	4. Mangalore	33.00	1966	Wharf, auction hall and ancillary facilities.
	5. Tadri	4.59	1966	Landing quay and auction hall and ancillary facilities.
West Bengal	1. Roychowk	370.00	1971	Jetty, slipway & other ancillary facilities.
	2. Digha Stage-I	139.00	1982	Auction hall, net mending shed, boat repair yard and ancillary facilities
	3. Fraser Ganj	452.32	1989	Jetties, auction hall and other ancillary facilities.
Orissa	1. Paradip	3807.00	1990	Jetties, auction hall, net mending shed and other ancillary facilities.
	2. Dharma	70.00	1975	Berthing quay, repair quay, auction hall, net making shed, repairing yard and ancillary facilities.

1	2	3	4	5
	3. Astarang	507.00	1988	Quay, repair facilities, auction hall and ancillary facilities.
	4. Gopalpur	805.00	1989	Quays, auction hall, workshop and ancillary facilities, administrative buildings.
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1. Phoenix Bay	67.00	1970	Jetty, auction hall & administrative building and ancillary facilities.
Kerala	1. Cochin Stage-I	494.00	1971	Jetty, auction hall and other ancillary facilities.
	2. Vizhinjam	208.00	1968	Breakwaters, quays, auction hall & ancillary facilities.
	3. Neendakara	585.00	1987	Breakwater, quay, auction hall & other ancillary facilities.
	4. Puthiappa	962.00	1988	Breakwater, quay, auction hall & other ancillary facilities.
	5. Munambam	1167.20	1988	Breakwater, quay, auction hall & other ancillary facilities.
	6. Vizhinjam Stage-II	704.00	1987	Breakwater, quay, auction hall & other ancillary facilities.
Maharashtra	1. Sassoon Dock	1099.00	1977	Wharf, auction hall and other ancillary facilities.
	2. Ratnagiri	1840.50	1987	Quay, auction hall & other and ancillary facilities.

Water Supply Projects of Assam

1428. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of water supply projects of Assam cleared during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(b) the time by which the remaining projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Government of Assam have

submitted a medium project to Central Water Commission, namely, Burisuti Irrigation Project containing provision for shallow tubewell for the purpose of drinking water. The project has been processed for its techno-economic appraisal. The project has been found acceptable for Rs. 34.70 crore by TAC of MOWR subject to concurrence of State Finance Department and monitoring of ground water level in command area.

Champamatl and Dhanshri Irrigation Projects

1429. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Assam had undertaken Champa Mati and Dhanshri Irrigation Projects in Bongaigaon and Darrant districts with Central assistance in 1980;

(b) if so, the total funds sanctioned and released by the Union Government for these projects so far;

(c) whether the projects have not been completed so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government for expeditious completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) To complete these projects expeditiously, Central Loan Assistance has been provided to the State Government of Assam under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, as per details given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the project	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Champa Mati				
CLA sanctioned	2.00	2.00	3.6	3.50
CLA released	1.00	1.00	1.8	1.75
Dhanshri				
CLA sanctioned	3.00	10.00	8.00	10.00
CLA released	1.50	5.00	4.00	5.00

The work on these projects is in progress. The projects have been delayed mainly due to inadequate funding by the State Government, delay in land acquisition and disturbed condition prevailing in these areas.

Nuclear Power Production

1430. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are using Atomic Energy to produce electricity/power in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the annual capacity of power production and the location of nuclear power plants, State-wise;

(d) the total amount earned by the Government through these plants; and

(e) whether any proposals are under consideration to expand the production of electricity through the Atomic Energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At present there are ten nuclear power reactor units under operation at five locations in the country with a total installed capacity of 1840 MWe, as under:—

Name of Station and Location	Unit	Installed Capacity (MWe)
Tarapur Atomic Power Station, Maharashtra	TAPS-1 TAPS-2	160 160
Rajasthan Atomic Power Station, Rajasthan	RAPS-1 RAPS-2	100 200
Madras Atomic Power Station, Tamil Nadu	MAPS-1 MAPS-2	170 170
Narora Atomic Power Station, Uttar Pradesh	NAPS-1 NAPS-2	220 220
Kahrapar Atomic Power Station, Gujarat	KAPS-1 KAPS-2	220 220

(d) The net profit earned by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Department of Atomic Energy), which operates the plants, during the year 1998-99 was Rs. 361.53 crores. The Company has paid a dividend of Rs. 50.44 crores to the Government during the year 1998-99.

(e) During the IX Five Year Plan, Kaiga-1 and RAPS-3&4 will be completed and commissioned. Kaiga-2 has attained criticality on 24.9.99 and since synchronised with the grid. Commencement of work on two units (3&4) of the Tarapur Atomic Power Project (TAPP) (2x500 MWe) and Kaiga Unit 3&4 (2x220 MWe) are also included in the Ninth Five Year Plan. Besides these the commissioning of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the 2x1000 MWe Nuclear Power Station at Kudamkulam in Tamilnadu with Russian assistance and preliminary work on the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) has commenced.

Infrastructural Support to PMRY

1431. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision to provide infrastructural support like industrial sites, shops, sheds, water, electricity etc. to the beneficiaries of Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the number of beneficiaries who have got the said facilities during the last three years till date, year-wise and State/UT-wise, particularly in Delhi;

(c) whether the DDA, MCD, NDMC and Delhi Cantonment Board have refused to provide such facilities to beneficiaries of PMRY;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Union Government propose to direct States/UTs, particularly Delhi Government to provide infrastructural support to beneficiaries of PMRY on priority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of the (c) above.

(e) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of SC/ST

1432. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some posts of SCs/STs under various categories are still lying vacant in various Departments and PSUs under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the various categories of employees working in these Departments and PSUs have been given promotion besides fresh recruitment during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details of fresh recruitment made during this period, till date;

(e) whether the recruitment and promotions of the persons belonging to SCs/STs categories were made as per the rules; and

(f) if not, the action taken by the Ministry to fill up the reserved vacant posts of various categories and make promotions of the persons belonging to the SCs/STs as per the rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Development of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee

1433. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal sent by the Government of Gujarat for revival of Centrally sponsored scheme for the development of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees is under consideration of the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) The proposal sent by the State Government of Gujarat for revival of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Agriculture Produce Markets is under consideration.

(b) The proposal submitted by the State Government seeks financial assistance for infrastructural facilities such as shop-cum-godown, auction platform, approach roads, fencing, office building, water and sanitary facilities etc.

(c) A decision on the proposal will be taken after necessary consultations are completed.

Pak Claim for Shooting Down their Aircraft

1434. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan had claimed a compensation from India for shooting down their Atlantic aircraft, which had intruded into Indian airspace across the Kutch borders on August 10, 1999 besides compensation for loss of pilots and others:

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the details of the intrusion;

(c) whether the dispute has since been resolved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Pakistan had approached us through diplomatic channels seeking compensation for the shooting down of its military combat-cum-surveillance Atalantique aircraft, which had intruded into Indian air space in the Kutch sector on 10 August 1999.

The Pakistan military aircraft was on a hostile military mission and was engaged in espionage activity. It had committed a brazen violation of Indian air space as also of the 1991 Agreement between India and Pakistan on Prevention of Air Space Violations. It also ignored internationally accepted rules of engagement in such

situations. The intruding Pakistani aircraft had disregarded all warnings and signals. The actions taken by the Indian Air Force were in keeping with internationally accepted as well as standard operating procedures. The Pakistani military aircraft was well within Indian air space when it was shot down. Pakistan is completely responsible for the outcome and consequences of its action. In response to Pakistan's move, through bilateral channels, to seek compensation Government have publicly stated that this was untenable and absurd.

Pakistan has also petitioned the International Court of Justice in this matter. We have submitted to the Court that it does not have jurisdiction in this case.

NERAMAC declared Sick

1435. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North-Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC), a Central Public Undertaking, has been declared sick;

(b) whether the Corporation has submitted any revival plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) NERAMAC has been incurring continuous losses since its inception in 1982. It was declared sick and was referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in December, 1996.

On the directions of BIFR and on the basis of a revival scheme prepared by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), the Operating Agency appointed by BIFR, a package for the revival of NERAMAC was approved by the Government in February, 1999. The revival scheme, as approved by the Government, was also cleared by the BIFR in its final hearing held on 7th June, 1999. The details of the Sanctioned Scheme approved by BIFR is given in attached Statement.

Under the Scheme, an amount of Rs. 1.68 crores,

as equity, has been released. The amount of Rs. 80 lakh towards implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) has also been released. The amount of Rs. 4.41 crores, towards arrears of subsidy has also been released by NEC.

Statement

A. Cost of the sanctioned scheme:

	(Rs. in crores)
Item	Investment/Fund required
1. (a) Plant & Machinery	-3.00
(b) Misc. fixed assets/overhauling	-0.75
2. Preoperative Expenses	-1.00
3. Pressing Creditors	-1.01
4. Training	-0.22
5. Contingencies	-0.38
6. Working Capital	-3.20
7. VRS	-0.80
Total	-10.36

B. Source of funding the sanctioned Scheme:

	(Rs. Crores)
(i) Equity from Plan Budget of Min. of FPI (Ministry's own resources)	-5.15
(ii) Arrears of subsidy from North Eastern Council (NEC).	-4.41
(iii) National Renewal Fund (for implementing VRS)	-0.80
Total	-10.36

C. Reliefs and Concessions:

- (i) To write off the outstanding loan as on 31.03.98 amounting to Rs. 4.78 crores.
- (ii) To write off the accumulated interest amounting to Rs. 7.27 crores as on 31.03.98;
- (iii) To write off the capital subsidy amounting to Rs. 3.07 crores;

- (iv) To write down the equity by Rs. 1.22 crores, (After writing down the capital, the Accumulated loss gets reduced to zero).
- (v) Release of subsidy arrears amounting to Rs. 4.41 crores by North Eastern Council (NEC).

NOTE: The effective date of implementation of the scheme is from 01.04.1999.

[Translation]

Stabilization Fund

1436. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial assistance is provided to the States under the Agricultural Credit Stabilization Fund Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the allocation of funds made for the year 1998-99, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra to increase the allocation of fund; and

(d) if so, the decision of the Union Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Under the Credit Stabilization Fund Scheme, central assistance is released to the State Governments in the ratio of 75% grant and 25% loan to help build up the Agricultural Credit Stabilization Funds at the level of State Cooperative Banks. For the financial year 1998-99, a sum of Rs. 500 lakh was provided under the scheme. No State-wise allocation of funds is made under the scheme as funds are released on the basis of proposals received from the State Governments.

(c) No such proposal has been received so far from Maharashtra State.

(d) Question does not arise.

Policy Towards Employees Union

1437. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government towards the employees union of Public Sector Companies;

(b) whether any change has been made in the policy recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether peaceful demonstrations in support of their demands are considered as misconduct as per said policy; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Employees Union in public companies are governed by the Trade Unions Act, 1926. A code of Discipline was adopted at the 16th session of the Indian Labour Conference to maintain discipline in Industry (both in public and private sectors), and to govern the process of recognition of unions and that of collective bargaining. The Public Sector Companies are also covered under the Code of Discipline.

(b) and (c) One of the terms of reference of the Second National Commission on Labour set up by the Government is to suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector including the Act Governing Trade Unions.

(d) and (e) Demonstration (even peaceful) by employees union in support of their demands inside premises of the establishment during working hours without permission of the employer may constitute a misconduct if the above act is listed as a misconduct in the certified orders of the establishment.

[English]

Reservation for Handicapped

1438. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a statutory provision to provide employment in Government services to the handicapped unemployed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the percentage of reservation for the physically handicapped persons in the Central Government jobs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Section 33 of the "The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995" provides that, unless, having regard to the type of work, any establishment has by notification been exempted, every appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment such percentage of vacancies not less than three per cent for persons or class of persons with disability of which one per cent each shall be reserved for persons suffering from:—

(i) Blindness or low visions;

(ii) hearing impairment;

(iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy in the posts identified for each disability.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Food Processing Industries

1439. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to bring a new policy for the food processing industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has initiated a process to formulate a new food processing policy for the country. Preliminary work in this regard has already been completed. The policy is to cover all aspects connected with the development of food processing sector in the country.

Fodder Assessment

1440. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Agriculture has made an assessment of requirement of green and dry fodder in the country by 2000 A.D.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any central plan is being launched to increase the production of fodder; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Commission had made an assessment on All India basis. The details of assessment are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has launched two Schemes to increase the Production of Fodder. Their Components are given as under:—

(1) Central Feed and Fodder Development Organisation

(a) Seven Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration are working in different Agro-Climatic Zones of the country.

(b) Central Fodder Seed Production Farm, Hessarghatta, Bangalore.

(c) Central Minikit Testing of Fodder Crops.

(2) Assistance to States for Feed & Fodder Development under Centrally Sponsored Schemes

The following components have been implemented on Centre and State Share basis.

(a) Strengthening of fodder seed Production Farm (75:25)

(b) Establishment of Fodder Bank (75:25)

(c) Seed Production through Registered Growers (25:75)

(d) Enrichment of Straw and Cellulosic Wastes (100:00)

(e) Establishment of silvi-pasture system (100:00)

(f) Grass Land Development including Grass Reserves (100:00)

(g) Sample Survey of Area, Production & Requirement of Fodder Crops (100.00).

Statement*Requirements of Fodders for Productive Livestock in 2000 AD*

(Million Tonnes)

Category of Livestock	Requirement for Projected Population per Year	
	Green Fodder	Dry Fodder
1	2	3
Cattle		
Males Working and Breeding	133.3	146.7
Females milch and dy		
Non-Descript	38.9	31.2

1	2	3
Improved Indigenous	39.6	24.1
Crossbreed	136.1	41.4
Young Stock (a) cross breed	58.3	11.7
(b) others	48.4	14.5
Buffaloes		
Males Working and Breeding	12.7	12.7
Females milch and dry non-descript	23.7	23.7
Improved	64.3	38.5
Young stock	34.8	13.9
Total for bovines	590.1	358.4
Improved Poultry	1.6	—
Improved Sheep	—	8.8
Improved Goats	—	5.8
Improved Pigs	3.1	—
Horses & Ponies	—	—
Camels	—	—
Total:	594.8	373.0

Soil Erosion Caused by Brahmaputra

1441. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several parts of upper Assam are adversely affected due to constant soil erosion caused by the river Brahmaputra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made and expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years, till date; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to check the menace effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The erosion in the banks and beds caused by the river Brahmaputra during floods in several parts of Upper Assam is a natural phenomenon. The data on soil erosion in the various rivers in the country including river Brahmaputra is not maintained by the Union Government.

(c) and (d) Remedial measures in the form of river bank protection works to prevent soil erosion are investigated and executed by the Government of Assam from the funds allocated under State Flood Control Sector by the Planning Commission and Central Assistance for flood control in Brahmaputra Valley. The expenditure incurred under State Plan Flood Control Sector which includes execution of schemes to prevent soil erosion in crores of rupees are:— 20.17, 16.24, 20.27 for 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively. The Union Government had released an amount of Rs. 10.09 crore under Central Grant to Government of Assam for flood control works during 1996-97. For the years 1997-98 and 1998-99, the amount released under Central Loan Assistance in crores of rupees are: 10 and 18 respectively.

Non-Lapsable Fund

1442. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes undertaken from the non-lapsable fund for North-Eastern State, State-wise; and

(b) the amount of such fund released so far during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) A Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources comprising contributions from the concerned Union Ministries/Departments from out of unspent amount(s) from 10% of their Budget(s) earmarked for the North Eastern States and Sikkim has been constituted to support development projects in these States. This Pool became operational only during the financial year 1998-99. An amount of Rs. 121.95 crores was identified for the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources and released during 1998-99 for various projects in the North-East and Sikkim. Details are given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

List of projects for which assistance was released from the Nonlapsable Central Pool of Resources during 1998-99

State	Name of Projects	Release during 1998-99 (Rs. crores)
1	2	3
Arunachal Pradesh	(i) Ranganadi Transmission	10.00
	(ii) Itanagar-Naharlagun Water Supply	5.00
Assam	(i) Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshtra Project	4.85
	(ii) Diguncherra to Airport Road	0.25
	(iii) 89 Minor Irrigation Schemes	11.21

1	2	3
	(iv) Flood Control Management Schemes/ different locations of Brahmaputra and Barak Valley	5.00
	(v) 220 KV D/C Kathalguri-Tinsukia Line (30 kms)	2.00
	(vi) Namrup Sub-station 2x50 MVA, 220/132KV.	2.50
	(vii) Tinsukia sub-station 2x50 MVA, 220x132KV	3.00
Manipur	(i) Leimakhong Heavy Fuel Based Power Project	10.34
	(ii) Infrastructure for National Games	10.00
Meghalaya	(i) Greater Shillong Water Supply Sch.	3.79
	(ii) NH-51 Widening the formation and Strengthening	5.00*
Mizoram	(i) Aizwal (Ph-II) Water Supply Scheme	4.00
	(ii) State Referral Hospital	5.00
Nagaland	(i) Hospital at Kohima	8.00
	(ii) Likimro HEP	11.01
	(iii) Administrative Training Institute	1.00
Sikkim	(i) Rural Water Supply Scheme	10.00
Tripura	(i) Transmission Schemes	10.00
	Total	121.95

*This amount could not, however, be sanctioned by the concerned Central Ministry to the State Government during 1998-99 as the work relating to the project was yet to be awarded to them.

Irregularities in ICAR

1443. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have noticed any irregularities/corruptions in purchase of various items without opening tenders during the current year in Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute and other research institutes;

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

(c) whether the Government have set up any enquiry committee in this regard; and

(d) if so, the findings of the enquiry and the action taken by the Government against erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The requisite information is being collected.

[*Translation*]

Production of Oilseeds

1444. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production and area under the cultivation for oilseeds during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the areas of land under the oilseeds cultivation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the targets fixed/achieved for the oilseed cultivation so far under the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the production of oilseeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) A statement showing annual area and production of different oilseed crops in the country during the last three years is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Increase in area is the major thrust of Oilseeds production programme. This is done through sequential cropping, inter-cropping system, replacement of low economic crops and as substitute crop in problematic areas. The area under Oilseeds production has increased from 19.02 million ha. in 1985-86 to 27.05 million ha. during 1998-99.

(d) The details of the targets fixed/achieved for oilseed production during the Ninth Five Year Plan are as follows:—

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Target	Achievement
1997-98	25.50	22.01
1998-99	27.00	25.68
1999-2000	27.00	

(e) A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in implementation in 25 States covering 395 selected districts to increase the production of oilseeds in the country. Under the programme, financial assistance is being provided for critical inputs like production, and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, gypsum/pyrites, micro-nutrients, rhyzbium culture etc. to the farmers through State Governments. In addition to this, frontline and general demonstrations are also organised on farmers fields to disseminate the improved production and plant protection technologies.

Statement

Annual Area and Production of Different Oilseeds in the Country during the last three years

A : Area in thousand hectare
P : Production in thousand tonnes

Oilseed Crops		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1		2	3	4
1.	Groundnut	A	7596.4	7280.3
		P	8642.9	7845.3
2.	Rapeseed & Mustard	A	6545.4	7064.4
		P	6657.9	4712.9

	1		2	3	4
3.	Soyabean	A	5446.3	5800.1	6312.0
		P	5376.0	6533.1	6943.0
4.	Sunflower	A	1931.7	1706.0	2000.0
		P	1249.7	936.3	1178.0
5.	Sesamum	A	1991.7	1739.4	1695.0
		P	640.5	599.5	665.0
6.	Linseed	A	827.4	819.1	775.0
		P	308.6	240.6	275.0
7.	Castorseed	A	740.4	647.0	674.0
		P	901.7	835.9	909.0
8.	Nigerseed	A	546.3	542.3	571.0
		P	151.8	162.2	167.0
9.	Safflower	A	712.5	615.6	536.0
		P	455.4	149.2	326.0
	Total Oilseeds	A	26338.1	26214.2	27054.0
		P	24384.5	22015.0	25660.0

[English]

Talks Between Indo-Pak Foreign Ministers

1445. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan gave no indication of any willingness on its part to pull back the Pak-intruders from Kargil during recent Indo-Pak Foreign Ministers talks in New Delhi on June 12, 1999;

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

(c) whether the Pak Foreign Minister continued to harp on the myth of "indigenous freedom fighters fighting for liberation of Jammu & Kashmir";

(d) if so, whether the subject has been discussed internationally or bilaterally at different fora;

(e) if so, the details of the outcome thereof, separately; and

(f) the steps taken to dispel the myth and to counter the disinformation spread by Pakistan?

SHRI MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (f), The Pakistan Foreign Minister visited New Delhi for talks on 12 June 1999. The desire of Pakistan was to engage India on dialogue on the Line of Control while continuing with its armed intrusion and aggression in the Kargil sector of Jammu & Kashmir. It was conveyed to him that the Line of Control was fully delineated and the maintenance of its sanctity was essential for peace and security between India and Pakistan. He was also informed that India would take all necessary steps to restore the *status quo ante* on the Line of Control and that Pakistan's armed intrusion and aggression in Kargil, which was carried out by Pakistani

Army regulars backed by mercenaries under its management and control, would be vacated.

The international community, which was kept fully informed of the facts acknowledged that Pakistan had indeed violated the Line of Control through its armed intrusion and aggression and called upon it to vacate its aggression and to withdraw to its side of the Line of Control. Government have also brought to the notice of the international community Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India. These facts have been elaborated upon in international fora, also highlighted by us in bilateral discussions with world leaders. The international community is now increasingly aware of and recognises Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism against India.

Revival of HSCL

1446. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have worked out a detailed restructuring and revival of Public Sector Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL);

(b) if so, the details of modalities worked out for the revival of HSCL;

(c) whether the Government have sought any foreign financial assistance for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had approved the revival of Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL), a public sector undertaking, through a Financial Restructuring-cum-Financial Assistance package on 6.7.99. The details of the revival package are as under:

- (i) Conversion of plan loans as on 31.3.99 into equity Rs. 97.10 crore;
- (ii) Grant of moratorium on repayment of and interest holiday on all Government of India (GOI) loans upto 31.3.99 for 10 years;
- (iii) Waiver of interest accrued and outstanding on all GOI loans as on 31.3.99 amounting to around Rs. 975.17 crore;

(iv) Grant of Rs. 79.33 crore non-plan loan during 1999-2000, with moratorium on repayment and interest holiday for five years subject to review at the end of five years;

(v) Exemption from payment of corporate tax in 1999-2000 on account of windfall profits due to waiver of interest on loans;

(vi) Continuance of Government Guarantee for Rs. 12 crore cash credit and Rs. 80 crore bank guarantee facilities, with waiver of guarantee commission of 1%; and

(vii) Provision of Government Guarantee and full interest subsidy for raising Rs. 318.36 crore as loan from the Banks during the three years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 for separating 2000 employees per year.

(c) No, Sir.

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

A.I.B.P.

1447. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes being implemented in the country under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, Scheme-wise and State-wise;

(b) the total funds allocated to each State under the scheme during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the total funds allocated by the Government during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the actual fund released to each State under the Scheme, till date;

(d) the irrigation capacity generated during the last three years as a result thereof; and

(e) the time by which the remaining fund is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA

CHAKRAVARTY: (a) and (b) Statewise details of schemes and funds provided by the Union Government during the last 3 years since 1996-97 is given in inclosed Statement I.

(c) The details of funds allocated by Government and released to each State under the scheme till date is given in enclosed Statement II.

(d) The irrigation capacity created under AIBP is as under:

Year	Irrigation capacity (Thousand Hectares)
1996-97	280.673
1996-98	502.882
1996-99	273.781

(e) The release of funds under AIBP are made on year to year basis subject to utilisation to be furnished by States duly concurred by Central Water Commission.

Statement I

(Rs. in crores)

State	Sr. No.	Project name	CLA Released 96-97	CLA Rele. 97-98	CLA Rele. 98-99	Total CLA Released upto 3/99	CLA appro. for 1999-2000	1st instal. of CLA Recom. for 1999-2000	1st instal. of CLA released 1999-2000	CLA Ceiling prescribed by the Planning Commission
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A.P.	1.	Srirangsagar St. I	31.500	50.000	25.000	106.500	76.000	38.000	38.000	
	2.	Cheyyeru (Annam.)	3.750	4.000	2.500	10.250	3.000	1.500	1.500	
	3.	Jurala		16.500	21.500	38.000				
	4.	Somasila		3.500	14.500	18.000				
	5.	Nagarjunsagar			9.000	9.000				
	6.	Madduvalasa			7.170	7.170				
Total			35.250	74.000	79.670	188.920	79.000	39.500	39.500	265
Assam	1.	Pahumara	0.600	1.300	1.000	2.900	0.860			
	2.	Hawaipur lift	0.875	0.000	1.000	1.875	2.180			
	3.	Rupahi	0.255	0.000	0.400	0.655	0.000			
	4.	Dhansiri	1.500	5.000	4.000	10.500	10.000	5.000	5.000	
	5.	Champamati	1.000	1.000	1.800	3.800	3.500	1.750	1.750	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	6.	Borolia	0.500	1.350	1.800	3.450	3.000	1.500	1.500	
	7.	Boradixaral		1.000	1.350	2.350	1.500	0.750	0.750	
	8.	Burhi Dehing		0.500	0.800	1.300	1.500	0.750	0.750	
	9.	Intg. Irr. Scheme in Kollong Basin		2.250	2.000	4.250	3.500	1.750	1.750	
	10.	Kollonga	0.500			0.500				
	Total		5.230	12.400	13.950	31.580	26.040	11.500	11.500	25
Bihar	1.	Western Kosi	10.000	0.00	14.635	24.635	61.140	30.570	30.570	
	2.	Upper Kiul	2.500	0.00	5.100	7.600	15.250	7.625	7.625	
	3.	Durgawati	1.000	0.00	1.150	2.150	22.000	11.000	11.000	
	4.	Gumani		3.000	2.440	5.440	20.000	10.000	10.000	
	5.	Toral		2.500		2.500	0.00			
	6.	Bansagar		1.500	2.000	3.500	16.660	8.330	8.330	
	7.	Lairatu		0.670	1.000	1.670	0.680	0.340	0.340	
	8.	Kansjore		1.850	3.250	5.100	4.260	2.130	2.130	
	9.	Sonua		0.420	3.500	3.920	4.800			
	10.	Surangi		0.200	1.300	1.500	3.560			
	11.	Omi Reservoir		2.030	5.500	7.530	1.220			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12.	Bilasi Res.		1.620	0.300	2.420	0.500	0.250	0.250	
	13.	Tapkara Res. Sche.		0.250	0.150	0.400	0.230	0.115	0.115	
	14.	Sone Modernisation			7.000	7.000	33.800			
		Total	13.500	14.040	47.825	75.365	184.100	70.360	70.360	200
Goa	1.	Salauli Ph-I		5.250	0.000	5.250	7.000	3.500	3.500	
		Total		5.250	0.000	5.250	7.000	3.500	3.500	20
Gujarat	1.	Sardar Sarovar	71.250	177.000	410.000	658.250	267.000	133.500	133.500	
	2.	Bhuj	1.200	1.800	1.070	4.070	0.670	0.335	0.335	
	3.	Mukteshwar	0.488	2.700	0.900	4.088	1.130	0.565	0.565	
	4.	Sipu	1.635	2.900	1.800	6.335	0.120	0.060	0.060	
	5.	Damanganga		5.000	3.250	8.250	2.440	1.220	1.220	
	6.	Karjan		4.000	2.500	6.500	2.200	1.100	1.100	
	7.	Sukhi		2.000	2.650	4.650	1.000	0.500	0.500	
x	8.	Deo		0.500		0.500				
	9.	Watrak		1.000	1.650	2.650	0.460	0.230	0.230	
x	10.	Hamav II	0.065			0.065				
x	11.	Umaria	0.135			0.135				
		Total	74.773	196.900	423.820	695.493	275.020	137.510	137.510	275

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Haryana	1.	Gurgaon canal	2.500	0.000	0.000	2.500				
	2.	J.L.N. Lift Irr.		12.000	0.000	12.000				
x	3.	WRCP	30.000			30.000				
	4.	Hathini Kund (WRCP)			0.000	0.000	3.660	1.830		
Total			32.500	12.000	0.000	44.500	3.660	1.830	0.000	
H.P.	1.	Shahnehar Irr. Proj.		6.500	5.000	11.500	7.875	3.938	3.938	
Total				6.500	5.000	11.500	7.875	3.938	3.938	
J&K x	1.	Mod. Barrage and Irr.	0.300		0.000	0.3000				
x	2.	Lethpora Lift	0.500		0.000	0.500				
x	3.	Koil Lift	0.500		0.000	0.500				
	4.	Ranbir canal*					4.500	2.250	2.250	
	5.	Pratab canal					1.500	0.750	0.750	
	6.	Kathua canal					2.000	1.000	1.000	
Total			1.300			1.300	8.000	4.000	4.000	
Karnataka	1.	Upper Krishna St.	57.000	50.000	50.000	157.000	100.000	50.000	50.000	
	2.	Malaprabha	1.500	12.000	10.000	23.500	27.000	13.500	13.500	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	3.	Hirehalla	2.750	6.000	6.000	14.750	4.660	2.330	2.330	
	4.	Ghataprabha		15.000	12.500	27.500	30.000			
	5.	Karanja		7.500	16.000	23.500	15.640	7.820	7.820	
Total			61.250	90.500	94.500	246.250	177.300	73.650	73.650	
Kerala	1.	Kallada	3.750	15.000	0.000	18.750				
	2.	Muvafupuzha								
Total			3.750	15.000	0.000	18.750				
Madhya Pradesh	1.	Indira Sagar	37.500	51.000	37.500	126.000	40.000	20.000	20.000	
	2.	Bansagar	23.250	54.000	20.000	97.250	38.000	19.000	19.000	
	3.	Upper Wainganga	2.500	5.000	10.000	17.500	19.660	9.830	9.830	
	4.	Hasdeo Bango		4.250	9.000	13.250	17.200	8.6000		
	5.	Shivnath Diver.		0.250	0.500	0.750	1.840	0.920	0.920	
	6.	Raighat Dam			11.500	11.500	8.750			
	7.	Sindh Phase II			2.250	2.250	4.240	2.120	2.120	
	8.	Jonk					2.000	1.000	1.000	
	9.	Sindh Phase I					2.000	1.000	1.000	
Total			63.250	114.500	90.750	268.500	133.690	62.470	53.870	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Maharashtra	1.	Goalkhurd	10.000	0	6.110	16.110	6.340			
	2.	Surya	2.000	5.000	0.000	7.000	7.820	3.910	3.910	
	3.	Waghur		2.000	5.000	10.000	17.000	14.0000		
	4.	Bhima		12.500	19.750	32.250	24.510	12.255		
	5.	Upper Tapi		2.500	0.000	2.500	3.800	1.900	1.900	
	6.	Upper Wardha		30.000	0.000	30.000	40.000	20.000	20.000	
	7.	Wan			15.000	15.000	13.480			
	8.	Upper Penganga					16.000			
	9.	Jaykwadi					9.620			
	10.	Bahuda					3.940			
	11.	Jawalgaon					0.700			
Total			14.000	55.000	50.860	119.860	140.210	38.065	25.810	
Manipur	1.	Khuga	4.300	6.000	4.500	14.800	9.250	4.625	4.625	
	2.	Thoubal		20.000	6.280	26.280	11.060			
Total			4.300	26.000	10.780	41.080	20.310	4.625	4.625	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Orissa	1.	Upper Indravati	19.000	30.000	10.000	59.000	35.700	17.850		
	2.	Rangali	9.900	20.000	50.000	79.900	28.300	14.150		
	3.	Subernarekha	18.000	27.000		45.000	39.000	19.500	19.500	
	4.	Anandpur Barr.	1.550	3.000	0.250	4.800	4.100	2.050	2.050	
	5.	Upper Kolab		5.000	10.000	15.000	13.800	6.900		
	6.	Titlagarh			1.250	1.250	4.750			
	7.	Lower Indira					7.500	3.750	3.750	
	8.	Lower Suktal					6.000	3.000	3.000	
Total			48.450	85.000	71.500	204.950	139.150	67.200	28.300	145.52
Punjab	1.	Ranjit Sagar Dam	67.500	100.000		167.500	42.000	21.000	21.000	
Total			67.500	100.000		167.500	42.000	21.000	21.000	200
Rajasthan	1.	Jaismand (Mode.)	0.925	1.000	1.000	2.925	0.250	0.125		
	2.	Chhapi	1.750	2.500	5.500	9.750	8.000	4.000	4.000	
	3.	Panchana		2.5000	1.120	3.620	3.620	1.760	1.760	
	4.	IGNP Stage-II		36.000	74.000	110.000	100.000	50.000	50.000	
	5.	Bilaspur			30.430	30.430	22.260			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	6.	Narmada canal			23.000	23.000	26.640			
	7.	Gambhiri (Mode.)			1.000	1.000	0.400			
	8.	Chauli			4.000	4.000	7.900	3.950	3.950	
	Total		2.675	42.000	140.050	184.725	168.970	59.835	59.710	170
Tamilnadu	1.	WRCP	20.000			20.000				
	Total		20.000			20.000				50
Tripura	1.	Manu	1.313	2.000	1.175	4.488	2.890	1.445	1.445	
	2.	Gumti	1.560	2.200	1.850	5.610	3.890	1.945	1.945	
	3.	Khowai	0.900	0.900	0.950	2.750	2.930	1.465	1.465	
	Total		3.773	5.100	3.975	12.848	9.710	4.855	4.855	60
U.P.	1.	Sarda Sahayak	15.000	10.000	16.000	41.000	24.000	12.000	12.000	
	2.	Sarju Nagar	9.000	17.500	20.000	46.500	46.000	23.000	23.000	
	3.	Upper Ganga incl. Madhya Ganga Canal	15.000	17.500	20.000	52.500	26.000	13.000	13.000	
	4.	Providing Kharif Channel in H.K. Doab	0.500	3.000	4.000	7.500	7.000	3.500	3.500	
	5.	Bansagar		10.000	16.500	26.500	44.000	22.000	22.000	
	6.	Lakhwar vyasi		20.000		20.000	0.000			
	7.	Tehri					76.000	38.000	38.000	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	8.	Gyanpur Pump canal					4.500	2.250	2.250	
	9.	Eastern Ganga Canal					8.000	4.000	4.000	
x	10.	Rajghat dam	3.000			3.000				
x	11.	Gunta Nala Dam	1.000			1.000				
Total			43.500	78.000	76.500	198.000	235.500	117.750	117.750	300
Wast Bengal	1.	Teesta Barrage	5.000	15.000	10.000	30.000	19.000	9.500	9.500	
	2.	Kangsabati		4.000	0.000	4.000	4.000	2.000	2.000	
	3.	Mod. Barrage and Irr. Sys. of DVC		1.000	0.000	1.000				
Total			5.000	20.000	10.000	35.000	23.000	11.500	11.500	60

Statement-II

Sl.No.	Name of the State	CLA 1996-97		CLA 1997-98*		CLA 1998-99*	
		Approved	Released	Approved	Released	Approved	Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70.500	35.250	160.700	74.000	159.340	79.670
2	Assam	10.460	5.230	26.200	12.400	27.900	13.950
3	Bihar	27.000	13.500	53.570	14.040	57.585	47.825
4	Gujarat	101.720	74.725	321.400	196.900	426.320	423.620
5.	Goa	0.000	0.000	10.500	5.250	1.500	0.000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Haryana	45.000	32.500	30.000	12.000	10.000	0.000
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.000	0.000	13.000	6.300	5.000	5.000
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.600	1.300	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
9.	Karnataka	122.500	61.250	175.000	90.500	167.000	94.500
10.	Kerala	5.000	3.750	30.000	15.000	29.000	0.000
11.	Madhya Pradesh	86.000	63.250	148.000	114.500	171.000	90.750
12.	Maharashtra	28.000	14.000	90.000	55.000	120.600	50.860
13.	Manipur	8.600	4.300	26.000	26.000	21.580	10.780
14.	Orissa	92.100	48.450	90.000	85.000	103.000	71.500
15.	Punjab	90.000	67.500	100.000	100.000	50.000	0.000
16.	Rajasthan	5.350	2.675	111.450	42.000	109.170	140.050
17.	Tripura	6.870	37.725	6.000	5.100	6.100	3.975
18.	Tamil Nadu	40.000	20.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
19.	Uttar Pradesh	67.000	43.500	153.000	78.000	93.000	76.500
20.	West Bengal	10.000	5.000	40.000	20.000	20.000	10.000
Total:		818.500	500.000	1584.820	952.190	1587.075	1119.180

[Translation]

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Right to Information*[English]*

1448. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELIA:

Agricultural Universities

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

1449. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new committee has recently been constituted by the Government to invite suggestions for providing Right to Information to the common man;

(a) the total number of Agricultural universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its precise terms of reference;

(b) whether any Indian Agricultural university has its credit for any exclusive research achievement of its own; and

(c) the criteria fixed for the selection of the members; and

(c) if so, the name of such university and the fields of research achievement to its credit?

(d) the reasons for constituting a new committee afresh by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(a) State Agricultural Universities	30
Central Agricultural University	1
Deemed Universities	4
<hr/>	
Total	35
<hr/>	

(b) and (c) The information is given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

1. Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur.

1. **Outstanding crop varieties and hybrids developed:**

Cotton	JK Hy- 1&2	
Soyabean	JS-335	Widely adaptable & high yielding.
	JS-90-11	Early maturing, four seeded character.
Wheat	JW-17	High yielding under rainfed condition.
Sorghum	CSH-18	High yielding, wide adaptability.
Mustard	JM-1	First rust resistant variety developed in the country.
Coloured Cotton	JCC-1	First coloured cotton variety.

Opium JO-539

isavgol JI-4

- II. **Outstanding poultry bird developed** Krishna-J,
- III. **Outstanding pit breed developed** Jabalpur Black Pig.
- IV. **Most remunerative Cropping system developed:**
1. Maize-Potato-wheat-Moong for irrigated area.
 2. Rice-Torta-Wheat-Moong for irrigated area.
 3. Soyabean pigconpea inter cropping for rainfed area.
- V. **Raised-sunken bed system for management of black soils in Central Madhya Pradesh.**
- VI. **Field scale demonstration of gablon structure for control and stabilization of gullies in Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh.**
- VII. **Outstanding agricultural machinery developed.**
2. **Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Palampur**
1. Cruising of Yak x Jersey (*Bos gruniens* x *Bos taurus*) so that the progeny should have potentiality to produce more milk and retaining its draftability.
 2. Package and practices of Saffron Cultivation in this hilly state.
3. **University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad**
1. **Crop Achievement** Disease-post drought tolerant 70 varieties/hybrid in various agricultural and horticultural crops suited to various agroclimatic conditions have been released and popularised in the farmer's fields.

They are, development of first interspecific extralong staple cotton hybrid DCH-3 (Varalaxmi) followed by DCH-32, (Jayalaxmi) and intra hirsutum DDH-11, which revolutionised the cotton production and productivity of long and extra long staple cotton provided export of more than 1000 crores of rupees per annum and was the most significant milestone in the cotton research of the country. First and foremost high yielding dicoccus wheat varieties DDK-1001 and DDK-1009 and varieties Bhagyashree and Bhavyashree of Bidi Tobacco are next noteworthy achievements in order.

Horticultural crops varieties like SAS-I in Areca, DHS-I and DHS-2 hybrids in Sapota.
 2. **Crop Production Technology** Two important National Awards (Yama) Watershed during 1989 and Vasantrao Maik award (during 1993) for the outstanding research work in watershed management in dryland areas have been bagged by the University. For the five (TBP, UKP, Malaprabha, Ghataprabha and Karanja) irrigation projects, suitable cropping systems with water requirements for different crops have been evaluated (for their high yields) suitable weed control through herbicides under irrigation have been identified and released for farmers use.

3. **Crop Protection Technology** Post (Abadita in cotton) and disease resistant varieties (Maruti will resistant redgram variety and 9-13 rust resistant rabi sorghum variety) have been developed.
- Parthenium weed is effectively controlled by biological method *i.e.* by growing. This is being widely practiced throughout the State and by different States within the country.
4. **Agro Forestry** Been identified as high yielding tree species which suits to Agri.-silvi cropping system in irrigated and rainfed ecosystem.
5. **Rural Home Science** Fuel saving smokeless culha, Janatha cooker, and Janatha cold storage are developed and popularised. Soy based highly nutritious food for various aged group is identified.
6. **Animal Science** Development of Deoni x HF Cross Breed has resulted in improvement of the milk yield by three fold. Khillar draft purpose breed is most popular with the farmers.

4. University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore

1. **Development of Dryland through Watershed approach** The watershed management projects were taken up at different parts of Karnataka have become a model and won the best productivity award from the National Productivity Council.
2. **Finger Millets** Fifteen new finger millets were evolved which has contributed remarkable improvement in production and productivity.
3. **Sunflower** For the first time in the country, a hybrid variety BSH-1 has been evolved.
4. **Cardamom** Two varieties named cardamom named Mudigere 1 and 2 have been released.
5. **Tobacco** Two high yielding varieties resistant to black shank diseases named KST and Bhavya have been developed and released.
6. **Maize** Two composite resistant to Turicum Leaf Blight and Downy Mildew Disease have been developed.
7. **Cashew** Rejuvenation of old low yielding cashew trees has been developed first time in the country.
8. **Plant Pathology** (a) Whitegrub and mite management.
(b) Control of black headed caterpillar through stem injection and termite coconut.
9. **Animal Sciences** Poultry: UBRO-1 and 2, Giriraja and Girirani, fast growing breeds have been developed.
10. **Vaccine** Sheep pox LT vaccine against pox injection.
11. **Pregnancy detection in cattle** A new easy bioassay technique through germination pattern of wheat treatment with cattle urine has been developed.
12. **Fresh Water Prawn Culture** A technique of grow fresh water prawn in inland water has been developed.

5. C.S. Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur

Field of Research Achievements and Technology, Kanpur — 208 002.

The University caters to the needs of about 5.5 crore population of the State by providing need based, problem solving, region-wise high yielding varieties of cereals, pulses, oilseeds and vegetables with matching agro-techniques.

(a) Some of the latest varieties of important crops

Wheat	K 9107 (Deva), K 8804, K 8962 (Indra), K 9006 (Ujjar), K 9162 (Gangotri), K 8434 (Prasad), K 7903 (Halua), K 9465 (Gomti) and K 9644.
Barley	Ritambhara, Manjula and Geetanjali
Paddy	Usar-1 and Ashwani
Maize	Azad Uttam
Safflower	K-65
Rai	T-59 (Varuna), Rohini, Vaibhav, Vardan, Basanti and Urvashi
Groundnut	Chitra, Chandra, Amber, Prakash and Kausal
Linseed	Neelam, Shweta, Garima, Subhra, Lakshmi 27 and Gaurav
Urd	T-9, Shekhar-1 and Azad Urd-1
Lentil	K-75 (Mallika)
Moong	T-44, K-851
Gram	Radhey, Avarodhi, KWR 108 and KGD 1168
Pea	Swati, Sapana and Shikha
Pigeonpea	K-32-1 (Amar and Azad)
Tomato	Angoortata, KS 17 and Azad T2
Chilli	Chanchal
Brinjal	Azad hybrid, KS 224 (round) and KS 331 (long)
Bean	Rajni and KT-2
Lady's finger	Azad Bhindi-1
Bitterground	Kalayanpur sona
Vegetable pea	Azad P-2, P-3 and P-4
Saunf	Azad Saunf-1

Coriander	Azad Coriander-1
Bottlegourd	Azad Nautar, Azad Harit
Onion	Kalyanpur Red (round)

(b) New Agrotechniques developed

1. Border method of crop cultivation for all the crops **except sugarcane**.
2. Adoption of modern techniques of land treatment and water harvesting coupled with use of improved techniques in Rendhar (Jalaun).
3. Successful control of Kans weed with Glyphosate 41%.
4. Utilisation of green biomass by fractionation technology.
5. Border strip method of irrigation management.
6. Cell-mediated immune response in mice was suppressed by agrochemical permethrin.
7. Suppression of humoral and cellular immune response in goats by chorpyriphos.

6. S.K. University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir**University carried out research on the following fields of agricultural sciences**

1. **Saffron** SKUAS&T has evolved two genotypes having yield advantage of about 15% over the existing local varieties. Besides, a package of practices for its cultivation has been standardized especially for the management of dry rot disease which has taken heavy toll of this crop earlier.
 - (i) SKUA-C-Co-85-5
 - (ii) SKUA-SAF-8704
2. **Kala Zeera** SKUAS&T has evolved two genotypes which have yield advantage of about 42% over the existing.
 - (i) SKU-BZ-86
 - (ii) SKU-BZ-8502
3. **Apple** With the adoption of technology developed by the university the production and productivity of apple has increased from 644814 tonnes in 1989-90 to 860804 in 1997-98. The dreaded disease of apple scab and also the problem of insect pests especially the mite complex has been managed with the development of integrated disease pest management schedule which besides being cost effective is also eco-friendly. Two scab resistant varieties christened as Shireen and Firdous have also been evolved.
4. **Walnut** The university has evolved technology known as HCCS which has ensured rate of propagation upto 50 to 60 percent. The innovative technology utilized indigenous material has also been evolved which ensures 92-95 percent success rate in the propagation of walnut in Kashmir.
5. **Almonds** SKUAST during its period of existence has evolved 4 varieties of almonds known as Mukhdoom, Prabat, Waris and Shalimar which besides being high yielding are late bloomers thus avoiding frost injury, which takes a heavy toll in Spring.
6. **Rice** (i) K-429 (ii) K-334 (iii) K-332 which besides being high yielding are also cold tolerant and disease resistant.

7. **Wheat** The university has evolved two varieties of summer wheat suited to cold arid zone which besides having yielding potential of 35-40 quintals per hectare and above 100 quintals of straw yield which is used as fodder in these areas.
8. **Barley** University has evolved a variety known as Sindhu which has yield potential of 30-35 quintals per hectare and also high straw yield potential of 70 quintals per hectare.

7. Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad

Development and releases for the first time:—

1. Rice hybrids in the country and next only to China in the World during 1993 (APHR 1 and APHR 2)
2. Rice varieties resistant to (i) Gall midge — Kakatiya (1974)
(ii) Brown Plant Hooper — Vajram (1986)
3. Powdery mildew resistant variety of blackgram in the country, rishnaiah (LBG 17) in 1985.
4. Red rot resistant variety in sugarcane: COA 7601 (1976)

Agriculture

1. Number of improved crop varieties released : 258

The University has several First in the Country. These are:—

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|--|
| a. | Rice (63) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First in the country and second in the world after China to develop and release rice hybrids (APHR1 and APHR2) • First in the country to develop rice varieties resistant to gallmidge (Kakatiya), Brown Plan Hopper (Vajram) |
| b. | Maize (14) | First triple cross hybrid — Trishulata |
| c. | Blackgram (9) | First powdery mildew resistant variety in the country — LBG 17 (Krishnaiah) |
| d. | Groundnut (10) | First nematode resistant variety in the country—Triupati 3 |
| e. | Sunflower (1) | First Authentic Hybrid—APSH 11 |
| f. | Safflower (2) | First rust resistant variety in the country—Manjira |
| g. | Sugarcane (17) | First red rot resistant variety in the country—Co. A 7601 |
| h. | Cotton (23) | First white fly resistant (Kanchana) and immune (LK 861) varieties in the country |
| i. | Coconut (2) | Godavari Ganga —One of the first early released hybrids |
| j. | Other crops (117) | Sorghum (8), Millets (27), Pulses (23), Castor (1), Sesamum (6), Mesta (4), Sunhemp (1), Chillies (8), Coriander (3), Betelvine (1), Fruits (6), Cashewnut, Phalsa, Vegetables, Bougainvilla, Fodders. |

Agril. Implements: First power tiller operated paddy transplanter

Varieties with National Significance:

- | | | |
|----|-------|---------------------|
| a. | Maize | DHM 105, Trishulata |
| b. | Ragi | Godavari |

c.	Blackgram	LBG 17
d.	Redgram	LRG 39
e.	Groundnut	K 134 (stood first in the country for rainfed areas)
f.	Sunflower	APSH 11
g.	Safflower	Manjira
h.	Cotton	LK 861
i.	Chillies	G4, G5 and LCA 235 (X 235)
j.	Amorphophallus	Gajendra

2. Technologies of outstanding importance and economic significance:

- a. Zinc deficiency in crops and delineation of soils and areas deficient in micronutrients and development of ameliorative measures.
 - b. Identification of potassium deficiency and establishment of benefits of potassium fertilization to rice, sugarcane, groundnut and other crops.
 - c. Root feeding technique in coconut for the control of black headed coconut caterpillar, redpalm weevil and slug caterpillar.
 - d. Development of Agricultural drainage technique to increase yields of rice, sugarcane, betelvine etc.
 - e. Doruvu Technology for the coastal sands (both for irrigation and drinking water purposes)
 - f. Development of IPM technologies including biological control for crops like cotton, groundnut, castor, rice etc.
 - g. Introduction of profitable cropping systems for different areas and farming systems including several income generating activities.
 - h. Introduction of remunerative non-traditional crops like sunflower, soybean, mustard, oilpalm, rajmash etc.
 - i. Development of watershed management technologies for dry land agriculture
 - j. Design and development of several labour and time saving implements and farm machinery
 - k. Development of suitable package of Post Harvest Technologies for fruits, vegetables etc.
 - l. Development of technologies for agro forestry, fodder trees etc.
 - m. Production and supply of Breeders and foundation seed and seedlings of horticultural crops.
- Diagnostic Services strengthened.
 - Supply of seed and Plant material
 - Cyclone and flood disaster management cell created.

Livestock

Pigs

The University has developed crossbred pigs through mating of Yorkshire with native pigs. The 75% exotic inheritance level was found to be superior over the 50% exotic inheritance which is becoming popular among the poor sections.

- Poultry** ILR Jubilee — 90, a high yielding, feed efficient strain developed by the University was released. Over 1 lakh chicks were supplied to the farmers.
- Livestock Health** In the field of livestock health and epidemeology, diagnostic kits have been developed for early detection of animal diseases.
- Fisheries** Mud Crab Culture as an alternative to Prawn Culture, which of late is facing crisis, is found profitable.

Home Science

Technology for production of Oyster mushrooms has been standardised and popularised among the rural women and rural youth. Blending of red palmoil with sunflower oil and groundnut oil was found acceptable and the ration 30:70 was identified as a good cooking media.

8. G.B. Plant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar

- ** The Agriculture scientists have developed 140 varieties of different crops which include 16 varieties of wheat, 11 of rice, 10 of maize, 20 of different pulses, 14 of soyabean, 6 of oilseeds, 14 of forage crops, 20 of vegetables and 12 of fruits.
- ** Package of practices have been developed for all the crops. These techniques include fertilizers and water requirements of the crop, plant protection techniques and also post harvest technology.
- ** University scientists have developed useful strains and production technology for mushroom, vegetables and fruits.
- ** Plant protection techniques include the management of diseases, insects, pests and weeds in different crops. Special emphasis is being laid on integrated pest management which includes biological control of disease and pests.
- ** The University has been pioneer in the production of nucleus, breeder, foundation and certified seeds of various crops.
- ** The Agricultural Engineers of the University have developed. Pant Zero-till-ferti-seed drill, Pant spiket Clod Crusher, Pant Rotary Puddler techniques for enhancing recovery of oil from soilseeds and dal from pulses, fruits and vegetables grader and techniques for soil and water management.
- ** Research achievements in Veterinary and Animal Sciences include the techniques of detection of urea adulteration in milk, development of vaccine against Salmonello, embryo transfer technology in cattle. Accupunture technique of aneshthesia and cell culture vaccine against New Castle Disease.

Degradation of Land

1450. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether large area of land has been degraded or facing threat of degradation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to make the degraded land cultivable and to check the threat of further degradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Various schemes, as given below, are being implemented by Government of India which help in development of degraded lands and check the threat of further degradation.

- (i) Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP).
- (ii) Soil Conservation in the catchments of Flood Prone Rivers (FPR).
- (iii) National Watershed Development Projects for Rainfed Areas.
- (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas of North-Eastern States.
- (v) Reclamation of Alkali Soils.
- (vi) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP).
- (vii) Desert Development Programme (DDP).
- (viii) Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP).

Statement

Statement showing State-wise area of Degraded Lands in the Country

S.No.	State/UT	Area (in Lakh ha.)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	122.31
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	26.54
3.	Assam	29.99
4.	Bihar	65.52
5.	Goa	2.00
6.	Gujarat	125.86
7.	Haryana	41.62
8.	Himachal Pradesh	19.14
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8.93

1	2	3
10.	Karnataka	114.03
11.	Kerala	19.35
12.	Madhya Pradesh	207.17
13.	Maharashtra	198.46
14.	Manipur	7.34
15.	Meghalaya	11.02
16.	Mizoram	6.10
17.	Nagaland	10.38
18.	Orissa	78.03
19.	Punjab	32.30
20.	Rajasthan	373.94
21.	Sikkim	3.03
22.	Tamil Nadu	38.22
23.	Tripura	2.79
24.	Uttar Pradesh	131.15
25.	West Bengal	43.03
26.	UTs	3.50
		1721.75
	Coastal Sands— No Statewise data	14.65
		1736.40

[*Translation*]

Unemployment Allowance

1451. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has formulated any policy in regard to payment of unemployment allowance to the unemployed youths in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have been asked to implement such policy; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Reduction of Staff

1452. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited is overstaffed;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to reduce the strength of staff to make SAIL viable; and

(c) the concrete measures taken to make it a profit making company again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps being taken to reduce the strength of manpower of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)

include *inter-alia* Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), redeployment of manpower from the identified areas and restriction in recruitment.

(c) Government has been in constant dialogue with SAIL and has been periodically reviewing their performance with a view to increasing their competitiveness and efficiency. Accordingly, to check losses and improve the financial health of SAIL, the Company has drawn up a comprehensive financial and business restructuring plan. The measures outlined in the plan include, *inter-alia*:

- (i) A reduction in operational costs by reducing input costs, reducing consumption of raw materials and other inputs and by increasing operating efficiencies;
- (ii) Improvement in techno-economic parameters such as fuel and power consumption;
- (iii) Increased recovery for services/facilities;
- (iv) Right sizing manpower through a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS);
- (v) Assets restructuring;
- (vi) Disposal of idle assets; and
- (vii) Financial restructuring.

Eradication of Child Labour

1453. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the basic facilities and infrastructure required to eradication Child Labour in the country is still lagging behind;

(b) if so, whether the Government had received foreign assistance to eradicate Child Labour in the country during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which that foreign assistance has been utilised; and

(d) the extent to which the Child Labour have been eradicated in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the

problem, a gradual, progressive and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour. So far 85 National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned for the child labour endemic districts of the country for the rehabilitation of child labour.

(b) to (d) India has been participating in the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). The long term objective of IPEC is to contribute to the effective abolition of child labour. Under the programme funds were provided directly by the ILO Area Office to NGOs, Voluntary organisations and other organisations after approval of the action programme by the National Steering Committee, IPEC. The Action Programme covers area such as institutional development, programme development, awareness raising, rehabilitation and education. Under the IPEC, 154 action programmes on child labour have been taken up for coverage of more than 90,000 children. The total assistance provided under IPEC is US \$ 55,01,403/- for the period 1992-1999.

Child Labour is a deep rooted socio-economic problem which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time for its elimination. Hence, fixing a time-frame would not be feasible.

Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme

1454. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to modify the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made so far; and

(d) the time by which the scheme is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):
(a) to (d) A new scheme titled 'National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana)' has already been introduced (in place of Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme) from Rabi 1999-2000 season. The new scheme envisages coverage of all farmers (loanee

and non-loanee), more crops, more risks, charges rationalised premium rate and 50% subsidy for small and marginal farmers on sunset basis. The sharing of costs between the Central and State Government is on 50:50 basis.

On-Going Irrigation Projects

1455. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds provided by the Union Government and utilised by each State Government on the implementation of major and medium irrigation projects during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have reviewed the progress of these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the funds allocated by the Union Government during the Ninth Five Year Plan to complete these projects, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) State-wise details of outlays approved by the Union Government & expenditure on major/medium Irrigation Projects during 1994-95, 1995-96 & 1996-97 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The progress of all the major & medium irrigation sector is reviewed annually by the Planning Commission during Annual Plan discussions with the State Government authorities. In addition, selected projects are also *inter-alia* monitored at Central level. During the process of monitoring, bottlenecks and shortfalls are identified and remedial measures suggested to the Project Authorities.

(d) State-wise details of outlays approved for IX Plan are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) Clearance of any new project is linked with the promptness with which the State Authorities comply with the observations made by Central Appraising Agencies.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	State	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97		IX Plan 1997-2000
		Appd. Outlay	Actual Expendi- ture	Appd. Outlay	Actual Expendi- ture	Appd. Outlay	Actual Expendi- ture	Agreed Outlay
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	325.55	613.11	980.61	537.71	651.88	514.88	5027.16
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.48	1.00	0.94	2.30
3.	Assam	25.65	25.65	26.00	23.83	23.50	22.00	135.12
4.	Bihar	319.00	145.90	316.46	179.75	323.14	192.66	1450.00
5.	Goa	29.71	28.19	30.28	30.28	45.50	31.00	237.02
6.	Gujarat	485.98	384.36	484.13	651.96	1089.03	1063.10	7358.00
7.	Haryana	124.09	74.82	178.95	99.55	271.23	201.29	1372.43
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2.74	2.59	3.06	3.43	3.22	3.22	35.00
9.	Jamrau & Kashmir	18.71	17.34	20.39	19.08	21.52	17.11	183.00
10.	Karnataka	628.92	466.61	775.50	631.26	1035.00	975.89	5500.00
11.	Kerala	104.00	113.75	113.00	146.56	130.00	130.00	650.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	362.60	366.59	270.60	316.67	318.10	297.58	1915.70
13.	Maharashtra	618.09	904.49	622.43	1153.82	679.53	642.89	8969.08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14.	Manipur	32.22	28.82	38.73	33.37	32.21	32.21	222.60
15.	Meghalaya	2.70	0.46	3.00	1.86	3.00	1.50	15.00
16.	Mizoram	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.02	0.05	0.00	0.40
17.	Nagaland	0.80	0.00	0.80	0.34	0.75	0.30	9.85
18.	Orissa	209.90	152.18	188.09	195.09	338.00	327.74	3084.76
19.	Punjab	56.44	57.05	64.96	69.38	76.52	75.84	238.25
20.	Rajasthan	271.84	279.04	328.00	291.05	301.65	287.79	1355.54
21.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	65.41	83.23	76.23	52.86	186.16	186.16	1000.00
23.	Tripura	3.57	3.68	5.63	4.19	5.49	5.49	60.65
24.	Uttar Pradesh	380.76	300.80	372.01	373.00	470.01	415.66	2600.12
25.	West Bengal	101.60	84.45	105.00	105.80	124.00	100.00	710.93
Total States		4261.42	4134.45	5014.43	4971.28	6135.49	5525.36	42632.37
Total U.Ts		1.55	1.55	1.05	1.23	1.45	1.46	6.10
Total States & UTs		4262.97	4136.00	5015.48	4972.51	6136.94	5526.82	42638.47
Central Sector		21.99	23.05	44.50	26.51	944.33	537.71	330.12
Grand Total		4284.96	4159.05	5059.98	4999.02	7081.27	6064.53	42968.59

Source: Annual Plan 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 & IX Five Year Plan.

Centrally Sponsored Scheme in U.P.

1456. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Centrally sponsored schemes being implemented in Uttar Pradesh to increase the agricultural production during the current year;

(b) the details of the achievements made after the implementation of these schemes; and

(c) the financial assistance extended to the Government of Uttar Pradesh during the current year for implementing these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):
(a) A list of Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented in Uttar Pradesh to increase agricultural production during 1999/2000 is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) Advance estimates of production indicate that production of foodgrains has gone up to 16.46 million tonnes during 1999-2000 as compared to 15.42 million tonnes during Kharif 1998-99.

(c) An amount of Rs. 44.22 crores has been released to Government of Uttar Pradesh for the implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes during 1999/2000 upto 30.9.1999.

Statement

A list of Centrally Sponsored Schemes being Implemented in Uttar Pradesh during 1999/2000

S.No.	Name of Schemes
1	2
1.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme — Rice.
2.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme — Wheat.
3.	Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System.
4.	Intensive Cotton Development Programme.
5.	Special Jute Development Programme.

1	2
6.	National Pulses Development Project.
7.	Oilseeds Production Programme.
8.	Accelerated Maize Dev. Programme.
9.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.
10.	Balanced and Integrated use of Fertiliser.
11.	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among Small Farmers.
12.	Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects.
13.	Soil Conservation in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers.
14.	Reclamation of Alkali Soils.
15.	Development of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants.
16.	Use of Plastics in Agriculture.
17.	Development of Commercial Flouriculture.
18.	Development of Mushroom.
19.	Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid Temperate Zone Fruits.
20.	Development of Root & Tuber Crops.
21.	Development of Vegetables.
22.	Integrated Development of Spices.
23.	Non Overdue Cover Scheme.
24.	Special Scheme for SCs/STs.
25.	Agriculture Credit Stabilisation Fund.
26.	Assistance to Women's Cooperatives.
27.	Assistance to Weaker Section Cooperatives.
28.	Improvement of Crop Statistics.
29.	Livestock Census.

Underground Water

1457. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is constant fall in Ground Water level which is likely to effect drinking water schemes especially in desert districts of Western Rajasthan, viz. Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to increase the ground water level in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown a decline in the level of Ground Water in six blocks of Barmer and in certain parts of Jaisalmer and Jalore districts, affecting drinking water schemes.

(c) Water supply being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to plan, execute, operate and maintain water supply schemes. The steps taken by the Union Government to increase the ground water level in the country, including Rajasthan include:—

- (i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.
- (ii) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/ Union Territories, including Rajasthan, to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.
- (iii) Circulation of Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

- (iv) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies in artificial recharge of ground water in some 'over-exploited' and 'dark' blocks of the country.

[Translation]

Non-Payment of Salaries to Employees of Bihar

1458. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the agriculture university in Bihar have not got their salaries for several months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to pay the salaries of the above employees and the extent of success achieved by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The agricultural universities in Bihar are under the Government of Bihar. Salary to the employees of both the universities in Bihar (Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa and Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi) have been paid upto October, 1999. Salary of November is due to be released shortly.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) The ICAR has advised the Vice-Chancellors of the Universities in Bihar to ensure payment of salaries in time.

[English]

U.N. Disaster Management Team

1459. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Disaster Management Team of the United Nations has visited Orissa for assessing the damage caused by the super cyclone there and identifying the relief measures which need to be put in place;

- (b) if so, the observations made by this Team;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the details of the other international organisations involved in relief works in the cyclone-hit areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The summary assessment report of the Team covers the situation in Orissa in the aftermath of the cyclone, the National and International response thereto and the need for international assistance in the short, medium and long-term perspective. This represents the views of the UN.

(c) It is the policy of the Government of India not to seek international assistance in view of the national capabilities for disaster relief and rehabilitation. However, if there are voluntary offers of assistance, these are accepted as expressions of solidarity in times of distress.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

1460. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL:
SHRI ANIL BASU:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras set up in the country during the last three years, State-wise with their locations;

(b) the funds allocated and released for smooth functioning of these Kendras during the last three years and current year also, State-wise;

(c) whether various State Governments have requested Union Government to set up more Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) During the last three years (1997-99), six Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) have been set up. The locations of the KVKs are given in enclosed Statement I.

The Council has identified 53 districts in the country for strengthening the existing Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) to take up the additional functions of KVK during 1999. State-wise details are given in enclosed Statement II.

(b) An amount of Rs. 35.10 lakh was released to these KVKs. An amount of Rs. 60.37 lakhs has been allocated for the current financial year. State-wise details are given in enclosed Statement III.

An amount of Rs. 12.52 crores has been earmarked for a period of four years including the current financial year, for strengthening ZARS in 53 districts to take up the additional functions of KVKs.

(c) and (d) 45 proposals have been received for establishment of new KVKs as per details given in enclosed Statement IV.

(e) The establishment of new KVKs will depend on the availability of additional financial resources.

Statement I*Krishi Vigyan Kendras set up during the last three years (1997 to 1999)*

S.No.	Name & Address of KVK	Estt. Year	Host organization
BIHAR (2)			
1.	Training Organiser, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Saraiah Harm Muzaffarpur (Bihar)	1997	Vice-Chancellor, Rajendra Agril. University, Samastipur-848 125 (Bihar)
2.	Training Organiser, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jahanabad (Bihar) LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS (1)	1997	-do-
MADHYA PRADESH (1)			
3.	Training Organiser, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, CMFRI Regional Centre, Minicoy Islands (Lakshadweep)	1996	Director (Agriculture), Govt. of Union Territory of Lakshadweep, Lakshadweep
4.	Training Organiser, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, JNKVV Campus, Gwalior (M.P.)	1997	Vice-Chancellor, JNKVV, Jabalpur (M.P.)
UTTAR PRADESH (2)			
5.	Training Organiser, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hasanganj, Unnao	1999	Chairman, Kunwar Ram Bux Singh Education Society, C-11-A, Vigyan Puri, Mahanagar, Lucknow
6.	Training Organiser, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kalakankar, Distt. Pratapgarh	1999	Chairperson, The Raja Avdesh Singh Memorial Education Society, 2-AR Complex, Sector-13, R.K. Puram, New Delhi

Statement II

Districts Identified for Strengthening of Zonal Research Stations (ZRS) to take the Additional Functions of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)

Sl.No.	State	No. of Districts Identified	Name of University/ institute	Districts
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	ANGRAU Hyderabad	1. Nellore 2. Prakasam 3. Adilabad
2.	Assam	6	AAU Jorhat	4. Naogaon (Shillongani) 5. Karbi Anglong (Diphu) 6. Lakhimpur 7. Karimganj 8. Kamrup 9. Tinsukia
3.	Bihar	3	RAU, Pusa BAU, Ranchi	10. Rohtas (Bikraganj) 11. Bhagalpur (Sabour) 12. Santhal Pargana (Dumka)
4.	Himachal Pradesh	3	HPKV, Palampur YSPUH&P	13. Lahaul & Spiti (Kumukumseri) 14. Bilaspur 15. Kundaghat (Solan)
5.	Karnataka	8	UAS, Bangalore UAS, Dharwad	16. Shimoga 17. Tumkur 18. Mandya 19. Bangalore 20. Chitradurga (Hessarghatta) 21. Gulbarga 22. Uttar Kannada (Sirsi) 23. Bijapur
6.	Kerala	2	KAU, Thrissur CPCRI, Kasargod	24. Kottayam 25. Alleppy
7.	Madhya Pradesh	4	JNKVV, Jabalpur	26. Morena 27. Hoshangabad 28. West Nimar (Khargaone) 29. Sagar

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Maharashtra	4	PKV, Akola KKV, Dapoli MAU, Parbani	30. Yavatmal 31. Chandrapur (Sindewahi) 32. Raigad Roha (Karjat) 33. Osmanabad (Tuljapur)
9.	Orissa	2	OUAT, Bhubneshwar	34. Bhadrak 35. Navarangpur
10.	Tamil Nadu	3	TNAU, Coimbatore	36. Kanyakumari 37. Puddukkotai 38. Ramanad
11.	Uttar Pradesh	8	GBPUAT, Pantnagar CSAUA&T, Kanpur NDUA&T, Faizabad	39. Nanital (Majhera) 40. Mainpuri 41. Mahoba (Belatal) 42. Kanpur-Dehat (Dalipnagar) 43. Gorakhpur 44. Faizabad (Masodha) 45. Majarajaganj 46. Sonbhadra (Tissuhil)
12.	West Bengal	1	BCKVV, Mohanpur	47. Coochbehar
13.	Gujarat	3	GAU	48. Surat (Vyara) 49. Rajkot (Targhadia) 50. Junagarh
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	SKU&AT	51. Kargil
15.	Punjab	1	PAU, Ludhiana	52. Ropar
16.	Rajasthan	1	RAU, Bikaner	53. Sriganganagar

Statement III

Funds Released and Allocated to Krishi Vigyan Kendras Established during the last three years (State-wise with location)

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name & Address of KVK	Estt. Year	Funds released (1996-97 to 1998-99)	Funds allotted during 1999-2000
BIHAR (2)				
1.	Training Organiser, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Saraiah Harm, Muzaffarpur (Bihar)	1997	13.95	5.00
2.	Training Organiser, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jahanabad (Bihar)	1997	2.00	4.00
LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS (1)				
3.	Training Organiser, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, CMFRI Regional Centre, Minicoy Islands (Lakshadweep)	1996	14.15	29.58
MADHYA PRADESH (1)				
4.	Training Organiser, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, JNKVV Campus, Gwallor (M.P.)	1997	5.00	3.79
UTTAR PRADESH				
5.	Training Organiser, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hasanganj, Unnao	1999	—	10.00
6.	Training Organiser, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kalakankar, Distt. Pratapgarh	1999	—	8.00
Total			35.10	60.37

Statement IV*Details of proposals for establishment of KVKe in various States*

S.No.	State/Union Territory	No. of districts	Name of the districts
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	Kupwara and Baramulla
2.	Punjab	3	Amritsar, Mansa and Fatehgarh Sahib
3.	Madhya Pradesh	8	Chhattarpur, Mandsaur, Ujjain, Rajnandgaon, Raisen, Shajapur, Damoh and Bhind.
4.	Orissa	10	Nayagarh, Jharsuguda, Nawapara, Sonepur, Sundergarh, Jeypore, Balangir, Nawarangpur, Baragarh and Mayurbhanj
5.	Kerala	1	Trissur
6.	Tamil Nadu	2	Nagapattinum Q.M. and Tiruvarur A.T.
7.	Gujarat	1	Bhavnagar
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	Lohit
9.	Tripura	1	North Tripura
10.	Meghalaya	1	East Khasi
11.	Nagaland	3	Phek, Mokokchung and Mon
12.	Bihar	7	Katihar, Purnea, Kishanganj, Gopalganj, Saran (Chapra) Siwan and Sitamadi
13.	Uttar Pradesh	5	Uttar Kashi, Bhadoi, Hardoi, Almora and Jaunpur
Total:		45	

*[English]***Workers of Unorganised Sector**

1461. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a bill regarding workers of unorganised sector; and

(b) if so, by when and the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

*[Translation]***World Hindi Conference held in London**

1462. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of delegates included in the official delegation for World Hindi Conference organised from September 14-18, 1999 in London;

(b) the details of scholars whose papers were accepted/not accepted by the Government for participating in the above conference separately;

(c) the criteria adopted by the Government for their selection in the above conference;

(d) the details of arrangements made by the Government for their visit to attend the above conference; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that only scholars participate in such conferences?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Indian Official Delegation consisting of 26 members and was headed by the then Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Vasundhara Raje. Dr. Vidya Niwas Mishra was the Deputy Leader of the delegation which included Hindi literateurs as well as journalists and publishers. The members of the Coordination Committee and members of the Committee constituted to select eminent Hindi scholars to be honoured during the Conference were also part of the delegation.

(b) and (c) As per past practice, the responsibility for arrangements was entrusted to a local Organising Committee consisting of the following Organisations:—

- (a) Hindi Samiti, U.K., London
- (b) Gitanajli Bahubhashiya Sahityik Samudaya, Birmingham
- (c) Bhartiya Bhasha Sangam, York and
- (d) Other collaborators like the Nehru Centre, London; Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, London and SAMPAD, Birmingham.

Government of India actively supported and collaborated with the organizers. The Organising Committee had constituted an Academic Committee headed by Dr. Mahendra Verma, Professor, Linguistics and Hindi, Department of Language, University of York. The Committee reviewed about 300 abstracts received in advance of the Conference and selected 120 of them to

be read out in detail. The main criterion adopted by the Academic Committee was the academic and literary quality of the abstracts on the list of subjects specified for discussions.

(d) Government of India paid the air fare only for the official delegation as well as the 33 Scholars specially honoured at the Conference. However, on the advice of Government of India, Air India offered a 50% discount on the excursion fare on the Delhi-London-Delhi sector to all the scholars who wished to participate in the Conference. Subsidised stay was arranged for all the participants at the hostel facilities of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London.

(e) World Hindi Conferences are organized with a view to popularizing Hindi, to bring Hindi to the common man and to involve all Hindi lovers and organizations globally. These Conferences also provide an opportunity to have informal exchange of views among the participants to explore ways of propagation of Hindi. In such Conferences, apart from eminent scholars, many Hindi lovers who have an interest in the language and literature may also wish to participate. The Organising Committee and the Government of India, normally encourage participation at their own expense by such enthusiasts.

Central Poultry Breeding Farms

1463. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details and location of the Central Poultry Breeding Farms in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the number of technical and non-technical employees working in the various Central Poultry Breeding Farms;

(c) the criteria being adopted alongwith the time-frame for promotion of the employees, officers working in the above mentioned department;

(d) the number of posts lying vacant in the various categories at present;

(e) the steps being taken to fill up the vacant posts; and

(f) the time by when all the vacant posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) There are at present four Central Poultry Breeding Farms in the country namely:

- (i) Central Poultry Breeding Farm, Aarey Milk Colony, Mumbai-400065.
- (ii) Central Poultry Breeding Farm, Hessarghatta, Bangalore North-560088.
- (iii) Central Poultry Breeding Farm, Nayapalli District Khurda, Bhubaneswar-751012,
- (iv) Central Poultry Breeding Farm, Industrial Area, Chandigarh-160002.

(b) This information may please be seen in the enclosed statement I.

(c) Besides promotional avenues wherever provided in the recruitment rules, the Assured Career Progression

Scheme is also applicable w.e.f. 9.8.99 vide DOPT OM No. 35034/1/97-Estt (D) dated 9.8.99.

(d) This information may please be seen in the enclosed statement II.

(e) and (f) This information may please be seen in the enclosed statement III.

Statement I

Number of technical and non-technical employees working in Central Poultry Breeding Farms (CPBF)

CPBF at	Technical	Non-Technical
1. Mumbai	39	12
2. Bhubaneswar	45	11
3. Bangalore	52	14
4. Chandigarh	97	28

Statement II

Number of posts vacant in Central Poultry Breeding Farms

Sl. No.	Name of posts	No. of Posts	Scale of Pay	Name of CPBF
1.	Asstt. Director	2	8000-13500	Bangalore & Bhubaneswar
2.	Hatchery Officer	1	6500-10500	Mumbai
3.	Veterinary Officer	1	6500-10500	Bangalore
4.	Asstt. Manager	1	4500-7000	Chandigarh
5.	Mali	1	2610-3540	Chandigarh
6.	Poultry Attendant	1	2610-3540	Chandigarh
7.	Night Watchman	1	2610-3540	Bhubaneswar
8.	Poultry Attendant	2	2550-3200	Bhubaneswar

Statement III**Steps taken to fill vacant posts in Central Poultry Breeding Farms and time by which likely to be filled**

Sl. No.	Name of post	Name of Farm	No. of Posts	Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Asstt. Director	CPBF Bangalore	1	Serials - 1&2. The 2 posts or Assistant Directors could not be filled up due to C. A. No. 4026/1993 filed by this Department in the Supreme Court on the orders of CAT, Mumbai in OA No. 307/91, regarding the appointment of Shri S.B. Rai, Hatchery Officer, CPBF, Mumbai as Assistant Director, on regular basis as he was overaged at the time of application for the post. Since the appointment of Shri Rai on regular basis was under litigation, the resultant vacancy of Hatchery Officer also could not be filled up on regular basis. The Supreme Court on 27.8.98 disposed of the Civil Appeal No. 4026/93. The action to fill up these posts is in hand as per rules.
		CPBF Bhubaneswar	1	
2.	Hatchery Officer	CPBF Mumbai	1	
3.	Veterinary Officer	CPBF Bangalore	1	The post is kept in abeyance for accommodating 10% cut.
4.	Assistant Manager	CPBF Chandigarh	1	Post has been advertised and is likely to be filled up in near future.
5.	Mali	-do-	1	Post has been advertised and is likely to be filled up in near future.
6.	Poultry Attendant	-do-	1	Proposed to be filled up on compassionate grounds.
7.	Night Watchman	CPBF Bhubaneswar	1	Serials - 7&8. Two posts are proposed to be filled up by regularisation of Temporary Status workers, and one post is likely to be filled up on compassionate grounds.
8.	Poultry Attendants	-do-	2	

*[English]***Software Technology Parks**

1464. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the location of software technology parks operating in various parts of the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Central assistance is being given to such Techno Parks and innovation centres;

(c) if so, the amount given or proposed to be given, State-wise;

(d) whether any proposal has been received for setting up Techno parks and innovation centres;

(e) if so, the present status of each proposal;

(f) the details of the mechanism being adopted by the Government to communicate to all the District Head Quarters as well as Taluqs/Mandals all over the country in case of urgency; and

(g) if not, the time by which such system would be developed?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) There are 16 Software Technology Parks (STPs) which are in operation in the country at Bangalore, Manipal and Mysore (Karnataka), Bhubaneshwar (Orissa), Chennai and Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Hyderabad and Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Mohali (Punjab), Navi Mumbai and Pune (Maharashtra), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Thiruvanthapuram (Kerala), and Calcutta (West Bengal). Central assistance has also been provided to these STPs except Calcutta which has been set up by the Government of West Bengal. In addition, central assistance has been given to STPs at Goa and Guwahati, which are in the process of being established. The details of central assistance provided for setting up STPs are given in enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) There is no specific proposal for setting up of Techno-park and innovation centres. However, a proposal has been received by the Ministry of Commerce from J & K SIDCO for upgradation of electronic complex at Srinagar to Software Technology Park.

(f) and (g) National Informatics Centre (NIC) has set up a satellite based computer-communication network called NICNET under which VASATs have been installed in the District Headquarters and which can be used for communication. The VSAT can be located anywhere, if required.

Statement

Details of Central Assistance provided for setting up following STPs

S.No.	STPs Centre	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Bangalore (Karnataka)	3121
2.	Bhubaneshwar (Orissa)	
3.	Gandhinagar (Gujarat)	
4.	Noida (Uttar Pradesh)	
5.	Pune (Maharashtra)	
6.	Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	
7.	Thiruvanthapuram (Kerala)	
	SATCOM Project Transfer of Assets to STPI	1954
8.	Goa (Goa)*	100
9.	Jaipur (Rajasthan)	50
10.	Mohali (Punjab)	50
11.	Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra)	50
12.	Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	50
13.	Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)	50
14.	Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)	50
15.	Manipal (Karnataka)	50
16.	Mysore (Karnataka)	50
17.	Guwahati (Assam)*	200
	Total	5775

*Being established.

Revival of Steel Plant

1465. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan has been contemplated for revival of loss making Public Sector Steel Companies including Indian Iron and Steel Company; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) In order to improve the financial performance and its profitability, SAIL, has drawn up a comprehensive financial and business restructuring plan. The measures outlined in the plan include, *inter-alia*, a reduction in operational costs by reducing input costs, reducing consumption of raw materials, improvement in techno-economic parameters such as fuel and power consumption, increased recovery for services/facilities, right sizing manpower through a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), assets restructuring, disposal of idle assets and financial restructuring.

As regards Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant), a comprehensive turnaround proposal for revival of the company is under consideration.

In respect of Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., a revised proposal has been received by SAIL which *inter alia* includes writing off of accumulated losses, use of Rupee debt funds to revive IISCO in a Joint Venture (JB) with M/s Tyazhpromexport (TPE) of Russia. The revised proposal envisages an investment of Rs. 798 crores. However, any scheme to be taken up for revival or modernisation of IISCO will have to be in accordance with the orders of BIFR in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Production of Kharif Crop

1466. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for the production of Kharif crop during the current financial year in the country;

(b) the estimated target fixed for production of Kharif crop;

(c) the State which is being provided grant-in-aid during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that this grant-in-aid actually reach the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The targets fixed for Kharif crops in 1999/2000 by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation were as follows:—

	Million Tonnes
Rice	74.50
Coarse Cereals	27.00
Pulses	6.10
	107.60

(c) Assistance is being provided to all the States under various central/centrally sponsored schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, including during the last three years.

(d) Government insist on production of utilisation certificates before further grants-in-aid are released to the State/UT Governments.

[*English*]

20-Point Programme

1467. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of performance under 20-Point Programme during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether several States have not been able to achieve the targets during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Union Government propose to reduce the allocation to such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL,

PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) The details regarding progress made in the implementation of 20-Point Programme in each State during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 with reference to the items which are monitored on monthly basis, are available in the Annual Progress Reports of the 20-Point Programme for the said years. In addition Monthly Progress Reports are also issued. These published documents are made available regularly to the Parliament Library.

As the Reports indicate, some States have exceeded their targets in various items whereas some States have not been able to achieve the targets under Twenty Point Programme during the last three years. There is no proposal to reduce the allocation of funds to the States who have not achieved the targets.

[Translation]

Landless Labourers

1468. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of landless labourers and labourers below 14 years of age, State-wise as on 30.7.99 and also during each of the last three years;

(b) the schemes of the Union Government in operation to ameliorate the condition of these labourers and the percentage of the Gross Domestic Product allocated and spent on these schemes during 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(c) the steps being taken to eliminate child labour system and the time by which this social evil would be eradicated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Annual Production of fish

1469. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual production of fish during each of the last three years and the current year in Maharashtra;

(b) the steps being taken to increase the fish production in the State;

(c) whether the present fish storage capacity is sufficient in the State; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to increase the fish storage capacity and marketing facility?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government of Maharashtra. It will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Letters from MPs

1470. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments are not covered under the provisions of the guidelines existing under para 122 of the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure for replying to the letters of Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to cover the State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings and Corporations under these guidelines with a view to reply to the letters of M.Ps; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) The guidelines laid down in the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure which include guidelines for sending replies to the letters from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament are meant for observance by the officers of all Central Ministries/ Departments and their attached and subordinate offices. These guidelines are not applicable to the State Governments. However, the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions had requested all the Chief Ministers of States in December, 1997 to issue suitable guidelines/instructions to all the offices under

their respective Governments on observance of proper procedure for replying to letters received from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament, on the lines of the guidelines contained in the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure.

[*Translation*]

Central Assistance

1471. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the Central assistance to the States during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the percentage of its increase as compared to the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to be helpful to the economy of Bihar and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The allocation of Central Assistance to States for their Annual Plans has been enhanced during the Ninth Five Year Plan. Central Assistance given to States includes various Area programmes, viz. Basic Minimum Services (BMS), Slum Development Programme, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), etc., and Central Assistance for Externally Aided Projects. Since these Programmes are specifically targeted towards the development of critical socio-economic sectors such as primary education, rural infrastructure, irrigation, tribal development etc., they would be helpful to the economy of Bihar and other States.

The year-wise and State-wise allocation of Plan assistance to States during Eighth and Ninth Plans is given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

Total Central Assistance to States allocated during 1992-93 to 1999-2000

(Rs. in Crores)

States	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A. Special Category States:								
1. Arunachal Pradesh	245.00	273.99	309.35	382.31	445.86	478.10	534.82	574.17
2. Assam	759.81	931.16	953.56	1,032.91	1,187.05	1,308.77	1,443.13	1616.11
3. Himachal Pradesh	350.93	405.83	363.34	453.77	500.12	645.30	915.41	809.71
4. Jammu & Kashmir	737.50	795.05	852.26	1,395.21	1,899.49	2,254.94	2,459.24	2,631.98
5. Manipur	193.54	212.70	223.79	277.85	322.15	386.81	456.27	506.08
6. Meghalaya	172.82	220.50	249.65	228.14	264.97	327.31	376.31	421.77

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7. Mizoram		155.49	174.48	207.03	242.03	263.90	309.08	335.56	384.67
8. Nagaland		163.00	180.45	207.34	247.34	286.92	350.72	347.40	394.76
9. Sikkim		96.41	107.96	135.62	158.12	188.99	225.33	251.52	329.92
10. Tripura		231.01	244.58	283.61	285.75	352.62	417.00	598.75	656.12
Total (A):		3,107.51	3,540.70	3,795.55	4,703.43	5,712.07	6,703.36	7,718.41	8,325.29

B. Non Special Category States:

1. Andhra Pradesh	863.00	1,063.01	1,374.19	2,201.66	1,522.18	2,148.56	3,075.65	3210.50
2. Bihar	905.26	1,018.26	1,175.31	1,209.47	1,574.78	1,809.07	2,019.35	2390.27
3. Goa	52.00	43.00	53.14	70.70	71.20	74.52	77.72	90.11
4. Gujarat	439.87	458.87	494.82	574.41	611.02	1,175.52	1,409.84	1433.77
5. Haryana	228.45	294.94	381.82	422.65	600.71	672.76	952.63	1022.31
6. Karnataka	610.85	634.52	882.86	826.95	887.59	1,076.14	1,195.65	1612.41
7. Kerala	457.06	561.06	586.05	617.20	598.80	804.57	768.30	873.30
8. Madhya Pradesh	602.95	630.08	752.99	799.08	994.30	1,464.95	2,087.21	2184.32
9. Maharashtra	702.51	775.21	997.21	1,800.08	1,948.46	2,171.59	1,866.00	1501.88
10. Orissa	696.75	688.75	646.99	763.40	856.66	1,402.88	1,605.60	2031.11
11. Punjab	1,881.22	1,240.59	972.03	970.39	1,100.80	979.80	687.38	742.73

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12. Rajasthan		505.53	529.00	703.77	836.54	927.94	1,164.04	1,399.65	1648.12
13. Tamil Nadu		932.00	1,011.42	1,425.15	1,627.19	1,662.33	1,764.83	1,699.78	1574.80
14. Uttar Pradesh		2,321.57	2,249.05	2,387.37	2,573.05	2,801.66	3,874.46	4,334.69	6175.76
15. West Bengal		733.26	849.25	848.83	987.59	1,839.53	2,309.72	2,734.09	3315.58
Total (B):		11,932.28	12,047.01	13,682.53	16,280.38	17,997.96	22,893.41	25,913.54	29,807.47
Grand Total (A+B):		15,038.79	15,583.71	17,468.08	20,983.79	23,710.03	29,596.77	33,631.95	38,132.76

Note:— Total Central Assistance includes Normal Central Assistance, assistance for externally-aided projects, assistance for centrally sponsored schemes transferred to States & others.

[English]

Draught Animal Power

1472. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Draught Animal Power can be productively utilised to overcome the dependence on petroleum products and thermal power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated animal draught power likely to be generated by 2000 AD; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to promote the animal draught power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Productive use of draught animals will reduce the increasing dependence on petroleum products and thermal power by increasing the share of non-commercial primary energy sources in the total energy use in the country, in agricultural operations and rural transportation in particular. In India, the non-motorised transport is estimated to carry 210 billion passenger Kms and 43 billion tonne Kms of freight.

(c) Very little data is available on utilisation of Animal energy. However several estimates put energy output of draught animals as equivalent of about 40 million Horse Power or 30,000 Mega Watt.

(d) Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources (MNES) has been designated as the nodal agency for taking up animal energy programmes for which a Plan Outlay of Rs. 2.14 crores is available. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes conduct species specific research relating to animal power. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAH&D) undertakes programmes and improve the nutritional and breeding inputs as well as health cover of draught animals.

Compensation to Indians Evacuated from Kuwait

1473. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian national evacuated from Kuwait and applied for compensation from UN during the Kuwait-Iraq War;

(b) the number of Indians to whom UN compensation was given so far;

(c) the total number of Indians to whom compensation is still pending along with the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) At the time of the Gulf War of 1990, the estimated population of Indian nationals in Kuwait was 1,72,000 (One lakh and seventy two thousand). Government of India evacuated approximately 1,33,000 (One lakh and thirty-three thousand) Indians during this crisis. Government of India have received, and have forwarded to the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC), Geneva, 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 has also sent to UNCC 118 "Corporate" claims, under category "E".

(b) and (c) A total of 1,41,221 Indian claims have been approved in A, B & C categories. Compensation to 183 approved category "B" claims has been received and paid first. First part of approved compensation for 1,19,243 Indian claimants has been received from UNCC so far, for categories "A" & "C". A total of 60,392 claims have been paid. The remaining payments are being actively processed. First-part money for 21,978 claims approved in categories "A" & "C" is still to be received from UNCC. No payments have been received from UNCC for category "D" & "E" claims.

(d) Government of India has, from time to time, impressed on the UNCC to expedite settlement of Indian claims. Government also remains in constant touch with the Commission to safeguard the interests of our claimants. Once funds are received from the UNCC, Government ensures that they are paid quickly to the successful claimants through the designated banks. Government also actively monitors the progress of payments by the designated banks, and does not permit any slowing down of the process.

Permanent Membership of Security Council

1474. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to secure a permanent Membership of the Security Council in UN; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has continuously addressed itself to the question of securing permanent membership of the Security Council since India announced its candidature in the United Nations during the 49th UNGA in 1994. I reiterated India's candidature in my address to the 54th UN General Assembly in September 1999. Due to active lobbying by the Government, three more countries, *i.e.* Russia, Vietnam and Laos, made statements at the UN in support of India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. So far there is no consensus either on the criteria or candidates. Discussions are continuing at the UN.

Commuted Pension

1475. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3863 on 23.12.1998 regarding commuted pension and state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any study to know the implications of increasing the commutation limit and restoration of commuted pension consequent upon the enhancement of retirement age;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Government has examined the recommendations regarding communication limit and period of restoration of commuted portion of pension. Taking into view the financial implications, various issues involved and all relevant factors; Government has taken a decision not to accept the recommendations of the V Central Pay Commission on restoration of commuted value of pension after 12 years instead of 15 years as at present. However, Government has already implemented the recommendation of the Fifth Fay Commission enhancing the rate of communication of pension from 33.3 per cent to 40 per cent.

Brahmaputra Board

1476. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the total funds provided and spent by the Brahmaputra Board on flood control, anti-soil erosion and in implementation of irrigation projects in Assam during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): The Government of India constituted Brahmaputra Board to prepare Master Plans for flood management works in the Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys and also to prepare Detailed Project Report of multipurpose projects and drainage schemes after carrying out detailed investigations. The works relating to flood control, anti-soil-erosion and irrigation projects are implemented by State Governments. Therefore, question of providing funds does not arise.

Kharif Sowing Season

1477. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment in regard to the total rainfall during the monsoon season;

(b) if so, whether these shortfall in rains have affected the Kharif sowing season;

(c) whether Government have also studied the worst affected oilseed crop like groundnut, soyabean and Coarse cereals to have been hit;

(d) if so, what extent the shortfall in rain has affected the Kharif season; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Union Government to bring more area under cultivation of cereals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The overall rainfall in the country during monsoon is 96% of Long period average, which is normal as per the norms of India Meteorological Department (IMD). However, due to uneven spatial and temporal distribution of rain, 7 out of 35 met sub-divisions namely, Saurashtra, Kutch and Diu (-58%); Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry (-36%); Andaman and Nicobar Island (-29%); Kerala (-25%); Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi (-25%); Gujarat Region (-24%) and West Rajasthan (-24%) received deficient rainfall.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Deficient rainfall & uneven spatial and temporal distribution of rain in Monsoon 1999 in parts of Northwest India, Central India & Peninsular India has affected the groundnut crop and soyabean Crop and other Kharif pulses and coarse cereals. In case of groundnut the production is expected to be only 4.53 million tonnes, as against the normal production level of 6.72 million tonnes, a decline of about 2.19 million tonnes. Soyabean production is expected to be 5.93 million tonnes as compared to normal production level of 6.26 million tonnes. Kharif Coarse cereals and total Kharif oilseeds production, is estimated at 22.26 million tonnes and 12.00 million tonnes respectively against the normal production level of about 25.6 million tonnes and 15 million tonnes. This year Kharif pulses production is estimated at 5.57 million tonnes against the last year record production of 6.11 million tonnes. Also in Monsoon-1999, normal to excess rains took place in major Kharif rice growing areas and it was favourable for Kharif rice crops both in terms of greater area coverage and better productivity. As a result, All India rice production, as per the advance estimate prepared in consultation with State Governments in the National Conference on Rabi Campaign, held on 20-21 September, 1999, stands at 74.8 million tonnes against normal production level of 71.5 million tonnes, about 3.3 million tonnes higher than the normal level. The likely performance of kharif rice has neutralized the adverse impact of Coarse Cereals production and the overall expected kharif foodgrains production is estimated at 102.70 million tonnes marginally better than that of last year.

(e) To increase the production and productivity of cereals in the country, the Government is implementing various centrally sponsored programmes, viz., Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas; Accelerated Maize Development Programme; besides providing market and price support. Under these programmes the incentives are provided to farmers for use of seeds of location specific high yielding varieties and improved farm implements. For efficient use of water, financial assistance is also provided to the farmers for promoting the use of sprinkler irrigation systems. Apart from this, Central sector Scheme of Minikit programmes of Rice, Wheat, Millets (except Maize) are also being implemented in the country in order to cover the larger areas under location specific high yielding varieties of above crops. The emphasis of ongoing schemes is to increase productivity and not area.

Seizure of North Korean Ship

1478. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North Korean's special envoy visited India during August, 1999 to persuade the Indian Government to release their ship carrying missile-related cargo detained at Kandla port since June 25, 1999;

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

(c) the total quantum of material seized from the ship and the preventive measures taken to ensure that ports of India are not misused by other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. DPRK Special Envoy visited India to discuss matters concerning detention of their ship *Ku Wol San* at Kandla.

(b) and (c) Our investigations revealed that the ship contained 148 boxes of misdeclared cargo which attracted the provisions of the Customs Act, Arms Act and the Arms Rules. Accordingly, we informed the DPRK delegation that appropriate action is being taken under our laws.

Government remains vigilant and appropriate steps are taken to ensure the security of our ports.

Kalpasar Project

1479. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has drawn an ambitious Rs. 300 billion Kalpasar Project for harnessing water of the seven rivers that flow into the ocean;

(b) if so, the details of the project indicating the quantity of power and water expected to be available with the implementation of the project, phase-wise; and

(c) the details of contribution of the Union and State Governments to the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA

CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) No such project by the name Kalpasar for harnessing water of the seven rivers that flow into the ocean has been received from the Government of Gujarat.

Water Management

1480. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by Washington-based World Watch Institute recently, in which it has been stated that water shortage in many countries including India is threatening to reduce the global food supply;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) No such report has been received from the Washington-based World Watch Institute, however, the water availability in the country remains more or less fixed according to the natural hydrologic cycle. The *per capita* water availability is reducing progressively owing to increasing population. The average per capita water availability which is estimated to be about 1900 Cu. m. in 2000 AD may come down to 1350 Cu. m. by 2025 AD at national level. According to the United Nations' criteria any situation of water availability less than 1000 Cu. m. per capita is considered as scarcity condition. Therefore, even by the end of 2025 A.D., India is not likely to face water scarcity situation at the national level, though uneven water availability may cause local water scarcity in some parts of the country. The Government has initiated various measures like Command Area Development Programme and National Water Management Programme Schemes to improve efficiency of irrigation water use in the country. The National Water Policy (1987) also provides for better water planning and management of the country's water resources. Inter-basin transfer of water is also being contemplated in order to use the surplus monsoon flow. Therefore, there is no apprehension of reduced availability of water for Irrigation.

Production of Foodgrains

1481. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an estimated quantity of 19.4 crore tonnes of foodgrains is required for the country's population by 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government are formulating any concrete plan to meet this demand;

(c) the time by which the plan is likely to be implemented;

(d) the foodgrains produced in the country during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the foodgrain production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to the report of Working Group on "Demand and Supply Projections of Agricultural Commodities and Improvement of Agricultural Statistics" set up for the formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan, the production requirement of foodgrains for the terminal year of Ninth Plan is 19.4 crore tonnes, according to normative approach (at the rate of 182.5 kg. per capita per annum). During 1998-99, 20.25 crore tonnes of foodgrains production has already been achieved in the country.

(d) A statement showing the foodgrains production during last 3 years and the current year, State-wise is enclosed.

(e) To increase production and productivity of food crops, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals, Based Cropping System area, Accelerated Maize Development Programme and the Pulses Development Project. Under these programmes/schemes incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstration on farmers' holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology

Statement

Foodgrains production during 1996-97 to 1999-2000

	Production in lakh Tonnes Advance Estimates			
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Kharif only)
	1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	136.8	109.4	145.0	85.1
Assam	35.3	35.8	34.7	32.3
Bihar	144.2	129.0	129.2	67.9
Gujarat	52.1	57.1	59.1	28.2
Haryana	114.5	113.3	121.9	31.1

	1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh	12.9	13.3	15.2	9.9
Jammu & Kashmir	13.3	14.5	16.2	9.7
Karnataka	92.1	88.0	88.5	60.5
Kerala	8.5	6.8	8.9	5.2
Madhya Pradesh	194.9	174.1	199.0	91.0
Maharashtra	146.0	97.1	125.7	79.8
Orissa	48.3	66.4	57.6	53.6
Punjab	215.5	211.5	229.2	89.2
Rajasthan	128.2	140.3	129.1	23.2
Tamil Nadu	69.3	84.9	87.6	66.2
Uttar Pradesh	423.9	418.3	409.6	164.6
West Bengal	137.6	143.5	147.9	110.7
Others	21.0	21.0	21.0	18.8
All India	1994.4	1924.3	2025.4	1027.0

Steel Production

1482. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production and consumption of steel in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of quantity and value of steel imported during the said period;

(c) whether there is large gap between the production and supply of steel;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to bridge the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) State-wise production of

crude steel and consumption of steel during last 3 years is given in enclosed statement.

(b) The details of quantity and value of finished steel imported during the last 3 years is as below:

Quantity '000 tonnes/Value Rs. in Crores		
Year	Quantity	Value
1996-97	1555.1	2693
1997-98	1545.5	2525.8
1998-99	1143.7	2038

(c) There is no large gap between the production and supply of finished steel, as detailed below:

Year	Production	Supply/Availability
1996-97	22.72	22.54
1997-98	23.37	23.04
1998-99	23.82	22.75

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Statement

State-wise Production of Crude Steel

(In '000 tonnes)

State	1996-97				1997-98				1998-99			
	IF	EAF	M.P.	Total	IF	EAF	M.P.	Total	IF	EAF	M.P.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	76.7	9.6	2252.0	2338.3	82.3	2.4	2465.0	2549.7	119.1	—	2157.0	2276.1
Assam	15.8			15.8	17.2			17.2	28.4			28.4
Bihar	36.7	201.0	6750.0	6987.7	33.6	188.0	6758.0	6990.6	60.4	183.8	6349.0	6593.2
Chandigarh	14.3	25.9		40.2	10.8	24.1		34.9	12.9	22.9		35.8
Delhi	15.7				5.4				19.6			
Gujarat	110.4	1170.9		1281.3	56.2	1546.6		1602.8	213.1	1548.0		1761.1
Goa		85.0		85.0		40.2		40.2		44.0		44.0
H.P.	35.3	54.8		90.1	15.0	31.5		46.5	40.7	25.7		66.4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Haryana	17.9	159.1		177.0	130.2	227.8		357.8	17.3	213.9		231.2
Jammu & Kashmir	5.7	51.1		58.8	37.0	29.1		66.1	68.6	—		68.6
Karnataka	34.1	110.0	89.0	233.1	33.6	40.9	70.0	144.5	52.6	21.4	83.0	167.0
Kerala	32.7	14.3		47.0	42.2	17.3		69.5	143.8	10.4		164.2
M.P.	87.9	166.1	4188.0	4442.0	56.4	65.4	4223.0	4344.8	81.4	8.9	4151.0	4241.3
Maharashtra	70.4	1276.4		1346.8	33.6	939.9		973.5	200.2	1152.6		1352.8
Orissa	29.1	22.6	1240.0	1291.7	28.5	24.0	1176.0	1228.5	35.7	30.3	1194.0	1260.0
Pondicherry		48.8		48.8	42.6	38.7		81.3	37.1	—		37.1
Punjab	293.1	317.1		610.2	241.2	294.8		536.0	478.9	293.9		772.8
Rajasthan	23.7	37.8		61.5	17.0	16.5		33.5	64.8	10.0		74.8
Tamil Nadu	333.0	106.6		439.6	337.5	30.1		367.6	376.1	—		376.1
U.P.	71.3	100.7		172.0	92.4	63.5		155.9	163.8	57.5		221.3
W.B.	65.7	59.5	1845.0	1970.2	47.8	74.3	1869.0	1991.1	76.6	52.8	1864.0	1993.4
Total (Rep):	1369.5	4017.1	16364.0	21760.6	1360.5	3704.9	16562.0	21627.4	2291.1	3676.1	15798.0	21765.2
Total (Est):	1738.5	200.00		1938.5	2644.3	429.8		3074.1	1417.9	149.0		1666.9
Grand Total:	3108.0	4217.1	16364.0	23689.1	4004.8	4134.7	16562.0	24701.5	3709.0	3825.1	15798.0	23332.1

State-wise consumption of Iron & Steel : 1996-97 to 1998-99 (Prov.)

State	Year		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Andhra Pradesh	1198	1258	1407
Assam (Incl. NE States)	224	154	184
Bihar	1138	847	940
Delhi	833	886	930
Gujarat	1488	1512	1619
Haryana	1025	1048	1112
Jammu & Kashmir	63	87	85
Karnataka	1366	1185	1328
Kerala	102	103	131
Madhya Pradesh	1237	1545	1547
Maharashtra (Incl. Goa)	3547	3544	3883
Orissa	565	584	576
Punjab/Chandigarh (incl. HP)	2676	2811	2733
Rajasthan	378	309	348
Tamil Nadu	1882	1960	1999
Uttar Pradesh	2217	2442	2350
West Bengal	2288	2360	2374
Total	22128	22634	23546

[Translation]

Agricultural Policy

1483. SHRI AJIT SINGH:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the absence of proper Agricultural Policy the development of agricultural sector is slowing down very rapidly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to announce new Agricultural Policy in the country; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):
(a) and (b) The rate of growth in gross domestic product in agriculture (at 1993-94 prices) in recent years is given below:

1994-95	5.3%
1995-96	(—) 0.1%
1996-97	9.6%
1997-98	(—) 1.3%

(c) and (d) The new Agricultural Policy is in the final stage of drafting.

New Variety of Cotton Seeds

1484. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new variety of cotton seed has been developed in the country which requires minimum use of pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the name of the States in the country, where these seeds are likely to be used and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some new cotton varieties/hybrids have been developed in the country which are tolerant/resistant to sucking pests and bollworms and to diseases namely leaf curl virus, bacterial blight and wilts. These varieties/hybrids require less pesticides as compared to susceptible varieties.

(c) The new cotton varieties/hybrids which are resistant/tolerant to different pests and diseases alongwith their area of adaptation are as follows:

Variety/ hybrid	States	Reaction to pests and Diseases
Sahana	A.P., Karnataka & Tamil Nadu	Resistant to sucking pests and tolerant to bollworms.
RS 875	Rajasthan	Resistant to Leaf Curl Virus disease
Arogya	Maharashtra, M.P. and Gujarat	Resistant to Bacterial blight disease
Surabhi	A.P., Karnataka & Tamil Nadu	Resistant to Verticillium wilt disease
LHH 144	Haryana, Punjab & Rajasthan	Resistant to Leaf Curl Virus disease
G. cot 19	Gujarat	Resistant to Bacterial blight disease
AAH 1	Haryana, Punjab & Rajasthan	Resistant to Leaf Curl Virus disease

All these varieties are already in the seed production chain. Certified seeds of these will be available to the farmers in next one to two years.

[English]

Nuclear Power Generation

1485. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on nuclear power sector during the last three years; and

(b) the additional nuclear power generated during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The amount spent on nuclear power generation and the year-wise generation of nuclear power during the last three years is as under.

Year	Amount spent (Rs. in Crores)	Generation (in Million Units)
1996-97	744.22	9068
1997-98	734.42	9618
1998-99	835.54	11175

Modernisation of Steel Plant

1486. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to involve private or multinationals companies in the modernisation and expansion of projects in steel sector; and

(b) if so, the total expenditure likely to be incurred in modernisation of the steel plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) As per the policy in vogue, no prior permission of the Government is required for private sector steel plants to modernise and expand, barring certain locational restrictions. There is also no policy restriction for private companies to participate in the modernisation and expansion programme of private sector steel plants. Foreign direct investment upto 74% equity is also under automatic route. Public Sector Steel companies have no plans to take up projects for expansion/modernisation of Steel Plants, at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Tank Irrigation Project

1487. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Tank Irrigation Projects funded by the Union Government as well as by the world Bank in Karnataka, separately; and

(b) the funds spent on the repair and renovation of these Projects during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Union Government as well as World Bank has not funded any Tank Irrigation Projects in Karnataka during the last three years. However, the State Government has spent about Rs. 75 lakhs out of State Plan funds for the repair and renovation of tanks during this period.

Durgapur Steel Plant

1488. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant, it is still incurring huge loss; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major reasons for losses of the Durgapur Steel Plant, *inter alia*, are:

(i) Sluggish demand for steel.

(ii) Greater competition from imports arising due to lower international prices and enhancement in supplies in domestic market resulting in lower domestic prices thereby lowering the margins.

- (iii) The benefits of modernisation could not be achieved because level of production could not be raised to the designed capacity on account of market condition, although the techno-economic parameters have been achieved. This has resulted in lower net sales realisation causing adverse impact on profits.
- (iv) Higher interest and depreciation cost because of capitalisation of modernisation and other capital schemes and also for maintaining higher inventory level.

[Translation]

Release of Funds to Bihar

1489. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central team has presented its report after assessing the situation of the affected areas of Bihar due to heavy rains and hail-storms during March 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the recommendations of the said group were considered by the National Calamity Relief Committee keeping in view the recommendations of the Inter-Ministry Group to fix the exact amount of assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount released from the National Calamity Fund to the State Government of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) No Central team was deputed for assessment of the situation in the wake of heavy rains and hailstorms in March, 1998 in Bihar as no memorandum for assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief was received from the State Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Setting of Sub-Accounts Office

1490. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to start a Sub-Accounts Office for Employees Provident Fund and Employees Pension in Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the location identified for the purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposal to open a P.F. Office at Hosur in Dharmapuri has been examined and the same has not been found financially viable on the basis of norms and parameters prescribed by the Central Board of Trustees of EPF in this regard.

[Translation]

Bilateral Issue with Pakistan and China

1491. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Pak and Indo-China relations have worsened;

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

(c) the steps taken to improve the relations again with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) India desires to build with Pakistan ties of peace, friendship and co-operation based on mutual-trust and confidence. It was for this purpose that India had taken the initiative in 1998 of putting into place the composite dialogue process and reinforcing it with the visit by Prime Minister to Lahore in February 1999. India looks forward to building trust and confidence, developing a stable structure of co-operation and addressing outstanding issues. Pakistan's armed intrusion and aggression in the Kargil sector of the State of Jammu and Kashmir constituted a serious violation of the Line of Control. This demonstrated its compulsive hostility towards India and represented a betrayal of trust.

Pakistan persists with its sponsorship and instigation of cross-border terrorism against India in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere. Government have called upon Pakistan to abandon cross-border terrorism and have urged it to restore trust and create a proper environment for good-neighbourly relations.

We seek good relations with China. We believe that the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, jointly

enunciated by India and China, are of continuing relevance to the development of our relations.

Exchanges between India and China at the Governmental parliamentary, non-governmental, people-to-people and other levels have continued. The bilateral trade and economic ties have further expanded and diversified.

EAM visited China on June 14-15, 1999. This was the first visit at an EAM level in 8 years. EAM met Prime Minister Zhu Rongji and Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan. Both sides agreed to jointly celebrate the forthcoming 50th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations (April 1, 2000). There was agreement on promoting CBMs, starting a security dialogue and expanding economic and trade relations. He subsequently met Chinese Foreign Minister on 25 July, 1999 during the ASEAN Regional Forum-Post-Ministerial Conference (ARF-PMC). Earlier, the 11th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question was held in Beijing on April 26-27, 1999. Foreign Secretary led the Indian delegation; Vice Foreign Minister Yang Wenchang led the Chinese delegation. During the sessions of the JWG, boundary-related issues as also bilateral relations including the nuclear issue and other regional & international developments of mutual interest were discussed. The two sides agreed on continuation of dialogue, at various levels.

We continue to seek a positive and forward looking relationship 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 and to the development of friendly, co-operative, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China.

Reserved Posts

1492. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in various Departments are remaining vacant for a very long time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to clear such backlogs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Some of the posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes in various Departments remain vacant due to reasons like time gap between dates of vacancies and actual dates of their filling up, non-availability of requisite number of reserved category candidates to fill up these posts etc. Need for early filling up of such posts has been stressed upon the appointing authorities from time to time.

Production of Vegetables

1493. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India ranks second in the world in the production of vegetables;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a large scope to increase the production of vegetables in our country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to increase the production of vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India ranks second in vegetable production in the world as per FAO Year Book, 1997. The name of the first five producers of vegetables is given in the following table:

Name of the Country	Production in '000 MT 1997
World	595565
China	236938
India	72832
USA	34965
Turkey	21206
Italy	14056

(c) and (d) The Government of India is implementing Central Sector Schemes on development of vegetables and root and tuber crops with an outlay of Rs. 660 lakhs during 1999-2000. The schemes envisage distribution of quality/hybrid vegetable seeds through minikits and laying out demonstration plots of Root & Tuber crops besides popularising True Potato Seed in the country. State Governments are also implementing their programmes to increase the production of vegetables.

[English]

**Economic Sanctions Imposed by
U.S. and other Countries**

1494. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US and other developed countries have since suspended the economic sanctions imposed by them against India and Pakistan following the May, 1998 Nuclear Tests by these countries;

(b) if so, the reasons for suspending and not withdrawing or waiving the sanctions by these countries, country-wise; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) In October 1999, the US Congress passed the Defence Appropriation Act 2000, which was signed into law by the US President on 26 October 1999. The Act, *inter alia*, authorised the US President to waive certain restrictive economic measures which the US Government had imposed on India and Pakistan after their nuclear tests in May 1998. In partial exercise of the waiver authority, the US President passed orders on 27 October 1999 waiving for an indefinite period, some of the restrictive economic measures against India and Pakistan.

(c) Government maintains that unilateral restrictive economic measures are unjustified, counter-productive, impede the free flow of trade, technology and capital and have an adverse impact on mutually beneficial economic interaction. While the Government has noted that some of the restrictive economic measures have been waived for an indefinite period, it is of the view that all such

measures, including those relating to lending by multilateral financial institutions, should be removed permanently.

Check on Nuclear Weapons

1495. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has urged the nuclear weapon States to undertake immediate and urgent steps to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons;

(b) if so, the reaction of the United Nations in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which the use of nuclear weapons would be checked in the world?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) At India's initiative a new resolution "Reducing Nuclear Danger" was adopted by the UN General Assembly last year. The resolution, *inter alia*, calls for a review of nuclear doctrines and in that context, immediate and urgent steps to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons. The resolution was introduced again this year. 104 countries voted in favour of the resolution, 43 against and there were 17 abstentions. Government hopes that this initiative would help generate momentum towards the adoption of measures that reduce the threat of nuclear war and promote nuclear disarmament.

Land Under Cultivation of Cash Crop

1496. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land under cultivation for cash crop during each of the last three years;

(b) whether a large area has been converted from food crops cultivation into cash crops cultivation during the said period;

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

(d) the measures being taken by the Union Government to promote the cultivation of food crops and prevent this conversion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) A *Statement* showing the area of land under cultivation

under major cash crops monitored by the Ministry of Agriculture during the last 3 years is *enclosed*.

(b) to (d) During last three years, there has been no major conversion of area, from food crops to cash crops. Total area under foodgrains has gone up from 123.58 million ha. during 1996-97 to 125.75 million ha. during 1998-99. However, to increase production and productivity of food crops, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System area, Accelerated Maize Development Programme and the Pulses Development Project. Under these programmes/schemes incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstration on farmers' holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology.

Statement

Area under cash crops during 1996-97 to 1998-99

(000' Hectares)

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Oilseeds	26338	26214	26733
Cotton	9121	8904	9041
Jute & Mesta	1102	1115	1017
Sugarcane	4174	3967	4195
Potato	1249	1209	1244
Onion	404	370	460
Total	42388	41779	42690

Research and Development of Oilseeds

1497. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUMARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent for research and development of oilseeds in the country during each of the last three years and current year also separately;

(b) the details of the research presently being undertaken in various institutes in the country and its outcome;

(c) whether there is any long-term policy being formulated for research and development on oilseeds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) The details of the amount spent for research and development on oilseeds for the period 1996-97 to 1999-2000 are given below:—

(i) Amount (Rs. in lakhs) spent on oilseeds research

Year	Plan	Non-Plan
1996-97	931.48	287.37
1997-98	1317.48	356.57
1998-99	1803.49	577.47
1999-2000	1122.92	331.73

(ii) Amount (Rs. in lakhs) provided for development of Oilseeds under centrally sponsored scheme.

Year	Amount
1996-97	14816
1997-98	14930
1998-99	12730
1999-2000	13360

(b) Research for development of new improved varieties/hybrids, production and protection technologies of nine annual oilseed crops (groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soyabean, sunflower, safflower, sesame, niger, linseed and castor) is being undertaken at three ICAR National Research Centres on groundnut, soyabean and rapeseed-mustard and one Project Directorate on Oilseeds for basic and strategic research. In addition, networks of All-India Coordinated Research Project Centres located in different State agricultural universities have been given the mandate for applied research and production of quality breeder seed. As a result, several improved varieties/

hybrids have been developed with higher yield potential and inbuilt resistance to important diseases and insect pests. Hybrids of safflower have been developed and released for cultivation in India for the first time.

Adoption of improved varieties and technologies in different oilseed crops have lead to an impressive increase in production from 18.61 million tonnes in 1990-91 to 25.68 million tonnes of oilseed in 1998-99.

(c) and (d) As a longterm policy, the Council has established three National Research Centres (NRC) and one Directorate of Oilseeds Research for basic and strategic research. These are NRC, Soyabean at Indore (M.P.), NRC Groundnut at Junagarh (Gujarat) and NRC Rapeseed-Mustard at Bharatpur (Rajasthan) and the Directorate of Oilseeds Research at Hyderabad. In addition, a new NRC for Oilpalm has been established at Elluru, (A.P.). In the IX Plan period, these centres are being strengthened to meet the challenges of new disease and insect pest problems, productivity enhancement and quality of oil.

Government of India has established National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oil Development Board (NOVOD) at Gurgaon for promotion of oilseeds in the non-traditional areas and tree bearing oilseeds. Government of India sponsored "Technology Mission on Oilseed and Pulses" (TMOP) is being further strengthened to increase its effectiveness and scope for quality seed production and other input supply such as sprinkler irrigation, popularization of farm implements and micronutrients supply to farmers for increasing the production of oilseeds in the country.

[Translation]

Laws Regarding Cows and Buffalo Slaughter

1498. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the guidelines/laws framed to stop reckless slaughtering of cow and buffaloes;

(b) the names of the States which have enacted laws for imposing ban on cow and buffaloes slaughtering;

(c) the reasons given by those States which have not enacted such laws;

(d) whether the Union Government have issued any guidelines to ensure strict compliance of the laws in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) to (c) The preservation of cattle is a matter on which the legislatures of the States have exclusive powers to legislate.

The States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Manipur have enacted legislation to restrict or ban the slaughter of cow and its progeny.

The States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and West Bengal have imposed some restrictions on slaughtering buffaloes/calves of buffaloes.

(d) to (f) Since the State legislatures have exclusive powers of legislation under Article 246(3) of the Constitution and Laws vary in different States, the Central Government has not issued any guidelines in this regard.

[English]

IISCO

1499. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether IISCO Steel Plant has been incurring huge losses for the last several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Russian Government has ever expressed the desire to extend a long term credit and extend financial support for technological upgradation and modernisation of this steel plant;

(d) if so, the reasons for not accepting the proposal;

(e) whether the project was proposed to be financed from Russian Reserves already available with the RBI; and

(f) if so, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) The details of losses of IISCO in the last three years are as under:

Year	Rupees in crores
1996-97	(—)213
1997-98	(—)395
1998-99	(—)357

(c) to (f) IISCO is a sick company and has been under reference to BIFR since June, 1994. A revised proposal has been received by SAIL which *inter alia* includes writing off of accumulated losses, use of Rupee debt funds to revive IISCO in a Joint Venture (JV) with M/s. Tyazhpromexport (TPE) of Russia. The revised proposal envisages an investment of Rs. 798 crores.

However, any scheme to be taken up for revival or modernisation of IISCO will have to be in accordance with the orders of BIFR in this regard.

MPLADS

1500. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any monitoring cell has been established to look after the progress of work under MPLADS; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has the nodal responsibility for this scheme at the Centre. There is no specific

provision for establishing any monitoring cell at the Centre. The guidelines on MPLADS contain sufficient provision for monitoring the progress of works under MPLADS at different levels of the State Government, District Authorities and implementing agencies.

Dairy Development Projects

1501. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Dairy Development Projects undertaken with the assistance of National Dairy Development Board in the country as on 31 March, 1999, State-wise;

(b) the details of assistance provided to States for this purpose during last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether NDDB propose to set up more projects during current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the locations identified therefor; and

(e) the expenditure likely to be incurred in each case?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) was implementing Operation Flood-III (OF-III) project for dairy development. The project has come to a close on 31.12.95 but reimbursement from World Bank for the expenditure committed upto 31.12.95 were available upto 30.04.96. The NDDB is however financing dairy projects in States in the post Operation Flood projects out of its own resources. A statement I indicating State-wise fund released by NDDB under OF-III/spill over project during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The NDDB will continue to set up more dairy projects on the basis of requests received from the dairy cooperatives after these are appraised for its viability. A statement II indicating details of projects sanctioned by NDDB during the current financial year in all the States is enclosed.

Statement I**Statement Indicating State-wise Release of Funds Under Operation Flood III/Spell over Projects during the last 3 years**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sr. No.	Institutions	Year		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	125.08	21.18	120.96
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.10
4.	Bihar	134.52	0.13	7.85
5.	Delhi	948.96	798.06	1569.19
6.	Goa	3.67	0.25	0.00
7.	Gujarat	2968.03	883.28	710.55
8.	Haryana	37.54	0.43	32.47
9.	Himachal Pradesh	27.92	2.16	0.11
10.	Karnataka	707.65	280.15	490.83
11.	Kerala	113.84	5.99	21.89
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4.40	3.25	8.45
14.	Maharashtra	1552.45	342.63	231.22
15.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Orissa	34.86	0.00	0.09
19.	Pondicherry	13.52	0.30	*6.90
20.	Punjab	96.18	2.60	10.22
21.	Rajasthan	*459.90	5.42	*9.01
22.	Sikkim	0.19	0.00	0.00
23.	Tamil Nadu	146.52	239.67	12.63
24.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	1408.23	397.58	461.54
26.	West Bengal	254.66	1.24	5.18
Total Release to States		8,118.32	2,984.32	3,667.07

Note: * Represents withdrawal of sanction letter/letters issued in the previous year/years due to transfer of equipment etc.

Statement II

Statement Indicating Projects Approved by N.D.D.B. during the Current Financial Year (As on 30th November, 1999)

	(Rs. in Lakhs)
Ropar Milk Union	119.79
Hoshiarpur Milk Union	26.29
Ludhiana Milk Union	80.84
Faridkot Milk Union	13.23
Mithila Milk Union	40.68
Sabar Milk Union	369.00
Surat Milk Union	983.49
Ahmedabad Milk Union	46.47
Banaskantha Milk Union	90.51
Mehsana Milk Union	86.62
Gandhinagar Milk Union	7.29
Panchmahal Milk Union	59.76
Jalgaon Milk Union	68.06
Solapur Milk Union	38.14
Akluj Milk Union	54.57
Sangmmer Milk Union	9.83
Thiruvananthpuram Milk Union	466.30
Kerala Co-op. Milk Mktg. Fedn.	160.30
Ernakulam Milk Union	159.00
Bangalore Milk Union	1025.45
Total	3905.62

[Translation]**Reservoirs**

1502. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reservoir schemes submitted by Government of Uttar Pradesh to the Union Government during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of schemes sanctioned during the above period and the number out of them still pending with the Union Government;

(c) since when these schemes are pending and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which these schemes are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Four reservoir schemes have been submitted by Government of Uttar Pradesh to the Central Water Commission during the last three years. Status of their clearance is as given below:—

S.No.	Name of the Project	Date of receipt	Status
1.	Kishau Dam Project (Multipurpose Project)	3/97	Pending
2.	Kanhar Irrigation Scheme (Irrigation Project)	6/99	-do-
3.	Lakhwar Vyasi Parityojana (Multipurpose Revised)	4/98	-do-
4.	Maneri Bhali Hydro Electric Project (HE Project)	9/98	-do-

The clearance of the projects depends upon the promptness with the State Government complies with observations of Central Agencies.

Employment Exchanges

1503. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons registered with employment exchanges in Madhya Pradesh at present; and

(b) the number out of them belongs to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The total number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered with the different employment exchanges in Madhya Pradesh as on 30th September, 1999 was of the order of 26.29 lakhs.

(b) Latest information available in respect of SC/ST job seekers relates to 31st December, 1997. Out of total 23.8 lakh job seekers registered with Employment Exchanges in Madhya Pradesh as on 31st December, 1997, the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes job-seekers were 3.22 & 2.42 lakhs respectively.

[English]

Saffron Crop Damaged due to Drought and Disease

1504. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 75 per cent of Saffron crop in Jammu and Kashmir has been damaged due to drought and a disease in its root during the current year;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to send a central team to make an assessment of the damage to the crop and relief to its cultivators;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to control the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

NAFED as Nodal Agency

1505. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) is the Nodal Agency for procurement of pulses and oilseeds for market intervention under Minimum Support Price scheme;

(b) if so, whether NAFED is intervening through the State agencies as its sub-agents;

(c) if so, whether NAFED has not provided any financial assistance to these State agencies for market intervention;

(d) if so, whether State Government particularly Karnataka have requested the Union Government to provide specific funds to State agencies well in time for market intervention under MSP scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NAFED implements the Minimum Support Price Scheme (MPS) of the Government of India through co-operative organisations at the State level.

(c) NAFED has placed sufficient funds at the disposal of State level agencies for procurement as per their requirement.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Sufficient funds have been placed at the disposal of NAFED to handle the MSP Scheme effectively, as and when required, in all States including Karnataka.

[Translation]

OBC Quota In Government Services

1506. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons given employment under the quota reserved for other backward classes since 1992, State/Union Territory-wise and category-wise;

(b) the total number of posts required to be created in each category according to the above reservation quota and the number of posts created during the last two years and the total number of posts still lying vacant;

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

(d) the measures taken to fully implement the reservation policy in future for the other backward classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL

INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The category-wise details of OBC's given employment upto 30.4.1998 as furnished by the Ministries/Departments are shown in the enclosed statement. However, State/Union Territory-wise details are not centrally maintained.

(b) and (c) Policy on reservation for OBCs envisages reservation of 27% of the total number of posts to be filled through direct recruitment. No posts are required to be created for implementation of the reservation policy for the OBCs.

(d) Instructions already exists for all the appointing authorities to implement the reservation policy for OBCs in the right earnest.

Statement

Statement Showing the Total Number of Persons given Employment Under Quota Reserved for OBC (Other Backward Classes) upto 30.4.1998 and Group-wise Break-up thereof*

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Total
2211	510	96374	24816	123911

*Does not include information relating to the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

[English]

Non-Aligned Movement

1507. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the non-aligned movement has lost much of its original significance after the end of the cold war;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to merge NAM with the Group of 77 countries; rather than carrying it on as a meaningless formality;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the manner in which NAM objective are being to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) No Sir. The Non-aligned Movement continues to be relevant after the end of the cold war, as it provides as useful forum for projecting the collective position of NAM countries on important international, political, economic, social, human rights and environment issues. There has been further expansion of membership of NAM since the end of the Cold War, and additional non-NAM countries have applied for observer and guest status. There is no proposal to merge NAM with the Group of 77, which have different origins and priorities. However, there is an institutional mechanism to coordinate NAM and G-77 positions. NAM countries promote their objectives through common positions articulated in the UN and other international fora through the NAM Coordination Bureau at New York.

[Translation]

Assistance to Control Insects and Pests

1508. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provides financial assistance to the States to control insects and pests causing damage to crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith assistance provided to States during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the preventive steps taken by the Government to check the damage caused by pests to the crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government is providing financial assistance to the States under some important schemes for controlling insects and pests as under:—

(i) Financial assistance is being extended to the States under various Crop production oriented Schemes on Cotton, Rice, Coarse Cereals; and Oilseeds Production Programme and National Pulses Development Project—details are given in enclosed Statement I and II.

(ii) Financial assistance is also being extended for setting up of State Biological Control Laboratories for furtherance of IPM Technology in the States/UTs—details are given in enclosed Statement III.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10.	Karnataka	—	6.66	37.00	—	6.24	54.42	—	6.6	86.81
11.	Kerala	94.96	—	—	134.00	—	—	131.00	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	—	7.56	26.03	29.00	7.56	34.70	203.00	7.56	23.30
13.	Maharashtra	—	11.10	125.71	—	11.10	190.57	—	11.10	198.38
14.	Manipur	24.56	—	—	46.00	—	—	42.86	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	22.14	—	—	17.00	—	—	8.00	—	—
16.	Mizoram	13.53	—	—	36.00	—	—	28.00	—	—
17.	Nagaland	34.81	—	—	41.00	—	—	41.50	—	—
18.	Orissa	448.83	—	15.60	998.00	—	43.00	740.00	—	37.06
19.	Punjab	—	—	223.64	—	—	236.25	—	—	264.38
20.	Rajasthan	—	1.20	34.26	—	1.20	45.68	—	1.20	35.92
21.	Sikkim	—	0.40	—	—	0.40	—	—	0.48	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	750.08	—	88.32	628.00	—	105.12	651.44	—	85.61
23.	Tripura	22.76	—	—	30.00	—	—	22.00	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1180.89	—	2.71	1195.00	—	8.71	821.66	—	12.93
25.	West Bengal	—	—	—	144.00	—	—	80.00	—	—
26.	Pondicherry	17.00	—	—	20.00	—	—	20.00	—	—
Total		3260.00	36.00	714.37	4114.00	35.58	927.41	3570.30	36.00	967.21

R: Integrated Cereals Development Programme - Rice.

CC: Integrated Cereals Development Programme - Coarse Cereals.

Intensive Cotton Development Programme.

Statement II

Statement Showing the Allocated Financial Assistance for Controlling Insects and Pests Under Oilseed Production Programme (OPP) and National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
		OPP	NPDP	OPP	NPDP	OPP	NPDP
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20.00	8.00	40.00	8.00	40.00	2.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.30	—	0.50	—	0.50	—
3.	Assam	3.50	0.33	3.50	1.00	3.50	1.00
4.	Bihar	—	9.66	2.00	8.00	2.00	8.00
5.	Gujarat	—	6.00	20.00	6.00	20.00	87.00
6.	Haryana	5.00	1.66	5.00	1.00	5.00	2.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1.00	1.00	1.50	—	1.50	—
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.70	1.00	3.00	1.00	3.00	1.00
9.	Karnataka	37.00	9.00	35.00	9.00	35.00	5.00
10.	Kerala	0.30	1.00	0.30	1.00	0.30	1.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	42.00	20.00	30.00	13.00	30.00	30.00
12.	Maharashtra	43.00	12.00	25.00	12.00	25.00	12.00
13.	Manipur	0.20	—	0.27	—	0.30	2.00
14.	Meghalaya	0.12	—	0.20	—	0.20	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Nagaland	—	1.00	—	4.00	0.20	4.00
16.	Orissa	19.50	4.33	15.00	4.00	15.00	4.00
17.	Punjab	—	1.00	—	1.00	—	0.40
18.	Rajasthan	31.50	12.00	25.00	12.00	25.00	12.00
19.	Sikkim	0.22	—	0.30	—	0.30	—
20.	Tamil Nadu	23.00	8.00	50.00	8.00	45.00	8.00
21.	Tripura	0.13	—	0.20	—	0.20	1.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	11.80	20.66	15.00	3.00	15.00	3.00
23.	West Bengal	42.00	1.00	10.00	—	10.00	—
Total		283.27	117.64	281.77	92.00	277.00	183.40

Statement III

Grants-in-aid to the State/UTs during last three years for setting up of State Biocontrol Laboratories (SBCLs)

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17.50	17.50	—
2.	Assam	37.50	—	—
3.	Bihar	—	30.00	—
4.	Gujarat	10.00	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Haryana	—	—	12.50
6.	Himachal Pradesh	—	17.50	2.50
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—
8.	Karnataka	20.00	—	—
9.	Kerala	—	17.50	2.50
10.	Maharashtra	—	12.50	5.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	17.50
12.	Manipur	20.00	—	—
13.	Orissa	—	20.00	—
14.	Punjab	25.00	—	—
15.	Rajasthan	25.00	—	—
16.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—
17.	Uttar Pradesh	—	30.00	—
18.	West Bengal	10.00	—	—
19.	Nagaland	20.00	—	—
20.	Tripura	40.00	—	—
21.	Meghalaya	20.00	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Mizoram	20.00	—	—
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.00	—	—
24.	Sikkim	20.00	—	—
25.	Goa	—	20.00	—
26.	Pondicherry	25.00	—	—
27.	Delhi	—	—	—
28.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	20.00	—	—
29.	Lakshadweep	20.00	—	—
Total		370.00	165.00	40.00

Statement IV

Establishment of FFSs and AEOs and Farmers Trained During 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 in Rice, Cotton, Vegetables, Pulses and Oilseeds

(In Numbers)

SI.No.	State/UT	FFSs	AEOs	Farmers
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A&N Island	32	127	1020
2.	Andhra Pradesh	556	1705	16664
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	80	480
4.	Assam	302	1476	9070
5.	Bihar	284	1364	8547

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Goa	44	126	1345
7.	Gujarat	265	1179	7970
8.	Haryana	260	1190	7701
9.	Himachal Pradesh	100	259	2640
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	132	658	4030
11.	Karnataka	380	1817	12770
12.	Kerala	132	556	4380
13.	Madhya Pradesh	372	1652	11146
14.	Maharashtra	720	3592	22800
15.	Manipur	32	160	960
16.	Mizoram	68	279	2057
17.	Nagaland	65	228	1930
18.	Orissa	192	935	5780
19.	Pondicherry	40	200	1200
20.	Punjab	360	1796	10810
21.	Rajasthan	264	937	7927
22.	Sikkim	24	75	730

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Tamil Nadu	229	984	5920
24.	Uttar Pradesh	592	2702	17336
25.	West Bengal	241	1057	6470
Total		5702	25134	171683

Small Scale Industries

1509. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central Schemes/programmes for setting up Small Scale Industries and their development as on July 30, 1999, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated to each State under the schemes during 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(c) the proposals to be brought in by the Union Government for the development of Small Scale Industries in the current year and 2000-2001 alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme of the Central Government is aimed at creating necessary physical infrastructure for setting up Small Scale Industries. The scheme provides grant in aid upto Rs. 2 crore in general and Rs. 4 crore in the case of Northeastern region. The scheme does not envisage allocation of funds State-wise. Apart from this, the Small Industry Development Organisation and other Government managed organisations provide support services in the form of Technical Advisory Services, marketing assistance, Entrepreneurial Training, Common Facilities, etc.

(c) The National Programme for Rural Industrialisation, which was announced in the last budget, is aimed at promoting 100 rural clusters during the current year through Small Industries Development Organisation and Khadi and Village Industries Commission. Government is also contemplating to set up a Credit Guarantee Scheme for Small Scale units.

Funds for Hilly Areas

1510. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise plan allocation to hilly areas (scheduled areas) of Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the norms adopted for such allocations;

(c) whether all such allocations made by Planning Commission have been released to Autonomous Hill Councils of Scheduled areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) Planning & Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. Planning Commission however supplements the efforts of the State Governments in this regard through the allocation of Special Central Assistance (SCA) under

Special Area programmes such as Hill Area Development Programme (HADP). The SCA under HADP is given to designated hill areas as identified by a Committee constituted by the NDC in 1965 and the releases are made to the concerned State Governments who make further spatial and schematic allocations. None of the designated hill areas as identified by this Committee are in Bihar.

[English]

Setting up of FPI in Kerala

1511. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for setting up of unit of food processing industry in Kerala is pending for clearance with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith the latest position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Launching of Satellites

1512. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of satellites launched both from our own station and abroad so far;

(b) the amount spent thereon;

(c) whether the Government have studied cost benefit ratio of those satellites;

(d) whether the Government proposes to launch any more satellites in near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC

GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The number of Indian Satellites launched so far is 30.

(b) The amount of money spent so far on the above 30 satellites, including the expenditure on foreign procured launches, is Rs. 2925.79 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir. Taking into account the benefits of the satellites in the area of communications, television broadcasting, meteorological services, remote sensing applications to natural resources survey/management like location of ground water, monitoring agricultural area, mapping forest resources, drought/flood monitoring and also the technological capabilities established in this strategic high-tech area, the benefits derived from the satellites outweigh the costs.

(d) and (e) The Department has plans to launch the following 9 satellites during the 9th Five Year Plan:

- Third generation Multipurpose Communication, Television broadcasting and Meteorological Satellites — INSAT-3A, 3B, 3C & 3D
- Experimental Communication and Television broadcasting technology Test Satellites — GSAT-1, 2 & 3
- Cartography and Mapping Satellite — IRS-P5
- Resource Survey Satellite — IRS-P6

Central Council of Gausamvardhan

1513. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Council of Gausamvardhan was set up in the year 1949;

(b) if so, the progress and achievements of this Council, so far;

(c) the budget allocation for Council for the last three years;

(d) the present status of the Council and whether the Government intend to revive the same with enlarged functions; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The Central Gaushala Development Board was constituted in 1949. The Central Council of Gosamvardhana (CCG) was established in 1952. The CCG was dissolved from 1.12.1969 subsequent to acceptance of a resolution to that effect in a special meeting of the General Body of the Council which was held on 23.8.1969.

International Terrorism

1514. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Germany and the other members of European Union have backed India's call for global efforts to urgently tackle the menace of international terrorism;

(b) if so, the details regarding India's proposal for global efforts to fight terrorism alongwith the names of the countries supported and extended their cooperation;

(c) whether the European Union is also concerned about funding for terrorism and to fight this problem; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the need for 'global efforts' have been made in this regard during the External Affairs Minister's recent visit to UN Assembly in September 1999?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. India's concerns about the urgent need for global efforts to tackle the menace of international terrorism has received strong support internationally, including from members of the European Union. During the current UN General Assembly, it has been agreed to begin consideration of the Indian draft of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism in September 2000. The Indian draft addresses the responsibility of States to prevent and refrain from acts of terrorism. The Indian proposal has been supported by US, EU and key NAM countries.

(c) During the ongoing 54th UN General Assembly, a Convention for Suppression of Terrorist Financing was also adopted at the initiative of France. EU as well as India have supported this Convention.

(d) In my address to the UN General Assembly on September 22, 1999, I had categorised terrorism as the

global menace of our age and a grave threat to international peace and security. I also urged the strengthening of the international consensus against terrorism, and called for making progress on the Indian proposal for a comprehensive international convention against terrorism.

Launching of INSAT 3-A

1515. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO has finalised launching of INSAT 3-A and other third generation satellites;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in launching INSAT 3-A?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Contract for the launching of INSAT-3A was entered into with M/s Arianespace in July 1999. Contract for the launching of INSAT-3B was entered into with M/s Arianespace in September 1998.

(c) In view of the user requirements for Extended C-band transponders on an urgent basis, INSAT-3B, which has more number of Extended C-band transponders than INSAT-3A, has been scheduled for launch in early 2000 ahead of INSAT-3A.

Trade Agreement with Bangladesh

1516. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government has signed any trade and credit agreements and transit treaty with the Government of Bangladesh during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Dhaka; and

(b) the details thereof alongwith the other proposals to boost bilateral trade with Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) During the Prime Minister's visit to Dhaka in June '99, a Credit Agreement was signed whereby the Government of India will make available to the Government of Bangladesh a line of credit of Indian Rupees 2000 crores, spread over three years. The credit line will be available to the Government of Bangladesh for importing Indian manufactured goods including buses, transport equipment and engineering goods; this would also upgrade infrastructure and enhance bilateral economic cooperation and trade. During the visit both sides agreed to restore multi-modal communication links between the two countries.

Growth of SSI

1517. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to create a separate Market Development Fund for the small/tiny sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received representations from Small Scale Industries Sector for retention of product reserve for SSI;

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

(e) whether the Government are considering to give further incentives to SSI sector such as rental schemes for sheds in industrial estates, automatic grant of working capital, etc.; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Advisory Committee on Reservations set up by the Government under the IDR Act, takes into consideration all relevant issues including representations from the SSI sector while making any recommendation in respect of reservation of items for the SSI sector.

(e) No, Sir.

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

Calamity Relief Fund

1518. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item regarding disappointing performance of welfare schemes appearing in 'Dainik Jagaran' dated November 4, 1999;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The news item mentions about irregularities committed in implementation of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and some welfare schemes by the State Governments.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Export of Basmati Rice

1519. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any new scheme to improve the export quality of Basmati rice;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Irrigation Projects in Karnataka

1520. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hemavati Harangi, Kotcholla and Kabiri right bank irrigation projects of Karnataka are under construction;

(b) if so, the details thereof with latest progress; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) As per Annual Plan document of Government of Karnataka for 1999-2000, there is no project by name Kotcholla; however, Hemavati, Harangi, and Kabini Irrigation Projects are under execution by the State under Non-Plan with its own resources. The details of financial & physical progress and likely plan of completion are as under:—

(Rs. in Crores/Thousand Hectares)

Name of the Project	Latest Estimated Cost	Expenditure upto AP 98-99	Ultimate Potential	Potential created	Likely Plan of completion
Harangi	373.00	274.77	53.54	42.68	Beyond IX Plan
Hemavathi	2100.00	1344.85	283.60	186.40	-do-
Kabini	480.00	338.08	81.90	41.08	-do-

[Translation]

Auranga, Kanahar and Uttari Koyal Dam Projects

1521. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have allocated any fund for Auranga, Kanahar and Uttari Koyal (Kutku Dam) projects of Palamu district in Bihar;

(b) if so, the latest position thereof and the details of the expenditure incurred on each of these projects; and

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Completion of projects depends upon the priority attached to it by the State Government.

[English]

Integrated Steel Plant

1522. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to develop the Integrated Steel Plant at Salem in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of performance of steel plant at Salem during the last three years; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(d) whether the Union Government propose to give extra weightage to the Diploma/Degree/ITI certificate holders from Dharmapuri and Salem district for jobs in this plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The financial and production performance of Salem Steel Plant (SSP) for the last three years is given below:

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Net-Profit/Loss (in crores)	(-) 38	(-) 120	(-) 180
Saleable Steel Production (in '000 Tonnes)	133	177	119

(-) indicates loss.

(d) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Economic Sanctions Prior to Nuclear Test

1523. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of countries which were providing financial assistance to India alongwith the areas on which this assistance was being provided prior to the Pokhran nuclear test II;

(b) the details of countries which imposed economic sanctions after the nuclear tests;

(c) the areas in which the economic sanctions caused losses to the economy;

(d) the sources from which the Government mobilised funds to offset the said losses; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to overcome this Sanction?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Some developed countries have been providing financial assistance to India, in the form of loans and grants, for development projects in

areas such as agriculture, irrigation, infrastructure, human resource development, rural development, health, transportation, forestry etc. After India's nuclear tests in May 1998, a number of these countries such as USA, Canada, Japan, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland etc. imposed certain restrictive economic measures against India. While humanitarian and other ongoing projects have not been generally affected, funding for some other projects has been held up as a result. It is not possible to quantify the impact because of the fast changing situation.

(e) The Government regards all unilateral economic measures imposed against India as unjustified and counter-productive, and is of the view that these should be lifted. The Government continues to be engaged in dialogue with the concerned countries at various levels on the related issues.

Production of Coarse Grains

1524. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to decrease the target fixed for the production of coarse grains during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it is likely to be lowered alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of other foodgrains which are to be used as a substitute to meet the shortfall in production of coarse grains?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Issue of Cross Border Terrorism in Afghanistan

1525. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the US had official level talks on September 2, 1999 at Washington on Afghanistan and cross border terrorism perpetrated by Talibans in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details of its outcome; and

(c) the details of follow up action in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The official level consultations between India and the US were held in Washington on September 2-3, 1999 on Afghanistan and cross-border terrorism.

(b) These consultations resulted in a better understanding and appreciation of each other's concerns and perceptions on the evolving situation in Afghanistan and the problem of terrorism and their impact on India.

(c) Mr. Michael Sheehan, Chief Coordinator on Counter-terrorism in the US State Department visited India on September 17-18, 1999. The two Governments have agreed to intensify cooperation in combating terrorism and bilateral interaction is continuing.

Meeting of Commonwealth

1526. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) Summit was held at Durban recently;

(b) the details of the countries which have been participated in the summit;

(c) the details of issues discussed and the decisions taken in that summit;

(d) the names of participants from Indian side and the proposals put forth by them;

(e) whether the issue to debar the membership of Pak was also raised in the summit;

(f) if so, the reaction of India and other countries on the issues raised and the decision taken thereon; and

(g) the measures taken/being taken by India to implement the decisions taken at the summit?

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

(b) 52 of the 54 countries which are members of the Commonwealth attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting held in Durban from 12-15 November, 1999. 47 countries were represented by Heads of State or Prime Ministers.

(c) The Heads of Government discussed global developments, including the promotion of fundamental political values and a number of economic issues. They also deliberated in detail on "People Centred Development: The Challenge of Globalisation", which was the special theme of the Meeting. The Heads of Government issued the Durban Communique and the Fancourt Declaration at the conclusion of the meeting which, *inter-alia*, commits the member countries to the promotion of the Commonwealth's fundamental political values and to international cooperation for ensuring that the forces of globalisation are channelised for the elimination of poverty.

(d) The Indian delegation was led by Shri A.B. Vajpayee, Prime Minister and included Shri Jaswant Singh, Minister of External Affairs, Shri Yashwant Sinha, Minister of Finance and senior officials. The Indian delegation raised a number of issues dealing, *inter-alia*, with international economic cooperation, the fight against international terrorism and the promotion of fundamental political values.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) India and other member countries condemned the unconstitutional overthrow of the democratically elected Government in Pakistan on 12 October, 1999. The meeting expressed the belief that no legitimacy should be accorded to the military regime and called for the restoration of civilian democratic rule without delay. A decision was taken to endorse the suspension of the military regime in Pakistan from the Councils of the Commonwealth, pending the restoration of democracy in that country. The Meeting urged that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and other detained with him be released immediately and that the rule of law in Pakistan be duly observed.

(g) India and other members of the Commonwealth have requested the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group to keep the situation in Pakistan under review and be prepared to recommend further measures to be taken by the Commonwealth, if progress to democracy is not made speedily.

Availability of Water

1527. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of water in the country at present, State-wise, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the extent to which irrigation capacity increased and utilisation of water by each State during the last three years; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred to increase irrigation potential during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Assessment of average annual

water resources availability in the country has been made river-basin-wise a river basin is regarded as a unit of water resources development in accordance with the National Water Policy. State-wise figures for per capita availability of water are, therefore, not maintained. However, a Statement I showing per capita surface water availability and replenishable ground water in the major river basins in the country is enclosed.

(b) As per the latest figures available upto the end of 1996-97, the State-wise details of irrigation potential created and utilised during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given in enclosed Statement II.

(c) The total expenditure incurred during the period 1994-95 to 1996-97 on creation and utilisation of irrigation potential is Rs. 19,242.75 crore.

Statement I*River Basin Water Availability*

River Basin	Catchment Area (million hectares)	Average Annual Surface water availability (BCM)	Replenish-able Ground-water Resources (BCM)	Estimated 1991 Population (millions)	Per Capita Available Surface Water (cubic meters)	Per Capita Surface and Ground Water (cubic meters)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Indus	32.13	73.31	26.55	41.90	1,749	2383.29
Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna System (Includes Ganga & Brahmaputra & Barak)	109.76	1110.62	206.07	392.04	18,061	3358.56
Ganga	86.15	525.02	171	356.80	1,471	1950.73
Brahmaputra & Barak	23.61	585.60	35.07	35.24	16,589	17612.66
Godavari	31.28	110.54	40.6	53.98	2,048	2799.93
Krishna	25.89	78.12	26.4	60.78	1,285	1719.64

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cauvery	8.12	21.36	12.3	29.33	728	1147.63
Subernrekha	2.92	12.37	1.8	9.46	1,307	1497.89
Brahmani-Baitarni	5.18	28.48	4.05	9.77	2,915	3329.58
Mahanadi	14.16	66.88	16.50	26.60	2,513	3134.59
Pennar	5.52	6.32	4.93	9.70	651	1159.79
Mahi	3.48	11.02		10.48	1,052	1051.53
Sabarmati	2.17	3.81		10.58	360	360.11
Narmada	9.88	45.64	10.80	14.70	3,109	3839.46
Tapi	6.51	14.88	8.27	14.80	1,007	1564.19
West Flowing Rivers			28.90			
a. Tapi to Tadri	5.59	87.41		25.80	3,383	3387.98
b. Tadri to Kanyakumari	5.62	113.53		32.60	3,480	3482.52
c. Kutch and Saurashtra incl. Luni	32.19	15.10		22.10	683	683.26
East Flowing Rivers			18.20			
a. Mahanadi to Godavari	8.66	22.52		23.60	953	954.24
b. Pennar to Kanyakumari	10.01	16.46		45.20	366	364.16
Area of Inland Drainage in Rajasthan	6			7.10		
Minor Rivers draining into Bangladesh and Myanmar	3.63	31.00		2.10	14,623	

Statement II*Statewise Details of Irrigation Potential Created and Utilised During 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97**(In thousand hectares)*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Irrigation Potential Created during			Irrigation Potential Utilised during		
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.28	5.80	29.35	6.58	7.60	29.35
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.90	4.00	4.27	2.00	2.15	2.20
3.	Assam	10.56	3.11	0.51	10.56	3.11	7.01
4.	Bihar	64.00	30.69	16.65	64.51	27.00	14.00
5.	Goa	0.50	0.35	0.35	0.25	0.17	0.18
6.	Gujarat	32.00	23.40	25.60	40.00	37.40	27.00
7.	Haryana	10.96	13.13	22.00	16.40	10.83	13.29
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1.87	2.41	2.65	1.27	0.66	2.11
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.98	2.80	2.75	2.26	3.36	3.16
10.	Karnataka	71.80	61.49	111.47	155.13	22.37	93.19
11.	Kerala	39.05	24.82	54.91	39.05	24.82	54.91
12.	Madhya Pradesh	89.30	94.60	95.00	43.65	77.35	52.15
13.	Maharashtra	81.50	103.40	101.40	80.70	97.00	95.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	Manipur	1.80	5.40	3.50	1.80	4.40	2.50
15.	Meghalaya	0.71	0.84	0.70	0.53	0.63	0.52
16.	Mizoram	0.51	0.37	0.32	0.51	0.37	0.32
17.	Nagaland	0.32	0.36	0.36	0.30	0.35	0.35
18.	Orissa	44.31	65.59	83.53	34.97	44.31	65.59
19.	Punjab	65.86	57.57	33.60	64.73	52.76	35.69
20.	Rajasthan	66.28	67.31	54.71	44.72	48.26	46.04
21.	Sikkim	0.66	1.15	0.86	0.53	1.02	0.80
22.	Tamil Nadu	1.65	1.65	0.57	2.13	1.65	1.65
23.	Tripura	1.22	0.69	1.38	1.22	0.69	1.38
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1025.00	1249.00	852.00	1119.00	1282.00	809.00
25.	West Bengal	113.19	103.15	131.66	37.46	62.75	84.66
Total-States		1736.21	1923.08	1630.10	1770.26	1813.01	1442.05
Total-UTs		5.89	6.54	7.20	4.47	6.06	5.40
Grand Total		1742.10	1929.62	1637.30	1774.73	1819.07	1447.45

Drip Irrigation

1528. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided financial assistance to the States for the development of drip irrigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and current year also, State-wise;

(c) whether the State Governments have sent any proposals to increase the target fixed for drip irrigation for the current year and to provide additional financial assistance for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Assistance for drop irrigation is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Use of Plastics in Agriculture. A statement indicating the funds released under this scheme to the State Government during the last three years and the allocations for the current year is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Demands have been received for additional allocation under the scheme from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for Rs. 10 crores and from Government of Karnataka for Rs. 21 crores. Government of Maharashtra has also requested for providing additional funds during the current year. However, funds are released to the State Governments within the allocated funds under the scheme for the year after taking into consideration the unspent balance available with them out of the releases made during the previous years and expenditure incurred during the current year.

Statement**State-wise Assistance Provided under Plasticulture Scheme**

					(Rs. in Lakh)
S.No.	State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Outlay)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1460.00	1070.00	1010.75	1277.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	19.61	0.00	46.00	42.20
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.90
4.	Bihar	50.00	0.00	0.00	34.70
5.	Goa	22.52	3.00	19.00	22.30
6.	Gujarat	0.00	100.00	141.49	230.20
7.	Haryana	100.36	44.00	155.42	96.70
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.40
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	543.42	570.00	262.00	483.30

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Karnataka	1854.95	2234.00	2995.00	2372.80
11.	Kerala	242.95	304.00	415.65	365.40
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	80.00	183.10	221.10
13.	Maharashtra	2011.28	2447.00	3194.13	2703.90
14.	Manipur	24.81	24.00	63.00	30.10
15.	Meghalaya	19.81	0.00	45.00	34.20
16.	Mizoram	32.33	38.00	88.00	38.10
17.	Nagaland	36.35	70.00	96.00	41.80
18.	Orissa	168.71	125.00	0.00	14.18
19.	Punjab	116.41	0.00	93.00	98.50
20.	Rajasthan	50.25	287.00	270.00	309.70
21.	Sikkim	15.00	38.00	45.32	43.20
22.	Tamil Nadu	826.94	515.00	1095.00	1052.25
23.	Tripura	19.16	0.00	0.00	26.50
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	115.59	234.57
25.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.40
26.	D&N Haveli	0.00	8.50	0.00	5.50
27.	Daman Diu	10.33	8.50	5.00	5.80
28.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.10
29.	Lakshadweep	0.00	4.50	5.00	5.80
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Pondicherry	9.80	0.00	0.00	1.80
Total:		7634.99	7970.50	10744.05	9850.52

Federation for Perishable Agricultural Produce

1529. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought a loan of Rs. 100 crores for setting up a State level Federation for the procurement of perishable agricultural produce from National Dairy Development Board;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) the time by which the amount is likely to be sanctioned; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Government of Karnataka had sent to NDDB a project prepared by Karnataka State Agricultural Produce Processing and Export Corporation Ltd. with a financial implication of Rs. 231 crores. No financial and economic analysis were included in the project. The NDDB had suggested that if Karnataka State Agricultural Produce Processing and Export Corporation Ltd. prepare a complete proposal including analysis, it would be appraised and if deemed viable, financed to the extent of Rs. 100 crores.

Indo-French Co-operation in Nuclear Field

1530. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the France has offered to co-operate with India in generation of nuclear energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith terms of the offer; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES. MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC

GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Discussions have taken place between India and France on safety issues related to nuclear power production. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) of India and the Nuclear Installation Safety Directorate (DSIN) of France have signed a bilateral agreement on July 29, 1999 for exchange of information and co-operation in the area of nuclear safety. The scope of the Agreement covers, *inter-alia*, regulatory positions and practices on significant safety issues in the areas of siting, design, construction, commissioning and operation of nuclear power plants. The terms of the agreement are similar to normal bilateral agreement for mutual benefit.

[*Translation*]

Central Agricultural Farms

1531. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central Agricultural Farms functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether these farms are making profit;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total quantity of various foodgrains produced in these farms during the year 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The State Farms Corporation of India is a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Agriculture. It has 12 farms situated all over the country as per the statement I.

(b) and (c) No Sir. Most of these farms are not making profits as detailed in the statement II.

(d) SFCI was established mainly to produce high quality seeds for distribution to the farmers. Statement III showing quantity of foodgrains and seeds produced during 1998-99 is enclosed.

Statement I*Detailed List of Central State Farms Run by State Farms Corporation of India*

S.No.	Farm Name	District (State)
1.	Suratgarh	Sriganganagar, Rajasthan
2.	Sardargarh	Sriganganagar, Rajasthan
3.	Jetsar	Sriganganagar, Rajasthan
4.	Hisar	Hisar, Haryana
5.	Ladhowal	Ludhiana, Punjab
6.	Bahraich	Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh
7.	Rai Bareilly	Rai Bareilly, U.P.
8.	Kokilabari	Barpeta, Assam
9.	Barpeta	Barpeta, Assam
10.	Raichur (Jawalgere)	Raichur, Karnataka
11.	Chengam	Thiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu
12.	Aralam	Kannur, Kerala

Statement II*Statement Showing the Farm-wise Profit/Loss as on 31.3.99*

(Rs. in lakh)

Particulars	Surat-Garh	Sardar-Garh	Jetsar	Hisar	Ladhowal	Bahraich	Raebareilly	Raichur	Chengam	Aralam	Kokilabari (Including Barpeta)
	(Raj.)	(Raj.)	(Raj.)	(Hy.)	(Pub.)	(U.P.)	(U.P.)	(Kar.)	(T.N.)	(Ker.)	(Assam)
Profit/Loss											
1994-95	123.81	39.77	46.00	157.68	3.35	136.03	-30.09	-80.05	-101.56	-39.81	7.83
1995-96	69.97	-0.35	-2.17	163.50	14.26	23.17	-10.55	-101.18	-45.31	10.24	1.57
1996-97	13.15	-164.11	-39.35	34.34	-73.90	42.59	-22.26	-123.86	-77.59	154.10	16.19
1997-98	51.65	-153.72	-44.38	111.69	-42.83	-286.85	-36.03	-139.78	-137.07	-43.73	-44.98
1998-99	-230.52	-255.83	-109.38	165.87	-24.10	-310.12	-29.61	-165.28	-78.47	9.54	-87.81

Statement III

Total Quantity of Foodgrains and Seed Produced during 1998-99 at SFCI Farms

Crop	(Qty. in Qtls.)	
	Total production	Seed production
Paddy	57906	33201
Wheat	118917	87657
Barley	26127	18245
Bajra	147	110
Maize	455	291
Jowar	27	21
Small Millets	29	12
Gram	20711	14467
Moong	2239	1041
Urd	421	198
Arhar	98	70
Lentil	916	504
Rajmash	1752	1229
Others	8	7
Total:	229753	157053

Failure of Crops

1532. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various districts of Bihar State are passing through difficult time due to failure of crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Bihar have requested the Union Government to provide immediate relief to compensate the failure of crops; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities from the allocation under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). Three quarterly instalments of Central share of CRF to the State for 1999-2000 amounting to Rs. 33.79 crore has been released to the State Government. No request for assistance for providing immediate relief to compensate the failure of crops has been received from the Government of Bihar.

[English]

Irrigation Projects in Tripura

1533. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharani, Chakmaghat and Mama Irrigation projects are being executed in the State of Tripura with Central assistance;

(b) if so, the present status, revised cost and time schedule for their completion; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) There is no irrigation project by the name Mama in Tripura. The Detail of Central Loan Assistance released under AIBP to Gumti (Maharani Barrage), and Khowai (Near Chakmaghat) Irrigation

projects of Tripura is given below.

	(Rs. in crore)	
	Gumti	Khowai
CLA release during 96-97	1.560	0.90
CLA release during 97-98	2.200	0.90
CLA release during 98-99	1.850	0.95
CLA release during 99-2000	1.945	1.465

Physical and Financial progress of Gumti (Maharani) and Khowai (Chakmaghat) Irrigation projects of Tripura is given below:

	(Rs. Crore/Th. Ha.)	
	Gumti	Khowai
Latest Estimated Cost	50.00	59.75
Expenditure upto 3/99	32.60	43.23
Outlay for 99-2000	5.19	3.90
Ultimate irrigation Potential	9.80	9.32
Potential created upto 6/99	1.00	0.45

Percentage progress of various components of Gumti (Maharani) and Khowai (Chakmaghat) Irrigation Projects as on 31.3.99 is given below:

S.No.	Component	%age progress	
		Gumti	Khowai
1.	Barrage including Installation of Gates	100	100
2.	Main and Branch Canal	65	27
3.	Distributory system	Nil	Nil
4.	Water courses	Nil	Nil

(c) Completion of these projects will depend upon the priority attached to it by the State Government.

Passport Applications pending in Passport Offices

1534. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI RIZWAN ZAHIR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports issued by each Regional Passport Office during each of last three years and the current year;

(b) the number of applications pending presently with each Regional Passport Office during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any new passport policy called 'Tatkal Passport Scheme' for passport seekers;

(d) if so, the salient features of the above scheme;

(e) whether there is an acute shortage of staff and passport booklet in these offices; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to solve this problem and improve the functioning of passport offices in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) A Statement showing the number of passports issued by each Regional Passport Office as well as applications pending during the last three years and the current year upto 31 October 1999 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Recognising the genuine need of some passport applicants for an out-of-turn issue of passport, the Government is formulating a 'Tatkaal Scheme' for issue of passports within seven days of application. Under the proposed scheme, for an additional fee, passports will be issued on an out-of-turn basis to applicants who can be issued passports on post-police verification basis, e.g. Minors upto 15 years of age; cases of re-issue and duplicate passports where there is no change in address of applicant; all cases where a Verification Certificate from an authorised official is available; and, all employees of Central/State Government, Public Sector Undertaking, Armed Forces and their spouses where NOC from the Head of Department is available.

(e) The volume of work in Passport Offices has grown over the years. While 15.38 lakh passports were issued in 1990, in 1998 22.23 lakh passports were issued. The number of Passport Offices has also grown from 22 to 28 during this period and Passport Collection Centres from two to twelve. However, the staff in the Central Passport Organisation has not had a corresponding increase.

At present there is no shortage of passport booklets at any Passport Office.

(f) Thirty-five posts were created in Group 'A' and 'B', seventy-seven posts were created in Group 'D' and thirty-one posts were abolished in Group 'C' in the Central Passport Organisation in July 1999. A proposal for

creation of more posts is under the consideration of the Government.

Improving the functioning of passport offices in the country is an ongoing and continuous process. It has been Government's constant endeavour to expand and modernise the network of Passport Offices and Collection Centres throughout the country keeping in mind the need to provide prompt and efficient service to the public. Improvements brought about to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of passport offices include the computerisation of 18 of the 28 Passport Offices, introduction of the tele-enquiry system, launch of the Central Passport Organisation Web site, setting up of grievance redressal mechanism in all passport offices, initiating steps for the machine-writing of passport booklet and scanning of index cards etc.

Statement

S.No.	Offices	Passport issued 1996	Applications pending in 1996	Passport issued in 1997	Applications pending in 1997	Passport issued in 1998	Applications Pending in 1998	Passport issued Till 31.10.99	Applications Pending Till 31.10.99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Ahmedabad	127760	16889	143866	19559	153773	19238	132919	30067
2.	Bangalore	105903	6600	90637	20399	98363	31695	106700	13764
3.	Bareilly	33394	5497	44030	14108	44257	23631	31138	40348
4.	Bhopal	18979	3185	25607	3679	32408	3907	31889	4361
5.	Bhubaneswar	7029	3725	8898	8022	11075	4995	10778	6339
6.	Calcutta	62367	11578	72869	7304	72940	11383	70343	10582
7.	Chandigarh	90946	10923	96599	13362	101237	23747	94999	33557
8.	Chennai	134150	18233	140411	22109	134500	36063	112532	40393
9.	Cochin	83107	7914	104522	8941	110022	7535	90595	7938

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10.	Delhi	140904	19455	154652	33753	159584	25147	131511	50648
11.	Ghaziabad	—Passport Office opened in 1998			—	9741	6650	15523	5965
12.	Panaji	14279	713	17522	2200	18304	1172	13543	1843
13.	Guwahati	8169	3128	11251	2511	12859	2966	10735	3677
14.	Hyderabad	176649	30156	236222	31383	195441	33014	146400	57054
15.	Jaipur	47441	8600	58722	14647	60078	25147	54456	33703
16.	Jalandhar	95667	11069	91627	18456	98291	32182	87450	45916
17.	Kozhikode	126400	22368	146181	14041	134133	20610	127070	35981
18.	Lucknow	90156	24311	111291	35316	101646	23224	63417	17534
19.	Mumbai	209835	13217	271556	17044	309985	42069	236969	17534
20.	Nagpur	11792	1457	14282	1007	17689	1512	15069	8864
21.	Patna	44001	9245	53942	6145	59267	5762	41705	13037
22.	Trichy	191752	22769	180283	34378	130775	71007	63542	79323
23.	Trivandaram	73600	11590	88409	11610	82030	13365	73952	15110
24.	Jammu	10499	13131	9600	8475	8899	7889	5073	8505
25.	Srinagar	Passport Office Opened in 1997		900	—	5017	41985	7150	7520
26.	Thane	Passport Office Opened in 1997		7323	1340	9607	1659	7847	4698
27.	Visakhapatnam	Passport Office Opened in 1997		29400		67625	5791	38000	5476
28.	Pune	—	— Passport Office opened in June 1999—				—	4675	6562

*[Translation]***Loan to Food Processing Industries**

1535. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide loans to the food processing industries at concessional rate of interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Plan Schemes being implemented by the Department of Food Processing Industries envisage provision of loan at concessional rate of interest for development of processed food sector. Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of loans being provided to food processing industries at concessional rates under the Plan Scheme of the Department of Food Processing Industries

Beneficiaries	Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), Joint Sector Units and others.
Purpose	Development of Processed Food Sector.
Pattern of Assistance	Varies from scheme to scheme — 50% of the cost of capital equipment and technical civil works generally—75% of the cost of capital equipment & technical civil works in special cases.
Quantum of Assistance	Varies from scheme to scheme—for PSU/Joint Sector Units upto Rs. 150 lakhs in general areas and upto Rs. 200 lakhs in "difficult areas". For Private Sector Units upto Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and upto Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas. However, for meat processing projects, the limit is upto Rs. 75 lakhs in general areas and upto Rs. 100 lakhs in difficult areas.
Difficult Areas	Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, North-Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep and Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) areas.
Rate of Interest	4% per annum
Moratorium	One year
Repayment	5 years

*[English]***Central Sector Projects**

1536. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of central sector projects in Karnataka State which have not been completed despite the fact that their stipulated period of completion was Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) One central sector Project, namely 'Kaiga Atomic Power Project' comprising 2 Units of 220 MW each is under implementation by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) in Karnataka. The Project was originally planned to be commissioned during Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-1997) but could not fructify due to delay in construction of dome for Kaiga Unit 1. Unit 2 has attained criticality in September 1999, and Unit 1 is scheduled to attain criticality during 2000-2001.

[Translation]

Programme for the Farmers

1537. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) The Government is implementing a number of Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes under which farmers are provided various facilities covering supply of inputs and credit, marketing support and mechanization to help the farmers in increasing crop productivity and improve their economic condition. A list of Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes, under which assistance is given to States for the benefit of farmers, is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

List of Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes Implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in States

S.No.	Name of Schemes
1	2
1.	Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice)
2.	Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Wheat)
3.	Integrated Cereals Development Programme—Coarse Cereals.
4.	Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System.
5.	Intensive Cotton Development Programme.
6.	Special Jute Development Programme.
7.	National Pulses Development Project.
8.	Oilseeds Production Programme.
9.	Oil Palm Dev. Programme.
10.	Accelerated Maize Development Programme.
11.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.
12.	Balanced and Integrated use of Fertiliser.
13.	National Project on Development and use of Bio-fertilisers.
14.	Streamlining of certified Seeds production of important Identified Vegetable Crops.
15.	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among Small Farmers.
16.	Strengthening Agricultural Extension in North Eastern States.

1	2
17.	Women in Agriculture.
18.	Farmers Scientists Interaction.
19.	State Land Use Board.
20.	Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects.
21.	Soil Conservation in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers.
22.	Reclamation of Alkali Soils.
23.	Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas.
24.	Development of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants.
25.	Use of Plastics in Agriculture.
26.	Development of Commercial Floriculture.
27.	Development of Mushroom.
28.	Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid Temperate Zone Fruits.
29.	Integrated Development Programme of Cashewnut.
30.	Development of Root & Tuber Crops.
31.	Development of Beekeeping.
32.	Development of Vegetables.
33.	Integrated Development of Cocoa.
34.	Integrated Development of Spices.
35.	Investment in Debentures of LDBs.
36.	Special Scheme for SCs/STs.
37.	Agriculture Credit Stabilisation Fund.
38.	Non-overdue cover scheme.
39.	Assistance to Women's Cooperatives.

1	2
40.	Assistance to Weaker Section Cooperatives.
41.	Timely Reporting Scheme.
42.	Improvement of Crop Statistics.
43.	Establishment of Agency for Crop Estimation Survey on Fruit, Vegetables and Minor Crops/ diagnostic Study.
44.	Livestock Census.
45.	Agricultural Census.

Suggestion of ICAR

1538. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Scientists of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have suggested to the wheat growing farmers to grow some other crop in place of wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the paddy growers had to face a lot of difficulties to sell their produce;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to alleviate their difficulties; and

(e) whether the Government have taken steps to improve the arrangements made for the sale of agricultural produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No, Sir. The ICAR has not made any specific recommendation for replacement of wheat by any other crop. However, it is desirable to have diversified cropping systems for sustainable crop production. Any large scale replacement of wheat by other crop is also not advisable keeping in view the national food security.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State Governments have opened 7980 purchase centres for rabi crops and 5432 centres for kharif crops during the year 1998-99. All foodgrains of Fair Adverage Quality offered by the farmers are procured by the FCI and State Agencies.

[English]

Dialogue on Kashmir Issue with Pakistan

1539. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI GEORGE EDEN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the Pak Premier's statement in June, 1999 that Pakistan was ready to go beyond its stated position on Kashmir, if India resumes a serious dialogue on Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism;

(b) if so, whether any clarification about the above statement sought from Pakistan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any change in Pak's stand particularly cross-border terrorism has come to Government's notice with the take over of Pak Government by the Military Chief;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (f) The military coup in Pakistan has not altered Pakistan's aggressive approach or hostile policies and propaganda towards India. Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere has continued unabated. Pakistani forces have also continued firing across the LOC and the International Border in Jammu & Kashmir.

Government had seen the reports of the statement of June 1999, of the then Pakistan Prime Minister, to the effect that both sides have to go beyond stated positions regarding Jammu & Kashmir. Following the military coup, statements by Pakistani spokesmen indicate that Pakistan's assertions of territorial claims in J & K continue.

The State of J&K is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation. India is committed to resolve all outstanding issues with Pakistan in according with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. We expect Pakistan to demonstrate its adherence to these agreements through its abandonment of cross-border terrorism and hostile propaganda.

France Welcomes India's N-Doctrine

1540. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French and Chinese Governments have welcomed India's nuclear doctrine proposal recently published at the Conference on Disarmament held at Geneva in September 1999;

(b) the details of outcome of the meeting and the extent to which India has defended this doctrine;

(c) the details of other countries who have now changed their views about India's nuclear doctrine;

(d) whether USA and Russia have also agreed to discuss this nuclear doctrine proposal with India; and

(e) if so, the time by which the dialogue between India and other countries who initially opposed India's nuclear doctrine would take place to discuss the implications of this nuclear doctrine?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No proposal for a nuclear doctrine has been made by India at the Conference on Disarmament.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The draft paper "Indian Nuclear Doctrine" prepared by the National Security Advisory Board is one of the inputs submitted to the National Security Council for finalisation of a nuclear doctrine. It is not a government policy document. Some of the reactions to this document are thus based on misperception. The key elements of the Government's nuclear policy have already been conveyed to our interlocutors, including US and Russia, who have expressed a desire to understand our policies and positions better. This is being addressed in our bilateral dialogues.

Distribution of Fund

1541. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to adopt a new formula for distribution of resources among the States under the Employment Assurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the salient features of the new formula; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to be helpful for the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The new formula for distribution of resources among the States under the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) has already become effective from 1.4.1999. As per the new formula, the cost of implementing the EAS is shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25. In the case of Union Territories (UTs), the Centre provides the entire funds under the scheme. The Central share is allocated to the States/UTs on the basis of the proportion of rural poor in a State/UT to the total rural poor in the country, or such other criteria as are decided by the Central Government from time to time.

Development of Fisheries

1542. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new schemes launched/likely to be launched for the development of fishery, during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the assistance provided/likely to be provided to each State under these schemes;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the results of the past schemes launched during the last three years;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Government have drawn any contingency plan to help the cyclone affected fishermen in Orissa; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Two new Schemes, "Development of Capture Fishery Resources" and "Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Hill Regions" are proposed to be launched during the Ninth Plan. These Schemes are yet to be approved for implementation. The total allocations for these schemes during Ninth Plan are Rs. 40.50 crores and Rs. 15.60 crores respectively. Releases to various States will be made depending on their requirement.

(c) No new Schemes have been launched during the last three years.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) It has been decided that for the rehabilitation of cyclone affected fishermen of Orissa, a sum of Rs. 5.00 crores will be sanctioned by the State Government out of the Rs. 500 crores released from the National Fund for Calamity Relief.

Import of Second Defective Steel

1543. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India fast turning into dumping ground for junk steel, tin plates" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated November 9, 1999;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken to check the dumping of junk steel tin plates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government is seized of the matter and is concerned about the increase in import of seconds and defective steel items into the country. In order to restrict their imports the Government has notified minimum import prices for certain steel items including seconds and defective in December, 1998 on the basis of average export prices of these items from non-dumping sources. The floor prices have been revised on the basis of current trend of international steel prices from non-dumping sources with effect from 1.11.99.

Discussion on Kargil in U.N. Assembly

1544. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UN General Assembly have taken note of the India-Pak conflict in Kargil and have moved a resolution condemning Pakistan in the meeting held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for India's failure to get UN support in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Floor Price for Imported Steel

1545. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received to withdraw the import floor price of steel from January 1, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have adequately explored other options for protecting the domestic industry from cheap import of steel;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to put import of seconds/defective junk steel and tin plates in the banned list or restricted list;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) As per Notification No. 31 dated 21.11.99, floor price of prime steel items are due to be withdrawn from 1.1.2000. No representation has recently been received by this office (since 1.1.99) to withdraw the floor price of these items from 1.1.2000.

(c) and (d) The Working Group headed by Shri C.M. Vasudev, Special Secretary (Banking) had suggested various measures to curb cheap imports of steel such as conversion of ad valorem rate of duty into fixed duties, combination of measure comprising levying of special import duty on imports of seconds and defectives alongwith raising the duties upto the WTO bound rates and removal of imports of seconds and defectives below a specified floor price from OGL etc. However, these alternatives were not found feasible and the imposition of floor prices was considered as the only effective alternative available at that time to check cheap imports.

(e) Import of seconds/defectives of steel and tinplates below the specified minimum import price is restricted as per Notification No. 31 dated 1.11.99.

(f) and (g) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

[Translation]

Issue of Nepal Borders

1546. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have raised the issue of surveillance of open borders during the recent visit of King of Nepal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The State Visit of the King of Nepal to India on the occasion of the Republic Day provided the opportunity for a comprehensive review of our bilateral relationship. The need for more effective management of the open India-Nepal border was discussed during the visit. The King responded with sensitivity to our concerns on the misuse of Nepalese territory for activities inimical to India's interest. Both sides expressed their determination to jointly coordinate measures to prevent misuse of the open border between the two countries, while ensuring that the facility remains available for legitimate users. The Government have been following up at the relevant levels to further cooperation with Nepal in this regard.

[English]

Production of Oranges

1547. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of oranges in the country during the last three years and current year also, State-wise;

(b) whether the orange growers in Tripura have been facing problems due to decline in the production of oranges; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to help these orange growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) A statement indicating the available information on

the production of oranges in the country for three years is enclosed.

(b) and (c) No report has been received by the Government on the decline of production of oranges in Tripura. However, the Government is providing assistance to the State Governments including Tripura for taking up rejuvenation measures in senile orchards under the Central Sector Scheme on Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits. Citrus rejuvenation technology has been developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Research Complex for North Eastern Hill Region, Barapani which is suitable for mandarin orchards in Jampui Hill areas of Tripura.

Statement

Production of Oranges in India

S.No.	Name of the State	Production in MT		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	Assam	69787	68527	68527
2.	Himachal Pradesh	3725	8818	7705
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	1062	1199	1289
4.	Karnataka	27000	46608	46608
5.	Madhya Pradesh	142000	149000	157000
6.	Maharashtra	712879	1222858	960817
7.	Mizoram	27728	26068	28681
8.	Nagaland	NA	18458	22426
9.	Orissa	NA	12240	10208
10.	Rajasthan	38397	71480	71480
11.	Sikkim	8500	9000	9500
12.	Tamil Nadu	86503	18236	21600
13.	Tripura	23100	23100	23100
14.	Uttar Pradesh (Hill)	6500	8640	7872
15.	West Bengal	NA	31660	33408
	Others	14565	2200	2180
	Total	1161746	1720092	1472401

Food Processing Unit

1548. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of food processing units operating in both organised and unorganised sector in Karnataka State; and

(b) the financial assistance extended by the Central Government for these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Statewise information is not maintained centrally.

(b) As per information available Rs. 794 lakhs have been provided as soft loan/grant to various units in State/Cooperative/private sectors under various plan schemes of the Department so far.

Innundation of Rivers

1549. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether every year due to inundation of rivers in different parts of the country and resultant increase of water in catchment areas there is large scale loss of human lives and damage to properties;

(b) if so, the details of such rivers; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government to check the inundation of rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Every year during monsoon when excess precipitation occurs in the catchment of major rivers it causes inundation in the river valley causing loss to human lives and damage to properties. Rivers which suffer from floods almost every year are the Ganga and its tributaries, Brahmaputra and its tributaries, Jhelum, Narmada, Tapi, Brahmani, Baitarani, Subarnrekha and Mahanadi causing inundation to the areas in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Orissa.

(c) Flood management works is a State subject and are planned and executed by the States as per their priorities out of their own plan funds allocated by the Planning Commission. Central Government, as per existing procedure, provides technical advice and conducts appraisal of schemes when referred to by the States for their clearance.

Government of India had constituted several Commission/Committee/Task Force/Expert Group on Flood Management, whose recommendations have been sent to the State Governments for its implementation.

For the severe flood prone basins of Ganga and Brahmaputra, the Central Organisations, namely, Ganga Flood Control Commission and Brahmaputra Board have been constituted and they have prepared comprehensive plans for flood management which have been sent to concerned State Governments for formulating detailed schemes and their implementation.

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 damage.

Crop Insurance Scheme for Orissa Farmers

1550. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to cover all the farmers of cyclone affected area of Orissa under crop insurance scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, any other mode of compensation propose to be given to these farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) All farmers who availed crop loans from the rural financial institutions for raising notified crops in the notified areas are covered as per the provisions of the scheme i.e. Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme which was in operation during Kharif 1999 season. All districts affected by the recent cyclone were covered under the scheme. The crops notified by the State for coverage were - Rice, Groundnut, Maize and Nigar.

(c) In the event of occurrence of calamities of rare severity financial assistance in the form of agriculture input subsidy @Rs. 500/- per. ha. to the affected small and marginal farmers is also considered from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR).

Ferry Service Plan with Sri Lanka

1551. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Sri Lanka have started discussing a proposal for a ferry service between Tuticorin Port and Colombo;

(b) if so, whether these proposals were under the consideration of both the Governments during the last one year;

(c) if so, the final decisions arrived at;

(d) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached and signed; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) At the fourth session of the India-Sri Lanka sub-commission on Trade, Finance and Investment held in New Delhi on December 14-15, 1998. Sri Lanka proposed a passenger ferry service between Tuticorin and Colombo; both sides agreed to examine the proposal. No Agreement has been reached on the matter as yet.

Issue of Taliban

1552. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has demanded that the U.N. Security Council and the International community take effective and meaningful measures to prevent Taliban from committing inhuman crimes against Afghanistan people and turning areas under their control into "breeding ground" for international terrorism;

(b) if so, whether India's view in U.N. has been strongly welcomed by all;

(c) if so, whether any steps has been worked out by the U.N. Security Council in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Pakistan's involvement in Afghanistan has also been opposed by India; and

(f) if so, the measures U.N. has taken on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (f) During the debate on the situation in Afghanistan in the Security Council on August 29, 1997, the Indian representative in his statement demanded that the Security Council must take meaningful and effective measures against the Taliban. India's view was also reflected in positions of many countries. Since then the Security Council has adopted Resolution 1267 on October 15, 1999 proposing sanctions against the Taliban. These sanctions have gone into effect on 14th November, 1999. The sanctions include denial of

permission for any aircraft owned, leased or operated by or on behalf of the Taliban to takeoff or land in the territory of any Member State. The sanctions also involve freezing of funds and other financial resources which are owned or controlled directly or indirectly by the Taliban. India has called for cessation of interference in Afghanistan from across the Southern border. The Security Council has also called for cessation of outside interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Letters from NGOs/General Public

1553. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Public Grievances has framed any rule for proper acknowledgement of letter from Non-Government Organisations and general public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government will to ensure proper reply to each letter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) The Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure provides guidelines *vide* para 60 for dealing with the letters received from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament, a member of public, a recognised association or a public body. As per these guidelines each communication is to be replied to within 15 days. However, where some delay is anticipated in sending a final reply, or where the information is to be collected from offices other than the Ministry to which the letter pertains, an interim reply should be sent within a fortnight indicating the possible date by which a final reply can be given.

2. Guidelines also exist under para 122 of the said Manual for keeping a special watch on speedy disposal of communications received from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and a separate register in this regard is required to be maintained in each Section of the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. Further, as per these guidelines/instructions the disposal of such communications is also required to be closely monitored by the Joint Secretary/Director of each wing of a Ministry/Department.

Subsidy for Fertilizers

1554. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the top ten foodgrain producing States in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the consumption of fertilizer by each State during the said period;

(c) the total subsidy granted, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to revise subsidy on fertilizer in view of the comparatively low production of foodgrains in these States;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) Information is given in enclosed Statement I.

(b) Information is given in enclosed Statement II.

(c) The subsidy on fertilisers is paid to the

manufacturers and importers of fertilisers and not to the State Governments. A statement showing subsidy paid during the last three years and the budget allocation in the current year is given below:

Subsidy Paid		(Rs. crores)
Year	Urea (Indigenous & Imported)	Decontrolled fertilisers
1996-97	5906.00	1671.77
1997-98	7321.96	2596.00
1998-99	7696.54	3789.94
1999-2000	8750.00	4500.00
Budget Estimates		

(d) to (f) All major fertilisers, namely, urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP), Single Super Phosphate (SSP) and NPK Complexes are sold to farmers at subsidised rates. The Government bears the subsidy required to enable sale of these fertilisers at the maximum retail prices indicated by the Government.

Statement I

*Top Ten Foodgrain Producing States with Foodgrain Production during last three years***

(in 000' tonnes)		(in 000' tonnes)		(in 000' tonnes)	
State	1996-97	State	1997-98	State	1998-99*
1. Uttar Pradesh	42,385.1	1. Uttar Pradesh	41,828.6	1. Uttar Pradesh	40,955
2. Punjab	21,553.3	2. Punjab	21,148.9	2. Punjab	22,919
3. Madhya Pradesh	19,487.8	3. Madhya Pradesh	17,410.5	3. Madhya Pradesh	19,899
4. Maharashtra	14,602.4	4. West Bengal	14,351.2	4. West Bengal	14,791
5. Bihar	14,417.6	5. Rajasthan	14,033.0	5. Andhra Pradesh	14,501
6. West Bengal	13,756.3	6. Bihar	12,899.0	6. Bihar	12,920
7. Andhra Pradesh	13,675.2	7. Haryana	11,334.7	7. Rajasthan	12,911
8. Rajasthan	12,821.3	8. Andhra Pradesh	10,939.7	8. Maharashtra	12,571
9. Haryana	11,448.0	9. Maharashtra	9,708.7	9. Haryana	12,187
10. Karnataka	9,212.8	10. Karnataka	8,798.7	10. Karnataka	8,852

* Advance Estimate.

** Data for the current year would become available in 2000-2001.

Statement II*Consumption of Fertilisers in Terms of Nutrients (N+P+K)*

(in 000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (Estimated)	1999-2000 Kharif '99 (Estimated)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,768.79	1,694.59	2,007.92	1,104.55
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.55	0.56	0.60	0.17
3.	Assam	55.81	71.25	78.10	64.87
4.	Bihar	785.83	860.47	894.99	497.96
5.	Delhi	23.71	23.76	15.46	8.35
6.	Goa	6.00	6.32	6.93	5.33
7.	Gujarat	813.54	1,027.89	1,019.66	658.46
8.	Haryana	761.46	835.52	838.39	362.65
9.	Himachal Pradesh	34.45	34.85	38.55	18.55
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	43.33	59.90	70.84	44.76
11.	Karnataka	825.88	1,109.23	1,148.79	731.05
12.	Kerala	187.57	219.49	181.49	119.73
13.	Madhya Pradesh	973.11	1,206.12	1,225.74	682.93
14.	Maharashtra	1,329.34	1,604.00	1,661.00	1,084.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Manipur	13.18	13.19	17.09	13.63
16.	Meghalaya	3.43	3.30	4.34	2.33
17.	Mizoram	0.39	0.97	1.15	1.23
18.	Nagaland	0.85	0.57	0.80	0.56
19.	Orissa	250.77	290.83	299.17	343.88
20.	Punjab	1,207.73	1,314.44	1,375.27	651.48
21.	Rajasthan	700.48	787.43	727.13	381.45
22.	Sikkim	0.75	0.83	0.92	0.48
23.	Tamil Nadu	790.99	942.51	950.89	422.99
24.	Tripura	8.62	10.43	9.76	3.84
25.	Uttar Pradesh	2,768.76	3,030.46	3,091.53	15,54.89
26.	West Bengal	896.10	976.11	1,077.94	513.55
Others		56.71	62.79	53.02	30.63
All India		14,308.13	16,187.81	16,797.47	9,304.30

Suspension of Pakistan from U.N. Council Membership

1555. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has supported the United Nation's move to suspend Pakistan, one of its Member from its Council Membership;

(b) if so, whether this kind of act will damage the relationship between the two countries; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to normalise the situation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) There has been no move to suspend Pakistan's membership of the United Nations.

[*Translation*]

Production of Rice

1556. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of rice has been less than the target fixed for the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the actual production of rice during the current year; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to overcome this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) and (b) The target fixed for 1998-99 for rice was 84.20 million tonnes. As against that the production is expected to be 84.74 million tonnes. Thus, the production is likely to be higher than the target.

(c) and (d) According to Advance Estimates, the production of Kharif rice during 1999-2000 is likely to be 74.87 million tonnes. To increase the production and productivity of rice in the country, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in rice Based Cropping System area. Under the programme, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management, improved farm implement. Besides, field demonstration on farmers' holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology.

[*English*]

Reservation Roster

1557. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Personnel and Training has issued Office memorandum to all the Ministries/ Government Organisations/Banks/PSUs/Financial Institutions etc. in light of the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement delivered on March 17, 1997 in which the Court held that the reservation roster applied even to a single post and Scheduled Caste candidate promoted was

valid while disposing of the Civil Appeal No. 2236 of 1997 between Union of India & other versus Brij Lal Thakur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Office memorandum dated 2.7.1997 which also took note of the principles enunciated in the Judgement of the Supreme Court dated 18.9.1996 in the case of Union of India Vs. Madhav, *inter-alia*, provided for reservation by rule of rotation in single post cadres. The same principles were reiterated in the Supreme Court Judgement in the Brij Lal Thakur case.

[*Translation*]

Vacant Posts of SC/ST

1558. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some posts of SCs/STs under various categories are lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various categories of employees working in these departments and undertakings under his ministry have been given promotion and fresh recruitment were made during the last three years;

(d) if so, category-wise details of fresh recruitment made during each of the last three years;

(e) whether the recruitment and promotions of persons belong to SCs/STs categories were made as per the rules in this regard; and

(f) if not, the action taken by the Ministry to fill up the reserved vacant posts of various categories and made promotions of the persons belonging to the SCs/STs as per the rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

MPLAD Scheme

1559. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds released for the Members of Parliament from Haryana under the MPLAD Scheme as on 30.11.1999 for the year 1999-2000 and the time by which the remaining funds are likely to be released;

(b) the details of amount of the funds remaining unutilized out of the funds released under the above scheme during 1998-99;

(c) whether the Government propose to enhance the present limit from Rs. 2 crores to Rs. 3 crores under the above scheme;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(e) if not, whether the Government have any plan to create Goodwill Fund from the MPLAD amount; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) An amount of Rs. 200 lakhs has been released for the MPs from Haryana under the MPLAD Scheme as on 30.11.1999 for the year 1999-2000. Funds for the year 1999-2000 will be released to those MPs in

whose case the unsanctioned balance against the funds released upto 1998-99 will be reported to be below Rs. 50 lakh by the concerned District Collector.

(b) Upto 31.3.1999, an amount of Rs. 231540.3 lakh had reportedly been incurred against an aggregate amount of Rs. 362638.5 lakhs released to the States/UTs, since inception of the MPLAD Scheme beginning 1993-94.

(c) There is no proposal to enhance the present limit of Rs. 2 crores to Rs. 3 crores under the MPLAD Scheme.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no proposal to create a goodwill fund from the MPLADS amount.

(f) Does not arise.

Facilities for Bidi Workers

1560. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Bidi workers, State-wise;

(b) whether they are covered under ESI or any other health insurance scheme;

(c) whether they are also covered under Provident Fund facilities; and

(d) the other measures taken for the welfare of these workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) A statement I indicating the estimated number of beedi workers in the country, State-wise, is attached.

(b) to (d) The Government is implementing various schemes in the fields of Health, Housing, Education, Recreation and Social Security under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund, for the welfare of Beedi workers and their dependants. A list of such schemes is attached as Statement II. The beedi workers are also covered under the ESI Scheme and the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme wherever the conditions apply.

Statement I

Sl. No	Name of the State	Total No. of Beedi Workers Estimated at present
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6,25,000
2.	Assam	7,725
3.	Bihar	3,91,500
4.	Gujarat	50,000
5.	Karnataka	3,60,000
6.	Kerala	1,36,416
7.	Madhya Pradesh	7,50,000
8.	Maharashtra	2,56,000
9.	Orissa	1,60,000
10.	Rajasthan	1,00,000
11.	Tripura	5,000
12.	Tamil Nadu	6,21,000
13.	Uttar Pradesh	4,50,000
14.	West Bengal	4,87,000
Total		43,99,644

Statement II**A. HEALTH:**

1. Static-cum-Mobile/Static Allopathic and Static Ayurvedic Dispensaries.
2. Scheme for Reservation of Beds in T.B. Hospitals.
3. Scheme for Domiciliary Treatment of beedi workers suffering from T.B.
4. Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers suffering from Cancer.
5. Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers suffering from Mental Diseases.
6. Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers (including Gharkhata Workers) suffering from Leprosy.

7. Grant of Financial Assistance to Beedi Workers for purchase of Spectacles.
8. Maternity Benefit Scheme for Female Beedi Workers.
9. Scheme for payment of Monetary Compensation for Sterilisation to Beedi Workers.
10. Re-imbursment of expenditure as financial assistance to Beedi Workers in respect of Heart Diseases.
11. Re-imbursment of expenditure as financial assistance to Beedi Workers in respect of Kidney Transplantation.

B. SOCIAL SECURITY:

1. Group Insurance Scheme.

C. HOUSING:

1. Build your Own House Scheme.
2. Housing Scheme for Economically Weaker Section of Beedi Workers.
3. Grant of subsidy to Co-operative Societies of Beedi Industry for construction of worksheds and godowns.
4. Group Housing Scheme.

D. EDUCATION:

1. Award of Scholarship to the Children of Beedi Workers (including Gharkhata Beedi Workers).
2. Composite Scheme for Financial Assistance to the School going children of Beedi Workers for supply of one set of dress, slates, note books and text books.
3. Payment of incentives on passing final University/ Board examinations from High School onwards.
4. Scheme to provide incentive/financial assistance of Re. 1/- to female children of Beedi Workers, on the basis of attendance in schools.

E. RECREATION:

1. Establishment of Audio-Visual Sets/Cinema Vans/ Exhibition of Films.

2. Organising sports, games, social and cultural activities for Beedi Workers.
3. Holiday Home Scheme for Beedi Workers.
4. Supply of T.V. Sets to the Beedi Workers Industrial Co-operative Societies.
5. Establishment of Community Hall in Beedi Workers Housing Colony with colour T.V. Set.

Employees Provident Fund

1561. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Employees Provident Fund (EPF) can be invested as per the pattern provided for in the Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952 but the same is being invested in violation of those provisions;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to check the same; and

(c) the details of the sphere in which EPF has been invested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Employees' Provident Fund money is being invested as per the provisions of the Employees Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. As such the question of making violation of the provisions of the Act in this regard does not arise.

(c) Under the prescribed pattern of investment, 40% of the investible surplus of EPF money is required to be invested in the Central/State Government securities, 40% in the banks, public financial institutions (PFIs) including Infrastructure Development Finance Company Ltd. (IDFC) and the remaining 20% has been left for investment at the discretion of the Board of Trustees either in Government securities or in the banks, PFI bonds, IDFC etc.

MPLADS

1562. SHRI BALBIR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to cut-down the unbridled and arbitrary powers of District Collectors in selecting and implementing Projects/Schemes under the Members Local Area Development Scheme; and

(b) if so, steps being taken to check the delay in providing funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Under the MPLAD Scheme, only the Member of Parliament can recommend works for implementation under the Scheme. The District Collector is required to implement the works recommended by the concerned MP, in accordance with the guidelines on MPLADS.

(b) All the State Governments have been requested to issue instruction to all the District Collectors to sanction works expeditiously and send report to this Ministry for release of funds.

[Translation]

Security Risk from Pakistan

1563. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the security risk of India has further increased due to army coup in Pakistan; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government in view of this situation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) With the recent military take over in Pakistan, it is now effectively under martial law. We are concerned about these developments and the direction in which they are moving. We are monitoring the situation closely.

India's policy towards Pakistan has remained consistent and principled. We wish to develop friendly and cooperative ties which are based on mutual trust and confidence. For this purpose, we began the composite dialogue process which sought to establish a stable structure of cooperation, address all outstanding issues and create trust and confidence. To reinforce this process, Prime Minister took the initiative of visiting Lahore in February of this year. The recent aggression by Pakistan, in the Kargil sector of the State of Jammu & Kashmir, was a violation of the trust that we sought to build. Pakistan needs to create a positive environment and

rebuild this trust by stopping its sponsorship of terrorism and halting hostile propaganda against India. Government will continue to take all necessary steps to safeguard India's security.

[English]

Production of Mushroom

1564. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMÀRIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mushroom cultivation is being encouraged as a part of the diversification programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where mushroom cultivation is being undertaken at present;

(d) the details of assistance provided to each State to promote mushroom cultivation during each of the last three years;

(e) whether any target has been fixed by the Union Government for production and export of mushroom during the Ninth Five Year Plan period; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Central Sector Scheme to promote mushroom cultivation in India was launched during the VIII Five Year Plan which continued during 1997-98 and 1998-99. For the remaining period of the IX Five Year Plan the scheme has been approved with focus on

integrated development of mushroom. The approved scheme has the following components:

(1) Integrated Mushroom Development Centre

(a) pasteurised compost unit

(b) spawn production unit

(c) training unit

(d) processing unit

(2) Training of farmers

(3) Workshop

Research programmes on mushroom are being conducted at the National Research Centre for Mushroom, Solan to improve the technology and to diversify the cultivation of other edible mushrooms. Besides this, Department of Food Processing Industry, APEDA and NHB also provide assistance for the development of mushroom under their schemes related to horticulture.

(c) Presently, mushroom is being cultivated in almost all the States of India particularly in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, U.P., Tamil Nadu, J&K and Karnataka.

(d) A Statement is enclosed.

(e) and (f) No specific target has been fixed by the Union Government for the production and export of mushroom during the IX Five Year Plan. However, as per the estimates of the National Research Centre for Mushroom, Solan mushroom production during 1996-97 was 40,000 MT and is expected to cross 1 lakh tonnes by the year 2002.

Statement

Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Integrated Development of Mushroom

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State	Release 1997-98	Release 1998-99	Allocation 1999-2000
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	5.00
Arunachal Pradesh	21.60	8.75	6.00

1	2	3	4
Assam	9.85	0.00	4.00
Bihar	7.10	65.90	17.00
Goa	0.00	0.00	42.67
Gujarat	0.00	0.00	44.67
Haryana	3.20	3.00	5.00
Himachal Pradesh	0.00	36.77	6.00
Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	12.00
Karnataka	0.00	37.00	8.00
Kerala	1.50	21.00	10.00
Madhya Pradesh	0.00	1.50	5.00
Maharashtra	1.50	0.00	5.00
Manipur	41.60	0.00	3.00
Meghalaya	6.50	0.00	12.00
Mizoram	0.00	4.00	2.00
Nagaland	13.00	4.00	39.67
Orissa	41.00	2.00	5.00

1	2	3	4
Punjab	40.00	0.00	6.00
Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	3.00
Tamil Nadu	1.00	8.50	5.00
Tripura	6.05	5.50	3.00
Uttar Pradesh	49.96	0.00	139.99
West Bengal	0.00	0.00	3.00
Sikkim	11.50	0.00	3.00
Delhi	40.00	0.00	5.00
Total	295.46	197.92	400.00

Indian Fishermen in Pakistan Jail

1565. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Fishermen of different States are in Pakistan jail, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for their release?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) As per available information, the State-wise figures of Indian fishermen believed to be under detention in Pakistan, are as follows:

Daman & Diu	24
Gujarat	24
Tamil Nadu	19

(b) We have consistently urged Pakistan that fishermen held in custody should be released and

repatriated without delay. During official level discussions held with Pakistan on 5-6 March, 1999, at our initiative, it was agreed that fishermen, who inadvertently stray into each other's territorial waters, should be released expeditiously along with their boats after necessary investigations have been completed and on availability of travel documents. The matter is being pursued by the Government with Pakistan for securing the release of these fishermen and it is our hope and expectation that these fishermen will be released by Pakistan at the earliest.

[Translation]

O.M.s on Reservation

1566. DR. BALIRAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the five letters issued by the Department of Personnel and Training such as letter (1) No. 20011/

1/99, dated 30.1.99, (2) No. 36012/21/96, dated 22.7.97, (3) No. 36012/23/96, dated 22.7.97, (4) No. 36012/18/95, dated 13.8.97 and (5) No. 36012/5/97 dated 29.8.97 respectively have given a big blow to the interest of the employees belonging to SC/ST category;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the resentment arisen among the people belonging to SC/ST category due to above circulars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Office Memorandum dated 13.8.97 was meant to continue the then existing policy of reservation in promotion beyond 15.11.97 on the basis of Article 16 (4A) of the Constitution. The remaining four office memoranda were issued in implementation of the various Supreme Court judgements.

(c) In accordance with the statement made by the Prime Minister in Lok Sabha on March 18, 1999, the reiew of these office memoranda is under-way. The progress, therefore, involves examination of the relevant issues from legal and constitutional angles.

Varieties of Seeds

1567. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of various varieties of seeds produced in various States during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether imported seeds are used in the country during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether foreign companies are selling seeds in the country with the prior permission of the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantum, varieties and the price of seeds; and

(f) if so, the measures taken by the Union Government to provide assistance for producing these seeds in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The details of availability of various varieties of seeds in all the States during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given below:

(Quantity in lakh Qtls.)			
Crop	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Cereals	62.48	67.97	73.81
Pulses	5.85	5.96	6.01
Oilseeds	15.74	18.34	16.85
Fibres & Others	6.69	7.48	7.72
Total	90.76	99.75	104.39

Statewise break-up is given in enclosed Statement I.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The details are enclosed as Statement II.

(d) Yes, Sir. Foreign companies are permitted to sell and distribute the seed in the country after obtaining a licence from the concerned State Government under Clause 3 of the Seed (Control) Order, 1983.

(e) The quantum, varieties and the price of seeds are being monitored by the State Governments/Union Territories.

(f) The import of seeds is governed by the New Policy on Seed Development, 1988. Under this policy, for purposes of research and trial, small quantities of Oilseeds, Pulses, Fodder and Cereals are allowed to be imported. Bulk import of seeds of a new variety, that has performed satisfactorily in ICAR trials, are allowed only for a period of two years. Within the period of two years the importer must make arrangement for commercial multiplication of the seed in India through parental lines or breeder seeds. Bulk imports are not permitted beyond a period of two years. No assistance is being provided for production of imported seed.

Statement I

The details of availability of various varieties of seeds in all the States during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 & 1998-99

(Qty. in lakh Qtls.)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Andhra Pradesh	22.18	25.58	23.95
Assam	1.35	1.15	0.99
Bihar	4.12	4.18	5.28
Gujarat	4.51	4.93	5.30
Haryana	4.72	4.37	4.36
Himachal Pradesh	0.54	0.51	0.60
Jammu & Kashmir	0.72	0.76	0.67
Karnataka	5.71	4.60	5.78
Kerala	0.47	0.39	2.32
Madhya Pradesh	6.35	6.57	6.85
Maharashtra	8.24	9.40	9.89
Orissa	1.88	4.92	7.06
Punjab	2.77	2.53	3.65
Rajasthan	4.59	4.49	4.64
Tamil Nadu	3.37	4.33	4.34
Uttar Pradesh	11.80	13.71	14.81
West Bengal	6.37	6.77	6.17
Others*	1.07	0.76	0.73
Total	90.76	99.75	104.9

* Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Pondicherry, Sikkim and Tripura.

Statement II

*Particulars of seeds/planting materials recommended by the EXIM Committee
of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation*

S.No.	Crop/Variety	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Strawberry cuttings/plants	7.05 lakh Nos.	15 lakh	5 lakh
2.	Grape cuttings	55,500 Nos.	80,000 Nos.	15,400 Nos.
3.	Apple grafts	310 Nos.	519 Nos.	—
4.	Walnut	420 Nos.	—	—
5.	Cherry Blossam	200 Nos.	—	—
6.	Oil Palm Sprouts	26.35 lakh Nos.	16.5 lakh	5.5 lakh
7.	Orchids	6250 No.	—	—
8.	Jojoba seeds	8 Qtls.	20 Qtls.	—
9.	Sorghum	2 Qtls.	—	—
10.	Hybrid Sunflower	9.23 Qtls.	—	—
11.	Hybrid Rapeseed	3 Qtls.	30 Qtls.	—
12.	Hybrid Maize	4.18 Qtls.	2.41 Qtls.	5.83 Qtls.
13.	Peas	5 Qtls.	—	2.5 Qtls.
14.	Cycus	0.25 Qtls.	—	—
15.	Papaya	—	0.30 Qtls.	—
16.	Citrus graft	—	1,250 Nos.	—

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Banana	—	12,500 Nos.	—
18.	Soyabean	—	1.35 Qtls.	2.5 Qtls.
19.	Bajra	—	0.20 Qtls.	—
20.	Groundnut	—	0.20 Qtls.	—
21.	Avocado	—	—	150 Nos.
22.	Jute	—	—	3 Qtls.
23.	Hybrid Rice	—	0.03 Qtls.	0.18 Qtls.
24.	Grasses seed	—	—	73.75 Qtls.
25.	Berseem	—	—	0.25 Qtls.

[English]

Japan Discuss India's Nuclear Issue

1568. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Japan had discussed India's current approach to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty for the first time and the nuclear doctrine;

(b) if so, whether the Japan Government has been convinced by India's stand on both these issues;

(c) if so, whether there is a greater understanding between India and Japan on the nuclear issue; and

(d) if so, the details of areas on which Japan has now agreed to lift the sanctions imposed against India after the nuclear explosion and provide help and assistance to India by providing loan for various projects?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) During the recent visit of

the External Affairs Minister to Tokyo from November 23-26, 1999, undertaken at the invitation of his Japanese counterpart, discussions took place, *inter alia*, regarding India's approach to the CTBT and the draft nuclear doctrine. These subjects have also been discussed earlier on various occasions. There is now a better appreciation of India's security concerns and the restraint that it has exercised.

(d) The Japanese official position is that they will "review" the sanctions after India signs the CTBT.

Black Marketing of DMS Milk

1569. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the price of DMS milk so that it can be sold on par with the milk of Mother Dairy and save the DMS from financial losses;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of authorised DMS milk vendors suspended/blacklisted for diversion of milk into blackmarket?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The upward revision in the selling price of DMS milk has been considered on several occasions but no decision was taken.

(c) During the period between March, 1997 to November, 1999, the DMS has cancelled 171 authorisations of Home Delivery Agents for over-charging from the consumers.

[Translation]

Unemployment Insurance Scheme

1570. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Unemployment Insurance for the unemployed persons was started by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of unemployed persons benefited by the said scheme during 1998 and whether any target was fixed in 1999; and

(d) the steps taken to achieve the target for 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) A copy to the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the note (Hindi and English versions) on the Developmental Activities and Achievements of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 1998-99.

(iv) A copy of the comments (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board on the Audit Report on the Accounts of the Board for the year 1998-99.

(v) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 514/99]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Water and Power Consultancy Services (I) Ltd. and the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 515/99]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): 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:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 516/99]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Refractories Limited, Bokaro, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Refractories Limited, Bokaro, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 517/99]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 518/99]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Manganese Ore (India) Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 519/99]

- (3) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India — Union Government (Commercial) (No. 6 of 1999) — Steel Authority of India Limited for the year ended March, 1998, under article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 520/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-Danish Tool Room, Jamshedpur, for the year 1998-99 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo-Danish Tool Room, Jamshedpur, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 521/99]

- (2) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics Service and Training Centre, Nanital, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics Service and Training Centre, Nanital, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 522/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 523/99]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 524/99]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 525/99]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, Allahabad, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, Allahabad, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 526/99]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Atomic Energy Education Society, Mumbai for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Atomic Energy Education Society, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 527/99]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 528/99]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 529/99]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, 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 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 530/99]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the table —

- (1) A copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Eighth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Lok Sabha—

EIGHTH LOK SABHA

- (i) Statement No. XXXII Seventh Session, 1986

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 531/99]

- (ii) Statement No. XLII Ninth Session, 1987

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 532/99]

- (iii) Statement No. XLIII Thirteenth Session, 1989

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 533/99]

TENTH LOK SABHA

- (iv) Statement No. XXXII Fifth Session, 1992

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 534/99]

- (v) Statement No. XXXV Sixth Session, 1993

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 535/99]

- (vi) Statement No. XXX Seventh Session, 1993

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 536/99]

- (vii) Statement No. XXX Eighth Session, 1993

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 537/99]

- (viii) Statement No. XXVIII Ninth Session, 1994

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 538/99]

- (ix) Statement No. XXIII Eleventh Session, 1994

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 539/99]

- (x) Statement No. XXII Twelfth Session, 1994

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 540/99]

- (xi) Statement No. XX Thirteenth Session, 1995

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 541/99]

- (xii) Statement No. XVII Fourteenth Session, 1995

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 542/99]

- (xiii) Statement No. XIV Fifteenth Session, 1995

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 543/99]

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

- (xiv) Statement No. XII Second Session, 1996

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 544/99]

- (xv) Statement No. XI Third Session, 1996

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 545/99]

- (xvi) Statement No. X Fourth Session, 1997

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 546/99]

- (xvii) Statement No. VIII Fifth Session, 1997

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 547/99]

- (xviii) Statement No. VIII Sixth Session, 1997

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 548/99]

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

- (xix) Statement No. VI First Session, 1998

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 549/99]

- (xx) Statement No. VI Second Session, 1998

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 550/99]

- (xxi) Statement No. III Third Session, 1998

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 551/99]

- (xxii) Statement No. II Fourth Session, 1999

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 552/99]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Passports (Amendment) Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 516(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 1999, under sub-section (3) of section 24 of the Passports Act, 1967.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 553/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): On behalf of Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana Rao, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1991-92.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1991-92, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 554/99]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh State Agrp Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1992-93.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 555/99]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1993-94.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation

Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 556/99]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1994-95.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 557/99]

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 558/99]

(f) (i) Review by the Government of working of the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1993-94.

(ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 559/99]

(g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1994-95.

(ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 560/99]

(h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 561/99]

(i) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 562/99]

(j) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1993-94.

(ii) Annual Report of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 563/99]

(k) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1994-95.

(ii) Annual Report of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 564/99]

(l) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 565/99]

- (m) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 566/99]

- (n) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Uttar Pradesh State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Uttar Pradesh State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 567/99]

- (o) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 568/99]

- (p) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 569/99]

- (q) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Tamil Nadu Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Tamil Nadu Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 570/99]

- (r) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Ahmedabad, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Ahmedabad, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Eighteen Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 571/99]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Veterinary Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Veterinary Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 572/99]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (i) Statement regarding review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Dairy Development Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the years 1992-93 to 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Dairy Development Corporation Ltd., Bangalore, for the years 1992-93 to 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 573/99]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

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

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 7th December, 1999, agreed without any amendment to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd December, 1999."

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

THIRD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF WTO AT SEATTLE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the statement to be made by Shri Murasoli Maran.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): Hon. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Members are aware, the Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation was held at Seattle from 30th November to 3rd December, 1999. This Conference assumed importance and attracted wide publicity and attention because of the efforts by a significant number of Member countries to seek an endorsement from this Conference for the proposal to launch a comprehensive round of negotiations covering a wide range of subjects including proposal to link trade with labour issues through this Conference.

The Indian Delegation was led by me. I had the privilege of having hon. Members of Parliament, Thiru Biplab Dasgupta, Thiru Kamal Nath and Thiru Yerrannaidu in the Delegation. There were many demonstrations before and during the period of Conference by several interest groups. In fact, the inaugural function scheduled for the forenoon of 30th November, 1999 had to be abandoned. However, under police protection, the Plenary Session began in the afternoon of 30th November, 1999, and I made our country statement in the Plenary Session on the evening of 30th November, 1999.

As part of the consultation process, meeting of SAARC at the official level and G-15 members at the Ministerial level were held. On the margins of the Ministerial Conference, I held a number of bilateral meetings with the leaders of many delegations, including those of European Commission, United Kingdom, Indonesia, Sweden, Colombia, South Africa, Japan, China, Nepal and Bhutan.

As part of the Conference process, working groups were formed to discuss in depth the various subjects including agriculture, market access, implementation and other issues and arrive at consensus-based recommendations relating to negotiating mandate or decisions as the case may be. We participated effectively in the deliberations of all the groups and articulated our position on various issues. We effectively opposed the inclusion of non-trade issues like labour standards in the agenda of WTO. This was fully in line with the Prime Minister's statement made in the Lok Sabha on 1.12.1999.

As no consensus-based conclusion could be reached on most of the issues before the Ministerial Conference, no declaration was finalised and issued. In the light of this, the work of the Ministerial Conference has been suspended. The Chairperson in her statement in the closing Plenary Session indicated that the director General, WTO, will hold consultation with Member countries and make a proposal for resuming the work of the Ministerial Conference. The Chairperson also stated:

"During this time, the Director General can consult with delegations and discuss creative ways in which we might bridge the remaining areas in which consensus does not yet exist, develop and improved process which is both efficient and fully inclusive, and prepare the way for successful conclusion. The Ministerial will then resume its work."

It is, however, expected that the mandated negotiations under the provisions of the Agreement on Agriculture and the General Agreement on Trade in Services, will take place as scheduled with effect from 1.1.2000. The mandated reviews under the various WTO Agreements are also expected to be undertaken as per the time schedule provided under the respective WTO agreements.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (*Guna*): Sir, I would like to make a very important point. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Today, I will call everyone. You please resume your seat. ...(*Interruptions*)

12.06 hrs.

RE : QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

[*English*]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (*Guna*): This is tantamount to grave impropriety on the part of the hon. Prime Minister. It has been reported that two Ministers, yesterday, resigned on the floor of the House, and their resignations were in the hands of the Prime Minister before he made the statement, totally sidestepping all issues of morality and propriety and seeking to hide behind the law. A few minutes later, he shared this information, which was available with him before he made the statement, with members of the Media outside the House. If this sequence of events is correct, then this is

tantamount to insulting the House, to treating the House in the most casual manner, and it is a contempt of the House. My colleague, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, has already given a notice for moving a motion of Privilege. We would like to know exactly what your verdict is on this, and how it is going to be treated because if this is allowed to pass, if this sequence of events is correct, then I do not think anyone will treat this House very seriously, especially coming from the august Chair of the hon. Prime Minister. We would like to have your reaction on this.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (*Miryalguda*): Sir, yesterday, our hon. Prime Minister has taken an astounding legalistic position. In his statement, he asserted that anybody against whom charges are filed by the police will not necessarily be disqualified for the office of Minister. Second, he went a step further, and deliberately so, and said that even when the charges are framed by the court, that person will not be disqualified. In other words, he is taking future care of the Ministers who are today under a cloud. I would like the hon. Prime Minister to tell us whether, in his knowledge, a single person facing charge-sheet anywhere in the country was allowed to remain a Minister in the last 50 years. Did not the Prime Minister set up new norms? Did he not enunciate a new dangerous doctrine of public conduct or public misconduct? The question is, is it proper on the part of the Prime Minister?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (*Silchar*): Sir, when a Member gives a privilege motion, the convention in the House is that it gets the first priority during the 'Zero Hour'. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (*Munghyr*): The same question is being raised for the past three days. ...(*Interruptions*) We should also get a chance to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that they have given a notice.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No. They have given a notice. Please understand this.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: How long, the same question will continued to be discussed in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members please take your seats. They have given a notice.

Yes, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You resume your seat, please.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the decision has been arrived at your level?
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev is speaking.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, shall I speak on my Privilege Motion? I can speak tomorrow also.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have given a notice for a Privilege Motion. You can speak on it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has given a notice for Privilege Motion.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: How long will it continue. It is wrong. They are wasting the time of the House. ... (Interruptions)

English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please understand that they have given a notice for a Privilege Motion. Priority should be given to the Privilege Motion.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please, sit down. What is this? Yes, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I gave the notice for my Privilege Motion under rule 223 pertaining to the statement of the hon. Prime Minister made to the Press, when he was going to attend a Cabinet meeting, after the debate on the subject in the House was over.

Sir, it was telecast in various electronic media that the hon. Prime Minister told the Media that two of his Ministers had submitted their resignations but he did not accept those. That is his privilege. But he has set a precedent in the debate when he said that it was his privilege as to whether he would include a tainted Minister or a Minister charged with criminal offences.
...(Interruptions) I do not challenge that. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Sir, how is he speaking? He is using offensive words. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Why are you getting excited? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take you seat.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, my pointed question is, do you not think that it is the privilege of this House to know from the hon. Prime Minister the fact that he received two resignation letters? He kept one of them in his pocket and put another below the file and then went outside the House and disclosed it to the Media.

The hon. Prime Minister had been such a successful parliamentarian in the past; and he was conferred the best parliamentarian award also. But, what is he doing? Please tell us. I have all respect for him. He is a lovable person. He is a respected man and he should not create such a precedent in the House just to protect two of his Ministers. He can get better people there. He can easily fill up the posts.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Only Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev can... (Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: He can take anybody. The hon. Prime Minister should reply to this... (Interruptions) Hon. Prime Minister I want to know... (Interruptions) Sir, he is not listening.

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, please understand that you have not given the notice for the Privilege Motion to the hon. Prime Minister. You have given it to the Speaker. You should address the Chair. You are a senior Member. *..(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I am sorry for that, Sir.

Sir, my request is that you kindly verify from the hon. Prime Minister as to when he received the resignations. Did he receive them during the debate on the subject yesterday? If so, why did he not divulge it in the House and why did he reveal it outside? This is my pointed question.

MR. SPEAKER: Anything from the Prime Minister?

..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have allowed to raise 'Privilege Motion'. What Shri Madhavrao Scindia and Shri Jaipal Reddy have said. *..(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a privilege matter. Please take your seat.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I want to say something on this, Sir. *..(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand the issue. This is a privilege matter and the Chair has to give its observation on this. Please take your seat.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev has given the privilege notice, not you. Please take your seat.

As for the Chair's observation, it is well-established that no privilege of Parliament is involved if statements on matters of public interest are not first made in the House and are made outside.

..(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Please hear me first.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has asked the Chair for a ruling. When the Chair is giving its observation, it should not be objected to.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the Prime Minister is sitting here. You can ask him to respond. *..(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, let the Prime Minister respond in this regard. *..(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand the issue. The privilege notice is given to the Speaker, not to the Prime Minister.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, let the Prime Minister reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, please take your seat. This is not a good practice.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhavrao Scindia, please understand the situation. This is not a good practice. Privilege notice is given to the Speaker.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We are only requesting the Prime Minister to respond, Sir. *..(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, you are a senior Member. Please understand the issue. You should not disturb the Chair when it is making an observation.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Sir, with due respect to the Chair, I would say that the Prime Minister should react to this.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, this is not good. Please take your seat.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, have you verified the facts before making your observation on the notice? You must find out from the Prime Minister if he had received the resignations or not before you give your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: I have verified the facts in regard to the privilege notice given by the Member.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, with due respect to the Chair I request you to verify the position from the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is here. He should respond when an issue is raised on the floor of the House. I have been taught these lessons by Shri Vajpayee himself.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Aiyar, you are not giving due respect to the Chair?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, the Prime Minister must tell us what happened actually. Had he received the resignations on the floor of the House, or not? He must tell us that. If he had received them on the floor of the House before making his statement, then it tantamounts to breach of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Scindia, please understand the situation. When the Chair is making an observation, you should not disturb him like this.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is against the conventions and rules of the House. ..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a ruling. This is an observation. Please understand.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing even me to make my observations? What is this?

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: As a matter of fact, even making of announcements regarding policy decisions of Government outside the House while the House is in Session, does not involve any breach of privilege and contempt of the House. I therefore, withhold my consent to the notice of privilege given by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri K.K. Kaliappan.

..(Interruptions)

12.22 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Madhavrao Scindia and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, the matter is over now.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am not referring to your ruling. The question that was raised was not of announcement of any policy decision outside the House. The question was of disclosure of information within the possession of the hon. Prime Minister. That is the question..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, it is over now.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am not questioning your ruling. What I am seeking is a clarification for future, so that we can also know how to conduct ourselves in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, it is already over, please.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We want to know whether the hon. Ministers including the hon. Prime Minister can divulge half of the information in their possession..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, please take your seat. It is already over.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: All that information is relevant..(Interruptions) Then, in future, I have to suspect that every Minister would be keeping half the information to himself..(Interruptions)... This is for future working of Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, please take your seat.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am requesting you to lay down norms for that. I am not questioning your ruling...(*Interruptions*)... I am saying that kindly lay down the norms as to whether a Minister can divulge a part of information here and keep a part of information for utilization outside the House...(*Interruptions*)...Sir, this is a basic question. I am requesting you to kindly guide us...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, kindly give us this guidance as to how far we have to decide in future...(*Interruptions*)... In future, if any Minister does not disclose everything then we have nothing to catch hold of him...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, the ruling is clear.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Shankar Prasad Jaiswal says.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Shankar Prasad Jaiswal.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the students in Patna burnt the effigy of the vice-Chancellor Shri Nazar Ahsan on Monday in order to express their resentment over giving first position in the M.B.B.S. examination to Meesa Bharati, the daughter of Lalu Yadavji and Rabri Deviji. This kind of interference and pressure by Shri Lalu Yadav and Rabri Devi in the education system and help attain the top slot for their daughter is improper. Therefore, I demand for its investigation by the Government. Students are agitated there. Movement is going on in Patna University and the whole education system has come to a standstill there, hence there is a need for a judicial inquiry in it...(*Interruptions*) Enquiry should be conducted there and action should be taken in this regard...(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I walk-out from the House as disrespect has been shown to the House.

12.24 hrs.

Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh then left the House.

[*English*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House in respect of a matter which is of vital importance. It has been

reported that there is a move by the Central Government to ban the State-run lotteries. If it is done, it would detrimentally affect the interests of all the States and especially, Kerala. In most of the States, the lotteries are being conducted by the respective States themselves. In Kerala, it was started in 1967, and there is a separate Department with Directorate of State Lotteries which is dealing with it. It is giving employment to thousands of unemployed people including handicapped persons...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. Kindly allow him to make his point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, it has been reported that the Central Government is taking a move to ban all lotteries whether it is run by the States or private parties. The Central Government should allow the State-run lotteries to continue. I do not argue for the lotteries run by private parties.

Therefore, Sir, I request the Central Government that they should not proceed further in the matter to ban the State-run lotteries. It is a State subject and the States are empowered to run lotteries according to the provisions of the Constitution of India. The State Government lotteries are being run in a perfect manner.

The hon. Finance Minister may kindly respond as to whether there is any move to ban the State-run lotteries. If it is so, I request that kindly do not do it because it will be detrimental to the interests of the people.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NAGMANI (Chatra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Members have been levelling allegations against Misa Bharati which we will not tolerate...(*Interruptions*) They start naming Lalu Yadavji, Misa Bharati in every thing...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanji, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not right...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Your name too, will be called, first you resume your seat.

*SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN (Gobichettipalayam): Hon'ble Speaker Sir, at the outset I would like to thank you and our leader and the General Secretary of our party AIADMK and the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi who have enabled me to speak in this august House.

*Not recorded.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri K.K. Kaliappan]

I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the sorry plight of the handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu especially in my constituency Gobichettipalayam.

Bhavani, Sathiamangalam, Nambiyur, Bhavanisagar, Perundurai, Oothukkuli, Puliyangudi, Thottapalayam are the places in my constituency in which there live about one and a half lakhs of weavers and most of them are traditional artisans.

In the recent times, due to the new textile policy of this Government, handloom weavers have been put to great hardship. This has resulted in the decline of this industry. Handloom sector has not got protection and adequate incentive and hence there is recession in that sector. The handloom weavers who have taken up this occupation generations together are at a great loss now. They have become debtors as their livelihood has been greatly affected. Their families are put to great suffering and even go without food. Even the co-op societies that they rely on suffer from financial crunch. Even the yarn is not available to them. Powerloom sector throws an unequal race. Even the categories of textiles that have been set apart by the Supreme Court exclusively for handloom sector are being produced by the powerloom sector which make huge profits. But our traditional weavers who are part of the warp and web of our culture and tradition are left high and dry.

I am afraid that our weavers may be driven to the path of suicidal deaths as it happened in Andhra Pradesh, where farmers committed suicide due to debt traps. More than one and a half lakh weavers and their families are worst affected deprived of their livelihood. I urge upon the Union Government to take adequate steps on humanitarian considerations and more incentives may be given to handloom weavers and rebate schemes may be announced to help them sell their produce.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the scheme of the vocational training being run through schools in all the States has suddenly been stopped in U.P. It has caused a severe jolt to lakhs of students getting professional training through inter colleges. A lot of assets have been created, rooms have been constructed and furniture has been provided under this scheme but recently this programme has been stopped, jeopardizing the future's students. It is submitted to the Government to interfere in this matter and continue this scheme of providing vocational education through schools.

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI (Peddapalli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I draw your attention and the attention of this august House to the precarious state and the very low safety status given by the international agencies for the Indian skies and Indian Airports. Till January this year, state of the art very hitech ground navigational equipment worth Rs. 450 crore was lying idle at the two busy international Airports in India while safety status was taking a nose dive. The Indian Airports Authority and its Management miserably failed to convince the Air Traffic Control Unit for installation of the modern equipment, which resulted in downgrading the status.

After installation of the costly equipment, five aircrafts vanished from the radar screens at Delhi Air Ports in January, 1999 which led to almost very serious and fatal near misses.

I draw the attention of Ministry of Civil Aviation to conduct a thorough inquiry about all this and evolve procedures to avoid vanishing of aircrafts from radar screens and to order an investigation and fix responsibility as to from whom they had ordered such hitech equipment at such high cost which cannot prevent vanishing of aircrafts from radar screens.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh is the largest producer of Soyabean. Farmer works hard to produce this crop but for the last three years, he has been falling a victim to the vagaries of nature. Soyabean crop got damaged due to excess rains and floods, and remaining crop was sold by farmers at throw away prices. Although the cost of production is increasing day by day, prices of soyabean are coming down. It is ironical that though the Central Government had announced support price of Rs. 845 per quintal for soyabean, the State Government neither made proper arrangement for its procurement at declared support price nor it opened adequate number of procurement centres there. That is why farmer is selling the soyabean crop at Rs. 600 per quintal which is below the support price. If some centres are opened, State Government like to purchase the soyabean through NAFED and oilseeds Federation, but they don't have funds. If they procure some soyabean, they do not buy it directly from the farmers. Traders purchase the crop from the farmer on low prices and sell it to the procurement centres on support price. Both of them are

making money through this practice but the farmer is not getting his due share. Therefore, the farmers of Madhya Pradesh are distressed. Through you, I would like to request the Central Government to intervene in the matter and ensure the procurement of soyabean on support price. ...(*Interruptions*) Support price and procurement price of soyabean should be ensured...(*Interruptions*) It is a very serious matter. The Central Government should make a statement in this regard. If the State Government does not have funds to procure soyabean, the Central Government should arrange for it and spotted soyabean should also be purchased from the farmers. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: All the hon. Members can associate with Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can also associate with Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is farmers' issue. Does the Government want to may any response?

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL (Betul): Mr. Speaker, Sir, soyabean is produced in many parts of the country...(*Interruptions*) Imports of oil should be stopped...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Would the Minister like to response regarding soyabean crop?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): It is not my subject. I will bring it to the notice of the concerned Minister so that action on the worries expressed here in this House by the hon. Members can be taken expeditiously.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there were heavy floods in West Bengal in the month of September this year. Ten districts are totally devastated. The Government of West Bengal had requested for financial assistance from the Government of India to the tune of Rs. 725 crore. A Central team also visited West Bengal. They have made a recommendation to make

financial assistance of Rs. 125 crore, but not a single farthing has been given to West Bengal to combat this flood devastation. This is very very important because West Bengal is a flood-prone area and everywhere we are witnessing floods. Central assistance is not coming. Hon. Finance Minister is here. We want reaction from him why not even a single farthing has been given to West Bengal Government to combat this devastation. This is very important. All the roads are flooded and all the houses have collapsed. The death toll is high. It is more than 5,500. No financial assistance has been given by the Central Government. I want reaction from the hon. Finance Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can also associate with them.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Half of my Constituency is seriously affected. Even during election, we had to face the serious problem of floods. I am sure the hon. Minister is aware of the extent of damage. But the only thing is some quick response should be made by the Central Government so that money is made available to West Bengal Government. This is the problem. You know what is happening to the citizens of this country. They are like sitting ducks. Unfortunately, they cannot float on water like ducks! They are becoming the targets of misery whenever floods come. There is no protection, relief or rehabilitation to them. Money is a serious problem.

Therefore, I request the hon. Finance Minister and the Government as a whole to render financial assistance to the flood victims of West Bengal. Shri Naveen Patnaik realises the havoc which his State is facing. We are all sharing the same concern. Urgent relief work should be undertaken soon to save the people and to rehabilitate them.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Murena): We have given notice three days back...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You will also be called.

[*English*]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): What is the reaction of the hon. Finance Minister? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Finance Minister, why can you not respond?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Finance Minister has to go to the other House also. If the House agrees, Item 14 Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) may be taken up.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

...(Interruptions)

12.39½ hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—GENERAL, 1999-2000

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-575/99]

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Please speak in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): As the hon'ble Members like to have an immediate response, I would like to say as all members are aware that the matter comes under the Ministry of Agriculture ... (Interruptions) Though Ministry of Finance is related with all Departments but this matter is connected with Agriculture Department. I will bring your concern to the notice of hon'ble Agriculture Minister and will request him to take further action on any proposal received from the Government of West Bengal after due investigations. I would like to tell you that the supplementary demands presented by me will ease your concern to some extent.. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, railway zone has been established at Jabalpur.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) Sir, what about my Calling Attention?.. (Interruptions) We are jumping the items.

MR. SPEAKER: Other hon. Members are also very particular about raising issues of importance during the Zero Hour

..(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: You have allowed the Minister of Finance to present the Supplementary Demands for Grants. .. (Interruptions) It is not proper to go to item No. 14 jumping over item No. 12.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, please understand. The hon. Minister has to go to the other House.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, we have to go to our homes!

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all types of railway facilities are available at Jabalpur station. It contributes highest income to the railway department every year. The Railway department will get additional income if following trains are introduced from this station:

1. Rajkoat Express from Bhopal should be extended upto Jabalpur.
2. Amarkantak Express should run daily.
3. A direct train from Jabalpur to Jammu should be introduced.
4. Jabalpur-Bhopal inter-city train should be introduced or Mahakaushal Express train can be extended, Gandwana Express, Mahakaushal and Rewa Shuttle be started from Madanmahal station.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.): Sir, what happened to the notice given by me?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is it the conspiracy to cover up the Bofors issue? There is a nexus between Bharatiya Janata Party and Congress party to save the people who are involved in this case. We have struggled a lot to expose this issue and you are not letting us to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: After this, you will get the time to speak.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government of India enacted the Forest Act in 1980. With this legislation all the facilities like electricity, telephone, road, big dams and canals etc. have been banned for the use of tribal people. Through you, I would request the Union Government to lift this ban.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the tenure of the 8th Lok Sabha, Members of the then ruling party took big kickbacks while making purchases of Bofors gun. The issue was exposed by the then Finance Minister. Thereafter, he was sacked. A mass agitation took place against this corruption and a message went to the whole country that till the people in power shall continue to indulge in bribery, corruption can not be rooted out of the country. Youth of the country went on mass agitation on this issue. Not hundreds and thousands but lakhs of youth were sent to jails to curb this agitation. During the period between 8th Lok Sabha and the 13th Lok Sabha, while investigating this matter, CBI has filed the chargesheet against some people in the court. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no hesitation in saying that a conspiracy is being hatched by the Government to save the brokers of international level. Members of the ruling party are trying to save the people like Hinduja and even the members of the opposition who are involved in this case. Today, the Government under the pressure of some people is in the process of deleting the names of some accused from this chargesheet. The Government are under the pressure of opposition. A very peculiar situation has arisen. Therefore, we demand that the Government should give an assurance that it will not delete the name of any person accused in this case of Bofors kickbacks and those who have been saved in this case will be punished by filing fresh chargesheet.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, why the efforts are being made to save the persons like Hinduja's or anyone else. It has appeared in the newspapers that the name of leader of the opposition and other supporters have also been came into light. However, Government has not responded to it..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bishnupada Ray.

SHRI BISHNUPADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I come from Andaman and Nicobar Islands..(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will not be tolerated if the ruling party with a view to get the Insurance Bill and other Bills passed tries to suppress the bofors issues. ..(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, is this a debate? Kunwar Akhilesh Singh has mentioned what he has to say. Now what is the need for Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to speak? If he does, then I insist that I should also speak. Are they

trying to start a debate here? This is a mention during 'Zero Hour'. So, it should be over with that. Why should Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav speak now? ..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, you can associate with him since he has already raised that matter.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. You can associate with him.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not entirely important. If he raises the matter like this, in that case, we can have a debate. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, you can associate with him.

..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have called my name and therefore, I have risen to speak but senior members are not letting me to speak. I request you to ask them to sit so that I could make my submission. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bishnupada Ray, please sit down for a minute.

..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can associate with him. He has already raised the matter.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, what is he saying now? Please remove it from the records.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, both ruling party and opposition are trying to suppress the Bofors issue. Sir, permission may be given to raise such an important issue in which international brokers are involved. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Why is he speaking like this?

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may be given full opportunity so that I may be able to clarify each and every point...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh, a member of your party has raised this issue. You can associate yourself with him.

[English]

You can associate with him. What is this? No. You can associate with him.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may be given an opportunity to state my point so that I may be able to expose the brokers who are operating from other countries...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate. You can associate with him since it is on the same subject.

[Translation]

Shri Mulayam Singh, you may sit down.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people who are involved in bofors case have links with brokers operating from other countries...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. Sir, I request that the remarks be expunged from the records...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Bishnu Pada Ray says.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my name has been called. You should ask him to sit down. Alongwith old members. You should also provide an opportunity to speak to new member...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should be given full opportunity to express my views, so that I may be able to tell you in detail about it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on records except what Shri Bishnu Pada Ray says.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hail from Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Earlier also. I had given notice, four times to speak in the Zero Hour. Today, I have been given an opportunity, but hon'ble Member is interrupting. ...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter relates to bofors kick-back...(Interruptions) The Government should reply in this regard...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we never get an opportunity to speak. ...(Interruptions) These people daily create pandemonium...(Interruptions) This is not appropriate...(Interruptions)

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please ask them to sit...(Interruptions) I will also not let them speak ...(Interruptions) You should first make them sit, I will speak only after that...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the conspiracy is being hatched to protect the people who are hiding in other countries. The conspiracy is being hatched to save the Quattrochi...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, I have given you an opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you saying? You have raised this.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Bishnu Pada Ray's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the largest government saw mill of India, Chatam Saw Mill is situated in the capital Port Blair. For last few years, the costly wood is being cut in this saw mill. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Akhilesh Kunwar Singh, I have given you a chance to speak. Even then you are obstructing the proceedings of the House. Please understand that this is not the proper way to speak. Everybody wants to obstruct the proceedings of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: The timber of short and medium length is lying in open, and is being destroyed due to sun and rain...(Interruptions) The costs of this timber is at least Rs. 4-5 crore. Same is the condition of timber in shed. ...(Interruptions) The officials of Forest Department cut away wood from Andaman district ...(Interruptions) For many years, wood worth crores of rupees is rotting on roadside and in forest...(Interruptions) For instance timber worth at least 10 crore rupees is in Pati level, on the roadside of Ramnagar, Diglipur Depot. The same position is of Middle Andaman, Northern Andaman and Southern Andaman of Andaman District...(Interruptions) This loss is unbearable, in view of present economic condition of the country. I would like to demand from the Government that this should be immediately sold and the money be deposited in the exchequer.

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Murena): The canal of Madhya Pradesh runs paralleled to the highway number 58 of Rajasthan...(Interruptions) The farmers of Chambal used to get water from it...(Interruptions) The Canal has got damaged ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except. Shri Ashok Argal's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the 20 lakh farmers have been affected due to the breaking of the canal...(Interruptions) The area of four lakh hectare is not getting water for irrigation...(Interruptions) There, the three thousand kilometre long canal has dried up, due to which the water is available nowhere...(Interruptions)

Recently, the Madhya Pradesh Government has allocated some money for the repair of the canal, but due to corruption involved in the repair work the canal got damaged the very next day after the repair. The farmers are not getting water. The people over there are distressed. ...(Interruptions) People are agitating...(Interruptions) Recently, an agitation was held there. The people over there have made an announcement to 'gherao' me...(Interruptions) They have also said, that they will not let Member of Parliament enter into their constituency...(Interruptions) Madhya Pradesh Government is doing nothing. The Rajasthan Government have never released full quota of water to Madhya Pradesh. According to the Government of Rajasthan, we owe them Rs. 20 lakh. When we will give them entire amount, only then they will release full quota of water. This is a situation over there...(Interruptions) I request you to make that canal functional and special facility should be given to the farmers of that area...(Interruptions) Alongwith it, that area should be declared as famine area because it is not having water at all. Two dams used to be filled with water from that canal, but now both dams are empty. I request you that the Central Government should intervene in this matter and immediately take action in this regard.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, since 2nd of this month, the condition of Ram Manohar Lohia hospital is very pathetic. The medical facilities over there are very poor...(Interruptions) My son, who is studying in Central School, was operated on stomach. Even before, cutting of stitches he was discharged by Dr. A.S. Sarma saying that the stitches will be removed later on...(Interruptions) He said the hospital is not the property of the Members of Parliament, he should be discharged...(Interruptions) This is very shameful act. When M.Ps are being treated in this way,

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

then what will be the fate of common people?
 ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to say that this was, done, when Lok Sabha Session is going on...*(Interruptions)* An inquiry should be conducted against the doctor...*(Interruptions)* the doctors over there behave in this manner...*(Interruptions)* The boy who is lying unconscious for 12 hours...*(Interruptions)* He has been operated on stomach. He was discharged only three days after the operation. ...*(Interruptions)* I am coming from the hospital. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to ask from the Government, what type of management is this? I would like to ask if an hon'ble Member is being treated in this way, then what treatment the common man would be getting?...*(Interruptions)* My son was in Room Number 20, but now he is lying in the corridor of Room Number 20. ...*(Interruptions)* I am coming from there only...*(Interruptions)* This is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)* That doctor should be suspended...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that this situation has arisen and the hon. Member is so pained by something which is so personal. I agree that it is unfortunate. I would bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister and immediate action would be taken. With regard to what they have said, I would like to assure you that I would bring it to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister who is actually the appropriate Minister to deal with this matter. The CBI comes under his jurisdiction. I am sure that he would respond to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, running of the Public Distribution System is the joint responsibility of the State Governments and the Central Government. It is an important tool for eradicating the poverty and it is also a safety net for the poor people. The Kerala State has got a very good Public Distribution System. The Targeted Public Distribution System is also functioning very smoothly in the State.

According to the Press reports, the Central Government is seriously contemplating to limit the scope of Targeted Public Distribution System. If it is done, it would be a major blow to the State of Kerala's economy and the poor people of Kerala would be largely affected. One of the reasons for the human development in the State of Kerala, which is emphasised even by the developed countries, is the effective functioning of the PDS and the food security that exists in that State. The State of Kerala is a food-deficit State. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Chennithala, please do not read. You are a senior Member. You can tell the facts.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, we are getting rice from Andhra Pradesh also. The Public Distribution System is being managed very effectively in the State of Kerala. In the newspapers it is reported that the Central Government is going to limit the scope of the PDS. If it is done, it would affect our State. So, I request the hon. Minister, through you, to clarify the Government's position on this issue. If it is continued, lakhs and lakhs of people would be benefitted by this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All the hon. Members from Kerala can associate with what Shri Ramesh Chennithala has said.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A.C. Jos, Shri P.C. Thomas and Shri Kodikunnil Suresh can associate with what Shri Ramesh Chennithala has said.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DHARAM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Barna river in Phulpur Parliamentary constituency flows from Malhan to Banaras. The farmers at Allahabad could not cultivate their land due to water logging there. At least three hundred villages are affected due to water logging. Movement of people has confined. The hon'ble Minister of Water Resources got that area surveyed and on the basis of the report of that survey it was decided that some funds will be made available for that area but same have not been released so far. It has become difficult to get boys and girls married there. People are on the verge of starvation. I would like to appeal to the Government that a survey may be conducted there and Barna river be cleaned.

13.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, according to the Government Report, there are more than 10 lakh *Anganvadi* and *Balvadi* workers working in the country. According to the non-official reports, this number is over 14 lakh because the Government do not recognise the NGOs engaged in this work. This is the reason for this discrepancy.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singhji, this is not good.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: They get a meagre allowance, that is, Rs. 510 per month, if the working years are five. They get the financial assistance of only Rs. 260 per month. Some State Governments, like West Bengal, Kerala, Tripura, Maharashtra and Goa, give some extra amount but for that the workers have to work extra.

Anganvadis and *Balvadis* are supposed to work for four hours a day but in reality they work at least eight hours a day and sometimes even up to 12 hours a day. Their work is important and beneficial to the women and children of our country, particularly in rural areas. It is also important from the national point of view. How can the Government give such a pittance for such a heavy and important work? Is it not inhumane? Is it because *Anganvadis* and *Balvadis* are run by women?

I, therefore, demand that the allowances be increased up to the minimum wages given to the regular workers. It is reported that the Central Government is stopping the *Anyanvadi* project in the states of West Bengal and Punjab. In West Bengal, the stopping has already been effected in some districts. I demand that this move to stop the *Anganvadi* project in these two States be withdrawn forthwith.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are compelled to live the life of the Gypsy even after fifty two years of our independence due to devastating soil erosion caused by the Ganga Kosi river. Due to this about one lakh affected families of sixteen Panchayats *i.e.* Anarkali, Bhawanipur, Jotram Rai, Bakia Bishanpur, Bakia Diera, Kant Nagar, Sujapur, Bhandartal, Kadhagola, Bari Nagar, Gurumela, Jarlahi, Basuhar, Pokhara, Tindharia, Katria and Kursela of Kursela Barari block under the Khagaria Parliamentary Constituency are living like beggars on roadsides, on the banks of dams and along the railway lines. Since 1956 about two hundred square kilometres of fertile government land has submerged in the river water. due to which problems have cropped up in the affected area. Every year loss is being incurred in production to the national exchequer. The number of displaced persons is increasing every year. The purchasing power of people is reducing. The problem of unemployment amongst the farmers, agricultural labourers, educated unemployed youths and women had

taken an alarming proportion. The distance between Kadhagola Road Railway station and the Ganga river has reduced to only one kilometre which was the main route of traffic for the Indian soldiers during the Indo-China war in 1962.

Therefore, I request that our above problem should be considered seriously and necessary action should be taken on our following demands for the permanent solution on priority basis.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, you cannot read the statement in the 'Zero Hour'.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: We demand that like national security action should be taken on war footing for permanent solution to check the soil erosion. Separate provision should be made in the budget to undertake the work to check the soil erosion. Arrangements should be made for permanent rehabilitation of the families affected due to soil erosion. Facility of *Indira Awas* should be provided to all the displaced families. Employment should be provided to the affected farmers, agricultural labourers, educated unemployed youths and women affected by soil erosion. We shall be grateful to you for this act.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this August House towards an important matter.

Cow is the heritage of Indian culture but for the last some time cows are being smuggled on large scale for financial benefits and are being sent to slaughter. An attempt is being made to destroy our culture. Through you, I would like to submit that first freedom struggle in our country was fought due to our sentiments towards the sacred cow. Cow is the main heritage of an agriculturist country like India and law should be enacted to ban the slaughter of cow which strengthen the social texture of the country so that this heritage of Indian culture could be protected.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: There are still 44 Members to speak. The other matters will be taken up tomorrow.

13.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Ten Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Sale of entire share of National Hydel Power Corporation to National Thermal Power Corporation

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Power to the following matter or urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of sale of entire share of National Hydel Power Corporation to National Thermal Power Corporation and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in the last 50 years, despite impressive growth of electricity sector from 1300 MW to 95,000 MW...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I would like to make a point.

We table notices for Calling Attention Motion so that we can get specific replies to the specific Motion. You may kindly go through the reply. The reply does not refer to the Calling Attention Motion at all. Such an evasive reply has never been seen in the history of Parliament.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can make your point when you raise your question. Now let him make his statement.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I have gone through the statement. He was good enough to have circulated his statement to us...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, you go through the Motion and the statement of the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, let him complete his statement and then both of you can go on to form your questions. You may bring these points at that time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: But we seek your protection.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: You look at the nature of the reply.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Members have the right to get a correct and categorical reply from the Minister.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: It is categorical.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He has not mentioned anything about the Calling Motion at all.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, let him make his statement.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, we wanted to know as to whether NTPC has taken over the entire share of NHPC or not...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him make his statement as per the rules.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The statement relates to the power situation in the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, let him make his statement. After his statement, you can raise your point. You have got every right to raise it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: You are right about the procedure part...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He is allowed to make a statement outside the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is making a statement inside the House now.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I think it will be appropriate to respond now. The notice deals with a situation which has not arisen and I had pointed it out to the hon. Speaker saying that the situation has not arisen. The notice says "the situation arising out of sale of entire share of National Hydel Power Corporation to National Thermal Power Corporation and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto". I said that the situation has not arisen and requested the Speaker to therefore take into consideration the facts placed before him. In his wisdom, the hon. Speaker decided to admit this Calling Attention Motion. Now, there is no sale which has taken place nor has a decision been taken to make a sale.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: But you have not said that.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: But certain background situation exists. Since it has come up before the House, I have set out the whole background situation and said that it is this which, I am sure, the hon. Members were referring to. I do not see anything wrong in that. That is the best that I can do.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Except that, you have said everything...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No running commentary please.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, in the last 50 years, despite impressive growth of electricity sector from 1300 MW to 95000 MW, shortages continue to persist. The energy shortage and peaking deficit presently is 4.8 per cent and 13 per cent respectively. Despite opening up of the power sector for investment by private sector in the year 1991, due to poor financial health of State Electricity Boards (SEBs), limited gscrow space available, SEBs have not been able to sign PPAs resulting in non-achievement of financial closure. This has resulted in shortfall in capacity addition by the private sector. In the Eighth Plan, as against the target of 30538 MW, the achievement was only 16422 MW. Against a target of 40245 MW during the Ninth Plan, the capacity addition estimated to be realised is 28097 MW.

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has in the Perspective Plan for Power Development prepared with the objective of meeting a peak demand of 1,76,647 MW by 2012 has estimated the requirement of a cumulative installed capacity of 2,40,000 MW. In order to meet power on demand by 2012, the CEA has estimated that the generation capacity should be augmented by at least 1,27,806 MW during the X and the XI Plans, of which hydel capacity addition is likely to be 38,973 MW. However, this would result in hydel: thermal mix of 28:72 and poor utilisation of some thermal plants which would be running due to this situation at 3 to 15 per cent PLF. In order to improve hydel:thermal mix, to a ratio of at least 34:66, which would lead to better utilisation of thermal power plants and stable frequency regime, it would be necessary to augment the hydel capacity addition to 51,600 MW during the X and the XI Plans.

In order to implement a Power Development Programme (PDP) involving a capacity addition of 1.28 lakh MW during the X and the XI plans and associated

transmission and distribution systems, the requirement of funds would be of the order of Rs. 11 lakh crore. The Ninth Plan has provided for a Plan Outlay of Rs. 1.25 lakh crore, of which the Central Sector Outlay is Rs. 53,229 crore and State Sector Outlay is Rs. 71,227 crore. It would, therefore, be seen that the resources likely to be made available in the X and the XI Plans would be of the order of Rs. 2.5 lakh crore and would have to be substantially augmented to a level of around Rs. 11 lakh crore by mobilising resources. The various options that could be considered jointly and severally are:

Higher Plan Allocation;

Levy of Cess on Power Generation;

Upward revision of tariff;

Securitisation to enable CPSUs to realise their dues from the State Electricity Boards;

Implementation of Power Sector Reforms;

Greater involvement of the Private Sector in Generation, Transmission and Distribution; and

Financial Engineering like acquisition, amalgamations, mergers and/or Disinvestment.

In order to enable Government to implement a massive Power Development Programme including improvement in the Hydel-Thermal mix by 2012 so that power could be made available on demand, it would be necessary to explore several options. In this context, NTPC has appointed M/s. ICICI to analyse various options for financial engineering and disinvestment in the Central Power Sector Undertakings. The final report of the ICICI is awaited.

I would request hon. Members of this hon. House to suggest the feasibility of pursuing the various options so that the Government could pursue an accelerated Power Development Programme and also improve the Hydel-Thermal mix that is so necessary during the time-frame upto 2012.

I am making available some data to the Members in support of the statement as annexures.

Sir, before I take the seat with your permission, if I may state that actually what, I believe, should have been the basis for the hon. Members to raise this Calling Attention is that I had, in a particular Seminar/Conference in Bombay when I addressed how do I plan to address

[Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam]

the resources for achieving a target of Power on Demand by 2012, said various options are there. One of the options is to do an acquisition, amalgamation and merger between the two major Public Sector Undertakings, the NTPC and the NHPC, for the purpose of leveraging their strengths to raise greater resources. I said this is one of the options. It is one of these options which has been indicated very clearly by the term "financial engineering" like acquisition, amalgamation, merger and/or disinvestment.

Even there, I had also said another thing which I must say here and that is, one other option which was given was disinvestment of shares of the NTPC or, maybe, creating subsidiaries, carving out a few power stations in terms of subsidiary share sales. But all these are under the consideration of the ICICI. We are awaiting their recommendations. But since this House is now seized of the matter, I would not like to lose this opportunity of getting appropriate advice from the Members before the Government takes a final decision in the matter.

***ANNEXURES TO THE STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF POWER**

Table-I	: Plan-wise capacity addition achievement against target.
Table-II	: Plan-wise Hydro: Thermal mix of capacity installed.
Table-III	: Results of adverse Hydro : Thermal mix.
Table-IV	: Frequency Spectrum of Regional Grids 1997-98.
Table-V	: Backing down as % of Thermal Generation.
Table-VI	: Capacity installation for 'Power on Demand' by Year 2012 based upon on identified sites.
Table-VII	: Capacity installation for 'Power on Demand' by Year 2012 : Reworked After deletion of low PLF operating stations for addition during X & XI Plans.

TABLE-I

Plan-wise Capacity addition achievement against Target

(figs. in MW)

Plan	Target	Achieved	% Achieved of Target
1	2	3	4
Vth ('74-'79)	12499.00	10202.00	81.6%
Annual Plan ('79-'80)	2813.00	1799.00	63.9%
VIth ('80-'85)	19666.00	14226.00	72.3%
VIIth ('85-'90)	22245.25	21401.64	96.2%
Annual Plan ('90-'91)	4212.00	2776.50	65.8%
Annual Plan ('91-'92)	3810.80	3026.50	79.4%
VIIIth Plan — Central	12858.00	8157.00	63.0%
— State	14870.00	6835.20	45.9%

*Laid on the Table of the House.

1	2	3	4
— Private	2810.00	1430.40	50.9%
— Total	30538.00	16422.60	53.77%
IXth Plan* — Central	11909.00/9729.00 (Rev.)	1324.60	—
— State	10747.00/10005.20 (Rev.)	3351.40	—
— Private	17588.50/8363.00 (Rev.)	2792.50	—
— Total	40245.20/28097.20 (Rev.)	7468.50 (up to 03/99)	18.55%/26.58% (Rev.)

TABLE-II

Plan-wise Hydro : Thermal Mix of Capacity Installed

Plan Period	Installed Capacity (MW)	Hydro %	Thermal %	Nuclear %
End of I Plan (March, 1956)	2695	35	65	—
End of II Plan (March, 1961)	4653	41	59	—
End of III Plan (March, 1966)	9027	46	54	—
End of IV Plan (March, 1974)	16663	42	54	4
End of V Plan (March 1979)	26680	41	57	2
End of VI Plan (March 1985)	42585	34	63	3
End of VII Plan (March, 1990)	63636	29	69	2
End of VIII Plan (March, 1997)	85800	25	72	2
As at present (Oct., 1999)	94251	24	74	2
Projected by end of XIth Plan (2012)				
— As per Sites identified	240915	28	68	4
— As corrected per MoP Studies	240915	34	62	4

TABLE III

Results of Adverse Hydro : Thermal Mix

Year	Power Supply Shortages	Peak Demand Shortages
1991-1992	(7.8%)	(18.8%)
1992-1993	(8.3%)	(20.5%)
1993-1994	(7.3%)	(18.3%)
1994-1995	(7.1%)	(16.5%)
1995-1996	(9.2%)	(18.3%)
1996-1997	(11.5%)	(18%)
1997-1998	(8.1%)	(11.3%)
1998-1999	(5.9%)	(13.9%)
1999-2000 (upto Oct.)	(5%)	13.1%

TABLE-IV

Frequency Spectrum of Regional Grids 1997-98

Year	% of Time when the frequency was:					
	Below 48.5 Hz.	48.5-49.0 Hz.	49.0-49.5 Hz.	49.5-50.2 Hz.	50.2-50.5 Hz.	Above 50.5 Hz.
NR	15.55	12.81	13.6	17.45	9.52	31.07
WR	16.83	11.2	11.0	22.39	9.17	29.41
ER/NER	1.54	4.61	5.73	10.13	5.66	72.33
SR	84.85	7.14	3.52	3.09	1.26	0.14

TABLE-V

Backing down as % of Thermal Generation

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Central Sector	1.97%	1.02%	0.81%	4.05%	9.66%
State Sector	3.48%	2.60%	1.48%	3.47%	3.92%
Private Sector	3.72%	2.43%	2.79%	3.74%	6.33%

TABLE-VI

Capacity Installation for 'Power on Demand' by year 2012 based upon identified sites

	IX Plan		Xth to XIth Plan	
	IX Plan (likely achievement)	Central Sector identified projects	State and Private identified projects	Additional requirement for zero deficit
Hydel	8399.2	18921.0	8884.3	11168.5
Coal/Lig.	8085.0	17710.0	35191.0	13467.0
Gas/LNG/Liq. Fuel	10733.0	4950.0	9068.2	2567.3
Nuclear	880.0	9380.0	0.0	(-) 3500.0
Total	28097.2	50961.0	53143.5	23702.8

These addition would lead to a Hydel: Thermal mix of 28:72. The Hydel/Thermal mix, based on these projects would lead to some thermal projects running at 3 to 15% PLF. Hence need for correction.

TABLE-VII

Capacity Installation for 'Power on Demand' by year 2012 : Reworked after deletion of low PLF operating stations for addition during Xth & XIth Plans

(Figs. in MW)

	Central Sector	State & Private Sector	Total
Hydel	42715.50	8884.30	51599.80
Thermal —Coal/Lignite —Gas/LNG	22660.00	47667.50	70327.50
Nuclear	5880.00	0.00	5880.00
Total	71255.50	56551.80	127807.30

[Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam]

These additions would lead to a Hydel:Thermal mix of 34:66. On a rough basis the investment required for these projects and for Transmission & Distribution would be of the order of Rs. 11 lac crores.

If the hydel:thermal mix has to be raised to an ideal of 40:60, larger funds would be required.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to, once again, record my strong protest against the totally diversionary reply. There is a design in this diversionary reply. I do not accuse Shri Kumaramangalam of incompetence. Therefore, I would not like to think that he gave the reply inadvertently.

Sir, our Minister has developed a technique, and deliberately, of speaking first and seeming to think later. He thinks first, then speaks, to check out and prepare the mind of people for the shock he is going to administer. He made a proposal first at one business meeting that he was thinking of hiving off some NTPC units in favour of the private entrepreneurs. Later, even before people could absorb the proposal, he was so febrile in his imagination that he came forward with another proposal at another business meeting that the whole of NHPC could be taken over by the NTPC with a number of wonderful, multiple objectives. One was, of course, that he was more bothered about the fiscal deficit that poor Yashwant Sinha who was not in the know of it, to the best of my knowledge. He said that the NHPC would be taken over by the NTPC for Rs. 4,500 crore.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: That is the value of the equity.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Whatever be the basis of the figure, he mentioned it and he also said that in the first year Rs. 2,500 crore would be made available from NTPC and in the second year the remaining amount of Rs. 2,000 crore would be made available. There is an element of deliberate casualness in all these things. I am afraid, I do not like to believe this, there is a cynical pattern in this persistent casualness.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Very neatly bordering on non-offensive statements!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Even the Minister cannot interrupt.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, what is the position of the NHPC and NTPC? Both are scheduled public sector undertakings. The Minister, with his tongue firmly planted

in the cheek, has always been talking of autonomy of these PSUs. When he made this proposal, the NHPC and NTPC were totally in the dark. They reacted with loud shock; they reacted against this. The NHPC was not willing to be bought. The NTPC was not willing to buy. And the Minister made a statement.

What is the value of NHPC? According to my information, the book value of NHPC is Rs. 10,650 crore. The market value of NHPC is Rs. 20,000 crore. NHPC is a profit-making and dividend-paying company. In fact, the credibility of NHPC is so high not only in the national market but also in the international market that a Canadian finance company gave a loan of Canadian \$ 189 million which roughly amount to Rs. 500 crore at 13 per cent rate of interest without any collateral securities.

Now, Shri Kumaramangalam would like to make a distress sale. He will say, "To whom am I selling? I am selling to another public sector undertaking." Except that, both of them produce power, there is nothing in common between NTPC and NHPC. Both of them have turbines. That is the reason why perhaps our Minister seems to think that both of them are all right. They do not mesh well. The technology involved is totally different. They are two different kettles of fish. Nobody can say that this is a wonderful example of core competence.

Now, why is NTPC not willing to buy? It is because NTPC is again in profit-making company. It is a dividend-paying company. It does not want to get mixed up in an area to which it is a stranger. NTPC has reserves of only Rs. 2,500 crore, NTPC requires this amount very badly. The installed capacity needs to be augmented appears to be the burden of Minister's long boring song which he presented in the form of a statement but that purpose would not be resolved. If Rs. 2,500 crore reserves are taken away by Shri Yashwant Sinha due to the grace of Shri Kumaramangalam, NTPC will be cash strapped. NTPC will be left with only power bonds worth Rs. 3,500 crore and they will have to be sold at a discounted value. So, NTPC is afraid of being reduced to bankruptcy. As it is, NTPC from another angle—at the macro level—is facing a financial crisis. More than Rs. 13,800 crore are owed to the NTPC by various SEBs in the country. They are doing nothing to get them collected. The same is the case with NHPC. More than Rs. 3,000 crore are owed to NHPC by various SEBs in the country. They are doing nothing. Nobody - not even Shri Kumaramangalam—can say that NHPC and NTPC have not been doing well. May I point out that the Disinvestment Commission headed by Shri G.V. Ramakrishna made a report that NHPC and NTPC should not be allowed to disinvest

because they are in the core sector what it suggested was that it could think of strategic tie-ups. Shri Kumaramangalam, who is, of course, a financial wizard in his own right, in total defiance of this recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission is thinking of disinvesting the stock of NTPC.

Our Governments, I would say all Government — the Congress Government, the UF Government and this Government — have been setting a lot of store by the independent power producers. How much could they produce during the last 7-8 years? Hardly 1500 m.w. of power. In anticipation of the great potential of IPPs, the NTPC and NHPC were not allowed to produce anything at all. As a consequence of this, in 1997 and 1998 calendar years, there was zero addition. But later we realised that the IPPs were not able to rise to the occasion, were not able to accept the challenge. We therefore, we had to fall back upon the NTPC. With the result in 1999, in one calendar year, we added 1556 m.w. of power. I have mentioned all this to show how casually the hon. Minister is going about on this serious issue.

Now, let me refer to the ridiculous nature of the proposal, about which the hon. Minister wanted to be educated. The Minister said that he wanted to be educated. I do not mind that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to come to the question now.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I am coming. I think, in the presentation I am asking questions are inherent.

Sir, for the first time in India the President of India, who owns the shares of NHPC, will sell all its shares to himself because he is also the owner of NTPC, NTPC parts with its reserves worth Rs. 2500 crore. Then, the NTPC will face financial difficulties. The President of India will ask the Finance Minister to support NTPC through budgetary allocation. Can there be a more ridiculous, preposterous arrangement than this, Sir?

We told the Government last year that cross holding last year was absolutely wrong, we would say that this sort of arrangement is doubly wrong. This is not the way to reduce our fiscal deficit which is actually to exceed Rs. 1 lakh crore. I would request the hon. Minister that for that elusive objective not to kill these two organisations.

Now, I would like to refer to the dangerous implications of the seemingly innocuous proposal. With

one 'friendly' blow, both the organisations, that is, NTPC and NHPC, would be grievously wounded. According to the press reports, Korba and Vindhyachal, which are highly profit-making power houses are on sale. That is what the press has speculated. The hon. Minister should kindly deny it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He has not denied it.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: No.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: And he wants to encourage private investment. I am not, *per se*, opposed to private investment in power sector. From the days of Enron to the days of Hindujas, I have not been opposed to it, *per se*. But I am only opposed to the opaque manner in which he encourages and organises private involvement.

Take the examples of Vizag project, NTPC setting up Simadri project. It is able to generate power at Rs. 4.80 crore, where as the projected cost of the Hinduja project is Rs. 5.74 crore.

There is a difference of 40 per cent in the price, Both are thermal stations. Both are located in Vizag. Both are being set up at the same time...(*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

MAJOR GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, under rule 192, I would like to know whether the hon. Speaker has fixed any time-limit for these speeches. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bhopur): On an informal point you are asking a question. ...(*Interruptions*) Shri Jaipal Reddy, you exercise your self-restraint and you finish when you have completed.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: You are giving the ruling on behalf of the Deputy Speaker.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is my very valued colleague. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, please wind up.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Okay Sir, I take the hint from the hon. Member and the Chair and I will try to wind up.

[Shri S. Jaipal Reddy]

The Minister has cleverly set up Power Trading Corporation and that Power Trading Corporation will buy power from the mega power projects which are being permitted zero import duty. That Power Trading Corporation will get guarantees from the Government of India. In other words, the power to be produced by mega power projects will once again set sovereign guarantees, will once again get counter guarantees...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, you will have to coin your question now.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Therefore, my point is, please for God sake give up these totally ridiculous but dangerous proposals and make a statement to this effect. The power consumers all over the country are exercised over this. Please for God sake save both NHPC and NTPC. I hope that the Minister will take a positive look at this.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset I would like to register my protest the way the Minister of Power has replied to the Calling Attention Motion submitted by us.

Sir, there is a difference between the statement that he made on the floor of the House and the information which was given to the hon. Speaker. There, he has stated and I quote:

"In order to provide the impetus for hydro power development it would be advantageous to use synergy and combined strength of both NTPC and NHPC. The financial strength and managerial capabilities of NTPC could be mobilised along with technical skills of NHPC for accelerated hydro power development. NHPC has been entrusted with the implementation of three hydro electric projects namely..."

All these he has mentioned. It further says:

"It is, therefore proposed to mobilise the resources by leveraging the financial strength of NTPC for hydro development."

But here he has avoided everything. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Shall I request you to yield for a minute?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why not?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is small problem here. Firstly, if correspondences between the Speaker, the Office of the Secretariat and the Government are to be referred, I would like to know whether it is referable on the floor of the House. Secondly, if it is to be referred to, then the whole communication must be referred, not parts. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You can inform the Speaker but you cannot inform the House the exact position in regard to the subject matter which is under discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: That is not fair. Sir, it is a matter of rule. I would like to know whether it is possible. I have no problem. I will explain the question.

But then he must read the whole paragraph. He cannot read the parts and portions to his sweetwill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are referring to what note? Shri Basu Deb Acharia, what is it you are referring to?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is a note given by the Minister to the Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am asking you this. What is it you are reading? Is it a statement?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The note given by the Minister to the Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has given a note.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have quoted from the note given by the Minister to the Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, when you refer it, you refer it fully.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: You can quote it. I have no objection. If you quote it, you quote it fully and place it on the Table of the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I can authenticate it. Why should there be a difference?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: The point is not that. The point is normally...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The information is with the hon. Speaker. I have no objection. But he should also share the same information with the House also. The Members have a right to know. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you please hear me. Are you referring to the statement or the information provided by the hon. Minister to the Speaker?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am referring to the information provided by the hon. Minister to the Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What the hon. Minister's objection is that if you are referring to it, you refer to it fully. Am I correct?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: The question is this. Can he refer it? I want a ruling. *...(Interruptions)* I will face it. There is a procedure.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have referred to the relevant portion of the note.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Can I submit? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like a ruling whether he can refer to this communication. If he can, I have no problem because I have been in Parliament reasonably long enough and I have looked after this particular arena. So, I know what I am asking. I would like a ruling whether he can refer to it and if he can, then, let him place the whole document to the Table of the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Generally, he can.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I have no objection.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have referred to the relevant portion of the note given by the Minister to the hon. Speaker. My question is, if the information can be shared with the hon. Speaker, why cannot the same be shared with the House? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: What is this? Sir, I want a ruling. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the House seems to think that the discussion is going on without your ruling. I want a ruling.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has raised something which is a very relevant point.

SHRI SOMANTH CHATTERJEE: Did he have the right or not?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I am not denying that. I am just saying how much is...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): It is a paper signed by the hon. Minister to the Speaker which he is quoting it. Now, he will authenticate and lay it in the House.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I am willing to authenticate it for him. That is not the issue here.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Then what is the issue?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: The issue is, can he quote it?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: You cannot deprive him of that paper which you have given to the Speaker.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I am not denying that. Today fortunately it is something which is of use to me, but tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will it be abuse-?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Yes, I want the whole thing to be put on record and use it. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is not abused but it is used here. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He can authenticate it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The rule permits the member to produce any document provided the member can authenticate it. Here is a Member who will authenticate the document. Shri Mavalankar said that a Member can produce any document so long as he is prepared to lay and authenticate it. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The source of obtaining the document cannot be gone into so long as the document is genuine.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: No, he has officially given it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If he has officially given it, then...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me give my observation.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): I would like to make one submission. Since the hon. Minister has agreed for giving him power to make a reference to your document, that has gone on between yourself and also the Speaker on the other side, and since he has no objection, then the only question is can the Speaker give his assent or not? I am requesting you to please give your consent, to the benefit of the entire House. Let him make a reference. Since he has not objection for the reference being made to that correspondence, what is wrong with that?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has got right to make reference from any paper. He cannot be asked to disclose the source of information ...*(Interruptions)* He will simply authenticate it...*(Interruptions)* He is saying all this with full authority that all these things are there in the documents. You cannot stop him.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I am sure you cannot quote it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I give my observation? Any matter by any Member can be produced here. The only thing is he has to authenticate it. Now, you have to authenticate it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will authenticate it and lay it on the Table of the House*. There is no problem for me.

My question is this: "Why is there difference"? When the information can be shared with the hon. Speaker, why the same information cannot be shared with the Members of this House? It has not been shared with us. But he has stated that there are various options like one, two, three, four or five. But outside the House, he is making statements on a particular subject. I quote different headlines which appeared in the newspapers on the subject:

1. "NTPC may get benefits for buying out NHPC" — Press Trust of India.

2. "NHPC prepared counter-offer to buy NTPC"—Indian Express.

3. "NTPC-NHPC equity proposal in preliminary stage"—Indian Express.

4. "Opposition trains guns on Government for proposal on NHPC sale"—The Hindustan Times.

5. "Move against NHPC sale, hiving off NTPC's assets gains momentum."—The Economic Times.

6. "Fili's consent essential for NHPC-NTPC deal"—Financial Express.

7. "Rs. 8,000 crore from securitisation to help NTPC pay for NHPC takeover."—The Economic Times.

8. "Power utilities to clear merger by January—NTPC likely to be renamed."

9. "Ministry moves for Cabinet nod on NTPC-NHPC deal by December."

In a number of newspapers only one option is mentioned. Why is it that no other option is mentioned? Here, he has stated a number of options like higher plan allocation, etc. No Press, no newspaper ever came to know of this. Then, on the levy of cess on power, why there is only one option, particularly, when NTPC has appointed ICICI—a financial institution—to examine as to how many options are there. I want to know whether it is only one option, the last one, financial engineering like acquisition, amalgamation/merger of disinvestment or other options also are there. What are the terms of references? Why did the Ministry of Power feel that ICICI should be appointed to examine this aspect? When did the Ministry of Power feel or think that a financial institution should be appointed to examine this aspect?

Sir, both these public sector undertakings were set up in the same year 1975 and both are Schedule 'A' public sector undertakings. All through these years both NHPC and NTPC are earning profits and they were not loss-making companies and they were paying dividend to the Government of India. Only last year, in 1998, the Government of India announced a policy on hydro...*(Interruptions)*.

* The member did not furnish authenticated copy of the document sought to be laid by him on the Table of the House. As such the document was not treated as laid on the Table of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you are referring to the note. The Secretariat have no information about such a note. You have to authenticate the note which you are quoting.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Yes, Sir.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, when Shri Acharia was quoting from that note, our hon. Minister was generous enough to admit to the authenticity of that note. ...(*Interruptions*). Please go through the record. ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If I am wrong, please correct me. The hon. Minister wanted Shri Acharia to read the whole note. Therefore, he is not disputing the note. Therefore, you both jointly authenticate.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am informed that the Secretariat has no information about this note and, therefore, I have, in general, made the observation that any document which is referred to here, must be authenticated by the hon. Member. So, accordingly I asked Shri Basu Deb Acharia to authenticate that note.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, in this particular case, it does not matter. But it is highly improper for communications that go on with the Speaker, between the Government and the Member to be referred to by another Member in the House, it is normally not etiquette...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMANTH CHATTERJEE: What is not etiquette...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Is it a secret document?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the instant case, there is no need for authentication because the Minister has generously come forward to confirm it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever it may be, I have given my ruling. let him conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I shall authenticate it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now form your question please.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is this cross-talk going on?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: They are speaking in Bengali, Sir.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, only last year the Government of India announced a policy on hydro power. I was in the Standing Committee on Energy and also in the Sub-Committee on Power. I have gone through a number of papers. We were examining hydro-electricity, the harnessing and the potentiality in our country, but I have not seen anywhere the Government of India or the Ministry of Power suggesting merger or converting NHPC as a subsidiary of NTPC. But now he is making a statement. Sir, you will be surprised to know that he has stated on the floor of the House that it is only at the conceptual stage and the Government has not taken any decision yet.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They are waiting for this Call Attention to be over.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the NHPC has been asked to release a Press statement. What has he stated? He has stated: "In order to mobilise resources for hydel development, a proposal is under consideration for disinvestment" disinvestment not merger, Dr. Sengupta.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): It is merger.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No, it is not merger...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No cross-talk please, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, Dr. Sengupta was telling Shri Somanth Chatterjee that it is merger and it is a very simple thing. He has further stated that "NTPC would purchase Government shares in NHPC. The Government has not taken any decision but the CMD of NHPC is making a statement very categorically that NTPC would purchase Government shares in NHPC. While achieving the objective of disinvestment, the leveraging capacity of NTPC will be utilised for promoting hydel project. We have been informed by the Government that the management of NHPC will not be disturbed due to this proposal at the outset itself."

May I know one thing from the hon. Minister? When this issue has been referred to ICICI and the decision of the ICICI is still awaited as per the hon. Minister's

[Shri Basudeb Acharia]

statement, then how could the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the NHPC make such a statement? There are various options. It is not the only one option, the option of merger, but there are other options also.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Options for hoodwinking.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There are no other options. There is only one objective and that is to sell the entire share of NHPC to the NTPC. Both the NHPC and NTPC which are public sector undertakings, were not aware of this decision of the Government, rather they were against it initially. Both the PSUs were against this. Neither the NHPC wanted it nor the NTPC wanted it, rather they were forced to accept this proposal. The only motive behind this is not what has been elaborately stated by the hon. Minister. We know it. We are all aware of the power situation in the country. We know what is the peaking gap and what is non-peaking gap. We know everything. We know what is the capacity generated by our Independent Power Producers (IPP). They could achieve only 50 per cent of the target. Our hon. friend, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy has mentioned about the generation cost, production cost of the power plants set up by IPPs. So many other things are there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The main intention is to bridge the fiscal deficit and to get Rs. 4,500 crore but not to strengthen either the NTPC or the NHPC. I know it. I have visited a number of power plants set up by NHPC. I know in what difficult situations they are to work in border areas like Uri, Dulhasti, Loktak etc. They have to work in adverse law and order situation. They have done a commendable job within 3-4 years.

I know that the gestation period is much more for hydel. In the North-Eastern States we have the potentiality for hydel power of 66,000 m.w. We are utilising only two per cent or three per cent of it. He has referred to mismatch of the ratio of hydel and thermal. We know it. In 1963, it was 45 per cent and 55 per cent; and now it has come down to 24 per cent and 76 per cent. He is saying that there is no money. *...(Interruptions)* The face value of the fund that is going to come out of the sale proceeds of this distress sale will be Rs. 4,500 crore. My question is that when the ICICI has not given any recommendation or any report, how can the Government of India come to the conclusion that its face value will be Rs. 4,500 crore? What is the total value of the assets?

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): It is Rs. 40,000 crore.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No. The total value of the assets of NHPC is 20,000 crore, not Rs. 40,000 crore.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: For what purpose? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, another intention of the Government behind this is to convert NTPC into a conduit for private entrepreneurs to hive off some of the funds. *...(Interruptions)*

15.00 hrs.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Are you suggesting it?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No, I am not suggesting it. I am against hiving off of some of the units to the private entrepreneurs like Ambanis, Mittals and Hinduja. *...(Interruptions)* I want to know from the hon. Minister the rationale behind taking such a decision or behind this proposal if the decision has not yet been taken by the Government of India and it is still at the conceptual stage. The United Front Government had rejected this proposal when brought before it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Calling Attention takes one hour.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is very important. We are only two Members who have tabled this Calling Attention. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is very important. That is why, the Calling Attention was allowed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The United Front Government had rejected this proposal. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, I have never seen any issue on which all the Press, media and almost all the political parties are against it. Except the BJP, almost all the political parties, the entire Opposition—I do not know the views of the allies of the BJP—are against this move of merger or disinvestment in the name of merger of the Government of India. They want to disinvest. They want to privatise. I have not seen any issue which is opposed by the entire Press. We have seen the reaction of the Press. We have seen the reaction of the Opposition, of the political parties.

So, I demand that the Government should desist from taking such a move of merger, disinvestment, privatisation

or handing over or hiving off some of the units to the private sector, rather I would suggest that in order to implement the policy which was announced by the Government of India only last year, the Government of India should take all steps to strengthen NHPC and make it an umbrella organisation by bringing NEPC, North-East Electric Power Corporation and other hydro electric power corporations under it in order to strengthen it. *...(Interruptions)*. Nuclear Power Corporation is a separate organisation. We are not discussing about it here. The hydro electric power corporations like NEPC and other organisations should be brought under NHPC. It should be strengthened.

Sir, all the trade unions, associations of workers and officers are opposing this move of the Government. I have not seen it before. So, the Government should desist from taking such a hasty decision which is not in the interest of the nation and the power sector of our country. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, Shri Sengupta's name was referred to during the deliberations. He can just explain for a minute.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: you know Shri Bandyopadhyay that in the case of Calling Attention, I am bound by the rules not to allow anyone other than the Member whose name is there in the list.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: He wants to give a personal explanation. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, interruptions are allowed. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, if a reference is made to another Member by an hon. Member, he should be allowed to explain his position. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the House pleads for that, I will ask you to straightway ask a question only and there will not be any precedent. That will be a special case, an exceptional case and will not form a precedent to this rule.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: he has agreed for it.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): The point is that since ICICI has been appointed to suggest the modalities, I suppose, the decision will be taken after that, and the whole thing is in the drawing-board now.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Since it is a private question, a private answer will be given.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I am grateful for all the compliments that a few senior hon. Members have been so kind enough to give. Though sometimes, some of it bordered, if I may say, on not a very savoury terminology, I still accept the compliments.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There is nothing personal in it. Do not take anything personally.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: But I may say that what is necessary for them is to have more information. I would have given even more information. I did give a lot of information in the annexures with the statement.

Firstly, at the outset, with regard to the letter that has been now referred to, which I understand is not normally referred to, let me say that I have made it very clear in the opening paragraph to the Speaker that the subject matter of the Calling Attention Notice is at the preliminary stage of consideration, which meant that we have not taken a decision. I said to the Speaker then that the same words "preliminary stage of consideration" can also be put as "conceptual". I do not think that there is any clash on this.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We wanted to raise this issue because the Government should not take such a decision.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I am very grateful to you. You have got your viewpoint across. The objective behind the reference that the NTPC had made was to undertake an exercise to raise resources for further deployment in the power sector with emphasis in the hydro sector. That is a clear reference which has been given. All these other options which I have given to you is what we picked up from ICICI and others, when we had a presentation from them in the initial stage of consideration. These options were given one by one. When the Press people addressed this question to me as to how we are going to find the resources for this large problem that we are facing, I have said that one of the options was this, the other option was this and the remaining options were these, which the ICICI was considering.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They have quoted only one option.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: No, you yourself have read out the second option, and you yourself have read out an article which said that this was preliminary. Let us be frank. Please do not make all papers "*Ganashakthi*".

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If it is "*Ganashakthi*", then there is no question of its authenticity.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I would have accepted its authenticity if you had written it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Then it should be fully authentic.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have not quoted from "*Ganashakthi*".

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: But I would only like to say this much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some of the figures were very clear. The equity of NTPC is Rs. 7,700 crore, and the equity of NHPC is only Rs. 3,825 crore. The assets of NTPC are Rs. 30,000 crore. This is the book value of the assets. Today, the assets would be anywhere around Rs. 60,000 crore in market value. NHPC's assets are only Rs. 10,000 crore, and its book value does not go beyond Rs. 15,000 crore. The outstanding loan in terms of NTPC is Rs. 9,000 crore; the outstanding loan in terms of NHPC is Rs. 5,000 crore. The reserves of NTPC are not Rs. 2,500 crore, but it is Rs. 12,000 crore; the reserves of NHPC are Rs. 1,272 crore.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: How are you calculating the reserves? Do they include Power Bonds?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Yes because they are profits. I can sell them. I can keep my reserves as Treasury Bonds, I can keep my reserves in a bank account, I can keep my reserves as a Power Bond. How I keep the money is irrelevant. This money is encashable.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: When you want to sell away your Power Bonds, then you will have to sell them at discounted value. It is not the same as hard cash.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: No, it is not the Government, but the NTPC which can sell it. *...(Interruptions)* When he is referring to you, I referred to that. I stand corrected, Sir. I said that I am only in reference to you. The point is that NTPC can keep its reserves in various forms. It has reserves of Rs. 12,000 crore. Let us make it clear that it is not Rs. 2,500 crore. NTPC has had a profit of Rs. 2,815 crore last year.

Sir, the NHPC has a profit of Rs. 305 crore. Let us get the figures clear. Do not start saying that NHPC had so much and NTPC had so much, otherwise I would have problems later on. If I may submit, I think, what is important to understand is one particular option has been taken out of turn and out of context and raised. It is an option under consideration. When the ICICI gives its report, we would take this into consideration. The Chairman and the Managing Director of NHPC were present when the presentation was made. It is wrong to say that the Public Sector Chiefs did not know about this at all. On the contrary, myself, the officials of the Ministry and the representatives of the Public Sector Corporation were together when ICICI made its presentation. They said that these are the various options that they were considering. In fact, consent from both of them were taken...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Minister, please hear me now...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Let me finish. I have not yielded...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: First the statement was made and then the Chiefs of the NHPC and NTPC were made to fall in line...*(Interruptions)* We can quote...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already said about it. You may not agree with him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I am sorry, I strongly object to this. I have not yielded ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, there could be disagreement in regard to the formulation but there cannot be any disagreement in regard to facts...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I am willing to face privilege. Is my friend willing to face the same? Is he going to stand by fact which he is saying? He is calling me a person who is misleading the House. I am willing to say on record, if necessary, under oath. Is my friend willing to say the same? What is this happening? Anytime you can always tell a Minister that you are misleading the House...*(Interruptions)* We had a meeting of the officials, and the Chairman of the PSU...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Please do not lose your temper...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, he has stated the stand of the Government. You may not agree with it. He is not yielding.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a cross-examination session. He has stated whatever he had to say. You may not agree with him.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: When did you have the meeting?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. He is not yielding.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAN REDDY: When did you have the meeting? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Reddy, he is not yielding.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, on the fact I am being told that I am misleading the House. That is why, I said — I am a responsible Minister, standing in this House — that the meeting took place well before anything came out in the Press. We had a meeting; we had a presentation by the ICICI in which both the Chairman, myself, the officials of the Ministry were present. The Minister of State for Power came a little later and joined the meeting. We saw the presentation and told the ICICI that you please go ahead and give your report and final recommendations. We can take a decision on that.

Sir, what has come in the Press is in response to questions that the members of the business community posed to me during various business seminars where options were discussed. If you say this, then this does not mean that we have taken any pre-conceived decision but definitely the option which has been referred to in this Calling Attention Motion is a serious option.

Sir, that is all I wish to say. I would like to thank all the Members.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he has not replied to our specific question as to what is the rationality behind taking this decision...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has given the reply. It may not be up to your satisfaction.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No, he has not replied to our specific question...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot insist on that.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, the hon. Speaker has admitted this motion...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He has evaded the question...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I would like to make it clear. I have spent given a lengthy statement stating the power situation and why we need to improve the hydel power., I need resources for over 1,76,000 MW to be added. If that is not an explanation for consideration, then I do not know what else that is...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You want to sell our power sector...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, it is a very important subject. I am sure, the hon. Minister does not dispute the importance of the subject.

He has said that there was no final decision on what has been alleged and that it is one of the matters which has been discussed. Sir, certain pertinent questions were raised. There may be several options. Why this option has also been included and how does the country benefit by it is an issue on which no response has come from the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister has already said what he wanted to say.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No, Sir, he has not said as to what the justification for this measure is. He has only said that this also can be done.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is all over now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Minister has evaded answering our question.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am sorry, Sir, in spite of my affection to the Minister, I have to register our protest by walking out.

15.16 hours.

*At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some
other hon. Members left the House.*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hydro power sector is not in the interest of the country. In view of this we stage a walk out.

15.16- $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

*At this stage Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some
other hon'ble Ministers left the House.*

[English]

15.17 hrs.

MOTION RE: SECOND REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the House do agree with the Second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 7th December, 1999."

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government have assured that priority will be accorded to the Women Bill, what is going on now.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister has moved the motion. He mentioned the next week's programme.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: The Government should come forward with the Women's Reservation Bill.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, this is not 'Zero-Hour'. The Member cannot raise other issues while the motion is being taken up.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the House do agree with the Second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 7th December, 1999."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Sir, to register our protest against the Government for not coming forward with the Women's Reservation Bill, we walk out of the House.

15.18 hrs.

*At this stage, Shrimati Margaret Alva and Some other
hon. Members left the House.*

15.19 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (I) **Need to ensure that Rudraprayag Guptakashi and Karnprayag Gwaldam National Highway is maintained by Border Roads Organisation.**

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Rishikesh-Srinagar-Rudraprayag-Kamprayag-Jshimath-Badrinath National Highway is an important route. Lakhs of pilgrims and tourists take this route every year. Besides this, route is very important from the strategic point of view. In this region our borders are touching Tibet and Barahoti which is a disputed area with China also falls in this region. Keeping in view the strategic importance of this road, its maintenance has been given to the Border Roads Organisation (B.R.O.). As far as pilgrimage and tourism are concerned, religious places like Badrinath and Kedarnath of Hindus and Hemkund Sahib of Sikhs are situated in this region. Every year lakhs of domestic as well as foreign tourists use this route to visit these places.

As this road is situated in hilly area, during rainy season it remains closed for days together. Though the performance of the Border Roads Organisation is commendable yet it is imperative to keep the other

[Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduni]

alternative roads open in view of national security and convenience of the tourists. From this point of view two roads are important and useful. 1. *Rudraprayag-Guptakashi*: In case of any sort of disturbance on the road between Rudraprayag and Chamoli an alternative road is available from Ukhimath to Chamoli.

2. *Kamprayag-Gwaldam*: In case of road blockade up to Kamprayag, the Ranikhet-Gwaldam-Kamprayag road can be used as bypass road.

Both these roads are maintained by the Public Works Department of Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, I would request the hon'ble Minister of Surface Transport to handover these roads to the Border Roads Organisation (B.R.O.) for maintenance before the year 2000. For this purpose the Government of Uttar Pradesh should be consulted and if necessary the Minister of Defence may also be consulted.

(II) Need to denotify Dahanu Taluka in Maharashtra as Environmentally Fragile.

[*English*]

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA (Dahanu): Dahanu Taluka in my Constituency is declared environmentally fragile by the Central Government in the year, 1991. Twenty five kilometre area was also declared buffer zone around periphery of Dahanu Taluka. There was representation for cancellation of declaration of Environment fragile area and to lift the buffer zone from people, from various organisations and from representatives of the area. The Government has lifted 25 k.m. buffer zone but declaration of Dahanu Taluka as Environmentally fragile is still not cancelled. Due to this declaration, the development of Dahanu Taluka is at a standstill.

Dahanu Taluka is a Adivasi taluka and remains most backward till today. The Advisasis of the Taluka are illiterate and jobless. They have to migrate from one place to another for their livelihood. If this Taluka remains environmentally fragile, the position of Adivasis will become miserable. I urge upon the Government to cancel the declaration of Dahanu Taluka as environmentally fragile.

(III) Need to convert Delhi-Bikaner Metre Gauge Rail Line into Broad Gauge.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu); Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a long standing demand to convert the Bikaner-Rewari and Degana-Ratangarh metre-gauge railway line into broad gauge in my Parliamentary constituency Churu, Rajasthan. Thousands of people of Shridungargarh, Ratangarh, Sujangarh, Ladanu, Churu, Sardarshahar, Taranagar, Rajgarh, Chhapar, Vidyasagar, Rayaldesar of my Parliamentary Constituency live in different parts of the country and as they have to travel in connection with their business, they have to face lot of difficulties due to this metre gauge line. They have been demanding since long to convert this metre-gauge line into broadgauge line. Nearby areas have already been converted into broad gauge line.

15.22 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

An important train from Delhi to Jodhpur used to run through this region, but this important train has since been stopped as there is no broad gauge rail line upto Degana in Jodhpur due to which the entire area from Degana to Ratangarh has been deprived of this rail facility. Earlier, petrol from Kandla was used to be transported through this route via Hisar. That has also been stopped. The Government are suffering loss of crores of rupees due to this also. Apart from this it is imperative to convert the Delhi-Bikaner railway line into broad gauge from the security point of view because Bikaner is adjacent to Pakistan.

Therefore, through you, I request the hon'ble Minister of Railways to kindly issue orders to convert the Delhi-Bikaner metre gauge line into broadgauge line.

(iv) Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Gujarat to overcome serious situation of scarcity of drinking water in the State.

[*English*]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): The Chief Minister of Gujarat came to Delhi a few days ago and had requested hon. Prime Minister to grant Rs. 100 crore to the State of Gujarat to meet the very serious situation of scarcity of drinking water in the districts of Patan,

[Shri Pravin Rashtrapal]

Banaskantha, Kutch, Rajkot, Surendra Nagar etc. On account of no rains in certain parts of Gujarat, the rural population and also the urban population in the cities like Rajkot and Surendra Nagar are getting water at the interval of one week or more. The Government of Gujarat is facing very serious difficulties due to no assistance from the Government to expedite the recovery of Rs. 1,300 crore from the States of M.P., Maharashtra and Rajasthan on account of Narmada Tribunal Award. I am sorry to mention that for one reason or other, the work of Sardar Sarovar Project is not in progress. The State of Gujarat is losing approximately Rs. 10 crore per day towards interest expenditure on Narmada. It is not only a problem of drinking water, but also saving lives of human beings and cattle. I, therefore, request the hon. Prime Minister to look into the request of the State Government and release funds without further loss of time.

(v) Need to provide more railway facilities at Nagpur, Maharashtra.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Sir, after the formation of Maharashtra, Nagpur has become the second capital of the State with a population well over 25 lakh and even after fifty years of Independence, the actual development of the township has not kept pace with the growth.

A growing major city of Maharashtra does not have adequate railway transport infrastructure to meet the urgent needs of the people, particularly a large chunk of the urban population are looking and seeking desperately the cheap means of transport to cover the city for various purposes and requirements.

Therefore, there was a need of having a Ring Railway facility and also a need for providing direct trains to Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta & Madras, as there is not a single superfast long-distance train to the metropolises that is originating from Nagpur. The Government of Maharashtra have been requesting the Central Government to provide a Ring Railway facility, to start direct long-distance trains from Nagpur and to start construction of Railway Under Bridge in replacement of the hundred-years old Railway Bridge at Santra Market.

I, therefore, urge the Railway Minister to kindly take a final decision and provide the facilities mentioned above to the people of Nagpur, who will be very happy if an urgent decision in this regard is taken or some provisions are made in the next Railway Budget.

(vi) Need to increase the number of A-130 flights by Air India from Calicut airport.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut): Sir, joint operation of Indian Airlines and Air India from the Gulf countries to Calicut started a couple of years back since the runway of Calicut Airport was only 6,000 feet at that time and the wide bodied aircraft of Air India could not be operated from this airport because of this short runway and table-top layout. A-320 aircraft of Indian Airlines are being used for this joint operation and booking of tickets is done by Air India. The landing in various airports in the Gulf countries is done on the licence of Air India. Now that the runway of Calicut Airport has been extended, wide-bodied aircraft are already operating from Calicut. Therefore, Air India may be directed to operate their A-130 flights on a regular basis, increasing the number of flights per week to meet the demands of the passengers from the Gulf countries. The joint operation flights do not take care of the convenience and comforts of the passengers because of the lack of understanding between the Airlines concerned. Many a time, joint operation flights are cancelled due to various problems caused by this lack of understanding. Once wide-bodied aircraft are used on a regular basis, the cargo handling facilities also will increase manifold. I therefore request that the joint operations of Air India and Indian Airlines may be stopped forthwith and Air India and Indian Airlines may be directed to increase their number of flights from Calicut.

(vii) Need to increase minimum support price for Copra.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Agriculture Minister towards the representation from Kerala Government to fix minimum support price for Copra during 2000 season.

Kerala Government suggested Rs. 4,300 per quintal for Ball Copra and Rs. 4,100 for Milling Copra. The cost of production of Copra during the season 2000 is nearly five per cent higher than that of the previous year 1999. This includes wages and cost of fertilizers and copra making expenses.

According to estimates, the cost of production per nut comes to nearly Rs. 5.38. To these are added the cost of making copra to arrive at Rs. 4,100 per quintal. Therefore, it is recommended that the minimum support price for milling copra be fixed at Rs. 4,100 per quintal for the 2000 season. To these may be added the cost of storage and handling in respect of ball copra and the minimum support price for ball copra may thus be fixed

at Rs. 4,300 per quintal. Moreover, the coconut oil prices in the State has increased by nearly 23 per cent during 1999 as compared to the previous year indicating an overall increase in the demand for coconut oil in the market. However, in view of the higher cost of production of coconut in Kerala especially due to higher wages and the widespread attack of mites during the current year, the State Government is of the opinion that a higher minimum support price be given for Kerala in December being the beginning of the season in Kerala.

(viii) Need to take suitable measures to make Hindustan Shipyard Limited at Visakhapatnam, viable.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): The Hindustan Shipyard Limited at Visakhapatnam is a premier ship building yard with infrastructural facilities developed at considerable expense by Government of India in 1961. The Hindustan Shipyard Limited has been facing severe financial crunch and is not in a position to pay salaries/wages to its employees. I, therefore, request the Union Government to consider the following to make the shipyard viable:

- (a) Revival of the yard by passing suitable instructions to SCI, DCI etc. for placement of orders on nomination basis.
 - (b) Reintroduction of *Pari-Passu* obligation which was earlier in vogue in order to sustain the ship building industry in the country.
 - (c) Provide adequate funds to meet the wages/salaries immediately to avert industrial relations problem in the yard.
 - (d) Revise the pricing formula to attract ship-owners to place orders on Hindustan Shipyard Limited.
- (ix) Need to resume drilling activities by ONGC at Bengal basin.**

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): The ONGC has, all of a sudden, stopped drilling activities in the Bengal basin. This is not only unfortunate at a time when we are importing 70 per cent of our crude requirements, but is also causing anxiety among the employees involved about their job security.

Considering the huge potential of reserves in Bengal, drilling operation should not be discontinued.

(x) Need for early completion of Purulia Pump Storage Mega Hydro Project over Kista Bazar River in West Bengal.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Purulia Pump Storage Mega Hydro project over Kista Bazar River in Ayadhyha hills in the district of Purulia (W.B.) was likely to start in 1993. M/s. EPDC (Japan) supplied technical data and came to the conclusion that 900 M.W. power will be generated. The Project was scheduled to be completed in six years, that is, 1999 at a cost of Rs. 9231 crore. But the work actually started in 1997 and only five per cent work has been done. Out of one k.m., only 400 metre tunnel of D-Shape has been completed. Now, work has been stopped.

I urge upon the Central Government to monitor the project regularly so that work should be completed within six years.

(xi) Need to convert metre-gauge rail line between Swarupsar and Sriganganagar into Broad Gauge.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN (Sriganganagar): Madam, Chairperson, the rail line between Swarupsar and Sriganganagar in my Constituency Sriganganagar was built before independence. It passes through Pakistan border and the transportation of military personnel and foodgrains and import too is carried through this line. This line is connected with the district headquarters. Five tehsils too are linked to it. This line is approximately 162 kilometres in length. Since there is hindrance in transportation of foodgrains as it is a metre gauge line, the prices of foodgrains fall in this area. This line was twice included in the budget but it has not been sanctioned. My submission is that the Government should issue order for converting the rail line between Swarupsar and Sriganganagar into broad gauge and make it operational.

15.35 hrs.

MINES AND MINERALS (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT) AMENDMENT BILL—contd.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We would now take up for discussion the motion moved by Shri Naveen Patnaik.

[Mr. Chairman]

When we adjourned the discussion yesterday, Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi was on his legs. So, let him continue.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Madam, our country is having huge mineral deposits. The minerals that we could tap so far is very negligible, but we are importing coal and other items which is causing a lot of drain on foreign exchange. If we do not gear up ourselves to exploit the mineral resources in our country, we have to rely on imports. The present policy of managing the mines and minerals is to invest huge amount of money in this sector. Unless we attract foreign investments in this sector, it would be very difficult to augment the resources that are required for the development of minerals.

A lot of illegal mining is taking place which causes a lot of damage to our country. If you provide opportunities to those coming from abroad, perhaps it would hasten the progress in this area. I would like to point out that relaxing the present policy would bring revenue to the States also. The present policy indicates that royalty has to be stepped up. That would benefit the States concerned to a large extent. The States are facing resources crunch. The resources that they are getting out of the mineral wealth will help the States. If we accelerate the growth of this sector, we can export minerals instead of importing them. Of course, all these things have to be done keeping the interests of our country in mind. Our country is full of mineral deposits. In Andhra Pradesh and its neighbouring State, Orissa, bauxite is available in abundance. We are not able to exploit them. I suggest that outside agencies have to be involved for the development of the areas where bauxite is available in plenty so that the area would also develop and the unemployment problem which is rampant in these areas can also be overcome. The unemployed people are resorting to illegal mining. So, at this juncture it is necessary and imperative to develop these places where minerals are available in abundance. Given an opportunity, many private agencies would come into this sector.

With these few suggestions, I would like to conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Madam, Chairperson, it is both the fortune and misfortune of this country that there is an abundant quantity of natural resources in our country. Among these, there is no dearth of minerals and mines related resources. But an unplanned and unchecked exploration of these minerals during the last so many years has forced us to conclude

that we have to amend and improve the present system of mineral exploration. This demand has been raised for many years and a Committee under the Chairmanship of Mines and Minerals Secretary to the Government of India was constituted in 1997. The Committee made its recommendations in this regard after extensively studying and considering the various issues concerned with several states and it is owing to that recommendation of the Committee that this legislation, incorporating all the issues arising out of the recommendation made by the Committee, has been brought forward and is being considered by us. The intention behind bringing forward this Bill is definitely a welcome step of the intention behind this Bill is to regularise the mineral exploration, drafting a well-planned policy and bringing under control the messy state of affairs in this field, then it will not be opposed by anyone. But besides it, care should also be taken towards not allowing the misuse of the amendment which we are proposing. We need to be cautious in this regard.

Through this amendment, you have sought to curtail or transfer many rights of the states as amendments made by you in the present system of giving the limestone areas on lease by handing over the rights of its assessment and final disposal to the states. It is a good thing and a welcome step. Since you have excluded it from Schedule (1) part (c) I would suggest that there are big deposits of Bauxite in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar etc. and for the exploration of Bauxite all the applications are referred to the Centre involving wastage of a lot of time in various formalities. Same was the condition of the limestone industry. If you also simplify the procedure and appropriate the rights to the respective State Governments then these State Governments can solve the problems related to exploration on the basis of their local needs and decide accordingly. This is not a mineral to be included in the category of very sensitive minerals.

Provision has also been made for liberalising the maximum extent of the mining lease belt. Secondly, we had already provided the right of first renewal to the States but for the second renewal, applications used to come to the Centre and this formality involved a lot of time. Many a times, it so happened that the period of lease was over before the renewal proceedings, causing a lot of discrepancies. It is a good thing that you are trying to do away with these discrepancies and incongruencies. I welcome it. But I feel it necessary to draw your attention here to some points. Firstly, as some of my friends have also said that the states get a share of royalty from their mineral assets. It is provided under the rules that the rates of royalty should be revised every

three years and new revised rates should be enforced. As far as my knowledge goes the last revision took place on 11.10.94 and you did not do any revision after that. Before this period too, there are a number of instances of not revising the rates even after ten years and in this whole process, State Governments are the ultimate losers. I agree with your proposal that we have to make two provisions in this regard. Firstly, the royalty should not be decided on the basis of the weight of the mineral extracted but it should be so on the basis of its value. The Committee has also recommended likewise in its report. You take the example of Madhya Pradesh.

I am just raising an issue, I will try to conclude very quickly, I have just started.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to conclude very quickly. Very less time is left.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Please relax the time limit a bit. Madam, I am concluding now.

Madhya Pradesh received Rs. 694.59 crores as royalty on coal in 1996-97, Rs. 664.09 crores in 1997-98 and Rs. 674.94 crores in 1998-99. Had these rates been revised and increased by ten percent, then the State's income would have increased by Rs. 134 crores on coal alone. I would like to remind you that we have suffered these losses only on coal. Besides, our State has limestone, iron-ore, bauxite, lignite and so many other minerals which are being extracted and if we add up their total losses, it will amount to more than two to three hundred crores. Why it is happening? You take a short glance at it. I rate you as a competent Minister and the issue I am raising is very genuine.

Second thing which I would like to tell you is that even the transfer of mining lease can be simplified. You have made so many provisions in regard to liberalisation but as far as transfer of mining lease is concerned, same delay, due to the completion of formalities occur *i.e.* seeking permission from Delhi for this. After that transfer of minerals lease will be discussed. The lease-holder wants to transfer the mine to some other person for developing it. Transfer should be decided at the lower level. Your regional offices can supervise and monitor such cases.

Third point which I wanted to raise is that even though you have made provisions under the agreement regarding levelling, and reconstruction etc. of mines, in practice it does not happen in the case of mines dug at several places, after the termination of the duration of

mining lease. Consequently, it is adversely affecting the environment besides causing a lot of problems for the local people. Therefore, my suggestion is that you must make a provision in this regard by either taking a written commitment and ask the lease holders to deposit an amount equal to the amount that would be required as cost of levelling the mines as security deposit. Otherwise these mines would remain as they are.

Thirdly, I would like to say something about the provision of preparing mining plan for mining work taken up in area upto 10 hectare. It is alright and I agree with the point that for big mines mining plan should be prepared, approved and scrutinised in advance. But for small areas, the mining work taken up in areas of 5 to 10 hectare should be exempted of this provision. You may be aware of the fact that lot of work is involved in preparation of mining plan and it takes too much time.

I would conclude in a minute. Please consider this issue and exempt the mining work taken up in 5 to 10 hectare area from this provision. You can make provision in the agreement. You can impose conditions or take a written undertaking for it.

In the end, I would like to say that under the Forest Conservation Act several mining projects have been banned or controlled and it is also a fact that most of the mineral resources are found in forest area. It is a very complicated procedure at present. Please consult the Environment and Forest Department to simplify it. You can convene a meeting and discuss the matter with them to find a way out to make it simple but at the same time people should not take undue advantage of it and genuine cases should not suffer due to complication of the procedure.

Lastly, huge deposits of Bauxite are available in Madhya Pradesh. Mining Corporation has reserved thousands of acres of land for mining of Bauxite for the last ten or 15 years. Same situation prevails in other states. Mining Corporation has reserved almost 90 percent area. They are not working there and these areas are lying unoccupied. Neither they are working themselves nor they are allowing others to take up mining work there. It is violation of terms and conditions. They can not act in this manner without prior permission of the Government of India, but they are doing so. It is my submission that the Government should find out, in which areas such situation prevails. As per my information Mining Corporations are incurring losses. Their deficit is worth crores of rupees and they are unable to pay salaries to their staff. It is my submission that the Government should

[Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi]

get these areas free because there is no justification of having this conservative provision in this period of economic liberalisation.

With these words, I conclude and thank you for allowing me to speak.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Madam Chairperson, I shall be very brief. Yesterday, several Members pointed out different aspects of this Bill. So, I do not want to waste the valuable time of the House.

Madam, the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill has got some objectives and reasons. One of the vital objectives of this Bill is to prevent illegal mining. I am sorry to say that incidents of illegal mining are going on increasing day-by-day. Rampant cases of illegal mining are increasing everyday. For example, I can say in this House that throughout the banks of the river side of my area, brick trade or brick manufacturing factories are increasing everyday. In and around the city of Calcutta, big multi-storeyed buildings are being erected due to which the villagers are paying penalty. These brick manufacturing structures are situated throughout the river banks and brick manufacturing business is carried out without any quarry permit, or sanction or licence or lease of the Government. They are not paying any royalty to the Government. They are doing this mischievous work with the connivance of a section of the Government employees who are working in the Land Reforms Department and police personnel. It is not only this. This brick manufacturing business is polluting the environment. These factories are causing pollution and because they are situated in the village areas, green trees are destroyed and paddy fields are damaged by these brick manufacturing factories. It is not only that. They are engaging child labour violating the Child Labour Act. They are engaging people coming from Bangladesh with minimum wages. They are also creating many hazards affecting the health of the villagers.

Yesterday, some Members apprehended that there will be a possibility of usurping the rights and functions of the State Governments by this Bill. I draw the attention of the House as well as the hon. Minister to see that the land belongs to the State Government as also the powers to dig the underground earth. So, we should not pass such a Bill which will usurp the functions and rights of the State Governments. We should seriously look into the matter. I again urge upon the Government and the concerned hon. Minister on this point. Everyday, we are

passing so many laws and regulations with some cogent reasons and good objectives.

But those laws are being frustrated by the Implementing Authority. The persons who are to look after and who are vested with the power to implement the laws are not doing their job well. Due to their acts of omissions and commissions, the intentions of the laws are being frustrated. So, I urge upon the Government that the Government should take care to see that the laws are strictly and properly implemented by the Implementing Authority. Otherwise, everything will be spoiled and the law will be frustrated.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO (Jamshedpur): Madam, Chairperson, I support the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 1999 brought by hon'ble Minister and would like to raise some specific points regarding minerals available in my area. A unit of Hindustan Copper Limited, the Indian Copper Complex, Ghatshila in Vananchal region is an important public organisation. This area has a population of 3 lakh and most of them are tribals and people belonging to backward castes.

Surda, Pathargoda, Kendadih and Rakha are the prominent mines under I.C.C. Besides copper, several other metals like gold, silver, selenium, Tellurium and Sulphuric acid etc. are also mined from these mines. I.C.C. was nationalised in 1972 and Khetari Malajhkhand and Taloja units were set up but I.C.C. was totally ignored. No attention was paid towards its development and expansion and as result of it, mines of this organisation are being closed down one after another. In 1997 the management of Hindustan Copper Limited had closed down two mines namely Banalopa and Badia on pretext of higher cost of production. Three thousand workers of this mine opted for voluntary retirement. Now the management has again asked for permission of Labour Ministry of the Government of India for closing its two more mines namely Pathargoda and Kendadih which will render 1099 workers jobless. According to the management higher cost of production is the main reason for it.

The management of Hindustan Copper Limited has stated that these mines have been closed down on the basis of the recommendations made by Raja Chelliah Commission report whereas fact is that Management has

partially accepted the suggestions of the commission. It has been clearly suggested in the recommendations that Hindustan Copper Limited can come out of its economic crisis in one or two years if wasteful expenditure is controlled and cost of production is brought down.

Ours is a mixed economy. Mines should not be closed down here on the basis of London Metal Exchange. Today when London Metal Exchange is 1750 dollar per tonne and it is increasing continuously in such a situation closure of these mines cannot be considered proper. The Management of Hindustan Copper Limited has not taken any concrete steps to stop closure of these mines in future. I feel that if productivity of mines under Indian Copper complex is increased, copper grade is improved, full mining capacity is utilised, percentage of indirect labour force is decreased, over-all cost and cost of production is reduced, unnecessary expenditure is cut down, then I.C.C. could be made economically viable and closure of mines be stopped.

Apart from it, I would like to draw your attention towards Uranium Corporation of India Limited set up in Jadugoda region of eastern Singhbhoom district of Bihar. Uranium is being mined from it for the last 30-35 years. For the last 6 or 7 years local tribals of the area have launched an agitation against carelessness and land grabbing by UCIL management. Though local people and tribals are struggling for getting compensation and their rehabilitation but who will compensate them for the ill affects of uranium ore which has been kept there in open. Unfortunately UCIL management does not consider the keeping of this radioactive ore which is kept in open, dangerous at all.

16.00 hrs.

As it is kept in open, it is polluting the nearby areas for years through air and water. In rainy season, this radioactive ore flows in fields and goes to Swamarekha river through drains. It is clear that radioactivity is increasing in fields and rivers of the area. T.B. has become a common disease in villages situated near the mines. The Number of patients of lung cancer is increasing. Handicapped and mentally handicapped children are being born. Its ill effects are also seen in cattle who graze from fields affected of radioactivity.

According to the law relating to Atomic Energy, Uranium ore should be stored in a very protected way. But in Jadugoda, after the primary purification of uranium ore the remaining portion of ore is collected in a place called 'tailing pond' where sometimes children play or

cattle graze. According to rules tailing pond should have atleast one feet deep water but in Jadugoda tailing pond remains dry and the dust of ore can be seen flying. I, therefore, demand that Government should take necessary action to improve the situation to stop radiation.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar): Madam Chairperson, I rise not to oppose the Bill, but I am sorry to say that I cannot support the Bill wholeheartedly. I have gone through the Statement of Objects and Reasons and found that it is confusing. The land belongs to the State and according to what has been stated there, it seems to me that it will create a confusion with regard to delegation of powers. Of course, I welcome the Minister's initiative to prevent illegal mining and also to stop corruption. There is a Bengali proverb which says: "Sarsheer Madhye Bhoof" which means, 'one does not know whether the ghost will be in the corn or not'. If that is so, it is very much difficult to stop corruption.

In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, through you that when his father was the Steel and Mines Minister in 1977, in reply to my question at that time, he said that there is a huge deposit of copper in Sikkim and in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal. I asked him as to why the Government is not taking up mining in those areas and he said that our science and technology has not developed much so as to segregate the ore from copper. I do not know whether our science and technology has developed now in the past 22 years so as to segregate copper from other materials. I do not know whether the non-development of technology is preventing us from taking up mining or some lobby is standing in the way of exploring the possibilities of segregating copper from other materials. It is very sad to see that our technology has not yet been developed to undertake this work in all these years when science and technology has developed so much in other places.

With regard to corruption, I have got so many papers with me and I shall write to the Minister. So, I do not want to refer to all them here. I would like to cite here only one instance. It relates to his State. I think, it is NALCO, Bhubaneswar and very well known to him. It is under the Department of Mines also.

Regarding the dust suppression power plant, he had invited tenders. These were opened in Angul. The participants were BHEL, Andrew-Yule, ABB and ACC. Please find it out. Out of these, his choice at present,

[Shri Amar Roy Pradhan]

the manner it is going on, is in favour of ABB or ACC. Why should there be the private parties? I should not say anything about BHEL. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev is there. He also dealt with BHEL earlier. We are proud of BHEL. It is one of the 'Navratnas'. Then, why have BHEL or ABB not got the tender? That is my question to him. At this moment, I request the hon. Minister of please go through it and try to save this public sector undertaking. Do not go to private companies. Do not go to the multinationals. When firms like BHEL are available in our country—we are proud of BHEL being one of the 'Navratnas'—why would they not get the tender? Why should the other organisation—Andrew-Yule—not get the tender? Why would they not get all these things? That is my question. I would like to place it before the hon. Minister. I hope that he will go through it and ultimately BHEL or Andrew-Yule will get the tender.

[Translation]

*SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagappattinam): Hon'ble Chairperson, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I fondly recall our leader Kalaignar, cherished as their own leader by all the Tamils world-over. He is also ensuring a clean and transparent Government in Tamil Nadu and I take this opportunity to thank him alongwith the electorate of my Nagappattinam constituency who have enabled me to be a member of this august House. Let me continue with my maiden speech in this House.

As far as this Bill that has been introduced in this House, our party Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam welcomes and extends its wholehearted support to this motion. The salient feature of this Bill is that it provides for more powers to the States in the mining sector. It is commendable. This translates into action the cherished dream of our great leader Anna who advocated federalism at the Centre and autonomy to the States. The National Democratic Alliance's coalition Government at the Centre devolves more power to the States as it firmly believes in ensuring federalism and we welcome this move.

In the mining sector, as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, those who resorted to loot and corruption are facing corruption charges in the trial courts on a daily basis now.

In the earlier regime there was enormous corruption. Jayalalitha and her accomplice Sasikala are facing trial almost everyday charged with corruption**...(Interruptions)

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

The Mines & Minerals Department of Tamil Nadu had witnessed corruption on a large scale. Shri Dhyaneswaran, an IAS Officer, was there. One of the officials of that Department facing charges before the Court was said to be carrying everyday several cases of currency to the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and no one can deny that such charges are tried by the Courts now. ...(Interruptions)

Such corrupt people used such money to even topple a Government at the Centre. Such of those politicians and officials who have been charged by the Courts are facing trial before Special Courts on a day to day basis. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): I do not know why he wants to bring out all these things...(Interruptions) This is completely unethical...(Interruptions) This is completely wrong and unacceptable...(Interruptions) This is not fair...(Interruptions) No Madam, please remove it from the records...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): The matter is totally irrelevant...(Interruptions) You should not allow it...(Interruptions) He goes on with an irrelevant matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN: Through this Bill the Centre shares with States more of its powers. While exercising such powers officials should abide by the rules and regulations. Whoever it may be who resort to corrupt practices must be brought to book and must be punished. We hope this coalition Government at the Centre would ensure this while implementing this after passing it in this House. Extending our total support to this Bill, let me conclude. Thank you.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): When you were making allegations, was it pleasing you? ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has finished his speech...(Interruptions)

Just a minute please. If there is anything objectionable or unparliamentary in what he has said, it will be looked at later and it will be removed. Please do not raise a controversy.

[English]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Madam, the hon. Member's speech is highly motivated knowing full well that this has no relevance at all to the Bill about which he wanted to speak.

This has no relevance at all to this issue...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot decide what is relevant or what is not.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. You cannot dictate what a Member should say. If there is something unparliamentary or objectionable, we will remove it.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The speech is over. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Madam, we want a ruling from the Chair...(*Interruptions*) He has spoken about a person who is not in the House...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to me. The Member has said something. We will go through the record and if there is anything unparliamentary or objectionable, it will be removed. I cannot remove something just now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Madam, my respectable submission is that this is the manner in which they behave in this House; he spoke for three minutes on the Bill. That shows their concern about the nation, that shows their callous attitude towards the Bill, which is a very important Bill...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, this was his maiden speech. Please do not disturb.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Madam, he accused somebody who is not in the House. This should be condemned. This should be prevented in future.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Madam, Government has brought this Bill to make amendment in the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 1957. It has been proposed in this Bill to provide more powers to the States. Some issues have been raised in this bill to put restriction on the illegal works in the mining sector. It is ironical that when an amendment is made to a bill and an act is enacted in that regard, concerned officers get more chances to involve in corrupt practices. However, if the Government want to make amendment it should seriously ponder over it. There is no corruption in the mining activity but it is rampant in the transportation of minerals. Minerals are being stolen in connivance with the officers. Government do not keep any record of it. Therefore, it is necessary to make amendments in this act.

Secondly, royalty given to the States should be given on the basis of value rather on weight. Hon'ble Minister is required to seriously consider the report which has been submitted in this regard. While replying to this bill, hon'ble Minister should tell the issues which have been taken up in this report. We do not want to oppose this bill but at the same we are not inclined to support it. My suggestion is that Government should seriously think to make proper amendments in this bill. Shri Naveen Patnaik who is our Minister has introduced a 'Naveen' new bill. Therefore, proper amendment is needed in this regard.

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA (Salumber): Madam, Chairperson, the Government has introduced the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill which would be implemented in my constituency also. Mining of Zinc, Lead, Soft stone, phosphate etc. is done in my area.

As the time is short, I will say something about marble. Small time owner of mines are engaged in mining work in my area and with the advent of economic liberalisation, it will be exported to other countries. However, only the rich mine owners will be able to export the marble and can do the mining with the help of machines. My concern is that about at least one lakh labourers are engaged in marble mines. Government has put a ban on marble mining as it is not eco-friendly. Marble mining is allowed only after complying to a formulae fixed by the Government. They are asked to get the lease renewed every year. Those who have got enough money get it renewed easily but a poor miner can not afford to get it renewed which results in the closure of the mine. This reveals that the mines of small

[Shri Bherulal Meena]

miners are getting closed and labourers are rendered jobless. My suggestion is that the small miners should not be put to hard restrictions leading to the closure of their mines. Their mines are closed for the sake of environment.

My submission is that a sufficient area on lease should be given to grow trees and it should be made mandatory so that the environment should not get polluted. At the same time mines do not get closed and labourers would not be rendered homeless. My area is hilly one and there is no other industry or any other job opportunities except mining. The area is unsuitable for cultivation. Labourers earn their livelihood only by working in mines. When a mine is closed, labourers get only Rs. 15-20 as their earning and they are exploited. Government should ensure that the small minerals should not be harassed in the name of the environment and labourers may get their wages regularly.

There are so many mines in our country like Hindustan Zinc, R.S.M. etc. but hon'ble Minister should implement the suggestions given by me regarding soft stone and marble and small miner should not be harassed and the labourers should not be rendered jobless. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Madam, kindly allow me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is not in the list which has come to me. Now you are sending the name when we have already exhausted the time.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: No one from Shiv Sena Party has given his name to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: O.K. , please speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Madam Chairperson, I would like to put forth my views on Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill presented in the House. The issue of illegal mines and lease transfer have been discussed. Discussion took place regarding the steps to be taken to curb the corruption prevailing in this industry. The biggest loophole in this industry is that there is no provision for the labourers working in mines. What will be the fate of these workers who work day and night.

Through this bill we should consider to make some provisions for the workers in case some accident or any other mishappening takes place. While transferring a land, the prices of land should be fixed at market rate. With these words while making one more point, I would like to conclude my speech.

The condition of the mine workers especially those working in coal mines of Maharashtra is not very good. There should have been a provision in this regard in the bill. However, it is not there, I tell you a story of a mine worker who works for the whole day in coal mine and when on reaching home with some of his relatives he asks his wife to prepare tea for them, his wife says that tea leaves and sugar is there in the house but coal is not available. This is the condition of a coal mine workers in our country. Therefore, their economic condition should also be considered. This is what I want to bring to the notice of hon'ble Minister. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): I will just raise only one legal point. Madam, actually the Constitution gives the powers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We cannot have this debate go on till six o' clock. We have a lot of business before us. Names are being added from the floor now. It is not an open-edged debate that you can just go on and on and on. We must stop somewhere.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I come from the area where diamond mines are situated.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is up to you all. You sit and conclude the business of the day. You take only two minutes.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Madam, actually the Constitution of India has given the powers to the Central Government under List-I for regulation of mines and minerals development to the extent to which such regulation and development under the control of the Union is declared by Parliament by laws to be expedited in the public interest. Therefore, the main reason is only for regulation of mines and then only there will be development. But clause 3 actually wants to put

the cart before the horse. They want to put first the development and then regulation. That power is not given in the List-I, List-II and in the State List also.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons also, there is no reason given why there is topsy-turvy, why the development comes earlier and regulation comes latter. Regulation is only relating to the power because it is a natural asset; it is a gift given by the nature to the country. The Americans and Western countries are not utilizing the mines but they are exploiting the mines of Asian countries. That is why, the framers of the Constitution have made it that we should regulate and then develop it. Now you want to develop it and then regulate it. That is a topsy-turvy work which is against the Constitutional powers also. If anything happens before the court, this may be set aside as it is unconstitutional because the powers are not given in both the Lists. That is my main objection.

My second submission is regarding my constituency. There is a graphite mine. As it is, the Central Government has not got the power to regulate the mines but for the 30 years, graphite has been taken up and nothing has been developed. The Government was taking up all these graphites, spending money but nothing is coming up. Such things should be looked into by the Ministry so that development can be brought properly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You said you had only one point to make. You have completed two and you are going for the third.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: I have one more point to make. Now there is a three-tier system. Under article 243G of the Constitution of India, you are devolving the powers and authority to the State. When you are gracefully giving the powers to the States, the States should give them to the Panchayats also. Panchayats are managing the property. They are looking after the property. They are developing the property but nothing is going to them. All the royalties, seigniorage, fee and dead rent charges, everything goes only to the State Government. Nothing is going to the Panchayats. Therefore, when the Central Government is making laws, the three-tier system of the Constitutional amendment should also be taken into consideration and Panchayats should be given the power to look into it, develop it and the taxes should be shared with them because the amendment is not giving any tax benefits under the three-tier system. Therefore, the Panchayats should also get the powers. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name was called out earlier but you were not present in the house. Therefore, Shrimati Abha Mehto was given the opportunity to speak.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Madam, Chairperson, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. My Parliamentary Constituency is Panna District of Bundelkhand area where diamond mines are situated. With the implementation of Forest Act, diamond mining has been banned. Besides, the area rich in precious metals comes under the jurisdiction of State Government not the forest department but diamond mining is not allowed there. My demand is that while relaxing the Forest Act, permission should be granted for diamond mining there.

Madam, Chairperson, the second thing which I would like to mention is that besides diamond mines, stone mines are also there. There is no other occupation except working in mines. As many mines have been closed under Forest Act, about 80 thousand labourers have been rendered jobless. My submission is that the ban on the mining should be lifted so that process of mining diamonds should be restarted which would help in removing unemployment. Plantation work should be started on the vacant land.

Madam, Chairperson, my third submission is that the situation of bauxite and granite is also not very good. Granite and bauxite should also be deleted from the list as has been done in the case of cement so that these industries could also flourish.

Madam Chairperson, my fourth point is that a Diamond Cement Factory is situated in Damoh and Narsinghgarh area of Madhya Pradesh. Factory people dig out the stone for manufacturing cement due to which lot of pits have been created. During rainy season, water is filled in these pits, which poses danger to the villages. I would therefore, request that the cement company should undertake the work of levelling the land. A provision should be made in this regard.

Madam Chairperson, with these words, I support this bill.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): Madam Chairperson, I have been listening carefully to the valuable suggestions made by

[Shri Naveen Patnaik]

the hon. Members regarding the amendments proposed to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. I have also noted the apprehensions of several Members and I will deal with those in my statement which I am now giving.

As the hon. Members are aware, the Act lays down the legal framework for development of minerals that our country is richly endowed with. For a very brief and recent history, we first should go to the beginning of liberalisation, which began almost a decade ago, in 1991 to be exact. In 1993, a National Mineral Policy was evolved which wished to give more powers to the States and also to open certain minerals for the private sector. Taking this into account, the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act was amended in 1994. Later, in 1996, under the Chairmanship of the then Minister of Mines, a Conference was held with all the relevant State Ministers and State Secretaries of Mines and Geology to formulate further liberal measures in the mining sector.

In 1957, the then Secretary of the Department of Mines was made Chairman of a Committee to look into further liberalization in the mining sector and also giving even more power to the States. Today those suggestions from that Committee have come as the present proposed Amendments to the Act.

This Bill wishes to categories, as is done according to international standards, the reconnaissance permits, the prospecting licences and mining leases according to the appropriate category. The proposed amendments to this Act formally deal with it.

As far as area limits for prospecting and mining is concerned, these restrictions were nation-wise. Now these area restrictions are proposed to be done State-wise. As far as the States are concerned, more authority is being delegated to them. A long-standing demand of many States has been to permit them to do the licensing of the mineral limestone. This is now going to the States.

Secondly, the Mining Plan which was approved by the Centre, will now be allowed to be approved by the States.

Thirdly, mining in non-contiguous areas and non-compact areas was permitted by the Centre. Now this will be done by the States.

The first renewal is presently approved by the State Governments. Now all renewals will be done by State Governments.

Now I come to

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Hon. Minister, may I ask a question?

Parliament passed in December, 1996 the Extension of the Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas Act. That contains a number of provisions relating to mining with respect to Fifth Schedule areas. In the recitation that the hon. Minister has given, there has been no reference to that Act passed by the Parliament. I just seek an assurance from the hon. Minister that in implementing these delegated powers to the States, it will be ensured by the Central Government that the States will observe the provisions of the Extension of Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas Act, 1996. Thank you.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Madam, if the hon. Member, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar permits, I could come to the point that he made later.

Now, as far as the laws regarding curbing illegal mining is concerned, new provisions to the law are being made to strengthen the laws against illegally mined minerals being transported. Also, the confiscation of equipment which is used for illegal mining and the seizure of illegally mined minerals which were stored are there.

I would like now to come to some of the points made by the hon. Members.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Now, you should speak something on ad valorem.

[English]

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Yes. I will come to that.

Hon. Members need not be needlessly exercised that the Bill favours multinational companies. I want to clarify that the Bill is neutral with regard to Indian companies and subsidiaries of multinational companies. As the Members are aware, we need capital as well as state of the art technology for exploration of minerals.

Also, I want to point out here that in 1998, our nation's equivalent cost of exploration of minerals was to the tune of around \$ 10 million. In the same year 1998, exploration of minerals all over the world was to the tune of something like \$ 4,000 million. So, I just want to say that some of the new amendments are to make an investor-friendly environment so that more investment is

made in our country. Of course, with that, more of our people will get jobs etc.

If Indian subsidiaries of multinational companies do reconnaissance and identify mineral occurrence, they are in no way depriving the country of its mineral wealth. I may make a point that it may not be possible to physically take away minerals in their raw form. For example, gold deposits having 20 grams per tonne are very good deposits. But if someone is to take this 20 grams of gold out of India, he will have to carry a muck of one tonne which may not be economically viable. Consequently, the value addition will have to take place in India. Hence, it would not be correct to assume that investment in the mineral sector would result in flight of mineral wealth from this country. So far 64 prospecting licences for aerial surveys have approved for an area of around 90,000 square kilometres in favour of companies registered in India. As of now, only Indian nationals or companies registered in India can hold a licence.

I also want to clarify, for the first hon. Member who spoke, that the last amendment to the Act was done in 1994 and not 40 years back. As far as environment protection is concerned, no mining can take place without the approval of the Mining Plan which should effectively takes care of environment. Moreover, for all mining leases above five hectares, approval of the Ministry of Environment and Forests is required. Similarly, for all prospecting cases above 500 hectares, environment clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests is required. Hence, environment aspects are taken care of under the present scheme of mining.

Now, I come to another point. As per section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, no mining can take place in forest areas. Under section 4A(4) of the Act, if a mine is in disuse for more than two years, the lease shall lapse.

As regards royalty enhancement, it can be done only after three years. The next revision of royalty is due after 11th of March, 2000.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): What about coal?

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: If the hon. Member shows some patience, I will come to this point also.

As regards the scope of nature of work for reconnaissance and surveys, aerial surveys is totally different from that of the prospecting operations, as

defined in the Act. Reconnaissance operations broadly include the operations undertaken for preliminary prospecting through regional surveys, aerial surveys, geophysical and geological mappings. Reconnaissance does not include pitting, trenching, drilling and sub-surface excavation, test drilling of boreholes etc. In mineral-rich countries, reconnaissance is a stage different from prospecting and this provides more leverage and time to the potential investors to establish the occurrence of minerals. India is consequently adopting the established practice through recognising reconnaissance as a distinct stage of operation.

"First come, first served" is a well-recognised principle in mining throughout the world. Even under our mining law, this has been recognised since 1957.

State mining officers and police can seize the vehicle involved in transportation of illegally mined minerals. Detailed rules can be notified by the States in this regard. Scientific and systematic mining is ensured by the Mining Plan which is approved. I would like to assure the hon. Members that this is a very progressive legislation.

Hon. Members have noted that, at present, the emphasis in the Act is on regulation, and development takes a back seat. It is now proposed that the stress should be on development. This is the underlying object of the Bill. Even under the industrial arena, the law is Industrial Development and Regulation Act.

Uniform rates and royalty are required for uniformity throughout the country. Hence for major minerals, only the Central Government is empowered to revise the royalty. For minor minerals like stone, sand, etc., which are low value, State specific minerals, States have the power to revise the royalty.

I would also like to emphasise that this is not a colourable legislation, but a very progressive legislation. Under Entry 54 of the Union List, the Act has been promulgated and is being amended.

After adequate consideration by the Government, limestone is being deleted to delegate more powers to State Governments, and Members should not be apprehensive on this account.

Granite is a minor mineral and the Central Government is not concerned with the grant of mining lease for granite. It comes under the State Governments.

The Tandon Committee has not recommended *ad valorem* fixation of royalty on all minerals. In case of low

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value minerals involving large numbers of leases, introducing *ad valorem* system is not practicable. In case of 17 categories of minerals, out of 66, *ad valorem* system is already being followed.

One hon. Member asked about bauxite, and I would like to clarify this to him. Bauxite needs to be retained in the First Schedule of the Act because of the following reasons.

Some of the major players in aluminium sector like NALCO, BALCO, are public sector undertakings of the Government of India and, therefore, the Central Government should continue to have a decisive say in the grant, renewal of these licences. Many multinational joint ventures and private companies are likely to enter the aluminium sector either to meet the domestic requirement or for export purposes. Some of them are framing proposals for setting up port-based export oriented alumina plants. It will not be always possible to have the source of bauxite and port-based export oriented units located in the same State, and hence delegation of powers to States for grant of mining leases may be counter-productive. India has one of the largest deposits of bauxite and a national level planning and decision is required for the best mineral development of bauxite. Bauxite and aluminium industry has a vital role to play in the national economy, and hence there is a need to retain the powers of grant of prospecting licences and mining leases by the Government of India in the wider national interest.

The distribution of resources of bauxite are lopsided and mostly concentrated in three or four States, for example, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Such an unequal distribution of resources necessitates centralised decision-making and overall strategy of development and exploitation of bauxite, basically to be guided by long-term national goals and perspectives.

Resources of refractory grade bauxite suitable for manufacturing high alumina refractories is relatively limited. This being finite, best use and judicious exploitation of this grade of bauxite is all the more important.

Madam, if you could be patient with me for a few minutes, I shall complete my submission. I would just like to clarify a few more points that have been made by the hon. Members. The royalty of minerals is collected and retained by the State Governments. I have already spoken about the deletion of bauxite. I have also stated that the royalty enhancement period is a minimum three

years. Transfer of lease is permitted under rule 37 of MCR, 1960. The power to permit the transfer is also being delegated to the States. Rules would be amended accordingly.

Sir, brick earth is a minor mineral. Grant of quarry licence, regulation etc. of brick earth is totally under the purview of the State Governments. For the point raised by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, I would like to state that the amendment proposed will have nothing to do with the Act formulated in pursuance of 1996 Constitutional amendment relating to local bodies and hence there should be no apprehension on this ground.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The Constitutional amendment was not in 1996. The Constitutional amendment was in 1992 in terms of which the Parliament has passed an Act, a piece of legislation which is a law that contains provisions for the protection of tribal rights with respect to minerals found in the Fifth Schedule areas. Therefore, I have the apprehension that since several States have not been implementing the provisions of the Central Act in Scheduled areas lying within that State, there is a danger that unless the Central Government takes this into account, there would be a grave danger that in the process of delegating your powers to the States, you are depriving yourself of the ability to ensure that the States respect the rights of the tribals in the Fifth Schedule areas in composite States which contain such areas.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Thank you very much.

Madam, to sum up I would like to state that this Bill seeks to usher in an investor—friendly environment to evolve a hassle free regime and delegate further powers to the State Governments. Therefore, I suggest that the Bill be passed.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Madam, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister.

It has been said that Bauxite mining would be in Schedule-I which means that the control of the Centre would be on Bauxite mining. Therefore, here I would like to plead with the hon. Minister, through you, Madam, that Bauxite mining at Bafalimali which has been granted to Indal is in the Kalahandi district, on the border of Kalahandi and Koraput districts, which is just on the edge of the reservoir of the Indravati project. Mining there would lead to silting thereby affecting the longevity of the upper Indravati project which is meant to irrigate the drought prone areas of the Kalahandi district. Everyone knows

that Kalahandi is one of the poorest districts in the country and is also drought-prone. Therefore, this project was meant to irrigate this area. This project has now been completed. Therefore, if Bauxite mining is allowed at Indal in Bafalimali, then it would adversely affect the reservoir of the upper Indravati project.

Madam, therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister that an alternative mining area, known as the Kodingamali may be identified. Its catchment is in the Nagavali river which directly flows into the Bay of Bengal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister comes from your State only and he is aware of all these things.

[*Translation*]

Everybody knows that, Minister comes from your state only.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I would like to tell him, I would like to remind him.

[*English*]

Madam, I would like the hon. Minister that when he takes a decision, he may kindly scrap the mining lease for Bafalimali at Indal and instead allow mining at Kodingamali which also has got enough of Bauxite for mining and enough to sustain alumina plants in that area.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Madam, what the hon. Member has said has nothing to do with the Bill, hence it is outside the scope of the discussion. But I would certainly take note of what he has said.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I had raised the matter related with royalty on coal. The high-level Committee of the Government have stated in its report that the State should get royalty according to the value. In the absence of it, the states are facing losses worth crores of rupees. The finances of the States are in bad shape. Why the Government is not taking action on the Committee's report for the last two years? Why is it not implementing the recommendations? The hon. Minister has not clarified it.

[*English*]

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: In reply to the hon. Member, Madam, this is under consideration of the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says that it has been under consideration for two years.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Well, we will see what can be done

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (*Dhenkanal*): Madam, Chairperson, I had asked two specific questions and the hon. Minister in his reply did not touch on those points.

Whenever there is mining activity or development of mines, the first people to be thrown out are the tribals and people belonging to weaker sections. Therefore, I wanted to know whether there is a rehabilitation and resettlement plan with the Government. Secondly, what about the environmental hazards.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister mentioned it.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: No, he did not. He only mentioned about the Forest Conservation Act. That Forest Conservation Act was partially done for Bafalimali because I had raised a half-an-hour discussion two years back to which Prof. Soz had replied. Madam, these environmental hazards lead to Alzheimers disease where the patient's thinking process goes haywire, his knees buckle and his brain does not control his nervous system. There is fluorosis and fluoride poisoning in Angul, in NALCO. NALCO is a Government company. As he says the Government has to take steps to prevent it. More than 5,000 people have suffered in Angul.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, since these are issues concerning Orissa, why do you not call all Members of Parliament from Orissa and sort out all the problems? You come from that State. I think you should call all of them for a cup of tea and discuss it. That will be the easiest thing.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Madam, the Minister did not mention anything about NALCO purchasing a sinking company. It is scandalous.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Madam, I will be very happy and feel honoured to call all my colleagues from Orissa at any time. They all know that I am available. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Otherwise, this debate will become debate on Orissa.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: No, Madam, the point which I made during my speech is the property of the House now. I am not going to meet the hon. Minister in his chamber and discuss these things. We are going to pay Rs. 350 crore for a factory which is only worth Rs. 30 crore. This is criminal, Madam, and I want a clarification from the Minister on this. I do not want to talk about these things in his chamber. Let the House know about it. Let there be some transparency. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you raise this type of questions, then the discussion on this subject will continue the whole night.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Madam, I will conclude after making one more point...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have all spoken in the discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I had requested you to exclude bauxite. You said that you were concerned because a public sector undertaking was doing the mining of Aluminium. I have got a suggestion, you may consider it and get it examined. You should work out the consumption of bauxite and aluminum by public sector undertakings. You can reserve as much as you want for it, nobody is stopping you. Different states of the country are having large deposits of it. I understand, it is not appropriate to stop it for a few public sector undertakings. You should again get it examined afresh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should get it examined, and should note it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 24 stand part of the Bill."

Clauses 2 to 24 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.55 hrs.

SPECIAL PROTECTION GROUP (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will now take up the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 1999.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Special Protection Group Act, 1988, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

This is a Bill which seeks to replace an Ordinance which was issued last month by the President. The background of this Bill is that we have an elite Force known as the Special Protection Group which attends to the security of the Prime Minister and members of his immediate family, as also former Prime Ministers and Members of their families. This Group was formed shortly after Mrs. Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984. It came into being in 1985, but it received statutory status in

1988 when Parliament enacted the Special Protection Group Act. This Act was amended twice later on, firstly because the original Act provided that in case of former Prime Ministers it would be operative for five years after they cease to be Prime Ministers. Subsequently, it was amended and five years was made ten years. Lately, the Government considered this matter because in the case of the family of Shri Rajiv Gandhi namely, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and her children, the SPG cover was only up to the 1st December, 1999, ten years were due to expire. So, the Government had two options either to amend the Act and make ten as 15, or to change what has been done in the Act namely, we have not changed the period for which SPG cover would be provided to former Prime Ministers and their families. That remains to be done. But it has been provided that on the basis of the assessment of the threat to former Prime Minister or his or her families, SPG cover can be continued. But it can be continued under certain circumstances when the threat is continuing, when the threat is from terrorist organisations and on that basis, the amendment was made in the SPG Act and because Parliament was due to meet on the 29th November and between 29th November and the 1st December, there were just two days and, therefore, Government thought it necessary that Ordinance be issued and today I have brought this Bill to the House for replacing the Ordinance and making it into a permanent statute.

17.00 hrs.

Since this is a short Bill with very limited provisions, the other House passed it unanimously. On that occasion, I availed of the opportunity to refer to a matter which has been bothering me ever since I assumed office last year. That issue is related to the kind of security that we provide to people in public life, the so-called VIPs.

There was a time when there was no such provision. I remember, the first time that I was in Government, there was hardly any security even with the Prime Minister. Shri Morarjibhai Desai was the Prime Minister at that time. I have gone through the earlier records and found that the first time this question of security being provided to Ministers being talked about in a formal notification from the Ministry of Home Affairs was around 1971-72. That was the first time. During the time of Pandit Nehru or earlier, there may have been nothing whatsoever. Subsequently, due to various changes in the internal security environment, changes have come about. Some of them are imperative; some of them are necessary.

The State has a responsibility in that regard. But what has happened since 1971 gradually is that this particular VIP security has been proliferating in a manner as to detract from the basic duty the State has towards its common citizens. The other day, when I was talking with some of the police officials in Delhi, I asked what the total strength of police personnel in Delhi, in the capital was. They told me that it was around 57,000 or so. I asked them what the estimated number of policemen who are entrusted with VIP security duty would be. I was shocked to hear that out of 57,000 personnel, 7,000 policemen were entrusted with the responsibility of VIP security. These figures are telling figures. Here is a city with a population of one crore or more and for that one crore population, 57,000 police personnel is a small number. And, out of this 57,000 personnel, 7,000 are to be entrusted with the duty to safeguard VIPs.

I have just secured figures of the number of so-called VIPs who are guarded and the number is 359 in Delhi. Some of them are positional, that is, because of the position that they have, they are supposed to be under certain threats and on the basis of the threat perception, the VIP security is provided. Of course, it is done by a small group of officers within the Ministry of Home Affairs, who make a periodical assessment of the threat perception. I have mentioned this because it is my view that there is a need to drastically curtail this level of VIP security.

During the last one and a half years, the attempts that have been made in this direction have met with resistance and at every point of time there is difficulty. Actually, when it is sought to be done, the Ministry itself has to listen to them. It is not merely people in public life but even officials who are in threat. I am in a position to tell the House that I have with me certain figures of the officials who used to have security some time back. In 1997, there were 118 Government officials who were provided with security guards, etc. That number had been brought down to 90 in 1998 and today it is 33. This is the direction in which I would like to continue and that too not merely in respect of officials but in respect of all those who have sought official security, Governmental security.

As I said, today, the number of such persons who have security is 359. For some of them, it is purely a positional one; they happen to be occupying certain positions and therefore, they have them. Even in that regard, perhaps, certain changes can be made, but it has to be done with their consent. But in the other cases, I do think that a lot needs to be done.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

My own experience is that during the last one-and-half years or two years, the moment the Home Ministry decides that in a particular case there was a threat five years ago, but today that threat no longer exists and so, security should be withdrawn or that security should be cut down to a lower level, there is a reaction; and that reaction is that that decision has been taken wrongly and say that either they do not know the kind of threat that I am under or there is some prejudice, etc. It is because of that that I have mentioned this matter in the House.

I am sharing no secret — ever since a provision was made that those under threat from any militant organisation can even be provided accommodation or house, this problem of VIP security has acquired a new dimension. I have had people approaching me saying that kindly put me on Z plus category list of security since that would entitle him to get a house and otherwise it is not possible for him to live in Delhi, kindly do this or kindly do that.

Now, I am of the view that this particular dimension needs to be eliminated altogether. If the House agrees, we can do so because presently the Home Ministry is engaged in drawing up fresh guidelines in the matter of VIP security. In that regard, one proposal that is under consideration is that under no circumstances, even though a person is threatened and that threat perception may entitle him to certain security from the Government, he will be entitled to any accommodation or allotment of a house.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Some of them are having accommodation of that ground now, it should nullify that also.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Yes, it will. It will apply to everyone. Therefore, I have placed it before the House. It does cause inconvenience. Something has happened ten years ago or seven years ago as a result of which a facility is given to a Member. He may be a former MP or he may be a former Minister or he may be a senior public man in life. But it is on that account, that is given to him. But if a decision of this kind is taken, it has to be uniformly applied to all. The consequences are there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Those people can pay for their security.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: That is a different matter.

As I said, in the case of officials what has been done is commendable. Already we have succeeded in bringing down the number of officers who were having security from 118 to 33 in these two years. In the case of political leaders, this is not the figures. In the case of political leaders, there has been a slight difference.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: I did not ask for any security when I was the Revenue Secretary.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: It is all right. It is very good.

Therefore, I have placed this matter before the House. Similarly, SPG of course is an elite group which has been developed for the sake of the Prime Minister and the members of his immediate family. But when the National Security Guard, NSG was constituted,—the black cat commandos—the concept was that they would operate principally in the areas afflicted by terrorism. They were to be a strong, a well-trained commando-force which will deal with terrorists. They were not conceived for VIP security.

But it was a decision taken within the NSG and within the Government that they would be given the NSG. Today, having the NSG or the black cats has become a status symbol.

[Translation]

That I have got NSG protection, Commandos wearing black dress and holding stenguns more around with me.

[English]

Therefore, we have a proposal according to which the NSG may not be used for the VIP security. If such decision is taken, I know, many people would question that decision. There would be some kind of resistance saying that exceptions should be made in this case or in that case. So, if it has to be done, then I need the support of the entire House. Since there are only three clauses in this Bill, I am sure, that the House would readily agree to pass this Bill unanimously. I would also need the support of the House for the other proposals that the Government has in mind.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing a very important subject regarding the security provided to no less a person than the Prime Minister and to his family members. As the

hon. Minister has rightly mentioned, the SPG which was initiated and promulgated in 1988 was further amended in 1989-91. An Ordinance was promulgated last month for which the Bill has to be passed today. I fully support the Bill on various accounts. As the hon. Minister has stated, this Bill is basically enacted to provide security to the Prime Minister which is of utmost importance to this country. As we all know, the Prime Minister takes important decisions far-reaching consequences. Many people feel that the security cover given to the VIPs is only a facade and that they have no right to inherit such a protection. That may not be always correct because the threat perception of some of the people in high places is so actual that they need it, especially for leaders like Rajiv Gandhi, the fall-out of which we saw later on. I definitely feel that the SPG must be given to all these people and to their family members as they are under constant threat from various quarters.

At the same time, I would like to say that there are people who do not deserve any security cover. As the hon. Minister has rightly mentioned, there are some people who ask for security just because it has become a status symbol. This Government has been in power for more than a year. I personally know a case where one person has been given security cover who is neither a Member of Lok Sabha nor of Rajya Sabha. I would not like to mention his name. He was the Member of the Rajya Sabha many years ago. Even after he laid down office, he continued to enjoy the privilege of having a house which has been dismantled and demolished. I can earmark that house which is situated in the NDMC zone. The ex-MP has demolished the entire house from the roots. I do not know how was it done. He was given the permission to build a house in almost a record time of two months. The property dealer or the officers in-charge demolished the entire house and it was done for *vastu* reasons. He dismantled the house which was properly erected by the Government. After that he says to the public that he is the recipient of the NSG cover. He brandishes it around to everybody concerned that he is the recipient from no less a person than the highest office of this country.

What kind of a situation is this? Is it at all fair on the public or on the people who watched this show? So, I would like to bring it to your notice that for the last 16 months and now for the last 13 months this particular Member of the Rajya Sabha, without being a Member in either Houses, without occupying any public office, is not only misusing the Government accommodation but also in the name of threat perception using the NSG cover. I would like to bring this to the notice of the Home

Minister that if action can be instituted against at least a couple of people in this country, the rest will follow in line.

If at all the SPG cover has been discussed, the main thing is that it was created for Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It is a very unfortunate thing that because of the inadequacy of the security that was provided to our very dear Prime Minister, we lost him. The country lost a very dynamic leader. Today, the persons who are coming to high offices are the beneficiaries of the so-called cover and security.

Hon. Home Minister has been very gracious in saying that he is keen to pass this Bill, as we are all in this House because we are concerned about the people in high offices who take decisions of very extreme nature. I am happy that this Bill is going to be passed. I fully endorse the Bill. Thereafter, I am sure, the Members will have nothing to dispute about. The rest of it my colleagues will be extending in their speeches.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon): Hon. Chairman, Sir, this legislation has been brought with the intention to extend the SPG facility available to VIPs at present. We should pass this legislation without any dissent. I have some reservations in the system as such.

It is the order of the day to give more and more protection to the political leaders. I would say that it is a sign of the disorder prevailing in the country. More and more instances of violence and sabotage are being reported in our country. We are proud of being the largest democracy in the world. How can we be proud of this disorder and agony prevailing in our country? A good democratic system is one which gives every citizen a feeling that he is being governed and has a role in the governance of the country. Not only the VIPs, all the citizens should feel that they are secured. In the prevailing situation necessitated by the insurgency, nobody can hesitate to provide ample security to VIPs but in the long run we have to review it because disorder cannot be protected or supported beyond a certain limit. With these words, on behalf of my Party, I would say that this legislation should be passed.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salém): Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I rise to strongly support this Bill and endorse that this Bill be passed. This Bill is concerning the SPG cover. We have absolutely no reservation on this.

[Shri T.M. Selvaganpathi]

This country has witnessed many cold-blooded assassinations. Therefore, the time-limit prescribed now has to be extended. I think, the whole House would be unanimous on this particular issue.

But as far as the NSG cover is concerned, the hon. Minister, in his introductory remark, said that it has to be given up and to substitute that, other forms of protection could be arranged depending on the cases. Sir, in my opinion, the perception of the internal security has totally changed now. We cannot take a unilateral decision regarding removal of NSG cover for the simple reason that the State security—any State for that matter—is not well equipped to combat certain modern terrorist techniques which some organisations like Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam and some anti-national forces in the name of minority possess. Even our hon. Home Minister was targeted in Coimbatore. The hon. Home Minister fortunately escaped because his flight was delayed by an hour. A bomb blasted very near the stage where he was supposed to appear in the public. So, the things have changed now.

Therefore, as far as the NSG cover is concerned, I request the hon. Minister to review his opinion or even change his opinion. A specific case of our beloved and dynamic leader, Dr. J. Jayalalitha is there. She has been given the NSG cover. Today, she faces a security threat both from outside the country and within the country. I suspect that this remark is even aimed at removing the security, especially of the AIADMK leader, Dr. J. Jayalalitha. Therefore, I urge upon the Minister that it should be considered on case to case basis keeping in view the security perception, security threat and its magnitude. All such things have to be taken into consideration instead of taking a unilateral decision on the removal of the NSG. I welcome this Bill and I call upon the Government to continue the NSG protection to the leader of AIADMK, Dr. J. Jayalalitha. I also reiterate that any move to remove the security cover to her will result in a dastardly situation and we will oppose it tooth and nail.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to begin by expressing my deep gratitude to the hon. Home Minister for having shown, in this case, deep sensitivity to the security requirement of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and her family. While the legislation before us is not designed for the protection of only one person or only one family, the fact is that it immediately applies to that person and her family and generically speaking to all those who fall into this category of threat. I am, therefore, wishing to bring on

record my appreciation of what the hon. Home Minister himself could perhaps not be able to bring on record that it is a gracious act on his part to have extended the protection that is required by the Leader of the Opposition and her family. In doing so, he expressed his awareness of the fact that the first two or three days of this current Session of Parliament might not have been adequate to bring the legislation before the House and therefore, the recourse was to have an Ordinance which is now sought to be converted into legislation.

We are really deeply beholden to him. At the same time, I feel that although I know that this piece of legislation is going to be unanimously enacted, it is not possible for us to proceed without comment to the stage of voting, for the whole issue of security has been trivialised in the public perception. It was in consequence of such trivialisation of serious issues that we had to suffer the martyrdom of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Therefore, I would like to avail of this opportunity to seek the indulgence of the House to explain at perhaps a little greater length than might otherwise have been required why we need to distinguish the SPG legislation from the executive acts of the Government with regard to other forms of security. In that light, I regret that the Home Minister has seen fit to expatiate at length on matters that are not directly relevant to this Bill. This Bill deals only with SPG security. While my sympathies are entirely with him on the other points that he raised, I do wish to underline that we must not club matters relating to SPG security with other matters. For, to do this is to trivialise both things.

As hon. Members of this House are aware, I was a Civil servant before I become a Member of Parliament. My last assignment as a Civil Servant was to work in the Prime Minister's Office from 1985 to 1989, the period when Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister. While I was given a certain number of other duties to perform in the PMO, my single most important duty was to organise the Prime Minister's tours and to accompany him on these tours. As it happened, I got an opportunity literally unique to myself — there is nobody else in India who has had that experience — of being with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on tour before the SPG was formed, of being with him on tour after the SPG was formed but before the SPG Act was passed, of being with him on tour after the SPG Act was passed, of being with him on tour after he ceased to be the Prime Minister but before the SPG cover was withdrawn from him and then being on tour with him after the SPG cover had been withdrawn from him and alternative security arrangements were made.

There is not even an SPG Officer who can claim this because by definition, an SPG Officer came into the picture only after the formation of the SPG. The SPG Officer ceased to be in the picture when the SPG cover was withdrawn from this former Prime Minister. It is in the light of this experience that I would urge in the context of this discussion so that, God forbid, we need to revert to it, these matters are brought on record that there have been two important debates in this House. One, on the 10th of May 1988 when the SPG Act was sought to be passed and the other on the 13th May of 1993 when the Verma Commission's findings were re-examined in this House, if when the importance of the SPG and its distinction from other forms of security was highlighted, it needs to be highlighted in today's context for us to properly appreciate what is it that we are passing today.

Proximate security, which is referred to in the text of the Act contains an important component, that has been explicitly referred to by the Minister who piloted the original 1988 Act, in the expression "advance liaison." I think it is this advance liaison which distinguishes the form of proximate security provided by the SPG from all other forms of proximate security because it involves sending a team out in advance to ensure proper security arrangements before the person covered by the SPG reaches the spot. Therefore, you have, within the SPG, an officer designated as the Additional Director (Functions) whose job it is to visit the spot in advance and ensure that there are no breaches of security by the local police or by any other local authority which could endanger the person arriving on the spot. This is not available to anybody else. When the Advance Security Liaison Officer goes to a spot, he is virtually endowed with dictatorial powers in respect of security arrangements. He is authorised by the law to overrule any other officer of any service, even if that person be senior to him, in respect of these security arrangements. He is indeed authorised to overrule the Chief Minister where the Chief Minister, for his own political reasons, wishes not to observe the regulations prescribed in what is called the Blue Book. This kind of authority...

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Still 'Half-an-Hour Discussion' has to take place. How much time will you take?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I will take another 15-20 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue later on.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Should I sit down?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: All right.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): The time is for Half-an-Hour discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is what we are taking up.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, we can have the Half-an-Hour Discussion next day...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The Advance Security Liaison Officer is, as I was saying, endowed with such significant powers...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue tomorrow. Please take your seat now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: All right, Sir.

17.33 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

RE : REDUCTION IN IMPORT PRICES
OF STEEL ITEMS

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): At the outset, I would like to say that with reference to the earlier Starred Question No. 44, dated 1.12.99, the Minister admits in his written and oral answers that the minimum import price has been reduced and the reduction of import duty has not affected the steel industry. It is a contradictory answer. Then, what was the necessity for fixing the floor prices?

In December 1998, the floor prices were announced. The average international export prices of certain categories of finished steel items were reported in the reputed and impartial international trade journal, the *London Metal Bulletin*. The prices as indicated in the LMB during the period May to July 1998 were used for computing the fair international export prices of European and the Japanese Steel Mills. Prices prevailing about six months earlier were used as import consignments and they usually take four to six months to arrive in India from those sources.

[Shri Sunil Khan]

Now, I come to revision of floor prices. The Ministry of Commerce *vide* Notification No. 31 (RE-99) 97-2002 dated 01.11.99 had reduced the reference price of a few flat items—both for prime, and second and the defectives. For example, in respect of the H.R. Coils the reference price prior to the Notification was US\$ 302 per tonne. The reference price in the current rate is US\$ 254 per tonne. The reduction is 16 per cent.

The reference price of steel of HR Sheets prior to Notification is US\$ 317 per tonne and the current reference price is US\$ 269 per tonne which amounts to a reduction of 15 per cent. The reference price of CR Coils prior to Notification is US\$ 392 per tonne and the current reference price is US\$ 351 per tonne, which is a reduction of 10 per cent. In the case of Alloy Bar and Rods the reference price prior to Notification is US\$ 740 and the current reference price is US\$ 580 which is a reduction of 22 per cent. The basis of the reference price has been the average FOB price from non-dumping sources, namely European Mills and Japanese Mills during the last three months with an addition of 20 US dollars per tonne to arrive at C & F prices. However, the prices of HR Coils has been rising in the international market from April, 1999 to August, 1999, at the rate of 22 per cent, on an average. When the international prices of HR Coils has gone up by, at least, 22 per cent in the last quarter over the price level in December, 1998, the current reference prices for prime varieties have been brought down by 16 per cent.

Sir, as a result of the Advance Licence Scheme, the Government is allowing export. That is why, the buyers are taking the advantage of lowering the import duty, then, I understand that when they are exporting Salem stainless steel bars and sheets by ship, they are showing the standard quality as rejected, they get the shipment transferred to another ship in mid-sea and the same goods come back to India as second quality items. As a result of this, there is a loss to the exchequer. If it is found that they have not exported, you have the law to penalise them. But they can earn more money, by taking advantage of the Advance Licence Scheme, than the amount by which you penalise them for not exporting the goods. So, I would suggest that the Government should increase the import duty.

17.40 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

In the case of SAIL, you are allowing the floor prices. Why are you allowing floor prices in the case of long products like joists, angles and T's. There is a heavy

demand in the market. I think, SAIL has a monopoly in the market. In the case of such types of items, allowing floor price should be stopped. In the case of flat products, it can be reduced to some extent.

I would like to raise one or two points with regard to restructuring of SAIL which is pending for one year. You have given a bail-out package to steel producers like ESSAR and ISPAT and others to the extent of Rs. 5,200 crore. But why are you not restructuring SAIL? If you restructure SAIL, then they will produce more products by modernising the plant and will also export their products.

SAIL has already lost Rs. 1,574 crore. You have allowed Rs. 1,200 crore through the rebate system. If you reduce Rs. 1,200 crore from Rs. 1,574 crore, it will come to Rs. 374 crore. Why have you allowed rebate in the prices? I can give the figures. The landed cost in September, 1999 in the case of 12 mm. rod was Rs. 22,009 per tonne. In the case of HR coils, it was Rs. 14,923 per tonne. The landed price is higher than the domestic price.

I have a question to ask. It is widely complained that our stockyards are reluctant to sell small quantities of steel directly to the parties and allow middlemen to avail of discount on purchases through the blackmarket. What is the problem in direct selling of any quantity to any party on any day of the month? SAIL can make some trials by stopping billets with rebate from all plants for the next two months. They can examine the movements in the market and the cost of financial hardship for two months consecutively by keeping huge stocks at plant stockyards and also by grounding the stocks of SAIL. Why is SAIL not making any effort to pick up a particular product and offer it for sale for two months, watch the market and then determine the strategies? So, please increase the import duty.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, a question was asked on 1st December about lowering the floor price and the customs duty in the case of imports of steel. An anxiety was expressed by the Members because for a number of times, the floor prices are being reduced. The customs duty is also being reduced.

As a result of this, our domestic steel industry is adversely affected. But the Government is not admitting that our indigenous steel industry has been adversely affected. This was not the situation two years back. Why there is recession in the steel industry and this recession is not overlooked? Our per capita availability of steel is lower even when we compare with the developing countries also.

Another problem is that second rated steel is being dumped or being allowed to dump in our country. Although there is a law, no action is being taken by the Ministry of Commerce to prevent the dumping of steel in order to protect your indigenous steel industry.

Sir, regarding fixing of the floor price, I have said that there is no system and there is no transparency also. They do not know what is needed and what is necessary. Like the BICP, if there is an independent body which can look into all aspects of the industry in regard to fixing of floor prices of different qualities of steel, it would be better.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I know that only one question is allowed to ask.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government consider a proposal to set up a body like BICP to determine the floor price of different qualities of steel? (b) In order to protect our steel industry, both public and private sector...(Interruptions)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): There is a joint plan committee to fix the prices.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: That he will tell us. There was also an expert committee which has also recommended. I do not know whether those recommendations have been implemented or not or whether the Steel Ministry is aware of that or not.

In order to protect our indigenous steel industry, both public and private, some concrete measures have to be taken. The patent answer that we get since the policy of liberalisation, which has been adopted by the Government of India since 1991, is that we will have to consider the international standard while fixing the custom duty. But that also should not hamper or harm our indigenous industry also. I would like to know whether some transparent system the Ministry will adopt while fixing the floor price and whether the Ministry will also take into consideration all the aspects relating to the problems of industry, the recession in the industry, the losses that have been incurred by the industry.

In order to protect our indigenous steel industry and also to prevent dumping of second rated steel from the advanced industrialised countries to our country, I want to know whether the Ministry of Steel is proposing or contemplating to take concrete measures.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Chairman, I am on a point of order. The point is that Question number 41 should be seen.

MR. SPEAKER: You may speak it out.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sub-rule 19 says:

[English]

"It shall not relate to a matter with which a Minister is not officially concerned."

[Translation]

You may ask the hon'ble Minister yourself that the issue of import-export and fixation of floor price is related to the Ministry of Commerce. You may get it examined from anybody. This question relates to the Ministry of Commerce, it has been sent to wrong Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not a point of order. Your name is also in it, you may take your seat.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: The issue being raised by me is 100% correct. You may ask the hon'ble Minister. It is a question of wrong-admissibility.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a point of order, you may sit down.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards a very different issue. In last few years due to reduction in floor-prices and duty, the losses incurred by all steel companies whether it is Mukand Iron, Lloyd Steel or S.R. Steel have increased. The financial institutions, majority of whom are government finance institution, have financed them. The loan-repayment of all of them is being delayed. Not only Public industries, public steel manufacturing companies, but private companies are also facing heavy losses due to which financial institutes are also incurring losses. Will the Government reconsider its policy on steel in which at present floor-price and duty are decided on adhoc basis, and will replace it by declaring an action plan of 5-10 years on how to reduce import duty every year.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, the main problem is because of slow growth of economy and the demand

[Shri Anil Basu]

of steel inside the country is also declining. But the fact remains that the import of saleable steel and steel scrap. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to ask your question without giving background.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, it is very much related.

The fact remains that the value of the import of saleable steel and steel scrap is continuously increasing. In 1994-95, we imported 19.36 lakh tonnes of saleable steel at a price of Rs. 2,536 crore. The steel scrap was imported to the tune of 14.17 lakh tonnes and the value was Rs. 758 crore. In the same year, we exported total saleable and other steel commodities to the tune of 24.52 lakh tonnes and the value was Rs. 1,718 crore. That means, we have paid more for the import of saleable steel and steel scrap.

In the years 1997 and 1998, we imported 18.15 lakh tonnes of saleable steel at a price of Rs. 2,900 crore. Steel was imported to the tune of 8.17 lakh tonnes for Rs. 497 crore. That means, the total import was to the tune of Rs. 3,400 crore and the export was Rs. 2937 crore. So, there is a wide gap. We are importing at a larger pace. More money is paid for importing saleable steel and steel scrap and the export value is remaining at the same level though it has marginally increased.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. Now, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy may speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Now, the question arises, why the domestic steel industry is facing such competition?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: In my view, this subject should be related to the Ministry of Commerce. ...*(Interruptions)* I am a very disciplined person...*(Interruptions)* Since you have called my name that is why I have risen to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. You may conclude now...

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, in reply to the Starred Question No. 44, dated 1-12-99, the Minister of Steel has said that the Government of India has notified minimum import price for certain steel items in December, 1998. The prices so fixed were based on the average export price of these items from European Union and Japan, as reported in Metal Bulletin.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, they have intervened in my time. This way my participation has been reduced...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Now, I am coming to my question. My question is that when a floor price was fixed after taking into consideration the London Metal Bulletin Price, why the standard has been changed now? Because of the change of standard, if the current LMB price of \$ 260 per tonne is taken into account, then the minimum price should be \$ 280. But it has been fixed at \$ 254. Why?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. You should conclude.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: It is part (b) of my question. What action the Commerce Ministry and the Finance Ministry took on the recommendation of the Steel Ministry to reduce the excise duty?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government's policy on this issue has been changing from time to time. It is the responsibility of the Government to give protection to the industries in the country. It is our endeavour to encourage any effort connected with industry. Alongwith it is our responsibility that more and more quality products should come in the country. If we import them, their quality should be good. If steel of low price is used in other industries, then it gives benefit at some point. Today, a number of units of SAIL are sick.

On the other hand there are steel units in private sector also. When America began import of products from Russia and India, they too had imposed anti-dumping duty. A question has come up in our country too. We have made huge investments in public undertakings, but during the last fifty years, we have not got its benefit. We are trying to move towards the over-protected economy. On one hand the entire world is moving towards liberalisation, and on other hand, it becomes our compulsion to protect our core industries. This is a policy matter which is decided by the Government, therefore I would not like to say much on this issue, but I would certainly like to say that it is essential in this competitive world that industries in which a lot of capital is invested should make progress to an extent, and the Government should bring down the cost of its product to the international level by checking the wasteful expenditure by the administration, so that industry could be revived through its own resources.

18.00 hrs.

You should try to understand this issue after making some analysis. I would like to say that the issue raised by me actually belongs to them only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can give suggestions to the hon'ble Minister in writing.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, my basic point is that it is the responsibility of the Government to give protection to the industry in present time. But at the same time, it is the responsibility of the Government to increase productivity in days to come...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to ask the question, not to make a speech.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I want that our industries should be strengthened by increasing production and establishing competitive spirit so that we could establish our credibility all over the world at large scale. I want to ask three questions from the hon'ble Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please ask one question.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question has three dimensions. I want to ask three questions.

[English]

Why was the floor price fixed? Secondly, how does it benefit the domestic industry and to what extent?

Thirdly, has any other country taken such a step to protect the industry?

[Translation]

I would like to have answer from the hon'ble Minister by clubbing these three subjects. Besides I would also like to know from him as to what action is being taken by him on his own behalf to make our industries competitive?

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no time available to the hon'ble Minister to give his reply on behalf of the Government and there are precedents of rulings given by the earlier speaker that due to paucity of time the minister will lay the written answer on the Table of the House. Problem of the farmers is important, hence problem of farmers is taken up now for discussion. It is already six o'clock now.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The hon. Minister will complete his reply within five minutes...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon'ble Minister will lay the answers to the questions asked by the hon'ble Members on the Table of the House. We have no time for the answers. Problems of the farmers may now be taken up for discussion.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): Sir, I lay my reply on the Table of the House.

* Written Reply to Half-An-Hour Discussion

Indian iron and steel industry has been passing through a difficult phase in the last two years. The difficulties were caused by slow down in the growth of domestic demand, cheap imports from CIS and other countries due to fall in international price and increase in input costs. As a result of the above, capacity utilisation come down and most of the products reported losses or decrease in profits.

Government took various steps for revival of the steel industry. To provide level playing field to the Indian iron and steel industry and to restrict the cheap imports of steel items in to the country, minimum import prices were

*Laid on the Table of the House.

[Shri Dilip Ray]

fixed for prime as well as seconds and defectives of seven steel products.

The floor prices were fixed on the basis of a very transparent mechanism. Japan and European countries as exporters of steel did not resort to dumping and their prices were considered 'fair'. Export prices from those sources are reported regularly in the London Metal Bulletin. Average export prices from Europe and Japan for the months of May, June and July 1998 were the basis for the floor prices, that were declared in December, 1998.

The floor prices were revised in November 1999 on the basis of export prices from Europe and Japan in the preceding six months that were reported in the Metal Bulletin. The Indian Iron and Steel Industry will not be adversely affected because of reduction in the floor prices. As the floor prices are based on export prices from Europe and Japan it is above the prices of countries that resort to dumping.

The Indian industry has taken various steps towards cost reduction, technical upgradation and product improvement. As a result of this, the production of steel has shown an increase of 11% and exports an increase of about 30%, in the last eight months of the current financial year compared to the same period in the previous year.

Before the declaration of the floor prices, the Indian producers were giving substantial rebates due to slow growth in domestic demand. The rebates are decided by the individual companies and there is no policy or instructions by the Government in this regard. The steel producers both in the private and public sector take their own decisions depending on the market situation. The floor prices declared helped the steel producers to reduce rebates and thereby reduce losses.

It is matter of comfort that international steel prices are showing signs of recovery. There are indications of increase in domestic demand as well. Government has announced various steps to boost infrastructure projects and construction activity, which will further increase demand for steel. It is expected that as a result of these steps the Indian steel industry will achieve faster growth.

18.03 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Re: Problems being faced by farmers in various parts of the country—Contd.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now under Rule 193 the problems of farmers will be taken up for discussion. Shri Prabhunath Singh was speaking, he may continue his speech.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, sufferings and agony of farmers are being discussed in the House since yesterday I was speaking on the situation prevailing in Bihar. As I was telling that farmers are being exploited in two ways due to canal failure. I would like to tell you about the problems being faced by the farmers due to flood, drought and water logging.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, flood and water logging can be explained only in one sentence but the agony of farmers cannot be narrated in one sentence farmers work hard on their fields for six months but their hopes are shattered by the flood which hit overnight. Similarly, the farmers are facing the problems of water logging. As far as the problem of drought is concerned, no arrangement has been made in Bihar to check it. Particularly about the tubewells installed by the State Government. I have to say that not even one percent pumpsets are functioning. The first reason for it is shortage of electricity and the second reason is poor maintenance. This is the reason that all the tubewells installed by the government have failed. Therefore, I would request the Minister of Agriculture to send a Central Team to Bihar to provide relief with regard to problem of flood, drought and water logging and to conduct a review in this regard. It is our good fortune that this time 11-12 Union Ministers hail from Bihar and incidentally Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Finance both are from Bihar. Like me he is also well aware of the problem of Bihar. It is Bihar which is at the centre of discussion at present. Therefore, I request that this matter should be reviewed by sending a Central Team there and relief should be provided to the people of Bihar. Second thing I want to say about the electricity crisis. You had been the Minister of power in Bihar. Shri Kumaramangalam has asked the C.B.I. to carry out investigation in regard to 117 villages. I do not know whether this matter pertains to your period or anybody else's period, only inquiry will tell. In Bihar electrification work has been done on paper only and

villages have been electrified on paper. As such you can imagine electricity is not available to tubewells to irrigate the fields. Similarly the sufferings of farmers have increased due to hike in price of diesel. When price of diesel was hiked at that time also. I had requested the hon'ble Prime Minister and the Government that increase of rupees four is a big burden on farmers and I want that the Government should give subsidy on this and if subsidy is given we think it will be a great relief to the farmers. Earlier seeds and fertilizers used to be made available to the farmers through the block headquarters in our State. Now these two inputs are not available to the farmers there and I do not know whether it is the failure of the State Government or the Union Government have issued any such directive.

One thing more which I want to say to the Minister of Agriculture is that chemical fertilizers are quite useful in getting higher yields of crops for five to seven years in the beginning but a fertilizer should be developed which may contain less quantity of chemicals. We are of the view and particularly the farmers in the villages also have the same view that continuous use of chemical fertilizers for five to seven years results in degradation of fertility of soil. Therefore, the government should direct its agriculture scientists to produce such chemical fertilizers which may have lower content of chemicals and which may keep the fertility of the soil intact.

Sir, I would like to remind the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that earlier also he had been the Minister of Agriculture and during his tenure as Minister of Agriculture he had announced setting up of an Agriculture Research Centre at Chhapra. At that time I was not a Member of this House and now he has been given Ministerial berth in the Union Cabinet but the agriculture research centre announced by him has not been set up at Chhapra so far. The said centre was to be set up in Jalalpur village. Land and all other facilities are available there. The hon. Minister had given an assurance when he was the Minister of State and the assurance could be fulfilled now. We want that assurance should be fulfilled as he is a Cabinet Minister in the Union Cabinet.

Several types of crops are cultivated in Bihar. Fruits are grown in abundance. Muzaffarpur is known for several variety of fruits, Hajipur is known for Banana. Vegetables are grown in abundance in Bihar. Potato, onion, rice, wheat and sugarcane are grown here but cold storage facility is not available in proportion to production to store potato and onion. The owners of private cold storages start to say in advance that they have no space and that their storage is full to the capacity. As such the farmers suffer

loss. We are of the view that opening of cold storage by the Government would be beneficial for the farmers and it will be a great achievement. The farmer have been getting subsidy on several items. Earlier subsidy was being given for pump-sets and boring pipes on the one hand farmers are harassed by the middleman and on the other hand they are harassed a lot by the banks regarding subsidy. Land Development Banks are functioning in our State. You as well as the hon'ble Minister are aware that this bank used to provide loan to the farmers for pump-sets and other equipment but according to our information the farmers are going to pillar to post to say that they had not taken any loan but in spite of that warrant of Rs. 25,000 had been issued against them.

Bungling has taken place in the bank. The government was talking about providing relief to the farmers through bank loans. But as a result of these frauds in bank loans, in some cases the farmers remain in hiding for fear of police warrant. Even their cattles are being taken to the police stations for auction. Their land is being attached. All these things should be investigated thoroughly and we wish that necessary action should be taken after going through all these things. I would also like to mention that the farmers are growing several cash crops to earn money. But such crops are infested by a mysterious disease which cannot be identified in villages and countryside. Sheesham trees worth crores of rupees have dried up in Bihar. It is still a mystery as to how they are drying up. The agriculture department of the State is not able to tell us to which disease has infested these trees. The farmers grow Sheesham trees to earn money. They are of the view that they can earn money by growing Sheesham trees on unirrigated land. But their entire cost and labour has gone waste and the disease has not been identified so far.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the farmers have been facing lot of problems over two points due to the wrong policies of the Government. The consolidation of land was started in Bihar. Population has been increasing continuously but the land area is not increasing. The fields are being divided into further smaller portions due to increase in population and the farmers too have to face a lot of problems in cultivation due to very small size of their fields. The scheme of consolidation of land holdings has proved a failure. Therefore, we want that you instruct the State Governments to make arrangements for the consolidation of land holdings. We feel that consolidation would lead to an increase in the production of foodgrains.

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

Mr. Chairman, one more problem of the farmers is of land ceiling. The farmers have been facing a lot of agony and problems due to land ceiling. I would like to tell you that the ceiling of land is done on the basis of measurement of the land which, in my view, is not right from any side. There is several type of land in the country at various places. On one hand there is urban land, on the other there is irrigated, unirrigated and 'Diara' kind of land which is very cheap. We want that ceiling of land should be based, not on the measurement of the land but on its value. If it is to be done on the basis of the measurement, then I will make available two hundred acres of 'Diara' level for you and you, in turn grant us that much of land is Chandni Chowk area. You will in no way, accept it. Therefore, the land ceiling should definitely be based, not on the measurement of land but on its value.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to tell about the grievances of the sugarcane growers. Sugarcane is abundantly cultivated in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. But I have to admit it with great sorrow that the intention of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Commerce of Government of India is not very clear. When seven lakh tonnes of sugar is available in our country, even after that we import sugar from a countrylike Pakistan which, we do not know, is either a friendly country or an enemy country. It has become clear after Kargil war. But we still import sugar from that country. We should understand the intention of Pakistan behind exporting sugar at a lower price than its cost. We say that we are importing sugar from outside because we have to stabilise the prices of sugar. But the ill-effect of stabilising the prices of sugar is going to hamper our economy, our sugar industry and the cultivation of sugarcane. Pakistan wants to export its sugar at cheaper rates to India, so that the farmers may not be able to cultivate sugarcane at large scale, which will result in the closure of sugar industry. Therefore, I would like to say that the import of sugar is neither beneficial from our economy point of view nor for our farmers and nor for the sugar industry. Therefore such a system should not exist, which we assume, will only cause losses to the country.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to tell it specifically that there existed a sugar mill of Kanpur Sugar Mills in Madhwara that mill owes several crores of rupees to the farmers for the past seven years. Sometimes farmers go on strike and sometimes stage dharna over this issue. Rudyji is sitting here. Due to the strike of the farmers, Rudyji had to skip one Lok Sabha. But still the farmers have not been paid any amount. I have recently got this information that the Kanpur Sugar Mill has been sold by the assistance of a Minister of Uttar Pradesh and even

the Minister do not think in terms of running the sugar mills.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the machinery of that Mill is being removed and sold in the market. What will happen to the amount of rupees six crore which is due to be paid to the farmers. The exploitation of 'Dana' farmers is no secret to anyone. All the sugar mills in Bihar are getting closed. Same thing is happening in U.P. therefore, I would urge to make arrangements to run these sugar mills. Sugarcane farmers should be encouraged more and more. Government should try to encourage the farmers through providing subsidy and by other means. An amount of rupees six crores of farmers is due against Madhwara Sugar Mill. If your laws have any relevance and urgency then find a solution for this problem and the outstanding amount due to the farmers, should be paid.

Mr. Chairman, here one or two suggestions which I want to give is that firstly, the interest rate on the loan provided to the farmers is very high. That is not in favour of the farmers. The rate of interest should be minimum and if the farmer wishes to run an industry. Out of his agricultural income he should be allowed to do so. Like, if a farmer wants to set an oil extracting business for his oil seeds crop, he should be allowed to do so. Similarly if farmer plans to set up a fruit juice business he should be provided loans at the minimum rate as is provided in the case of industrialists. It will solve the problem of unemployment as well as increase the income of the farmers. The country will only strengthen if the farmers become economically sound. Merely stating that a strong economy will ensure a powerful country, will not do. Unless the condition of the farmers is improved, country can not become strong.

Mr. Chairman, through you, I demand that the agriculture be given the status of an industry. It will boost the income as well as the moral of the farmers. Now I would like to say something about the support price of the farmer's crop. The prices of crops are being fixed by the people who sit in airconditioned rooms in Delhi and have nothing to do with the farmers, those who know nothing either about the farmer or field or watering the crop. I am of the view that the production in each State is done differently and similarly its prices are also different. The expenditure involved in raising a crop also differ from place to place. Therefore, I demand that the representatives of the farmers should be included every year in the Price Commission so that the prices of a crop could be fixed according to the hardwork, the cost of production involved in raising a crop at a particular place and the prices should be fixed. Keeping in view

the cost of production and the profits it will entail, as has been done in case of industries. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): I am extremely thankful to you for giving me time to speak over the various problems which are being faced by the farmers in various parts of the country. Sir, today, our country is celebrating the new millennium and quite ready to enter in the twenty first century and have celebrated the 50th anniversary of our independence and have been saying a lot about progress.

But the condition of our farmers, as has been mentioned by our friends, whether they are in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar or at any other place, whether they are cultivating sugarcane, jute, foodgrains or any other crop, is extremely painful and disgusting. Today, the most serious question, is as to what policies should be in the favour of farmers. The farmer of our country is the mark of the unity, integrity, freedom, universality, existence and identity of whole of India by taking over the entire burden of the country over his shoulders.

18.21 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

But it is a matter of regret that the efforts which should have been made in this direction, have not been made. The information received and the incidents occurred so far as the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Punjab indicate large scale suicides by our farmers. The suicide by the cotton farmers ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please stop for a minute because the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has to say something.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I want to make a submission. As it was decided in the BAC, we have to complete this subject today. There are many Members who want to speak, and we do not mind sitting late, whatever time it takes. So, if the Members wish, then we can extend the time. We will make arrangements for dinner around 8.00 p.m. or 8.30 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, is it the sense of the House that we should sit till this subject is over?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Sir, many inhuman incidents have taken place in our country. Many of our farmers have committed suicide due to deep despondency and frustration. What are these reasons? The reason is that they are heavily indebted, their crops have been destroyed, they have not been able to get remunerative price of their produce, there is no storage facility for their crops and after the failure of the crops, the farmers have been compelled to take loans from the usurers and money-lenders. There are large number of medium, marginal and poor farmers in the country and they have become victim of it.

I would like to tell the Minister of Agriculture in this regard that while giving reply, he should announce such a policy so that in future the farmers of this country are not compelled to commit the suicide due to the problems which I have mentioned. The policy framed should be such that the farmers trapped in the debt could come out of it. The Ministry of Agriculture should make such arrangements that the Centre and State Governments should cooperate with each other to enable our farmers to face the natural calamities like flood, drought and hailstorm etc. Our agriculture will not be affected in future. The Government should tell what measures it is going to take with the cooperation of the Governments of Nepal and Bhutan to provide permanent solution to that problem of floods, which causes havoc every year in Bihar, Assam, Bengal and other eastern states. I have heard that the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and other colleagues of ruling party had been making such demand in the past. Today, they are in government, there should be no difference between their saying and doing, which was the practice in the past. What measures are being taken by the Government to handle the situation in Orissa, where number of people have met untimely death in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh where many farmers are ruined due to hailstorm? The condition of government agencies and banks is not a secret. This fact has been mentioned by earlier speakers also. We are aware that our farmers run from pillar to post to get loan from bank, he is exploited every where, but even then he do not get full amount of loans sanctioned to him. I would like to know from the Government that what percent of marginal, poor and medium farmers have been benefited through Government agencies and banks, and what are the future plans of Government in this regard? Till now, the funds

[Shri Subodh Roy]

have been made available to only prosperous people and big landlords. The poor and middle farmers get no advantage of it. If under the pressure of globalisation and liberalisation the policy of Government will be based on export and import, it is obvious that only exporters and importers can get benefit of it. The farmers cannot get its benefit. Recently, we have seen that the onions were salt at the rate of Rs. 40 per kg. and the whole country was affected by it. Onion and salt become out of reach of the poor people. All the problems which I have mentioned are the result of Governments new found fascination for liberalisation, globalisation, World Trade Organisation, GATT and Duncal. Therefore, danger is looming over agriculture. What is the result of Government's policy on W.T.O. and liberalisation. Land Reform Programme, was the biggest issue, at the time of freedom struggle, which was the struggle of crores of farmers against the imperialism the people were united to break the shackles of slavery. For this Swami Sahajanand Saraswati, Pandhit Kachinand any many others had set up organisation in the States, to awaken the people. The people from Kanyakumari to Kashmir get united under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and other leaders to attain freedom. And today, why those people are disappointed? Today, they are troubled by the terrorism, the farmers of Kashmir are troubled by various problems. They are being ruined due to unemployment. Therefore, I would like to request the Minister of Agriculture, that they should be mentally prepared, so that land reform programme could be implemented effectively because today, the farmers of Haryana and Punjab are facing the ill consequences of Green Revolution. Today, the farmers of Punjab are ruined because of Green Revolution. The farmers of Punjab have also committed suicides. Today, they are compelled to give their land on lease. The farmers of Haryana are ruined, where as the West Bengal, which is Left Party ruled State has proved that how rural economy could be strengthened by implementing land reform, and what work could be done to remove poverty and inequality to remove social tensions and to bring social equality. But in the absence of land reform the condition of different States is very poor whether it is Kamataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh or Bihar. Every week or fortnight, we hear heart rending incidents. What is the reason behind it? The land reform is one of major reason. What is the present condition? In last 50 years, whichever party was in power, it has spent billions of rupees on the beautification of cities, but the poverty in the villages has been increasing. Today, globalisation and privatisation are being discussed on large scale, but the problem is that these are being experimented on our

agriculture. Multinational companies are being invited. The Agriculture is being destroyed by the terminator seeds of multinational companies like Munsanto. Therefore, it is essential, that Government should pay full attention in this regard. I would like that Cooperative Banks should be made effective to help the farmers in every possible way. Today, poverty of farmers is increasing. In rural area, poverty is increasing. The emphasis should be on the Land Reform programme and such central legislation should be enacted for agriculture labourers, which may ensure job opportunities for them in their own area through out the year. They should be provided housing and other facilities, and along with it exploitation of women should be checked. In different states, large scale migration of agriculture labourers should also be checked. The issue of giving statehood status to Adivasi areas of Vananchal, Uttaranchal and Chhattisgarh is under discussion. Today, Adivasi people are being exploited, their condition is worst and the Government should make efforts to improve their condition, to free them from the trap of usurer and money lenders and to protect their right. A policy should be framed exclusively for agriculture and farmers. Through you, I would like to request the Minister of Agriculture who himself has been very progressive farmer and is a learned Minister of Agriculture that he should make arrangement for the national level research. In Sabor Agriculture College of Bhagalpur for the development of agriculture in Bihar. The Government should announce a big package for the development of Bihar. The condition of farmers in Bihar and other States is deteriorating whether they are sugarcane producers, Jute producers or coconut producers. In Kamataka, the condition of grape producers is getting worst.

With these words, while thanking you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to give his reply after considering all these points.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem of farmers which has been raised in this resolution has been discussed in the House many a times. Though there are many issues regarding the farmers in this resolution which can be discussed in detail but I will confine myself to some of these issues. It is true that the previous agricultural policy was not as it should have been. Due to which farmers are distressed and grieved. They want their rights but not the charity. It is also true that 70% of our population is dependent on agriculture. Other means of occupation are very few. Agriculture is the prime source of employment and it should be considered with this point of view. Recently, the hon'ble Agriculture Minister had mentioned that he is going to bring an integrated agricultural policy. I would

like the Government to bring it immediately. Farmers have to face natural calamities like floods, droughts etc. and at such times, they feel helpless. Farmer has to rely on fate. Sometime he does not get adequate water and electricity and sometimes he has to face the natural calamities. Hence they have to face lot of problems. I would like the Government to consider all these problems and bring such an integrated policy which could take care of all these problems. Recent cyclone in Orissa destroyed thousands of acres of land. Farmer is distressed and in dilemma. The similar situations is prevailing in other States also. The second big problem before the farmer is related to fixing appropriate cost of production and getting appropriate prices of their produce. My friend has rightly pointed out that the cost of production should be fixed after due consideration as it is not done properly.

Sir, you are aware of the condition of the farmers today. Sometimes, they are compelled to launch agitation or commit suicide on the issue of prices of tobacco in Andhra Pradesh, or sometimes the farmers of Maharashtra or Punjab are forced to commit suicide on the issue of prices of sugarcane. However, there is no one to listen them. I have cited some examples. Farmers should get adequate prices for their produce whether it is tomato, potato, onion or tobacco, jute etc. However, prices are not fixed in a proper manner. Sometimes the committee which determines the cost of production ignores the fact that a part of the cultivable land is irrigated through rivers and other are irrigated through private means of irrigation, which leads to the difference in cost of production. That is why farmers do not get remunerative price of their produce. Prices keep on increasing in the market. Prices of fertilizers, iron, cement, diesel, pumpset and other inputs have increased but for the farmer, the prices of wheat never increased. Government should have increased the support price to provide benefit to the farmers. But sometimes support price does not work because of intervention of State Governments. Arrangements made by the State Governments are improper. Just in the morning one of our hon'ble Member has raised the issue regarding the soyabean cultivation. When there was bumper crop of soyabean, its prices started falling down. Central Government fixed its support price at Rs. 845 per quintal. However, procurement is not done on support price. It is being alleged that the soyabean is of inferior quality, therefore, it will fetch only on Rs. 700/- qt. Besides, Government committees should made adequate arrangements for storage and procurement but the same is not being done properly. There should be good and adequate number of godowns.

Sir, hon'ble Minister is stating that the Government will construct godowns and made adequate arrangements for the procurement. However, continuous efforts are not being made in this direction. Even primary co-operative societies also state that they do not have adequate funds for procurement. Marketing agencies of State Government are also unable to procure the farmers' produce. Central Government raised the support price of wheat very liberally but procurement is not being made on that price. Traders used to work as middle men and farmer is not getting the benefit. Now the Government should ensure that the procurement should be made on support price. Recently, the issue of procurement of cotton was in news. Cotton, tobacco and sugarcane growers are compelled to commit suicide. I would like to submit you that today the farmer is living in pitiable condition. He is not getting good quality seeds and fertilizers. Recently the problem of seed was discussed. Due to unavailability of good quality seed, the cotton production was not of very good quality. A case was registered against the company which supplied the cotton seeds. Various fertilizer companies are there which are producing fertilizers on a large scale but still it is not up to the mark. They take subsidy for 100-1000 bags, however, they produce only 25-50 bags. The benefit is going to traders not to farmers. Except one or two States, farmer's condition is deteriorating everywhere.

Today, the water level is going down. Farmer get water at 400-500 feet through tubewell. It is causing hardships to the farmers. Benefit of various schemes is not reaching farmers. Funds allocated for some purpose are used for something else.

Some members were mentioning about terminator seed. This seed can not be reused after sowing once. We are being influenced by the foreign countries. Farmer used to sow the crops like wheat, garlic, groundnut and onion etc. and he was getting good quality seeds due to which there was no reduction in the crop production. However, the use of terminator seed is also not resulting in good quantum of crop production. Besides, the farmer is facing problems due to the use of chemical fertilizers as it reduces the fertility of the land. If the farmers are not made aware of it, they will suffer a huge loss. The farmer is facing the loss of livestock and his agriculture is being affected. Small and marginal farmers are worst affected.

There are skilled, unskilled, educated, uneducated unemployed in the country. Even at present, agriculture can generate more job opportunities than the big industries. Multi-national companies are grinding their own axe through big industries.

[Shri Laxminarayan Pandeya]

Without going into detail, I would like to draw your attention towards some points. Farmers are getting adequate supply of electricity. The Government of Madhya Pradesh claim to supply electricity for 18 hours but actually the power is not supplied even for two hours. The supply of power is very erratic. The motors of farmers get burnt and they are helpless to do anything. I have mentioned this problem earlier also. After getting the motor repaired, it again get burnt due to low voltage. Today, almost all the State Electricity Boards are in bad shape whether it is Rajasthan or any other state. Crores of rupees are due on them as arrears. These boards are not working properly. Power generation in the states is not up to the mark. Guide lines should be laid down for this purpose. Proper irrigation facilities should be provided to the farmers. Farmers are facing problems in the absence of adequate means of irrigation. Agriculture Credit schemes launched by the Centre should be implemented immediately. Shri Ram Nagina has mentioned about sugarcane growers. Two sugar mills are there in my constituency also. Rupees one and a half crores are due to them. It had been stated that if any arrear is due to farmers, it will be paid duly with the interest. If not interest, principal amount should be given at least. However, even half of the amount is not being paid to the farmers which increase their problems. Sugarcane growers, cotton growers and groundnut growers are facing hardships due to it. I would like an appropriate policy to be formulated in this regard. An assurance should be given to the farmers that remunerative price will be given to them for their produce. If in a year, prices of garlic goes to Rs. 3000-4000 per quintal, the very next year these crash to Rs. 300-400/- qt. Due to bumper crop of tomatoes, if it is sold at Rs. 6-7/- kg. in a year the next year, it goes down to Re. 1/- kg. Farmers sowed grapes but they had to bear the loss. Farmers in Maharashtra sowed grapes on a large scale but did not get the remunerative price for that. Therefore, Crop insurance scheme should be implemented properly.

In the end, I would like to state that the policy of the State Governments, that compensation to the farmers as flood relief will be provided only if 40-50 per cent area of the village is affected by the flood, is not appropriate. A comprehensive policy should be formulated. State Government should issue directions regarding the matters which come under their jurisdiction so that the farmers could get relief. An appropriate agricultural policy should be framed. India is an agriculturist country. Agriculture is the basis of its economy. Proper attention should be paid to it. I want to say this much only.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad):
Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, today I have been given an opportunity to speak about the farmers. Being an M.Sc. in agriculture I want to tell something special. Even today after independence, 70 percent of our Population is engaged in agricultural work. Right from the beginning, such a system was developed which has been putting the agricultural sector under pressure even today. The only reason behind this is that no attention was paid to the cottage industries from the starting period. Had attention been paid towards this, agricultural sector would not have been under such pressure.

Secondly, in developed countries about 2 to 3 percent of their GDP is spent on research and development sector. But it is the misfortune of India that only 0.7 percent of its GDP is spent on research and development activities. What is its result? You have to import seeds from the foreign countries through multinationals. The seeds from foreign countries are brought here but what else comes alongwith it? All the diseases in the world are brought in the country through these seeds. Earlier there was no problem of weeds before us but new kinds of weeds have started to develop after importing the seeds from America and Australia. These have been causing a great problem to the farmers. One more thing which I would like to tell is that the latest information is provided to the farmers by the Government employees but the matter of grief is that our farmers are not educated. They make use of whatever fertilizer they get from the middlemen. I would like to cite an example of fertilizers. In some state, less fertilizer is used and in some other more fertilizers we use, less will be the production. Till there is a deficiency of organic manure and the farmers are bereft of technical points in this regard, production will not increase. Until the farmers are acquainted with all these facts, the structure and the texture of their soil will go on deteriorating resulting in the gradual decrease in production. Alongwith it, I would also like to tell that 40 to 45 percent of Indian economy depends upon the farmers but they are subjected to loot and exploitation here. Whatever products he use, are adulterated. Whether it is seed, fertilizers or other things. Even the diesel he gets is adulterated. Pesticides are also adulterated. If he uses two quintals of urea in one acre land, he does not know as to whether or not does it contain 46 percent of the nitrogen. Big industrialists, in collusion with the Government are responsible for the

production of sub-standard fertilizers. It happens that they say that we are yet to finish the deal but the sampling is done from the dealer and he is the one who has to bear the brunt. There are sub-centres at the block level which distribute seeds and fertilizers. But the seed which is effective in Punjab, Tamil Nadu, does not necessarily grow well in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The Government should make such an arrangement that the farmers get the seeds according to the climate of the area. This is essential to increase the production. Today, it is a mechanical age. Wages are increasing. The farmer wants to spend minimum on labour and use more and more implements. Keeping in view the requirements of big farmers, tractors of 50 HP or 80 HP along with suitable combination and equipments are manufactured which are not suitable in view of small size of holdings in India which is less as compared to the *per capita* holding of the world. I feel that machinery which may suit the requirements of the small farmers, is not manufactured here. To ensure that small farmers may benefit from such equipments etc. and may use them the way they are being used by cultivators in Japan, such equipments etc. should be manufactured. It will help them increase their production.

19.00 hrs.

Improved tractors of 50 or 80 horsepower are manufactured here but it is advantageous for only big farmers owning 1500 or 2000 acres of land. Hence the Government thought to arrange these facilities for those farmers who do not have even an acre of land. It is my submission to the Government and hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that such arrangement should be made for them.

There are several areas where the ground water level has gone very low due to which the centrifugal pumps have stopped working. Thereover centrifugal pumps have been installed, they are consuming more diesel and the life of pump set is also very short. The result is that the whole burden falls on the farmers. I would like that an agricultural policy should be drafted that the farmers could be provided with the submersible pumps which can lift water from low level.

Besides, it would not be out of place to mention that the Government officials ask the farmers to cultivate particular cash crop but most of the cash crops are perishable. That can not be preserved for long. I clearly remember that last year, blue grapes were produced in the vicinity of Poona. Last year, its prices were very high and this year the farmer is ready to sell them at throw away prices. Same is the case of tomatoes. Once so much tomato was produced in Maharashtra that no one was ready to buy 50 kgs of it for a rupee. What is the reason behind it? Why do not the Government draft such

a policy that the production of perishable commodity may take place according to its consumption.

As regards crop insurance scheme, Crop insurance scheme was implemented in some areas around Poona. The farmer bears the catastrophe of all the natural calamities whether it is frost, hailstorm or flood. But the process of insuring his crop has not yet started. The crop of the farmer should be insured as he is not educated. The insurance companies do the documentation of his crop insurance in such a manner that he is not able to get the full claim for his damaged crop. I would request the Government to implement it properly. Allowing foreign companies to enter in our country can not be called a good step. If you keep on doing globalisation and liberalisation, the country can not make progress. It is my firm belief that the country can make progress only when we blend the new technology with the our ancient traditions. Now I come to the main point.

The district from which I hail, produces one-third of the total potatoes produced in Uttar Pradesh. The farmers have not been able to recover even the cost of potatoes for the past four years. Surely the Government did one good thing that it put a ban on the export of potato to Nepal and East Pakistan which resulted in the fall of potato price from Rs. 1200 per quintal to Rs. 400 per quintal but what happened last year or what is happening this year? The potato is selling at a throwaway price. Nobody is prepared to buy it even at Rs. 150 per quintal. But no attention is being paid towards this potato crisis. Today the ban on import of potato has not been lifted. The ensuring crop of potato is expected to be bumper. Climatic conditions are quite favourable and a bumper crop is expected. I would submit the Government to immediately draft a policy in this regard because the new crop will arrive in the month of January. Therefore, I would request you to make arrangements for exporting the crop. I know that you provide subsidy to the cold storage but as the subsidy is granted from Delhi no cold storage owner has been able to avail that subsidy. There are at least 150 cold storages in my Janpada Farrukhabad but none of the owner of cold storages has been able to make use of the subsidy. I submit to the Government that if you are interested in increasing the number of cold storages then try to provide the subsidy at State level, so that more and more cold storages could be built.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you conclude.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding within a minute. I will not take more than a minute. I submit that you should make

[Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh]

arrangements for transportation and export and set up new procurement centres for the forthcoming potato crop. With these words, I conclude.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my name was also listed alongwith Shri Ram Nagina Mishra. I had submitted my notice yesterday. My name was on second number in the Agenda. You are calling others, you should also give me a chance to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You, please sit down.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, my name was there in the Agenda.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is not here.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: My name was in the Agenda.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is not in the list, you sit down.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, my name was in the Agenda alongwith Shri Ram Nagina Mishra for initiating the debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Nagina Mishraji has initiated the debate.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, my name is also there alongwith his, I should be given a chance to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It does not count even if your name was included alongwith his name.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: The notices we have submitted for initiating the debate...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Had Mishraji not been here, had he gone then you would have got a chance to speak. Mishraji was present here and has spoken, now you will not get a chance. You sit down.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Chairman, I had given my name separately too.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not waste the time of the House, sit down.

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): Mr. Chairman, whether my name is in the list or not. If it is there, then I will sit otherwise I will leave the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If your name is included in the list, I will surely call you. If the party has forwarded your name, I will surely call you. Then you have to sit. You sit down and listen the discussion of the House. Whether only speakers will sit in the House and not the listeners? The listeners too should be present in the House.

[English]

PROF. UNNIAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me this opportunity to speak on the agricultural situation in the country and also the problems being faced by the farming community in various parts of the country. Sir, there is no doubt that tremendous progress has been made as far as agricultural production in the country is concerned. But at the same time, we are not actually out of the critical situation with respect to agricultural production. One paradoxical issue is that in 1951 the *per capita* foodgrain availability per day was around 467 grams and now, in 1998, that has just risen to 484 grams per day per head.

This speaks volumes to show whether we have tremendously achieved on the agriculture front or not. When it comes to the question of nutrition, it is not merely the accessibility to the food which is to be considered. The country now should pay attention to the accessibility to nutrition. So, as far as nutrition is concerned, the *per capita* availability of nutritious food in the country is around 2,200 calories per day per head as against the requirement of 2,600 calories. For a man to keep his body and soul together, the average calorific value should be around 2,600 calories. So, this certainly speaks that there is a tremendous gap between the requirement of the calorie and the supply of the calories to the people in the country. Here, if we just analyse that whether India is surplus in food production or not—very often we claim that India is surplus in food production—where is the surplus? Even today, about 39 per cent people are below the poverty line. What does it mean when about 39 per cent people in the country are not having adequate accessibility to food? They are unable to take two meals a day. People who cannot afford to take two meals a day are below the poverty line. So, when 39 per cent of the people are below the poverty line, whatever that is deprived to this section of the people is what we are claiming as surplus food. So, this is what we are claiming as buffer-stock. Instead of calling it as a surplus stock, we can very conveniently call it as the deprivation stock of foodgrains. It is the starvation stock of the foodgrains. So, whatever we above the poverty line, if they have got accessibility to food, I think today there is no surplus in

the food production. So, we have to march still a long way to really achieve the surplus food production in the country. When this is the scenario, what exactly are the characteristics of the agricultural production in the country? It is still the low productivity. The main reason. The low productivity has got several reasons—right from the seed, right from the soil nutrients, right from the insecticides, fertilizers, the credit which are required for the crop growth, proper technologies which are required for the farmer during the crop growth, and also after harvest, the facilities that are provided during the post-harvest technology as also for storage of foodgrains for a proper distribution of foodgrains, the equitable distribution and the special distribution of foodgrains throughout the country. So, when this is the situation, as far as the investment in agriculture is concerned, the public investment has gradually come down right from the First Plan Period to the Ninth Plan Period. During the First Plan Period, agriculture along with its allied subjects has been allotted from the Plan Funds to the extent of 34.5 per cent of the country's fund.

Gradually, by the Eighth Plan period, it has come down to 18.5 per cent. During the Ninth Plan period, it has still come down. Around 11 per cent or so is going to the agriculture sector. If you can just analyse, all private investment in agriculture should be preceded by public investment. If public investment is tripled, there will no scope for any private investment also in agriculture sector. This is rather very agonising to say that if at all there is any sector that has been neglected in the country, it is only the agriculture sector. My friend has just now mentioned that 0.7 per cent is being invested in agricultural research and education. I think, it is still more. Last year, it was only 0.54 per cent. When 0.54 per cent of the agricultural scientists in the country and what kind of agricultural technologies can be generated. ...(*Interruptions*)

We must be proud in this country that we have got the biggest and competent contingent of the agricultural scientists. The best type of technologies have been generated. We are the donors. India is a 54 countries as far as agricultural technology is concerned. We are second to none in the world as far as agricultural scientists are concerned. But the encouragement that is being given to agricultural research and education is really very meagre. Very often, we have been mentioning that there should be tremendous improvement in funds that are being allocated for agricultural research and education. Unless some autonomy is given to agricultural scientists, agricultural technology cannot be generated to the extent

required. Today, even the agricultural technology that is being generated is not location-specific. A strain that has been released in Punjab might be suitable only for a particular district. Its productivity can be sustained only in a particular pocket. In the next district, its performance will be very low.

Nowadays, the agricultural technologies have also been highly location specific. As the research used to be multiplied, the locations are also to be increased. Otherwise, the same strain will not hold good throughout the country or throughout the State. As far as this is concerned, there is very little encouragement for the agricultural scientists. I know very well the intricacies and the inner aspects of the Indian agricultural research and education. There is very nominal encouragement for agricultural research. I will take this opportunity to point out one aspect. Now, 52 years have passed since India achieved her Independence. There are very competent agricultural scientists in this country. Show me an instance where the National Award like 'Bharat Ratna' has been given even to one agricultural scientist. There is none. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan is a renowned scientist all over the world. The entire country is looking at him for food security. Can he not be considered for the highest national award? Is it not an incentive to the entire agricultural scientist community in this country, if one person is rewarded with this award? So, somehow a stepmotherly attitude is there towards agriculture in this country. That is where we are really sorry to point out that there is a lot to be improved as far as this is concerned.

Sir, as regards fertilizers, though India is one of the biggest countries where 70 per cent of the population depends on agriculture, the per capita, per hectare application of fertilizer is almost the lowest in this country. When compared to Japan, we are applying only one-third of the total nutrient value. The NPK which we are applying is hardly one-third. Even if you correlate the productivity with the nutrient application, we are just one-fourth with regard to productivity level when compared to Japan. The more you apply, the more will be the productivity and the per hectare yield in the country, but we are not doing so.

Even in the recent past we have been hearing whatever the nominal subsidy of Rs. 8,000 crore that is being provided to the fertilizer — I do not know whether it is a fact or not the hon. Minister will clarify later—even that is likely to be withdrawn. If it is so, then it is going to be quite disastrous.

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

Now, the net area sown is not going to be increased in this country. There are several limitations. The only solution for this country is to increase the productivity, the per hectare yield which requires good seed, good fertilizer, the highest nutrient value as far as fertilizer is concerned...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): Pesticides also.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: I am coming to that. The pesticides are really in a very bad shape. These are some of the areas where we have to improve.

As far as pesticides are concerned, as the senior Member Shri Bangarappa has pointed out, it is one of the worst areas as far as Indian agriculture is concerned. The spurious pesticides are coming into the market. Though, several cases have been booked, not one trader has been punished for that. There are several lacunae in the Pesticides Act of 1968. That is why, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has written several times to the Central Government that amendments have to be brought in this Pesticides Act. In fact, we have been requesting the hon. Minister of Agriculture to bring suitable amendment in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up now.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, I am the only person who will be speaking on behalf of the TDP on this issue, which is the fourth largest contingent as far as this Lok Sabha is concerned. Let me take a few more minutes. My friend, who spoke just now, had mentioned that he was a Post-Graduate in Agriculture. Sir, I would like to inform the House that I have done Ph.D. in Agriculture having served for 26 years in this field.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made very valid points.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, this Pesticides Act is to be amended.

In the Act, there are several lacunae. We are not able to punish even one trader, though we catch hold of them normally. That is why, it has to be examined thoroughly. Amendments have to be brought. If any adulteration is there in the agricultural products, they should be treated as economic offenders because the result of adulteration is realised by the farmers only at the end of the crop season.

The poor farmer will not be in a position to know whether he is purchasing the adulterated seed or the adulterated fertiliser or the adulterated pesticides. Its benefits are otherwise realised at the end of the crop season after investing all his fortunes. That is the reason why, many farmers are preferring suicide in view of the crop failure and also in view of the mounting debts.

The other field is credit, which is really alarming. What is the institutional credit arrangement that is being given to the agricultural farming community? Now, if you take the total requirement of the agricultural credit to the farmers, 92 per cent of the farmers, who are doing the agriculture, is depending only on credit and only 8 per cent of the farmers is pursuing agriculture with their own investment. So, 92 per cent of the farmers is depending on agricultural credit. About 38 to 39 per cent of the credit requirements is being provided by the institutional agencies and the remaining 61 to 62 per cent of the credit requirements is being provided by other agencies with usurious rate of interest. We are not out of this peculiar situation.

Sir, you are quite aware about the RBI guidelines. The nationalisation of banks took place in 1969 for the first time. That is, the State Bank of India and its branches had been nationalised in 1969. Twenty banks were nationalised in 1969. Another six banks had been nationalised in 1980. After the nationalisation, the guidelines that had been given by the RBI were that the minimum 18 per cent of the net credit funds should go to the agricultural sector. Now, the situation is that only 11 per cent of the funds from all the nationalised banks and the cooperative sector goes to agriculture. Who is questioning it? The RBI had given the guidelines. The Reserve Bank of India is not punishing any nationalised bank. It has not pointed out to any nationalised bank as to why they are not able to meet the stipulations laid down by the Reserve Bank of India; nor any Government agency is pursuing it. I would like to know whether any Government agency is taking a review of the nationalised banks and also whether the credit requirement is being flown into the agricultural sector. It is not so. This is the reason why the farming community is now starving for investment. That is the reason why there is a low productivity in all the crops. This is the major reason.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, I will take another five to six minutes. I will just touch a few more points and then conclude.

Sir, I will just deal with the National Agricultural Policy and the Credit Insurance together. Fortunately or unfortunately, this country became independent in 1947. Immediately in the next year, 1948, there was a National Industrial Policy. The National Industrial Policy was formulated in 1948. Now we are in 1999. After 52 years of our independence, the country is still waiting for the National Agricultural Policy, where certain securities would be provided to the agricultural sector. It has not yet come up. There were recommendations of Bhanu Pratap Committee and C.H. Hanumanth Rao Committee. They recommended to treat agriculture at par with industry. None of these recommendations has been examined and no action has been taken.

Now, I have been hearing that the hon. Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar is very serious in bringing the National Agricultural Policy. It should come. While bringing this National Agricultural Policy, I may make a mention at this juncture that there should be adequate protection for the farmers. When the industry becomes sick, it will be referred to the BIFR. When the industry becomes sick, all its loans that have been raised will be waived. That provision should also be there as far as the agricultural sector and the farmers are concerned.

Similarly, agricultural insurance. This is a long-felt need that a village should be treated as a unit while computing the losses in agriculture and crop insurance should be extended to all the crops, to all the regions. At the minimum, the village should be treated as a unit. A comprehensive crop insurance scheme has to be brought forth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. There are a large number of speakers. We will have to conclude it today.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: As regards agricultural prices, my friend has mentioned something about computing agricultural prices. Who are the members in the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices? How many representatives from the farmers are there? How many regions are being represented? Agriculture is not unique in this vast country. There are several disparities from one region to the other region, from one State to the other State, from one crop to the other crop. How many farmers are represented on this Agricultural Prices Commission? I suggest, let there be a regional Prices Commission so that the prices will not be uniform throughout the country. The prices that are spelt out for Punjab may not hold good for Tamil Nadu or Kerala or Andhra Pradesh. Let there be a regional Prices

Commission so that the interests of the farming community and the crops can be taken up.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: How many farmers' representatives are there on this Commission?

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: I have asked that question. I have just now mentioned about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already referred to that.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: How many Members are there? That is why, the number of farmers' representatives on the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission should be increased. The regional representation should be there. Otherwise, the real picture will not get reflected in the computation of the costs. While computing the costs, even the risk the managerial costs are to be taken. Otherwise, the agricultural prices will not get reflected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: I am concluding. This is the last point. Sir, regarding the transfer of technology and extension services, at the highest level, the scientists are generating the technologies. Who is the actual contact person to hand over this technology to the farmer? It is an assistant or somebody who will be transmitting this total technology to the farmer. By the time it is handed over to the farmer, do you know what would be the amount of transmission losses of technology from the scientists to the farmers? It is as much as 65 per cent to 70 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, please take your seat. There are a large number of speakers. We will have to conclude today.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Lastly, as far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, there are two issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give this in writing to the Minister. You pass on this point to the Minister.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: I will just mention it in a minute. Last year, as far as paddy is concerned, 1001-Grain was classified as the fine variety. Now, for reasons not known, it is being converted as a common variety and the farmers are on *harta*. That has to be looked into.

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

The Government of India has encouraged palm plantation. All the farmers in the coastal area, not only in Andhra Pradesh but also in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have taken up this palm plantation. Now, you have been giving concession for all the imported palmolein oil because of that these farmers are now finished. Palm farming communities are on the verge of destruction.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): I would like to tell this for your information. All kinds of edible oils, from groundnut to palmolein, etc., are going to uproot this farming community.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point. Please conclude.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: My last point is that even sugar import is also taking place. Sir, with this, I am thankful to you for giving me a few more minutes to speak. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made very valid points.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request the hon. Members to be brief because we have to finish the discussion today including the Minister's reply.

[Translation]

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today discussion is going on agriculture in the House and many hon'ble Members have participated in it. Power and irrigation are connected with agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture is present in the House but the Ministers of Power and Water Resources or farmers; representatives are not here which is not good. Agriculture is the core issue for the farmers. Sugarcane is grown in abundance in Western Uttar Pradesh but the condition of the farmers there is not good. The condition of the farmers is the same whether it is Bihar, Uttar Pradesh or Haryana. We should think about the entire country.

Sir all the hon'ble Members have said that 70-75 percent farmers live in villages and do farming, but when any issue related to farmers comes before us for discussion I do not think that we pay due attention to that. There are very few policy planners who have village background. Similarly there are very few well wishers of farmers in the press also. Which is responsible for present condition of the farmers. I do not think the persons who are responsible for fixing the price of produce of the farmers and formulating agricultural policy take into account the plight of the farmers. If prices of agricultural

produce are fixed by such persons who are well aware of the plight of the farmers, I think the condition of the farmers would be much better. The condition of the farmers have become so miserable that they were compelled to commit suicide.

The hon'ble Minister Shri Nitish Kumar is present in the House if he works in the interest of the farmers by paying special attention towards agriculture the farmers of this country will always remember him. If you talk about the farmers by rising above party politics then it will be for the good of the farmers. If water and electricity are made available to the farmers they can earn their livelihood. If the farmers who are producing foodgrains for the entire country are hungry themselves then it is a matter of shame for the people sitting in the House.

The B.J.P. is in power in Uttar Pradesh but mills are closed in the State. Situation is not different in my constituency, Meerut. This is the area where history of Hastinapur of Mahabharata was created. The farmers in Uttar Pradesh are unhappy and worried today but they have not committed suicide. The farmer of my constituency will not commit suicide. The Maliyana sugar mill is closed there. One mill of D.C.M. group is operating there and another one is operating only on papers for the last two-three years. If that mill had been in operation, the farmers would have taken their sugarcane to the said mill and they would not have to wander here and there. I would like to remind the House and the hon'ble Minister that B.J.P. is in power both at the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh. Despite this why the farmers are being subjected to injustice? Either the D.C.M. mill should be made operational or time limit be fixed for that or either the Government should take over that mill or these mills should be handed over to any agency to operate them. The problems of the farmers are numerous and these should be redressed by the Government.

I was born in Haryana. Today price of sugarcane is different in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. My Parliamentary constituency Meerut is adjacent to Haryana. The farmers in Haryana are getting rupees one hundred per quintal for sugarcane but rupees 75 per quintal re-paid in the area in U.P. which is only five kilometres away from Haryana. It is a gross injustice to the farmers of my Constituency.

I would like to mention one or two more problems in the House and request the members to contribute their mite to solve these problems. We should rise above party politics while formulating agriculture policy and solving their problems. Non-payment of sugarcane price is very

painful to the farmers as he can deposit the school fee of his children only when payment is made to him. The farmer gets his daughter married when he gets the payment of his sugarcane. A judgement was given by the court that if amount of the farmers is outstanding against the banks or Mills for more than fifteen days he should be paid 14 percent interest on the amount outstanding. Crores of rupees of the farmers are outstanding for the last several years. In Uttar Pradesh atrocities are committed on the farmers. If he owes rupees five thousand of electricity bill his tractor or buffalo is taken away in lieu of that. Lakhs of rupees are outstanding against big industries but there is no such law for them. What else is this if it is not injustice?

I am well aware of the feelings of the people of my constituency. The Government have not taken any step for the welfare of the farmers. If sugar mills are not started the farmers of Meerut and Western Uttar Pradesh are not going to commit suicide. They are so courageous that they will fight for the cause of the farmers by launching a new agitation against the Government. The closed sugar mills should be reopened and the mills running only on papers should be scrutinised.

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the discussion regarding the problems of farmers is going on in the House. The problems of farmers are not related to Ministry of Agriculture alone instead these are related to some other Ministries also. I will not go into details. Prior to me, many other Members have also expressed their views regarding problems of farmers. While associating myself with them and considering the interest of farmers, I would like to give few suggestions to Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture. A lot of amendment need to be effected in the agricultural policy.

If we bring about improvement in the agricultural policy while considering various problems of farmers then I feel that we could provide lot of relief to them. The problems of farmers are not wide ranging. The discussion over their main problems had already been held in detail. The farmer should get electricity, fertilizer and water in time and should get all inputs at reasonable price. In 1995, when I was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, I remember that farmers contacted me in connection with their problem of electricity and water. At that time, I had realized that unless Government takes interest in their problems and take strict action against the officers the problems of farmers cannot be solved. In order to solve the problem of electricity of farmers directions should be issued to State Government by Union Government that

farmers should get electricity atleast two hours daily so that they could irrigate their land in time. I want that some time should be fixed for farmers. When I was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh time was fixed for providing electricity to farmers. Unless the Union Government interfere, the State Government will not take interest in this. The Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture in consultation with Ministry of Power should give directions to the State Governments that farmers should get electricity atleast for 2 hours daily otherwise they will not be able to dispose off their other works related with electricity. ...(*Interruptions*) Instead of providing electricity for eight hours even if you provide electricity for two hours, that will be good. I would rather demand that they should get electricity for 24 hours. Our party do not want on papers only instead it practically wants that they should get electricity for atleast 2-3 hours. I feel that even that will also do. Even if we provide electricity regularly for two hours that will be good, but what happens in reality is that if electricity is available in one area at the same time electricity is not available in other area. Therefore, I want that farmers should get electricity for 24 hours.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): It will be appropriate because it will benefit farmers.

KUMARI MAYAWATI: Alongwith this, the farmers have to face problems of seeds. I do agree on this point. One of my colleague had expressed his views in this regard. It is not essential that the seeds which we make available to farmers is suitable for their land because the land of one state is different from the land of another state. We should provide seeds to them accordingly on behalf of Government. Particularly the system of giving loans to farmers by Government is faulty. Today the situation is that farmers feel shy of taking loan from Government. Suppose the farmer is granted Rs. 10,000/- loan, he will have to part with half the amount of the loan to the middle man to get the loan disbursed to him. What will he do with the remaining Rs. 5000/-. He will spend that amount in his family and become indebted. Therefore, we should solve their problem by formulating new agricultural policy. Similar is the case of diesel. The price of diesel was hiked with the new Government taking over. But when the prices were being increased, Hon'ble Minister had said that considering country's economic problems they are increasing the price of diesel. In this situation, the Minister of Agriculture should also have been cautious because with the hike in the price of diesel, consumers as well as farmers are to be affected directly. At that time it was essential for Minister of Agriculture that he should have been cautious. Hike in diesel price

[Kumari Mayawati]

has direct effect on farmers. Now the farmers have to purchase every item at increased rate but they are not getting remunerative price for their produce. It is a sad state of affairs. On the one hand he himself is suffering and on the other hand the labourers who are engaged in their fields have to face lot of problems. The farmers have their own problems. When they do not get remunerative price for their crop, they are not in a position to pay wages to those labourers who are engaged in their fields.

I want to mention about consolidation of holdings. Though the laws relating to consolidation of holding are in force in Uttar Pradesh but they are seldom implemented. The work of consolidation is taken up for 2-3 months in a year and the works remains incomplete. For example in Uttar Pradesh bumper crop of sugarcane is produced but when sugarcane growers take their crop to sugar mills, they do not get remunerative price for their produce. Not only this, also they do not get payment in time. As a result sugarcane growers are feeling harassed. The condition of sugar mills is not good and the Government of Uttar Pradesh are disposing off these mills one by one. In such a situation when mills are being sold one by one where the people, who are engaged in these mills, will go. On the one hand they will become unemployed and on the other hand sugarcane growers will suffer loss because in Uttar Pradesh sugarcane is produced in abundance. Hence, I request the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to put a restraint on the State Government to sell these mills. Otherwise the sugarcane growers will have to face a lot of difficulties.

Finally, while not taking much time, I once again request Minister of Agriculture that a lot of improvement is needed in the present agriculture policy. The Hon'ble Minister is requested to pay attention towards them and should take necessary steps to solve the problems of farmers. I had asked for supply of electricity for a few hours. If you could provide electricity to farmers for 24 hours then they will be grateful to you. With these words, I conclude my speech.

20.00 hrs.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing the problems of farmers under Rule 193. The condition of farmer and agriculture is a very big Question before us and before this House. Today we are heading towards the 21st century. 50 years have passed since we achieved our independence. India is a very big country in the world. In the country particularly in the rural regions farmers are

residing. In villages 70 to 80% people are farmers. Today what is the condition of farmers.

20.01 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

The House will also accept that their condition is not good. What kind of Agricultural Policy we have adopted that small farmers are becoming poorer for the last 50 years. Due to our Agricultural policy, the marginal farmers are becoming poorer day by day. The marginal farmers living in villages are not in a position to marry off their children. What type of agricultural policy we have adopted in these 50 years due to which the conditions of farmers have become pitiable.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, ours is an agricultural country. The farmers are responsible for making this country agricultural country. We have become self-reliant in the field of foodgrains. Whether the farmers who made this country self-reliant in foodgrains are themselves self-reliant, is a question before this House. During last 50 years the agricultural policy has not provided anything to farmers. We have not been able to provide them even three times meal. The cotton producing farmer has no cloth to cover his body. We could not provide him education, housing, medical facilities and respect. What sort of agricultural policy is this. The Agricultural policy of Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has progressed during the last 50 years but it is a bitter truth that the farmer of this country has become poorer. We could not provide them food, shelter, education and medical facilities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today farmers are committing suicide. Why they are doing so? There is no such state whether it is Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh or Punjab where farmers are not compelled to commit suicide. Is it the result of our Agricultural policy. The Minister of Agriculture should mention in his reply as to what step Government propose to take to prevent these incidents of suicides. In our Maharashtra State cotton is produced in abundance. Maharashtra is the largest producer of cotton. In Maharashtra, sugarcane is also produced. Grapes and onions are also produced in abundance in Maharashtra but only those farmers who produce cotton, are compelled to commit suicide.

20.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

How this agricultural policy will be helpful in preventing suicides, should also be considered. I would like to give some suggestions to the Minister of

Agriculture. It is imperative to provide the status of industry to agriculture. The Rules of trade should be made applicable on agriculture also. Our fore-fathers used to say that "Uttam Kheti, madyam Vyapar, Kanisht naukri, Kanisht Chakri" but Sir, today the situation has reversed totally. Therefore, if we want to make agriculture a good job then agriculture should be given the status of industry. The facilities which we give to industrialists, should be given to the farmers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sureshji, now you please conclude.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have just started giving suggestions. The main requirement of farmer is that of financial assistance. This is their main problem. They should get credit and that too in an appropriate and effective manner. The present condition is not effective. Financial assistance should be given in a more effective manner.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the supply of electricity should be streamlined to give a boost to agriculture. They should be provided with new technology, good quality of seeds, chemicals and fertilizers at appropriate price. They should also be provided the facility of storage and cold storage and the most important issue is that the procurement price of crop should be above the cost of production. The crop should be provided the transportation facilities and subsidy should be increased.

The farmers should also be provided market price in case of land acquisition. There is a need to increase the budget allocated for agriculture in 9th Five Year Plan. Similarly, water should be made available in drought prone areas and where there is flood it should be controlled. The Land Reform Programme should be encouraged. The agricultural policy should be in the interest of farmers. The agro-based industries whether it is dairy or poultry farming or all other small industries, should be encouraged.

Similarly, the agricultural universities should be strengthened. The Government has stopped giving funds to research centres. I want to say that it should be increased. Farmers should get subsidy on fertilizers directly. Natural farming should be encouraged. Similarly, the spurious inputs which are being supplied whether it is fertilizer or seeds, should be checked. There is also a need for Crop Insurance Scheme. Finally, there is also a need to boost the morale and self-respect of farmers. Unless the farmer of this country is happy we can never be happy. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the hon. Speaker has just mentioned to me that as there are a large number of speakers to participate in this debate, I should give not more than 10 minutes to each speaker. After 8 minutes of every speech, the caution bell will be rung. So, kindly stick to 10 minutes each.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI K. K. KALIAPPAN (Gobichettipalayam): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, I who hail from a Gobichettipalayam an agricultural area and I who hail from a farmer's family is now here in this august House to speak on the problems faced by the farming community in whole of this country. I thank the Chair and also our leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi who has made it possible for me, an agriculturist, to place before this highest forum the issues concerning farmers of the country.

The sugarcane procurement price announced by our Hon. Minister is not adequate. Even at a time when sugar production in Tamil Nadu and other places has increased during the last two years, our country is still liberal in importing sugar from other countries. This kind of lopsided approach deprive the farmers of their labour's worth and drive them to poverty. Most of the members in this august House hail from agricultural families and as they all know it is needless to stress the point that the hundred crore population of this entire nation is dependent on all the agriculturist of the country.

As far as sugar price is concerned, Rs. 14/- per tonne is levied on it and it has accrued to several crores of rupees. When there is abundant production the Government resorts to 'Buffer stocking' using those funds but never pass on the benefits to the farmers. The money paid by the farmers is used for purposes that go against the interests of the sugar cane growers. The Government has miserably paid in this.

The Government has also allowed liberal import of sugar even when there is abundant production in this country. Import duties have also been reduced. This is a measure that punishes the farmers who have increased the production for the welfare of the country.

Even after 52 years of Indian independence, all our farmers have not been oriented towards scientific cultivation methods. Much desires to be done, on this front. The farmers have not progressed as they ought to have.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri K.K. Kaliappan]

I seek the members to have an introspection about the plight of the farmers. There is a proverb that if an agriculturist takes stock of his lot nothing would be left behind. This age long saying is very much true even today. Many of the farmers' household jewellery even the minimal are in the lockers of banks where they have been pledged.

Agriculture should be accorded an industry status. Several tax relief incentives are extended to entrepreneurs who set up industrial units. I am rather pained to point out that both the Centre and the States are ignoring the need to encourage the farmers who toil and moil in the soil.

I would like to impress upon the Government that those who work in the fields should also be treated on par with the industrial workers. Agriculture should be treated like industry. Same status must be accorded. Efforts must be made to enhance farmer's standard of living.

There is abundant growth of turmeric in my constituency. If we could explore export markets Government could earn more revenue. But there is hesitation on the part of the Government to come forward to promote the export of agricultural produce. At the same time the Government do not hesitate to import. For instance, we have a huge stock of sugar that would suffice for the next 2 years. But we allow imports.*

I would like to recall how our Puratchi Thalaivar (revolutionary leader) celebrated the farming community. "A farmer is a God's labour and he is God's own find. Due to his labour the nation is enriched. When all the wealth is here in this country, why should we look forward to get things from other countries?" was his assertion while enthusing farmers. Our leader Dr. MGR glorified farmers like this 35 years ago. But what is happening today? Have any of the Union Governments evolved a comprehensive plan to improve the conditions of the farmers? The answer will be a disappointing 'No'.

Agriculturists toil a lot day in and day out. There are many agriculturists who could not provide education to their children. They could not procure even basic things for their families. Agricultural labourers also face hardships and their sufferings are more than the farmers'. Such labourers must have social security and the Government must provide funds to institute an exclusive insurance scheme for the agricultural labourers.

I urge upon the Government to accord industry status to agriculture and I want the hon. Minister to make an announcement in this regard.

Agriculture is such an occupation where farmers and farm labourers have to work in fields even during night hours. On such occasions if they die bitten by snakes, no help comes to their families either from the Centre or from the States. Such of those farming class who die of snake-bites should be extended with ex-gratia payments. One lakh rupees as a compensation for such deaths cannot be a huge burden to the Government. Hence, I urge upon the Government to announce this ex-gratia payment to farming people who die of snake-bites.

The labour involved in sugar cane harvesting need to have insurance cover. They should benefit from exclusive insurance schemes. They must have social security because they have several occupational hazards while working for increasing country's wealth. I urge upon the Government to seriously consider and announce this scheme without fail.

*HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you may kindly note you have just two more minutes.

*SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN: Both the Union Government and the State Government must announce a procurement price of Rs. 1000 per tonne for sugar cane. When there is plenty of sugar cane growth, middlemen thrive by way of forcing the sugar cane growers to part with the produce at a lower price. Both the Union Government and the State Government must take adequate steps to ensure remunerative prices to sugar cane cultivators. The Government agencies may be directed to procure them directly from farmers to build up 'buffer stock'.

Government must allocate several crores of rupees more to agriculturists who feed hundred crores of people of this country. More funds must be allocated to save and to improve the lot of the farming community. Our State Government promised to give Rs. 1000 per tonne while procuring sugar cane but they have not implemented it. I urge upon the Union as well as the State Government to enhance the procurement price and to make it a remunerative price at least during the next season in the coming year.

The standard of living of the farming class needs to be improved. The Government must uplift them and accord them equal status with industry. Israeli farmers

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

successfully cultivate through optimal utilization of meagre water resources available there. In our country we have better water resources but still we have irrigational problems galore. Our agricultural scientists must strive to achieve more to help our farmers adopt scientific cultivation methods throughout the country.

Urging upon the Government to enable the farmers overcome their problems and insisting upon my demand to accord comparable status with industry, let me conclude. Thank you. Vanakkam.

*HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member Shri Kaliappan, as you have completed your speech well within ten minutes, let me also thank you.

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am delivering my maiden speech. I am very much thankful and grateful to you, to the respected leader Dr. Kalaignar and the people of my Sriperumbudur constituency for giving me an opportunity to speak in this House.

Even though our country is based on agriculture, our farmers are not well off after fifty years of independence. The main problem of our farmers is that they do not have a regular income. Most of the landless farmers are shifting from the villages to the towns because they do not get employment in the villages. They are migrating to the towns. Some of the farmers stay in the villages without any employment. The small farmers who are employed in the villages do not get sufficient wages from the landlords. So, they are not able to plan their family life properly. For this reason, nobody is interested in the agricultural profession and in this situation, the landlords face difficulties in finding agricultural workers. Due to lack of agricultural labourers in our country, cultivation is coming down. It is one of the reasons why productivity of foodgrains has decreased this year compared to the previous years.

The vagaries of nature continue to play havoc with the life of farmers; and, whenever crops have been bountiful due to shortage of storage and food processing facilities, they have faced a slump in agricultural prices. In terms of supply shortfalls, it is not they but the middlemen who have been active in making huge profits. To avoid profits being made by the middlemen, our respectable leader and Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has

introduced a new scheme called 'Uzhavar Chandhai', a farmers' market scheme. Through this scheme, the farmers can sell their produce directly, without the help of middlemen and obtain more profits. It is appreciated by all the farmers in Tamil Nadu. I request this Government to establish this scheme all over the country.

The hon. Member who spoke before me, Shri Kaliappan, said that when farmers sustain snake bites, the Central and the State Governments do not give any relief to them but in our State, our Tamil Nadu Government led by Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi gives Rs. 15,000 when a farmer dies of snake bite.

Yet another problem faced by the farmer is the lack of adequate credit facility. The Government has to increase the credit facilities and extend easy way credit facilities at low percentages of interest. Credit card facilities should also be extended.

For higher productivity, a greater use of fertilizer is also important. Fertilizer consumption has gradually increased over the Eighth Plan period because of the subsidy provided by the Government and low prices.

As such, the Government has to take steps to eradicate the unemployment problem of the farmers and part-time employment opportunities should be introduced in villages.

The Government has to give security to their lives. Due to natural calamity, sometimes, they are facing heavy damages and losses to their crops. To compensate them for their losses, the crop insurance scheme should be established properly.

I feel that irrigation facilities should be increased. The Ganga-Cavery rivers mining scheme will be a permanent solution to the problems of the farmers. In Tamil Nadu, the State Government desilted all the rivers and lakes during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98, to help farmers. In Tamil Nadu, we supply free electricity to farmers and this is in existence now to help irrigation.

Lastly, farmers in most of the areas look dull and aimless with mental agony due to unemployment and lack of income. To encourage them and to bring them to happy mood, the Government should implement a scheme in villages, to open recreation centres and other facilities which are available in towns. This will bring happiness to them. If this is done, the farmers will not migrate to the towns and they will concentrate on agriculture.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri A. Krishnaswamy]

I only expect that this Government will successfully solve the problems of the farmers and wipe out their tears. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Shri P.C. Thomas	—	Not present
Shri Anil Basu	—	Not present
Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan	—	Not present
Shri Ramchander Baidna	—	Not present
Shri Bir Singh Mahato	—	Not present
Shri Ramesh Chennithala	—	Not present

Now, Shri Sukdeo Paswan.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the House is discussing the problems of the farmers. Agriculture occupies prestigious place in the economy of the country. Today approximately 70% of labourers get their livelihood from agriculture. Agriculture contributes 35% to the Net National Product. Agriculture provides raw material to the industry. Even after the 52 years of independence, the problems of farmers remain unsolved. In 1990 there was a proposal to implement Crop Insurance Scheme in the entire country. Under which, it was suggested that the rate of premium to be given by the farmers should be reduced, and Central Government and State Government should bear 50% premium. But even after lapse of so many years after independence, the Crop Insurance Scheme has not been implemented in the whole country. Our country is dependent on agriculture, despite this proper attention has not been paid to the problems of farmers. The farmers are being harmed in every way. As far as the question of providing fertilizer to the farmers is concerned, all the industrialists, who are the producer of fertilizers indulge in adulteration. The unadulterated fertilizers should be made available to the farmers, but in practice it does not happen. The farmers are treated unfairly, but there is no record of it. Most of the big businessmen of the country provide adulterated fertilizer and seeds to the farmers. I would like to know the number of cases that have been filed against the businessmen who indulge in adulteration of fertilizers, seeds and insecticides. I want that the hon. Minister should specifically reply to it while replying to the debate.

Sir, 90 State Seed Testing Laboratories are functioning in the entire country. In 13 States of country, there are Seed Corporations and 19 Seed Certification agencies and 88 State Seed Corporation Testing Laboratories. Despite all this, the farmers are not getting seeds of good quality. The Ministry of Agriculture should frame such policy, so that farmers may get good quality seeds, fertilizers and insecticides and adulteration in these agricultural inputs should be checked.

In 1989, when Janata Dal Government was in power, the, then Prime Minister and former Prime Minister had announced to waive bank loans upto Rs. 10,000 in case of small and marginal farmers, but the debt on farmers is increasing day by day. Crores of rupees are waived in respect of big industrialists but if the small and marginal farmer is unable to repay the loan of Rs. 500, 1000 or 2000, his property and cattle are attached. What type of system is this in this country, on the one hand crores of rupees of industrialists are waived off, but on the other hand, the Government do not waive off small loan of Rs. 1000, or 2000 of the small and marginal farmers.

Sir, in India, every year, one or the other state is inundated with flood waters and it mainly affects the farmers. Recently, Orissa was affected with floods, the farmers were the worst affected by it, but Central Government or State Government is not doing enough to provide relief to the farmers. I hail from northern Bihar, which is on the Indo-Nepal border. All rivers coming from Nepal get flooded in rainy season, and floods inundate the houses and cause damage to the crops. Farmers raise their crops after taking loan from the bank and the crops get damaged by floods and their cattle too perish. They do not get the benefit of loans which they have taken from banks. The warrants are issued against them. They get entrapped and in that condition they repay their loan after selling their property. The Central Government or State Government do not have any provision to provide solution to the problem. All big cities have got electricity, but even after so many years, they have not been able to provide proper electric supply to the villages. I personally know the Minister of Agriculture. He belongs to a family of farmers. And today eyes of all farmers are on him to see as to what measures he takes for the benefit of farmers. This Government should establish a precedent so that coming generations may say, that so and so Cabinet Minister and Minister of State were the well-wishers of the farmers. You should take such measures for the welfare of the farmers, which may definitely benefit them.

In our area, the farming of jute is done. It requires more labour as compared to other crops. The farmers are compelled to sell it at the rate of Rs. 400-500 whereas its actual cost price is Rs. 1000-1200. The farmer cannot even manage to recover the cost of cultivation. Two years ago, the people of northern Bihar began cultivation of sunflower, instead of jute. At that time the rate of sunflower was Rs. 1400-1500 per quintal, but later on it came down to Rs. 600-700 per quintal. Therefore, an arrangement should be made whereby Government gives attention to agriculture, which is backbone of the country and farmer should be able to do farming in proper way thereby taking the country towards progress.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a healthy discussion is going on here about the problems of the farmers. The economy of the country can be strengthened only when the economic condition of the farmers is good. 75 percent of our population still lives in villages. Hardwork of farmers and their families have produced foodgrains in abundance in the country. They have increased production of vegetables, fruits, sugarcane, sugar and Jaggery etc. considerably. Today we no longer need imports of wheat from America, we are exporting wheat ourselves. But the condition of farmers has not changed. There is a saying in Uttar Pradesh "Nagar Vasante Devanam, Gaon Vasante Bhootanam." This saying is true today also. Houses, schools, medicines and hospitals are not available to the farmers of the country. Agricultural inputs are not being made available to the farmers. All political parties have played politics in the name of farmers. They have not done any good for the farmers instead they have done urea scam and fodder scam...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Your Government have increased even price of diesel....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA: Traders are not plundering. You are plundering him. Urea scam and fodder scam have taken place...(Interruptions) The condition of the farmers have not changed in villages. Late Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri gave the slogan 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan'. Now our present Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has given us a new slogan 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan'.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Dr. Lohia gave the slogan "Labourers and farmers should be the owners."

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA: In view of the farmers problems Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has

implemented the Credit Card Scheme. A discussion was going on since long on the Crop Insurance Scheme. Hon'ble Vajpayeeji has started the Crop Insurance Scheme. It has not been started all over the country. It has been implemented at some selective places. It will be extended further in future. The Prime Minister has announced a scheme for construction of roads in villages. Just now our colleague was speaking about Uttar Pradesh. It is being said that in Uttar Pradesh villages having population of one thousand are being linked by road and primary schools are being opened in every village. Need of the hour is that the farmer should impart education to his children but he is not able to do so. The farmer is not getting remunerative price of his produce. He should get remunerative price of his produce. Today different crops are grown in different states. In different States, crop viz. potato, cotton, sugarcane, wheat, oilseeds, soyabean and spices are produced but remunerative price is not being paid to the farmer. In our area large quantity of potatoes is produced. One of my colleagues was saying that price of potato changed the governments in three states when it was selling at Rs. 30 to 40 per kilogram. Today there is no buyer for potato even at Rs. 2 per kilogram. Last year potatoes were stored in cold storage but that potato could not fetch even the cost of bags and rent of cold storage.

Just now an hon'ble lady Member was saying that they did a lot for the farmers during their rule. The restriction imposed on rent charges of cold storage was done away with by issuing an ordinance. It resulted in the owners of cold storages in Uttar Pradesh charging more and exploiting the farmers.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: They did it with your cooperation.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA: It was done with your cooperation also. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you looking that side? I will control them. It will cause confrontation.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA: Today farmer is on the verge of starvation. Vajpayeeji has decided that telephones will be provided in every village by 2002. If communication facility is available in villages, the farmers will be able to have information about his produce from time to time and they will be able to get remunerative price for his produce.

Support price of paddy was announced in Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country but Paddy is not

[Shri Shyam Bihari Mishra]

being procured even at the fixed support price. Some Members have made a good demand that the support price should be fixed in consultation with the representatives of the farmers. I request the Minister of Agriculture that the produce of the farmers should be definitely procured at the support price. It is very important and this too should be noted down. I would like to give some suggestions in this regard.

Arrangements should be made to provide water to the farmers for irrigation. Time slot for supply of electricity to the farmers should be fixed so that the farmers could have the information that electricity will be available from this hour to that hour. They should get electricity at least for six hours and for ten hours at the maximum. Supply of electricity for two hours is not sufficient.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, diesel is required by the farmers for the pumpsets and tractors. Though price of diesel has been increased due to some international reasons I request the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to provide diesel to the farmers for their pumpsets and tractors at concessional rates so that they are not affected by increase in price of diesel. As Employee State Insurance scheme has been implemented, similarly Agricultural Insurance Scheme should be implemented for the farmers and agricultural labourers. The farmers are fully dependent on agriculture but I request that employment should be provided to the sons of the farmers so that the farmers could have additional income. Preference should be given to them in jobs. The farmers above sixty years of age should be sanctioned pension. Arrangements for drainage should be made in villages.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken more than ten minutes.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my time was wasted by creating disturbance, so I may be given two minutes more.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ten minutes have been allotted to each Member, you cannot be given twelve minutes.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to give a suggestion that the farmers are not in a position to repay their loans in lumpsum and hence they should be allowed to repay the same in two instalments. Penalty on interest should be waived so that their houses and fields could be saved from being auctioned. (*Interruptions*) I want to make two more points.

The farmers whose per hectare yield is more should be honoured at state and national level. I hope that the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture will accept the suggestions given by me. I conclude my speech with the words that today there is a need to encourage the farmers, to formulate the National Agriculture Policy and to bring improvement in it.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have been kind enough to allow an important discussion of the problems of the farmers which are related not only with the Ministry of Agriculture but also with the Ministry of Power and the department of Irrigation. The Minister of Power and Minister of Water Resources are not present in the House. They should intervene in this debate. They should ask them to come to the House otherwise it will prove to be a futile exercise. It would be better to close this discussion. Merely making speeches will not help. The Minister of Power and the Minister of Water Resources should be present here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The matter raised by Shri Prabhunath Singh is a serious one.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Mr. Bhan Singh Bhaura.

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (Bhatinda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today many hon'ble Members have expressed their views on the problems of the farmers in the House. The list of their problems is so long that they cannot be discussed in ten minutes. Everybody is aware of the problems of the farmers, India is a big country where 70% of people are engaged in agriculture. It is very sad if farmers are compelled to commit suicide. The reason behind the suicide of farmers is that now they do not trust any Government, they no longer believe in policies, it means that their faith is shaken. Therefore, they are committing suicide. Will the Government pay attention to the happenings in the country? Punjab is the grain bowl of the country. Punjab provides 70% of wheat and 60% of rice to entire India, but what is happening in Punjab? What is the state of water, electricity and pesticide in Punjab? A mention was made about sugarcane here. The mills owe crores of rupees to the farmers, but till today they have not made payment of it. The Government has closed the mills in Punjab. The mill at Patda was sold at throw away price, the Chief Minister had shifted the mill, situated at Budlada to his own area, and the Mill at Jagraon is on the verge of closure. The same is the case of wheat. The wheat is rotting in our

godowns, but the Government is talking of importing it. Similarly, the sugar production has gone up in India but the Government is thinking to import it. The farmer is severely hit, when he does not get the price of his crop. Take the case of paddy, the farmer goes to the market for many days, but nobody purchases it from him at the rate of Rs. 470 per quintal and later on he was compelled to sell it at the rate of Rs. 300 to the traders and they sold it at the rate of Rs. 470. The same is the case of wheat. The farmer goes to the market for 10-20 days, but nobody purchase it from him and later on traders sell it at higher rates. What steps the Government of Punjab is taking in this direction? The Government of Punjab is the Government of landlords. Its goal is to earn money.

The question of irrigation is very important. You might have read that five engineers were held on charge of corruption. the funds allocated by World Bank have been embezzled by engineers in collusion with the Ministers and officers of Punjab Government, but only engineers have been held, and no action has been taken against the other people involved.

In case of pesticide—the Punjab has incurred a loss of Rs. 2000 crore in the crop in one year, because the pesticide was supplied from the factory of son-in-law of the Chief Minister, and it proved to be ineffective. The farmers of Punjab had to incur a loss of Rs. 2000 crore. The Government had announced that it would give Rs. 300 crore to compensate the loss suffered in paddy. The Chief Minister said that he would meet Shri Vajpayee and he would allocate Rs. 300 crore. But not even a penny has been given to the farmers.

There are many other problems also. The Minister of Agriculture should see that the policy which he is going to frame is meant for the farmers and labourers or for the landlords. The credit for increase in the production goes to the farmers, but the biggest credit goes to the agricultural labourers. The agricultural labourers from Bihar, Rajasthan and U.P. migrate to Punjab for work. Nobody has ever given thought to them. Nobody has given attention to their plight. The Central Government had prepared a comprehensive legislation for agriculture labourers, and the former Government had assured that it would get it passed. But Vajpayee Government have shelved this comprehensive legislation, and is not paying any attention in this regard.

My colleagues have mentioned many things. One of them has mentioned about land reforms. Another Member has made a mention about setting up of agro-based

industries. This is most important. The crop of farmer can be properly utilised by setting up agro-based industries. I give you an example. The potato is rotting it is not being sold, but factory of Pepsi Cola manufacture potato chips and sells it at the rate of Rs. 15 per 100 grams. It is sold in trains. Cannot the Government set up these type of industries or processing units, the Government should do so. If he wants to do the welfare of the farmers, the Minister of Agriculture should think in this direction, and should pay attention to the things mentioned over here. The hon. Minister has said that he will announce agricultural policy. But the Agriculture policy should be in favour of farmers. The Agriculture policy should not be for the benefit of influential multinational companies. It should be in the interest of farmers and farmers should get full benefit of it. It can only happen, when you are in favour of farmers. The farmers can be saved from the exploitation which is going on in the 'mandis'. The legislations which are against the farmers, should be changed. The insurance of crop is most essential. Everybody makes announcement, but till date nobody has enacted a legislation in this regard. Many small legislations are being enacted. Therefore, I would request you to pay proper consideration in this regard and views of agricultural experts should also be taken into consideration. It is most important that your policy should be for the welfare of farmers. With these words, I thank you.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary - Not present.

Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi — Not present

Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria — Not present

Shrimati Jayashree Banerjee — Not present.

Now, Shri S. Bangarappa.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the subject under discussion is very very important in the sense that it relates to the Plan or the subject matter that comes under the core sector or the priority sector of the Planning Commission.

Sir, I want to tell one thing that within a short span of time, no hon. Member, to whichever party he may belong to, can devote his ideas based upon the facts and figures in this august House while speaking. Therefore, I am also trying to attempt to touch certain

[Shri S. Bangarappa]

important and salient aspects of the subject, which is under very serious discussion.

Sir, if I just look at the agro climatic conditions that are prevailing in our country, it is highly suitable for more production depending upon the availability of the water resources. You will have to just give the support and attention to certain problems relating to support price of the agricultural commodities and also make use of the available water resources including major, medium and minor irrigation. Let me just go through the Plan periods after we attained our Independence.

21.00 hrs.

Starting from the first Plan period of 1951-56 to 1996-97, the Plan allocation for this sector has been maintained constantly. These are all facts and figures supplied by the Planning Commission only. I am just giving out the percentage of agriculture and allied activities in toto. Starting from 1951-56, the Plan outlay including the Plan expenditure has stood at 14.9 per cent. That is the Plan outlay. The expenditure has stood at 14.8 per cent. What was the Annual Plan of 1996-97? It was stood at 13.5 per cent. If we just go through the percentage of Plan allocation of 1951-56, it was 14.9 per cent. In 1996-97, it was 13.5 per cent. I am just giving, through you, Sir, to the Minister of Agriculture only one suggestion. What exactly is your case that you have made out for the coming financial year? It is because the Budget is going to be presented in the coming month of February. Will you kindly just make out your strong case before the Planning Commission to cross or go nearer to 20 per cent of the Plan allocation?

Regarding your ability to spend well within the Plan outlay which is going to be fixed by the Planning Commission, I think you are capable of spending more if it is approved by the Planning Commission. I know that you are capable. It means your Department is capable. Therefore, I am giving you this suggestion. Before this Budget that is going to be presented by the Finance Minister, you please make out your case before the Planning Commission and also before the Finance Ministry to go nearer to 20 per cent or cross 20 per cent of the total allocation. Unless you do this, I do not think you are going to achieve your targets of alleviating poverty or giving more impetus to the rural folk so as to give them a decent livelihood and cross the level of poverty that you want to achieve. It is only a suggestion because I do not have much time to go into the details.

What exactly are the areas that are to be concentrated upon now? The first one is production. Yes, it is depending upon the availability of fertilizers including chemical fertilizers. I want to suggest one thing. On the production front, you cannot depend only upon the chemical fertilizers for getting more production or more food output.

Now, I suggest even the national fertilizers also will have to be taken into account. You give more priority to the other areas of the fertilizers also along with the chemical fertilizers. Along with these things, this Plan outlay must touch upon animal husbandry, dairy research, plantation, agricultural marketing, rural godowns, warehousing, food storage including cold storage for your floriculture or fruit culture and something like that. The concept that we have thought of is not the one which Mahatma Gandhi has given to us. Now, we are seeing that it is dwindling year by year or Plan by Plan. I should say it is going down. Actually, why was the *charkha* thought of by our Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi? He laid more emphasis on the rural way of thinking of getting more income by poor families living in the rural areas. But I am yet to understand why actually this concept is given a clean go by.

Therefore, I suggest you to give more importance for rural economy by giving more impetus to these areas.

Then, as far as irrigation is concerned, I felt one thing. There are lakhs of tanks in each of the State. Desilting of tanks will go a long way to give more water resources for the food output.

During late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's time, the industrial sector got a lot of importance. During late Shrimati Indira Gandhi's time, green revolution got a lot of impetus also. If you go through the Plan size and Plan outlay, you will find that the green revolution was also achieved. So, what I suggest is that it has got to be maintained.

You had made one statement that before the start of the Winter Session you would be bringing one Bill relating to plant protection and protection of farmers' rights. Now, the Winter Session is going on. Have you thought of bringing that Bill or not? We are yet to know about it. So, while replying, please touch upon this aspects also.

Sir, due to vagaries of nature, a farmer is unable to produce more. The marketing facilities are also not good and the rates given for the foodgrains are not maintained.

As far as Price Fixation Policy is concerned, you call a meeting at the national level wherein the farmers should be represented by the representatives along with the elected Members of both the Houses. Please also call the scientists who are working in research areas so that you will be able to make up your mind before you present the Budget of your Ministry in this august House.

Sir, as far as taxing the agricultural sector is concerned, it is better that you give up the idea. If you start taxing this sector, then it is going to give a lot of things on the other side rather than giving impetus to this area.

As far as trade facilities are concerned, some hon. Members have already spoken. There are two areas. One is cooperative sector and another is banking sector. As far as giving credit facilities to this sector is concerned, you please strengthen them.

The last point I would like to touch upon is about the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. You please give all the strength to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research because research is going to help us a lot in the future. Crop insurance sector will have to be covered because the farmers are badly hit in this sector.

As far as subsidies are concerned, please do not withdraw any of these subsidies given to this sector. Please continue to extend your support as far as subsidies are concerned.

These are the few suggestions which I wanted to make.

Sir, with these few words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been told that 70 percent population of this country consists of farmers, and 75 percent Members of this House are from rural areas. In view of this, I am disappointed to see that Parliament and Members of Parliament are not giving as much importance to the farmers, as they should get. This is our shortcoming. Something is wrong in our thinking, that whenever an officer or any body else get distanced from them, he overlooks their problems. Whatever be the reason behind it, the result of it is that during the last 10 years, the agriculture production is not rising, it is falling.

Many reasons have been attributed to it. I will not go in the detail of these reasons. I will stress on two-three points only. First of all, the farmer community is unorganised. This is well reflected in the Ministry of Agriculture. Here, everybody is talking about policy. The policy could be framed, but until it is executed at the district level and block level, that policy will remain on paper only. Instead of improving those areas, who are already doing well in the agriculture sector, attention should be given to the areas which are backward in agriculture. If agriculture will make progress in those areas, then India will prosper at very fast pace. Therefore, I would like to congratulate the Government for what was said about agriculture, small and cottage industries in President's address. The Sugar mills were being discussed here. There is a direct war between industrialists and farmers. The only difference is that the farmer sells the sugar mills according to the fixed price and guidelines of the Government and Sugar mills also work on the directions issued by the Government. And if in private sector, the Sugar Mill of Sardar Nagar owe Rs. 27 crore to the farmers, the Sugar mill of Gauri Bazar is closed for last five years, and B.I.F.R. says that the payment to the farmer will begin from year 2002, and will be completed in next six years, and if the mill of Kathkulan and Padrauna owe Rs. 20 crore to farmers and B.I.F.R. says it will be done in six years, then I think the Government is helpless, and it neither wants to do anything, nor is doing it, I am expressing my resentment because one crore farmers are affected by it. The Sugar Mills from Mandaura to Gauri Bazar owe Rs. 100 crore to farmers.

There should not be any problem to Union Government for announcing a package of hundred crores for the benefit of farmers. It can realize this amount from the big industrialists in six or sixteen years. We have struggled at various places. We have conveyed our problem to the Chief Minister and also to the Prime Minister. Actually, the fight is between the farmer and the industrialist and the Government is shirking its responsibility. A package of Rs. 100 crores is required to be announced for the welfare of the farmers and an amount of Rs. 200 crores should be spend on the modernisation and expansion of agriculture sector. This will help the farmer to prosper. Many new techniques have been developed in agriculture sector. We are talking about electricity. Sugar mills set-up with big boiler can help in electrification of 100 villages and U.P. State Electricity Board will not be required to supply electricity to those villages for 6 months. I again want to submit to the hon'ble Minister that we have gone from pillar to post to get the payment of arrears due to the sugarcane

[Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi]

growers of eastern part of the state. Such complaints have been raised in the House time and again. Government is not short of Rs. one hundred crores. All the farmers, right from Mandaura to Deoria should be made direct payments and a package should be announced for them. Mills of Betalpur, Deoria, Gauri Bazar, Kanthkuan and Mandaura should be expanded. Government should not shirk its responsibility. This matter concerns the farmers and not the businessmen as atleast 10 Parliamentary Constituencies are being affected by it, I would request the hon'ble Minister that while taking this matter seriously a package should be announced so that farmers could be given payments directly. The decision given by the B.I.F.R. is in favour of the I.D.B.I., I.C.I.C.I. and Government of Uttar Pradesh and Union Government. Farmer comes last in the list. Why is it so? It will be construed as anti-farmer. It has been stated time and again that why the U.P. farmers are not being paid their dues when your Government is in power both in the Centre and in the State. Farmers have sold their produce. If you sell your goods worth Rs. 500 to a person and if the amount is not paid to you by him, you call him accused. Here, mill owners have to pay Rs. 22 crores as arrears to farmers but they are not making payments to them. I request you to take urgent steps in this regard.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to take part in the discussion concerning farmers.

52 years have passed since we achieved independence. During these 52 years, farmers with their hard work and dedication and honesty not only made this country self-reliant in the field of foodgrains production but we have also started exporting foodgrains. However, they did not get any reward for producing food grains on such a large scale. Rather the farmer has been penalised for it. Even after 52 years of independence, he is still not able to provide education to his children and to arrange medical help to his sick mother and children. He is not getting remunerative rice of his produce. I am not hesitant to say that the farmers of our country have never been rewarded for their priceless contribution in the upliftment of this country in the post independence era. Today, the biggest problem before the farmer is related to fixation of cost of production. I have no hesitation to say that reasonable prices are not being given to farmers for their produce. When we talk about the support price, we tend to forget the basis thereof.

Union Government has been fixing the support price for wheat and paddy from time to time. If the Government fix the cost of production of farmer's produce on the

basis of the figures collected from its own agricultural farms, I think the support price fixed by the Government will certainly increase by 50-75%. Today, the farmers have not only become economically weak but their social condition has also deteriorated.

An eminent agricultural expert Shri 'Ghagh' has said about agriculture that 'Uttam Kheti, Madhyam Ban, Nishidh Chakri, Bhikh Nidan'. 'Bhiksha' which was considered as a very inferior work earlier is now considered as a best work to do. Somehow or the other we all are engaged in this task today. All including bureaucrats, traders or service class people are interested in politics. The job work which was at number three has come at number two and has become our top priority. Agriculture which was considered as a best occupation earlier has been degraded now. How did it happen? All of us should think about it with full sincerity. Farmer's social status has deteriorated to such an extent that a farmer owning 100 acres of land cannot marry his son to a girl of a decent family. These days agriculture is not considered as status symbol for a trader or bureaucrat to marry off his daughter. There was a time before independence when agriculture was considered as a prime criteria to tie the nuptial knots between two families. Farmer's social as well as economic condition have deteriorated. He is not getting adequate price of their produce and even, his produce is not being purchased on support price due to which he is facing lot of problems which compel him to commit suicide.

Government has fixed minimum support price of paddy at Rs. 490/- per quintal. I am not aware of the situation in other parts of the country, but if you collect the figures of Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, Deoria, Basti, Siddharth Nagar districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh, you will come to know that the traders and middlemen are buying paddy from the farmers at Rs. 400-420 per quintal. On every quintal of paddy, Rs. 70 are being pocketed by the traders and middlemen. If in a village, paddy is sowed on 500 areas of land and 10 quintal of paddy is produced from one acre of land, then the total production of paddy in that village is about 5000 quintals. Out of this if the farmer sells 3000 quintals of paddy in the market and, thus, Rs. 2 lakh 10 thousand are being pocketed by the traders and middlemen just from one village. It is exploitation of the villages and farmers.

Sir, a lot has been said about development. Farmer is being looted in the matter of support price but no development is done by Central or State Government in the village. This loot should be stopped. During the last session, the hon'ble Minister of Finance had stated that

5000 mt. tonnes of paddy has been procured on support price. I would like to know the figures regarding the quantum of paddy procured in Uttar Pradesh by the Government agencies till date on support price, as the House would like to know the same. When farmers approach the Government agencies with their paddy, they say that paddy is not of standard quality. But when the same rice is purchased from the mills and is supplied to us under the PDS scheme, then it becomes standard rice. I want to tell you that the sugarcane farmers of eastern Uttar Pradesh are facing many hardships. I want to cite an example in this regard. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has fixed the price of sugarcane at Rs. 85 per quintal but in Haryana, the State Government has fixed, its prices as Rs. 110 per quintal. However, there is no difference between the quality of sugarcane grown in both the States. One can test the quality of sugarcane of Saharanpur and Ambala. The quality is the same. Both the districts are adjacent to each other, why such an anomaly is there that the sugarcane grower of Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh gets Rs. 85 for his produce but the farmer of Haryana is getting Rs. 110 for the same quality of sugarcane. Central Government should take initiative to remove this anomaly. I want to submit that 11 sugar mills have been closed in Uttar Pradesh. Not only the mills which come under the State Government that have been closed, but the mills which come under the Central Government have also been closed. I want to cite an example of Farenda (Anand Nagar) Sugar mill of Maharajganj. This mill was established in 1932 by the Jaipuria Foundation. The sugar mill was making profit until the Government took over it. It was earning profit even after the take over by the Government. Sir, I am speaking on the subject, I should be allowed to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are the second Member of Your party who is speaking on this subject. You have already spoken for eight minutes. Please wind up in two minutes.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I am concluding my speech in five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please conclude your speech in two minutes, otherwise it will not go on record.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, that mill was acquired in 1990. Till 1992-93 it was making profit but in 1994 this mill was closed down. This sugar mill owns a farm measuring 713 acres. But, the Central Government is not making efforts to run this mill. Recently, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sold four sugar mills

to the Minister connected with Mafia on depositing a security of Rs. one crores only for each mill. Today, they are selling scraps of these mills and in this way they are squandering the Government and public funds.

I want to submit that the farmer is facing the problem of water for irrigation. The water table is going down day by day. The need of the hour is that we should adopt scientific methods to collect the rain and flood water to raise the ground water level. Today, not only in eastern Uttar Pradesh but in West Bengal also, the water table is going down. We should take new initiative to improve the ground water level. From eastern Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal and Bihar, farmer is distressed due to flood and water logging problem. Lakhs of acres of land is being destroyed by floods and water logging. Government should take meaningful steps to use this land. Through you, I demand that farmers should be associated at the time of fixing the support price of their produce so that they could get appropriate price for their crop. I want to submit that water for irrigation should be guaranteed to farmers and they should be ensured reasonable support price for their produce.

In Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, Government should take initiative to use new technology in fishery sector. Government should provide incentives to the people belonging to fisherman community.

Sir, regarding Employment Assurance scheme, I would like to mention that the funds provided for the development of the scheme are being misused. This misutilization of funds should be checked...*(Interruptions)* Implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme should be made compulsory in order to ensure that farmer gets appropriate price of his crop. Agriculture should be given the status of an industry.

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the plight of the farmers has been agitating the minds of the representatives of the people, and it is quite evident today. Vagaries of nature, successive and repeated failure of crops, distress sale of agricultural produce and mounting debts had compelled or driven the small and marginal farmers to commit suicide. That is because of the lackadaisical approach to the agriculture sector by successive Governments, right from the days of Independence. Perhaps, the successive Governments are following the dictum "Vanijya basate Lakshmi, Tadarthayam Krishi Karmane." They did not give much importance to agriculture and, perhaps, they gave more

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

importance to commerce and industry. That is why, we have had all these difficulties over the years. In order to rectify this defect, the National Democratic Alliance, in its agenda for governance, has clearly indicated that they would earmark 60 per cent of the Plan funds for public investment in agricultural, rural development, irrigation etc.

Hon. Member, Shri Bangarappa, is not here. He has raised this point. It would be quite interesting for you to know that 60 per cent of the Plan outlay would be earmarked for agriculture. Last year, 58 per cent had been allocated in the Budget for different agricultural works.

Due to time constraint, I would like to confine myself to Orissa. We have had two successive cyclones. What is the plight of the farmers there, before and after the cyclone? I would only stress upon that. We have had distress sales earlier in potato, cabbage, tomatoes etc. Last year, the Government of India had allocated funds for setting up small cold storages and godowns and funds had been given to the State Government, but till now no action has been taken. Last year, the Government of India had allocated Rs. 150 crore out of Rs. 450 crore, over a period of three years, for sinking shallow tube wells and for giving credit to the primary agriculture cooperative, but I am sorry to say, maybe, I am treading upon the toes of the State Government and my friends there would take it amiss, that nothing has been done. Now, after the cyclone, it may be seen that the bovine species have almost wiped out of the Eastern sector. Till now, no steps have been taken to provide livestock to the farmers in the Eastern sector as a result of which it will be very difficult for them to revive the agricultural sector. Take the case of the betel vine where drip irrigation is most important.

No lift irrigation has started yet because more than 70 per cent of the lift irrigation points have not been energised. Whatever we may say, it would create problems for the farmers in Orissa. Added to it, there is shrinkage of arable land because of rapid urbanisation and industrialisation.

Sir, I would just give one example where the TATAs were given 7,000 acres of best agricultural land in my constituency for setting up of a steel plant. Out of that 7,000 acres, 4,000 acres have already been taken over by the TATAs and the TATA project is a still born project. No work has been done. My submission here now is that the Central Government may give a directive to the State Government to retrieve the land and the land which had been given for setting up of a steel plant should not

be allowed to be used for any other purposes. The Government may resume the land and set up a cooperative in the farming sector so that all those people who have lost their land could be asked to go in for agricultural produce again in that area. The distressed conditions are such that people require more land for producing more food.

Sir, the minor irrigation projects have been a failure. It is only because there is no work along the tail-end gets no supply of water to the land and whatever money is being given that is going down the drain. Water cess is being taken but sufficient water is not being provided as a result of which the farmers are facing a lot of difficulty. We may say many things. We may say that we have set up minor irrigation projects; we may say that sufficient *ayacuts* have been provided but *ayacuts* do not get water and that is most important.

Sir, my friends have said about seed procurement, prices, distress sale and all those things. I would not like to dilate on that. The most important aspect of my telling these things is that Government of India has been thinking of many different plans. Since agriculture is a State subject I do not know how the Government of India can impose itself on the States to take up a particular work by the States. In my case in Orissa, the Government divert the funds.

Sir, I gave the example of the TATAs. Rs. sixty three crores were given last year for 21 ITDA districts there are tribal blocks. Out of that Rs. sixty three crore the Government of Orissa has sent only Rs. 21 crore to the 21 districts till date before the cyclones. I came to know that the rest amount has not yet been sent to different districts for taking up different work for the tribals. This is just one instance. There are many other instances where funds provided by the Central Government are not being properly utilised for amelioration of the conditions of the farmers.

So, my request now is that the Government of India may think of giving more funds for irrigation facilities in the post-cyclone conditions to Orissa and may supply different types of saplings for the Cash crop like coconuts from Koshi. The Government of India could send sufficient number of saplings and sufficient number of coconut plants to Orissa so that something could be done. High breed variety plants and seeds should also be given.

Sir, earlier also I have made a request that the Government of India may give Rabi crop seeds free of cost to the farmers of Orissa. The Orissa Government is

charging 50 per cent of the money from the farmers for providing Rabi crop seeds. What is the necessity for it? Why is this niggardly attitude of the State Government? In this particular aspect I would like to appeal to the hon. Agriculture Minister to give sufficient seeds free of cost to those people who have been ravaged by the cyclone. Since the bell has already rung, I conclude my speech here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All those people whose names were called but were absent, they would now be getting their chances at the end.

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for having given me the opportunity to speak. I would like to state that the problems faced by farmers are not restricted to your constituencies, rather the farmers from Jammu to Kanya-Kumari and from Amritsar to Pondicherry are facing similar problems. The second important point is that the attendance in the House is very thin, both from the ruling side as well as the opposition. I feel concerned that the Government and the third pillar of democracy have ignored this matter. I would like to submit with regret and a heavy heart that there is paucity of time and hence I can bring only a few points to the notice of Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Shri Kumaramangalam. Instead of quoting figures, if a few good points are made which may touch the right chord, it is possible that it may be beneficial for all concerned.

First of all, I would like to comment upon the World Bank Report wherein it has been stated that since independence, the country has shown unanimity on this issue that the hardworking farmers of this country who provide foodgrains for 100 crore people, have been to it that there is no starvation death in the country. This is a matter of great pride. I am reminded of a poem by an Urdu Poet:

Unki tubat mein nahin ek bhi diya,
jinke khoon se jalte the chirage watan,
Ab timtima rahe hain unke maqbare par,
jo bechare becha karte the shaheedon ke qafan.

The present Government has bowed to the pressure of the multinational companies. The patenting of Basmati rice, turmeric as well as other things is going on which will be a big blow to the farmers. I am proud of the fact that even though the farmers of Punjab own one and a

half percent of the land, their contribution towards National pool exceeds 70%.

[English]

...1.5 percent of the area but we are contributing more than 65 percent of the foodgrains in this country.

[Translation]

However, today the farmers of Punjab are committing suicide. So far 500 farmers have committed suicide. We were proud of Punjab, the land of five rivers—Ravi, Chenab, Jhelum, Sindh and Satluj. These rivers have helped us in getting more yield from the fertile land of Punjab. About five rivers of Punjab a poet has said that in the modern times the names of the rivers of Punjab have been substituted as violence, fear, helplessness, injustice and grief which provide 65% foodgrowth. I want to ask a question from the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture as to why he has imposed restrictions on farmers of Punjab with regard to purchase of land in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. I want to say that.

[English]

It is written in our Constitution that any person can have property anywhere in the country.

[Translation]

But Constitution is being violated and the farmer of Punjab is not being given the right to purchase land anywhere which is a dangerous trend. Special status has been accorded to Jammu and Kashmir, but restrictions have also been imposed with regard to Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh which are our neighbouring states.

Shri Kumaramangalam should pay attention to the points I am going to make. The state which enjoyed first position in terms of per capita income of farmers has slipped to fourth position. Your Government and the Prime Minister have talked about taking hard decisions. You are a dynamic Minister of Power. I would like to tell you that the Punjab State Electricity Board suffered a loss of Rs. 2000 crores because the Chief Minister of Akali Dal and the BJP Government has made an announcement regarding providing electricity and water free of cost.

[English]

It is a political gimmick.

[Shri J.S. Brar]

[Translation]

This is a good slogan. Giving such slogans can fetch me more votes but you will have to admit the fact that Punjab was at top with regard to plant load factor, whether it was Thermal Power or Hydel Power but today the State Electricity Board is suffering heavy losses. You please atleast tell our Chief Minister that.

[English]

We want more power. We do not want free power.

[Translation]

Today it is the demand of the farmers of Punjab that it would be better to charge them for electricity instead of supplying them electricity free of cost for two hours daily. They should get electricity daily. If you want to safeguard the interests of the farmers you will have to change your decision. It is essential and you know it. You may say something else, but you understand it. I will wind up my speech by adding two important points.

Initially when the question of land reform come up we were also in favour of land reforms in the country and it should be implemented and surplus land should be distributed. But from the experience of Punjab which is the top most state from the production point of view today even ten acre of land holding is not feasible. The farmers have taken loan from the banks to purchase tractors.

[English]

Ninety percent of the land of Punjab has been mortgaged.

[Translation]

If any N.R.I. wants to purchase 105 lakh acre land in Punjab there is no restriction in this regard but there is restriction on the farmers of Punjab with regard to purchasing land anywhere out of Punjab. I would like to tell you that there is a great need to review the question of land ceiling and so long as land ceiling is not made feasible it would not be in the interest of the farmers.

[English]

If we compare our per capita production with Japan and other countries.

[Translation]

You will find that our per capita production is far below, in fact we are at the bottom and there is no scope for increasing our per hectare agricultural yield. Nitishji under your leadership the farmers have marched forward and that way we are your admirers. Though you are sitting in treasury benches but you do not represent communalism and you are a great leader of the farmers as well. I would like to request you to do something about land ceiling. I have talked to you about the crop insurance scheme. I do not want to create any controversy over that issue. I have two more points to make.

My first point is that the inter-state water dispute between States is lingering since long. Kaveri water dispute in south and Satluj-Yamuna link canal dispute in our State are the instances. We are farmers. We would like to give water to Rajasthan and Haryana to increase production. But we cannot do so as we have no surplus water to give.

[English]

We have no surplus water to share. Eighty percent of our water is going to Rajasthan and Haryana. We have no further water to share.

[Translation]

You please settle the cases of inter-state dispute. I have gone through the statement issued by the Government of Punjab in which it has been stated that 5400 employees are engaged on Satluj-Yamuna link canal and they are getting salaries but work on the project is at standstill. The Government is unable to make any progress in this regard. Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring one more important point to your notice. But hon'ble Minister is busy in conversation, both are not listening to me.

[English]

We have struggled together and we have fought together on many issues. This is a very important issue.

[Translation]

I want to bring this issue to your notice that as per information available to me.

[English]

550 million people of this country are on ration card.

[Translation]

The issue of Ration card is related to farming because the subsidy being given to P.D.S. should reach the poor. Ration cards should be issued to the persons living below poverty line. Ration cards should not be issued to the well to do people. Therefore, I would like to state that at present Ration cards have been issued to 55 crore people instead Ration Cards should be issued only to these people who are living below poverty line so that the farmers could not remunerative price for their produce and they are not compelled to commit suicide infustration...*(Interruptions)* At this moment only those hon'ble Members are present in the House who are concerned about the farmers. I am thankful to you for listening to our views attentively and for allowing to continue this discussion upto 10 PM so that every member could get an opportunity to speak on the problems of the farmers. I am reminded of a couplet by the great poet of East Alama Iqbal about farmers "Jab Lahu ki Zaroorat Padi, to garden sabse pahle hamari kati, Ab ye kahte hain ahle watan ye chaman hamara hai tumhara nahin, baat gulon tak hoti to sah lete hum, Ab to Kanton per bhi haque hamara nahin.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak. I appreciate Shri Ram Nagina Mishraji for choosing this topic for discussion to debate the serious problems of the farmers. Just now a mention was made here that fifty years have passed since our country attained independence and during these fifty years. What the Government which remained in power all these years have done for the farmers is before us. All members are speaking...*(Interruptions)* We are doing it. We are taking action in this direction, is it not visible to you? See what action our Government is taking. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out as to what has been done to the farmers during these fifty years. What sort of policies have been framed for farmers and to what extent their condition has deteriorated. Entire country is aware of this. Today farmers are in great difficulty. Today there are lot of problems before the farmers. We have been unable to improve the economic condition of the farmers, we have not been able to educate the farmers we have not been able to provide drinking water to the farmers, we have not been able to the farmers, we have not been able to provide electricity to the farmers, we have not been able to provide them basic amenities of life.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no respect for the farmer. His condition is such that if he takes a loan of Rs. 5000 and fails to repay the loan, his cattle are taken away. His house is attached. We are also aware of the treatment meted out to the farmers by the S.D.M's Tehsildar's and Ameen's. Even after fifty years of independence this is the condition of the farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now Shri Brar was saying that depleted strength of the members in the House and empty Press Gallery reflects that there are very few people who are concerned about the farmers. Had there been a discussion on any scam, the Press Gallery would have been full to the capacity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pradhanji, please speak on the issues otherwise it will be a wastage of time.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the situation is, that farmers are not getting electricity supply. I hail from Uttar Pradesh and my parliamentary constituency is near the capital of the country, but the condition of farmers is very pathetic over there. The area does not get proper electricity supply. It get electricity supply for just one hour in the day. Even in the month of December, if the electric supply is restored at 2 a.m. in the morning, the farmer has to get up at that time to water his crops. The farmers are not getting electricity, water and education facilities. The link road get blocked in rainy season, and farmer is unable to take his ill children to the city for treatment. The farmers have to take loan. What is his state? He is often affected by natural calamities, sometimes by hailstorms, sometime by droughts, sometime by flood, and sometime by water logging.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Mr. Kumaramangalam is present here. N.T.P.C. has set up a MAPP plant in my area. Thousands of acres of land is water logged over there, due to which farmers are distressed. Water logging is happening every year. The power generation plant has been set up on the land which was acquired, but fields and houses of the farmers are not getting electricity supply. The power generated in that plant is being given to other places.

I had drawn the attention of the Minister of Power towards this fact. I would like to say, it appears that the Government which has come to power will do something to improve the lot of farmers. The provisions are being made for the benefit of the farmers. The country is entering the 21st century. In the next centruy the present

[Shri Ashok Pradhan]

Government will give such message so that the farmer could make progress and work for the progress of the country. On this occasion, I would like to say, something about sugarcane. It is true that in Uttar Pradesh, the B.J.P. has recently come to power, but if you see previous records, you will find that the closure of sugar mills and the loss of Rs. 1200 crore incurred, by Sugar Corporation has not happened during our tenure.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: You can ask for records and check it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Now, the Sugar mills do not owe as much money to the farmer, as they owed earlier, but still they owe billions of rupees to the farmers. There are no won opinious about it. But there are some arrears which are outstanding for last many years. Our Government has made some payments ...*(Interruptions)* It is not appropriate the way sugar mills are being shut down. In Jahangirpur of my parliamentary constituency, the sugar mill was set up in 1990, with the investment of crores of rupees. That mill is not in operation. Due to this reason, crores of rupees have been wasted. Had that mill become operational, it would have been very beneficial for the farmers. I hail from the district headquarter of Bulandsahar. The milk production over there is highest. You may see that area is not having any policy. I would like to say that a policy should be formulated for agriculture and cattle, so that the farmer may get an opportunity to make progress. Not taking much time, I would like to say only that the farmer is not having manure. He does not get manure, even if he is having money. He is in a troubled state because of non-availability of the good seed. What should I say about the farmer? How can farmer get good harvest, until he gets good seeds?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should give suggestions.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: I am giving suggestions only. My suggestion is that farmer's meeting centres should be opened in villages where students of agriculture universities should come for six months. They should examine the suitability of water and soil. Besides this they should also guide the farmers that which crop vegetable and flower could give them maximum benefit. The system should provide knowledge to the farmers, so that they may be able to decide the quantity of chemical fertilizer required for a particular crop. Similarly, rural technology should be modernised. The research should be conducted keeping in view the economic, social cultural, psychological and geographical state of the farmer, so that it may benefit the farmers. There are many small farmers in our country. The modern technique, and equipments, like small tractors should be developed for them. I went abroad, there I observed that farmer who is having ten bigha of land is owning a small tractor. Similarly, we should also provide good technology and equipments to our farmers because small farmer cannot

purchase big tractor. Even if he buys it, he is unable to recover the cost...*(Interruptions)* I would like to give one more suggestion that when a farmer takes loan for buying tractor for agriculture, and he pays interest equivalent to the amount of tractor his loan should be waived off...*(Interruptions)* If hon'ble Minister is saying it, then it is all right. The modern equipment should be made available to them. I would like to repeat that special attention should be paid to the problems of the farmers and the matter related to the interest charged on the loans taken by farmers is very serious. You should give attention in this regard.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the senior Member, Shri Ram Nagina Mishra has done very commendable task by initiating the debate on the problems of the farmers. There is no end to the agony of the farmer and today, we are discussing their problems.

20.00 hrs

I would like to begin with slogan of Dr. Lohia— 'Dr. Lohia Ka Arman, Malik, ho majdoor-kisan' and

'jo jameen par pore boye
Vahi Zameen ka malik hove
ann dan ka ghatna-bama
Arra Ser ke ander ho
Har karkhania mail ki kimat
Lagat Se der guniya hoy'.

I have been chanting this slogan of Dr. Lohia since my childhood. The welfare of farmer could be only done with implementation of this slogan...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): You have have missed one line— 'Bin lagan ki kheti-barri, us per lage na maalguzari'.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Approximately, 75 crore population of this country is engaged in agriculture. The agriculture contributes about 30-31% to the G.D.P. The Minister of Agriculture time and again announce that they will formulate national agriculture policy. For the last six years, we have been hearing statements only, but what about the agriculture policy. We expect from the Government that agriculture policy should be immediately announced and discussion on this should be held in Parliament and farmer should get some benefit of it. I would also like to say that in this country, problems of farmers could not be solved without according top proprierty to the agriculture. Ten minutes are not enough to narrate the agony of the farmers. The Government was not serious towards the problems of the farmers. Two-three Ministers have entered the House, when I raised this issue again and again but two-three more Ministers have yet to come. The Minister of

Petroleum has raised the price of diesel. But it appears that he is again going to raise the price of diesel. It shows their affection towards the farmers. If he again hiked the price of diesel, he will be taught a lesson...*(Interruptions)*

The question of water logging was raised. Due to water logging the crops of farmers were destroyed. The farmers are paying land revenue though no crop is being grown there. Not only that saline matter emerges on the surface and cause salinity due to which soil gets affected. The scientists are looking into it. The wasteland Development Scheme is already there but the scheme of Bihar is pending for a year. I was telling Shri Nitishji that the proposal with regard to the Wasteland Development Scheme has been received from there, which should be cleared. The problem of water logging is not being solved due to which farmers are facing difficulty. The proposal pertaining to that state is pending. I would like to know about that in writing. I will raise this question as to what happened to that proposal. Why the proposal regarding Wasteland Development Scheme relating to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh is not being cleared. Nine lakh hectares of land of Uttar Pradesh and lakhs of acres of land in Mokama Tall area falling in the constituency of Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is affected due to water logging. His Department is responsible for solving the problem of water logging. The Department of Irrigation can also solve this problem. Why this problem is being neglected? The water logging problem can be solved under the Special Agriculture Programme also. I will tell where that proposal is pending and how much mess is being created? In Bihar, there is shortage of fertilizer...*(Interruptions)* I would like to mention in brief. When farmers require fertilizer they do not get it as there is shortage of fertilizer. At present, there is shortage of hybrid seeds of wheat. I don't know whether the Minister of Agriculture is aware of this shortage or not but farmers are facing great difficulty there. The farmers are not getting hybrid seeds of wheat. Wherever there is the need of urea, he would get it in black market or he would not get it at all or would get spurious fertilizer. This is the plight of farmers and I would like to draw the attention of Government towards this. As regards fertilizer, seeds and small irrigation projects Shri Prabhunath Singhji was saying that tubewells installed by Government are not working. The World Bank was funding that project but the project was closed. The scheme of State Government is pending with the Union Government. The Union Government used to provide assistance for pumping sets and private boring scheme which has also been stopped. Why that assistance has been stopped? At present what percentage of land is being irrigated? Therefore, the Government should assist the State Government to install tubewells and the subsidy which was used to be provided for setting up of private tubewells and pumping sets should be restored. Therefore, the problems of farmers are never

ending. The farmers are bearing the brunt of floods, drought, natural calamities, W.T.O., multinationals and traders. Therefore, the farmer alone cannot do anything because he is being attacked from all sides.

The Minister of Power is present here. In Bihar REC has sanctioned rural electrification project worth Rs. 40 crore. I would like to mention specifically as to why the execution of this project is withheld when it was already sanctioned? If that scheme is viable then why it is not being executed. REC had already sanctioned that project about a year ago but even then the work of that project has not been started on one pretext or the other. The farmers are making hue and cry and are demanding electricity.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir, situation simply is that I would love to see that every village in Bihar is electrified and REC is the most willing to cooperate. But it is the only State in India where we have coined a new term called 'de-electrification of villages', that is the villages which are given electricity again land up without electricity after some time. We have found that almost 12,000 villages have come into this classification. So, I have ordered a CBI inquiry to check it up.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Bihar): Again, another Minister will be jailed, there is no escape...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: An investigation should be conducted regarding the bungling that has taken place in the REC. There is no objection in that. But we had given them an opportunity. The project amounting Rs. 40 crore has already been sanctioned then why that project is being withheld. Why funds are not being released? I have raised this question to know this but as such how there can be any good for the farmers? He should reply as to whether the project worth Rs. 40 crore has been sanctioned by REC or not and why they have withheld the release of funds, why they are not releasing the funds, this is my question?

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I assure the former Minister and the senior Member of Parliament that if he gives a guarantee that those works will be done—personally, I am not talking on a political basis — I will see that the money reaches the Bihar State Electricity Board. My fear is that any money we give them goes into a deep well. You cannot see the end of it. If he can assure me that he can see that money would be spent properly, I would be the first one to see that the money reaches there.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Hon'ble Minister, Sir, if you call for the records of rural electrification of Uttar Pradesh then you will find irregularities there also. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This irregularity was committed 10-15 years ago. It will not be appropriate to stop the development due to these irregularities...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: No development work is being done there...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, this is a very serious thing. The Minister is misleading the House. What happens is that whenever some allocation is made from REC, that amount is adjusted against the outstanding amount of the State.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not want any discussion on this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, will you say that it is done properly?...*(Interruptions)* Will you face the privilege motion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Anil Basu, when you get the chance, you can speak.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Those projects should be sanctioned. The Hon'ble Minister had visited 20 areas of our state through helicopter. Therefore, it is his responsibility to provide electricity also. Electricity should also reach the areas where he has made his speeches. Therefore, it is his responsibility to release funds for the projects worth Rs. 40 crore which are lying pending.

As far as the question of cold-storage is concerned, our country produces 2 crore 40 lakh tonnes of potatoes. Keeping it in view, we should have 50% cold-storage capacity but we have capacity for only 1 crore tonnes. Considering this situation, I demand from Hon'ble Minister that Government should give priority to increase the capacity of cold storage. In our state fruits and vegetables

are also produced in abundance, hence arrangement should be made for that also. The marketing facility should be provided. As regards Crop Insurance Sector, I demand that villages should be treated as unit and all farmers should be covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him conclude now.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: 15 sugar mills are lying closed and the Government should do something for their revival. The hon'ble Minister is also requested to do something for the revival of Cooperative Banks. Artificial insemination centres are lying closed. These were proposed to be restarted through the Technology Mission but I don't know why it has also been stopped. The Minister of Agriculture, should make a statement in this regard also. The Operation Flood scheme should also be started immediately.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record now.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, nothing is going on record now.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point in continuing now. We are sitting here. There should be some discipline. You have been speaking for the last 15 minutes.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I lay these written points on the Table of the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can write to the Minister.

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the hon'ble Minister reply to those questions?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, he will give reply.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member Shri Mishra has raised a very important issue for discussion. We have been taught since childhood that India is a country of farmers. We kept on reading about farmers in books but actually no development took place in villages and their condition deteriorated continuously. It is correct that farmers of India have created a record in the field of foodgrains production through they lost everything in the bargain. This is the reason that farmers are compelled to commit suicide today. Swami Sahajanand Saraswati who had been leader of farmers movement, and an hon'ble Member of this House Prof. N.G. Ranga also worked with him, had given direction to the farmers' movement. But even so many years after independence we could not improve the economic condition of farmers. Paucity of time is one of the main reasons for it. This issue should have been discussed comprehensively but this House also has not paid due attention towards this problem and thus farmers are in such a miserable condition today. 80 percent population of our country consists of farmers and it can be considered as symbol of strength for the country. Our economic structure is responsible for their plight. We cannot improve the economic condition of farmers until the economic structure of the country is made farmer-oriented. Just now an hon'ble Member was saying that farmers who grow potato get Rs. 2 per kg for potato but the same potato is sold at a rate of Rs. 150 per kg in the form of 'uncle chips'. The cost of production of potato is about Rs. 2 per kg and farmers get Rs. 2 for one kg of potato and sometimes he has to sell it even at lower rate. But after adding some spices and with little mechanism of food processing the same potato is sold at a rate of Rs. 150 per kg. It does not involve any special mechanism but ratio of profit is more than hundred percent. Today farmers are in such a condition that they are alive on the mercy of God. They do not get remunerative price for their produce and sometimes they are compelled to sell their produce even at loss. As I have stated earlier also that our economic structure is responsible for it, which is not farmer-oriented. This is the reason that villages could not be provided electricity and irrigation facility properly. Central Bihar is in the grip of terrorism. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even after 50 years of Independence, the untamed rivers of the area could not be harnessed properly. Our traditional method of

irrigation is also vanishing gradually. Corruption is rampant in the country and farmers have become target of exploitation. Eighty percent funds of schemes like JRY and Gaon Smridhi Yojana are pocketed. Hundreds of villages have been ruined as embankments of the rivers have been breached and nothing has been done in this regard. No attention is being paid towards basic problems of farmers. Punpun-Dargha-Murhar Project is aimed to benefit three districts. It is not a big project. Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources and hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is present here and they are well aware of the problems of villages. Crores of rupees are being spent to maintain law and order in Central Bihar. Arrangements should be made to provide employment to unemployed youth of that region. They go to other states to work as rikshawpullers and cart-pullers but they are not able to contribute their labour for their own areas due to lack of resources. In such a difficult situation we should think about their problem. We cannot solve the problems of farmers till the economic structure is made farmer-oriented. If capital-oriented society is strengthened, which ever party may come to power, redressal of this problem is not possible.

Just now an hon'ble Member was saying that situation cannot be improved without changing the capital oriented economic structure into labour oriented structure. Presently our economic structure is supporting the products of industry and in such a situation support price will remain helpless and will not benefit the farmers as it is pocketed by middleman.

The issue of diesel has also been raised. Diesel is used by farmers. It will be a matter of happiness if on calculating we find that farmers have earned a little amount as profit. Though farmer grows paddy and maize but he gets only stalks. There is paucity of time. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an important issue. If the economic structure is not made farmer-oriented, the multinational companies are bound to exploit the farmers and labourers by means of their capital investment in the field of agriculture, which will totally change the concept of Lohajji, Sahajanand Saraswatiji and Prof. N.G. Ranga who have been considered pioneers of farmers' movement. The multinational companies will grow tomato here and we keep on lamenting on sufferings of farmers. I would like to make a submission that economic structure should be made farmer-oriented and national policy should be made for protecting the interests of farmers and agriculture should be accorded the status of industry. Ministries of Water Resources, Finance, Energy and Agriculture and Department of Planning should collectively think for

[Shri Arun Kumar]

improving the financial position of farmers. A national policy should be formulated to protect the interests of farmers, who are considered builders of the nation and backbone of the country and their exploitation should be stopped. I hope that this Government will formulate a comprehensive policy for it so that we may enter the 21st Century with a positive attitude. It is a sensitive issue and all these issues should be discussed dispassionately and what we have read in books about farmers should be made a reality.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to make a submission to hon'ble Minister of Agriculture. He has a socialist background and I hope that he will think over the problems of farmers and try to improve their lot.

Today the main problem of the farmers is that no need is being paid towards them. Its main reason is that they are unorganised and there is no union of farmers which could organise them to struggle for their demands. Several Members of this apex body has suggested to consider this issue. 2/3 members of this House have been elected by the votes of farmers. Though farmers are unorganised but it is our duty to raise their problems in this House. Our Senior colleagues have given some suggestions in this regard to improve their condition. I would like to say that efforts being made for the welfare of farmers should be strengthened further and if Ministers of Agriculture, Power and Irrigation could show some favour then there will be a dramatic change in present position of farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, electricity is the main problem of farmers today. Farmers are facing lot of problems due to shortage of power throughout the country, especially in Madhya Pradesh. In brief I would like to make a submission that if there is shortage of power, they can be given power on the basis of percentage. We provide power for A.C., five Star hotels and luxurious life of city, for them too, power be given on the basis of percentage. Requirement of power by farmers should be given top priority and then it should be given to cities for using A.C. This percentage should be fixed essentially because the people living in cities are influential and consume more than their share. No heed is paid towards the voice of villagers. The senior officers like Chief engineers assure us for supplying power but sufficient power is not supplied.

Therefore, I request you to decide the percentage of electricity. Earlier, I had requested the hon'ble Minister that if the incomplete irrigation schemes were completed, they would not only provide water to the farmers, but electricity also. The Bansagar Scheme, which was possibly started in 1973, in Reewa district of Madhya Pradesh has not been completed till now. Some of the work regarding the scheme is left, but due to unstability of the Government or any other reason, that scheme is lying pending. That scheme not only provides irrigation facility to the farmers, but that water will also be used for power generation. According to the official figures, if Bansagar scheme is implemented we can earn Rs. 200 crore per month from power generation only. The farmers will get electric supply from it, and the farmers of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh will also get enough water for irrigation. But why is it lying pending, the Central Government is not showing any concern in this regard. The clearance of this scheme is lying pending due to these three State Governments. The ratio of partnership in the scheme is 2:1:1. The Madhya Pradesh has got 2 percent, Uttar Pradesh has 1 percent and Bihar has one percent. Uttar Pradesh has contributed its' share. Madhya Pradesh has also contributed its share, but Bihar has not given its contribution. This scheme will not only benefit the farmers of Madhya Pradesh and consumers of electricity of this State, but the farmers and consumers of electricity of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh will also be benefited. But I do not know the reasons for which the Government of Bihar is not giving its contribution. The Government had invested crores of rupees in this scheme, this scheme is lying pending for many years and has not been completed. I would like to request the Minister of Irrigation to pay some attention in this regard. According to my information, another scheme named Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme has been launched by the Centre. Under this scheme you can give some amount, that is share of Bihar to the Madhya Pradesh Government so that at least this scheme could be completed and this country could get power worth more than Rs. 200 crore and the farmers of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh could get electricity and their fields could also be irrigated. This is very important scheme. There is no use of making tall claims, that we will do this and that. You should pay attention to such schemes which are incomplete and which could benefit the farmers.

Through this House, I would like to say that there are many irrigation schemes relating to dams and canals which are damaged and farmers are not getting irrigation facilities. The State Government are not having funds to improve their condition. I request that funds should be

made available to them so that the pending schemes which at present are not benefitting farmers, could become useful for them.

In the end, I would like to say that in childhood, I heard and read that this country is agriculture based country. But I do not know whether the farmers have got any prominence. Farmers produce foodgrains, and take them to city and in city capitalist consume those foodgrains in five star hotels. The big industrialists and farmers are consuming in Five Star hotels the food produced by poor people. But if those poor farmers go to five star hotel, they will be dazzled by the lighting and luxuries of the five star. This is the condition of the country. Those farmers can not dare to enter those places. I would like to submit that in this country it is shown, that they are doing great favour to the farmers by giving them subsidy. If a subsidy is given on fertilizer, or some rebate is given on electricity or any other type of subsidy is given by any State to farmers, it is said that we have done great favour to the farmers of this country. Therefore, I would like to request you that if you are giving subsidy to the farmers, it is very good but it is not appropriate to say that you have done great favour to the farmers. I would like to say that you can withdraw subsidy, but you should at least give appropriate price of the produce of the farmers. You give Rs. 400 for food grains. Give Rs. 1500-2000 per quintal for it to us, and do not give us any subsidy. It is not required.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end, I would like to request that the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture should pay special attention to the incomplete irrigation schemes and the percentage of electricity not being supplied should be worked out and electricity should be made available to the farmers. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH TUR (Tarantaran): Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, the discussion on the problems of farmers is being held in the House. In last 50 years, the condition of farmer has deteriorated so much that the son of farmer is no longer ready to take agriculture as occupation. If we do not pay serious consideration in this regard, it will harm the country in future at the time of independence, agriculture was considered the best occupation. At that time it was said — "Uttam kheti madhyam vyapar, nikhad chakari bheekh nidan". But due to the policies of the Government in last 50 years, agriculture has become loss-making profession. Due to which the son of a farmer, whether he is a matric, graduate or post-graduate, he does not want to be engaged in farming, but want to do a job. He is ready to work even as a Peon. The coming generation is leaving

the occupation of agriculture, because since independence, the price of agro-products have not risen as compared to the price of other products. The employees form their union, and manage to get their salaries and rights by forcing their demands for acceptance. The farmers have been deprived of their rights. The price index has not risen as much as it should have. Therefore, agriculture has become loss-making profession. Therefore, it is essential that consideration should be paid towards providing modern agriculture techniques and facilities to the farmers. As far as marketing system is concerned it is very old. The farmer produces vegetables, he should also be involved in its price fixation. Farmer do sowing, hoeing, irrigation and manuring of his crops, and after collecting vegetables from the field he washes them and takes them to the market. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the farmer sells his vegetables at the rate of Rs. 35-40 per maund, and when the trader keeps it in his shop, he sells it to the consumer at the rate of Rs. 3-4 per kilo and farmers do not even get Re. one per kg. The system of marketing is also not fair. The price of paddy was Rs. 490 per quintal. The trader in collusion with Government agencies did not let farmers to sell their paddy to Government Procurement Agencies and traders bought it at cheaper rate that is at the rate of Rs. 350 per quintal from the farmers and sold that paddy at higher rate in other markets to the Government Agencies. This way the traders earned all the profit and pocketed billions of rupees of farmers. This is a month of December and January is approaching. In this winter also he will water wheat crops. Due to cold, his limbs are benumbed and he cannot even move, sometimes in dark he step over snake, still risking his life he goes to water his crop.

Farmer has to do hoeing even during heavy rains and scorching heat. As they remain in water and heat for longer time, their feet and body get affected. That is why our young generation is not interested in adopting agriculture as their occupation. It is a very serious matter. 75% of our population is dependent on agriculture. Even industry, trade and employment are also dependent on agriculture. A sizable amount to Government's exchequer is contributed by agriculture sector. Country's economic condition will stagger if agriculture sector is neglected. If proper attention is not paid to this sector, it will result in a huge loss. Therefore, it is required to pay proper attention to the problems of farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no limit on an industrialist to acquire property worth crores of rupees but in case of land, land ceiling Act is in force which is affecting the production of crops. If a farmer fails to pay land revenue of just Rs. 200 or 500, his cattle and even

[Shri Tarlochan Singh Tur]

utensils are taken away by the Tehsildar with help of the police. He is insulted. The blackmoney of industrialists amounting to crores of rupees is written off but the farmer is harassed. This should not happen. Instead of insulting the farmer he should be given more time to pay land revenue or it should be written off.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, regarding sowing, my submission is that Government should announce the support prices of the crops of the coming season in advance. This time the farmers sowed oil seeds but the Government imported oil from other countries. It will cause losses to the farmers. Similarly, though we get sufficient production of sugarcane, yet the Government imported sugar. It causes heavy losses to the farmers which leads to low sowing of sugarcane. I demand from the Government that reservation facility in education facility should be provided to the wards of the farmers who have one or two acres of land as adequate educational facilities are not available in villages due to which their children are deprived from serving the country. The children of the farmers who have less than 5 acres of land should be provided free education.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, adulteration in seeds and fertilizers should be checked. Spurious seeds and fertilizers are being supplied. Farmer manures and water his fields but due to inferior quality of seed he cannot get good yield. Farmers faces huge losses due to it. Country's production also get affected. Persons who sell spurious seeds pesticides weedicides and fertilizers should be punished.

In the end, I would like to say that credit of making India self-reliant in the field of foodgrains goes to the farmer only. Therefore, the farmers should be given remunerative price for their produce. I am thankful to the scientists also who have developed hybrid seeds, good quality manure and pesticides after putting in a lot of hard work. Besides, more budgetary allocation should be made for agriculture development and to provide facilities in the field of animal husbandry, fishery, poultry piggery, beekeeping, horticulture and for research work. More subsidy should be provided to agriculture sector in order to encourage the farmers so that they may not develop a feeling of hatred towards their occupation. With these words, I conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dharm Raj Singh Patel.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Sir, the discussion can be spilled over till tomorrow. It is already eleven o'clock and there are still many more Members to speak. How are we going to manage it?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ten more Members are there, apart from the thirteen Members whose names were called and who were not here. Most of them are now here again. I do not know how we are going to finish before 12 o'clock. I think we will have to do something. If all those Members whose names were called can lay their speeches on the Table and if these ten Members take five minutes each, then only we will be in a position to finish. Otherwise it will be very difficult to do so because most of the Members are now sitting here and Minister's reply is also going to be there.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK: Why do we not have it tomorrow?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How much time you need, Shri Nitish Kumar?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): It all depends upon you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me hear the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs also.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, there is a lot of business and we do not have much time left for that. So, we want that this discussion should be over today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the House agrees, then I shall ask the Minister to reply.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK: We have no objection at all, Sir.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir, if the Members want, they can lay their speeches on the Table.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK: Sir, we are taxing the MPs., the officers and all others concerned. There was an understanding to stretch it out till eleven o'clock. But then you are stretching it again. Let us sit for the whole day. Our mind also should work. I cannot understand why the

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is pressing too hard for this. It is not that we do not want to cooperate; we are prepared to cooperate.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think all the parties have participated. If the House agrees, I shall now ask the Minister to reply. Not a single party is now left out. What the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has suggested is true also. We have a very lengthy list of business to be transacted. How many days are left now? So, if the House agrees, I shall call the hon. Minister to reply.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You see, I called the name of Shri Athawale but he was not present here.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, since six o'clock when the discussion started, I have been sitting here. For a few minutes only I went outside.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whether it is five minutes or ten minutes, Shri Basu, I called your name but you were not here. I do not know whether you were here or you were outside. I called hon. Member, Dr. Kusmartya's name. He was not here; he is sitting here now. Shri Athawale's name was called, Shri Mahale's name was called. All these names were called. Whether you were in the Lobby or outside elsewhere, I do not know that.

I do not know that. I called all of you. You were not here.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: No Sir. It is not that. I was here.
..(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: To be fair to all...

..(Interruptions)

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK: Sir, my submission is that we can take up the reply tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me tell you one thing. Either the House has to resolve that the hon. Minister will give his reply now or.....

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We may have to sit for at least two more hours. There are still 23 Members.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Please call the hon'ble Minister to speak for how long shall we sit at night. We have not taken our dinner.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: I think it is a very serious matter. It can be continued till tomorrow. All the hon'ble members want to speak on it. Moreover, food is getting cold.
..(Interruptions)

[English]

Sir, the Members will not be able to have their food.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members have gone and they have been taking their food.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Sir, my only concern is that those Members who have given their names should be allowed to speak. It is only possible if we take it up tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Brar, I came and occupied the Chair at 8 p.m. It is almost three hours that I have been sitting here. We are only conducting the business of the House. Some Members are taking undue time and delaying. The same things are expressed. After all, if the cooperation comes from both the Government and the Opposition, then only we will reach to a point. My suggestion is that one or two persons from this side and the other side may speak. If the Government also cooperates, we will conclude this early by calling one Member from this side and another from that side. We will take some 15-20 minutes and then we will ask the hon. Minister to reply. He can reply to it if all of you cooperate.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, we are cooperating from the very beginning. This is an important discussion. Almost 70 per cent of our population is undergoing this problem.
..(Interruptions) All the nation's economy is in peril.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Now, written speeches should be accepted and included in the proceedings. Please call the hon'ble Minister.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Anil Basu, from your Party Shri Roy has spoken.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, he has spoken only half portion. He has not made all the points.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members from your Party and their Party have spoken. I called Shri Tur from Shiromani Akali Dal who has participated in the debate now. Members from almost every Party have spoken. If you cooperate, one or two persons from each side can be allowed.

SHRI ANIL BASU: No Sir, we have not taken our food. We have made our points. *..(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you do not, then one of you may come and relieve me. You conduct the House till one o' clock and then let the Minister reply. After all, I am also a human being. I am sitting for three hours. I cannot sit more than that. There should some cooperation from every quarter.

[Translation]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: It can be taken up tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: A lot of legislative business in pending for tomorrow.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The matter regarding the farmers is very important. Government business can wait.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: If it is considered so important then why it was taken up after 6 o'clock.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, all the legislative business will not consume much time. They are all very small Bills. *..(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All of you are talking the same things.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, we have to pass the Supplementary Demands. The Demands for Railways are there. These are the financial matters. These have to be completed. *..(Interruptions)* Let me complete. If you want me to talk, then let me talk. Otherwise you speak and I will listen. *..(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You hear the hon. Minister now.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, the Supplementary Demands for Railways are coming on Monday.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, if you recall, the discussion under Rule 193 is allowed for two to two-and-a-half hours. All subjects are important. I do not say that this subject is more important than that subject. All subjects are important. We scheduled this for yesterday. Yesterday due to some other business we could not complete it. We scheduled it again for today. We have given almost double the time which was due.

Sir, we know that the Supplementary Demands for Grant (General) and then Supplementary Demands for Grant (Railways) have to be passed. There are some other Bills pending. All these Bills have to go to Rajya Sabha. We have to discuss WTO.

Whenever any discussion starts, people say that this is the most important discussion under the sun and they want maximum time for it. It is not possible. Let us complete it today. I think, Members from all the political parties have spoken. Let the hon. Minister answer it. People can speak on some other subject. This is not the end of the day today. *..(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

You have also spoken many times. I know you from my childhood. It is not the last subject. There are many subjects which can be debated. It is not that this is the last subject.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplementary Demands are to be taken up soon.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): I will keep sitting here. I will not go from here. What is this.. *(Interruptions)*. I will certainly not go from here.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Please listen to others also. It is a matter of discussion under Rule 193. Tomorrow, Supplementary Demands are to be taken up. Discussion regarding the Ministry of Finance will also be taken up tomorrow which will continue for 4-5 hours. Issues relating to farmers can be taken up at that time also. Even if anybody were to raise a question regarding farmers in today's discussion, it is not certain that a concrete decision will be taken. The Press is also not here at 10.30 P.M. Discussion will start tomorrow at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. It will be useful to raise the

issues regarding the farmers at that time. It is not necessary to raise this issue only under Rule 193.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: How the members will get the chance to speak tomorrow when they are not getting it today. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: We are discussing Supplementary Demands for Grants tomorrow. Even people can raise the issue of farmers in that.

[Translation]

The member who are sitting here will be given chance to speak first.

They will get ample opportunities to speak about. He speaks on every subject. He should not say that they will be able to speak.

[English]

Tomorrow, they will never get a chance to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I am telling you that Shri Athawale and this gentleman was not here. These two were not here. I called them. Mr. Basu was also not here.

SHRI ANIL BASU: What is my fault? I could have been called later. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You were not here. That is your fault.

SHRI ANIL BASU: For a few minutes, I went out and that too to the toilet. Is it unnatural for a Member? How are things going on in this House?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirteen Members were absent. Had all of them gone for call of the nature?

SHRI ANIL BASU: The hon. Minister told that dinner will be offered, let the discussion be completed today. Now, he is changing his stand. How are things happening in this House?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, let us decide five minutes for every Member. There are four or five Members to speak. Now, this gentleman, Shri Natchiappan, Shri Basu and one Member from the other side will speak.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, it is decided that one member will be allowed to speak from this side, Shri Basu and Shri Natchiappan will get the opportunity to speak.

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the farmers of Uttar Pradesh. Tonight, at 11 O'clock, when the House is considering the problems of farmers, I would like to tell the House that inspite of the fact that Bharatiya Janata Party is in power both in Uttar Pradesh and in the Centre, electricity is being supplied to the villages of Uttar Pradesh hardly for 6-7 hours. Farmers are unable to irrigate their fields. They require electricity at 6 O'clock in the evening but the supply comes at 10 O'clock only and power cut is effected at 5 O'clock in the morning. Through this House, I would like to know from the Government as to why farmers of Uttar Pradesh are not being provided with adequate supply of electricity. It is affecting the studies of their children and their problems are not being solved. Besides, it is time to sow the crops, but farmers are not getting D.A.P. fertilizer due to its shortage. I would like to mention one more thing that a farmer has to spend 15 to 20 thousand rupees on executing mortgage of his field if he takes loan from the bank to buy a tractor. In this regard, I request the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to advice the Minister of Finance to direct the banks not to mortgage 15 bighas of land of farmer rather the mortgage should be executed on only 2-3 bighas for tractor loan. Also, stamp duty should be very nominal.

23.00 hrs.

Sir, in addition to this colonies are being developed by the Uttar Pradesh Awasi Parishad but compensation is not being paid to the villagers whose land has been acquired. The farmers are being paid compensation at the rate of rupees one lakh per Bigha but Uttar Pradesh Awasi Parishad is constructing flats on the land and selling these flats atleast for rupees ten lakhs each and thus the farmers are made to suffer a loss of rupees nine lakhs. Through you I would like to appeal that the land should be acquired from the farmers at current rates. besides irrigation facility should be provided to the farmers. The farmers are also not getting electricity as transformers remain out of order and the farmers have to face difficulties. I request the hon'ble Minister to pay attention towards this.

[Shri Dharam Raj Singh Patel]

With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problems of the agriculturists in my constituency are many, even though there are 3,400 irrigation tanks within a radius of 10,000 square kilometres. You can call my constituency a 'Lake City' because all of them were naturally formed. If the monsoon is regular for two or three times, then the rain water fills up all these 3,400 irrigation tanks. These types of tanks were not properly maintained. Therefore, I suggest that the Ministers of Agriculture, Water Resources, Rural Development, Environment and Forests should sit together and formulate an integrated scheme so that we can get good crops every year, and at the same time, the ground water level can also be improved by this method.

The European Commission has already granted a certain amount, but it was not spent on all the tanks; it was spent only on three or four tanks. Therefore, there should be an integrated programme so that this aspect could be properly looked into. In a written reply to a question, it was mentioned that the National Water Development Agency has plans to link all the rivers in the Southern peninsula. The Government should take it up as a challenging project because it will help people in all the Southern districts of Tamil Nadu in getting water throughout the year. It will also benefit the people as they can go in for more crops. Thank you.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, the year 1999 can be named as a 'year of agony' for the Indian farmers. When we are entering into the next millennium, the farmers of different strata, that is, poor, marginal and big farmers, are facing unprecedented crisis in our country.

Before going to my main point, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister, through you, about a very important problem which my State is facing. Now, the Rabi cultivation has started. The IFFCO, the public sector fertiliser company, could not send fertilisers to West Bengal because there were no rail rakes available with them. Twelve rail rakes are required to send fertilisers to West Bengal. If those rail rakes are not made available to IFFCO, then the whole Rabi cultivation in West Bengal would suffer. I think, the hon. Agriculture Minister would take up this issue with his colleague the Railway Minister.

I do not know as to what is his term with the hon. Railway Minister. It is because after a lot of push and

pull only my good friend Shri Nitish Kumar has been chosen by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the hon. Prime Minister to head the Ministry of Agriculture. But there are reports in the print media and there is an apprehension also that his present dispensation is an ad hoc one and he is looking forward to the coming Assembly elections in Bihar. If the BJP and the Samta Party combine succeeds in Bihar, then he would have a major role to play there. I do not know as to how well he would do in this Ministry but I wish him well.

Sir, the main problem, besides land, is the problem of irrigation, good seeds, fertilizer, credit, storage, marketing and support price. These are the areas where the farmers of our country are facing crisis. After liberalisation and globalisation new challenges are emerging in the agriculture sector.

Now, the question is, how to deal with these emerging challenges? How to equip our farmers to deal with these challenges? I am sorry to say that the Union Agriculture Ministry has so far failed to equip our farmers to meet the new challenges.

Sir, I am in complete agreement with the views expressed by Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu of the Telugu Desam Party. I also support my senior colleague, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. When he was the Minister he tried very much to separate and create an autonomous institute known as the ICVR which would have been separate from ICAR. I think, the present Agriculture Minister should give importance to the proposal of creating a separate autonomous institute as the ICVR. The veterinary section should be separate from the ICAR.

Sir, there is no legislation, even after 52 years of our Independence, for the agricultural workers who are the backbone of the farmers. There are about 11 crores of agricultural families in this country. Through their sweat and toil, the farmers are feeding the people of this country. But these agricultural workers, who mostly belong to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes community, are being neglected. There is no legislation for them. We have tried to do something for them in the State of West Bengal. We have introduced pension and provident fund for the farmers. Such type of schemes should be started throughout the country for the farmers. The Central Government must take an initiative regarding taking up this issue at the Central level.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI ANIL BASU: After liberalisation about 1300 items have been put under OGL and several commodities such as rice, wheat, sugar, are being imported. I am told that rice is now coming to the Bombay port and after unloading price of rice is about Rs. 700 per quintal, that is, Rs. 7/- per kg. The scenario that is emerging after the WTO, liberalisation and globalisation is adversely affecting our whole economy. The Union Agriculture Ministry is not prepared to face up to these challenges. That is why there is so much frustration among the farmers of our country. More than 100 farmers have already committed suicide. The farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab — those provinces which are very much developed in agriculture — have committed suicide. Why is it so? It is because they are very much frustrated. There is a vicious circle of debt and repayment for which the farmers are suffering. Now, the Government now is boasting of issuing credit cards.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI ANIL BASU: How many credit cards have so far been provided to the farmers? In my constituency there are four lakh farmer families.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You reserve something for the general budget discussion tomorrow and conclude now. Otherwise, I will be compelled to stop you.

SHRI ANIL BASU: I will conclude shortly, Sir.

Before coming to attend this Session, I tried to collect information in this connection. I found that only 1400 credit cards have been distributed so far by the nationalised banks. That comes to not even 0.4 per cent of the number of families. Therefore, I want to tell hon. Nitishji that pious platitudes will not work. Farmers are suffering very much. With the emerging challenges due to liberalisation and globalisation and with what happened in Seattle very recently, if we do not come forward to equip our farmers to meet the new challenges, our agricultural economy would be put in peril. I charge that this Government has no responsibility towards the farmers. Even the National Agriculture Policy has been formulated after the emerging challenges.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please conclude now?

SHRI ANIL BASU: I will speak only one sentence more, Sir.

To face these challenges, the Union Ministry of Agriculture must come forward with a new agriculture policy taking into consideration the challenges before the Indian farmer to help him to resolve these challenges.

[*Translation*]

*DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh): Sir, the farmers are committing suicide. About one hundred farmers have committed suicide in Punjab and incidents of suicide have also come to light in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra which is shameful. The farmers are in a tight corner due to natural calamities and defective policies pursued by the Government. We will have to go into causes of these suicides and the Government will have to take the following measures to overcome this situation.

1. Crop Insurance and easy loan facility.
2. Providing remunerative price of agricultural produce.
3. Timely and adequate loan facilities.
4. Electricity and irrigation facilities.
5. Constant research in respect of different types of agricultural produce, carrying out experiments by the Agriculture Universities on the fields itself, soil testing and introduction of new technology in villages and encouragement to horticulture, vegetables and Mushroom.
6. Seeds and fertilizers should be provided to the farmers.
7. Storage of agricultural produce.
8. Development of wasteland and solution of problem of loan in cash.
9. Krishi Vigyan Kendras should be opened at district level.
10. Measures should be taken to check insects and diseases.
11. Stop Dam and small ponds should be constructed.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, discussion is going on here on the problem of the farmers since long. I would like to tell

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

Shri Nitish Kumarji that we do not want to see the houses of the farmers burning, we need such people who are really concerned about the problems of the farmers, we need people to may ensure a feeling of security amongst the farmers. We do not need the Government which deceives the farmers, instead we should have a Government which may provide opportunities to the farmers. Shri Kumaramangalamji if electricity is not provided to the farmers it will be difficult for this Government to continue in office. If there is unrest among the farmers, it will certainly culminate in a revolution.

There is paucity of time. There is a need to constitute a farmers' rights commission. You are a good and an honest Minister but the decisions of the Government are not good that is why this problem has cropped up. After fifty years of independence the farmers should get a pension of Rs. 1000 per month. Today farmers need electricity and it should be made available to them at cheaper rate. There is a need to increase the area under irrigation and the farmers should be strengthened. There should have a discussion in this regard. The Government should consider the crop insurance scheme and scheme should be evolved to promote rural industries. Several other issues are also there but you will get annoyed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no question of annoyance in it.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The Minister should give a good reply to it. You have said that the earlier Governments have done nothing. It is to be seen as to what you are going to do. We shall be able to tell you after two-three years as to what you have done. You should make efforts to maximum for the farmers.

*SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to add the following points in the discussion being held on the problems of the farmers under Rule 193.

The farmers of Rajasthan do three type of work i.e. farming, cattle rearing and job of a labour. Most of the time Rajasthan remains in the grip of drought due to which the farmers can not carry on farming and they also find difficult to rear the cattle. The backbone of the farmers is their livestock but they have left their cattle stray on the mercy of the God. The farmers are unable even to get the work of a labour due to famine and they have started search for work of a labour in other States.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, people have occupied the open common grazing land due to which the ponds here and there could not be filled up with water during rainy season and, as a result, the table of ground water has gone down.

The Government of Rajasthan has recently blamed the Union Government of diverting electricity of Rajasthan's share to other states. I would like to request the Minister of Power to kindly give clarification in this regard so that there may not be any confusion in the minds of the farmers of Rajasthan.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this issue is not related to farmers alone, rather this is a national issue. So far, the problems related to power supply, water supply and roads used to be the major problems faced by farmers. However, what is equally important now is that the prices should be fixed taking into account the production of a particular crop. Re. 1 and Rs. 2 schemes have been formulated by the Central Government for Maharashtra especially for Nasik and Malegaon for which funds should be released by the Central Government. Onion is available at cheap rates here, hence there should not be any restrictions on the export of onions. There have been such leaders as Shri Morarji Desai, Shri V.P. Singh and Shri Deve Gowdaji who were well wishers of farmers. Similarly Shri Vasant Raoji Naik from Maharashtra also paid attention towards farmers. I request the Hon'ble Minister to keep in mind the interests of farmers so as to keep the farmers as well as the nation contented.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 80 per cent of our country's total population belongs to the farming community. Therefore, I request the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Agriculture Minister to allot 80 per cent of the total Budget for the farming community.

Sir, now-a-days, the floods and famine have become a routine feature in one State or the other in our country. Thousands of crores of rupees are being spent every year to curb the problems of floods and famine but nothing concrete is coming out.

Sir, most of the Himalayan peninsula is full of water. Almost, all the northern region rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, and other rivers like Brahmaputra are always overloaded, and they are all floods prone rivers whereas all the southern region rivers like Godavari and Cauveri are dry

* Laid on the Table of the House.

rivers almost all the seasons, there is no water available. In this regard, a project on the linkage of rivers Himalayas, Ganga and Yamuna with the southern region rivers like Godavari and Cauveri is long pending since 1982 with the Government of India. This project should be completed soon. My plea is that if this project is completed, there will be no floods in the northern India and on the other hand there will be sufficient water in the southern region rivers which remain almost dry every time. If this project is completed, the entire country will be benefited, and our farmers of southern region will also be able to produce sufficient foodgrains with better and better irrigation facilities. With the availability of sufficient water, the farmers of southern India will be able to produce spices crops, coffee and tea in huge quantum. With the result, we may increase export of these products. This way, we can earn more foreign exchange as well.

Sir, 30 per cent of the people of this country have no two square meals. That is why I urge upon that if we have linkage of rivers, we can have the water available everywhere in the country. This way, our farmers will be able to produce more and more foodgrains, and there will not be any shortage of foods. Everybody will have his meals. There will be self-sufficiency in the country.

Sir, half of the area belonging to the southern States, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu is a dry land area. The farmers there, are living in a very distressing situation. In most parts of Karnataka, especially, in my constituency, Kolar, the water table has gone down by 500 feet to 600 feet. I request that the hon. Agriculture Minister should pay a kind attention to this problem. One remedy to solve the water problem in Karnataka is desiltation of tanks. More than 10,000 tanks in Karnataka are sited. I therefore, request that the Central Government should come out with some concrete proposals, they may take the help of World Bank, if necessary, to take the desiltation of tanks.

Sir, my next point relates to marketing facilities. The Governments in USA, Britain and Holland are giving full protection to their farmers. If there is no market of the products of their farmers, their respective Government will come forward and purchase those products from them in order to save them from hardships. Similarly, our Government also should come forward by way of giving protection to our farmers. This way, our country will be benefited a lot. Prices stability will also remain there.

Lastly, in Karnataka, we are producing a huge amount of vegetables like Potatoes and Onions, and fruits like Mangoes, which are all perishable items. But the problem

is that there is no sufficient cold storage facilities available. We want more and more cold storages to be built there to help the farmers. It will also be in the interest of the State.

So, I request that the hon. Agriculture Minister should take some steps to protect the farmers of our country. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Crop Insurance Scheme is being introduced for the benefit of farmers. Though the Central Government is releasing funds for the scheme, the State Government does not wish to make a contribution of 25% which it is required to make. Crop Insurance Scheme should be implemented for the benefit of the farmers. Besides, relief should be given to the farmers for oilseed crops. Financial assistance should be provided at rural level by the Department of Agriculture for setting up new industries and businesses. Oranges, lemons and papaya are grown here. Assistance should be given at rural level to set up industries related to them. More sugar mills need to be set up here. The work relating to wasteland development and water management presently being handled by other departments, should be brought under this Department. The Government is not releasing sufficient funds for tubewells and power supply. The Central Government should provide more funds to the Department of Agriculture.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, discussion has been going on in the House regarding the farmers since yesterday. Some Hon'ble Members have expressed their views in this regard and have expressed their concerns regarding the plight of farmers. Their concern is quite natural. There are some problems, still they have continued to make progress facing all these problems. We have made much progress since independence. There has been a four times increase in agricultural production since independence. We have made progress despite all odds. There has been a record production of 203 million tonnes of foodgrain, which is a great achievement and credit for this goes to the farmers of our country. Those engaged in research work also share the credit, but, most of the credit goes to the farmers. More tough challenges lie ahead. The rate of increase in population is much higher than the rate of increase in agricultural production and productivity. This is a big challenge for us. We shall have to accept it and find a solution thereto. We are considered to be self-sufficient in case of foodgrains. We are exporting

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

agricultural products. Our position has improved to a large extent but we should not forget that more than one third of our population lives below poverty line. They are not getting their share from the production which is their due as per capita share. On one hand, there is rising population and on the other hand, there is poverty. If we take into account the people living below poverty line, we will have to place more emphasis on increasing productivity and achieving higher production. That is why it is laid down in the agenda of our Government the National Democratic Alliance that we aim to double the production of not just foodgrains but all the food products in the next ten years to meet the forthcoming challenges. We shall have to formulate our policy accordingly and that is why we propose to introduce an agricultural policy shortly which will deal with certain basic issues and will lay emphasis on achieving 4% growth rate. We shall have to find solutions to the problem we might encounter in achieving our goal. Cultivable land is limited and there is limited scope to increase it further. We shall have to pay attention towards this aspect. We shall have to think beyond the progress made so far in agriculture and also beyond the green revolution, about which we keep on talking. We should start paying more attention towards development of agriculture in unirrigated and rainfed areas. We shall have to lay more emphasis on increasing productivity in the rainfed areas. We shall have to pay more attention towards this aspect in future. These are the areas where we can increase productivity and from where we can achieve higher yield. We shall have to formulate our policies in accordance with this strategy. Whether it is the watershed development project or other projects, we shall have to pay attention to crop rotation and also how crops can be diversified and which crops are to be grown. Taking all these factors into account, it is proposed to introduce some new programmes tailored for different areas and different crops.

There are several problems. A part of the production is wasted due to improper post harvest management. This morning itself, a question was asked in the House in this regard. 5 to 10% of the foodgrains is wasted and similarly 20% to 30% of horticultural produce is also wasted. We shall have to prevent this wastage and develop cold storage facilities especially for horticulture. Keeping this in view, our Government has formulated a capital subsidy scheme under which it is envisaged to develop new cold storages having the capacity of 12 lakh tonnes in the remaining period of the Ninth Five Year Plan. It is also proposed to enhance the storage capacity, modernise the present storage capacity of eight lakh tonnes and develop storage capacity for four and a half lakh tonnes of onions. These are our targets.

Similarly, it is essential to develop storage capacity at 'mandis' in rural and small areas to help out the farmers. Just as the Government has formulated capital subsidy scheme for developing cold storage, it is proposed to give subsidy upto 25% on the same pattern in the same manner. The promoter will chip in 25%. Commercial Banks will extend loans upto 50%, @ 1% higher than the prime lending rate. NABARD or Commercial Banks will re-finance it. Deliberations are on in the Ministry to develop a scheme on this pattern to construct godowns in rural areas at grass root level in order to enhance the storage capacity of foodgrains. We are in touch with other Ministries. A final decision has not been taken in this regard but this is our proposal and we are working on it. Similarly, more attention will have to be paid towards post harvest management. We shall have to lay more emphasis on food processing. We shall have to pay attention towards all these things. Attention shall have to be paid to Integrated pest management also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that we can not continue using chemicals, pesticides and insecticides indefinitely. Hence the best option would be to lay emphasis on integrated pest management and biological control. It is true that chemical fertilizers are being used. Chemical fertilizers have their own limitations and they are helpful in increasing productivity but at the same time, they are harmful. We will have to ponder over it. Conjunctive use will have to be made. More emphasis should be laid on the use of organic fertilizers. Alongwith biological pest control, the organic fertilizers will have to be developed. The farmers are working on it in many parts of the country. On behalf of Union Government, I.C.A.R. is also doing research work. Assistance is rendered to people and they are responding favourably to use of organic fertilizers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a Minister from Kerala told me that they have their own institution. Sir, I asked the Minister and he told me that organic fertilizers were being used in that State. He recounted his experiences in this regard. Our scientists are also of the view that with the usage of organic fertilizers, the yield may be less initially but the productivity will increase gradually. Hence we shall have to switch over to it. This will be beneficial for the environment and also for the health of the people. However we cannot stop using chemical fertilizers all of a sudden, because we have a large population to feed. There is the issue of Food Security. Foodgrains and food products are required and this requirement has to be met. If we were to withdraw the use of chemical pesticides and insecticides, it will be impractical to do so. Thus we shall have to proceed towards that direction gradually. It

would be better if we switch over to conjunctive use first and implement it gradually. We are making progress in this direction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Members have raised certain questions and their concern is justified. Farmers face the problem of power and inputs. An arrangement is made in some States that free power will be provided but no power is supplied at all. Farmers require power. The power tariff should be fixed. An affluent State like Punjab can afford to supply power free of cost to the farmers but other states are not in a position to do so. Shri Raghuvansh is present here. He is aware that there is acute shortage of power in Bihar. Still an announcement was made that power will be supplied free of cost to the farmers in Bihar. When there are no power lines and no transformers, how is the power proposed to be supplied. Power supply is possible only when the transmission line has been laid. We shall have to think about all such issues. Power should definitely be provided to the farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all these are State subjects. Agriculture is also a state subject. Central Government can give advice and help the States. The Minister of Water Resources is seated by my side. He can give advice, extend help and he can also give technical advice. The assistance required to be given by the Centre is released depending on the size of state projects. There are several programmes related to agriculture and under the new agricultural policy proposed to be introduced, the Central Government will play an advisory role in the State schemes. The Centre should advise the States. The States should formulate the schemes as per their requirements. We shall help them so that they may increase production rapidly.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter.

[English]

If public investment in agriculture is reduced and if the Union Government withdraws its role in regard to public investment in agriculture, that will be a black day for our country.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Perhaps, you have not understood my point. I am speaking in Hindi, therefore, it might be possible that you have not understood my point. Otherwise you have good command over Hindi.

You have misunderstood my statement. While formulating the scheme, we fix the share of the Centre and State. I mean to say that we should allocate funds to them, and they may formulate scheme according to their needs. We can advise them in this matter, which may benefit them. By this way schemes could be formulated with their cooperation, and we can help them in research work.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, public investment should be increased. We are not talking about reducing public investment, there is no question of reducing it, but we are of the view that the present investment is not enough, and it should be further increased. We want to help the States. We want to give them more autonomy so that they could formulate scheme for the progress of agriculture as per their needs, but in this case, States have to consider all the facts. Some States will get much benefit of it. All these things have to be considered. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Shri Anil Basu is not able to understand. After five or ten minutes many hon. Members will not be able to understand. So, instead of addressing the Member, please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We have formulated many schemes. I do not want to go in some matters, like issue of sugar, which have been raised here. A lot of discussions have taken place which are not directly related to Ministry of Agriculture ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The issue of sugar was raised, because hard work put by farmers ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: See the time. Otherwise we would be holding discussion for the sake of discussion only.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Akhilesh Kunwar Singh, you are a new Member. You can interrupt and speak only if the hon. Minister is ready to yield.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Advaniji has said in this very House that after taking full detail from the Minister of Agriculture, he will give the report about sugarcane to the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: From where did you get the permission, you are a senior member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Now he is saying that he does not know any thing about sugarcane. ...(Interruptions) Shri Advani say that he will ask the Minister of Agriculture, then who will tell us about sugarcane?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Mishra, should I tell you the same thing, what I have told Shri Akhilesh.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Listen carefully. I have said sugar, not sugarcane. I have not said cane, but sugar. First listen carefully, then speak. We know it very well. We are aware of your concern and share it also. But it is not appropriate to react before listening to the entire thing. In the circumstances. ...(Interruptions) The Ministry of Agriculture look after the production of sugarcane, because it is a part of agriculture. But sugar production is out of its purview. We do not see the problems of farmers related with sugarmills. It is also right that it is our duty to look after the interest of the farmers who produce it. We are as much concerned and want to express our concern as has been expressed by the hon'ble Member. But it is a subject about which we have to think collectively. It is also true that there is a rule and an Act for it. Who is not aware of it? We too hail from rural area. I also belong to a farmer family and we also go there. All the sugar mills of Northern Bihar are closed. The farmers over there narrate their problems. As a Member we too have been raising the problems of sugarcane growers. Therefore, we have ample knowledge in this regard, but the question is that there should be a concrete solution to their problems. There are no two opinions about it. I will definitely convey the feelings of the hon'ble members to the concerned Department. Alongwith this, my department will make available every kind of help in this regard. We will do whatever can be done, but the problems of sugarcane farmers should be solved. At many places, sugarcane farmers are being exploited. Everybody is aware, how the farmers are being cheated by sugar mills through issuance of slips. This is not a secret. All of us lead a public life and all of us are aware of everything. But the Government have to function in its own way. It will not be appropriate for me to say anything related to the domain of other department. Therefore, whatever will be possible in this regard, and I will definitely apprise the concerned departments with the views expressed by hon'ble Member.

Some other questions have also been raised. I will reply in brief. We have launched National Agriculture Insurance Scheme. Keeping in view the interests of the farmers, and to face challenges. This scheme has been launched from this Rabi season. The new national agriculture insurance scheme is in place of comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme of the past. The ambit of National Crop Insurance Scheme has been enhanced. Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme of past which was known as Crop Insurance Scheme, used to cover only those farmers who have taken loan. This scheme will cover loanee farmers, as well as non-loanee farmers. Its scope is wide. There are many components of it. Thus a better scheme has been launched in the interest of farmers. Still, to improve it further, we will...(Interruptions)

[English]

Shri Anil Basu, please let me complete. ...(Interruptions) If you want the details about the 'Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana', I am prepared to give it. If you are ready to sit, I can go on for hours and hours together.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you can pass on this information to the Member.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: If he requires, we will give details to him regarding National Agriculture Insurance Scheme. If you permit me, I will start giving information right now. It will take atleast 20 minutes to thoroughly narrate about National Agriculture Insurance Scheme. Therefore, I am giving information about main things only. Instead of only loanee farmers now option has been given to both loanee and non-loanee farmers, they can join this scheme. The subsidy would be given to small and marginal farmers as before for the premium. The subsidy amount would be provided by the Union and the State Governments. The States have been asked to opt for the new Insurance Scheme. Nine States have already opted this scheme. Even after this, if they have any problem regarding it, it was decided that it will be reviewed after one year. But when this scheme has been launched in this financial year and the previous scheme has been withdrawn in such a situation we will urge all the States to opt for this scheme. If, in the next financial year, there is possibility of reviewing it then we will review it on the

basis of suggestions received from the States and will discuss it. In this way, the horticulture crops will also be included under this scheme. There is no immediate plan to include perennial crops in it. That will be included after three years. The actuarial premium is to be charged in this regard. The premium at present will mature gradually into actuarial premium. There is a proposal for dismantling all kinds of subsidy in the next five years. This way, the present scheme is better than the earlier one as its coverage is extensive. The coverage of farmers is more. Besides this, the coverage of area is also more. Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji had raised the question that village should be treated as unit. Gram Panchayat is the unit in it. We will expand and develop it after considering the earlier ill data availability relating to the crops being brought under it. It means that this scheme in the interest of farmers.

The Credit Card scheme has been a great success. The target was for 20 lakh farmers and infact 35 lakh farmers have been issued credit cards. There are many such schemes which the Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has implemented. In future also, we would implement many more schemes to provide benefits to the farmers and since the agriculture policy has been announced, we are finalising it. Our Ministry had already finalised it ten years ago. The Finance Minister of the then Government in his budget speech in 1989-90 had said that this exercise was going on since then. I am happy that at that time when discussion started, I was Minister of State for Agriculture and today I am Minister of Agriculture. I am the happiest person as the discussion to formulate agriculture policy which was started at that time has culminated logically. But during this period much time has passed. During this period, this issue was discussed twice in Parliament. Coincidentally, I was the Chairman of Standing Committee of Parliament. That Committee has also submitted its report on National Agriculture Policy. The Conference of Ministers of Agriculture was held. Meeting was held with Experts. Such a wide range of consultation has already been held that now there is no need for further consideration. Therefore, after finalising it, we have already started the process of taking it in the Cabinet. We intend to formulate farmer-oriented agriculture policy which would safeguard the interests of the farmers of the country in the new year, in the new millennium. This would be our intention for farmers upon whom 2/3rd of the people of this country depends. We want to do it for their prosperity and the progress of the country also.

Besides this, some questions have been raised and today it is very essential to respond to one question.

Some hon'ble Members have spoken about terminator seed. Terminator seed was as a concept in the world. So far it could not take a concrete shape and it has been opposed throughout the world. Terminator seed is a very dangerous thing. It means that Multi-National Company would prepare a seed and it would put a terminator gene in it. We can take crop by sowing the said seed. There is no problem in it but the grain produced through sowing this seed will not be capable of further germination. There will be sterile in it which is a dangerous sign. There has been a world-wide reaction to it and as per information available to me the company which had started work on this seed has also said that now they are going to abandon this scheme. But we are not taking it lightly. The Ministry of Agriculture had issued strict instructions to all its quarantine centres to ensure that the seeds being imported do not contain terminator genes and to carry out examinations properly in this regard.

Besides this, we intend to bring Plant Varieties and Farmers Protection Rights Bill in this session itself. Through this Bill, we will take care of all these things. The registrations of seed containing terminator gene will not be allowed in the country. We are mentioning all these things in that Bill. Therefore, the question of entry of such dangerous thing into the country does not arise. We will not tolerate all these things.

Besides, some of our hon'ble Members have raised the question of giving the status of Industry to agriculture. After the introduction of agriculture policy which we would like to bring, the question regarding giving status of industry to agriculture will not arise. They will get same facilities *i.e.* Credit and many other facilities which are available to the industrial sector. Special attention is being paid towards this and I hope that the agriculture policy which will be introduced would solve all these problems.

Some Members have raised the question that the minimum support price which is fixed by C.A.C.P. *i.e.* Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices, in that representatives of farmers are not included. We should not meet out injustice to them. I have also been saying this from the very beginning but now gradual change has taken place in the pricing norms of C.A.C.P. In that many kinds of input costs are also included alongwith remuneration of the farmers who are working in their fields besides rent of land. Therefore, now it is not so. Besides, the actual expenditure incurred by the farmers are also included in it. The eminent agricultural experts and agricultural economists are appointed in the C.A.C.P. As representative of farmers, three non-official members

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are also appointed in it, therefore it is not true to say that composition of C.A.C.P. is not satisfactory. It is the C.A.C.P. which has been recommending prices of produce of farmers due to which they have benefited and progressed. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding.

Discussion has been held in detail and now let me respond to these issues otherwise later on you will complain that such and such issue has been left out. Thus the situation has improved as compared to the past. A question was raised by our respected colleague. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: What support price are you going to announce for wheat?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: That will also be done. Why you start running commentary in between. I will inform you about it outside the House. The process of fixing minimum support price of wheat is continuing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is this going on? Mr. Minister, what are you doing? Why are you engaging yourself in cross talk. are we not a party to it? What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am concluding.

Just now Raghuvansh Babu has raised a question. It is an E.E.C. assisted project regarding reclamation and development of alkali land in Bihar and U.P. You were making a mention of that salinity does not develop there but alkaline contents increase in the soil. The project is in progress in Bihar. In this scheme technical audit is being conducted by Ministry of Agriculture and financial audit is done by E.E.C. or is conducted in accordance with the terms of agreement. Financial, administrative and technical irregularities have been found in financial audit of the scheme in Bihar. Just now hon'ble Shri Kumaramangalam has told about irregularities in rural electrification. It is an EEC assisted project and irregularities have been found in it. I feel very sad about it as I come from this state but what can be done? Members are well aware about the implementation agency i.e. Gandak Area Development Agency EEC has given an indication to close this project as due to irregularities it has been ruined but we are persuading them to continue it. A meeting has been fixed in this regard and we hope the project will continue. Secretary, Agriculture and officials from Bihar have been sent for this meeting. We will try to persuade them to continue it but measures should be

taken to check these irregularities. Apart from it several other problems are also there. For instance, due to import or any other procedure, several issues relate to other Ministries but so far the Ministry of Agriculture is concerned we are alert to protect the interests of farmers and efforts are being made for the progress of agricultural sector to face the challenges of the coming century and millennium.

Besides, no integrated and comprehensive study has been conducted on condition of farmers. I would like to say that the progress made in agriculture sector since independence should also be properly reflected. Earlier green revolution took place and we made progress in agriculture sector. During operation flood under white revolution production of milk increased. Yellow revolution has been taken up for increasing production of oilseeds. Blue revolution has been taken up for development of fishery. We have also made progress in horticulture. Now we should move towards rainbow revolution. Though we enjoy second position in the field of horticulture but production in this sector should also be increased. Two days ago an international conference on potato was going on. We consider potato as food item but due to our habit we use it as vegetable. We should pay attention towards increasing its usages and its production should be increased. White and green revolutions have taken place. Blue and yellow are underway and now through rainbow revolution we are conceptualizing it. We will resolve the problems and face challenges before the country and we need cooperation of the whole House for it. Our Government is committed to protect the interests of farming community who depend on agriculture and we will try our best to do so.

With these words, I thank the hon'ble Members who took part in this debate.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, I would like to make a submission to the hon'ble Minister that a proposal was mooted for setting up Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Chhapra at the time when you were Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I will look into the matter of Krishi Vigyan Kendras by convening a meeting.

23.54 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December, 9, 1999/Agrahayana 18, 1921 (Saka)