

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

Second Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. II contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 1, 1999/Agrahayana 10, 1921 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Cultivation of Paddy

[English]

*41. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area of land under paddy cultivation in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there has been decline in the area under paddy cultivation in the country during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken or being taken by the Union Government to increase the area under paddy cultivation and to boost the production of paddy?

[Translation]

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

Statement

(a) to (d) The total area of land under Paddy cultivation for the country as a whole and State-wise, during 1996-97 to 1998-99 is given in Annexure. It will be seen from this that there has been no decline in the area under Paddy cultivation for the country as a whole, during the last three years. In order to increase the production and productivity of rice in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented. The Integrated Cereals Development Programme, in Rice based cropping system areas (ICDP-Rice), is under implementation in sixteen States and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. The emphasis of the Scheme is on increasing production and not increase in area.

Annexure

Area under Paddy

State	Area (Lakh Hectares)		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (Estimated Area)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	41.1	35.0	41.1

1	2	3	4
Assam	24.9	24.9	24.6
Bihar	50.7	49.8	50.8
Gujarat	6.4	6.7	6.3
Haryana	8.3	9.1	10.8
Himachal Pradesh	0.8	0.9	0.9
Jammu & Kashmir	2.8	2.8	2.7
Karnataka	13.6	13.8	13.3
Kerala	4.3	4.1	4.6
Madhya Pradesh	54.0	54.0	53.1
Maharashtra	14.8	14.8	14.8
Orissa	44.7	45.0	44.1
Punjab	21.6	22.8	25.2
Rajasthan	1.5	1.6	1.7
Tamil Nadu	21.7	23.6	23.8
Uttar Pradesh	55.5	56.6	59.4
West Bengal	58.0	59.0	58.0
Others	9.8	9.8	9.6
All India	434.3	434.3	444.8

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the reply given by Hon'ble Minister there has been no decline in the area under Paddy cultivation but I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister towards economic survey which was conducted in September '99 in which it has been clearly mentioned that in many States of the country there has been reduction in the lakhs of hectares of area under paddy cultivation particularly in those coastal region where only paddy can be cultivated. In the coastal area spanning 720 km of Maharashtra State, the paddy crop was cultivated in 15 lakh 80 thousand hectares of land during 1990-91 whereas now paddy is being cultivated in only 14 lakh 76 thousand hectares. It means that in one State more than 1 lakh 5 thousand hectares of land under paddy cultivation has been reduced. The Hon'ble Minister has said that they are emphasising on increasing the production of rice and not on increasing the area of land. I would like to draw his attention towards this also that in Maharashtra last year the production of paddy was 26 lakh 14 thousand tonnes whereas this year it is only 23 lakh 94 thousand tonnes. The production is much less. In Andhra Pradesh, the production has reduced from 106 lakh 86 thousand tonnes to 85 lakh 10 thousand tonnes.. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Thakurji, Hon'ble Minister will give reply, you please ask only questions.

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : The production in Kerala has reduced from 8 lakh 21 thousand tonnes to 6 lakh 21 thousand tonnes. The Hon'ble Minister is saying that production as well as area has increased. I feel that so much reduction in cultivable area and production is due to breaking of dam. The production per hectare is continuously declining. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to what steps are being taken by the Government to prevent the decline in area of land under paddy cultivation?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has already been stated in reply to main question that there has been no decline in the area of land under paddy cultivation. As far as Maharashtra is concerned, there is also no decline. He has mentioned about productivity. As far as the question of Maharashtra is concerned it is not true that there is decline in productivity. In 1997-98 the yield per hectare was 1614 kgs. whereas in 1998-99 it has become 1656 kgs. Therefore, it is not correct to say that there is decline in the area of land under paddy cultivation and there is decline in its productivity. There is no scheme to increase the area of land under paddy cultivation. The farmers cultivate the land according to their need. As far as the question of production and productivity is concerned, the ICDP-Rice scheme is being sponsored by the Central Government. Many States have been covered by this Scheme. As far as Maharashtra is concerned, there more emphasis is laid on production of coarse cereals. In rice cultivation region, there are many components under ICDP-Rice scheme. Except one, attention is paid towards all other components.

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was asking question relating to economic survey which has shown decline in the area of land by 1 lakh 5 thousand. Till 1997-98, Maharashtra was considered among the top ten States according to the cultivable area in terms of hectares. But now it is nowhere in sight. How much funds have been provided for Maharashtra under ICDP scheme and how much increase in production per hectare has taken place?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There are three crops covered under ICDP. Where rice is primarily cultivated it is ICDP rice and the regions where wheat is cultivated it is ICDP wheat and where coarse cereals are produced, it is ICDP coarse crops. Maharashtra has been covered under ICDP coarse crop and there more thrust is given on these crops.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Punjab is a State which is conventionally not a rice-eating State, yet it contributes very significantly to the national food kitty. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what special

care Government takes of such States which only contribute to the national food kitty.

[Translation]

I would like to know as to what you are giving to Punjab? You have mentioned about wheat and rice. Punjab produces more than its requirement and it sends rice and wheat to other States but today its financial condition is very bad. What you are giving for that?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Punjab has led the country in many sectors and the green revolution has started from there. There is no need to provide financial assistance there. The whole country salutes the farmers of Punjab. If you have something special in your mind to say, then tell us.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : The production and productivity level both are higher in Punjab but the financial position of Punjab has deteriorated a lot during last some days. What are you doing regarding that?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : For which region do you seek it? As far as paddy crop is concerned, Punjab produces a lot of paddy. The level of productivity is also very good in that State.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : The farmers of Punjab do not get anything from the Government.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There is a Minimum Support Scheme for the farmers of Punjab.

YOGI ADITYA NATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the last few years, the paddy crop in Eastern Uttar Pradesh is being infested with a special kind of disease causing a great deal of trouble to the farmers. Will the Hon'ble Minister like to say something in this regard?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : As far as eastern U.P. is concerned that comes under the purview of our programme. Under the I.C.D.P. rice scheme various types of training is imparted and field demonstrations and front line demonstrations are also held, besides giving information to the people about Integrated Pest Management Programme. All these schemes have been running there. If you have any information regarding a specific variety of a specific area, provide it to us and we will pay special attention to that problem and will also do whatever can be done to solve the problem.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Sir, it is found from the answer given by the Minister that there is a Centrally-sponsored Scheme to increase production and productivity. I want to know from the hon. Minister about the schemes that have been taken up in the Eastern Region to increase production and productivity. Secondly, what are the schemes that have been taken up to increase the area of cultivation, and whether

the Government of India has any scheme to give incentives to those States which produce more?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Broadly Eastern India, has been covered under the I.C.D.P. scheme. We are thinking in terms of introducing a new scheme and that is being considered. We have to increase the production of the crop there on the basis of "on farm water management" scheme. It is also a rice based approach, the work regarding which is under progress and is also under consideration and soon we will be able to give a practical shape to this scheme which will enable us to implement this scheme in eastern part of the country.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : A particular variety of paddy, by the name of 'Swarna' paddy, is being procured as a common paddy in the State of Orissa, but in neighbouring States of Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, the same variety of paddy is being procured as a fine variety, thereby denying the farmers of Orissa a profit of about Rs. 30 per quintal. So, will the Minister look into this, investigate the matter and organise it in such a way that the FCI procures the 'Swarna' variety of paddy at the price of fine variety?

MR. SPEAKER : This question pertains to the cultivation of paddy, Shri Deo.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : This question is not related to the main question. However, we will consider it.

[English]

SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Sir, I come from a rice-eating area, and we are thankful to Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and other States which are supplying rice to us. Though we eat rice, in Kerala, the area under paddy cultivation and productivity are not increasing. So, will you have some specific schemes for that State in order to increase productivity in that State? I have got another point and not a question which I wish to make. There is a modern technology known as 'hydroponics', about which I have mentioned in this House earlier. It was investigated and was found to be very useful. With less amount of investment, more could be obtained by this scientific method, which is being used in Japan and some other countries. Could this be looked into and could you investigate this 'hydroponics' technology for the development of paddy?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Kerala is also covered under ICDP rice scheme. We will arrange a meeting to discuss the suggestion given by him. Our scientists working in this field will look into the suggestion and consider it.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, the Minister in his statement is categorically specific that he does not want to increase the area under paddy cultivation. He only wants to increase the quantum, but not the area. That means, the Government of India does not want to add any project.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Janardhana Reddy, the Minister said that the increase of area under paddy cultivation is the concern of the farmers and not that of the Government. You can go through reply.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : It is in writing.

MR. SPEAKER : In his reply, he said that increasing the area under cultivation is the concern of the farmers.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : The reply is only an addition. In respect of Andhra Pradesh, in 1996-97, it was 41.01 lakh hectares; in 1997-98, it was 35 lakh hectares.

Again it has become 41.1 lakh hectares. It is because of addition of some irrigation projects or things like that. On the whole, it is only in Andhra Pradesh that there is a decline of 10 lakh hectares of rice cultivable land. It is entirely because the farmers are getting unremunerative prices and the Government of India is not encouraging the farmers. What steps the Government proposes to take in order that the farmers get remunerative prices?

I would also like to mention about the Crop Insurance Scheme. Most of the cultivable lands in Andhra Pradesh is in the coastal areas. Now, every year a new Government is being formed and so also the cyclone. What steps are being proposed to have an effective, comprehensive and a modified Crop Insurance Scheme? We have seen in the newspapers that the Prime Minister also wants it but nothing is being done on the field.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier, the main thrust of I.C.D.P. rice scheme is to increase production and productivity. But as far as the area of cultivation is concerned, it depends on the will of the farmers. They judge as to what will they get and which crop will give them maximum returns. As far as the minimum support price is concerned, if you look at the figures of 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, it was Rs. 415 per quintal for the paddy of common variety in 1997-98, it increased to Rs. 440 per quintal in 1998-99 and Rs. 490 per quintal in 1999-2000. We have been increasing the minimum support price. There has been a lot of increase in it. As far as the question of giving incentive to the farmers is concerned, minimum support prices have increased. We have been running our scheme but a lot

depends upon the farmers. They will cultivate the crop according to the amount of profit they are likely to get from a particular crop. As far as the cultivable area in Andhra Pradesh is concerned, it reduced in 1997-98 and again reached the earlier level in the year 1998-99.

[English]

It was 41.1 lakh hectares in 1996-97. It dropped to 35 lakh hectares in 1997-98 and again picked up and reached 41.1 lakh hectares in 1998-99.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Those were not the same areas which were delegated for cultivation of other crops.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : But irrigation is a State subject.

Sardar Sarovar Dam

*43. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that share cost of the Sardar Sarovar Project is not being paid to the State Government of Gujarat by the participating States viz. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) efforts being made by the Union Government to ensure immediate payment of outstanding dues from each participating State; and

(d) the time by which the outstanding amounts are likely to be paid to the State Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) It is a fact that there are arrears of payment towards Share cost of construction of Sardar Sarovar Project to be paid to State Government of Gujarat by the participating States viz. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, mainly due to their budgetary constraints.

The details of the outstanding amount to be paid by Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan towards their share cost of Sardar Sarovar Project as on 31.8.99 is as below :

(Rs. in crores)

	Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	Rajasthan
1. Total share cost to be paid	768.89	232.27	250.53
2. Disputed share	298.09	141.19	50.33
3. Balance undisputed share	470.80	91.08	200.20

The issue has been discussed at the meetings of the Narmada Control Authority (NCA), the Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee (SSCAC), and the Review Committee of Narmada Control Authority (RCNCA), wherein the States who are in arrears, have been requested to pay their share of the cost of Sardar Sarovar Project. Cabinet Secretary had also convened inter-State meeting on the issue on 8.6.98 and 13.10.98 wherein the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan had agreed to clear their arrears of undisputed outstanding shares to Govt. of Gujarat.

This matter was again discussed in the meeting of the Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee on 28.10.99 wherein the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan agreed to make all efforts to release balance amount of their undisputed share at the earliest.

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sardar Sarovar Project is the project for the entire country. When the Prime Minister had visited Gujarat during election days, he had given an assurance for the early completion of this Sardar Sarovar Project. Several cities and villages of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra will get electricity and drinking water through this project. Today, Gujarat is facing famine. Several villages and cities have been facing an acute problem of drinking water. When did the Prime Minister write a letter to the participating States against whom the payment arrears of sharing cost of construction of the project was due and what answer has been given by the riparian States in this regard. In the reply it has been stated that a secretary level meeting was also held in this regard. What was the outcome of that meeting? When will Gujarat get the amount which is due to it?

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Ministry has been making continuous efforts in this regard to the issue of providing payment to Gujarat. Recently, a meeting was held in this regard. Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have stated that they will pay the undisputed amount by the end of this year. Rajasthan is facing some financial crisis. They have also stated that they will pay it soon. Probably, some delay may take place in this case.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award has also decided that whatever amount is due to be paid earlier, should be paid in advance. When all the participating States raised this issue, a meeting took place in 1983 in which it was decided that quarterly advance would be paid but not even the amount for which the work has till now been completed, has been paid. Do the Government intend to pay Gujarat the amount collected after deducting it from the share of grants given to States by

the Centre? I have also asked whether any letter has been issued by the Prime Minister in this regard or not and if so, when it has been written and whether any reply in this regard has been received from the States?

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, now very soon, i.e. on December 6, a meeting in this regard is going to take place in which it will be reviewed as to which States are going to pay the amount and by when?

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Advance is not paid while it was decided in 1983 that they will pay in advance.

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Some State Governments have been paying. Rajasthan is somewhat lagging behind in this regard.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Where do they pay the advance? They do not pay at all. Work has been done but they do not pay for that. I would like to know as to when they are going to pay the amount? It was decided that it will be paid within a month but they cannot do so. Mr. Speaker, Sir, reply in this regard should be given.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, the Hon. Member has not got a proper answer for his question... (Interruptions)

DR. C.P. THAKUR : I have answered the question asked by the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : If they do not pay our money, you pay it. Rs. 1300 crore is due to be paid.. (Interruptions) Hon'ble Prime Minister had come to Gujarat, at that time he had said that the payment would be made soon. I would like to know as to what has happened to that assurance?

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I understand the concern of the hon'ble Member of Gujarat. We want that the States against whom the payment is due should pay it promptly. It is not so that the States have not paid anything. It is correct that the whole amount has not been paid but efforts are going on for it. That State too is a part of India and if the financial position of that State deteriorates, then people of Gujarat should take care of that.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : The plan should be completed at the earliest.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : That is right.

SHRI P. S. GADHAVI : Narmada Project is an important

project for the entire country. My constituency is Kutch where famine has struck 32 times during the last fifty years. Even now, drinking water or water for irrigation is not available there. Alongwith it, there is a problem of water in North Gujarat and Saurashtra. Therefore we want that Narmada Project should be completed at the earliest. The States who share the responsibility regarding this project should accelerate the construction work by living upto their responsibility.

Who will settle this dispute and how much time will it take to solve the problem? Out of the outstanding amount, no payment has been received so far. However, the hon'ble Prime Minister has assured us that the project will be completed at the earliest and we express our gratitude to him for that. In my constituency, a large number of people have been forced to migrate and more than a lakh had to be shifted due to water logging in the area designated for Narmada project. I would like to know the time by which this problem will be resolved and the details of the time bound programme in this regard?

DR. C.P. THAKUR : As the hon'ble Prime Minister has told that some States are making payment of arrears due to them but the financial problem is being faced by all States. As the hon'ble Member has asked about the time by which it would be completed, I would like to state that it could be completed by 2000 or within four to five years if the agitations going on against it come to a stop, but it has been delayed due to the ongoing cases in the High Court and the Supreme Court. If all the States want then it will be completed within four to five years. The work is in progress and there is no hindrance in it.

[English]

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAN CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sardar Sarovar Project caters to the needs of four States. One of the beneficiaries of this Project is Rajasthan. After the completion of this project, water will come through Sanchor to my constituency Barmer. Out of Rs. 200 crore of their share for this project, Rajasthan Government gave a very meagre amount of Rs. 50 crore. Rajasthan Government should be able to give the rest of it and even the hon. Prime Minister said that they should.

Barmer and Jaisalmer are drought-prone Districts.

Sir, this year, in Barmer 1950 villages are under famine. There is no drinking water, and most of the villagers have migrated to Gujarat and other places.

So, completion of this project is the lifeline for the people of Rajasthan, especially Barmer, which I represent.

Sir, last time also, I requested the hon. Prime Minister and he had given an assurance that Western Rajasthan would be given a package. Hon. Minister of External Affairs,

Shri Jaswant Singh also comes from Barmer. He had also, a number of times, given assurances.

MR. SPEAKER : Col. Sona Ram Choudhary, please ask your supplementary question.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Sir, completion of this project is very vital and important. So, will the Government of India fund, in case the Government of Rajasthan is not able to give its share? Will they be able to provide some additional funds?

Secondly, what is the probable year and month by which this project will be completed so that water is showered and the thirsty people get water?

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Regarding his first question, the Government of India also funded this project. After the funding by the World Bank was stalled, the Government of India had also funded it.

Regarding the completion of the project, it depends upon the disputes. If there is no dispute, no obstruction, the whole thing can be expedited. It will take not more than two to three years to complete.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we come to Q.No. 44—Shri Ajay Chakraborty

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : There is no dispute. The Supreme Court has vacated the stay. There is no dispute as of today.

MR. SPEAKER : Col. Sona Ram Choudhary, please take your seat now. We have gone to another question.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, I request that I may also be given a chance to put one supplement on Narmada.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Now, we have gone to the next question.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, you should

not have gone to the next question so early. It is very important question. I also hail from Gujarat. You must allow MPs from Gujarat to speak on a question relating to Gujarat.

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot allow all the Members from Gujarat on one question. Please take your seat.

Reduction in Import Prices of Steel Items

+

*44. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have reduced the minimum import prices of some steel items;
- (b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the domestic steel producers have been affected adversely due to the Government's step to reduce minimum import price on steel items; and
- (d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to save the domestic steel producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

- a) Yes, Sir.
- b) Government of India notified minimum import price for certain steel items in December 1998. The prices so fixed were based on average export price of these items from European Union and Japan as reported in Metal Bulletin. On 1st November 1999 the prices were revised on the basis of export prices from the above countries. The old and revised prices of steel items are as follows :

Price of Prime Steel Items

Sl. No.	ITC (HS) Code	Description	Price per MT (US \$) Dec. 1998	Price per MT (US \$) Nov. 99
1	2	3	4	5
1	72.08	HR Coils	302	254
2	72.08	HR Sheets	317	269
3	72.09	CR Coils/sheets	392	351
4	72.10	Tinplates	720	620
5	72.25/72.26	Electrical sheets(CRNO)	763	657

1	2	3	4	5
6	72.08/72.11	Plates	409	370
7	72.27.90	Alloy Steel Bars & Rods (Hot Rolled in Coils)	740	580

Price of Seconds/Defectives of Steel Items

Sl. No.	ITC(HS) Code	Item Description	Price per MT (US\$) Dec. 98	Price Per MT(US\$) Nov. 1999
1	72.08	HR Coils	232	190.5
2	72.08	HR Sheets	243	201.75
3	72.09	CR Coils/Sheets	299	263
4	72.10	Tinplate Waste/Waste/ Tinplate Misprints	545	465
5	72.25/72.26	Electrical Sheets(CRNO)	577	493
6	72.08/72.11	Plates	311	278
7	72.27.90	Alloy Steel Bars & Rods (Hot rolled In Coils)	560	435

(c) and (d) The minimum import prices have been revised on the basis of the average export prices of these items from non-dumping sources i.e. European Union and Japan. Thus, the domestic steel producers are unlikely to be adversely affected.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT) : Sir, the written reply given by the hon. Minister is vague, indefinite and ambiguous. The reply should be definite, unambiguous and pin-pointed. The reply given in part (c) is totally ambiguous.

It is a well-known fact that there was a difference of opinion between the Steel Ministry and the Commerce Ministry in relation to reduction of the import prices of some steel items. Ultimately, after the intervention of the PMO it was done, and it is expected to have a serious and adverse impact on the domestic steel majors which are already in doldrums for the last few years.

May I know from the hon. Minister that prior to taking this decision, has the Government taken any major steps to save our domestic steel industry which is adversely affected for the last few years? Please state the steps taken by the Ministry.

SHRI DILIP RAY : Sir, we have given a definite answer to this question. This has been done to protect the domestic steel industry. I will just give the background of it.

After the liberalization, the growth rate of steel industry was very high. During 1994-95, it was almost 17 per cent and

during 1995-96, it was 20 per cent. But then it had started sliding down. During 1996-97, it was 6 per cent and during 1997-98, it came down to 3 per cent. It was at an all time low during 1998-99, that is, 1.9 per cent, when all the steel industries both in public and private sectors suffered losses. So, this was the main reason why we have done this.

After the floor price came into effect, it had helped the industry. In fact, because of cheap imports, we had to give discounts. The domestic producers were to give discounts of almost Rs. 3,000 per tonne. Even after fixing floor prices, producers of HR Coils benefited by only about Rs. 650 to Rs. 1000 per tonne by reducing discount.

Our capacity utilization has gone up. Our finished production has gone up by 11.3 per cent. Our exports have gone up by 30 per cent. Consumption of steel has also gone up by 5.5 percent in the first six months of the current financial year compared to the corresponding period last year.

Besides this, some other steel manufacturing industries have also requested us that this system should continue for some time for the domestic producers to adjust to the international prices.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether at the instance of some foreign imperialist country, the Government of India had chosen our country as a dumping ground of the second class and defective steel which is banned from sale in the Western countries. Please give a categorical answer.

SHRI DILIP RAY : This is one of the reason why we have put up anti-dumping duties. We are not allowing such things to come into our country. We will not allow the products they are making to be brought into our country.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : When P.V. Narasimha Rao Government started liberalisation and delicensing, Steel Ministry was the first to do it. The impact on it was very quick, as the hon. Minister said, and in the beginning of the first three years, it earned profit. Now the question is this : Why has the profit come down? The reason is that the Finance Ministry and the Commerce Ministry wanted to give a level playing ground to the foreign producer and, as a result, they have done much injustice to the Steel Ministry. Power price is going up. Railway freight is going up and the labour cost is going up. As against that, the Customs duty is getting reduced day by day in order to give entry to some CR coil and HR coil from outside. As a result, during our time or I should specifically say in my time, it earned a profit of Rs. 1,113 crore whereas now the profit is hardly Rs. 60 crore or Rs. 70 crore. No Minister and no Government is to be blamed for this reduction in the profit of the Steel Ministry. It is the policy of the Finance Ministry and of the Commerce Ministry. They should consider the reality on the ground. Hence, I would ask the hon. Minister whether he would give an assurance to the House that these matters would be taken up very strongly with the Finance Ministry as well as with the Commerce Ministry through the Prime Minister, who is sympathetic and who has intervened twice or thrice I know, and come to a solution so that this industry which has got vast capacity to produce steel does not become a dumping ground, not of Western countries, but of erstwhile Russia. Most of the defective products are coming from Russia, not from Western countries. My point is that something has to be done to check this industry which is very vital for the country. I would request the Government to make efforts to take up the matter with the Finance Minister as well as with the Commerce Minister and to chalk out a five year programme so that every time we do not become a victim in the Steel Ministry.

SHRI DILIP RAY : We have already started taking up this matter with the Finance Ministry and the Commerce Ministry.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : My question is very simple. The downward revision has been made only in November. The answer is that the domestic steel producers are unlikely to be adversely affected. I want to get a specific answer through you to my question whether the steel producers of the country have made any representation to this effect that by reducing the price of the foreign steel, they have been affected. If such representations have come, what action has been taken?

SHRI DILIP RAY : I have already replied to the earlier question that steel industry in this country is not adversely

affected by this lowering of the floor price import duty. In fact, floor price has helped the steel industry.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much.

According to your answer, SAIL has already lost about Rs. 1,500 crore. You have already told that the export has gone up and the sale is also rising. It is a fact that the sale is also rising but you are allowing the rebate system. That is why the rebate is now Rs. 1,200 crore. If you deduct the rebate of Rs. 1,200 from the loss of Rs. 1,500, SAIL will lose only Rs. 300 crore. But because of your advice, through the Circular of your Government, SAIL is losing more money.

There were a few words which were mentioned by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. During the regime of the Congress, the cost of modernization of the Durgapur Steel Plant was estimated at Rs. 1,800 crore. It has now gone up to Rs. 6,000 crore. I also mentioned in the Eleventh Lok Sabha that there should be an inquiry by the CBI. The C&AG Report was placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sunil Khan, what is your supplementary? You put your supplementary first.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : This is my question. I want to know from the hon. Minister why they are allowing the rebate system for the steel plants.

SHRI DILIP RAY : I have already mentioned that before lowering the import duty, the industry used to give almost up to Rs. 3,000 per tonne. After fixing floor prices HR Coils producers benefited by Rs. 650 to Rs. 1000 per tonne only by reducing discount.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : This is not the answer. This is completely vague.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, there is a contradiction between the written reply and the oral reply of the Minister. In the written reply, the Minister admits that the minimum prices have been reduced. If the minimum prices of import have been reduced, that step would automatically affect the local industry but the Minister, in his oral reply, asserts to my astonishment that the reduction in the import price has not affected the local industry. Will you kindly resolve the contradiction, Sir, if the Minister cannot?

SHRI DILIP RAY : We had fixed the floor prices on certain steel items in 1998. This was done on the basis of the report of the London Metal Bulletin and average of the cost prevalent during those three months. In the meanwhile, the export price in the exporting countries like the European Union and Japan had declined. So, to match that decline, we had reduced the import (CIF) price.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, I seek your intervention. I

am not persisting with my question because my confusion has been worse confounded by his great answer.

The problem is this. If the minimum import price is reduced, the competition for the local industry gets increased. Therefore, inevitably, an adverse impact on the local industry is caused. How does the Minister assert that this has been done to help the local industry?

SHRI DILIP RAY : Before this floor price came into existence, there were a lot of imports coming into the country. So, we had fixed a minimum floor price to stop countries like Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Russia, Indonesia and Korea, which were dumping steel into our country and that stopped it. So, the price was high. Later on, the international price in the European Union and Japan went down. So, to match it, again, we had to bring it down because the user industry also wanted that prices should be reduced to match the international prices...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : It is very much in his Ministry. This has caused a big impact on the domestic industry...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, hereby hangs a long-standing and a long stinking scandal ! This was discussed as a part of the Confidence Motion and the Minister is not replying properly. Therefore, you may kindly permit a half-an-hour discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, I will examine it.

....*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SEN GUPTA : I happened to be the Chairman of an Expert Committee appointed by the Steel Ministry to recommend the export strategy for steel, we had submitted a report in 1997...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, are you agreeing for a half-an-hour discussion on this subject?

SHRI DILIP RAY : I will tell you, Sir. This question came up in the Rajya Sabha yesterday...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Do you have any objection to it?

SHRI DILIP RAY : A specific question came up in the Rajya Sabha. The nodal Ministry is the Commerce Ministry for import of steel.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Members are demanding to have a half-an-hour discussion on this.

SHRI DILIP RAY : I am talking about that, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you have any objection?

SHRI DILIP RAY : The nodal Ministry is the Commerce Ministry. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Sir, my specific question is this. Since I was the Chairman of an Expert Committee, ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, this is not for the Minister to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We will allow a half-an-hour discussion on this Q.No. 45, Dr. Ashok Patel .

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed a half-an-hour discussion on this. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed a half-an-hour discussion on this Q. No. 45, Dr. Ashok Patel.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : May I know whether the Minister's attention has been drawn to the report of the Expert Committee on export strategy for steel, of which I was the Chairman? If so, what action has been taken and what is the reaction? I was told at that time that due to depression in East Asia and South-East-Asia, no action was immediately taken. But now these economies have started reviving. So, something should be done and that report should be looked into...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DILIP RAY : I have not looked into it yet ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 45, Dr. Ashok Patel.

[Translation]

Indo-US Extradition Treaty

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* 45. DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement with regard to Extradition Treaty has been signed between India and U.S.A.;

(b) if so, the details of the Treaty; and

(c) the time by which the Treaty is likely to come into force?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the United States of America was signed on June 25, 1997.

- (b) The salient features of the Treaty are as follows:
- (i) The Treaty would provide for more effective cooperation between the two States in the suppression of crime, recognising that concrete steps are necessary to combat terrorism, including narco-terrorism and drug trafficking.
- (ii) The Treaty provides for extradition irrespective of whether an offence was committed before or after the entry into force of the Treaty.
- (iii) Under Article 2 of the Treaty an offence shall be an extraditable offence if it is punishable under the laws in both the contracting states by deprivation of liberty, including imprisonment for a period of more than one year or by a more severe penalty. An offence shall also be an extraditable offence if it consists of an attempt or a conspiracy to commit, aiding or abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of or being an accessory before or after the fact to an extraditable offence.
- (iv) Under Article 3 of the Treaty, extradition shall not be refused on the ground that the person sought is a national of the Requested State.
- (v) The Treaty contains provision for mutual assistance in criminal matters in connection with an offence for which extradition has been requested.
- (c) The Extradition Treaty came into force with effect from July 21, 1999.

[Translation]

DR. ASHOK PATEL : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the names of the countries other than America with whom the Extradition Treaty has been signed and is proposed to be signed to combat terrorism?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, we have such Extradition Treaty with 11 countries out of which 'Entry into force' clause has not come into operation in respect of two countries. Besides, the Extradition Treaty has been initiated with three other countries and verification in regard to giving final touches to the Treaty to be signed with 25 more countries is in progress. In addition to it, if you want, I can read out the names of those countries but I think it is not necessary to do so.

DR. ASHOK PATEL : Is it a fact that the number of terrorists has increased even though the Extradition Treaty to combat terrorism has been signed? If so, whether there is any proposal to take stringent measures to combat terrorism?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that the Extradition Treaty is not merely linked with the terrorists. It deals with other crimes too. The hon'ble Member has full information of the fact as to what measures the Government has been adopting to combat terrorism. However, this question is not related to the main question.

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know about the number of cases in which the terrorists have not been handed over to India even though the Extradition Treaty to combat terrorism exists with the concerned countries?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I can give you this information. As far as India and United States of America are concerned among the Extradition requests made by India to the United States of America, two cases are pending while in the case of remaining three, which India had desired extradition has been done. United States of America had requested India in 17 cases out of which three requests have been granted, one has been rejected by the Government and the proceedings are going on in the remaining cases.

[English]

SHRI R. L. BHATIA : Sir, when an extradition treaty is signed, we have certain offenders in mind who are residing in that country. May I know from the hon. Minister whether they are economic offenders, political offenders or terrorists for whom the US is a safe haven?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, as the hon. Member knows, extradition request can be on grounds of economic offences as also indeed of offences relating to terrorism etc. I can share with the hon. Member as also the rest of the House that there are extradition cases pending with the Government, without actually naming the people concerned, three are for murder, one each for criminal conspiracy and bank fraud. I hope I have answered your question.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA : Are terrorists from Punjab who have created so much of a problem residing in US? The US is a safe haven for them. Can you tell us if there are any terrorists from Punjab?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : If you want, I can share the names now. The names of the accused are R.S. Gill and Sukhvinder Singh. India sought their extradition in 1987. They are wanted for the murder of late General Vaidya and late Lalit Makan. This is still under the consideration of the US. In

November, 1994 India sought the extradition of Kulbir Singh who is wanted for murder. This request is still pending.

Daya Singh Lahoria and his wife Kanwaljit Kaur who is also known as Suman Sood wanted for murder, kidnapping and criminal conspiracy--you know the cases concerned--have been extradited as also Manubhai Barodia who was wanted for criminal conspiracy and bank fraud. These are the requests that have been acted upon.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any foreign national is arrested in our country for any activity, and if so, to which country they belong to?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I do not follow the question.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member is asking whether any foreign national has been arrested in India.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I can understand the hon. Member wanting to have this information.

I need a separate notice for this because this Question relates to extradition treaty.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want a clarification which has some relation to the question the hon. Member asked just now. We all agree that the most important point in this extradition treaty is that it would help us to combat terrorist activities. Now, if somebody commits an offence here in our country and takes shelter in US, then we can ask for extradition and vice-versa.

What I want to know is that, if a person, who is neither our citizen nor theirs, commits a crime in our country and goes and takes shelter in the US, can we ask for extradition? Or is it only between the two contracting countries and that we cannot ask for the extradition of any other national? I would like to be clarified.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I understand the point. Let me attempt to explain this. This Extradition Treaty between nations is really for extradition of nationals. Under article 3 of the Treaty, it is clear that extradition is not refused on the ground that the person sought is a national of the requested country. You have asked a question whether Third country nationals are covered if they seek refuge in the United States after committing a crime in India. Should there be any such instance, under the Treaty, India can ask for their extradition from the United States of America even if they ought to be Third country nationals?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, bomb blasts took place in Mumbai in 1993 in which more than two hundred fifty people were killed. Our hon'ble Minister is sitting here.

He had raised this issue in the House. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister what efforts are being made by the Government to bring back the fugitives like Dawood Ibrahim and his associates to Mumbai? Extradition Treaty exists between India and Dubai. Will Quattarochi be brought back to the India or not?

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : The second part does not really arise from this but I would like to answer the first part.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Members know that recently India has signed an Extradition Treaty with United Arab Emirates which has the same provisions in the treaty as with the United States of America. As soon the 'Entry into force' is ratified with United Arab Emirates, the proceedings of Extradition will surely be made applicable to them also.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : In the light of the hon. Minister's response to Shrimati Krishna Bose, may I enquire from him whether the Government of India has already started preparing the list of Pakistani nationals and others associated with the JKLF who are living in the United States of America and who have been boasting that they have been involved in terrorist activities, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, as also whether the Government of India has started preparing Lists of extradition requests that are still to be made, particularly in respect of Punjab terrorists who have either sought refuge in the United States of America or who are US nationals but have been involved in the terrorists activities in India? Are these lists under preparation; and if so, how soon can we expect the Government of India to forward these requests to the United States of America?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : About the second part, those who committed terrorists acts in Punjab and have now sought refuge in the United States of America, I have already clarified the situation. I would now respond to the first part as to whether the Government has prepared a list of persons coming from Pak-Occupied Kashmir or elsewhere, who have committed terrorist activities and who are boasting of committing acts of terrorism. The point here is, if they have committed a crime on the soil of India and if there is a case pending, extradition can certainly be sought. The list of Pakistani nationals or JKLF personnel living in the United States of America is actually to be prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The query as to whether such lists are under preparation or shall be prepared in subject, of course, to their having committed the crime in India. I do not want to go into the technicalities. This question ought to have been posed to the Home Ministry. If a crime has been committed and if there is a case pending if they have left India and sought shelter in America, then only action can be taken.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Under this Treaty, do the Americans accept PoK as the soil of India?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Under this Treaty, India is defined, as in the Constitution of India. It is not a question of who will interpret India. The United States has no option but to interpret India as we interpret.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : In that case, I would like to know whether your list includes PoK terrorists who are in USA.

Cold Storages for Fruits and Vegetables

*46 SHRI T. T. V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have made provisions in the current year's Budget for construction of cold storages for storing fruits and vegetables in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the places in Tamil Nadu where such cold storages are proposed to be constructed?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Horticulture Board (NHB) has been implementing a Scheme of Integrated Project on Management of Post Harvest Infrastructure of Horticultural Crops under which financial assistance in the form of soft loan is provided for creation of post harvest infrastructure facilities including pre-cooling units/cool store and cold storages. There is a provision of Rs. 9 crores for this Scheme for the current financial year. Besides this Scheme, there is a Scheme for Development of Infrastructural Facilities, which is being implemented by the Department of Food Processing Industries (DFPI), with a provision of Rs. 16.5 crores for the current financial years. One of the components of the Scheme is to provide financial assistance for establishment of cold chain facilities and cold storages from horticulture produce and other items. The National Cooperative Development Corporation has made a provision of Rs. 4 crores for the current year for establishment of cold storages in the cooperative sector. In order to give a major thrust to the development of cold storages and storages, Government have recently approved a Scheme of Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce with an allocation of Rs. 45 crores for the year 1999-2000. This Scheme will be implemented by the National Horticulture Board. The assistance under these schemes is project based, and therefore, State-wise allocations are not required to be

made. After the introduction of the Scheme of Capital Investment Subsidy, the cold storage component will be excluded from the on-going schemes of NHB and DFPI.

(c) The Schemes mentioned in the Statement do not envisage construction of cold storages by the Government. The places in which cold storages will be set up in Tamil Nadu will depend upon the choice of the promoters.

SHRI T. T. V. DHINAKARAN : Sir, in the answer to my question, the hon. Minister has stated that the places in which storages will be set up in Tamil Nadu will depend on the choice of the promoters. I want to know what would be the promoters contribution.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the contribution of promoters will be 25 per cent while the share of government subsidy will also be 25 per cent. 50 per cent loan can be taken from the Commercial Banks.

[English]

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : In my original notice to this question, I had specifically asked about the construction of cold storage in my constituency, namely, Periyakulam near Madurai in Tamil Nadu. High quantities of mangoes and grapes are perishing every year in places like Periyakulam, Kambam and Theni. I would like to know whether the Government would consider constructing cold storages in my constituency to save the fruits produced in that area.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : This is Capital Investment Subsidy scheme and there is no separate Statewise allocation and quota for it. It will depend on the will of the promoter. But the people would naturally like to establish cold storage at the production centres and especially at the major consumer centres. This assistance will be provided for that. It depends upon the promoters whether they approach the commercial banks to seek loans and take advantage of this scheme.

MAJ. GEN. (RET.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister might be knowing that there are several areas in India where promoters or even people do not have money. This problem is mainly centred in the hilly, backward and tribal areas of the country. It has been mentioned in Part (a) that the construction/expansion and modernisation of cold storage will be done by National Horticulture Board and in Part (c) it has been mentioned that the schemes do not envisage investment by the Government. I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon'ble Minister that there are many areas in India where industrialists or rich people do not live and hence cannot invest 25 per cent capital and start construction. In my area, a lot of produce which requires storage is thrown after it rots in

the absence of transportation and cold storage arrangements. Therefore if a uniform policy is drafted for India, it will not be successful. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he will formulate a specific policy separately for those areas where the problem of transportation and the lack of industrialists and rich people exists?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is a new scheme which is being implemented from this year. Earlier, this kind of scheme is used to run in many places. National Horticulture Board ran a scheme designated as 'Integrated Project on Management of Post Harvest Infrastructure of Horticulture Crops', and the 'Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities run by the Department of Food Processing Industries used to provide facilities for cold storage as component of the man scheme. N.C.D.C. used to provide finance directly for establishing cold storage under the co-operative sector. All these were separate schemes. This year a new scheme is being introduced under which not only the individuals but co-operatives, companies, corporations, partnerships and propriety firms, agriculture produce, marketing committees, Boards, Agro industries corporations, Growers associations and non-governmental organisation, will be covered. This scheme has a wide scope and the people can take advantage of it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri A.C. Jos, please ask a very pointed supplementary.

SHRI A. C. JOS : Sir, you are always calling me at the last moment. Sir, Kerela is famous for its flower cultivation. Anthurium and orchid are cultivated very widely in my State. Due to opening up of the International airport at Nedumbassery, there is a lot of scope for exports also.

The Minister was very kind to us in the Railways. There are very small flower cultivators. The Horticulture Board is doing pretty little to the State. My question is whether he will ask the Horticulture Board to establish small cold storages in villages of their own, so that these small cultivators can make use of those cold storages.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister may give a very pointed reply.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have already answered the question. There are several schemes.

SHRI A. C. JOS : The question is, private promoters cannot come there. So, the Horticulture Board has to come there and start it.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has understood it very well. Please take your seat.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The Horticulture Board has a

scheme earlier. NCDC used to promote it in the cooperative sector. Now everything has been merged into one scheme.

SHRI A. C. JOS : It is not percolating to Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER : You have asked a supplementary question. Why are you obstructing the Minister?

SHRI A. C. JOS : It is because evasive answers are given.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am not evading anything.

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow the Minister to give reply.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It does not relate to the Horticulture Board. The Government has decided to integrate all such schemes. Now it has come forward with capital investment subsidy scheme. The target is for storing 12 lakh tonnes new capacity creation. We will rehabilitate and modernise 8 lakh tonnes capacity and also create 4.5 lakh tonnes of additional capacity for onion storage. This is a scheme with a particular reference. Anybody can take help from this scheme.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, you can get a chance tomorrow. Please take your seat.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

De-Escalation of Tension between India and Pak

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

(a) whether the new Pakistan Chief Executive has offered to de-escalate tension between the two countries particularly to curb cross-border terrorism in J & K;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether he has placed Kashmir issue on top of the bilateral issues to be sorted out with India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps proposed to be taken in this direction; and

(f) the reaction and response of the Indian Government thereto?

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 in India has continued. Pakistani forces have also continued firing across the Line of Control and the International Border in Jammu & Kashmir. Pakistan has also made no moves to withdraw troops from the Line of Control where they had been inducted in large numbers during its armed intrusion and aggression in the Kargil sector.

Statements by Pakistani spokesman including General Parvez Musharraf indicate that Pakistan's assertion of territorial claims in Jammu & Kashmir continue. The State of Jammu & Kashmir 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 resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan in accordance 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.

Space Projects

*47. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has initiated any preliminary study to assess the feasibility of undertaking a mission to the moon;

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

(c) other space research activities being undertaken by the Indian scientists in addition to satellite launching?

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 DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Preliminary Studies have been undertaken by ISRO to examine the scientific aspects and feasibility of undertaking a mission to the Moon. These studies are primarily related to examination of possible scientific objectives, conceptualisation of mission involving the spacecraft and the feasibility of using Indian launch vehicles to launch such a spacecraft in to lunar orbit.

(c) In addition to satellite launching, Indian

scientists are engaged in space research activities using ground based facilities including observatories for studies in astronomy and astrophysics, planetary atmospheres and aeronomy, earth sciences and solar studies and theoretical physics. Studies are also undertaken in the Earth's atmosphere using sounding rockets and other premier facilities like Mesosphere-Stratosphere-Troposphere Radar. Research activities are also undertaken to contribute to international scientific campaigns like Geosphere-Biosphere-Programme, Indian Ocean Experiment (INDOEX) and Solar Terrestrial Energy Programme.

Losses Suffered by SAIL

*48. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "How a PSU nosedived from Rs. 1,300 crore profit to Rs. 1,573 crore losses" appearing in the Indian Express dated September 2, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and details of losses suffered by each of the subsidiaries of SAIL during the last three years; and

(c) the reaction of the Government and the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to bring SAIL out of the red?

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

(b) The newspaper item contains certain factual inaccuracies. SAIL has created an additional capacity of only 1.462 million tonnes of Crude Steel after the modernisation of Durgapur, Bokaro and Rourkela Steel Plants. Further, the investment made for the modernisation of Rourkela and Durgapur Steel Plants is about Rs. 9027 crores. Also, the projected demand for 38.88 million tonnes (not 37 million tonnes) is for the year 2001-02. However, it is correct to say that SAIL suffered a loss of Rs. 610.00 crores during the first quarter of 1999-2000.

The details of losses by each of SAIL's subsidiaries during the last three years are as follows :

Year	Profit/Loss(-) after Tax		
	IISCO	VISL*	MEL
1996-97	(-)213	(-)102	(-)1.6
1997-98	(-)395	(-) 84	(-) 1.5
1998-99	(-)357		*(-)11.1

*merged with SAIL w.e.f 1.4.1998

(Rs./Crores)

(c) Government has been in constant dialogue with SAIL and has been periodically reviewing its performance with a view to increasing its competitiveness and efficiency. Accordingly, SAIL has drawn up a comprehensive financial and business restructuring plan to turn around the Company and to ensure its long term viability. The measures outlined in this 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) Restructuring of assets;
- (vi) Disposal of idle assets; and
- (vii) Financial restructuring.

Blue Print on Information Technology

*49. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have prepared any blue print on the Information Technology; and
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Recognising the significant developments taking place in the area of Information Technology (IT) worldwide for catalyzing economic activity and electronic governance, the Government of India has set up the Ministry of Information Technology on 15.10.1999. This Ministry will facilitate all the initiatives in the IT sector including Internet, e-commerce, IT education and IT based education. The Government of India, Allocation of Business Rules in this regard are given in the attached statement.

The Government has accepted the first report of the National IT Task Force outlining 108 recommendations of the IT Action Plan. These recommendations suggest measures and policies covering a wide spectrum of issues relating to telecommunications, finance, banking, revenue, commerce, electronics, HRD, defence and rural development to enable India to emerge as an Information Technology superpower within the next ten years. A target of software exports of US\$ 50 billion by the year 2008 has been set. The Task Force has also recommended a goal of "IT for All" by

2008 in India. The second and third report of the Task Force address the issues and strategy for development of hardware industry, R&D in the area of IT, manpower training and education.

All Government Departments are required to spend 2-3% of their budget towards implementation of IT. To induce more investment in R&D in computers, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or institution or a scientific research association for the purpose of scientific, social or statistical research has been provided.

Many States of India have drawn up comprehensive IT plans and have come out with IT policies which will help in creating a conducive environment for high growth-high-tech industries.

Penetration of Personal Computers (PC) in the country at present is slightly more than 3 per 1000 persons. The target is to increase the PC penetration to 20 per 1000 by the year 2008. To push the demand of PCs in the country, depreciation on computers has been increased to 60%.

Government has implemented Internet Service Providers (ISPs) Policy. ISPs will be allowed to set up International Gateways. To provide the legal framework for transaction on internet and e-commerce, Information Technology Bill, 1999 is proposed to be introduced in the current session of Parliament. Such a legal framework will facilitate and give a fillip to the e-commerce activities in the country.

Government of India has formed a venture capital fund in association with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Industrial Bank of India (IDBI) and Industry for the IT industry particularly for small and medium enterprises. The IT industry as a whole, will be benefited by such a fund.

Statement

The Govt. of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 for Ministry of Information Technology

1. Policy matters relating to information technology.
2. Promotion of knowledge-based enterprises.
3. Development of electronics and coordination amongst its various users.
4. All matters relating to the personnel under the control of the Ministry.
5. Coordination of requirements relating to electronics processing equipment (computers).
6. All matters pertaining to silicon facility.

7. All matters concerning computer based information, technology and processing including hardware and software, standardization of procedures and matters relevant to international bodies such as IFF, IBI, ICC.
8. Promotion of the internet.
9. Promotion of E-commerce.
10. Promotion of information technology education and information technology-based education.
11. National Informatics Centre.
12. Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council.

[Translation]

Import of Duty-Free Milk Powder

*50. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI G. PUTTASWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have decided to allow duty-free import of ten thousand tonnes of skimmed milk powder;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (c) whether the Government are aware that due to subsidy being provided for milk production in foreign countries the imported milk powder is available at cheaper rates and this would adversely affect the domestic industry;
- (d) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government proposed to stop import or levy more taxes on the imported milk powder; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) At present, the tariff rate of duty of Skimmed Milk Powder is bound at Nil. As such import of Skimmed Milk Powder does not attract any custom duty, irrespective of the quantity of import.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) The Government is already in the process of negotiations with the concerned trading partners for enhancement of tariff bindings on this item.

[English]

Flood Forecasting

*51. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Water Commission has issued flood forecast during the year 1998-99;
- (b) if so, the extent to which it helped the State Governments to protect the flood-affected people during the period; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Water Commission had issued 7943 and 6511 flood forecast messages during the monsoon of 1998 and 1999 respectively which had helped the State Governments to take timely action to save life and property in a planned manner. State Governments of Andhra Pradesh; Assam; Bihar; Gujarat; Maharashtra and West Bengal have expressed their satisfaction for the services of flood forecasting rendered by Central Water Commission and requested them to continue the services. State Governments have not reported undertaking any quantitative assessment of the extent of help to the flood affected people resulting from the forecast.

(c) Does not arise.

National Commission on Natural Disasters

*52. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Disaster Mitigation Institute has suggested the setting up of a national commission on natural disasters and emergencies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Disaster Mitigation Institute, Ahmedabad has suggested constitution of a National Commission of Natural Disasters and Emergencies with focussed terms of reference to completely revamp the relief, rehabilitation, recovery and mitigation administration and structures to match the challenge ahead.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

[Translation]

MPLADS

*53. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints from the Members of Parliament regarding the slow pace of implementation of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme;

(b) whether the Government have ascertained the reasons for the slow progress in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to set up a Special Cell at district level to monitor the faster pace of implementation of these schemes;

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the completion of this scheme; and

(e) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the main reasons for slow pace of progress are delay in recommendations for works by some MPs, frequent changes in the recommendations, processing of works by Collectors only after receipt of funds by Governments of India, etc. On occasions, when the model code of conduct is in operation, funds cannot be released.

(c) The Guidelines contain sufficient provisions for monitoring, by the State Government, of the scheme at the District, at field level as well as at the Headquarters. There is no proposal, at present under consideration of the Government for setting up special cells at Districts levels to monitor the scheme.

(d) and (e) Recently, the Government have taken a number of steps to expedite the pace of progress under the scheme, namely, advice to District Collectors to process and sanction works recommended by MPs to the extent of their yearly entitlement of funds, request to MPs to give recommendation well in advance in a phased manner, not to cancel works which have already been sanctioned, and request to all the State Governments to expedite the works under the scheme and monitor the same.

[English]

Shortage of Food in Orissa

*54. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of cyclone affected people in the State of Orissa have died due to starvation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether both State and Union Governments are unable to provide timely help to the victims;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the people are still in shortage of food and there is a fear of epidemic; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government to deal with the precarious situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) As per information received from the Government of Orissa, no one died in the cyclone affected areas due to starvation.

(c) No, Sir. The Government of India and the State Government have taken all steps to provide timely help to the affected population.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Underground Water

*55. SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States, particularly Bihar and Maharashtra are facing scarcity of drinking water due to depletion of ground water table in recent years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to extend financial and technical assistance to the State Governments to cope up with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) A long-term analysis of ground water levels for the year 1980 to 1999 indicates decline in ground water levels by more than 4 metres in some States affecting the availability of drinking water. The districts showing fall of more than 4 metres in ground water levels in various States is shown in the enclosed statement. According to the information received from Government of Bihar, the decline in ground water levels has not affected the availability of drinking water.

(b) The Government have taken the following steps to provide technical and financial assistance to State Governments to cope up with the situation :-

- i. A manual on artificial recharge of ground water has been prepared and circulated to all the State Governments and Union Territories including Maharashtra and Bihar for their guidance in formulating ground water recharging schemes.
- ii. A Model Bill has been prepared and circulated by the Ministry of Water Resources to all the State Governments/Union Territories to regulate and control the development of ground water.
- iii. Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 to regulate, control and manage ground water development.
- iv. Providing assistance, financial and technical, for safe drinking water facilities under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme of the Department of Drinking Water Supply.
- v. Providing assistance, financial and technical, for providing drinking water facilities in urban areas under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme of the Ministry of Urban Development.
- vi. The Central Ground Water Board in association with the State Governments has undertaken a Central Sector Scheme at a cost of Rs. 25.00 crore for artificial recharge of ground water.
- vii. In-situ water conservation and recharge measures under implementation by Ministry of Agriculture include National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR), Watershed Management in areas of Shifting Cultivation. The Ministry of Rural Development is also implementing watershed schemes under Drought Prone Areas Programme and Desert Development Programme. The watershed development programmes raise the ground water level.

Statement

Name of the State/District showing pockets with fall in ground water level of more than 4 metres (1980-99)

State	Districts
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	Shrikakulam, Chittoor
Maharashtra	Akola, Nagpur, Jalgaon, Osmanabad, Aurangabad, Sangli, Satara, Buldhana, Amravati

1	2
Punjab	Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ferozpur, Ludhiana, Patiala, Sangrur, Faridkot, Fatehgarh
Haryana	Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Mahendragarh, Jind
Uttar Pradesh	Gonda, Farukhabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Fetehpur, Allahabad, Banda, Nainital
Bihar	East Singhbhum, Ranchi, Samastipur, Chapra, Dharbanga
West Bengal	Purulia, Midnapur
Orissa	Koraput, Mayurbhanj
Rajasthan	Nagaur, Bikaner, Jaipur
Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain, Dewas, Shajahanpur, Dhar, Sagar, Bilaspur, Raipur, Surguja, Guna, Narsinghpur
Karnataka	Bijapur, Belgaum, Dharwar, Bellari, Shimoga, Bangalore, Mysore, Gulbarga
Tamil Nadu	Salem, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tanjavour, Paddukottai, Kamraj, Thirunaganar, North Kannada

[English]

Recruiting Agencies

*56. SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of licensed agencies, who are involved in recruitment of unemployed youths to foreign countries, State-wise;

(b) whether several complaints have been received during last one year from various quarters regarding extortion of money from the unemployed persons;

(c) if so, the action taken against such recruiting agencies; and

(d) the guidelines issued to keep a check on these agencies who are involved in recruitment of persons for jobs in abroad?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) Out of 3150 agencies which have been issued registration certificates so far for the purpose of making

recruitment of Indian workers for placement with foreign employers, only 1139 agencies are presently working with valid registration certificates. The State-wise details of these agencies are as under:

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of agencies
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35
2.	Chandigarh	17
3.	Delhi	198
4.	Goa	14
5.	Gujarat	06
6.	Haryana	03
7.	Himachal Pradesh	02
8.	Karnataka	18
9.	Kerala	131
10.	Madhya Pradesh	01
11.	Orissa	01
12.	Punjab	29
13.	Rajasthan	14
14.	Tamil Nadu	135
15.	Uttar Pradesh	04
16.	West Bengal	03
17.	Maharashtra	528
Total		1139

(b) and (c) Since January, 1999 complaints have been received against 52 registered recruiting agents. These complaints were received both from the emigrant workers and intending emigrants.

Complaints from the emigrant workers included delayed/non-payment of wages by the foreign employers, payment of wages less than what was initially offered, non-availability of adequate facilities of accommodation and food, collection of service charges in excess of what is prescribed by the Government etc. Immediately on receipt of such complaints, the concerned Indian Missions were requested to take up the matter with the foreign employers and in many cases the grievances were redressed. Simultaneously, the recruiting agents were also directed to get in touch with their sponsors and redress the difficulty of the workers.

Complaints from the intending emigrants mostly related

to collection of money by the registered agents in excess of what is prescribed by the Government and not sending the workers for placement abroad even after collection of service charges. In such cases, show-cause notices were issued. Both the complaints as well as the registered recruiting agents were directed to appear before the Protector-General of Emigrants. In majority of the cases, the complaints were settled. In cases in which registered recruiting agents did not follow the directions of the Protector-General of Emigrants, action was taken to suspend/cancel the registration certificates. During 1999, registration certificates of six recruiting agents were suspended.

(d) Detailed guidelines have been issued to the State Governments to issue instructions right upto the police station level for keeping a check on the activities of the unregistered agents involved in making recruitment of workers for overseas employment.

In the case of registered recruiting agents, action for suspension/cancellation of the registration certificates is taken in the event of it being established that they have violated the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983.

Indians in Foreign Jails

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

(a) the number of Indians in foreign jails awaiting their release after their completion of period of imprisonment, country-wise; and

(b) the action taken by the Government to get their release as they are continuing in jail for no fault of theirs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) As per information available with the Government, the number of Indian prisoners in foreign jails, awaiting their release, after completion of their jail term is as under:

United Arab Emirates	228
Jordan	10
Bangladesh	24
Malaysia	303

The Indians who continue to be in jail beyond their term, belonging to one of the following categories:

- Illegal immigrants awaiting deportation;
- persons, whose release is linked to payment of blood money to victims;
- persons whose release is conditional upon issue of a decree from the local government.

(b) In such cases, the Consular Officer of the concerned Indian Mission/Post visits the detained persons, ascertains the reasons of non-release, and renders appropriate assistance, such as provision of travel documents, arranging air-tickets through family/relatives/friends etc. Where necessary, the Missions take up the matter with the family for payment of blood money, or with the host government for remission of the penalty of blood money or for issue of a decree/document for release.

ISI Activities in India

*58. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have registered their protest in various international fora or had expressed its reaction to Pakistan regarding disturbances created in various parts of the country and the interference in the internal matters of the country by the inter-services Intelligence of Pakistan during the last three years, till-date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) 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. These concerns have also been conveyed to Pakistan during bilateral discussions at all levels. The facts regarding Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism have also been brought before international fora and raised by us in high level bilateral discussions with world leaders. The international community now openly 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.

Employment Opportunities

*59. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employment opportunities created during the current financial year as a result of the new economic reforms;

(b) the total number of jobs likely to be created during the next financial year; and

(c) steps being taken by the Government to augment employment opportunities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) Assessment of employment and un-

employment situation in the country is made through the labour force surveys carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) once in five years. Last such survey was carried out during 1993-94. The results of the survey shows that the addition to employment during 1987-88 to 1993-94 was of the order of 43.91 million on usual principal status basis (status is decided on the basis of the principal activity during the last 365 days) implying an average rate of growth of 2.37% per annum and indicating an average addition of about 7.3 million employment opportunities per annum. As per an assessment carried out by the Planning Commission, the employment, as per usual status, for age group fifteen years and above is expected to grow at 2.44% per annum during the Ninth Plan.

The primary objective of the Ninth Plan is to generate greater productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive in regions characterised by higher rate of unemployment and under employment. The Ninth Plan recognised the high incidence of unemployment and increasing casualisation of labour and adopted a National Employment Assurance Scheme. A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia, Member, Planning Commission has been set up to look into the employment generation taking place and suggest measures to generate at least one hundred million job in a period of 10 years (Ten million in each year).

[Translation]

Review of Nuclear Policy

*60. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the nuclear policy in view of the policies of military rulers in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of various countries in regard to the new nuclear policy declared recently; and

(d) the latest position in regard to CTBT and the attitude to be adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a), (b) and (c) The main elements of the Government's nuclear policy have been laid out in previous statements, including by the Prime Minister in December 1998 before Parliament. These remain valid despite recent developments in the region.

(d) India's position on the CTBT was articulated by the Prime Minister in the UN General Assembly in September 1998 and in Parliament in December 1998. This was reiterated by the External Affairs Minister at the UN General Assembly in September 1999. That remains the Government's position. Discussions on a range of issues, including the CTBT, are in process with our key interlocutors. The Government remains ready to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion. Naturally, this requires the creation of a positive environment as we work towards creating the widest possible consensus domestically. We also expect that other countries shall adhere to this Treaty without any conditions.

Irrigated Land

411. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 70 percent of agriculture land is still lying unirrigated in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the percentage of irrigated land in several States particularly in Maharashtra is very low as compared to the national level;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the extent to which the irrigation capacity is lying unutilised due to inland river water dispute; and

(f) the efforts being made by the Government to increase the percentage of irrigated land in such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) As per assessment made by Ministry of Agriculture, the percentage of Net Irrigated Area to Net Sown Area in the country at the end of the year 1995-96 is about 37.6% (provisional).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) State-wise percentage of irrigated land is given in enclosed Statement.

(e) As per assessment made by Central Water Commission, an irrigation potential of about 2609 thousand hectares remains locked up in the country due to inland river water dispute.

(f) Keeping in view the need to cover additional areas under irrigation, the Government has taken/proposed to take various policy and programme initiatives. These include revision of National Water Policy (1987), Command Area Development Programme, preparation of National Perspectives for transfer of water from surplus basins to water

deficit areas, water management practices, promoting efficient and economic use of water for various purposes, emphasis on water conservation through various methods including use of latest technologies and peoples' participation in management of water for diverse uses. Besides, the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) has one of the strategies of irrigation development to complete all on-going projects, particularly those which were started during pre-Fifth and Fifth Plan period as a time-bound programme to yield benefits from the investments already made. In keeping with the strategy, additional areas will be covered under irrigation facilities through expeditious completion of selected on-going major and medium irrigation and multipurpose projects for which Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) launched by Govt. of India in 1996-97 is being continued in the Ninth Plan. The revised funding pattern under AIBP with effect from current financial year is in the form of Central Loan Assistance (CLA) on 2:1 (Centre:State) basis for general category States and in 3:1 ratio for special category States of North-Eastern Region, Hilly States of J&K, HP and Sikkim as well as for drought prone KBK districts of Orissa. Minor irrigation schemes (both new and on-going) of special category States are also being given CLA 3:1 (Centre:State) basis with effect from the current financial year.

Statement

State-wise Net Irrigated Area (NIA), Net Sown Area (NSA) and Percentage of NIA to NSA

(in thousand hectares)				
Sl. No.	States	Net Sown Area (NSA)	Net Irrg. Area (NIA)	% of NIA to NSA
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10637	4123	38.76
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	185	36	19.46
3.	Assam	2780	572	20.57
4.	Bihar	7321	3680	50.27
5.	Goa	139	23	16.55
6.	Gujarat	9609	3002	31.24
7.	Haryana	3586	2761	76.99
8.	Himachal Pradesh	568	101	17.78
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	734	386	52.59

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Karnataka	10420	2302	22.09
11.	Kerala	2265	342	15.10
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19752	5928	30.01
13.	Maharashtra	17911	2567	14.33
14.	Manipur	140	65	46.43
15.	Meghalaya	206	45	21.84
16.	Mizoram	109	7	6.42
17.	Nagaland	211	62	29.38
18.	Orissa	6210	2090	33.65
19.	Punjab	4139	3847	92.94
20.	Rajasthan	16575	5232	31.56
21.	Sikkim	95	16	16.84
22.	Tamil Nadu	5342	2625	49.14
23.	Tripura	277	35	12.64
24.	Uttar Pradesh	17399	11675	67.10
25.	West Bengal	5462	1911	34.99
Total States		142072	53433	37.61
Total UTs		143	75	52.45
Grand Total		142215	53508	37.62

Note Figures are as per Land Use Statistics brought out by Ministry of Agriculture for 1995-96 (Latest) and are Provisional.

[English]

Agro and Rural Industries

412. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- whether the Union Government have drawn a list of Agro and Rural Industries entitled to various benefits/concessions and loans in the Union Territory of Chandigarh;
- if so, the details thereof;
- the total number of beneficiaries and the total amount of loans granted under each category; and
- the number of applications pending for this purpose?

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 DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) extends the benefits/concessions to viable agro and rural industries projects like Bee-Keeping, Ghani Oil, Gur & Khandhari, Processing of Cereals and Pulses, Palmgur, Fruit Processing etc.

The Ministry of Food Processing industries implements Plans Schemes for the development of the Processed Food Sector. Under these schemes financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grants is provided to cooperatives, non-governmental organisations, public sector undertakings and private industries. The quantum of assistance varies from scheme to scheme. These schemes are project oriented and not Union Territory/State specific.

(c) Under the KVIC programmes, there are 41 beneficiaries (20 for Processing of Cereals and Pulses, 15 for Fruit Processing and 6 for Fibre). The loans to the beneficiaries are granted by the Banks directly. However, the KVIC have provided Rs. 3.95 lakhs as interest subsidy under Interest Subsidy Eligibility Scheme for the year 1998-99.

Under the Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojna (PMRY), there are 31 beneficiaries and Rs. 35.16 lakhs have been sanctioned from 1.4.1999 to 30.9.1999.

(d) As far as the KVIC is concerned, no application under agro based industries is pending. Under PMRY, Agro and Allied activities are covered since 1.4.1999 and 27 applications are pending as on 30.9.1999.

Regularisation of Contract Workers

413. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- whether as per ruling of the Supreme Court that contract workers have a right to be absorbed into regular service after working for over 240 days a year in an establishment;
- if so, the details thereof;
- the action taken by the Government thereon;
- the number of contract workers in the

Government establishments and under the Community Polytechnics so far; and

(e) the date by which these contract workers are likely to be brought into regular service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (e) It appears the Hon'ble Members have drawn attention to the judgement of the Supreme Court in the case of Secretary, Haryana State Electricity Board vs. Suresh and others (JT 1999 (2) SC 439), where the court noticed that the Board as well as the contractor engaged by it were not registered and licensed as "Principal employer" and "the contractor" respectively under the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. The Court also noticed that the contractor was a mere name lender and had procured labour for the Board from the open market. He was almost a broker or an agent of the Board for that purpose. Therefore, the Court came to the conclusion that the so called contract system was a mere camouflage, and a smoke screen and disguised in almost a transparent veil which could easily be pierced and real contractual relationship between the Board, on the one hand, and the employees, on the other, could be clearly visualised.

2. The ratio decidendi of the judgement is distinguishable inasmuch as it is made on a particular set of facts. Therefore, this principle, ipso facto, can not be said to confer a right on contract workers to claim regularisation in the establishment of the Principal Employer if he had worked for 240 days or more. The data regarding number of such contract workers in Government establishments etc. is not maintained centrally.

MSP of Kharif Crops

414. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minimum Support Price of Kharif Crops fixed this year by the Union Government kept up with the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Price;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have decided to universalise the prices of commodities for administrative reasons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) A statement showing Minimum Support Price (MSPs) recommended by CACP and announced by the Government of kharif crops for the 1999-2000 season is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The MSPs fixed by the Government are uniform for the whole country since it is felt that the uniform support price alone can lead to the efficient utilization of resources. This it does by encouraging greater investment and production in relatively low cost area, due to a higher margin of profit and by discouraging the production in high cost area. Moreover, uniform price encourages crop specialization and optimum use of nation's land and other resources on the basis of comparative advantage.

Statement

Minimum Support Prices recommended by CACP and announced by the Government of Kharif Crops for the 1999-2000 season

Commodity	(Rs. Per Quintal)	
	Recommended by CACP	Announced by Government
Paddy-Common	465	490
Paddy-Grade 'A'	495	520
Jowar	410	415
Bajra	410	415
Maize	410	415
Ragi	410	415
Tur (Arhar)	1100	1105
Moong	1100	1105
Urad	1100	1105
Groudnut-in-Shell	1150	1155
Soyabean (Black)	750	755
Soyabean (Yellow)	840	845
Sunflower Seed	1150	1155
Cotton (F-414/H-777)J-34	1550	1575
Cotton (H-4)	1750	1775
Tobacco (Rs. Per Kg.)		
(F2 grade black soil)	25.00	25.00
(L2 light soil)	27.00	27.00
Nigerseed	910	915
Sesamum	1200	1205

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects in Himachal Pradesh

415. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Irrigation Schemes/Projects being executed with the Central assistance in Himachal Pradesh alongwith the date of their commencement and likely date of their completion;

(b) whether these projects are being completed as per the time schedule; and

(c) If not, the reasons for delay and the efforts being made by the Government for their timely completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) Only one Project, namely, Shah Nehar Irrigation Project estimated to cost Rs. 143.32 crores with an ultimate irrigation potential of 24.76 thousand hectares is under execution with Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme in Himachal Pradesh. The works on Project were taken-up during 1997-98 and are scheduled to be completed by 2004. An expenditure of Rs. 25.17 crores has been incurred on the project upto March, 1999. An amount of Rs. 12.90 crores has been approved as outlay by the Working Group of Planning Commission for the year 1999-2000.

[English]

ESI Hospitals/Dispensaries

416. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industrial workers covered under employees' State Insurance scheme in Tamil Nadu and the percentage of increase in coverage taking place during the last three years;

(b) the number of ESI hospitals and dispensaries in Tamil Nadu, district-wise, as on date and those proposed to be set up during 1999;

(c) whether the Government propose to upgrade or modernise some of the hospitals/dispensaries in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) As on 31.3.99 there were 10,52,850 employees covered under the ESI Scheme in Tamil Nadu making an increase of 28.6% in coverage during the last three years.

(b) There are eight ESI hospitals i.e. one each at Ayyanavaram, Coimbatore, K.K. Nagar, Maduari, Vallore, Sivakasi, Salem and Hosur in Tamil Nadu. A Statement indicating details of ESI dispensaries location wise is attached. The ESI Corporation has sanctioned establishment of 14 new dispensaries in the State during 1999.

(c) and (d) In order to improve health care facilities in ESI hospitals/dispensaries, the ESIC has formulated an Action Plan and forwarded the same to State Governments including the Government of Tamil Nadu for implementation. The Action Plan includes inter-alia provision of modern equipment system in hospitals, availability of basic equipment in dispensaries, establishment of regional trauma centres, establishment of super speciality services, blood banks, cancer treatment centres, development of indigenous system of medicines etc. The Corporation has already sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1,00,75,000/- to the Government of Tamil Nadu to upgrade/modernise ESI medical facilities by providing equipments of Ultrasonography, Pulse Oximeter, Auto Analyser, Cardiac Monitor, Dental Unit etc.

Statement

List of ESI dispensaries in Tamil Nadu Region

Sl. No.	Name of dispensary
1	2
1.	ESI Dispensary, Tondiarpet-I
2.	ESI Dispensary, Tondiarpet-II
3.	ESI Dispensary, Perambur-I
4.	ESI Dispensary, Perambur-II
5.	ESI Dispensary, Perambur-III
6.	ESI Dispensary, Sembium
7.	ESI Dispensary, Kondithope-I
8.	ESI Dispensary, Kondithope-II
9.	ESI Dispensary, Kilpauk-I
10.	ESI Dispensary, Kilpauk-II
11.	ESI Dispensary, Choolai
12.	ESI Dispensary, Mount Road
13.	ESI Dispensary, Egmore
14.	ESI Dispensary, Triplicane
15.	ESI Dispensary, Villivakkam
16.	ESI Dispensary, Harbour

1	2
17.	ESI Dispensary, Adyar
18.	ESI Dispensary, Mylapore
19.	ESI Dispensary, Korattur
20.	ESI Dispensary, Tiruvethiyur-III
21.	ESI Dispensary, Kodambakkam
22.	ESI Dispensary, Nadambakkam
23.	ESI Dispensary, Thiruvethiyur-I
24.	ESI Dispensary, Thiruvethiyur-II
25.	ESI Dispensary, Avadi
26.	ESI Dispensary, Ambathur-I
27.	ESI Dispensary, Ambathur-II
28.	ESI Dispensary, Red Hills
29.	ESI Dispensary, Pellavaram
30.	ESI Dispensary, Tambaram
31.	ESI Dispensary, Saidapet-I
32.	ESI Dispensary, Saidapet-II
33.	ESI Dispensary, Tiruvellore
34.	ESI Dispensary, Minjur
35.	ESI Dispensary, Manali
36.	ESI Dispensary, Kodugaiyar
37.	ESI Dispensary, Gummidipeecudi
38.	ESI Dispensary, Poonamallee
39.	ESI Dispensary, M.M. Nagar
40.	ESI Dispensary, Neilkuppam
41.	ESI Dispensary, Vadalur
42.	ESI Dispensary, Pernambattu
43.	ESI Dispensary, Arkonam
44.	ESI Dispensary, Vellore
45.	ESI Dispensary, Vanlambadi
46.	ESI Dispensary, Ambur
47.	ESI Dispensary, Gudiatham
48.	ESI Dispensary, Ranipet

1	2
49.	ESI Dispensary, Melvisharam
50.	ESI Dispensary, Ami
51.	ESI Dispensary, Mettur Dam Upper
52.	ESI Dispensary, Mettur Dam Lower
53.	ESI Dispensary, Attur
54.	ESI Dispensary, Salem
55.	ESI Dispensary, Kumarapalayam
56.	ESI Dispensary, Konoor
57.	ESI Dispensary, Sakari
58.	ESI Dispensary, Salem II
59.	ESI Dispensary, Tiruchengeda
60.	ESI Dispensary, Pellipalayam
61.	ESI Dispensary, Ammapet
62.	ESI Dispensary, Ilampillai
63.	ESI Dispensary, Hosur
64.	ESI Dispensary, Krishanagiri
65.	ESI Dispensary, Dharmapuri
66.	ESI Dispensary, Ramjeenagar
67.	ESI Dispensary, Manaparai
68.	ESI Dispensary, Puthur
69.	ESI Dispensary, Thiruverumbur
70.	ESI Dispensary, Pulliyur
71.	ESI Dispensary, Karur
72.	ESI Dispensary, Viraimalai
73.	ESI Dispensary, Malaikovilur
74.	ESI Dispensary, Kumbakonam
75.	ESI Dispensary, Tanjore
76.	ESI Dispensary, Nagapattinam
77.	ESI Dispensary, Manalmedu
78.	ESI Dispensary, Myladuthurai
79.	ESI Dispensary, Pudukottai
80.	ESI Dispensary, Singanailur

1	2
81.	ESI Dispensary, Vellore
82.	ESI Dispensary, Uppilpalayam
83.	ESI Dispensary, Ondipudhur
84.	ESI Dispensary, Sowripalayam
85.	ESI Dispensary, Tiruppur-I
86.	ESI Dispensary, Udumalpet
87.	ESI Dispensary, Tudiyalur
88.	ESI Dispensary, RS Puram
89.	ESI Dispensary, Chinniapalayam
90.	ESI Dispensary, Karamadai
91.	ESI Dispensary, Ganapathi
92.	ESI Dispensary, Poddappampatti
93.	ESI Dispensary, Perianaickenpalayam
94.	ESI Dispensary, Ramanathapuram
95.	ESI Dispensary, Pappanaickenpalayam
96.	ESI Dispensary, Mettupalayam
97.	ESI Dispensary, Mettupalayam-II
98.	ESI Dispensary, Rajastreet
99.	ESI Dispensary, Podanur
100.	ESI Dispensary, Kattoor
101.	ESI Dispensary, Madathukulam
102.	ESI Dispensary, Palladam
103.	ESI Dispensary, Madhukkarai
104.	ESI Dispensary, Irugur
105.	ESI Dispensary, Kuniamuthur
106.	ESI Dispensary, Somanur
107.	ESI Dispensary, Peelamedu
108.	ESI Dispensary, Othakkalmandapam
109.	ESI Dispensary, Tiruppur-II
110.	ESI Dispensary, Sular
111.	ESI Dispensary, Pollachi
112.	ESI Dispensary, Naraapuram

1	2
113.	ESI Dispensary, Erode
114.	ESI Dispensary, Dharapuram
115.	ESI Dispensary, Tirunagar
116.	ESI Dispensary, Palanganatham
117.	ESI Dispensary, Ponnagaram
118.	ESI Dispensary, Tallakulam
119.	ESI Dispensary, Munichalai
120.	ESI Dispensary, Paravai
121.	ESI Dispensary, Maninagaram
122.	ESI Dispensary, Theni
123.	ESI Dispensary, Melur
124.	ESI Dispensary, Tirumangalam
125.	ESI Dispensary, Dindigul
126.	ESI Dispensary, Begumpur
127.	ESI Dispensary, Neikarapatti
128.	ESI Dispensary, Palani
129.	ESI Dispensary, Kulathur
130.	ESI Dispensary, Sivakasi
131.	ESI Dispensary, Thailpatti
132.	ESI Dispensary, Rajapalayam
133.	ESI Dispensary, Thiruthangal
134.	ESI Dispensary, Srivilliputhur
135.	ESI Dispensary, Sattur
136.	ESI Dispensary, Virudhunagar
137.	ESI Dispensary, Rajakambeeram
138.	ESI Dispensary, Tirupuvanam
139.	ESI Dispensary, Tuticorin
140.	ESI Dispensary, Koilpatti
141.	ESI Dispensary, Arumuganeri
142.	ESI Dispensary, Ettaupuram
143.	ESI Dispensary, Vickiamasingapuram
144.	ESI Dispensary, Shenootah

1	2
145.	ESI Dispensary, Thalayuthu
146.	ESI Dispensary, Pettai
147.	ESI Dispensary, Tirunelveli
148.	ESI Dispensary, Ambasamudram
149.	ESI Dispensary, Sankarankoil
150.	ESI Dispensary, Nagarcoil
151.	ESI Dispensary, Aralvoymozhi
152.	ESI Dispensary, Cothakanandolam
153.	ESI Dispensary, Ranipat Utilisation
154.	ESI Dispensary, Dalmiapuram Dispensary
155.	ESI Dispensary, Ayanavaram (Tank Road) Mobile
156.	ESI Dispensary, Singanallur : Dispensary
157.	ESI Dispensary, Udumalpet (Dhall Road):
158.	ESI Dispensary, Salem Karakara
159.	ESI Dispensary, Trichy
160.	ESI Dispensary, Tirunelveli

Flood Control

417. DR. JAYANT RONGPI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Assam for controlling the flood and prevent the soil erosion caused by Dhansiri River in the State; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BHOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Union Government have approved two schemes for protection of different reaches from the erosion of river Dhansiri; Phase-I and II, costing Rs. 6.37 crore at Assam-Nagaland border in Karbi-Anglong district of Assam. These schemes are to be implemented by the Government of Assam from the funds allocated under State Flood Control Sector by the Planning Commission.

Power Production

418. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to

sluggish execution of nuclear power projects, it is impossible to achieve the target of adding 7880 megawatts by the end of 2000; and

(b) if so, fresh steps taken by the Government for timebound completion of nuclear power projects in order to achieve the target?

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) There has been no sluggishness in the execution of the Nuclear Power Projects. The Government of India has been pursuing its Nuclear Power Programme with a view to developing and utilising nuclear power as an inevitable option in the long term perspective. The programme is founded on a vision set out covering a long period of time and in relation to the resources available. A Nuclear Power Profile envisaging setting up of a total installed capacity of 10,000 MWe by 2000 AD was accordingly drawn up in 1984. However, the programme had to be scaled down subsequently keeping in view the resource constraints in financing the programme. In order to achieve the objective of the nuclear power profile, financial outlay of Rs. 15,125 crores was proposed during the 8th Five Year Plan. However, due to financial resource constraints, outlay approved was only Rs. 4261 crores. Out of the approved outlay, the budgetary support from the Government approved for the entire 8th Five Year Plan period was only Rs. 761 crores and the balance was to be mobilised through Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR). In view of this, the targets, envisaged thereof could not be achieved.

(b) The steps taken to ensure timely completion of the Projects include : (i) increased Government budgetary support to the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. For IXth Plan, total approved outlay is Rs. 5187.43 crores as against VIIIth Plan outlay of Rs. 4261 crores, (ii) standardising the designs, modular construction and resorting to modern techniques of project monitoring and implementation, (iii) enhancing the scope of Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) packages, (iv) Obtaining clearance from regulatory authorities well in time, (v) employing better management techniques etc.

Transponders on INSAT 3-B

419. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to make available one of the Transponders on the INSAT-3B Satellite;

- (b) if so, the details and purpose thereof;
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) had written to the Union Government to make one of the Extended-C band transponders on the INSAT-3B satellite available for high bandwidth communication for socially relevant programmes like distance education, training of stakeholder organisations, apart from dissemination of public domain information of the A.P. Government.

(c) Discussions have been initiated between Andhra Pradesh Government, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad and Department of Space/Indian Space Research Organisation for preparation of a detailed technical proposal.

(d) INSAT-3B is slated for launch in the first quarter of 2000. After its operationalisation the transponders will be allocated among the applicants.

New Agriculture Insurance Scheme

420. SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Andhra Pradesh Government to make the number of changes on the proposed new Agriculture Insurance Scheme known as Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Union Government propose to take financial decision on this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Andhra Pradesh Government has suggested the following changes :-

1. The sharing pattern between Government of India and State Government should be continued as 2:1.

2. The creation of 'Corpus Fund' is not justifiable and may be dropped.

3. Administrative expenditure of GIC should be borne by the Government of India.

4. The expenditure on crop cutting experiments and other incidental expenditure should also be shared between Government of India and State Government in the ratio of 2:1.

5. The sunset arrangements for taking away the benefit of subsidised premium to small and marginal farmers need reconsideration.

(c) The suggestions given by the Government of Andhra Pradesh would be considered at the time of review of the scheme.

Production of Pineapple

421. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) the total production of pineapple in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to formulate any scheme for increasing the production of pineapple; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):(a) The total production of pineapple in the country during 1997-98 is as follows :-

Sl. No.	State	Production (000 metric tonnes)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	29.40
2.	Assam	217.27
3.	Kerala	46.71
4.	Manipur	66.00
5.	Meghalaya	90.00
6.	West Bengal	246.78
7.	Others	250.57
Total		946.73

(b) and (c) The Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on 'Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits' under which assistance is being provided

for improving production and productivity of fruit crops including pineapple through various measures such as supply of quality planting material, rejuvenation of senile orchards, training of farmers and area expansion.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra

422. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to open new 'Krishi Vigyan Kendra' in the country; and

(b) If so, the details thereof with their locations?

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

(b) The Council is considering to strengthen 53 Zonal Agricultural Research Station (ZARS) to take up the additional functions of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) for those districts where there is no KVK. (list given in Statement-I)

In addition to this, the Council has identified 25 districts for establishments of new KVKs. (list given in Statement-II)

Statement-I

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

				Phase -I
S. No.	State	No. of Districts Identified	Name of University/Institute	Districts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	ANGRAU Hyderabad	1. Nellore
2.	Assam	2	AAU Jorhat	2. Naogaon (Shillongani) 3. Karbi Anglong (Diphu)
3.	Bihar	2	RAU, Pusa BAU, Ranchi	4. Rohtas (Bikragan)] 5. Santhal Pargana (Dumka)
4.	Himachal Pradesh	1	HPKVV, Palampur	6. Lahaul and Spiti (Kumukumseri)
5.	Karnataka	4	UAS, Bangalore	7. Shimoga 8. Tumkur 9. Mandya
6.	Kerala	1	UAS, Dharwad KAU, Thrissur	10. Gulbarga 11. Kottayam
7.	Madhya Pradesh	2	JNKVV, Jabalpur	12. Morena 13. Hoshangabad
8.	Maharashtra	3	PKV, Akola	14. Yavatmal 15. Chandrapur (Sindewahi)
9.	Orissa	1	KKV, Dapoli OUAT, Bhubneshwar	16. Raigad Roha (Karjat) 17. Bhadrak
10.	Tamil Nadu	1	TNAU, Coimbatore	18. Kanyakumari
11.	Uttar Pradesh	1	GBPUAT, Pantnagar	19. Nainital (Majhera)
12.	West Bengal	1	BCKVV, Mohanpur	20. Coochbehar

*Districts identified for strengthening of Zonal Research Stations (ZRS)
to take the Additional Functions of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)*

Phase -II

S. No.	State	No. of Districts Identified	Name of University/ Institute	Districts
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	ANGRAU Hyderabad	1. Prakasam
2				2. Adilabad
	Assam	4	AAU Jorhat	3. Lakhimpur
				4. Karimganj
				5. Kamrup
				6. Tinsukia
3	Bihar	1	RAU, Pusa	7. Bhagalpur (Sabour)
4.	Gujarat	3	GAU	8. Surat(Vyara)
				9. Rajkot (Targhadia)
				10. Junagarh
5	Himachal Pradesh	2	HPKVV, Palampur	11. Bilaspur
			YSPUH & P	12. Kundaghat (Solan)
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	SKU & AT	13. Kargil
7.	Karnataka	4	UAS, Bangalore	14. Bangalore (R)
				15. Chitradurga (Hessarghatta)
			UAS, Dharwad	16. Uttar Kannada (Sirsi)
				17. Bijapur
8.	Kerala	1	CPCRI, Kasargod	18. Allepey
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2	JNKVV, Jabalpur	19. West Nimar (Khargaone)
				20. Sagar
10.	Maharashtra	1	MAU, Parbhani	21. Osmanabad (Tuljapur)
11.	Orissa	1	OUAT, Bhubneshwar	23 Navarangpur
12.	Punjab	1	PAU, Ludhiana	24 Ropar
13.	Rajasthan	1	RAU, Bikaner	24. Sriganganagar
14.	Tamil Nadu	2	TNAU, Coimbatore	25. Puddukkotai
				26. Ramanad
15.	Uttar Pradesh	7	CSAUA & T Kanpur	27. Mainpuri
				28. Mahoba (Belatal)
				29. Kanpur-Dehat (Dalipnagar)
			NDUA & T Faizabad	30. Gorakhpur
				31. Faizabad (Masodha)
				32. Maharajganj
				33. Sonbhadra (Tissuh);

Statement-II**Establishment of New Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)****A. Establishment of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) through participatory mode :****Haryana**

1. Sirsa
2. Bhiwani
3. Mahendergarh
4. Rohtak
5. Panchkula
6. Jhajjar
7. Fatehabad

Jammu & Kashmir

8. Budgam
9. Srinagar
10. Rajouri
11. Udhampur
12. Doda

B. Establishment of New Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs):**Uttar Pradesh**

13. Bagpat
14. Bulandshahr
15. Gazipur
16. Pratapgarh
17. Unnao

Tamil Nadu

18. Perambalur

Madhya Pradesh

19. Betul
20. Dhar
21. Panna
22. Sehore

Assam

23. Barpeta

Dadra & Nagar Haveli

24. Silvassa

Himachal Pradesh

25. Kangra

*[Translation]***Diversion of Ghogara**

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

(a) whether the survey for the Ghogara diversion in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take steps for expeditious completion of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: (a) to (d) 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. As such Centre is not aware whether the survey for the Ghogara diversion in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh has been completed by the State.

*[English]***Permanent Shelters**

424. SHRI MOJINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plan to construct permanent shelters at a safe distance from the coastal areas in the cyclone-prone States;

(b) whether the Government have drawn up plans for collaboration with the concerned State Government in the matter; and

(c) if so, the States where the Government have started implementing such schemes and the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to undertake relief, restoration and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities. This also includes construction of permanent cyclone shelters

at suitable locations. The Government of India has, at present, no plan scheme to construct permanent cyclone shelters in collaboration with the State Governments.

Production of Compost

425. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of compost being made at Idar Gaushala, Ahmedabad, using NADEP process; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to promote this technique in preference to fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government encourages the use of organic manures as supplementary source of plant nutrients. There are various methods of composting where 'Nadep' is one of them. All the techniques are used locally according to the availability of compostible material and the choice of the farmer. The use of organic manures alone cannot be promoted in preference to chemical fertilisers as organic manures are bulky in nature and contain low amounts of nutrients. Hence integrated use of organic manures and chemical fertilisers is being promoted.

Information Technology Companies

426. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to celebrate year 2000 to make India Information Technology design house;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Information Technology companies are increasing day by day like finance companies;

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to prevent coming up or protect the interest of consumers; and

(e) the norms being drawn for opening of Information Technology companies?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is an increase, both in the number and

size of companies engaged in export of Software and related services.

(d) and (e) Recognising the significant developments taking place in the area of Information Technology (IT) worldwide for catalyzing economic activity and electronic governance, the Government of India encourages the growth of IT companies in the country both for domestic production and exports. However, to safeguard the interests of investors, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued Circular No. 3(1999-2000) dated 15th October, 1999 that in case of public issue/offer for sale of securities by any unlisted company in information technology sector, it shall have to fulfil the criterion of track record of distributable profits emanating from the information technology business/activities.

Visit of Officials

427. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of officials of his ministry visited abroad during each of the last three years alongwith the objective of their visit;

(b) the amount spent on each visit;

(c) whether his ministry had granted permission to all of them for their visit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Visit of US President

428. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether any pre-condition has been imposed for President Clinton's visit to India for signing CTBT;

(b) if so, the details of officials thereof; and

(c) if not, the latest approach of the Government on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The US Government has stated that President Clinton intends to visit India in the early part of 2000. The US Government has also stated that there are no pre-conditions attached to his visit.

(c) The Government of India looks forward to a finalisation of the proposed visit.

Backward Districts

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

- (a) whether several backward districts have been identified;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Union Government have formulated any plan for the development of these backward districts in various States of the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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 (e) Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Planning Commission has not identified any district as backward per se. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments, including Andhra Pradesh, in the development of backward areas through appropriate weightage for backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance. Further, Special Central Assistance is also allocated to the Government of Andhra Pradesh under Tribal Sub Plan.

Simplification of Passport Procedure

430. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have increased the fees for passport;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there has been any noticeable improvement in the issuance of passport;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government have examined any suggestions to simplify the passport procedure; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) No Sir, there has been no increase in passport fees since 1993.

(c) to (f) Improvement in the issuance of passport to applicants is an ongoing and continuous process. The Government is receptive to suggestions and have taken various measures to both streamline and simplify passport procedures. Recent changes introduced to simplify procedures include reducing to one from two years the requirement of police verification from all places of previous stay. Full validity passports can now be issued on post-police verification to the following—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.

Subsidies to all Nitrogenous Potassic and Phosphoric Fertilizers

431. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the farmers are compelled to use controlled nitrogenous fertilizers as the decontrolled potassic and phosphoric fertilizers are available at high price;
- (b) whether the Government propose to provide subsidies to all the nitrogenous potassic and phosphoric (NPK) fertilizers for the small and marginal farmers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to make the NPK fertilizers available to the farmers at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (d) Urea, the main nitrogenous fertiliser, and phosphatic and potassic (P and K) fertilisers are available at highly subsidised prices to all farmers, including small and marginal farmers. In order to enable their sale to farmers at reasonable prices, the Government is operating a Scheme of Concession on sale of P and K fertilisers. The prices of P and K fertilisers like Di-Ammonium Phosphate, Muriate of Potash and NPK Complexes have also not been increased since 1.4.97. As a result, the consumption of P and K fertilisers has increased in recent years leading to an improvement in the NPK ratio from 10.0:2.9:1 in 1996-97 to 8.5:5.3:1.1 in 1998-99.

Lok Ayuktas

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

(a) the States and Union Territories where Lok Ayuktas are in place and the ones where the Lok Ayuktas are not in place or are suspended;

(b) whether the Government propose to give top priority to constitution of the office of Lok Pal at the Centre;

(c) if so, the precise of powers and functions of the contemplated Lok Pal;

(d) whether the powers of Lok Pal would extend to the Prime Minister and also the judiciary; and

(e) if so, the view of the Government 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) Appointment of the Lokayuktas is the concern of the respective State Governments. This information is not maintained centrally.

(b) to (e) It may be pointed out that the Lokpal Bill, 1998 was introduced by the Prime Minister on 3.8.98 in the Lok Sabha. Thereafter, it was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report. The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs presented its report on the Lokpal Bill, 1998 to the Parliament on 25.2.99. Before the Government could take a view on the recommendations made by the Standing Committee on the Lokpal Bill, 1998 the said Bill lapsed on 26.4.99 consequent upon the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. In the Address dated 25.10.99 of the President of India to both the Houses of Parliament, there is a mention about the enactment of legislation relating to Lokpal for which necessary action has already been initiated.

Missing Fishermen

433. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fishermen missing since the recent cyclone in Orissa;

(b) whether the efforts were made to move these fishermen to safer places before the cyclone hit the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) The Government of Orissa has reported that as per information available from their Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Departments, 1506 fishermen are missing. The State Government had made all out efforts to move these fishermen to safer places before the cyclone hit the State.

[Translation]

Assessment of Unemployment

434. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :

SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated and uneducated unemployed persons in rural and urban areas, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have undertaken any survey to assess the actual position of the unemployment in the rural and urban areas of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any time limit has been fixed to remove the unemployment in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the percentage of additional employment opportunities to be created annually to achieve the goal; and

(g) the number of persons benefited under urban employment and poverty alleviation scheme in the country during each of the last three years till date, 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) Estimate of the total number of unemployed persons and proportion of the educated in the total unemployed in Rural and Urban areas is given in enclosed Statement-I. The figures pertain to 1993-94, the latest year for which National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) survey results are available State-wise.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The NSSO carries out comprehensive

quiquennial surveys on employment and unemployment throughout the country. The first such survey was carried out in the year 1972-73. The latest survey, for which results are available, State-wise, relates to the year 1993-94.

(d) and (e) The Ninth Plan aims at bringing down the unemployment rate from 1.87% in the 8th Five Year Plan to 1.66% in the Ninth Plan and to a negligible level by the end of 10th Plan.

(f) The targets for employment generation are fixed for a Plan period and not year wise. The employment is estimated to grow at a rate of 2.44% per annum during the 9th Plan.

(g) The physical achievements for the years 1995-96, 1996-97, and 1997-98 under Nehru Rozgar Yojana, the scheme for which comparable information for three years is available, and is given in enclosed Statement-II. Since December, 1997, the Scheme has been subsumed under Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY).

Number of Unemployed Persons and proportion of Educated Among Unemployed in Rural and Urban Areas in the Year 1993-94

Statement

States	No. of Unemployed Persons (000)		Percentage of educated Among Unemployed	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
	1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	196	259	62.1	79.3
2. Arunachal Pradesh	4	1	41.1	70.6
3. Assam	502	87	59.2	81.2
4. Bihar	511	260	61.1	68.5

	1	2	3	4	5
5. Goa		33	23	50.5	53.9
6. Gujarat		134	190	57.1	42.5
7. Haryana		97	45	81.1	74.5
8. Himachal Pradesh		110	5	86.7	78.4
9. Jammu & Kashmir		27	48	53.8	66.6
10. Karnataka		157	226	82.5	71.3
11. Kerala		747	392	64.5	61.6
12. Madhya Pradesh		132	298	71.6	66.2
13. Maharashtra		287	567	57.8	57.7
14. Manipur		8	9	88.6	96.4
15. Maghalaya		2	2	22.4	78.0
16. Mizoram		2	1	89.7	70.4
17. Nagaland		5	5	38.8	85.9
18. Orissa		260	121	44.4	66.6
19. Punjab		82	81	68.3	80.5
20. Rajasthan		48	61	78.5	54.5
21. Sikkim		2	0	74.6	84.2
22. Tamil Nadu		405	481	65.8	57.1
23. Tripura		22	14	82.7	80.0
24. Uttar Pradesh		410	301	59.3	59.3
25. West Bengal		517	711	48.1	63.8
All India		4712	4283	60.9	63.4

Statement-II

Physical achievements under Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) during 1995-96 to 1997-98

Name of State/U.T.	No. of beneficiaries assisted under SUME			No. of mandays created under SUWE (in lakhs)			No. of dwelling units upgraded under SHASU		
	95-96	96-97	97-98	95-96	96-97	97-98	95-96	96-97	97-98
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	5701	18315	59709	1.95	1.59	12.43	3199	78658	5685
Arunachal Pradesh	—	813	—	0.53	1.47	—	—	—	—
Assam	—	—	—	1.36	0.85	0.57	—	—	5801
Bihar	14026	428	—	—	—	—	9588	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Goa	10	—	1023	0.73	—	0.71	—	—	—
Gujarat	1777	1512	1155	0.78	0.38	0.30	—	—	—
Haryana	1725	1644	1336	0.09	—	—	—	—	3852
Himachal Pradesh	1334	108	942	0.53	—	—	—	637	—
Jammu & Kashmir	1489	2386	720	1.01	1.80	—	—	2198	—
Karnataka	—	4358	—	—	0.70	—	—	—	—
Kerala	1282	—	4966	0.49	—	0.46	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	16019	16581	15281	—	0.30	2.76	—	—	3
Maharashtra	10649	13441	136636	20.02	—	73.54	—	—	31944
Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	200
Meghalaya	146	1415	—	—	0.11	—	—	203	—
Mizoram	40	—	130	—	—	0.30	888	875	1250
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	6223	3408	6921	3.91	1.50	2.02	329	363	5342
Punjab	2133	3931	1284	3.08	—	0.35	4133	144	652
Rajasthan	9415	12140	5195	1.93	1.15	1.20	—	—	—
Sikkim	310	406	111	—	0.78	0.50	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	9857	26618	165	2.19	2.52	—	—	—	—
Tripura	22	719	1676	0.12	—	0.41	431	313	1726
Uttar Pradesh	24893	24833	14426	9.69	7.72	5.75	1166	8788	—
West Bengal	17567	—	9725	5.95	1.99	6.74	—	—	2900
A & B Islands	102	328	19	—	0.02	0.03	—	—	—
Chandigarh	135	64	—	0.10	—	0.11	—	—	—
D & N Havelli	37	40	—	—	0.01	—	45	—	—
Daman & Diu	213	245	330	0.25	—	3.61	—	—	—
Delhi	—	518	192	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pondicherry	211	616	266	—	—	0.09	—	—	—
Total	125316	134267	262208	54.71	22.89	111.88	22763	92179	59355

SUME - Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises

SUWE - Scheme of Urban Wage Employment

SHASU - Scheme for Housing and Shelter Upgradation

[English]

Poverty Line

435. DR. V. SAROJA :

SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for identification of people living below poverty line;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration to review the criteria in view of rate of inflation and economic progress;

(c) whether the present criteria fixed for poverty line is adequate or need revision;

(d) the details of latest State-wise ratio of people living below poverty line;

(e) whether the Government have conducted any study to assess the effectiveness of Poverty Eradication Programme; and

(f) the steps taken to alleviate or to reduce poverty in the country?

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) The poverty line adopted by the Planning Commission is expressed as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices

corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. These poverty lines were originally recommended by a Task Force on Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand in 1979. Then, in 1993, the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor recommended disaggregation of these national poverty lines into state specific poverty lines using state specific price indices and inter-state price differential.

(b) and (c) The poverty lines at national and State levels are continuously reviewed keeping in view the rate of inflation as measured by the State-specific Consumer Price Index of Agricultural Labourers in rural areas and the State specific Consumer Price Index of Industrial workers in urban areas, and therefore, take into account the effects of inflation. There is, however, no proposal to revise the criteria used in defining the poverty line since it is based on the recommendations of the leading experts in the country.

(d) The latest State-wise estimates of people living below the poverty line, available for the year 1993-94, are given in enclosed Statement.

(e) The poverty eradication programme are continuously reviewed by the nodal agency in the Government and also by premier research institutions with the help of the Government.

(f) There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are: (a) acceleration of economic growth, (b) human and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of society, etc., and (c) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.

Statement

Number and Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line by States—1993-94

State	Rural		Urban		Combined	
	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	%age of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	%age of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	%age of Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	79.49	15.92	74.47	38.33	153.97	22.19
Arunachal Pradesh	3.62	45.01	0.11	7.73	3.73	39.35
Assam	94.33	45.01	2.03	7.73	96.36	40.86
Bihar	450.86	58.21	42.49	34.50	493.35	54.96
Goa	0.38	5.34	1.53	27.03	1.91	14.92

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gujarat	62.16	22.18	43.02	27.89	105.19	24.21
Haryana	36.56	28.02	7.31	16.38	43.88	25.05
Himachal Pradesh	15.40	30.34	0.46	9.18	15.86	28.44
Jammu & Kashmir	19.05	30.34	1.86	9.18	20.92	25.17
Karnataka	95.99	29.88	60.46	40.14	156.46	33.16
Kerala	55.95	25.76	20.46	24.55	76.41	25.43
Madhya Pradesh	216.19	40.64	82.33	48.38	298.52	42.52
Maharashtra	193.33	37.93	111.90	35.15	305.22	36.86
Manipur	6.33	45.01	0.47	7.73	6.80	33.78
Meghalaya	7.09	45.01	0.29	7.73	7.38	37.92
Mizoram	1.64	45.01	0.30	7.73	1.94	25.66
Nagaland	4.85	45.01	0.20	7.73	5.05	37.92
Orissa	140.90	49.72	19.70	41.64	160.60	48.56
Punjab	17.76	11.95	7.35	11.35	25.11	11.77
Rajasthan	94.68	26.46	33.82	30.49	128.50	27.41
Sikkim	1.81	45.01	0.03	7.73	1.84	41.43
Tamil Nadu	121.70	32.48	80.40	39.77	202.10	35.03
Tripura	11.41	45.01	0.38	7.73	11.79	39.01
Uttar Pradesh	496.17	42.28	108.28	35.39	604.46	40.85
West Bengal	209.90	40.80	44.66	22.41	254.56	35.66
Andaman & Nicobar	0.73	32.48	0.33	39.77	1.06	34.47
Chandigarh	0.07	11.35	0.73	11.35	0.80	11.35
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.72	51.95	0.06	39.93	0.77	50.84
Daman & Diu	0.03	5.34	0.15	27.03	0.18	15.80
Delhi	0.19	1.90	15.32	16.03	15.51	14.69
Lakshadweep	0.06	25.76	0.08	24.55	0.14	25.04
Pondicherry	0.93	32.48	2.38	39.77	3.31	37.40
India	2440.31	37.27	763.37	32.36	3203.68	35.97

Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.

Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island.

Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.

Poverty Ratio of Punjab is used for rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.

Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.

Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

Poverty Ratio of Himachal Pradesh is used for Jammu & Kashmir.

[Translation]

Famine in Rajasthan

436. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI :

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of severe famine conditions prevalent in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the year-wise amount provided to Rajasthan from the national calamity relief fund for famine;

(d) whether Rajasthan Government has submitted any action plan to the Union Government seeking ad-hoc financial assistance to tackle the famine related situations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such assessment has been made by the Government of India. However, the primary responsibility for undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities is that of the State Government, from the allocation under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). An amount of Rs. 207.00 crore has been allocated to the State Government of Rajasthan under CRF during 1999-2000, including the Central share of Rs. 155.25 crore. Three quarterly instalments of Central share have been released to the State Government.

(c) In addition to CRF, Rs. 21.00 crore from NFCR was provided to the State Government during 1995-96 in the wake of floods/drought and Rs. 21.98 crore from the NFCR during 1998-99 for drought.

(d) and (e) During 1999-2000, the Government of Rajasthan has submitted a memorandum seeking assistance of Rs. 1144.40 crore from the NFCR in the wake of drought. The memorandum is under consideration.

[English]

Linking of All Embassies and High Commissions with V-Set

437. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to link all Indian

Embassies and High Commissions with the main Ministry through V-Set or through some other modern state of the art communication system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount earmarked for this project;

(d) whether any time frame has been fixed to complete the project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) While there is no proposal, at present, to link all our Missions and Posts abroad with the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi through a V-SAT system, these Missions and Posts already have various communication links with the Ministry and also with each other by telex, telephone, fax, and in most cases, by electronic mail as well. In addition, the Ministry is connected to select Missions for emergency purposes, by a wireless network, to be used if and when normal communication channels are disrupted.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Drought in Andhra Pradesh

438. DR. S. VENUGOPAL :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central aid has been sought by the Andhra Pradesh State Government for tackling drought crisis;

(b) if so, the assistance given so far; and

(c) the time by which the balance amount is likely to be provided by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The entire Central share amounting to Rs. 107.69 crore, out of the allocation of Rs. 143.59 crore under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to Andhra Pradesh for the year 1999-2000, has been released to the State Government. In addition to CRF, assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) is considered for calamities of rare severity.

The State Government's request for assistance of Rs. 720.36 crore from the NFCR in the wake of drought is under consideration in accordance with the set procedure. This will be placed before the National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) for a decision in due course. Assistance, as approved by the NCRC, will be released to the State Government.

Cyclone in Orissa

439. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the damages caused by the devastating super cyclone that hit the coastal areas of Orissa and West Bengal recently;

(b) the details of the financial assistance extended by the Union Government for the relief and rehabilitation measures;

(c) whether the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had informed the Orissa and West Bengal State Governments in advance about the movement of the cyclone towards the Coastal areas of these States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the emergency measures taken by these State Governments to alarm the people and evacuate them to safer places and avert the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) The details of damage caused by the Super Cyclone of 29.10.1999 in the States of Orissa and West Bengal, as intimated by the two State Governments are as under :

Orissa

Loss of human life	9885
Livestock perished	4.44 lakhs
Population affected	125.69 lakhs
Villages affected	14190
Blocks/Urban Local Bodies affected	97/28
Cropped area affected	18.43 lakh ha.
Houses damaged	18.29 lakh

West Bengal

No. of districts affected	4
No. of blocks affected	36
Area affected	2.02 lakh ha.
No. of farming families affected	16,000
Rural houses damaged	17,000

(b) Pending receipt of detailed Memorandum from the State Government financial assistance of Rs. 400 crore (Rs. 200 crore as ad-hoc assistance from NFCR and Rs. 200 crore as advance plan assistance) has been provided by the Government of India to the State Government of Orissa in the wake of Super Cyclone, which is in addition to the release of Rs. 42.50 crore as Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to the State for 1999-2000. No assistance from the NFCR has been sought by the State Government of West Bengal in the wake of Super Cyclone. However, three quarterly instalments of Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 33.39 crore have been released to the State Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had reportedly informed the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal on 26th October, 1999 that the cyclone which lay over the Bay of Bengal more than 1200 km. away from the Indian coastline posed a potential threat to the north Andhra Pradesh - Orissa - West Bengal coasts.

(e) On 26th October, 1999, the Government of Orissa altered the Collectors of the districts likely to be affected. Instructions were issued by the State Government to take preparatory measures to meet any eventuality, including evacuation of people from the vulnerable coastal areas upto 10 km. The Doordarshan and the AIR brought out special cyclone bulletins on hourly basis. Nearly 1.5 lakh people were evacuated in the coastal districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Puri, through these message.

In West Bengal, the State Government reportedly directed to district authorities to evacuate people from low lying areas. More than 1 lakh people were removed to safer areas. The Crisis Management Group had met daily and directed the activities.

Minimum Export Price for Coir Products

440. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received representation from State Government and all members of Parliament representing Kerala regarding cancellation of order reducing the Minimum Export Price (MEP) for coir product;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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 DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has received a number of representations including the ones from Hon'ble Minister of Industries and Social Welfare, Government of Kerala and a few other Members of Parliament from Kerala.

(b) They have requested for retaining the Minimum Export Price (MEP) for coir and coir products as notified by the Coir Board in 1997.

(c) The proposal of the Coir Board to revise the MEP upwards from 1997 was not agreed to by the Ministry of Textiles.

Norms for Opening of New Regional Passport Offices

441. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport offices opened in the country each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the norms laid down for opening of new regional passport offices in the country;

(c) the details of action plan formulated for the modernisation and expansion of the existing passport offices in the country;

(d) whether the Government have received any request from the State Governments for opening of new passport offices in the States;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the places identified so far, State-wise; and

(f) the time by which these offices in each State are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) The number of Passport Offices opened in the country during the last three years, State-wise are as follows:-

Passport Office	State	Year of opening
Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh	1997
Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	1997
Thane	Maharashtra	1997
Pune	Maharashtra	1998
Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir	1997
(re-opened)		

(b) The opening of new passport offices is governed by certain criteria such as the location of existing offices, volume of applications from a particular region and regard to the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament of External Affairs that there should be atleast 50,000 applications per annum from an area for a new passport office to be opened.

(c) Modernisation of the Passport offices is an ongoing process. Eighteen Passport Offices have already been computerised. The remaining ten passport offices are to be computerised in phases. The number of Passport Offices is not being expanded at present as there is shortage of officials and staff in the Central Passport Organisation

(d) to (f) Proposals from the Governments of West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh have been received to open new Passport Offices in North Bengal and Shimla respectively. As the number of passport applications received from these areas is less than 50,000 per annum and due to the staff constraints, it has not been possible to accept these proposals.

Ban to recruit Unskilled Indian Labour

442. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governments in Gulf countries particularly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have banned recruitment of the unskilled labour from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the labourers already working in Gulf countries is being deported back to India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Government have intervened in the matter; and

(f) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) While on blanket ban has been imposed on recruitment of unskilled workers from India, some restrictions have been imposed by the Governments of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in this regard. The main reasons for imposition of these restrictions, inter-alia, include general fall in the economic activities, the emphasis of these countries on redressing the demographic imbalance, absorption of surplus labour already available there and the need to provide some jobs to the local persons. Such restrictions will, no doubt, lead to decline in the number of unskilled workers emigrating from India to these countries.

(c) and (d) The workers are engaged on contractual

employment for a specific period. As such, they return to the country on completion of the contract. Workers are not deported back because of the recently imposed restrictions.

(e) and (f) The restrictions referred to above are not applicable to the Indian workers alone. However, the Indian Missions keep on discussing the issue with the local authorities.

Flood Control

443. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several schemes are being implemented by the Union Government for flood control and checking soil erosion caused by the rivers in several States particularly in Bihar and Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to take effective flood control measures by timely completing ongoing irrigation projects in the country;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the flood control schemes are likely to be launched?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Union Government has prepared Master Plans for flood management in the major flood prone regions of the country lying in the basins of Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers. The Master Plans have also identified Major Multipurpose projects having Irrigation and Flood Control Components. The Master Plans have been sent to Governments of the basin States for implementation of specific projects as per priorities perceived by the States from the plan funds provided by the Planning Commission.

Subsidy to Farmers

444. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total subsidy being extended to the farmers in the country as compared to the farmers in U.S.A. and other developed countries;

(b) whether the subsidy extended to the farmers has declined gradually;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government for providing subsidy at par with the other developed/developing countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):
(a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Dakranala Pump Project

445. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ganga Pump Canal Project Phase-II (Dakranala) in Munger district of Bihar is being executed with the Central assistance;

(b) if so, the total funds incurred on the project, till date, and the date on which the construction work of the project has commenced; and

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

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

(b) As per Annual Plan document of Bihar for the year 2000-2001, an amount of Rs. 5.43 crores has been spent on this project upto March, 1999. The Project started in VII Plan period.

(c) The project is likely to spill beyond IX Plan.

[English]

Inaccurate Depiction of India's Boundaries

446. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the India's maps published by WWF-International in about a dozen documents during the last three years purportedly showed large parts of Arunachal Pradesh in China and parts of Jammu and Kashmir in Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether the maps of Global 200-eco-regions carried inaccurate depiction of India's boundaries in two recent WWF publications-"Beares in the Wild" in July, 1999 and "Living Planet Report" in August, 1999, inspite of the fact that the inaccurate depiction of India's boundaries by WWF-International was brought to the notice of the Prime Minister in June, 1999; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government for taking up this matter with WWF-International?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) Government are aware of the inaccurate depiction of India's external boundaries in publications of WWF-International. Government took up the matter regarding the inaccurate printing of the Global-200 Eco-Regional maps with WWF-International who gave an assurance of printing the revised versions of the maps with the external boundaries of India accurately depicted. Government have received the revised draft versions of the maps and these are being examined.

When the matter relating to the publication of the "Bears in the Wild" and Living Planet was brought to the notice of Government, a show cause notice was issued to WWF International as to why the permission granted by Government for WWF International to set up their Regional Office in India should not be withdrawn. After perusal of their reply, which was not found satisfactory. Government withdrew the permission for setting up the Regional Office of WWF-International in India in September 1999.

Investment in Agriculture

447. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether investment in agriculture sector has been continuously declining;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to increase the investment in agriculture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) As per the following data provided by Central Statistical Organisation, the total investment in Agriculture in the form of Gross Capital Formation in Agriculture at current prices is showing an increasing trend:

Year	Total (Rs. in crore)
1993-94	15845
1994-95	19993
1995-96	23942
1996-97	26296
1997-98*	29700

* Quick estimates

(c) and (d) The Government is implementing inter alia, following schemes for increasing investment in Agriculture:

(i) Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) initiated in 1996-97 for providing assistance to States by way of loan for timely completion of selected large and multi-purpose irrigation projects.

(ii) Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) within the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development established in 1995-96.

(iii) National Watershed Development Projects for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRRA) launched in 1990-91 for a holistic and sustainable development of vast rainfed areas.

Modernisation of IISCO

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

(a) whether the Government have drawn any plans for modernisation of IISCO; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) 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.

Child Labour in Firework Industry

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Children rise at 3 a.m. to make crackers" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated November 5, 1999;

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

(c) whether the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1996 has not been enforced strictly either by the Union Government or State Governments; and

(d) if so, the steps the Union Government propose to take to enforce the various child labour laws in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) Government has

noted the content of the new-items. As per the news-item, Child Relief and You (CRY) and three other NGOs had undertaken a study on the children working in the fireworks industry in Sivakasi. It has been reported that 1,25,000 children were still being exploited despite the provisions in the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. These children works under the risk of Asthma, T.B., Uterine damage besides a general shortening of life span. It has also been reported that to camouflage the illegal implications of the employment of children, the factories have emergency exit which are used for escape during inspections.

(c) and (d) Employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in certain occupations and processes (including the manufacturing of matches, explosive and fire-works) under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. The employment conditions of children in other occupations and processes is regulated under the Act. All the State/UT Governments have enforcement machineries to enforce child labour related provisions of the laws. Employers found employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are prosecuted under the provisions of the Act. The Central Government monitors implementations of the provision of the Act through periodical returns.

The employment of children is also prohibited under Section 67 of Factories Act, 1948. As regards enforcement of provision of the Act, the State Government of Tamil Nadu has deployed 10 Field Inspectors who have been conducting regular inspection. During 1999, 1340 regular inspections, 231 special inspections, 21 night inspection, 39 check inspections, 27 squad inspections and 52 holiday inspections have been done. The State Government has also reported strict vigilance and enforcement the Inspectorate of factories in Sivakasi.

[Translation]

Procurement Price of Rabi Crop

450. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are contemplating to increase the procurement price of Rabi Crops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be increased by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) The price policy of rabi crops for the year 1999-2000 to be marketed in 2000-01 is at present under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Welfare Schemes for Agricultural Labours

451. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of welfare schemes approved by the Government for agricultural labour of various States especially Rajasthan during the last three years;
- (b) the extent to which the agricultural labour have been benefited by these schemes; and
- (c) the amount allocated for this purpose during the above mentioned period scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) There are no schemes approved by the Union Government especially for agricultural labour in Rajasthan and other States. However, some of the major schemes undertaken for the welfare of rural workers including agricultural labour in the country are : Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) etc. A New Programme known as : "Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojna" (SGSY) has been launched from April, 1999. This is a holistic programme covering all aspects of self employment such as organisation of the poor into self help groups, training credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing. With the coming into force of SGSY, the earlier programmes IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA are no longer in operation.

The details of financial coverage under the various schemes in the last three years are given below :

Rs. in lakhs

All India	Name of the scheme					
	Year	IRDP	EAS	JRY	TRYSEM	DWCRA
	1996-97	109721.16	242379.34	223679.48	9025.00	7500.00
	1997-98	113351.23	246047.50	249921.18	9025.00	7500.00
	1998-99	145627.78	248514.77	259702.50	4500.00	15586.20

Allocations of funds for Rajasthan during this period is as under:

Rajasthan	Name of the scheme					
	Year	IRDP	EAS	JRY	TRYSEM	DWCRA
	1996-97	4388.01	12987.50	9146.40	360.52	309.50
	1997-98	4533.18	11581.25	10219.44	360.52	309.50
	1998-99	4434.88	11168.75	8388.86	136.46	475.28

Setting of Steel Plant

(d) if so, the details thereof?

452. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL : (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The details of new steel plants set up/proposed to be set up in the post liberalization era are given in enclosed Statement. All these plants (except Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Ltd. Southern Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. and Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. which are in the joint/assisted sector) are in the Private Sector.

(a) the details of new steel plant set up/proposed to be set up both in Private and Public Sectors;

(b) whether the Union Government have set up a panel to oversee the working of the Private and Public Sector Steel Plants;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) whether the Government propose to expand the existing Public Sector Steel Plants; and

(c) No, Sir.

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

Statement

Details of New Steel Plants set up/Proposed to be set up

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Location of the Plant	Capacity in lakh tonnes (Salable Steel)
1	Nova Udyog Limited	Nanital, U.P.	2.40
2	Indian Seamless Steel And Alloys Ltd.	Pune, Maharashtra	1.80
3	Lloyds Steel Ind. Ltd.	Wardha, Maharashtra	6.00
4	Essar Steel Ltd.	Hazira, Gujarat	20.00
5	Jindal Strips Ltd.	Raigarh, M.P.	4.00
6	Prakash Industries Ltd.	Champa, Bilaspur, M.P.	1.20
7	Mukund Limited	Raichur, Karnataka	3.40
8	Southern I&S Co. Ltd.	Salem, Tamil Nadu	3.00
9	Ispat Industries Ltd.	Raigad, Maharashtra	30.00
10	Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Ltd.	Bellary, Karnataka	15.70
11	Rajinder Steel Ltd.	Raipur, MP	5.00
12	Malvika Steel Ltd.	Jagdishpur, UP	8.50
13	SJK Steel Corporation Ltd.	Anantpur, AP	4.00
14	Kumar Metallurgical Corpn Ltd.	Nalgonda, AP	1.25
15	Bellary Steels & Alloys Ltd.	Bellary, Karnataka	4.10
16	Usha Ispat Ltd.	Satarda, Maharashtra	6.00
17	Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd.	Duburi, Orissa	6.20
18	Nova Steels (I) Ltd.	Bilaspur, MP	2.00

[Translation]

Visit of Heads of States

453. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Presidents, Prime Ministers, Head of the States and other important persons of foreign countries who visited our country during the last one year; and

(b) the agreements signed with each of them during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Development Projects For Goa

454. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has sanctioned some development projects for Goa recently;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the locations of such projects; and

(c) the amount released for the above projects?

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) Schemes/ projects submitted in the Annual Plans of the States are finalised in consultation with the State Governments during the Annual Plan discussions in the Planning Commission. The approval of Planning Commission is also required for Irrigation and Power projects from investment angle. No power generation or Irrigation projects for Goa have been cleared by Planning Commission recently.

Production of Pulses

455. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of pulses during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to provide additional incentive to the farmers to increase production of pulses;

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

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to increase the production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) The State-wise production of pulses during the last three years is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) For increasing the production of pulses in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is being implemented under which assistance on different components namely production and distribution of improved seeds, use of rhizobium culture and phosphate solubilising bacteria (PSE), integrated pest management, improved farm implements and use of sprinklers for irrigation is provided to the farmers. In addition to this, front-line demonstrations by ICAR and block-demonstrations by the State Department of Agriculture are organised to transfer the production and protection technologies to the farmers for increasing the production of pulses.

(d) An expert committee on pulses has been set-up under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.S. Paroda, Director General ICAR and the committee is preparing an action plan for increasing the production of pulses in the country. The report of the committee is likely to be finalised very soon. The thrust during the Ninth Plan is to increase area and productivity of pulses through research and improved technologies and availability of quality inputs.

Statement

Statewise production of pulses during last three years

S. No.	State	Production (in lakh tonnes)		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.38	5.75	8.79
2.	Assam	0.68	0.64	0.77
3.	Bihar	7.45	6.46	6.77
4.	Gujarat	6.64	6.13	7.10
5.	Haryana	3.45	3.75	3.58
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.11	0.12	0.15
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.17	0.17	0.28
8.	Karnataka	7.22	4.81	6.50
9.	Kerala	0.15	0.15	0.27

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Madhya Pradesh	35.44	32.54	36.70
11.	Maharashtra	20.37	12.44	22.31
12.	Nagaland	0.14	0.13	—
13.	Orissa	2.26	2.83	2.57
14.	Punjab	0.80	0.60	0.58
15.	Rajasthan	18.45	26.35	24.32
16.	Tamil Nadu	2.33	2.71	4.72
17.	Uttar Pradesh	26.25	23.18	31.10
18.	West Bengal	1.71	1.50	1.93
19.	Other States	0.44	0.44	0.56
Total		142.44	130.70	158.99

Setting up of Seed Testing Laboratories

456. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Seed Corporation has any plan of setting up more seed testing laboratories in the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Seed Testing Laboratories in existence at New Delhi and Secunderabad are adequate to cater to the requirement of testing of Seed samples.

Cattle Research and Development Centre

457. SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be please to state:

(a) whether the Government plan to set up a Central Government sponsored Cattle Research and Development Centre in cattle rearing/raising areas;

(b) if so, the areas identified therefor; and

(c) if not, steps being taken by the Government to look after the welfare of cattle rearing industries in the backward district of the country, particularly in the backward districts of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources is undertaking a Network Programme to survey and characterize various breeds of cattle in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Kamataka in the IX Plan. The survey of Umblachery cattle in breeding tracts of Tamil Nadu is completed and conservation of Kangayam breed in Tamil Nadu and Nagauri and Rathi breeds in Rajasthan is to be taken up.

Sports Goods Industry

458. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of various problems being faced by the sports goods industry of Jalandhar (Punjab);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to solve their problems?

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) Shortage of good quality raw-materials, technological obsolescence and marketing have been identified as the major problems facing the sports good industry in Jalandhar. Initiatives for overcoming these problems, inter alia, include policy interventions for sourcing of quality raw-materials, encouraging technology upgradation on cluster basis, including liberal credit under the Technological Development and Modernisation Fund (TDMF), design support, and marketing assistance by way of Buyer-Seller Meets, participation on International Trade Fairs, Exhibitions, etc.

Vacant Posts in Central Government Offices in Karnataka

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

(a) the number of employees working in various Central Government Offices in Karnataka, grade-wise;

(b) the number of vacant posts in these offices, grade-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these posts immediately; and

(d) whether any proposal with the Government to give equal preference to different regions within the State while filling up these posts?

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) According to the information furnished by the Ministry of Finance, category-wise data on number of employees in different Central Government Offices is not collected by them. Although the data on number of civilian employees in different Central Government establishment is collected, it is not collected or compiled State-wise.

(d) Does not arise since posts are filled up on merit basis.

[Translation]

PMRY

460. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons benefited and to be benefited under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana in the country particularly in Baitool and Harda districts during the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) the number of persons out of them who were sanctioned/provided loans under the said scheme;

(c) whether the loan was provided to the people within time period after sanctioning the loans; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken against those who are responsible for the delay?

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 statement showing target and number of persons benefited (sanctioned and disbursed loan by banks) during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana in the country and in Baitool and Harda districts of Madhya Pradesh is attached.

(c) The loans were provided in time to all those persons who completed the formalities after sanctions.

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

Statement

Target and number of persons benefited (sanctioned and disbursed loan by banks) in Baitool and Harda districts of Madhya Pradesh and in the country during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

All India

(As reported by the Reserve Bank of India)

Sl No.	Year	Plan Target (Nos.)	Sanction by Banks (Nos.)	Disbursement by Banks (Nos.)
1.	1997-98	2,20,000	2,63,361	2,08,976
2.	1998-99	2,20,000	2,62,091	1,46,525*
3.	1999-2000 (Ending 30.9.99)	2,20,000	43,036	19,839

Madhya Pradesh

(As reported by the State Government)

Sl No.	Year	District/State	Target (Nos.)	Sanction by Banks (Nos.)	Disbursement by Banks (Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	1997-98	Baitool	428	431	368
		Harda	District was not formed.....	

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	1998-99	Baitool	430	443	372*
		HardaDistrict was not formed.....		
3.	1999-2000	Baitool	430	136	Nil
	(Upto October,'99)	Harda	174	62	4

* Disbursement to continue upto 31.12.1999

[English]

Crude Steel Production

461. SHRI A. C. JOS : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of estimated crude steel production and capacity utilisation upto October 31, 1999, plant-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government for the modernisation of steel plants in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The plant-wise details of estimated cumulative crude steel production and capacity utilisation during 1999-2000 (upto October, 1999) is as follows :-

	('000 tonnes)	
	Actual Production	% Capacity utilisation
1. <i>Main Producers</i>		
(A) SAIL		
BSP	2138	93
DSP	805	76
RSP	658	59
BSL	1890	74
IISCO	165	94
ASP	72	53
VISL	48	87
TISCO	1961	115
VSP	1415	90
Main Producers	9152	87
Secondary Procedures	4445	51
Grand Total	13597	75

(b) No new modernisation scheme has been approved in any steel plants in the public sector during the last 3 years.

Y2K Compliance

462. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken necessary steps to make all vital departments and organisations Y2K complaint well in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that no complications arise during the next millenium in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken steps to ensure the Y2K readiness of various organisations and departments particularly the eleven mission critical sectors namely Finance and Banking, Insurance, Civil Aviation, Railways, Power, Space, Atomic Energy, Ports, Defence, Petroleum and Telecommunications. The focus now is on testing, third party audit and contingency planning. Control centres are also being set up to address any unforeseen problems during the roll over period. These matters are also being continuously reviewed at various levels.

Fund for West Bengal

463. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ninth Five Year Plan has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the amount earmarked to West Bengal?

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) Yes, Sir. The Ninth Five Year Plan was approved by the National Development Council on 19th February, 1999.

(b) The Ninth Plan outlay for the West Bengal at 1996-97 prices is Rs. 16,900 crore.

[Translation]

Agriculture and Rural Industries

464. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide infrastructure to agriculture and rural industries to encourage small scale industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated by the Government for the purpose?

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) The scheme of Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) for small scale industries facilities setting up of industries in the rural/backward areas. The scheme covers backward districts/rural areas which were not covered under the Growth Centres Scheme.

The objective of the IID scheme is to create and develop infrastructural facilities like developed sites, power distribution network, water, telecommunication, drainage and pollution central facilities, roads, banks, raw materials, storage and marketing outlets, common service facilities and technological back up services. Under the scheme, the concerned State Governments are required to select suitable sites in the rural/backward areas, firm up the project proposals and get the project appraised from SIDBI. The estimated cost to set up an IID Centre is Rs 5.00 crores (excluding cost of land) which is shared between the Government of India and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in the ratio of 2:3. The share of the Central Government is in the form of grant and that of SIDBI as loan. The cost in excess of Rs. 5 crores is borne by the respective States/Union Territories/ implementing agencies.

(c) The Government has allocated Rs. 15 crores

under IID Scheme for Small Scale Industries during 1999-2000.

Central Hospital Under Industrial Workers

465. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplated to open a new central hospitals under labour welfare fund for the benefit of industrial workers in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the areas identified therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present to open a new Central Hospital under any of the Labour Welfare Funds.

[English]

Public Deposit Schemes

466. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any decline in the investments by public with Steel Authority of India Limited during the current year under Public Deposit Scheme;

(b) if so, the total investments received under PDS during the first 9 months of the current and figures for the corresponding period during 1998-99;

(c) the reasons for decline in the public investment; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to restore public faith in SAIL?

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

(b) The total deposit received under PDS during the period from January to September 1999 and the corresponding period of last year is Rs. 412.94 crores and Rs. 449.03 crores respectively.

(c) The main reasons for decline in the public investments include inter-alia decline in profitability of SAIL, lowering of its credit rating by credit rating agencies and depressed market conditions in the steel industry.

(d) 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 improve the financial performance and

profitability 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;
- (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.

Agreement Between India and Austria

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

(a) whether the Union Government have recently signed any agreement between India and Austria during the visit of the President of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement between India and Austria were signed on 8 November 1999 during the President's visit to Austria. The Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement replaces the earlier Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation, which was signed in 1963. The Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement provides for the protection of foreign investments and incorporates national treatment for them.

Suction Dredgers

468. SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Andhra Pradesh has drawn the attention of the Union Government about the procurement of 2 mini-trailing suction dredgers of 250 cum hopper capacity from Japan, one for West Coast and other for East Coast to tackle dredging issues in the fishing harbours;

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

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had also requested the Union Government to deploy the trailing suction dredger to the State; and

(d) if so, the present status thereof and the time by which final decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the requirements of maintenance dredging of fishing harbours and fish landing centres received from various States including Andhra Pradesh, the Government of India has procured one Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger of 200 cum capacity under Japanese Grant-in-aid Programme.

(c) and (d) Based on the request of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh the Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger, TSD Sindhuraj has been deployed at Bhavanapadu Fishing Harbour in Andhra Pradesh for maintenance dredging.

[Translation]

Gross Domestic Product

469. SHRI G. M. BANATWALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the Gross Domestic Product growth vis-a-vis Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether there is any proposal to scale down the planned growth rate; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent of the scale-down?

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) As per the Central Statistical Organisation, the growth in Gross Domestic Product has been 6% in 1998-99 (revised estimate) and 5% in 1997-98 (quick estimate) at against the target growth rate of 6.5% per year during the five year period of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002).

(b) No, Sir. There is no proposal with the Planning Commission to scale down the planned growth rate of 6.5% per year as set out in the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002).

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

[English]

National Conference on Horticulture

470. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a national conference on Horticulture was held in November, 1998;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main recommendations made during the conference; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):
 (a) Yes, Sir. The National Horticulture Conference was held on 20-21, November 1998.

(b) The Conference was attended by representatives from the State Governments, various Ministries, and National Level Organizations involved in developing horticulture like National Horticulture Board and National Cooperative Development Corporation, APEDA, NHRDF and others.

The Conference deliberated on the issues such as preparedness of research for doubling horticulture production, short term and long term strategies for market sensitive crops such as onion and potato, strategies for accelerating horticulture exports and carried out a review of the programmes in the horticulture sector.

(c) Based on the recommendations of the Conference the various schemes for the horticulture developments started during the VIIIth Five Year Plan were reoriented to bring an integrated approach in the horticulture developments. Two new schemes namely Integrated Development of Horticulture in Hills and Backward areas and Human resource Development in Horticulture have also been introduced. As a result of these initiatives, a record harvest of onion was achieved during 1998-99. Similarly, a very high production of potato was achieved during 1998-99. The National Horticulture Board which is involved in post harvest management of horticulture produce has also introduced schemes for post harvest management, technology development and transfer for promotion of horticulture and establishment of infrastructure facility for horticulture development.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts in Labour Courts and Tribunals

471. SHRI PANNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the several posts of Labour Commissioner and Judges are lying vacant in various Labour Courts and Tribunals;
- (b) if so, the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up;

(c) whether the managements do not implement the decisions given by such courts and tribunals;

(d) if so, whether the Government are contemplating strict action against them for non compliance of orders within specified period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) There is no such post of Labour Commissioner in CGIT-cum-Labour Courts. However, the post of Presiding Officers are vacant in the following CGIT-cum-Labour Courts:- Asansol, Bangalore, Kanpur, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar.

(b) The post of Presiding Officers are filled up by inviting panel of the serving/retired Judicial Officers from the States/UTs High Courts and their selection is made only after obtaining the approval of ACC.

(c) to (e) As per Section 17A of ID Act, 1947, the award of Labour Court/Industrial Tribunal shall become enforceable on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication. Non-implementation of award of Labour Court/Industrial Tribunal by the management after the expiry of statutory time limit will entail prosecution proceedings as stipulated under Section 29 of ID Act, 1947, if the management have not obtained stay against the operation of award from courts of law. The management are discouraged from non-implementation of awards by initiating prosecution proceeding against them in the court for non-compliance of award by CIRM officers, who have already been directed to give special emphasis for ensuring timely implementation of awards by the management.

[English]

Harmful effect of Agro-Chemicals

472. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are considering to set up National Commission on Organic Farming in view of environmental and health consideration;
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this regard and the funds earmarked for the purpose;
- (c) whether any study has been conducted to meet the demand of organic produce in Western countries; and
- (d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):
 (a) There is no proposal before the Government to set up a National Commission on Organic Farming.

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

Prisoner of War in Pakistan

473. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names and number of India Defence Personnel prisoners in the custody of Pakistan;
 (b) whether the Government have raised this matter at international level;
 (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
 (d) whether the Prime Minister has also raised this issue with the Pakistan's official during his current visit to Pakistan in February, 1999, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
 (e) the steps taken by the Government to get them free from Pakistan Jail?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (e) According to available information, 54 Indian Prisoners of War (POWs) are believed to be in the custody of Pakistan. The names of these POWs are given in the attached statement. Pakistan has consistently maintained that no Indian POWs are in its custody.

In accordance with the Simla Agreement, the Government is committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan through a process of direct, bilateral dialogue. The issue of the POWs has, therefore, been taken up only bilaterally.

During his visit to Pakistan on 20-21 February, 1999, Prime Minister raised the issue of the POWs with the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the two sides appointed a 2 member committee at Ministerial level to examine humanitarian issues, including that of the missing POWs.

The matter was also raised in the official level discussions held with Pakistan on March 5-6, 1999. The Pakistani side stated that there were no Indian POWs in its custody, but agreed to re-examine the matter afresh.

Government would continue to purposefully pursue this matter with Pakistan.

Statement

List of missing Indian Prisoners of War believed to be in Custody in Pakistan

1. Maj SPS Wariach
2. Maj Kanwaljit Singh
3. Maj Jaskiran Singh Malik

4. Capt. Kalyan Singh Rathod
5. Capt. Giriraj Singh
6. 2/Lt Sudhir Mohan Sabharwal
7. Capt. Kamal Bakshi
8. 2/Lt Paras Ram Sharma
9. Maj SC Gulari
10. Maj AK Ghosh
11. Maj AK Suri
12. Sq Ldr Mohinder Kumar Jain
13. Flt Lt Sudhir Kumar Goswami
14. Lt. Cdr Ashok Roy
15. Flt Lt Harvinder Singh
16. Fg. Officer Sudhir Tyagi
17. Flt Lt Vijay Vasant Tambay
18. Flt Lt Ilyoo Moses Sassoon
19. Flt Lt Ram Metharam Advani
20. Flt Lt Nagaswami Shankar
21. Flt Lt Suresh Chand Sandal
22. Flt Lt Kushalpal Singh Nanda
23. Wg Cdr HS Gill
24. Flt Lt Tanmaya Singh Dandass
25. Capt Ravindra Kaura
26. Sq Ldr Jal Miniksha Mistry
27. Flt Lt Ramesh Gulabrao Kadam
28. Flg Ofrr Krishan Lakimaj Malkani
29. Flt Lt Babul Guha
30. L/Naik Hazoor Singh
31. Sq Ldr Jatinder Das Kumar
32. Flt Lt Gurudev Singh Rai
33. Flt Lt Ashok Balwant Dhawale
34. Flt Lt Shrikant Chandrakant Mahajan
35. Flg. Ofrr Kottiezath Puthiyavettill Murlidharan
36. Capt Vashist Nath
37. L/Naik Jagdish Raj
38. Sep Madan Mohan
39. Sep Pal Singh

40. Sep Daler Singh
 41. Lt Vijay Kumar Azad
 42. Sujan Singh
 43. Gunner Shyam Singh
 44. Sep Gian Chand
 45. Sep Jagir Singh
 46. Subedar Kali Das
 47. Flt Lt Manohar Purohit
 48. Pilot Officer Tejinder Singh Sethi
 49. Lance Naik Balbir Singh
 50. Sqn Ldr Devaprashad Chatterjee
 51. L/Hav Krishan Lal Sharma
 52. Sub Assa Singh
 53. Capt OP Dalal
 54. SBS Chauhan

E.C.I.L.

474. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL) has closed down its sales and service of EC Televisions in Delhi and shifted to Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether ECIL has made any arrangements in Delhi to provide after sales service to its customers; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same and the steps being taken to make arrangements for after sales service in terms of MRTP Act?

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. The Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL), a central public sector undertaking, has had to close down the manufacture and sale of its EC TV sets at Delhi and elsewhere on account of continued high losses in this line of its business.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of Food Processing Industries

475. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Food Processing Industries in various States of the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether the action plan has been drawn to provide funds to the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the allocation of funds for the States particularly to Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the time by which the funds are likely to be allocated for setting up Food Processing Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (e) The Government does not directly set up Food processing industries in any State, the Department of Food Processing industries is implementing various Plan Schemes which envisage provision of financial assistance to cooperatives, non-governmental organisations, public sector undertakings, private sector industries, Research Institutions etc. for development of the processed food sector. These schemes are project oriented and not State-Specific. As per available information, so far 21 projects have been assisted in Andhra Pradesh under these Plan Schemes of the Department by providing assistance to the tune of Rs. 4.51 crores approximately.

Simplification of Passport Application Form

476. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passport application form is unduly lengthy and complicated;

(b) if so, whether any effort has been made to simplify the passport application form;

(c) whether the Government have consulted any agency to suggest the total simplification of a passport application form;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which this form is likely to be simplified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Passport Application Form has been

designed taking into account the requirements of the passport issuing authority as well as the concerned security agencies to fully established the identity and personal particulars of the applicant.

- (d) Does not arise.
(e) Does not arise.

Menace of Terrorism

477. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps contemplated to be taken to stop terrorism in its different forms internationally?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : India has played an important role in promoting international cooperation in combat the problem of terrorism. On Indian initiative, 49th session of the UN General Assembly adopted a Declaration on Measures to Eliminate international terrorism. India has also proposed a comprehensive convention on International Terrorism. The UN General Assembly, during the current session, has agreed to begin consideration of the Indian draft convention in September 2000. The recently concluded Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at Durban, at the initiative of India and several other countries, strongly condemned acts of terrorism, and reiterated their determination to promote international and regional cooperation to combat terrorism.

India recently acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression Terrorist Bombings, 1997, the International Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purposes of Detection and 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Maritime Navigation and Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf. Thus India is now party to ten major UN Conventions against terrorism. India is also party to SAARC Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, 1987 and SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1990.

Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant

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

- (a) whether the second unit of Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant has become operational; and
(b) the amount spent on this plant since its installation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN 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. However, the second unit of Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant attained criticality on 24.9.1999.

(b) The total amount spent so far on Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant (Kaiga Units 1 and 2) as of end October, 1999 is Rupees 2,533 crores.

Natural Calamity

479. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI BHIM DAHAL :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI :
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :
COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :
SHRI A. C. JOS :
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of damage to life, property, standing crops and damage to soil and ecology affecting the productivity of the soil, caused by both the recent cyclonic storm that hit the coastal areas of Orissa;

(b) whether Central team has been sent to Orissa to assess the extent of damages;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the financial assistance sanctioned and disbursed by the Union Government under the various heads for relief and rehabilitation of cyclone affected people of Orissa;

(e) the amount actually disbursed to each cyclone victim in Orissa;

(f) whether the Government of Orissa has demanded to treat the entire amount as grant and not as a loan or an advance;

(g) if so, the details and reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(h) the assistance given by various foreign countries to the cyclone affected States;

(i) whether the Union Government have prepared any scheme to rehabilitate the displaced persons in Orissa;

(j) if so, the details thereof;

(k) whether Union Government have formulated any Management Disaster Plan for the purpose; and

(l) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) As per information furnished by the State Government of Orissa the extent of damage is as follows :

	Cyclone of 17-18th Oct, 1999	Super Cyclone of 29-10-99	
Loss of human life	205	9885	
Livestock perished	0.11 lakh	4.45 lakhs	
Population affected	37.47 lakhs	125.69 lakhs	
Villages affected	5181	14190	
Blocks/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) affected	44/23	97/28	
Cropped area affected	1.58 lakh ha.	18.43 lakh ha.	
Houses damaged	3.31 lakh	18.29 lakh	

(b) and (c) As per the procedure for consideration of assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR), the State Government is required to send a detailed Memorandum indicating the extent of damage, etc. The memo-

randum received from the State Government in the wake of cyclone of 17-18th October, 1999 is under consideration. No memorandum has so far been received from the State Government in the wake of Super Cyclone of 29th October, 1999.

(d) and (e) The Central Government have released to the State advance plan assistance of Rs. 250 crore in connection with the Cyclone of 17-18th October, 1999 and ad-hoc assistance of Rs. 200 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) and Rs. 200 crore as advance plan assistance for relief, restoration and rehabilitation measures in the wake of Super Cyclone.

(f) and (g) As regards Super Cyclone of 29th October, 1999, Government of Orissa, in the first instance, had demanded Rs. 2500 crore as Central assistance to undertake relief and restoration measures and requested to treat the entire amount as grant and not as loan or advance. The Union Government has already released ad-hoc assistance of Rs. 200 crore from NFCR and Rs. 200 crore as advance plan assistance, to the Government of Orissa, in the wake of Super Cyclone.

(h) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(i) and (j) No, Sir It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary action in this regard.

(k) and (l) A high Powered Committee (HPC) has been constituted by the Government of India on 20th August, 1999 to review existing arrangements for preparedness and mitigation of natural disasters and recommend measures for strengthening the organisational structures, and to formulate a comprehensive model plan for natural disaster management at the National, State and district levels. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has formulated a Contingency Action Plan for dealing with various natural calamities.

[Translation]

Special Assistance to Rajasthan

480. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give special assistance to the Western Rajasthan on the lines of such assistance being provided to the hilly areas;

(b) if so, the time by which such assistance is likely to be provided; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) No, Sir. Planning and development of an area and collection of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, Planning Commission supplements the efforts of the State Governments, including Rajasthan, in this regard through the allocation of Special Central Assistance under Special Area Programmes. The border blocks of Western Rajasthan bordering Pakistan are being given Special Central Assistance under Border Area Development Programmes.

[English]

National Calamity

481. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be please to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposal from Gujarat Government for release of Central assistance for the devastation caused by cyclone in Kandala and Jamnagar and by floods in Surat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) The Government of Gujarat had submitted two memoranda, (i) seeking assistance of Rs. 610.65 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of cyclone in Kandla and other areas in June, 1998 and (ii) seeking assistance of Rs. 200.00 crore from the NFCR in the wake of floods in Surat.

An assistance of Rs. 55.35 crore was released to the State Government from the NFCR in the wake of cyclone of June, 1998. No assistance was released from the NFCR in the wake of floods in Surat as the calamity could not be considered to be one of rare severity.

[Translation]

Indo-Russia Agreement in Agriculture

482. DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia propose to extend cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the terms and conditions of the said agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to sign an Agreement with Russia for bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture and related subjects including animal husbandry.

(b) The draft agreement envisages scientific, economic and technical cooperation in areas such as crop production, including utilization, of new hybrids and varieties, seed production, new techniques and technology development and its testing, animal husbandry including veterinary field, food processing etc. The cooperation will be carried out through exchange of visit of experts and trainees, information sharing, exhibitions, joint ventures etc.

(c) The following agreements have already been signed with Russia for cooperation in the Plant Quarantine and Veterinary fields:

(i) Agreement on cooperation in the field of Plant Quarantine and Plant Protection on 25.3.1997.

(ii) Agreement on cooperation in the Veterinary field on 16.4.1999.

(d) The Agreement on cooperation in the field of Plant Quarantine and Plant Protection aims at the prevention of the penetration and spreading of quarantine pests, plant diseases and weeds on the territory of both countries; reduction of crop losses caused by them as well as further development of trade and exchange of planting material, agricultural, forest and plant produce between the two countries. The objectives are to be realised through exchange of regulations, provisions relating to phytosanitary controls, joint quarantine inspection of consignments during export and import, recognition of phytosanitary certificates issued by the exporting country, use of permitted packaging material and entry of consignments through the designated border points etc.

The Agreement on cooperation in the veterinary field aims at prevention of spread of infective diseases on the territory of both the countries while trading in animals, animal products, raw materials of animal origin and animal feed. With this intent both sides will exchange bi-monthly bulletins on situation and development of infective animal diseases in their countries, and exchange information about measures for control of infective animal diseases in their countries, and exchange information about measures for control of infective animal diseases and for their prophylaxis.

Both the Agreements shall remain in force for a period of five years and are extendable for a further period of five years.

[English]

Mango Production

483. SHRI T. T. V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Mango production has increased rapidly in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up Mango Jelly, Mango juice producing plants in areas like Periyakulam;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government have taken promotional measures for export of mangoes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) The production figures for mango in Tamil Nadu since 1993 as indicate below does not indicated any rapid increase in production:

S. No.	Year	Production 000 metric tonnes
1.	1993-94	422.04
2.	1994-95	570.17
3.	1995-96	570.17
4.	1996-97	413.90
5.	1997-98	135.90

(b) and (c) The Government does not set up processing plants for production of mango jelly, mango juice etc. and these are set up mostly by the private entrepreneurs and cooperatives.

(d) and (e) A number of steps have been taken for promoting export of mangoes which include the following:-

- i) Identification of the mango varieties and regions for giving exclusive training to the farmers/exporters, State Government Organisations involved in the export of mangoes.
- ii) Organising pre harvest as well as post harvest training.
- iii) Development of manuals as well as post harvest management as well as packaging of fruits.

- iv) Organising specific training programmes.
- v) Promote exports through mango Festivals.

Drought in Gujarat

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have identified the drought-prone areas in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have prepared any long-term action plan to tackle the situation of these areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) As intimated by the Ministry of Rural Development, 52 blocks covering an area of 43938 sq. kms. in 10 districts of Gujarat, viz. Ahmedabad, Amreli, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Dang, Junagarh, Panchmahal, Sabarkantha, Vadodara and Valsad, have been identified as Drought Pione Areas.

(c) and (d) The Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) started in 1973-74 aims at mitigating the adverse effects of drought on the production of crops, livestock and productivity of land, water and human resources. It strives to encourage restoration of ecological balance and seeks to improve the social condition of the poor and the disadvantaged section of the society. For this purpose, the programme is being implemented on watershed project basis, each project having an area of 500 ha. on an average and to be implemented over a period of 4-5 years. Funds required for execution of watershed projects are released to the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA)/Zila Parishad (ZP) which are passed on to the Watershed Association /Committees of the local people who are the actual implementors of the projects. At present, 673 watershed projects are under implementation in all the drought prone districts of the Gujarat.

Fruit Processing Industry in North-Eastern States

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

- (a) whether any fruit processing industry with foreign collaboration has been set up in North-Eastern States including Sikkim during the last two years; and
- (b) if so, the details 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.

Corruption in Passport Offices

486. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Passport seekers at the mercy of touts" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" on October 11, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that rampant corruption is prevalent at various passport offices in the country;

(c) if so, whether the Passport officials in connivance with touts are looting the passport seekers;

(d) if so, the details of complaints received by the Government in this regard, state-wise;

(e) the number of applications pending at present in various passport offices in the country, State-wise; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to bring transparency in the functioning of various passport offices and also to ensure availability of passport to passport seekers in a stipulated period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is aware of the activities of touts who operate from outside the passport offices. The activities of touts have been brought to the attention of the local police from time to time and police action against them has been intensified. Investigations so far have not established any definite linkage between the touts and employees of the Passport Offices. However, vigilance has been strengthened at the Passport Offices and whenever any act of impropriety by any Passport official comes to the notice of the Government, appropriate action is taken against the erring official.

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

(e) The number of applications pending at various

Passport Offices in the country on 31 October 1999 is listed in enclosed Statement.

(f) Transparency in the functioning of Passport Offices is ensured by issuing passports in the order of receipt of applications. Applicants are allowed to meet Passport Officials at designated hours regarding any matter related to their applications. Passport Adalats are also being held by Passport Offices.

To ensure availability of passports in stipulated period the producers for issue of passports are also being streamlined. The measures taken to expedite processing include computerisation of processing procedures; provision of tele-enquiry system; enhancing validity of passports to 20 years; provision of dispatch of passport by speed post; issue of passport on overdue basis where police reports are not received within the prescribed time limit of five weeks and hiring of additional staff to clear the backlog of pending cases.

Statement

Application pending at present in various Passports Offices in the country, State-wise as on 31 October 1999

Sl. No.	Name of Passport Office	No. of Passports issued between 1.1.99-31.10.99	No. of applications pending as on 31.10.1999
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	Hyderabad	1,46,400	57,054
2.	Vishakhapatnam	38,088	5,476
Assam			
3.	Guwahati	10,735	3,677
Bihar			
4.	Patna	41,705	13,837
Gujarat			
5.	Ahmedabad	1,32,919	30,067
Goa			
6.	Panaji	13,543	1,843
Jammu & Kashmir			
7.	Jammu	5,875	6,545
8.	Srinagar	7,150	7,520
Karnataka			
9.	Bangalore	1,06,700	13,764

1	2	3	4
Kerala			
10. Kochi		90,595	7,938
11. Kozhikode		1,27,070	35,981
12. Thiruvananthapuram		73,952	1,546
Madhya Pradesh			
13. Bhopal		31,849	4,361
Maharashtra			
14. Mumbai		2,36,969	8,869
15. Nagpur		15,069	1,529
16. Pune (Office opened on 16 July '98)		4,675	20,873
17. Thane		7,847	4,966
NCT			
18. Delhi		1,31,511	50,648
Orissa			
19. Bhubaneswar		10,778	6,339
Punjab & Haryana			
20. Chandigarh		94,999	33,557
21. Jalandhar		87,450	45,916
Rajasthan			
22. Jaipur		54,456	33,703
Tamil Nadu			
23. Chennai		1,12,532	40,393
24. Trichirappali		63,542	75,323
Uttar Pradesh			
25. Bareilly		31,138	40,348
26. Lucknow		63,417	17,534
27. Ghaziabad		15,523	5,965
West Bengal			
28. Calcutta		70,343	10,582

[Translation]

Annual Plan for Maharashtra

487. SHRI ASHOK MOHOL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have increased the annual plan outlay for Maharashtra for the year 1999-2000 in comparison to the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have provided any additional assistance to the State; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The annual plan outlay for Maharashtra for the year 1999-2000 has been increased by Rs. 561.27 crore from Rs. 11600.73 crore to Rs. 12162.00 crore.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Unorganised Labourer

488. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the details of steps taken for the welfare of unorganised labourers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : The Government have enacted a number of labour laws for protection of the interests of labour including unorganised labour. Some of these laws are the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Equal Remuneration the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, 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 etc. Workers engaged in iron ore, manganese ore, chrome ore, limestone, dolomite and mica mines, cine industry and beedi industry are also covered by the various welfare programmes undertaken under the concerned welfare funds. State Governments have also launched insurance and social security schemes covering large number of workers engaged in specific activities like handloom weavers, rickshaw pullers etc. Improvement in quality of employment and conditions of work of workers in these unorganised/informal sector has been and continues to be a matter of prime concern for the Government.

The Government are also implementing a number of schemes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCR) etc. for the welfare and improvement of the conditions of rural unorganised labourers in the country. A New Programme known as "Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojna" (SGSY) has been launched from April,

1999. This is a holistic programme covering all aspects of self employment such as organisation of the poor into self help groups, training, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing. With the coming into force of SGSY, the earlier programme IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCR are no longer in operation.

Canalisation of River Swan

489. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh has sent a proposal to the Union Government for securing funds for canalization of Swan River in Una district;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) the time by which the canalization work of the river is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Government of Himachal Pradesh has sent a detailed project report of "Swan River Flood Management and Integrated Land Development Project" in District Una (Himachal Pradesh), to Central Water Commission for techno-economic clearance, which has since been examined by Central Water Commission and is now to be considered by the Technical Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources.

Flood Control and management is a State subject and such schemes are planned and executed by the State Governments as per their own priorities from their own resources.

(c) After the techno-economic and investment clearances of the Union Government, the State Government

could consider, subject to availability of funds, commencing the canalization work.

World Bank Assistance

490. SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds provided by the World Bank to the State Governments, particularly to Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka for implementation of major and medium irrigation projects during the last three years, till date, category-wise and State-wise;

(b) the estimated cost and progress made by the each State Government in this regard;

(c) the target fixed and achieved in their expeditious completion;

(d) the total land likely to be irrigated after the completion of these projects, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) The details of funds provided by the World Bank to the States during last three years for implementation of major/medium irrigation projects and other information asked are indicated in the enclosed statement. As regards Bihar and Maharashtra no funds has been provided by the World Bank during last three years for implementation of major and medium irrigation projects.

Statement

World Bank Assistance for Major and Medium Irrigation projects

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Type	State	Status	Date of Commencement Completion	Assistance Amount (US \$ Million)	Amount of Assistance received during the last three years Upto 31.10.99 (US \$ Million)	Area likely To be irrigated on Completion of these projects (in hectare)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh III Irrigation Project	Major	Andhra Pradesh	Ongoing	03.06.1997 31.01.2003	325	69.62	3,18,000
2.	Haryana Water Resources Consolidation Project	Major	Haryana	Ongoing	19.04.1995 31.12.2002	258	63.52	1,55,000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project	Major	Orissa	Ongoing	<u>05.01.1996</u> <u>30.09.2002</u>	290.9	74.60	3,32,400
4.	Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project	Major	Tamil Nadu	Ongoing	<u>05.01.1996</u> <u>31.03.2002</u>	282.9	34.26	6,91,000
5.	Upper Krishna Irrigation Project Phase-II	Major	Karnataka	Completed	<u>16.06.1989</u> <u>30.06.1997</u>	325	5.9	1,23,260
6.	Punjab Irrigation And Drainage Project	Major	Punjab	Completed	<u>09.02.1990</u> <u>31.07.1998</u>	150	27.89	1,01,000

[English]

Coconut Plantation in Kerala

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

(a) whether Coconut farmers in Kerala are experiencing great difficulty due to infliction new disease in Coconut plantation and Palms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any remedial measures have been undertaken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for any assistance from Union Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof and decision taken thereon;

(f) whether the Government propose to declare the Minimum Support Price of Coconut; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) and (b) The incidence of Eriophyid mite was reported from Kerala in 1998. As per Government of Kerala estimates, nearly 223 lakh palms have been affected in 7 districts of the State, viz, Trichur, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Malappuram, Kottayam, Palakkad and Trivandrum.

(c) The Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasargod have found root feeding of 10 ml. Monocrotophos and 10 ml water at monthly intervals a satisfactory control measure. Similarly, spraying of dicofol 6 ml/liter of water or 2% neem of oil+2% garlic extract a monthly interval has proved effective. Government of Kerala has taken adequate steps to adopt remedial/control measures through spraying with recommended miticide like dicofol/garlic-neem oil emulsion at Panchayat level with active involvement of farmers/farmers associations/NGOs etc., by meeting a portion

of the expenditure involved for the spraying operations. The Coconut Development Board has sanctioned a research project to develop effective bio-control measures at a cost of Rs. 3.00 lakhs. The Coconut Development Board has brought out booklets/bouchers on mite and conduct/brochures training programmes. Technical advice is also rendered through media.

(d) and (e) No request has been received from the Government of Kerala recently for assistance from Government of India. However, during October, 1998 a request was received from Government of Kerala for an assistance of Rs. 525 lakhs for combating Mite infestation in coconut. The Coconut Development Board released Rs. 96 lakhs during 1998-99 to Government of Kerala for this purpose which has been revalidated recently for utilisation during the current year. Further, under the project "Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement", which include plant protection as one of the important components, an outlay of Rs. 713.03 lakhs has been sanctioned for Kerala for the year 1999-2000.

(f) and (g) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Copra for the Season 2000 has not been declared. However, the MSP for copra announced for the 1999 Season is given below:

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---|-------------------------|
| i) | Ball Copra | - | Rs. 3325/- per quintal |
| ii) | Milling Copra | - | Rs. 3100/- per quintal. |

Central Ground Water Board

492. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Kerala for the establishment of a separate Drilling Division of the Central Ground Water Board in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Kerala has proposed that a separate Drilling Division with the full compliment of staff and machinery under the Kerala Unit of Central Ground Water Board may be established for undertaking ground water exploration work in Kerala.

(c) No time limit for establishing the Drilling Division in Kerala has been fixed by the Government.

[Translation]

Jewar, Yakudpur and Hamidpur Yamuna Barrage

493. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state;

(a) the details of funds spent by the Union Government on the construction of Jewar, Yakudpur and Hamidpur Yamuna barrage in Khurja area of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, till date, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the heavy loss of life and property every year in this area due to floods caused by the river Yamuna;

(c) whether the Government propose to release any special fund for construction of the barrage over Yamuna river in these areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Irrigation is State subject and the responsibility for planning investigation, execution, financing and maintenance etc. of all irrigation projects/schemes primarily rest with the concerned State Government.

The data regarding loss of property etc. due to floods is also maintained by the State Government.

Visit of National Security Advisor to the US

494. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Security Advisor visited America recently;

(b) if so, the details of officials with whom discussions were held; and

(c) the details of outcome of discussions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The National Security Advisor visited the United States of America from 20th to 26th October 1999.

(b) The National Security Advisor held discussions with Mr. Strobe Talbott, Acting Secretary of State; Mr. James

Steinberg, Acting National Security Advisor; Mr. William Daley, Secretary of Commerce; Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky, US Trade Representative.

(c) He discussed with the US officials issues concerning bilateral relations with the US and regional developments, including the military coup in Pakistan; cross-border terrorism, and India's security concerns arising therefrom. He also discussed WTO-related issues in the context of the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Meeting at Seattle, USA. The visit further enhanced mutual understanding between India and the US on these issues.

Unemployment in Rural Areas

495. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to register all the unemployed persons in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the total number of unskilled/skilled and literate unemployed in rural areas have been identified;

(d) if so, State-wise and category-wise details thereof;

(e) whether role of voluntary organisation has been defined under this programme; and

(f) whether role of financial institutions has also been defined under this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The employment exchanges register the job seekers both from rural and urban areas. As on June 1999 out of the 40.59 million job seekers registered with the employment exchanges, 23.1 million are from the rural areas.

(c) and (d) The data is not maintained. However, Education-wise break-up of the total number of job seekers as on 31.12.96 is given in the enclosed statement.

(e) and (f) Whenever considered necessary in case of self-employment, employment exchanges can refer cases to voluntary organisations or to financial institutions.

Statement

Number of Educated Job-Seekers (Matric and Above) by Educational Level as on 31.12.96

(In Thousands)

Sl. No.	Educational Level	Number of Live Register			
		Discipline	Men	Women	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Matriculates or X Pass		11183.1	3346.6	14529.7
2.	Higher Secondary Intermediate and Undergraduates or XII Pass		4820.5	1422.7	6243.2

1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Graduates and Post-Graduates					
I	Arts	1272.6	603.3	1875.9	
II	Science	567.9	232.5	800.4	
III	Commerce	561.8	144.7	706.5	
IV	Engineering	155.0	16.4	171.4	
V	Medicine	21.8	10.1	31.9	
VI	Veterinary	3.6	0.8	4.4	
VII	Agriculture	29.5	3.0	32.5	
VIII	Law	12.5	2.6	15.1	
IX	Education	365.8	314.2	680.0	
X	Others	107.7	66.6	174.3	
Total		8989.2	1394.2	4492.4	
Grand Total		19101.8	6163.5	25265.3	

[English]

Water Management

496. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a comprehensive plan for optimum utilisation of water resources in the country for irrigation and other purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are exploring the possibility of harvesting rain water for solving the water problem in different parts of the country;

(d) if so, the details of the technique being developed to make rain water fit for human consumption in the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) and (b) Water being a state subject the various schemes for utilisation of available water resources are formulated planned and executed by the State Governments. Since most of the run off is available in the rivers during the monsoon period, storages are necessary for utilising the water during non-monsoon months. For optimum utilisation of water, therefore, a large number of major and medium irrigation and multipurpose projects has been taken up by various

State Governments and a live storage capacity of 177 BCM has been created so far.

(c) Yes Sir.

Watershed management and water harvesting techniques for improving the availability of water are being employed under various programmes/schemes of Ministry of Water Resources, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Waste Land Development and Department of Rural Development. The techniques include construction of check dams, percolation tanks, well recharging, contour and Nala building etc. These programmes are helping in reduction of soil erosion, in-situ conservation of moisture, infiltration of water into soil and resultant ground water recharge.

(d) The rain water is purified by setting-tank and filtration before it is injected into the aquifer for Ground Water recharge. The roof top rain water collected in storage tanks for direct consumption can be made fit for human consumption by filtration and chlorination.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Casual Employees in Passport Offices

497. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons employed on casual basis in Passport Offices in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to regularise the services of these employees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Five hundred and thirty nine (539) as on 31st October 1999.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Subject to the general instructions of the Department of Personnel and Training and the provisions of the Recruitment Rules of Central Passport Organisation whenever regular posts in Group 'D' are to be filled, eligible Casual Workers would be regularised against the available posts.

[English]

Irrigation Projects

498. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISSI :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of irrigation projects awaiting clearance from the Union Government till date, project-wise and State-wise;

(b) the estimated cost of each project and the stage at which the proposals stand at present with targeted date of their clearance including the reasons for delay in clearance, State-wise particularly Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the Government propose to relax the criteria for providing funds to State Governments, particularly which are affected by the recent cyclone;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total assistance provided by the Union

Government so far to Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Union Government for their expeditious clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) State-wise details of 163 projects received from State Govts. for appraisal alongwith their estimated cost and present status of appraisal is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Funds/assistance to the cyclone affected States is not provided by the Ministry of Water Resources.

(f) Clearance of Irrigation projects is linked with the promptness with which the States comply with the observations of various Central appraising agencies.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Projects	Estimated Cost (Cr.)	Category
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	Pulichintala Irrigation Project (Major)	506.20	B
2.	Krishna Delta System Modernization (Major)-ERM	659.16	B
3.	Bhima Lift Irrigation (Major)	744.00	B
4.	Sriramsagar Stage-II (Major)	697.70	B
5.	Flood Flow Canal from SRSP (Major)	1331.00	B
6.	Jurala (Major)	545.82	B
7.	Chhagalnadu Lift Irrigation Project (Major)	43.05	D
8.	Vamsadhara Phase-I of State-II (Major)	555.55	A
9.	Pedderu Reservoir (Medium)	26.23	B
10.	Palemvagu (Medium)	29.13	B
11.	Valligallu Reservoir (Medium)	131.82	A
12.	Yerravagu (Medium)	7.73	A
13.	Suddavagu (Medium)	56.48	A
14.	Peddavagu (Medium)	202.60	A
15.	Surampalem Reservoir (Medium)	46.70	A
Assam			
16.	Pagladiya dam (Multipurpose)	547.69	B

1	2	3	4
17.	Burisuti Irrigation Scheme (Medium)	34.70	B
18.	Garufella Irrigation Scheme (Medium)	36.35	A
19.	Deopani Project (Medium)	29.77	A
Bihar			
20.	Punasi Reservoir (Major)	221.65	B
21.	Subernakha (Multipurpose)	1428.82	B
22.	Ajoy Barrage/Siktia Barrage (Major)	248.10	B
23.	Punpun-Mohar-Dardha Irrigation Scheme (Major)	68.92 85.66	A
24.	Kadwan Reservoir Project (Major)	1111.14	A
25.	Tilaiya Dhadhar (Major)	301.79	A
26.	Uppersakri Reservoir (Major)	437.94	B
27.	Kanhar Reservoir Project (Major)	1015.76	A
28.	North Koel Reservoir (Major)	836.11	A
29.	Konar Irrigation (Major)	350.551	A
Gujarat			
30.	Modernisation of Machchu-1 (Major)-ERM	8.12	B
31.	Bakrol WR Project (Medium)	23.90	A
Haryana			
32.	Western Yamuna Link Channel (Major)	28.41	A
33.	Khet Purali Dam Project (Medium)	16.92	A
34.	Satluj Yamuna Link Canal (Major)	61.76	B
35.	Proposal for construction and extension of Minor (RIDF-I) (Major)-ERM	60.08	A
36.	Proposal for construction and extension of minor and flood project works (RIDF-II) (Major)-ERM	81.00	A
Himachal Pradesh			
37.	Renuka Dam (Multipurpose)	1224.64	C
38.	Sidhata Irrigation Scheme (Medium)	40.63	B
39.	Changer Area Lift Irrigation Scheme (Medium)	28.37	B
40.	Balh Valley Left Bank Irrigation Project (Medium)	41.46	A
Jammu & Kashmir			
41.	Modernisation of Dadi Canal (Medium)-ERM	10.91	A
42.	Igo-Phey Scheme (Medium)	32.96	A
43.	Modernisation of New Pratap Canal (Medium)-ERM	10.94	A

1	2	3	4
44.	Rafiabad Irrigatin Canal (Medium)	30.00	A
45.	Mod. of Kathua Canal (Medium)-ERM	12.00	A
46.	Mod. of Zaingir Canal (Medium)-ERM	10.07	A
47.	Mod. of Nandi Canal (Medium)-ERM	6.61	A
48.	Kandi Canal Project (Medium)	43.07	A
49.	Mod. of Lar Canal Project (Med.)-ERM	37.05	A
50.	Mod. Ahji Canal (Medium)-ERM	7.96	A
51.	Mod. of Lar Canal (Medium)-ERM	6.63	A
52.	Mod. of Sonaman Canal (Medium)-ERM	4.58	A
53.	Mod. of Mavkhul (Medium)-ERM	7.00	A
54.	Mod. of Marpand (Medium)-ERM	17.72	A
55.	Remodeling of Dav Canal, Gandsbal (Medium)-ERM	5.40	A
56.	Mod. of Babul Canal (Medium)	4.77	A
Karnataka			
57.	Upper Tunga Project (Major) Earthen dam and L.B.C.	556.00	A
58.	Upper Krishna Stage-II (Multipurpose) (Increase in height of Almatti, RBC from Narayanapur dam, foreshore lift schemes from Almatti and Narayanpur etc) toe	2786.17	A
59.	Markandeya Concrete Dam and Canal on both banks (Major)	134.53	A
60.	Singatalur (Huligudda) Lift Irrigation Scheme (Major)	123.00	A
61.	Basapur Lift Irrigation Scheme (Medium)	9.36	A
Kerala			
62.	Idmalayar Irrigation Project (Barrage, Earthen Dam with Canal system on both Bank (Major)	107.00	B
63.	Karapara-Kuriar Kutty (Multipurpose Project) (Concrete gravity Dam with ogee type spillway; canal system on both banks)	231.03	A
64.	Attapady Irrigation Project (Medium) (Masonry Dam with vertical lift type spillway, canal system on both banks)	83.67	A
Madhya Pradesh			
65.	Bansagar Unit-II (Major)	344.66	B
66.	Bargi Multipurpose Project (Major)	566.34	B
67.	Kolar Project (Major)	139.14	B
68.	Thanwar Tank (Major)	24.38	B
69.	Pench Diversion (Major)	184.04	B

1	2	3	4
70.	Mahan (Major)	39.00	B
71.	Omkareshwer Multipurpose Project (Major)	1784.29	D
72.	Rajghat Canal (Major)	309.21	B
73.	Upper Narmada Project (Major)	211.92	A
Maharashtra			
74.	Dudhganga Irrigation (Major)	204.58	B
75.	Warna Irrigation (Major)	337.81	B
76.	Koyna Krishna Lift Irrigation (Major)	259.10	B
77.	Arunavati River Project (Major)	66.48	B
78.	Bawantnadi Irrigation (Major)	161.58	D
79.	Punad Irrigation (Major)	29.22	B
80.	Lower Wunna Project (Major)	87.55	B
81.	Human River Project (Major)	168.15	A
82.	Lower Wardha (Major)	61.99	A
83.	Gunjawani (Major)	86.77	A
84.	Sangola Branch Canal (Major)	44.00	B
85.	Tillary Irrigation Project (Major)	256.00	D
86.	Talamba Irrigation Project (Major)	289.09	B
87.	Lendi Irrigation Project (Major)	177.615	A
88.	Sakol (Medium)	10.88	B
89.	Raigavan (Medium)	9.51	B
90.	Jam Irrigation (Medium)	43.83	B
91.	Masalga (Medium)	17.47	B
92.	Kar (Medium)	44.71	B
93.	Brabaman Gaon Irrigation (Medium)	9.55	A
94.	Tajnapur Lift Irrigation (Medium)	18.19	A
95.	Chandra Bhaga (Medium)	71.14	B
96.	Pentakli (Medium)	91.87	B
97.	Purna (Medium)	51.97	A
98.	Utwali (Medium)	35.77	B
99.	Haranghat Lift Irrigation (Medium)	12.19	A

1	2	3	4
100.	Kirimiri Darur Lift Irrigation (Medium)	4.14	A
101.	Wagholi Bute Lift Irrigation (Medium)	24.98	A
102.	Sulwadi Barrage (Medium)	88.25	A
103.	Lal Nala (Medium)	19.05	A
104.	Nawargaon (Medium)	8.72	B
105.	Ranapur (Medium)	51.16	B
106.	Upper Manjra (Medium)	40.49	A
107.	Saiki Makar Dhokar (Medium) ^o	12.47	A
108.	Jangam Hati Lift Irrigation (Medium)	29.50	B
109.	Pothra Nalla (Medium)	36.95	A
110.	Chikotra (Medium)	89.38	A
111.	Labhan Sarad (Medium)	5.72	A
112.	Prakasha Barrage (Medium)	93.60	A
113.	Jambre (Medium)	55.72	A
Manipur			
114.	Tapai Mukh Dam Project (Multi-purpose)	28.99	B
115.	Jiri Irrigation (Medium)	48.24	D
Nagaland			
116.	D'zuza Irrigation Project (Medium)	49.00	B
Orissa			
117.	Ong Dam Project (Earthen Dam with Ogee type radial gated spillway, canal system on both right left banks) (Major)	217.73	A
118.	Kanupur Irrigation Project (Major)	330.896	B
119.	Manjore (Medium) Earthen Dam with Ogee type spillway, canal system on right and left bank	37.70	B
120.	Telengir (Medium) (Earthen Dam with Central Ogee type radial gated spillway, canal system on right bank)	106.19	B
121.	Rukura (Medium) (Earthen Dam with Central Ogee type radial gated spillway, canal system on right and left banks)	25.21	B
122.	Dhauragoth (Medium) (Earthen Dam with Central Ogee type radial gated spillway, canal system on right and left banks)	14.90	B

1	2	3	4
123.	Ret (Medium) (Earthen Dam with Ogee type spillway, canal system both sides of banks)	86.14	B
124.	Upper lant (Medium) (Earthen Dam with Central Ogee type radial gated spillway, canal system on right bank)	43.50	A
125.	Ib Irrigation Project (Composite Rockfill Dam with concrete spillway canals on both right and left banks) (Major)	96.60	A
126.	Brutang Irrigation Project (Earthen Dam with concrete spillway, Link canal to Kuanria Reservoir, Main Canal on right bank on Kuanria reservoir) (Major)	188.70	A
127.	Upper Indravati Extension Project (Major)-ERM	136.67	B
128.	Upper Kolab Extension Project (Major)-ERM	71.66	B
129.	Samakoi (Medium)	38.41	A
130.	Cheligada (Medium)	43.05	A
131.	Improvement to Salki Irrigation Project (Major)	10.80	A
132.	Improvement to Taladanda Canal and Distributory No. 12 with its system (Major)	57.06	A
Punjab			
133.	Punjab Irrigation and Drainage Project (Phase-III)-Major	1149.00	A
134.	Raising lining of Bhakra Main Canal (Major)-ERM	16.02	B
135.	Kandi Canal Extension from Hoshiarpur to Balachaur (Major)-ERM	147.12	B
136.	Remodelling of channels Upper Bari Doab Canal system (Major)-ERM	154.00	A
137.	Mod. and Extension of Badshahi Canal (Medium)-ERM	11.77	A
138.	SYL Main Canal Part-I (Major)	601.25	D
139.	Modified project estimate of SYL canal Part-III (Major)	185.44	B
Rajasthan			
140.	Pipalda Lift Irrigation (Major)	11.39	A
141.	Utilisation of Yamuna water in Bharatpur Dist. (Major)	172.96	A
142.	Utilisation of Yamuna water in Jhunjunu Dist. (Major)	273.00	A
143.	Mod. of Gang Canal (Major)-ERM	450.04	A
144.	Indira Gandhi Nahar Stage-I (Major)-ERM	121.92	B
145.	Chakan Irrigation (Medium)	9.55	B

1	2	3	4
146.	Piplad Irrigation (Medium)	21.88	A
147.	Grarda Irrigation (Medium)	39.51	B
Tamil Nadu			
148.	Krishna Water Supply to Madras Stage-I (Multipurpose)	176.46	A
149.	Irukkangudi Reservoir (Medium)	28.70	A
150.	Mod. of Cauvery Delta Phase-I (Major)	78.80	B
Uttar Pradesh			
151.	Bewar Feeder (Major)	33.73	B
152.	Raising of Meja Dam (Major)-ERM	65.00	B
153.	Bansagar Canal (Major)	190.27	B
154.	Rajghat Canals (Major)	126.43	B
155.	Kanhar Irrigation (Major)	341.45	A
156.	Kishau Dam (Major)	4099.00	A
157.	Maudaha Dam (Major)	125.16	B
158.	Chittaurgarh (Major)	36.70	B
159.	Lining of channel in Bundalkhand (Major)-ERM	57.37	B
160.	Mod. of Agra Canal (Major)-ERM	45.83	A
161.	Increase Capacity of Bhupali Pump Canal (Major)-ERM	64.86	A
162.	Hathnikund Link Channel (Major)	22.49	A
West Bengal			
163.	Mod. of Kangsabati Reservoir (Phase-I)	471.90	A

Status

- A) Under Correspondence
 B) Put up to Advisory Committee and Accepted Subject to Observations.
 C) Deferred by Advisory Committee
 D) Pending with Planning Commission for Investment Clearance

Payment of Wages during Holidays

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

499. DR. JAYANT RONGPI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tea plantation workers have been demanding wage for working on holidays/Sundays;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating any steps for ensuring payment of wages to these workers;

(c) if so, the time by which such policy shall be implemented; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

MPLADS

500. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of works undertaken and the expenditure incurred thereon under the MP Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) during the year 1996, 1997 and 1998;

(b) the number of complaints made by various Members of Parliament in regard to misuse of funds or irregularities committed in utilisation of fund or diverting the fund in other heads by local DMs during the above said period; and

(c) the action taken on such complaints by the Government during the above period?

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) A variety of works have been taken up under the Scheme which include construction of school buildings, libraries, provision of drinking water, approach roads, small bridges, sports stadia, community centres, crematoriums and boundary walls around them, public toilets, drains, footpaths, bus stops, and provision of electricity in rural areas. An aggregate amount of Rs. 2651 crores has so far been incurred since inception of the Scheme. Year-wise details of expenditure are maintained at the Districts.

(b) and (c) During the period from 01.01.1999 to 31.10.1999, 7 complaints relating to alleged irregularities in the misuse of funds etc. by the Districts Authorities were received. On each occasion when such a complaint is received a report is called for from the concerned authorities of the State Government and they are advised to take necessary corrective action.

[English]

Soil Erosion

501. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of excessive soil erosion caused by the rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proposals have been received by the Union Government from the State Governments of West Bengal and Bihar to check the soil erosion caused by Ganga, Padma and Sone rivers in these States; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The erosion in the banks and beds caused by the rivers during floods in the country is a natural phenomenon. The data on soil erosion on various rivers in the county is not maintained by the Union Government. Remedial measures in the form of river bank protection works are investigated and executed by the concerned State Governments from the funds allocated under State Flood Control Sector by the Planning Commission.

(c) and (d) Government of West Bengal has submitted a proposal of nine schemes costing Rs. 185 crore to the Union Government seeking financial assistance for tackling bank erosion problem caused by Ganga/Padma in Malda and Murshidabad districts. The Union Government has so far provided Rs. 30 crore as additional Central Assistance to the State over and above the regular allocation under State Plan for flood control to enable the State to take up these schemes. No comprehensive proposals for anti erosion measures on Ganga and Sone rivers have been received by the Centre from Government of Bihar. However, Centre is providing assistance to the Government of Bihar for undertaking anti erosion measures on Kosi and Gandak rivers at the Indo-Nepal border.

SSI

502. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by entrepreneurs of small scale industries located in semi-urban and rural areas in getting finance as only industries located in metropolitan and big cities get assistance;

(b) if so, the steps taken to assist small scale industries in small cities and rural areas; and

(c) the details of financial assistance given by Small Scale Industries Bank (SIDBI) to Industries in small cities and rural areas in 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 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which supervises the working of the banks has advised them to ensure that there is no delay in sanctioning and disbursing credit to the SSIs. This is applicable uniformly irrespective of the location of the units.

(c) The data on credit assistance to small industries in small cities and rural areas are not maintained separately.

Sea Erosion

503. SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given to the USQ No. 1107 on 3.3.99 and state:

(a) whether the Union Government identified any funding agency to provide funds to the coastal States to undertake anti-sea erosion work;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any proposal from any coastal State has been received by the Union Government for financial assistance; and

(e) if so, the decision taken by the Government on the proposal if any?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Proposal seeking financial assistance estimated to cost about Rs. 1275 crore for undertaking anti sea erosion works, received from the coastal States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal were included in the National Coastal Protection Project and sent to various appraising agencies. The appraising agencies offered their observations, indicating the need to revise the original proposals. Coastal States, except Kerala and West Bengal, have not submitted revised proposals after complying with the observations of appraising agencies, which are a pre requisite for firming up of the National Coastal Protection Project.

Import of Steel

504. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been alarming rise in the import of seconds and defective steel items and tin plates;

(b) whether the Government's decision to reduce the floor price for the import of these items has further aggravated the situation; and

(c) if so, the details and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) There has been an increase in the import of seconds and defectives steel items and tin plates in the past two-three years. In order to restrict the imports of seconds/defectives steel items and Tin plates, the Government has fixed minimum floor prices in December, 1998. The floor prices have been revised with effect from November, 1999 on the basis of the average export prices of these items from non-dumping sources. Thus domestic steel producers are unlikely to be adversely affected.

Inter-State Water Dispute

505. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Inter-State River Water Disputes pending settlement as on date;

(b) whether the Government propose to release a white paper on the status of the various Inter-State Water Disputes in the country; and

(c) if so, the time by which the white paper is expected to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) The Inter-State Water Disputes viz. Ravi-Beas Water Dispute and Cauvery Water Disputes were referred to the Tribunals under the provisions of Inter State Water Dispute Act, 1956 (ISWD Act, 1956) for adjudication in April 1986 and June 1990 respectively. Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal has submitted its fact finding report on 30.1.1987. Party States and Central Government have sought explanation/guidance under Section 5(3) of ISWD Act, 1956. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed an interim order on June 25, 1991.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Kerosene Depots

506. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made to allot kerosene depots under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana so far;

(b) the number of people proposed to be provided employment under said scheme by the end of 1999-2000;

(c) whether a provision has been made to give priority to those persons who have become overaged for Government services; and

(d) if so, the time by which necessary guidelines in this regard are likely to be issued?

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) Oil Companies have advertised for more than 4,500 retail dealerships under the Prime Minister's Self Employment Scheme of Oil Companies.

(b) More than 10,000 persons are expected to be benefited under the Scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Bhartiya Krishi Bima Nigam

507. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Bhartiya Krishi Bima Nigam; and

(b) If so, the likely functions of the Nigam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Nigam will discharge all the functions of the Implementing Agency of the Crop Insurance Scheme.

[Translation]

Commitment between Indo-China on Non-Use of Nuclear Weapons

508. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China and India have expressed their commitment to "no first use" of nuclear weapons;

(b) If so, the details of agreement entered into between the two countries in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by both the countries to ensure that no possibility of nuclear war arises by any chance?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JAWANT SINGH) : (a) India has announced policy of 'no-first-use' and non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapons states. We have also indicated our readiness to negotiate binding agreements on no-first use, bilaterally or multilaterally. China has a declared policy of no-first use against nuclear weapon States and non-use against non-nuclear weapon States and nuclear weapon free zones. China has called on the nuclear weapon States to begin negotiations aimed at concluding a treaty on the no-first-use of nuclear weapons.

(b) No agreement has been signed between India and China on no-first-use till date.

(c) India and China have reached important agreements in 1993 and 1996, inter alia on a range of confidence building measures in the conventional field. Recently, India and China have also agreed to initiate a dialogue on security issues. No discussions have yet taken place with China on measures to build confidence in the nuclear field. India's nuclear doctrine minimises the risk of accidental nuclear war.

[English]

Sardar Sarovar Dam

509. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Narmada Bachao Andolan has been demanding a white paper on the resettlement of Narmada evictees;

(b) If so, the progress made in rehabilitation of these evictees alongwith the number of those yet to be rehabilitated;

(c) whether the Government are aware that most of the land distributed to the evicteeed has found its way into unauthorised hands;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the preventive measures being taken by the union Government in this regard?

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

(b) Out of 7038 Project Affected Families (PAFs) upto the dam height of 90 m. 5500 PAFs have been resettled. The remaining 220 PAFs of Maharashtra and 1318 PAFs of M.P. have also been offered the Rehabilitation and resettlement package but the same is yet to be accepted.

(c) to (e) The case of encroachment in one R and R site

namely Rozava in Maharashtra has come to the notice of Narmada Control Authority. Government of Maharashtra has reported that the issue of encroachment is pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Fish Farmers Development Agencies

510. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and details of fish farmers development agencies functioning in the country for development of inland fisheries;

(b) the amount released by the Union Government to these agencies for training in fish farming during the last three years; and

(c) the number of fishermen benefited from such training, year-wise and State-wise?

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

(a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Development of Freshwater Aquaculture", 422 fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) have been sanctioned since 1973-74 for the development of inland fisheries in the country. A list of FFDAs is given in enclosed statement-I.

(b) The total amount released by the Government of India to these agencies towards subsidy component, salary of incremental staff and training of beneficiaries during the last three years is as stated below :

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1996-97	1095.00
1997-98	1494.245
1998-99	798.00

(c) The number of fishermen benefited from training organised by the FFDAs during the last three years State-wise is given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

List of sanctioned Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs)

State/Union Territory	No. of FFDAs	Name of the District/Regions where FFDAs are set up
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	22	Karimnagar, Kurnool, Medak, Krishna, Nalgonda, East Godavari, West Godavari, Mehboobnagar, Nizamabad, Chittoor, Khammam, Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram, Vizag, Guntoor, Prakasam, Nellore, Warangal, Adilabad, Anantpur, Cuddapah and Rangareddy.
Arunachal Pradesh	2	Two Regional FFDAs (1) Itanagar (2) East & West Siang/Tirap/Subansiri
Assam	23	Darrang, Kamrup, Naowgang, Sibsagar, Cachar, Lakhmipur, Sonitpur, Karimganj, Kabi, Anglong, Dibrugarh, Kokrajhar, Dhubri, Barpeta, Goalpar, Jorhat, Songaigoan, Nalbari, Morigaon, Golaghat, Tinsukia, Dhemaji, Hailakandi and N.C. Hills District.
Bihar	49	East Champaran, West Champaran, Siwan, Gopalganj, Saran, Vaishali, Muzafarpur, Sitamarhi, Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Gaya, Purnea, Khagaria, Patna, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Munger, Samsatipur, Begusarai, Saharsa, Dhanbad, Aurangabad, Gumla, Katihar, Madhepura, Nalanda, Girdih, Godda, Dumka, Bhagalpur, Sahebganj, Deoghar, Singhbad, Lohardanga, Buxar, Supaul, Ataria, Kishanganj, Banka, Jamul, Bokaro, Chatra, Garhwa and Jamshedpur.

1	2	3
Goa	1	Regional FFDA at Panaji
Gujarat	17	Surat, Panchmahal, Bulsar, Kheda, Jamnagar, Bharoch, Surendranagar, Sabarkantha, Vadodhara, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Kutch, Junagarh, Amreli, Banaskantha and Mehsana.
Haryana	16	Karnal, Rohtak, Sonapat, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Sirsa, Mahendergarh, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Hissar, Bhiwani, Jind, Rewari, Panipat, Kairali and Yamunanagar.
Himachal Pradesh	2	Regional FFDA's at Bilaspur and Mandi
Jammu & Kashmir	2	Regional FFDA's at Jammu and Kashmir
Karnataka	18	Mysore, Dharwar, Shimoga, Kolar, Raichur, Bidar, Bangalore, Chickmangalur, Hassan, Chitradurga, Gulbarga, Belgaum, Bijapur, Madikeri, Uttara-Kannada, Mandya, Tumkur and Dakshin-Kannada
Kerala	14	Palghat, Quilon, Trichur, Cannanore, Alleppey, Trivandrum, Ernakulam, Kottayam, Malappuram, Khozhikod, Pathanathitta, Idukki, Wayanand and Kasargode.
Maharashtra	29	Nagpur, Chandrapur, Bhandara, Yeotmal, Gadchiroli, Pune, Satara, Sangli, Thane, Sholapur, Kolhapur, Aurangabad, Parbhani, Latur, Beed, Amravati, Buldhana, Akola, Ratnagiri, Kulaba, Bombay, Nandiad, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar, Nasik, Jalna, Usmanabad, Vardha, Dhulia
Madhya Pradesh	45	Raipur, Durg, Rajanandgaon, Bilaspur, Raigarh, Rewa, Shahdol, Seoni, Balaghat, Sagar, Chatarpur, Satna, Jabalpur, Sidhi, Shivpuri, Tikamgarh, Khargaona, Dhar, Betul, Shehore, Raisen, Jagdalpur (Bastar), Mandla, Darguja, Chhindwara, Bhind, Guna, Gwalior, Haushangabad, Damoh, Ujjain, Khandwa, Mandsour, Dewas, Indore, Jhabua, Panna, Shajapur, Ratlam, Morena, Datia, Rajgarh, Vidisha, Narsinghpur and Bhopal
Manipur	8	Central Manipur, South Manipur, Bishanpur, Ukhrul, Temenglong, Chandel, Sanapati and Thoubal
Meghalaya	2	Regional FFDA at Shillong and Baghmara
Mizoram	5	Aizawl (East), Lunglei, Chhimituiphi, Aizawl (West) and Kolasib
Nagaland	8	Regional FFDA's - Kohima, Zunheboto, Tuensang, Mon, Pheak, Wokha, Mokokchung and Dimapur
Orissa	30	Cuttack, Puri, Balasore, Ganjam, Phulbani, Bolangir, Sambalpur, Dhenkanal, Mayurbhanj, Kalahanoi, Koraput, Sundergarh, Keonjhar, Gajapati, Rayagada, Nawarangpur, Malkanagiri, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Nayagarh, Angul, Bargarh, Nuapara, Sonapur, Jharsuguda, Boudh and Deogarh.
Punjab	17	Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Sangrur, Jallundur, Patiala, Ropar, Hoshiarpur, Bhatinda, Kapurthala, Ferozpur, Faridkot, Mansa, Fatehgarh Saheb, Mooga, Muktsar and Navasher

1	2	3
Rajasthan	15	Ajmer, Alwar, Bhitwara, Bharatpur, Dungarpur, Jaipur, Tonk, Udaipur, Kota, Chittorgarh, Banswara, Jhalawad, Sewaimadhopur, Pali and Sriganganagar
Sikkim	1	Regional FFDA at Gangkot
Tamil Nadu	17	Thanjavur, Madurai, South Arkot, Periyar, Trichurapalli, Dharmapuri, Changalpattu, Kamarajar, Anna, Tirunelveli, North Arkot, Kanyakumari, Madras, Pudukkottai, Posumpam-Mutthuramalingam, Kattabomman and Chidambaranar
Tripura	4	West Tripura, South Tripura, North Tripura and Dhala
Uttar Pradesh	56	Allahabad, Kanpur, Fatehpur, Varanasi, Jaunpur, Ballia, Gazipur, Mirzapur, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Azamgarh, Lucknow, Unnao, Banda, Gonda, Raibareilly, Moradabad, Sitapur, Hardoi, Lakhimpur-Kheri, Faizabad, Sultanpur, Pratapgarh, Barabanki, Bahraich, Meerut, Badaun, Etah, Aligarh, Jalaun, Etawah, Agra, Farukhabad, Mainpuri, Muzzaaffarnagar, Bulandshahar, Shahrampur, Gaziabad, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Hamirpur, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Pilibhit, Rampur, Bijnaur, Mathura, Firozabad, Hardwar, Sidharthnagar, Mau, Sonabhadra, Maharajgarh, Dehradun, (Regional FFDA for Garhwal Division) and Nainital (Regional FFDA for Kumaon Division)
West Bengal	18	Bankura, Nadia, Hawrah, West Dinajpur, Hooghly, Birbhum, Darjeeling, North 24-Paraganas, Malda, Murshidabad, Cooch-Behar, Jalpaiguri, Burdwan, Midnapur, Purulia, 24-Paraganasa (South), Siliguri Sub-Division of Darjeeling District and Uttar Dinajpur.
Pondicherry	1	Regional FFDA at Karaikal

Total 422

Statement-II

Number of beneficiaries covered under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Freshwater Aquaculture through Fish Farmers Development Agencies during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99

S. No.	State/UT	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil*	Nil*	Nil*
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	467	1735	305
3.	Assam	976	597	1122
4.	Bihar	2909	1497	3422
5.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Gujarat	806	582	590
7.	Haryana	1001	888	1020
8.	Himachal Pradesh	243	152	159
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	390	435	466
10.	Karnataka	859	873	736
11.	Kerala	1863	7346	1211
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5823	4853	4571
13.	Maharashtra	1371	1251	1345
14.	Manipur	1145	646	451
15.	Meghalaya	260	299	260

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Mizoram	226	300	Nil
17.	Nagaland	2620	3000	2460
18.	Orissa	4655	4874	3713
19.	Punjab	1441	1374	1388
20.	Rajasthan	404	740	Nil**
21.	Sikkim	142	214	157
22.	Tamil Nadu	232	3628	Nil
23.	Tripura	2016	370	472
24.	Uttar Pradesh	7265	6508	5977
25.	West Bangal	8839	7377	6107
26.	Pondicherry	57	343	8
Total		46010	49882	35940

* Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) have been discontinued in Andhra Pradesh w.e.f. 1.3.97.

** Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) have been discontinued in Rajasthan w.e.f. 15.5.98.

Veterinary Health Programmes

511. SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to pay more attention in conducting of free Veterinary Medical Camps and Veterinary Health Awareness Programme in the cattle belts of India;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide veterinary ambulances to the veterinary hospitals in rural areas or to the NGO's engaged in Veterinary Health Care Programmes and free veterinary medical camps in the backward districts, hilly areas, forest regions of the country; and

(c) if so, the backward districts likely to be benefited therefrom in the country particularly in the State of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Animal Husbandry is a State subject, and the Central Government supplements the efforts of State Governments in controlling animal diseases by extending financial assistance under Central Schemes. There is no specific scheme for conducting free Veterinary Medical Camps and Veterinary Health Awareness Programmes in the country. However, the Central Government under the National Project on Rinderpest Eradication, has in 97-98 provided 48 Mobile Veterinary Laboratories/Clinics to State Governments, including Tamil Nadu, for their use in controlling animal disease in rural and remote areas.

Indian Missions Functioning Abroad

512. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Missions presently functioning, Countrywise;

(b) the number out of them headed by the Non-Career Diplomats Country-wise; and

(c) the number of missions abroad where vacancy still exists, Country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Presently, there are 114 Indian Missions functioning abroad. A country wise list, as on 26.11.1999, is at Statement-I.

(b) There are eight Indian Missions abroad which are headed by Non Career Diplomats. A Country wise list, as on 26.11.1999, is at Statement-II.

(c) There are three Indian Missions abroad which are presently without Heads. A country wise list, as on 26.11.1999, is at Statement-III. Heads of Missions have been nominated for all three places and it is expected that they will be in position shortly.

Statement-I

List of Indian Missions presently functioning abroad as on 26.11.1999

Country	Office	Mission
1	2	3
Algeria	Embassy of India	Algiers
Angola	Embassy of India	Luanda
Armenia	Embassy of India	Yerevan

1	2	3
Argentina	Embassy of India	Buenos Aires
Australia	High Commission of India	Canberra
Austria	Embassy of India	Vienna
Azerbaijan	Embassy of India	Baku
Bahrain	Embassy of India	Bahrain
Bangladesh	High Commission of India	Dhaka
Belarus	Embassy of India	Minsk
Belgium	Embassy of India	Brussels
Bhutan	Embassy of India	Thimpu
Botswana	High Commission of India	Gaborone
Brunei Darussalam	High Commission of India	Bander Seri Begawan
Bulgaria	Embassy of India	Sofia
Burkina Faso	Embassy of India	Ouagadougou
Brazil	Embassy of India	Brasilia
Combodia	Embassy of India	Phnom Penh
Canada	High Commission of India	Ottawa
Chile	Embassy of India	Santiago
China	Embassy of India	Beijing
Colombia	Embassy of India	Bogota
Cote D'Ivoire	Embassy of India	Abidjan
Croatia	Embassy of India	Zagreb
Cuba	Embassy of India	Havana
Cyprus	High Commission of India	Nicosia
Czech Republic	Embassy of India	Prague
Denmark	Embassy of India	Copenhagen
Egypt	Embassy of India	Cairo
Finland	Embassy of India	Helsinki
Fiji	High Commission of India	Suva
France	Embassy of India	Paris
Germany	Embassy of India	Berlin
Ghana	High Commission of India	Accra

1	2	3
Greece	Embassy of India	Athens
Guyana	High Commission of India	Georgetown
Hungary	Embassy of India	Budapest
Indonesia	Embassy of India	Jakarta
Iran	Embassy of India	Tehran
Iraq	Embassy of India	Baghdad
Ireland	Embassy of India	Dublin
Israel	Embassy of India	Tel Aviv
Italy	Embassy of India	Rome
Jamaica	High Commission of India	Kingston
Japan	Embassy of India	Tokyo
Jordan	Embassy of India	Amman
Kazakhstan	Embassy of India	Almaty
Kenya	High Commission of India	Nairobi
Korea (N)	Embassy of India	Pyongyang
Korea (S)	Embassy of India	Seoul
Kuwait	Embassy of India	Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan	Embassy of India	Bishkek
Laos	Embassy of India	Vientiane
Lebanon	Embassy of India	Beirut
Libya	Embassy of India	Tripoli
Madagascar	Embassy of India	Antananarivo
Malaysia	High Commission of India	Kuala Lumpur
Maldives	High Commission of India	Male
Mauritius	High Commission of India	Port Louis
Mexico	Embassy of India	Mexico City
Mongolia	Embassy of India	Ulan Bator
Morocco	Embassy of India	Rabat
Mozambique	High Commission of India	Maputo
Myanmar	Embassy of India	Yangon
Namibia	High Commission of India	Windhoek
Nepal	Embassy of India	Kathmandu
Netherlands	Embassy of India	The Hague
New Zealand	High Commission of India	Wellington
Nigeria	High Commission of India	Lagos

1	2	3
Norway	Embassy of India	Oslo
Oman	Embassy of India	Muscat
Pakistan	High Commission of India	Islamabad
Panama	Embassy of India	Panama
Papua New Guinea	High Commission of India	Port Moresby
Peru	Embassy of India	Lima
Philippines	Embassy of India	Manila
Poland	Embassy of India	Warsaw
Portugal	Embassy of India	Lisbon
Qatar	Embassy of India	Doha
Romania	Embassy of India	Bucharest
Russian Federation	Embassy of India	Moscow
Saudi Arabia	Embassy of India	Riyadh
Senegal	Embassy of India	Dakar
Seychelles	High Commission of India	Mahe
Singapore	High Commission of India	Singapore
Slovak Republic	Embassy of India	Bratislava
South Africa	High Commission of India	Pretoria
Spain	Embassy of India	Madrid
Sri Lanka	High Commission of India	Colombo
Sudan	Embassy of India	Khartoum
Suriname	Embassy of India	Paramaribo
Sweden	Embassy of India	Stockholm
Switzerland	Embassy of India	Berne
Syria	Embassy of India	Damascus
Tajikistan	Embassy of India	Dushanbe
Tanzania	High Commission of India	Dar-Es-Salaam
Thailand	Embassy of India	Bangkok
Trinidad and Tobago	High Commission of India	Port of Spain
Tunisia	Embassy of India	Tunis
Turkey	Embassy of India	Ankara
Turkmenistan	Embassy of India	Ashkhabad
Uganda	High Commission of India	Kampala
Ukraine	Embassy of India	Kiev
UAE	Embassy of India	Abu Dhabi
UK	High Commission of India	London

1	2	3
USA	Embassy of India	Washington
Uzbekistan	Embassy of India	Tashkent
Venezuela	Embassy of India	Caracas
Vietnam	Embassy of India	Hanoi
Yemen	Embassy of India	Sana'A
Yugoslavia	Embassy of India	Belgrade
Zambia	High Commission of India	Lusaka
Zimbabwe	High Commission of India	Harare

Note 1. Total number of countries : 114

2. Total number of Missions as under 114

Embassies	High Commissions	Total
84	30	=114

Statement-II

List of Non-Career Diplomats as on 26.11.1999

S. No.	Mission	Name of Diplomat
01	Fiji (Suva)	Prof. I. S. Chauhan
02	Loas (Vientiane)	Shri S. D. Muni
03	Mangolia (Ulan Bator)	Shri Kushok Bakula
04	Mozambique (Maputo)	Dr. Jaspal Singh
05	Saudi Arabia (Riyadh)	Shri M. H. Ansari
06	Trinidad and Tobago	Prof. Parimal K. Das
07	Tunisia (Tunis)	Shri Ishrat Aziz
08	U.S.A. (Washington)	Shri Naresh Chandra

Statement-III

List of Missions abroad without Head of Mission as on 26.11.1999

	Country	Mission
1.	Nigeria	Logos
2.	Spain	Madrid
3.	United Kingdom	London

Misuse of Fund under MPLADS

513. SHRI C. N. SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount allocated by the Union Government to remove unemployment in the rural areas is being siphoned by the State Governments;

(b) if so, whether such cases have come to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, the details of the action taken against those who are responsible for the same, State-wise; and

(d) the concrete measures the Government propose to take to ensure the involvement of the local area Member of Parliament in developmental works by the State Governments?

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 Union Government allocate funds to remove unemployment in rural areas to various State Governments under a number of Schemes. While releasing funds, State Governments are

advised to adhere to a set of guidelines for implementing the Schemes. However, as and when any instances of non-compliance of above guidelines are brought to the notice of the Govt., the State Authorities are advised to take corrective measures.

In Schemes like Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) the works are undertaken by the Districts Authorities solely on the recommendation of the Members of Parliament. The Government of India releases funds directly to the District Collectors to undertake works recommended by Members of Parliament. The funds are not released to the State Governments.

[Translation]

Unemployed Youths

514. SHRI BRIJ MOHAN RAM :

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employed youths at present registered with the employment exchanges, State-wise; and

(b) the total number of unemployed youths provided jobs by each of these employment exchanges during 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) A statement indicating State-wise number of job-seekers, all of whom need not necessarily be unemployed, registered with the employment exchanges as on 30th June, 99 and placement during Jan. to June 1999 is enclosed.

Statement

Number of Job-seekers on Live Register as at the end of June, 1999 and their number placed in employment during the period Jan.-June, 1999

(In thousands)

S. No.	State/Union Territories	Placements (Jan-June, 1999)	Live Register as at end c ^t 30th June, 1999
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.1	3159.7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	14.7
3.	Assam	1.0	1505.5
4.	Bihar	7.4	3233.1
5.	Goa	0.3	110.3
6.	Gujarat	31.1	934.0

1	2	3	4
7.	Haryana	4.0	802.3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2.6	838.7
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	@	163.3
10.	Karnataka	9.2	1854.5
11.	Kerala	11.5	3912.7
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2.3	2602.0
13.	Maharashtra	7.3	4213.9
14.	Manipur	0.1	374.8
15.	Meghalaya	0.1	36.6
16.	Mizoram	* 0.1	87.7
17.	Nagaland	@	34.9
18.	Orissa	2.9	1002.0
19.	Punjab	0.8	564.7
20.	Rajasthan	2.6	906.9
21.	Sikkim*		
22.	Tamil Nadu	8.9	4284.0
23.	Tripura	0.1	270.7
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2.2	2643.0
25.	West Bengal	5.5	5625.8
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.2	27.9
27.	Chandigarh	0.3	104.5
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	3.7
29.	Delhi	5.2	1150.9
30.	Daman & Diu	@	6.2
31.	Lakshadweep	0.1	9.4
32.	Pondicherry	-	116.4
Total		110.9	40594.6

* No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.

@ Figures less than 50.

N.B. Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.

*[English]***Visit of US President**

515. SHRI A. C. JOS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government have received any final intimation from US Administration on the visit of President of US to India;

(b) if so, the details of officials thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have identified the areas on which talks are to be held at that time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The US Government has stated that President Clinton intends to visit India in the early part of 2000. Precise dates for visit will be decided taking into account the convenience of both sides.

(c) and (d) The Government will discuss all aspects of bilateral relations, as well as regional and international issues. Both sides have agreed that the visit should provide an important opportunity to improve mutual understanding and cooperation.

Nuclear Tests

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

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct more nuclear testing near future; 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) Government have declared a voluntary moratorium on further underground nuclear test explosions after carrying out five successful tests of a variety of nuclear devices of advanced designs on 11 and 13 May 1998.

Assistance to Fishermen

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

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide assistance to motorise traditional craft of fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount earmarked for the scheme during each of the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the number of fishermen covered and the amount of assistance given under the scheme to the State of Kerala, during each of the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Motorisation of Traditional Craft" is under implementation since the Seventh Five Year Plan in maritime States and Union Territories. The Scheme aims at technological upgradation of the traditional fishing sector and helps them in extending their area of fishing operations. Financial assistance in the form of subsidy is provided to traditional fishermen under the Scheme and 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.

(c) The details of allocation earmarked for the Scheme during the last three years are furnished as under:-

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1996-97	400
1997-98	400
1998-99	300

(d) The details of number of traditional crafts sanctioned for modernisation alongwith the amount of Central subsidy provided to the State of Kerala are as under:-

Year	Number of craft sanctioned for motorisation	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1996-97	500	25.00
1997-98	500	25.00
1998-99	—	—

*[Translation]***SSI in Nandurbar**

518. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide special facilities for establishing Small Scale Industries in the country particularly in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra being a tribal district; 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) In order to establish small scale industries in the country, Government of India is giving many facilities and incentive like (i) priority lending to SSI units (ii) product reservation (iii) excise concessions (iv) setting up of tiny units through the PMRY Scheme (v) establishment of industrial estates (vi) consultancy and technical assistance etc. Govt. of India does not formulate detailed districtwise development plans for the establishment of the small scale industries. This is done by the States.

[English]

Welfare Programme of Bidi Workers

519. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to include tendu leaf (bidi leaf) collectors for the welfare programme of bidi workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are millions of tendu leaf collectors in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to consider extending welfare programme to tendu leaf collectors particularly for the welfare of the tribals?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Although tendu leaf collectors in the country are wide spread and their number is reported to be large, their exact size so far has not been reflected in any Census report. Some State Governments provide various kinds of welfare benefits to them including social security. The Central Government also offers a personal accident insurance social security scheme for poor families which also provides benefit to tendu leaf collectors including tribals.

Natural Calamity

520. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI C. N. SINGH :

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

SHRI H.G. RAMULU :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether devastating rain fall flood and cyclone hit the several States of the country;

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

(c) whether any assessment has been made by the Government of the affected areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of persons killed/injured and properties damaged on this account, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government have announced any relief/compensation to the dependents of the deceased and injured persons;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said relief/compensation is likely to be provided;

(g) whether any foreign assistance has also been received; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) to (d) As per information received from various States, State-wise details of damage to various sectors due to heavy rains, floods, cyclone, etc. during the periods pre-monsoon 1999, south-west monsoon 1999 and north-east monsoon 1999 is given in the enclosed statement.

(e) and (f) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to take relief, restoration and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities from the funds under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) allocated every year. Three quarterly instalments of Central share of CRF for 1999-2000 have been released to all the States. The fourth quarterly instalment has been released in advance to Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. In addition to CRF, a National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) has been created on the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) for considering assistance to the States in the wake of natural calamity of rare severity, in accordance with a set procedure.

During 1999, memoranda have been received from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, seeking assistance from the NFCR in the wake of various natural Calamities. These are in various stages of processing. The National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) will consider in due course the reports of Central Teams, wherever deputed, and the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) thereon for a decision on the quantum of assistance, if any, from the NFCR. The assistance approved by the NCRC is released by the Ministry of Finance.

(g) and (h) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement
Damage due to Heavy Rains, Cyclone etc. during Pre-monsoon-1999

S.No.	Name of State	Date of Occurrence	Total No. of District affected	No. of District affected	Area affected (in lakh ha.)	Population affected (in lakh)	Crop area affected in lakh hectare)	Value of Crop area (Rs. in lakh)	Damage to houses/huts (No.)	Value of Houses damage (Rs. in lakh)	Human lives lost (No.)	Animals lost (No.)
1.	Anunachal Pradesh	9.5.1999	14	1		0.02				17	1	
2.	Gujarat	17.5.1999	24	3						46.999	453	
3.	Kerala	4.2.99-9.4.99	14	9	55.36	207.3	55.36	207.3	2194	46.999	11	
	Total		13	20	55.36	207.3	55.36	207.3	2211	46.999	465	

Damage due to Heavy Rains, Flood, Cyclone etc. during the South West Monsoon-1998

S.No.	Name of State	Date of Occurrence	Calamity	Total No. of District affected	No. of District affected	Area affected (in lakh ha.)	Population affected (in lakh)	Crop area affected in lakh hectare)	Value of Crop area (Rs. in lakh)	Damage to houses/huts (No.)	Value of Houses damage (Rs. in lakh)	Human lives lost (No.)	Animals lost (No.)
1.	Anunachal Pradesh	1.6.99	H.R./Lan.	12	1								N.R.
2.	Assam Ist. wave 2nd Wave	24.6.99 23.8.99	H.R./F H.R./F.	23 10	12 10	1.45 1.48	3.39 5.37	0.52 0.54		126		1 2	
3.	Bihar	5.7.99 22-29.9.99	H.R./F H.R./C.R.	55 16	21 16	6.99 8.413	60.16 11.49	3.12 0.21		21,268 166.166		200 44	12 1344
4.	Gujarat	16.7-30.8.99	H.R./F	24	15		22.05			2224		30	129
5.	Himachal Pradesh	July-Aug 99	H.R./F.	12	12					2137		24	117
6.	Karnataka	12.7.99	H.R./F	27	9	0.01		0.01		20083		111	
7.	Kerala	25.5-8.10.99	H.R./F/Lig./Lan.	14	14	1368				29168		27	654
8.	Madhya Pradesh	20.9.1999	H.R./F.	45	7	1807	4.36	-0.62				14	
9.	Orissa	7.8.99	H.R./F	30	7	2486	1.53	1.53		2		11	
10.	Punjab	12.7.99	H.R./F	17	3	0.02		0.02		4014		16	82
11.	Tripura	9-12.7.99	H.R./F	4	2	0.2		0.05				46	
12.	Rajasthan	June-Sept. 99	H.R./F	30	15		1.84	0.33		1023		86	9
13.	Uttar Pradesh	18.8.99	H.R./F/Lan.	83	11	620				10		79	
14.	West Bengal	25-26.6.99 23-26.9.99	Landslide H.R./F.	18 18	1 14		128.48			559527		737	2347
	Total			28738	12.9	254.87	6.95	805748	737	2347			

H.R.—Heavy Rains
F.—Floods

Lan—Landslide
Lig—Lightening

C.R. :- Cyclonic Rains

Damage due to Heavy Rains, Flood, and Super Cyclonic storm during North-East Monsoon-1999

S.No.	Name of State	Date of Occurrence	Calamity	Total No. of District affected	No. of District affected	Area affected (in lakh ha.)	Population affected (in lakh)	Crop area affected in lakh hectare)	Damage to houses/huts (No.)	Human lives lost (No.)	Animals lost (No.)	No. of person injured
1.	Orissa	17-18.10.99 29-30.10.99	Cyclone Super Cyclone	30 30	4 12	5181 14190	1.58 18.42	37.47 125.69	331000 1628000	205 9866	10578 444000	406 2507
	Total			19371	20.00	163.16	20.00	2159000	10071	454578	2913	

National Calamity

521. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare devastation caused by the Super Cyclone in various district of Orissa as national calamity;

(b) if not, the reason thereof;

(c) the parameters prescribed, if any, for declaring any such natural calamity as National Calamity;

(d) the details of all national and international assistance rendered to the affected persons in Orissa;

(e) the changes taken place in due situation after declaration of national calamity; and

(f) the extent of help made available to Orissa State alongwith the sources thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (e) There are no laid down guidelines for declaring any calamity, including the Super Cyclone of 29th October, 1999 in Orissa, as a National Calamity. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertake relief, restoration and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities from the allocation under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). In addition to CRF, assistance is considered from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for calamities of rare severity, in accordance with the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission (TFC). In its recommendations, the TFC has stated that a calamity of rare severity would necessarily have to be adjudged on a case-to-case basis taking into account, inter-alia, the intensity and magnitude of the calamity, level of relief assistance needed, the capacity of the State to tackle the problem, the alternatives and flexibility available within the plans to provide succour and relief etc. The TFC had also recommended that once a calamity is deemed to be of rare severity, it really ought to be dealt with as a national calamity requiring assistance and support beyond what is envisaged in the CRF scheme. The Super Cyclone in Orissa has, however, been treated as a national calamity and necessary relief, restoration and rehabilitation measures have taken up on a national scale.

(f) The entire Central share CRF amounting to Rs. 42.50 crore to the State for 1999-2000 has been released,

which includes advance release of 4th quarterly instalment due on 1.1.2000. Pending receipt of the detailed memorandum from the State Government, ad-hoc assistance of Rs. 200.00 crore from the NFCR has also been released. The Government of India is taking all possible steps to assist the State Government to face the extensive damage to life and property caused by the calamity.

Promotion of SSI and Agro Industries

522. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing programmes for promotion of small scale industries and agro industries in rural and backward districts of the country;

(b) the details of financial allocation made during the last three years, State-wise separately and the extent to which the allocation have been utilized during the period;

(c) whether formulation of new schemes is under consideration of the Government; 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) For the promotion of Small Scale Industries and Agro Industries in Rural and Backward Districts of the country, the Government is implementing various Schemes/Programmes, viz. Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Schemes, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for setting up micro enterprises, Entrepreneurial, Managerial Training Programme and Technical Skill Development through Small Industries Service Institutes (SISIs) and Tool Rooms etc. National Programme for Rural Industrialization (NPRI) has been launched this year to Promote clusters of small scale units in rural areas. The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) helps in supplying indigenous and imported machines on easy hire purchase terms, assists in marketing and export, develops prototype of machines and imparts training. Similarly, Khadi and Village Industries Corporation (KVIC) plans, promotes, organizes and assists in implementation of various programmes for the development of Khadi and Village Industries, viz., Rural Employment Generation Programme.

(b) The Schemes/Programmes for the promotion of Small Scale Industries are uniformly applicable to all parts

of the country and as such no specific State-wise allocation of funds is made.

(c) and (d) The National Programme for Rural Industrialization (NPRI) to promote clusters of small scale units in rural areas is under finalisation.

Government is contemplating to set up a Credit Guarantee Scheme for loans upto Rs. 10 lakhs per unit.

Mullaperiyar Dam

523. SHRI T. T. V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dispute between the State Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu in regard to increase the height of Mullaperiyar Dam has been resolved;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the measures being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):
(a) There is no dispute between the Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu with regard to increasing the height of Mullaperiyar Dam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National Commission on Labour

524. SHRI BHIM DAHAL :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Second National Commission on Labour has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Ravindra Verma;

(b) if so, the details of other members and representative of the organisation; and

(c) the criteria adopted in selecting the members of the Commission and the terms and reference of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of the members alongwith the organisations they represent and the terms of reference of the Commission are given in enclosed Statement. The members have been selected keeping in view the representation to be given to Government, industry, labour etc.

Statement

Names of members of the Second National Commission on Labour and the organisations they represent.

01. Shri Ravindra Varma,
Chairman, Gandhi Peace Foundation,
Rouse Avenue, New Delhi.
02. Dr. B.R. Sabade, Executive Director Institute of Small Business and Industry, Pune 411 009 Centre for Business and Industry, Pune 411 009 Honorary Secretary, Poona Divisional Productivity Council, Pune 411 009 President, Entrepreneurs International, Pune 411 009
03. Shri Sunil Shastri, Associated with various bodies like Chairman, Lal Bahadur Memorial Foundation, Vice President of Lal Bahadur Shastri Sewa Nikaten and Chairman of full fledged Institute of Management in memory of Late Prime Minister at Lucknow etc. 1 Moti Lal Nehru Place, New Delhi-110011
04. Shri Sudarshan Sarin, National President Laghu Udyog Bharati, 1E/11 Swami Ram Tirath Nagar, Jhandewalan Extn. New Delhi-110055
05. Shri G. Sanjeeva Reddy, President, INTUC, 6/B, LIGH, Barkatpura, Hyderabad-500027
06. Shri Jitendra Vir Gupta, Retired Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court, 211 Sector 18A, Chandigarh-160018
07. Smt. Ela R. Bhatt, SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association), Bhadra in front of Lokmanya Tilak Bagh, Ahmedabad-380 001
08. Shri Arvind R. Doshi, President, The Employers' Federation of India, Chairman of Premeir Auto Electric Ltd. Vice Chairman of Premier Automobiles Ltd. 4th Floor, A-block, Shivsagar Estates, Worli, Mumbai-400 018
09. Shri Hasubhal Dae, Advocate, B.M.S. All India General Secretary, Thrid Term 1999 (Nagpur) Chairman, Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur from 18.01.1999
10. Shri N. Sanyal, IAS (OR:79) Member Secretary

The detailed terms of reference of the Second National Commission on Labour are as follows:-

- i) to suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector; and
- ii) to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a

minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sectors;

In developing the frame work for its recommendations the Commission will take into account the following:-

- i) follow up implications of the recommendations made by the Commission set up in May, 1998 for review of various administrative laws governing industry;
- ii) the emerging economic environment involving rapid technological changes, requiring response in terms of change in methods, timings and conditions of work in industry, trade and services, globalisation of economy, liberalisation of trade and industry and emphasis on international competitiveness, and the need for bringing the existing laws in tune with the future labour market needs and demands;
- iii) the minimum level of labour protection and welfare measures and the basic institutional framework for ensuring the same, in a manner which is conducive to a flexible labour market and adjustments necessary for furthering technological change and economic growth; and
- iv) improving the effectiveness of measures relating to social security, occupational health and safety, minimum wages and linkage of wages with productivity and in particular the safeguards and facilities required for women and handicapped persons in employment.

[Translation]

Subernrekha Irrigation Project

525. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several villages in Bihar have been submerged due to slow progress in construction of Subernrekha multi-purpose project;

(b) if so, the details of villages affected since 1996 till date, year-wise alongwith value of property damaged therein; and

(c) the measures taken by the Union Government to provide assistance and relief to the affected families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):
(a) Eighteen villages have come under submergence due to impounding of water up to crest level of spillway in respect of Chandil dam of Subernrekha Multi-purpose Project, Bihar.

(b) As per latest information available the position is as under:

Year	No. of villages submerged		Total
	Partially	Fully	
1996	30	6	36
1997	32	6	38

Data regarding value of property damaged therein are maintained by the State Government.

(c) Irrigation is a State subject. Affected families are assisted by the State Government.

Pending Schemes

526. SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of development scheme pending with the Union Government, State-wise particularly relating to Bihar;

(b) whether these schemes have been pending for a long period; and

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

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) Development schemes which are part of the annual outlay agreed to by the Planning Commission are taken up by the State Governments without seeking any further approval, except in case of certain categories of large Power and Irrigation Projects which require approval of the Planning Commission from investment angle. No development, irrigation or power project from any State, including Bihar, is pending for clearance from the Planning Commission.

[English]

Dialogue with Pakistan

527. SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian dialogue with Pakistan for peace have been taking place during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of the talks which have been taken place at various diplomatic and military levels in this regard;

(c) whether such talks have been effective and fruitful;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there are any changes in such relation after the civilian Government was overthrown in Pakistan;

(f) if so, whether Pakistan has violated the decision or agreements arrived at; and

(g) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (g) The composite dialogue process between India and Pakistan was established in September 1998. It aimed at building trust and confidence, putting in place a stable structure of cooperation and addressing all outstanding issues. The first round of meetings under this process was held in October-November 1998 in Islamabad and New Delhi. To reinforce the composite dialogue process and convey the message of goodwill of the people of India towards the people of Pakistan. Prime Minister visited Lahore in February 1999. His visit was widely welcomed by the peoples of the two countries.

Pakistan's armed intrusion and aggression in the Kargil sector of Jammu & Kashmir was a violation, not only of the Line of Control but also of the territory of trust. Pakistan needs to restore trust by abandoning cross-border terrorism and its hostile propaganda against India. There has been no let up in Pakistan's state sponsored terrorism and anti-India propaganda prior to or following the military coup.

Welfare of Marble Quarry Labourers

528. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enact a legislation for improving the conditions of labourers working in the marble quarries in the country particularly in the backward areas of U.P.;

(b) If so, the details of the legislation; and

(c) the number of labourers working at present in various marble quarries in each State?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The statistics of number of workers engaged in marble quarries is not maintained centrally.

[Translation]

Welfare of Farmers

529. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme for the welfare of the farmers in the hilly areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A list of schemes implemented for the welfare of farmers in hill areas is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

1. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes covering rice, wheat and Coarse Cereals.
2. National Pulses Development Project.
3. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPPRA).
4. Watershed Development Project in Shifting cultivation area in NE region.
5. Soil conservation in the catchment of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers.
6. Transport subsidy scheme for the movement of Seeds to North Eastern States Sikkim, J&K, Himachal, Hill Areas of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
7. Integrated Development of Vegetables including onion, potato, other root and tuber crops.
8. Development of Bee keeping for Improving Crop Productivity.
9. Development of medicinal and aromatic plants.
10. Integrated Development of spices.
11. Integrated Development of Tropical Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits.
12. Assistance to Co-operative credit Institutions in Co-operatively under Developed states.
13. Special Schemes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
14. Assistance for co-operative marketing processing and storage programme in co-operatively under developed/least developed states.

15. Integrated Dairy Development Projects in Non operation Flood Hilly and Backward Areas.
16. Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in hill regions.
17. Assistance to states for Development and Preservation of Pack Animals.

Production of Sugarcane

530. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land under sugarcane cultivation, State-wise;

(b) whether the area under cultivation of sugarcane and its production have declined in the country during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to increase the area under cultivation of sugarcane and its production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):
(a) The total area of land under sugarcane cultivation, State-wise and all-India for the last three years is given in enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The production of sugarcane is rising over the years. However, the area declined during 1997-98 but again increased during 1998-99 compared to the preceding year as is evident from the enclosed statement.

(d) The scope for increasing area is limited. However to increase the production and productivity of sugarcane, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System is being implemented from 1995-96 in 21 States/U.T.s. Under the scheme, incentives are being provided to the farmers on implements: bullock drawn and tractor drawn; farmers training and drip irrigation. The other components of the scheme which also benefit sugarcane growers are : (1) Field Demonstration (2) State Level Training and (3) Seed Multiplication. An amount of Rs. 2100.00 lakh (central share) has been made in Budget Estimates 1999-2000.

Statement

State	Area (Thousand Hectares)					
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	199.3	192.2	213.8	15030.0	13955.0	16684.6
Assam	35.9	31.3	30.6	1490.3	1287.5	1223.6
Bihar	129.6	108.0	107.5	5842.5	4959.9	5218.8
Goa	1.3	1.3	1.3	58.0	62.4	64.0
Gujarat	165.8	165.0	196.3	11404.3	11836.2	13566.3
Haryana	162.0	142.0	125.0	9020.0	7550.0	6880.0
Himachal Pradesh	3.4	3.8	3.3	70.3	139.1	120.2
Jammu & Kashmir	0.2	0.2	0.2	6.5	6.5	6.0
Karnataka	282.1	309.8	312.0	23374.4	28332.7	28454.0
Kerala	5.9	5.9	5.6	548.1	548.1	406.4
Madhya Pradesh	45.0	42.3	50.2	1761.4	1631.7	1973.0
Maharashtra	516.2	459.7	529.8	41804.8	38174.3	47151.1
Manipur	1.3	0.5	0.5	42.8	15.4	15.4
Meghalaya	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.2	2.3	2.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mizoram	1.2	1.3	1.3	7.7	7.5	7.9
Nagaland	2.5	1.0	1.2	125.0	50.0	68.0
Orissa	23.5	18.7	22.3	1332.1	1144.0	1469.5
Punjab	173.0	126.0	103.0	11040.0	7150.0	6130.0
Rajasthan	26.37	23.2	22.6	1290.2	1158.7	1078.3
Tamil Nadu	259.6	282.8	347.9	25918.8	30183.6	46672.8
Tripura	1.1	1.1	1.1	55.0	58.0	43.0
Uttar Pradesh	2110.6	1985.2	1970.6	125348.4	129266.7	116302.8
West Bengal	24.9	25.8	26.9	1810.3	1825.7	2001.9
A&N Islands	0.3	0.2	0.2	6.7	4.8	4.7
Pondicherry	2.6	2.4	2.3	170.2	191.3	181.2
All India	4174.1	3929.8	4075.6	277560.0	279541.4	295725.5

[English]

Civil Services

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

(a) whether All India Federation of State Civil and Administrative Service Association have demanded that the State level services be declared as an independent cadre parallel to the Indian Administrative Service and posts distributed equally among the two services;

(b) If so, the view of the Government in this regard; and

(c) whether the Government are considering to increase the promotion quota from the State Civil Services to Indian Administrative Service from the existing 33 per cent to 50 per cent on all cadre posts?

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) No such proposal has been received.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Ongoing Major and Medium Irrigation Projects

532. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing major and medium irrigation projects in the country at present with their estimated cost and irrigation potential of each project, State-wise;

(b) the total financial assistance provided by the Union Government as well as by the external funding agencies to each State for the implementation of these projects, during the last three years;

(c) whether most of the projects have witnessed abnormal escalation in terms of cost over-run and time over-run;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons for such high escalation; and

(e) the present Status, revised cost and time schedule for the completion of these projects, State-wise and project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) State-wise details of 162 major and 240 medium irrigation projects which are at present under execution alongwith their latest estimated cost, ultimate potential and number of them likely to be completed during IX Plan is given in the enclosed statement I and II respectively.

(b) The State-wise details of Central Loan Assistance (CLA) provided under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) during the last 3 years is given in the

enclosed statement-III and details of projects which received assistance from external agencies is given in statement-IV.

(c) to (e) There have been escalation in terms of cost over-run and time over-run. However, the completion of any project depends on various factors such as its size, availability of land, clearance, geological conditions and equally important are the funds allotted by the State Government to individual projects as per the State's priority.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of projects	LEC** (Rs. in crore)	Ultimate potential (Thousand hectare)	No. of projects likely to be completed in IX Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	10928.90	1882.54	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	4	417.85	167.89	1
4.	Bihar	14	7591.36	1275.94	1
5.	Goa	1	678.59	46.06	—
6.	Gujarat	9	23500.92	2107.01	5
7.	Haryana	5	1015.51	801.00	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	150.78	24.76	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	151.18	66.78	1
10.	Karnataka	14	11146.89	1718.89	4
11.	Kerala	7	1879.50	343.34	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	23	10729.65	2552.25	12
13.	Maharashtra	36	15499.72	2517.14	9
14.	Manipur	2	540.29	44.67	1
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	10.00	—
17.	Nagaland	1	111.02	—	—
18.	Orissa	5	4885.10	1066.68	1
19.	Punjab	1*	3379.53	478.00	1*
20.	Rajasthan	6	4692.81	1348.41	4
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Tripura	—	—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	18	7540.14	4226.67	12
25.	West Bengal	3	2037.41	1558.24	—
Total		162+1*	106675.15	22236.27	58+1*

* Ranjit Sagar of Punjab being primarily a power project has been shown separately.

** Latest Estimated Cost (LEC)

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of project	Latest Estimated Cost (Rs. in crore)	Ultimate potential (Thousand hectares)	No. of projects likely to be completed in IX Plan
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20	521.42	138.03	15
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	9	160.97	76.58	6
4.	Bihar	29	1097.88	171.52	7
5.	Goa	1	40.00	11.20	—
6.	Gujarat	9	337.53	51.32	5
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	11.30	2.41	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	9	223.55	37.76	—
10.	Karnataka	15	943.89	76.29	—
11.	Kerala	5	478.93	55.00	1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	32	1012.09	245.44	24
13.	Maharashtra	66	2111.44	325.81	24
14.	Manipur	2	102.00	1.54	2
15.	Meghalaya	1	30.00	5.15	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	10	602.38	108.26	5
19.	Punjab	1	88.49	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	6	240.24	44.29	2
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	2	103.75	6.74	2
23.	Tripura	3	154.00	26.72	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2	54.81	7.65	1
25.	West Bengal	17	90.42	37.63	—
Total		240	8426.09	1429.34	102

Statement-III

*Reg. CLA Released by Union Government
to the State Governments under AIBP
during 96-97, 97-98 and 98-99*

State	CLA	CLA	CLA
	Released	Released	Released
	96-97	97-98	98-99
Andhra Pradesh	36.250	74.000	79.670
Assam	5.230	12.400	13.950
Bihar	13.500	14.040	47.825
Goa	0.000	5.250	0.000
Gujarat	74.773	196.900	423.820
Haryana	32.500	12.000	0.000
Himachal Pradesh	0.000	6.500	5.000
Jammu & Kashmir	1.300	0.000	0.000
Karnataka	61.250	90.500	94.500
Kerala	3.750	15.000	0.000
Madhya Pradesh	63.250	114.500	90.750
Maharashtra	14.000	55.000	50.860
Manipur	4.300	26.000	10.780
Orissa	48.450	85.000	71.500
Punjab	67.500	100.000	0.000
Rajasthan	2.675	42.000	140.050
Tamil Nadu	20.000	0.000	0.000
Tripura	3.773	5.100	3.975
Uttar Pradesh	43.500	78.000	76.500
West Bengal	5.000	20.000	10.000
Grand Total	500.00	952.190	1119.180

Statement-IV

*Details of going Major and Medium Irrigation Projects
aided by World Bank and Overseas Economic
Fund Cooperation (OEFC) Japan*

S.No.	Name of the Project	Reimbursement received in last three years (04/97 to 09/99)
1	2	3
Haryana		
1.	Haryana Water Resources Consolidation Project	\$ 63.52 Million (M)
Tamil Nadu		
2.	Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project	\$ 33.66 M

1	2	3
Orissa		
3.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project	\$ 74.60 M
4.	Rengali Irrigation Project	\$ 1404.03 M
Andhra Pradesh		
5.	Third Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Project	\$ 69.66 M
6.	Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project Irrigation Component	\$ 24.19 M
7.	K. C. Canal Modernisation	370.11 M Yen
Madhya Pradesh		
8.	Rajghat Irrigation Project	1110.54 M Yen

Blueprint Prepared by ICAR

533. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has taken initiative and have prepared a blueprint for a hunger-free India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete measures taken by the ICAR to implement the blue print?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has taken an initiative to formulate a draft Vision 2020 that may serve as a blue print for achieving a hunger free India through application of science and technology.

(b) The Vision 2020 is based on the assessment of the strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the Indian National Agricultural Research System (NARS). The Vision rests on the triad of (i) harnessing science (ii) engineering the NARS (iii) introducing organisation and management reforms.

(c) Some of the important areas identified for research are conservation and improvement of biodiversity management of natural resources, farming systems, rainfed agriculture, farm mechanization, diversification post production management and value addition, precision farming, gender equity issues, socio-economics and policy analysis, globalization of agriculture, human resource development and strengthening research-extension-farmer linkage. It is contemplated to implement the programme through Annual and Five year plans.

*[Translation]***Labour Commission**

534. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Labour Commission to study labour laws and to make suggestions to solve the labour problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Labour Commission is likely to submit its report to the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A copy of resolution dated 15.10.1999 setting up the National Commission on Labour is attached. The resolution provides the details of the composition, terms of reference, tenure etc.

Statement

(To be Published in the Gazette of India Part I Section I)

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA/BHARAT SARKAR
MINISTER OF LABOUR/SHRAM MANTRALAYA**

Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg,
New Delhi, dated the 15th Oct, 1999

RESOLUTION

No. Z-20014/8/99-Coord - The Government of India have decided to set up a National Commission on Labour consisting of following:-

CHAIRPERSON

Shri Ravindra Varma

FULL TIME MEMBER

1. Dr. M. R. Sabade

PART TIME MEMBERS

1. Shri Sunil Shastri

2. Shri Sudharshan Sarin

3. Shri G. Sanjeeva Reddy

4. Shri Jitendra Vir Gupta

5. Smt. Ela R. Bhatt

6. Shri Arvind R. Doshi

7. Shri Hasubhai Dave

MEMBER - SECRETARY

1. Shri N. Sanyal

2. The terms of reference of the Commission will be as follows:-

(a) to suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector; and

(b) to suggest an "umbrella" legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the un-organised sector.

While developing the framework for its recommendations, the Commission may take into account the following:-

(i) Follow up implications of the recommendations made by the commission set up in May 1998 for review of various administrative laws governing industry;

(ii) the emerging economic environment involving rapid technological changes, requiring response in terms of change in methods, timings and conditions of work in industry, trade and services, globalisation of economy, liberalisation of trade and industry and emphasis on international competitiveness and the need for bringing the existing laws in tune with the future labour market needs and demands;

(iii) the minimum level of labour protection and welfare measures and basic institutional framework for insuring the same, in the manner which is conducive to a flexible labour market and adjustments necessary for furthering technological change and economic growth; and

(iv) improving the effectiveness of measures relating to social security, occupational health and safety minimum wages and linkages of wages with productivity and in particular the safeguards and facilities required for women and Handicapped persons in employment.

3. The Commission will make its recommendations as soon as practicable but not later than 24 (twenty four) months from the date of publication of the resolution in the Gazette of India. It may, if it deems fit, submit interim reports for any specific problem(s).

4. The Commission will devise its own procedure. It may call for such information and take such evidence as it may consider necessary. The Ministries/Departments of the Government of India will furnish such information and documents and render such assistance as may be required by the Commission.

5. The Government of India trust that the State Governments/Administrations of Union Territories, Public Sector Undertakings, Organisations of Employees and workers and all other concerned Organisations will extend to the Commission their fullest cooperation and Assistance.

(Dr. L. Mishra)
Secretary to the Government of India

Z-20014/8/99-Coord

New Delhi,
dated the 15th Oct, 1999

ORDER

Ordered that the resolution be published in the Gazette of India Part-I Section I.

Ordered also that a copy of the resolution be communicated to all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, State Governments/Administrations of Union Territories and all other concerned.

(Dr. L. Mishra)
Secretary to the Government of India

*[English]***Linking of Rivers**

535. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given in the Starred Question No. 115 on March 3, 1999 and state:

(a) whether National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan has given suggestion to the Government in regard to inter-linking of rivers in the country to transfer surplus water to water deficit areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government on these suggestions;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the suggestions are likely to be made available to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The National Commission for Intergrated Water Resources Development Plan has completed its work on 30th September, 1999. However, the Commission is scheduled to present its report to the Government on the 1st December, 1999.

Production of Foodgrains

537. SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was normal rainfall during the current monsoon barring some parts of Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assessment has been made to achieve the total foodgrain production target;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) steps being taken by the Union Government to help the States to increase the production of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The overall rainfall in the country during monsoon, as per the norms of India Meteorological Department (IMD), was normal. However, due to uneven spatial and temporal distribution rain, 7 out of 35 met sub division namely, Saurashtra, Kutch and Diu; Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry; Andaman and Nicobar Islands; Kerala; Haryana; Chandigarh and Delhi; Gujarat Region and West Rajasthan received deficient rainfall.

(c) and (d) As per the first advance estimates, the Kharif-1999 production of foodgrains is estimated to be 102.7 million tonnes. These estimates were prepared in consultation with State Government in the National Conference on Rabi Campaign, held on 20-21 September-1999. The target of production of foodgrains for Kharif-1999, was fixed at 107.6 million tonnes.

(e) To increase the production and productivity of foodgrains 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; and National Pulses Development Project, 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 Schemes 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.

Kashmiri Militants called Freedom Fighters by Pakistan

538. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to Pakistan's attempts through its official media and otherwise, to compare the alleged atrocities committed by Indonesian Government in East Timor to what they alleged human rights violations in Kashmir in respect of Kashmiri militants whom they called freedom fighters;

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

(c) the reaction of the United States and other G-8 countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) Pakistan's attempts to compare the situations in East Timor and Jammu & Kashmir are totally illogical. These attempts have been entirely dismissed by the international community including the United States. The official spokesman of the United States Department of State, when questioned about such parallels, cautioned against facile analogies that did not apply, adding that Kashmir was not East Timor.

[Translation]

Pension Rules

539. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make amendments in the pensions scheme to facilitate handicapped children get life long pension after the death of the retired employee; 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) There is already a provision in the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 for payment of family pension for life to the handicapped children of the deceased retired employees subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. In view of this no further amendment in the Pension Rules is required.

[English]

Subsidy on Fertilizers

540. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide fertilizers at special subsidized rates to improve the agricultural yield in testing and trying dry conditions to poor farmers of the backward drought hit district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action plan drawn to improve farming and standard of farmers in the most backward districts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) All major fertilizers, namely, Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate, Muriate of Potash, Single Super Phosphate and NPK Complex fertilizers are available at highly subsidised rates to all farmers including poor farmers of the backward drought hit districts in the country.

(c) A Drought Prone Areas Programme is under implementation in 13 States in the country in the identified drought prone districts/blocks. The programme strives to encourage restoration of ecological balance through activities aimed at mitigation of adverse effects of drought. For this purpose, the programme is implemented on watershed project basis in the identified drought prone blocks. The development activities taken up under these watershed projects mainly relate to core sectors of soil conservation, water resource development and afforestation.

Child Labour Projects

541. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of child labour projects which are in operation through the voluntary agencies in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the results achieved through these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) Under the Grant-in-Aid scheme of the Ministry, voluntary agencies are being financially assisted to the extent of 75% of the project cost for taking up welfare projects for working children where they are provided with non-formal education, supplementary nutrition health care and vocational/skill training. So far, 18 special schools/centres have been sanctioned to 6 voluntary organisations for covering 950 working children in the State of Andhra Pradesh under the above scheme.

Bonded Labourers

542. SHRI A. C. JOS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of bonded labourers in

each State particularly in backward and tribal areas of the country, separately;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for their liberalisation and rehabilitation; and

(c) the funds allocated by the Union Government to each State for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The Central Government's estimates of incidence of bonded labour in the country are based on the surveys conducted by the State Governments and U.T. Administrations from time to time. Upto 31.3.99, these surveys have resulted in identification of 2,80,340 bonded labourers of which 2,43,375 bonded labourers have been released and rehabilitated. State-wise details of bonded labourers identified/released and rehabilitated is given in enclosed statement. The area-wise details are not maintained.

(b) Financial assistance is given to the State Governments for rehabilitation of bonded labourers under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme since 1978. Under the Scheme, rehabilitation grants are given upto the extent of Rs. 10,000/- per bonded labourer on the basis of a matching contribution of 50:50 per cent between the State Governments and the Centre.

(c) The details of funds released to the State Governments for rehabilitation of bonded labourers during the last three years i.e. 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given below :

State	Years		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
	(Rs. in lakhs)		
1. Orissa	2.37	—	1.75
2. Tamil Nadu	8.75	300.00	278.90
3. Bihar	—	—	4.90
4. Uttar Pradesh	—	—	12.45
Total	11.12	300.00	298.00

Statement

State-wise details of Bonded Labourers

Name of the State	Number of Bonded Labourers	
	Identified and Released	Rehabilitated
	1	3
Andhra Pradesh	36,289	29,552
Bihar	13,092	12,368

	1	2	3
Karnataka		62,727	55,231
Madhya Pradesh		12,822	11,897
Orissa		49,971	46,843
Rajasthan		7,478	6,217
Tamil Nadu		63,894	51,453
Maharashtra		1,384	1,300
Uttar Pradesh		27,726	27,718
Kerala		823	710
Haryana		544	21
Gujarat		64	64
Arunachal Pradesh		3,526	—
Total		2,80,340	2,43,375

Visit of Cultural Troupes Abroad

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

(a) the details of cultural troupes sent abroad by the State Governments during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of cultural troupes visited India in response to the troupes sent abroad during each of the last three years country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The information relates to cultural troupes sent abroad/received by State Governments. This information is being collected and will be placed before on the Table of the House.

Financial Relief to Fishermen

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

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide financial relief to fishermen during the lean months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States in which the scheme is being implemented; and

(d) the number of fishermen covered during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Saving-cum-Relief component of the

National Welfare of Fishermen Scheme provides financial assistance to active marine fishermen during monsoon/lean period. Under this component, contribution of Rs. 45/- per month for 8 months in a year collected from the beneficiaries, matched by Central and State contributions, is distributed to the fishermen in four equal monthly instalments during the monsoon/lean period.

(c) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Island and Pondicherry are implementing this component.

(d) The number of fishermen covered under Saving-cum-Relief component of the National Welfare of Fishermen Scheme during each of the last three years, State-wise are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Assistance released under the Saving-cum-Relief Component of the National Welfare of Fishermen Scheme during each of the Last Three Years, State-wise

S. No.	Name of State/UT	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Andaman & Nicobar	120	Nil	175
3.	Karnataka	11765	4945	10522
4.	Kerala	81768	84258	95538
5.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	187
6.	Pondicherry	8802	9971	Nil
7.	Tamil Nadu	156945	117805	167045
8.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total		259400	216979	273467

ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries

545. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ESI hospitals and dispensaries functioning at present in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether there is a proposal to enhance the number of said hospitals and dispensaries in the State during 1999-2000;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) There are at present ten ESI hospitals and 135 dispensaries functioning in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) The ESI Corporation has sanctioned establishment of five new dispensaries in Andhra Pradesh during 1999-2000. One new ESI hospital is at an advanced stage of construction/commissioning.

Price of Cotton

546. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers have incurred huge losses due to the steep fall in prices of cotton;

(b) if so, whether farmers who have incurred huge losses as a result thereof have committed suicide;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to help the cotton farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.K. SATYANARAYNA RAO): (a) to (d) The current prices of Kapas of different varieties, are above the Minimum Support Prices (MSP), and as such there is no loss being incurred by the farmers. However, the prevailing cotton prices, during the cotton season 1999-2000, both the Kapas and Lint cotton, are lower as compared to the previous year. The main reasons for lower prices are ample supply position, continued subdued demand from the mills due to bad financial position of the mills, cheaper imports and lower demand for yarn in domestic market. The international market prices are also ruling lower than the domestic prices. However, it may be mentioned that the MSP for cotton F414/H777/J34 for the current season were fixed by the Government at Rs. 1575 per quintal which was 9.37% higher than the price fixed for these varieties in 1998-99. Likewise, the MSP of H4 variety of cotton for the current season was fixed by the Government at Rs. 1775 per quintal which was higher by 7.58% over the MSP fixed for 1998-99. The MSP for other varieties are fixed by the office of Textile Commissioner based on the MSP of these two basic varieties and taking into account the normal price differential and other related factors. To stabilise the cotton prices, Cotton Corporation of India purchases cotton in all cotton growing States at higher than the MSP. Further, to help cotton farmers, the Government of India is also implementing Centrally Sponsored ICDP Scheme since 1971-72 in 9 major and 2 minor cotton growing States, through the respective State Departments of Agriculture. Under this scheme the farmers

are being provided subsidy on certified seeds, demonstration on production technology, spraying equipment, sprinklers to boost cotton production. During the current year 1999-2000 an amount of Rs. 26.87 crores has been allocated under ICDP schemes.

[Translation]

**Agricultural Development Projects
in North-Eastern States**

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

- (a) whether some agricultural development projects of North-Eastern States including Sikkim are pending for approval with the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):
(a) to (c) No, Sir.

**Centrally Sponsored Scheme
for Milk Production**

548. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to start any centrally sponsored scheme to increase the production of milk during the year 1999-2000;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and
- (d) the names of the districts likely to be included under the said scheme in the country particularly in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has formulated proposals for the following two schemes, to be implemented in the 9th Plan Period:-

- (i) "National Project on Cattle and Buffalo Breeding" with an outlay of Rs. 402.00 crore during the 9th Plan Period, with the objective of improvement of genetic upgradation of cattle and buffalo. The scheme will cover all States and Union Territories including Bihar. The districts will be finalised by the States.
- (ii) "New Primary Dairy Cooperatives at Village Level" with a proposed outlay of Rs. 20.00 crore during 9th Plan Period, which aims to raise the milk productivity by providing an incentive in the form of a remunerative market

of milk. The scheme will cover States, where Operation Flood was implemented, which includes Bihar. The names of the districts will be proposed by the respective State Governments.

[English]

Pending Cases in Labour Courts

549. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases pending at present with the various labour courts, State-wise;
- (b) the reasons for non-disposal of these cases; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government for the expeditious disposal of these pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) A statement showing the number of cases pending in the various Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts is attached herewith.

(b) and (c) Major reasons for non-disposal and steps taken for expeditious disposal are as follows:-

- (i) procedural impediments such as absence of affected parties at the time of hearing, adjournments sought by parties to file documents etc.,
- (ii) Non-filling up of vacancies of Presiding Officers on time due to want of a suitable panel of eligible and willing Judicial Officers.
- (iii) Expeditious steps are taken to fill up the post of P.O. in CGIT-cum-Labour Courts after observing all necessary formalities.
- (iv) Presiding Officers are also impressed upon about the need to reduce pendency of ID cases in their CGIT-cum-Labour Courts.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court	No. of cases pending as on 31-10-99
1	2	3
1.	Asansol	302
2.	Bangalore	396
3.	Calcutta	189
4.	Chandigarh	1372
5.	No. 1 Dhanbad	1258
6.	No. 2 Dhanbad#	1171

1	2	3
7.	Jabalpur@	1598
8.	Kanpur	694
9.	No. 1 Mumbai	188
10.	No. 2 Mumbai	274
11.	New Delhi	888
12.	Jaipur	177
Total		8507

As on 31-08-1999

@ As on 31-08-1997.

Satellite for Education and Training

550. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation has carried out several pilot programmes to demonstrate the use of satellite communications for education and training;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes launched so far; and

(c) the results achieved so far under these programmes?

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) Distance education and training for the State Government officials are being carried out through Training and Development Communication Channel (TDCC) on INSAT. TDCC channel is being used on an average about 20-25 days in a month. Distance education is provided by Indra Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), All India Management Association (AIMA) and University of Kurukshetra. Training programmes are conducted by the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka. Training is being given in the areas of Watershed Management, Health and Agriculture. Training is also imparted to Primary School teachers by the State Governments.

(c) These programmes are being regularly evaluated by the concerned agencies as well as by ISRO.

The results show regular attendance, significant knowledge gained and high interactivity. State Governments have communicated back to ISRO about their satisfaction with satellite-based training.

Islamic Extremism Bring India, Russia and China Together

551. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the spread of Islamic fundamentalism in Central and South Asia has forced India, Russia and China to come closer;

(b) if so, whether all the three countries have realised that an unbridled expansion of Islamic fundamentalism in the region would largely diminish development activities and eventually expose them to myriad threats to their national security;

(c) if so, whether the Russian and Chinese Prime Ministers have felt that there is need to check this and they have also accepted India's fears about the spread of Islamic fundamentalism which has already affected India;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by these countries to check the expansion and spreading of fundamentalism in Central and South Asia;

(e) whether any concrete steps in this regard have been taken; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (f) India has for long been subjected to externally aided and abetted extremism and cross border terrorism. The Government of the Russian Federation has been facing similar threats, specifically in its Northern Caucasian Republics of Dagestan and Chechnya. China has expressed concern about internationally sponsored terrorism.

India and the Russian Federation signed the Moscow Declaration on Protection of Interests of Pluralistic States on June 30, 1994. The Declaration foresees the growing threat to States and established order from forces of aggressive nationalism, religious and political extremism, terrorism and separatism. In the Declaration, both countries also reiterated their support for each other's territorial integrity as constituted by law and as enshrined in their respective Constitutions.

India and the Russian Federation have supported each other in their effort to tackle major threat emanating from international terrorism, religious extremism and militancy. Both the countries have underlined the need for a concerted joint effort and resolute action in eliminating this menace globally.

We have an ongoing exchange of views with China on various issues of mutual concern, including issues having global implications.

Export Potential of Agro Industries

552. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether any survey has been conducted to study the export potential of agro-industries in the country;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the details of exports in the agro industrial sector 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) No, Sir.

(c) The total exports of agro and food items including marine and plantation products during the last three years have been as follows :-

Year	Value (Rs. Crores)
1996-97	23638.57
1997-98	24626.16
1998-99	25224.64

Strategy After End of Kargil Conflict

553. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have formulated any strategy to be adopted after the Kargil conflict as far as relations with Pakistan are concerned;
- (b) if so, whether the Government are of the view that Pakistan has failed to create an atmosphere to have smooth talks between the two countries after the Kargil conflict;
- (c) if so, whether Pakistan has been indulging in anti-Indian activities helping foreign countries to create disturbances in Jammu & Kashmir area;
- (d) if so, whether the Indian Government have shown their inability to have any further talks until and unless Pakistan stops militancy in Jammu & Kashmir; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (e) Government's policy towards Pakistan is principled and consistent. India wishes to establish a relationship of peace, friendship and co-operation with Pakistan. It is for this purpose that Government took the initiative to establish a composite dialogue process with Pakistan, aimed at developing trust and confidence, evolving a stable structure of co-operation and addressing outstanding issues through peaceful bilateral discussions. This policy was reinforced by Prime Minister's historic initiative of visiting Lahore in February 1999. The intrusion and armed aggression by Pakistan in the Kargil sector of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, however, revealed Pakistan's hostility towards India and betrayed trust. Pakistan continues to sponsor and instigate cross border terrorism against India in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere. We have called upon Pakistan to abandon its sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India and cease its hostile anti-India propaganda. These are essential ingredients for a good bilateral relationship.

Technology for Neutron Bomb

554. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned " China unveils neutron bomb tech, blasts US" appearing in *Indian Express* dated July 16, 1999;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard particularly in the context of peace in this sub-continent and global peace; and
- (c) the reaction of other nuclear weapon States including US and UK thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. in the context of the allegations of espionage by China at US nuclear weapons laboratories, the Chinese government published selective details of its nuclear weapons programme, including the capability to make an enhanced radiation weapon (neutron bomb).

(b) Government monitors carefully strategic modernisation programmes in the region and beyond. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interests in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

(c) The US has said that the Chinese nuclear capability was no secret and that the announcement did not come as a surprise. The UK indicated that it was hard to see how the development of such weapons contributed towards the global elimination of nuclear weapons. There has been no official reaction from Russia and France.

Fake Caste Certificates

555. SHRI RAM DAS ATHAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any incidents of appointments to the posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the basis of fake caste certificate have come to the notice of the Government during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in such cases?

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 DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Stray cases of securing appointments to the posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the basis of alleged fake certificates have been brought to the notice of this Department. The concerned Ministries/Departments have been advised to undertake verification of the alleged fake certificates and take appropriate action in accordance with the instructions which provide for termination of services of an appointee in the event of such a caste certificate being found false.

Hazardous Substances

556. SHRI P. D. ELANGOVA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any corrective measures to check the negative, undesirable effects of to poisonous hazardous substances in fertilizers used by the farmers; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to stop adulteration in fertilizers, which will not only affect the farmers but will also adversely affect the health of consumer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985 issued under the Provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955, stipulates that fertilisers which meet the standards of quality as laid down in Schedule I of this order, are only sold to the farmers in the country. The prescribed standards include the maximum permissible limits of impurities in fertilisers. The said Order, inter alia prohibits the manufacture/sale of fertiliser which is not of the prescribed standards. Thus, any fertiliser which may contain a poisonous or hazardous substances as an adulterant is not permitted to be sold to the farmers. State

Governments who are the enforcement agencies are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against the offenders in terms of the provisions contained in Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985/Essential Commodities Act, 1955. There are 64 Fertiliser Quality Control Laboratories in the country to test the quality of fertilisers. State Governments are advised from time to time to strengthen the enforcement machinery and to take appropriate steps to equip the fertiliser quality control laboratories and to draw samples from the manufactures/dealers so that an effective check on the quality of fertiliser is ensured.

Promotion of Cold Storages

557. SHRI RAJAI AH MALYALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any policy to promote the establishment of cold storages in the rural and urban areas; and

(b) if so, the details of such policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Horticulture Board (NHB) under the Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing a Scheme of Integrated Project on Management of Post Harvest Infrastructure of Horticulture Crops under which financial assistance in the form of soft loan is provided for creation of post harvest infrastructure facilities including pre-cooling units/cool store and cold storages. The National Cooperative Development Corporation under the Ministry of Agriculture also provides financial assistance for establishing cold storages in the Cooperative sector. Besides, there is a Scheme for Development of Infrastructural Facilities, which is being implemented by the Department of Food Processing Industries (DFPI). One of the components of this Scheme is to provide financial assistance for establishment of cold chain facilities and cold storages for horticultural produce and other items. In order to give a major thrust to the development of cold storages and storages, Government have recently approved a Scheme of Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce for implementation during the Ninth Five Year Plan (1999-2002) to be implemented by the National Horticulture Board. After the introduction of the Scheme of Capital Investment Subsidy, the cold storage component will be excluded from the on-going schemes of NHB and DFPI.

Houses for Bidi Workers

558. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to provide houses for the bidi workers;

(b) if so, the number of houses built during 1998-99 and the current financial years;

(c) whether a new such scheme is proposed to be launched for providing houses for bidi workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of houses built during 1998-99 and the current financial year for the benefit of Bidi Workers in the country are:

1998-99	Current financial year (1999-2000)
4032	1187

(c) to (e) An Integrated Housing Scheme merging all the existing housing schemes for bidi workers has already been announced on 14.6.1999. The details of the scheme include :-

(i) subsidy at the uniform rate of Rs. 20,000/- (revised w.e.f. 11.11.1999) per bidi worker or 50% of the actual cost of construction per tenement, whichever is less, payable in three instalments.

(ii) The houses may be constructed individually or through Coop. group housing societies on land owned by the workers or allotted by the State Government.

(iii) In case where the land is provided to the workers by the State Government, the whole amount of subsidy will be released to the concerned State Govt. directly when the houses are completed up to the roof level. The remaining finances will have to be raised by the bidi worker either by loan/contribution from State Government or any other agency like HUDCO nominated by the State Government who shall also be responsible for repayment of such loan.

Administrative Laws

559. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Commission has been set up to review the administrative and procedural laws;

(b) if so, the date on which it was set up along with its terms of reference;

(c) whether the Commission has recently recommended any repeal or amendment of laws;

(d) if so, the details of laws recommended for repeal and amendments; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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 Commission on Review of Administrative Laws was set up on 8 May, 1998 with the following terms of reference:

(i) To undertake an overview of steps taken by different Ministries/Departments for the review of administrative laws, regulations and procedures administered by them, and the follow-up steps thereafter, for repeal and amendment.

(ii) To identify, in consultation with Ministries/Departments and client groups proposals for amendments to existing laws, regulations and procedures, where these are in the nature of law common to more than one department, or where they have a bearing on the effective working of more than one Ministry/Department and State Governments, or where a collectivity of laws impact on the performance of an economic or social sector, or where they have a bearing on industry and trade.

(iii) To examine, in the case of selected areas like environment, industry, trade and commerce, housing and real estate, specific changes in existing rules and procedures so as to make them objective, transparent and predictable.

(iv) To make, on the basis of this exercise, recommendations for repeal/amendments of laws, regulations and procedures, legislative process etc.

The Commission submitted its Report on 30 September, 1998.

(c) to (e) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

The Commission, inter-alia, has recommended for repeal of 1383 Central Laws of different categories out of about 2500 Laws in force, as listed below :

(i) 166 Central Acts (including 11 Prenationalisation Acts and 20 Validation Acts).

(ii) 315 Amendment Acts.

(iii) 11 British Statutes still in force.

- (iv) 17 War-time Permanent Ordinances.
- (v) 114 Central Acts relating to State subjects.
- (vi) 700 Appropriation Acts (Approx.) passed by Parliament.
- (vii) 35 Reorganisation Acts.
- (viii) 12 Laws applicable to High Courts.
- (ix) 12 Personal Laws.

2. The Commission has recommended the repeal of the above mentioned Acts etc. on the ground that these Acts have become either irrelevant or dysfunctional. The Commission has also recommended amendments to be carried out in various Acts including amendments in respect of a critical list of 109 Acts. Copies of the Report of the Commission were sent to all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and Chief Secretaries of State Government/UTs in November, 1998 for examination of the various recommendations and for devising suitable action plan for implementation of the recommendations.

3. Most of the Ministries have initiated action to bring out suitable amendments/modifications in the Acts and Laws etc. being administered by them. They have also initiated action on repeal of the dysfunctional and outdated laws, Acts etc. The follow-up action on implementation of the recommendations of the Commission is being monitored on a regular basis by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and the Legislative Department (Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs). The Government has also set up a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Personnel) to monitor the follow-up action on the recommendations of the Commission.

Excessive Use of Fertilizers

560. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether excessive use of fertilizers causes adverse impact on fertility of land;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the ICAR has conducted any study in this regard as well as on the imbalanced use of nitrogenous fertilizers;

(d) if so, the outcomes of the study; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to prevent the excessive use of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The excessive use of fertilizers may cause adverse impact on fertility of the land and crop productivity. However, average consumption of fertiliser nutrients (NPK) being about 89 kg. per ha. in India cannot be termed as excessive use. The consumption of plant nutrients in our neighbouring countries is higher than that in India being 113 kg./ha. in Pakistan, 135 kg./ha. Bangla Desh and 106 kg./ha. in Sri Lanka. The consumption in developed countries is much higher being 375 kg./ha. in Japan, 542 kg./ha. in Netherlands and 379 kg./ha. in United Kingdom.

(c) and (d) The studies conducted by ICAR with the application of high rates of nitrogen (above 200 kg./ha./year) in the light textured soils followed by heavy irrigation showed that there is nitrate pollution of ground water. The results obtained at All India Coordinated Research Project on Long Term Fertiliser Experiments over the last few decades indicate that continuous use of nitrogenous fertilisers alone produces the highest decline in yields at almost all the Centres and had deleterious effect on long term fertility and sustainability. However, as per recommended practice, nitrogen alone is generally not used by the farmers.

(e) Government is propagating soil test based balanced and integrated use of fertilisers. There are 514 soil testing laboratories in the country which include 118 mobile vans having a total analysing capacity of 6.4 million soil samples per annum. The soil testing programme is being strengthened through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilisers. The extension machinery working with the Government of India and various State Departments of Agriculture advises the farmers on the use of fertilisers according to inherent fertility of the soils and requirement of crops, based on soil test so as to ensure the efficient and balanced use of plant nutrients.

MPLADS

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

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to review the MPLAD Scheme to cover more projects and simplify the procedures in sanctioning the funds; 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) As and when a suggestion for bringing more works under the purview of the scheme is made by Members, the matter is placed before committees on MPLADS of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha for consideration and their recommendations, and necessary changes, if any are brought in the guidelines with the approval of the Government. The last revised edition of the guidelines was brought out in September this year. This edition has been circulated to Hon'ble MPs on 11.10.1999. All the Collectors were requested on 15.11.1999 to sanction all the works recommended by the concerned MPs up to the extent of their yearly entitlement of funds without waiting for receipt of the funds from this Ministry and send a report so that this Ministry may release further funds.

India, Russia and China to Sign Strategic Pact

562. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India, Russia and Beijing have decided jointly to contribute to the establishment of a new multipolar world and announced that a declaration on Indo-Russian strategic partnership would be signed soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in the context of recent events in Kosovo, India, Russia and China independently and separately reached almost similar assessment of the situation;

(d) if so, the concrete measures and steps being considered by all the three Governments;

(e) whether any pact has been signed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) A Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation is expected to be signed during the next Indo-Russian Summit. This will impart a qualitatively new character and long-term perspective to our multi-faceted ties and actively develop them into the 21st Century. The Declaration is a document of signal importance, it will set new parameters and guide further development of a close partnership between the two countries.

The Joint Press Statement issued on December 22, 1998 after the visit to India by His Excellency Dr. Yevgeny Primakov, then Prime Minister of the Russian Federation states, inter alia, that the two Sides proceed from the

understanding that it was necessary to create a multipolar world based on the sovereign equality of all states, democratic values and justice.

The Russian Federation and the Peoples Republic of China issued a Joint Russia-China Declaration about a Multipolar World and the Formation of a new International Order after their summit meeting in April 1997 in Moscow.

(c) During the NATO action against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, India, Russia and China arrived at similar positions independently and without prior consultations.

(d) to (f) There has been no triangular interaction between India, Russia and China. Our relations with the Russian Federation are time-tested. We are trying to further improve and normalise our relations with China.

Indian Mission Staff Member Beaten up in Pakistan

563. SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a staff member of High Commission in Pakistan was abducted from outside of his house in Islamabad on June 29, 1999;

(b) if so, whether India has strongly protested against this issue;

(c) whether it is not the second time that Pakistan has been harassing the Indian staff;

(d) if so, the extent to which Pakistan has been asked not to behave like this; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Indian Government to see that such incidents do not recur?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (e) At 7.45 A.M. on 29.6.99, Shri N. R. Doraiswami, a staff member of the High Commission of India, Islamabad was abducted by the Pakistani intelligence agencies from outside his house and taken to an unknown destination where he has subjected to interrogation and physical assault. Following a strong protest lodged by Government with Pakistan, Shri Doraiswami was released around 11.30 A.M. on the same day.

It was pointed out in the protest lodged by Government with Pakistan that the abduction of Shri Doraiswami was in total violation of the norms and conventions of diplomatic interaction, the provisions of the Vienna Convention of Diplomatic Relations, 1961 as also of the India-Pakistan Bilateral Code of Conduct for the treatment of diplomatic/

consular personnel. India had also demanded the immediate and safe return of Shri Doraiswami.

This was not the first case of abduction and physical assault of an official of the Indian High Commission in Pakistan intelligence agencies. Pakistan has, time and again, been reminded of its obligations under the Vienna Convention as well as the Bilateral Code of Conduct. It has been called upon to discharge its responsibilities to ensure the safety and security of all personnel of the High Commission of India in Islamabad.

It is regrettable that Pakistan does not adhere to the Vienna Convention and the Bilateral Code of Conduct for treatment of diplomatic/consular personnel.

Visit of Foreign Secretary to China

564. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's Foreign Secretary visited Beijing for talks on Indo-Chinese border disputes;
- (b) if so, the precise claims and counter claims as to territories and the border demarcation between the two countries made during these talks; and
- (c) the outcome of the recent talks with regard to different persistent disputes?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The 11th Meeting of the Indo-China Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question was held in Beijing on April 26-27, 1999. The Indian delegation was led by the Foreign Secretary; the Chinese delegation was led by their Vice Foreign Minister. As in the past, the discussions covered boundary related issues as well as other bilateral, regional and international subjects of mutual interest.

The part of Indian territory under illegal occupation by China in the State of Jammu & Kashmir has an area of approximately 38,000 sq. kms. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China. China illegally claims approximately 90,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the Eastern sector of the India-China boundary in Arunachal Pradesh.

India and China are committed to working towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question. We remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding issues. We seek friendly, co-operative, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relations with China on the basis of Panchsheel.

[Translation]

Role of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices

565. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the role of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices in the fixation of prices of foodgrains;
- (b) whether the Government are firmly implementing the recommendations of the Commission;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government to ensure providing remunerative price to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The role of the Commission for Agricultural costs and Prices (CACP) is to provide advice on a continuing basis on Agricultural Price Policy and price structure in the context of the need to raise agricultural production and give relief to the consumers.

(b) to (d) The Government by and large fixes the minimum support prices of agricultural commodities as recommended by the CACP. But at times recommendations made by the CACP have been improved with a view to ensure providing remunerative prices to the farmers. Besides, the Government authorises the nodal agencies to make purchases in the case of prices falling below the MSP. The nodal agency in the case of Cereals is Food Corporation of India; for Oilseed/Pulses— National Agricultural Cooperatives Marketing Federation of India Ltd.; for cotton — Cotton Corporation of India; and for Jute — Jute Corporation of India.

[English]

Civilian Prisoners and Fishermen in Pak Custody

566. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Pakistan have agreed in the meeting held on March 5, 1999 in Islamabad to release civilian prisoners and fishermen from each other's custody;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) whether both the countries have released all the civilian prisoners and fishermen according to decision;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps being taken by the Government for their release?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (f) In the official level India-Pakistan meeting held in Islamabad on 5-6 March, 1999, to discuss modalities for the early release of civilian prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody, it was, inter-alia, decided that:

(i) In keeping with humanitarian considerations as well as the legal and administrative requirements of the two sides, civilian prisoners of both countries, whose national status has been confirmed, and who have already completed their prison sentences, should be released and repatriated expeditiously; and

(ii) that fishermen, who inadvertently stray into each other's territorial waters, should be released expeditiously along with their boats after necessary investigations are completed and travel documents made available.

In accordance with these decisions, India released 43 Pakistani civilian prisoners (on 22.3.99), 26 Pakistani fishermen and 3 boats (14 fishermen and 1 boat returned to Pakistan on 25.3.99 and the remaining 12 fishermen and 2 boats returned to Pakistan on 15.5.99), Pakistan released 15 Indian civilian prisoners (14 released on 22.3.99 and 1 on 16.4.99), 109 Indian fishermen and 17 boats (returned to India on 12.6.99).

There are ongoing discussions through diplomatic channels with Pakistan for the early release of the civilian prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody.

Natural Calamity

567. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :

SHRI P. C. .THOMAS :

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unprecedented cyclone, rain and floods have claimed many human lives, rendered millions homeless and have caused massive damage to crops, livestock and property in the country during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the comparative figures for the above two years separately, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have deputed Central team to assess the extent of damage in various State during the said years;

(d) if so, the findings of the central team and the various State Governments separately, State-wise;

(e) the financial assistance sought by each State assistance provided by Union Government to each State during the said period, State-wise;

(f) whether the Union Government propose to draw a long term policy to tackle natural calamities and check recurrence of huge losses in future; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Statements indicating details of damage due to heavy rains, floods, cyclones and landslides during 1997 (south-west monsoon and north-east monsoon periods) and 1998 (pre-monsoon, south-west monsoon and north-east monsoon periods), as reported by the State Governments, are in Statement I and II.

(c) to (e) Inter-Ministerial Central Teams are deputed for assessment of the situation, in response to the requests received from the States for assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR). During 1997-98 and 1998-99, teams were deputed in those cases where, on analysis of the memoranda submitted by the States, the calamity was prima facie considered to be one of rare severity. A statement indicating the State-wise details of total assistance sought and that released from the NFCR during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is attached in statement-III.

(f) and (g) The Government of India has constituted a High Powered Committee for preparation of Disaster Management Plans and to review the existing arrangements for preparedness and mitigation of natural disasters and recommend measures for strengthening the organisational structures and to formulate a comprehensive model plan for Natural Disaster Management at the National, State and District levels.

Statement-I
Damage to Heavy Rains, Flood, Cyclone, and Landslide South-West Monsoon, 1997 (1997-98)

S.No.	State/UT's	Period of Occurrence	Total Districts Affected (No.)	Districts Affected (No.)	Villages Affected (No.)	Area Affected (in lakh Hectare)	Population Affected (in lakh)	Damage to Crop area (in lakh Hectare)	Damage to Houses/Huts (No.)	Human lives lost (No.)	Animal lost (No.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23-26.9.97	23	9	1301	1.35	47.98	1.35	7725	40	93
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14.6.97	12	9	66	Neg.	0.14			8	
3.	Assam Ist. Wave	6.6.97	23	6	439	0.41	1.11	0.07		1	
	IInd Wave	8.7.97	23	17	3076	6.35	24.58	1.01	4770	14	
	III Wave	16.9.97	23	3	341	0.21	13.08				
4.	Bihar	13.7.97 -Sept.,97	55	25	6650	11.45	67.61	6.30	166390	155	151
5.	Gujarat Ist. Wave	23-26.6.97	19	17	2125	1.98	3.12	1.98	117500	219	9949
	IInd. wave	26.7 & 26.8.97	19	11	1931	0.95	11.49	0.95	25319	66	979
6.	Himachal Pradesh	29.7, 11.8.97	12	12	1931	4.48	28.55	2.54	11067	223	4809
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	August 97	14	11	11935	0.08		0.08	20907	80	6682
8.	Karnataka	July 97	20	11	299	0.05		0.05	1641	66	82
9.	Kerala	9.6.97-23.9.97	14	14	1482	3.85	95.00	0.90	16109	143	183
10.	Maharashtra Ist Wave	1-30.6.97	31	21	1432	Neg.		Neg.	967	76	70
	IInd Wave	1-31.7.97	31	18	265	Neg.		Neg.	406	14	18
	IIIrd Wave	1-31.8.97	31	8	2419	0.49	7.95	0.49	33279	73	198
	IVth Wave	1-31.9.97	31	15	55		0.02		382	36	32
11.	Madhya Pradesh	August 97	45	4	748	0.22	4.56	0.22	47963	34	1263
12.	Orissa	July & Aug., 97	30	19	9387	4.06	39.32	4.06	87678	29	52
13.	Punjab	25.7-31.8.97	17	12	3090	0.86		0.86	10685	22	75
14.	Rajasthan	June-Sept.97	30	11	385	Neg.		Neg.	10196	64	94
15.	Sikkim Ist. Wave	7-9.6.97	4	4					3000	57	5
	IInd Wave	5-6.8.97	4	4	1						

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16.	Uttar Pradesh	July-Sept. 97	72	35	2284	3.49	10.21	1.55	5123	102	114
17.	West Bengal	27-28.6.97	18	3		Neg.	1.17	Neg.	2000		
	Andhra	22-24.7.97	18	6	881	1.93	12.36	1.93	38750	21	
	Madhya Pradesh	6.8.97	18	1			0.01		16	17	
	Total			241	25523	42.21	368.15	24.34	611873	1560	24849

Damage Due to Heavy Rains, Flood, Cyclone During North-East Monsoon-1997

Sl. No.	State/UT's	Period of Occurrence	Total Districts affected	Districts affected	Village affected	Area Affected (in lakh Ha.)	Damage to Crop area (in lakh Ha.)	Population affected (in lakh)	Damage to houses/Huts (No.)	Human lives lost	Animals lost (No.)
1.	Madhya Pradesh	Oct.-Dec. 97	45	29	15.50	15.50					
2.	Kerala	5.10-31.11.97	14	11	63	0.01	Neg.	0.03	1849	54	-
3.	Tamil Nadu	1.10-16.11.97	29	29		1.68	1.68		155348	162	454
	Total		88	69	69+	17.19	17.18	0.03	157197	216	454

Statement-II

Damage due to Heavy Rains, Hailstorm, Cyclonic storm and Thunder squalls during -1998 (Pre Monsoon)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Calamity	Date of Occurrence	Total No. of District	No. of district affected	No. of Village affected	Area affected (in lakh hectare)	Crop area affected (hectare)	Value of Crop loss (Rs. in lakh)	Population affected (in lakh)
1.	Assam	Cyclonic Storm	9.4.98	23	5		Neg.		1.00	
2.	Kerala	Heavy Rains	29.3-27.5.98	14	14	76		0.005	138.19	0.01
3.	Orissa	Thunder Squalls	24.3.98	30	1	3	N.R.	N.R.		0.05
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Hailstorm/Rains	7.5.98	72	1	236				
5.	West Bengal	Thunder Squalls Cyclonic Storm/ Hailstorm	24.3.98 8-9.4.98	18	1 2	18 503	0.03 0.34	0.03 0.09	1567.88	0.30 1.51
	Total			157	24	636	0.37	0.125	1707.07	1.87

Damage due to Heavy Rains, Landslide, Flood and Cyclone during South-West Monsoon-1998

Sr. No.	State/UT's	Period of Occurrence	Calamity	Total Districts (No.)	Districts affected (No.)	Villages affected	Area affected (in lakh Hectare)	Population affected (in lakh)	Damage to crop/area (in lakh ha.)	Damage to houses/huts (No.)	Human lives lost (No.)	Animal lost (No.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20-24.9.98	Heavy Rains	23	15		0.23		0.23	13	51	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	23-24.5.98. 9.7.98	Heavy rains/ Landslide	12	7	52		0.26	Neg.	330	23	16
3.	Assam	3.6.98 10.6.98	Landslide Flood	23	1	5292	9.72	46.98	2.89	30399	51 105	7814
4.	Bihar	9.7.98	Flood	55	28	8292	24.40	134.63	12.24	198742	380	187
5.	Gujarat	9.6.98 28.6.98 17.9.98	Cyclone Heavy Rains Floods	24	14 12 7	2938 85	0.08 2.19	46.80 1.15	0.08 2.19	260616 12294	1261 24 24	12747 2900
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Aug. Sept., 98	Heavy Rains	12	12	9221	2.51	24.69	2.35	5050	72	221
7.	Karnataka	June-Sept., 98	Heavy Rains/ Flood	30	27	11423	7.35	92.86	7.35	209770	313	26413
8.	Kerala	1.6.98-23.9.98 8-22.10.98	Heavy Rains/ Landslide Heavy Rains	14	14 14	2901 1452	1.45	0.89 1.00	1.45	18563 17703	138 54	
9.	Madhya Pradesh	12.9.98	Flood	45	9	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
10.	Maharashtra	June-Oct., 98	Lightening/ Cyclone/ Flood	33	32	5749	1.78	4.58	1.78	146183	537	2000
11.	Meghalaya	14.27.7, 17.8 & 4.9.98	Flood	7	1	123	0.04	0.85	0.04	33	3	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
12.	Orissa	Sept, 98	Flood	30	8	0.75	12.71	0.75	10185	1				
13.	Punjab	July-Sept., 98 Sept-Oct., 98	Rains/Flood Rains/Wind	17 13	13 13	0.15 1.76	0.06	0.15 0.69	46 39	24 22	38 34			
14.	Rajasthan	9.6.98	Cyclone	30	3				14603	12	51295			
15.	Sikkim	30.5. & 4.6.98	Landslide/ Heavy Rains	4	4	0.10		0.10	1139	10	40			
16.	Tripura	22.7.98	Flood	3	2				11562	17				
17.	Uttar Pradesh	15.7.98 11-13.8.98 & 17-19.8.98	Flood Landslide	83 9	48 9	14957 893	23.01 0.99	13.93 0.46	362276 3051	988 384	2499 1002			
18.	West Bengal	7.8.7.98 16.7.98	Landslide/ Heavy Rains Flood/Rains	18 18	2 7	0.01 1.31	0.40 21.13	0.01 1.31	3498 137639	14 165	200 12			
								63468	77.83	512.11	48.00	1463734	4682	107418

Damage due to Heavy Rains, Flood and Cyclonic storm during North-East Monsoon-1998

Sl. No. of State	Name of State	Date of Occurrence	Calamity	Total No. of District	No. of District affected	No. of Village affected	Area affected (in lakh ha.)	Population affected (in lakh)	Crop area affected (in lakh ha.)	Damage to houses/huts (No.)	Human lives lost (No.)	Animals lost (No.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3-17.10.98 14-15.11.98	Heavy Rains Cyclone	23	23	97	14.05	0.75	14.05	17956	179	
2.	Haryana	15-18.10.98	Rains	17	7	42	7.40		7.40			
3.	Kerala	28.10.98	Rains	14	7	130				1295	12	
4.	Orissa	15.11.98	Cyclone	30	2		1.10		1.10	2700		
5.	West Bengal	21-22.11.98	Cyclone	18	3		5.62	6.62	3.03	35520	3	2
Total				46	364	31.56	28.97	7.70	71014	210	2	

Statement-III

Assistance sought by State Govts. from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for Various Natural Calamities and Funds Released from NFCR during 1997-98 and 1998-99.

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	1997-98 Assistance		1998-99 Assistance	
		Sought	released	Sought	released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1159.28	42.00	600.00	26.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	105.15	**	200.23	13.47
3.	Assam	—	—	1001.98	59.90
4.	Bihar	428.82	10.00	1003.75	11.45
5.	Gujarat	664.33	86.90	810.65	55.35
6.	Haryana	—	—	757.29	13.27
7.	Himachal Pradesh	609.78	24.80	266.06	**
8.	Karnataka	723.00	22.00	1352.13	49.98
9.	Kerala	1106.26	12.91	1499.63	Nil
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2759.11	67.76	251.34	35.00
11.	Maharashtra	156.76	**	152.26	**
12.	Manipur	59.13	Nil	—	—
13.	Orissa	151.50	**	445.59	Nil
14.	Punjab	347.72	Nil	1140.60	Nil
15.	Rajasthan	51.18	Nil	1500.00	21.98
16.	Sikkim	107.39	7.00	141.41	7.67
17.	Tripura	—	—	30.11	5.05
18.	Uttar Pradesh	566.07	**	2254.30	131.15
19.	West Bengal	177.00	Nil	804.43	66.33
Total		9172.48	273.37	14211.76	497.10

** Not considered as Calamity of rare severity.

MPLADS

568. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MPLADS Scheme has been affected due to frequent Lok Sabha Elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Union Government have assessed the performance of MPLADS in regard to upliftment of villages;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to take some

effective steps to streamline the implementation of the Scheme;

- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether Government have decided to continue those works which were started during the 12th Lok Sabha;
- (h) whether the Union Government propose to bring more works under MPLADS; and
- (i) 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) With the coming into force of model code of conduct for elections, the sanctioning of new works and release of funds is stopped.

(c) and (d) A variety of works have been taken up under the scheme for the benefit of general public at large which include construction of school building, libraries, provision of drinking water, approach roads, small bridges, sports stadiums, community centres, crematoriums and boundary walls around them, public toilets, drains, footpaths, bus stops and provision of electricity in rural areas. These have benefited public at large in urban and rural areas.

(e) and (f) Issuing of instructions by the Government of India to all concerned for streamlining the implementation of the scheme is a continuous process. In the recent past, instructions have been issued to all the districts to sanction all the works recommended by the MPs to the extent of their entitlement without waiting for receipt of funds from the Government of India. All the State Governments have also been requested to take necessary steps for streamlining the implementation and monitoring of the scheme.

(g) As the dissolution of 12th Lok Sabha was sudden and as the Members of 12th Lok Sabha could not recommend works 45 days in advance as required in the guidelines, it has been decided that all the works recommended by the former MPs of 12th Lok Sabha received by the District Collectors upto 26th April, 99 (the date of dissolution) could be sanctioned within one month from 1st November, 99.

(h) and (i) As and when a suggestion for bringing more works under the purview of the scheme is suggested by Members, the matter is placed before the Committees on MPLADS of both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha for consideration and their recommendations, and necessary changes are brought in the guidelines with the approval of the Government. The last revised edition of the guidelines

was brought out in September this year and circulated to Hon'ble Members on 11.10.1999.

Mega Public Sector Projects

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

- (a) whether some of the mega public sector projects are running behind their schedule;
- (b) if so, the details of such projects and the bottlenecks identified for the delay in completion of the projects; and
- (c) the steps being taken for the speedy completion of those projects alongwith revised target date fixed for these projects?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the delayed projects are given in the enclosed statement. The bottlenecks contributing to the delay in completion of these projects include: administrative and procedural delays, problems in land acquisition, funds constraint, technical and design problem, tendering and contracting delays and faulty implementation procedures.

(c) The steps taken for speedy implementation of these projects vary from project to project depending upon the problems facing them. The steps taken are as under :

- (i) Monthly as well as quarterly monitoring by the Government. This enables the monitoring agencies to identify constraints and help the management in taking remedial measures;
- (ii) In-depth review of the progress by the Project Authorities and Administrative Ministries, Coordination with the respective State Governments, equipment suppliers, contractors, consultants and other concerned agencies;
- (iii) Inter-ministerial coordination and holding facilitation meetings among concerned agencies;
- (iv) Setting up of Empowered Committees for speedy finalisation of contract packages, solving of land acquisition and other problems; and
- (v) Making funds available to complete the projects on schedule.

Statement

Statement of Delayed Mega Project (As on 01.11.1999)

Sl. No.	Project Name	Original Cost (Rs. CRs.)	Latest Cost (Rs. CRs.)	Now Anticipated Cost (Rs. CRs.)	Cost overrun %	App. Cumu. Expenditure Till Now (Rs. CRs.)	Date of Approval	Date of Commissioning (MM/YY)		Time overrun with respect to Original Schedule Total (Months) (Overrun)		
								8	9	10	11	12
2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DEPARTMENT : ATOMIC ENERGY												
1.	Kaiga Atomic Power Project I & II (NPC)	730.72	2275.00	2696.00	296.32	2509.00	6/87	12/95	11/98	7/00	55	54
2.	Rajasthan Atomic Power Project 3 & 4 (NPC)	711.56	2107.00	2511.00	252.89	2017.00	11/86	11/95	11/95	11/00	60	56
3.	Tarapur Atomic Power Project, Tarapur, Maharashtra (NPCIL)	3447.06	6421.00	8949.00	159.61	1239.00	1/91	1/07	1/07	6/07	5	3
DEPARTMENT : COAL												
4.	Mine-1A (NLC)	1032.81	1032.81	1063.18	2.94	43.15	2/98	2/01	2/01	7/01	5	14
5.	Type-1 Exp. (NLC)	1590.58	1590.58	1520.99	4.38	136.92	2/96	3/01	3/01	5/02	14	23
6.	Expansion of Mine-1(NLC)	1336.93	1336.93	1602.94	19.90	921.12	3/92	10/96	10/96	4/03	78	142
7.	Dudhichua (NCL)	868.93	868.93	1271.78	46.36	677.69	8/92	3/98	3/98	3/04	72	107
DEPARTMENT : STEEL												
8.	Rourkela Steel Plant Modernisation (SAIL)	2461.00	3954.00	5105.29	107.45	4361.83	7/88	4/95	4/95	12/99	56	69
9.	Modernisation of Bodooro Steel Plant ST-1 (SAIL)	1625.79	1625.79	2468.18	51.81	2091.76	7/93	7/97	7/97	12/99	29	60
DEPARTMENT : PETROCHEMICALS												
10.	Gandhar Petrochemicals Project Daboi, Gujarat (IPCL)	3484.37	3484.37	3809.00	9.32	3802.63	3/92	10/96	10/96	11/99	37	67
DEPARTMENT : PETROLEUM												
11.	Gandhar Development Ph-II (ONGC)	1245.62	1245.62	1441.82	15.75	1433.72	5/92	5/96	5/96	12/99	43	90
12.	Oil Refinery at Numaligarh (Assam Accord Refinery) (IBP)	1830.00	1830.00	2489.12	36.02	2236.26	7/92	10/97	10/97	12/99	26	41
13.	Matching Secondary Processing Facility, Mathura Ref., (IOC)	1041.00	1041.00	1068.00	2.59	814.77	5/96	12/99	12/99	2/00	2	5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DEPARTMENT POWER												
14.	Natropa Jharkri Transmission System (PGCIL)	889.95	889.95	1561.63	75.47	1103.31	4/89	4/96	4/96	3/00	47	58
15.	Duihasli Hydroelectric Project (NHPC)	183.45	3559.77	3559.77	1840.5	2357.57	11/82	11/90	3/01	3/01	124	129
16.	Ranganadi Hydro Electric Project, Stage I (NEEPPO)	312.78	312.78	1479.63	373.08	882.58	4/87	8/94	8/94	9/01	85	97
17.	Natropa Jharkri H.E.P. (NJPC)	1678.02	7668.31	7668.31	356.87	4079.23	4/89	4/96	12/98	3/02	71	85
18.	Tehri Dam & H.P.P. (THDCL)	2963.66	2963.66	4967.77	67.82	2217.46	3/94	3/99	3/99	3/02	36	60
19.	Dhuliganga H.E.P.-I (NHPC)	601.98	601.98	1494.84	148.32	145.47	4/91	10/98	10/98	9/04	71	79
20.	Koel, Karo, Hydro Electric project (NHPC)	444.67	1292.82	2368.42	432.62	30.81	6/81	11/99	11/99	-	71	32
DEPARTMENT : RAILWAYS :												
21.	Freight Operations Information System (FOIS)	520.00	1098.00	1098.00	111.15	204.57	3/84	3/95	3/95	9/99	54	41
22.	Udhampur-Srineagar-Barmulla (NL), NR	2500.00	2500.00	3200.00	28.00	119.94	3/95	3/01	3/01	-	54	75
23.	B' Putra Bridge at Bogbil & Link Lines, 1000.00 NEFR	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	0.00	0.00	4/96	-	-	-	54	75

LEGEND

FOIS	-	Freight Operation Information System	NEFR	-	North Eastern Frontier Railway
IOC	-	Indian Oil Corporation	SAIL	-	Steel Authority of India Ltd.
IPCL	-	Indian Petrochemicals Ltd.	PGCIL	-	Power Generation Corporation of India Ltd.
NCL	-	Northern Coalfields Ltd.	NHPC	-	National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Ltd.
NEEPPO	-	North Eastern Electric Power Corporation	THDC	-	Tehri Hydro Power Development Corporation Ltd.
NLC	-	Neyveli Lignite Corpn.			
NPC	-	Nuclear Power Corporation			
NRL	-	Numaligarh Refinery Ltd.			
ONGC	-	Oil & Natural Gas Commission			
NL	-	New Lines			
NR	-	Northern Railways			

Declaration of Pakistan as a Terrorist State

570. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKH LAL GANDHI:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States and other European countries have admitted that numerous Kashmiri terrorist groups are freely operating from Pakistan to give material support by Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether the Government have urged the United States to declare Pakistan a terrorist State;

(c) if so, the response of the United States of America; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to urge Pakistan to stop helping terrorist activities operating in India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Ambassador Michael Sheehan, Coordinator for Counter-terrorism, Department of State, US Government, stated on 2nd November, 1999 in a testimony before the Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "Within Pakistan there are numerous Kashmiri separatist groups and sectarian groups involved in terrorism, which use Pakistan as a base. We have continuing reports of Pakistani material support for some of these militants". There are no references to the operation of Kashmiri terrorist groups from Pakistan in the public statements issued by the governments of the countries in the West European region and by the European Union. However, it is clear from bilateral discussions with the European Union and with the Governments of these countries that there is awareness that such terrorist groups are supported by Pakistan.

(b) Government uses every opportunity in bilateral talks with the United States to raise the issue of cross-border terrorism and its impact on India.

(c) The United States has shown understanding of our concern. In addition, the US/State Department's Annual Report on Patterns of Global Terrorism, released on 30 April, 1999, states that there were continued reports of official Pakistani support to militants fighting in Kashmir.

(d) The issue of Pakistan's support for terrorist activities in India has been taken up with the Government of Pakistan on several occasions. The matter was most recently taken up by Prime Minister during his talks with the Prime Minister of Pakistan in February, 1999. Within the composite dialogue process, Foreign Secretary raised the issue during talks in Islamabad in October 1998. The matter was once again raised by the Home Secretary during the talks in New Delhi in November 1998. Government has conveyed that

cessation of such activities is essential for a normalisation of our relationship. The international community has been kept fully abreast of the continued support for terrorism in the region and in India, in particular.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1999-2000.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-189/99)

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the MSTC Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1999-2000.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-190/99)

- (3) A copy of Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited and the Department of Steel, Ministry of Steel and Mines for the year 1999-2000.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-191/99)

- (4) A copy of Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1999-2000.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-192/99)

- (5) A copy of Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the sponge Iron India Limited and the Department of Steel for the year 1999-2000.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-193/99)

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 PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): I beg to lay on the Table —

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| <p>(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:-</p> <p>(i) G.S.R. 48 published in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 1999 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 192(E) Dated 20th April, 1998.</p> <p>(ii) G.S.R. 49 published in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 1999 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 193(E) dated the 20th April, 1998.</p> <p>(iii) C.S.R. 50 published in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 1999 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 209 dated the 31st October, 1998.</p> <p>(iv) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 206(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th March, 1999.</p> <p>(v) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 207(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th March, 1999.</p> <p>(vi) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Second Amendment Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 367(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 1999.</p> <p>(vii) The Indian Administrative Service (pay) Second Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 368(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 1999.</p> <p>(viii) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Third Amendment Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 426(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 1999</p> <p>(ix) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay)</p> | <p>(x) The Indian Administrative Services (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 449(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st June, 1999.</p> <p>(xi) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Fourth Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 450(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st June, 1999.</p> <p>(xii) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fifth Amendment Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 461(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 1999.</p> <p>(xiii) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Fifth Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 462(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 1999.</p> <p>(xiv) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Sixth Amendment Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 477(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 1999.</p> <p>(xv) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Sixth Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 478(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 1999.</p> <p>(xvi) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 85 in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 1999.</p> |
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- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-194/99]*
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| <p>(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Article 320(5) of the Constitution of India:-</p> <p>(i) The Union Public Service Commission (Exemption from Consultation) Amend-</p> | <p>Third Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 427(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 1999.</p> |
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- ment Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. GSR 383(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 1999.
- (ii) The Union Public Service Commission (Exemption from Consultation) Second Amendment Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. GSR 219 in Gazette of India, dated the 17th July, 1999.
(Placed in Library. See No. LT- 195/99)
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments, 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 Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99
(Placed in Library. See No. LT- 196/99)
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-German Tool Room, Aurangabad, 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-German Tool Room, Aurangabad, for the year 1998-99.
(Placed in Library, See No. LT-197/99)
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-German Tool Room Ahmedabad, 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-German Tool Room, Ahmedabad, for the year 1998-99.
(Placed in Library. See No. LT- 198/99)
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, 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 Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, for the year 1998-99.
(Placed in Library. See No. LT-199/99)
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-German Tool Room, Indore, 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-German Tool Room, Indore, for the year 1998-99.
(Placed in Library. See No. LT- 200/99)
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room, Ludhiana, 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, Ludhiana, for the year 1998-99.
(Placed in Library See No. LT-201/99)
- (9) A copy of each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under article 323 (1) of the Constitution:-
- (i) A Forty-Eight Annual Report of the Union Public Service Commission for the year 1997-98.
(Placed in Library. See No. LT-202/99)
- (ii) Memorandum explaining reasons for non-acceptance of the Advice of the Union Public Service Commission in respect of the cases referred to in Chapter VIII of the above Report.
(Placed in Library. See No. LT- 203/99)
- (10) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Small Industries Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Industry (Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries) for the year 1999-2000.
(Placed in Library. See No. LT- 204/99)

(11) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A the of Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 1997-98 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-205/99)

(b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Omnibus Industrial Development Corporation of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli Limited, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Omnibus Industrial Development Corporation of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli Limited, for the year 1997-98 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-206/99)

(c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation, New Delhi for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(12) Three Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-207/99)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Muni Lall, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 51 in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 1999 under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-208/99)

(2) A copy of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Central (Amendment) Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 41(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st January, 1999 under sub-section (3) of section 35 of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-209/99)

(3) A copy of the Financial Estimates and Performance Budget for the year 1999-2000 (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees State Insurance Corporation under section 36 of the Employees, State Insurance Act, 1948.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-210/99)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):- I beg to lay on the Table -

(1) A copy each of the following notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 36 of the insecticides Act, 1968:-

(i) The Insecticides (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 371 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th May, 1999 together with a corrigendum there to published in Notification No. G.S.R. 586(E) dated the 12th August, 1999.

(ii) The Insecticides (Second) (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 372(E) in Gazette of India dated 20th May, 1999.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-211/99)

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-212/99)

(4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by Government of the working of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited, Gandhinagar, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited, Gandhinagar, for the year 1997-98, alongwith audited accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

(Placed in Library. See No- 213/99)

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): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 'Ninth Five Year Plan 1997-2002' (Volumes I and II) (Hindi and English versions).

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-214/99)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon.

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

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-215/99)

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA-LAID

[English]

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

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule iii of the Rules of procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Notaries (Amendment) Bill, 1999 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th November, 1999."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule iii of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1999 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th November, 1999."

Sir, I lay on the Table the Notaries (Amendment) Bill, 1999 and the Code of Civil Procedure Amendment Bill, 1999, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 29th November, 1999.

12.04 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(I) Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Rule 4(vii) of the Rules of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society for a term of three years, subject to other provisions of the said Rules."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of Rule 4(vii) of the Rules of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society for a term of three years, subject to other provisions of the said Rules."

The motion was adopted.

(ii) **National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Section 4(4) (e) of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Act, 1983, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board for a term of three years, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 4(4) (e) of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Act, 1983, the members of this house do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board for a term of three years, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

12.06 hrs.

MOTION RE: FIRST REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 30th November, 1999."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 30th November, 1999."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.M. KRISHNADAS (PALGHAT) : Sir, I am raising a very important matter regarding the National Youth Festival. The Sixth National Youth Festival was decided to be held in Kerala, Kumari Uma Bharati was the Minister of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports at that time. She wrote a letter to the Chief Minister of Kerala regarding the decision to hold the National Youth Festival in Kerala. At the same time, the Secretary (Youth Affairs) to the Government of India wrote a letter to the Chief Secretary of Kerala also. According to that directive, the Government of Kerala formed a Preparatory Committee for a better organisation of the Festival. Now, the present Minister of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports visited Kerala recently. At that time, he expressed his views. He did not know anything about the decision to conduct the Youth Festival in Kerala.

The birthday of Swami Vivekananda falls on the 12th January. Usually, we inaugurate the National Youth Festival on the same date, namely, on the birthday of Swami Vivekananda. Today is 1st December and only 40 days are left for the National Youth Festival. So, through you, let me know about the plan of the Government. Is there any move to shift the venue of the National Youth Festival from Kerala to elsewhere? Otherwise, the Government cannot conduct the Festival in that State. Let me know the view of the Government in this regard.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): Sir, I have also given notice to speak..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Premajam, you may associate yourself with the views expressed by the hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : It is not the question of only Kerala. It is the question of the entire country. It is not the State festival. It is about the National Youth Festival... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All Members who want to speak on this matter can associate themselves with the views of the hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand this is not the way to raise matters. Is there anything to say from the Government's side?

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Krishnadas, please take your seat. I am ascertaining it from the Government.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to raise the matter. I am allowing you one by one. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, we associate ourselves with what Mr. Krishnadas has said ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to raise the matter. I am asking the Government about it. Please take your seats.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR): The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs may kindly respond to this point. The National Youth Festival had been decided to be held in Kerala ... (Interruptions)... Now, the hon. Minister, Shri Ananth Kumar said that it would be changed from Kerala. He is thinking of shifting it to Karnataka. Only a few days are left. Swami Vivekananda's birthday is on 12th of January. So, will the hon. Minister kindly reply to it on behalf of the Government? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Krishnadas, please take your seat. Madam, please take your seat.

..(Interruptions)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you have given the notice.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: It is an injustice meted out to the Kerala Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jos, you are a senior Member. This is not the proper way of raising the matter in the House. What is this?

... (Interruptions)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: The Government of Kerala has already made a statement... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking the Government also to respond to it. Please take your seats.

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS: I have got the letter. I can lay the letter on the Table of the House.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Krishnadas, please take your seat. Nobody is following the directions of BAC.

... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PARMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I can communicate the feelings of the hon. Members to the Minister of Culture. I cannot outright take any decision here. Mr. Jos, I will definitely communicate your feelings.

SHRI A.C. JOS: That is enough.... (Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRACKPORE): Sir, the LIC and the GIC employees are on strike today. On behalf of the country and to safeguard the interests of the country, the Insurance employees have gone on strike today. It should be recorded and the Government should respond to this issue just now.... (Interruptions)

12.12 hrs.

RE: THIRD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF
WTO AT SEATTLE

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, meeting of World Trade Organisation is beginning from tomorrow at Seattle in America. In our country as well as in America also people are staging demonstrations against it everywhere due to which the meeting of Seattle has to be postponed yesterday itself and meeting could not be held at fixed time. The meeting was postponed for 5 hours. America is bullying some developing countries. They want to inflict a loss to developing countries by linking trade with labour law then trade with environment and thereafter including agenda of reducing subsidy in agriculture so that these countries could not get chance to export. A serious conspiracy is being hatched to destroy the economy of developing countries particularly of India. Hon'ble Minister had consultation with us before going there. We have warned him that India should come forward lead Third World countries and should not accept such conditions and should not allow to include new agenda which is dangerous for our economy and industry. Populationwise we are 16% of the total population of the World. Now India should come forward and lead Third World countries. The government should mobilise public opinion against US bullying tactics in WTO and its conspiracy and prove that 21st century belongs to the 100 crore people of India. The interests of the farmers are being attacked. The danger of withdrawing subsidy is increasing and there is no democracy in W.T.O.

We expect from government that it should raise all these points in WTO meeting.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to speak now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN(CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, I have given a notice. What about my notice?

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this subject is serious for our country. Some developing countries are under the influence of America. Not one but many decisions are being taken. Its consequences will be grave and one consequence will be that prices will increase and 95% poor people of our country will not be able to purchase even medicines. In spite of our repeated warnings, government is not becoming careful.

12.15 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

We should learn lesson from all those countries which have invested their capital under the influence of America or other foreign powers. From economic point of view, Malaysia was considered most prosperous country in the South-East Asia. We should learn a lesson from the statement which was given by Malaysian Prime Minister last year. The foreign companies and foreign powers not only destroyed the economy of Malaysia but also interfered in their politics. Today, our BJP Government is also under the influence of those foreign powers. Today, political decision are being taken under the influence of America and other foreign powers. We are warning them again and again and saying that India is compromising with self respect and surrendering before foreign powers. This question is not related to government alone but to 100 crore people. I would like to warn the Government to stop this high-handedness and arbitrary attitude, otherwise it will have to face its consequences. When Britishers committed high-handedness, they were thrown out of the country. These people had also committed high-handedness. What is the position of Congress today? The BJP Government, by handling over our economy to foreign powers, is not only pushing the country towards economic slavery but also allowing them to interfere in our political matters. This issue not only pertain to you but to 100 crore people of the country. Here 543 members are present. It is not their country only but it is the country of 100 crore people. We, the socialist people will not tolerate such type of high-handedness. Even now, We would like to warn you. You were running Swadeshi Jagaran Manch.

Now you have started running Videshi Jagaran Manch. Why did you start Swadeshi Movement? You have been running Videshi Jagaran Manch in this country after deviating from the path of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch. This is serious matter. You please pay special attention towards this by interfering in it. Today, the question is not of majority and minority. This question relates to country. You should save this country from economic slavery. It is the responsibility of all of us to protect this country. The freedom of our country is in danger. Just now an example has been given that in Seattle not thousands-lakhs but people of entire world staged demonstration and expressed their opposition before Members of WTO. As a result of this, the meeting of WTO had to be postponed for five hours. If you commit high-handedness by neglecting public opinion then on behalf of my colleague I would like to tell that we will not tolerate this at any cost. We are ready and will struggle to oppose it at any cost.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the matter which has been raised by the hon. Member from R.J.D., Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and supported by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav is a very serious one. This morning we are told that civil emergency has been imposed in Seattle and the Ministers are prevented from entering into the hall while Shri Maran, our distinguished Minister of Commerce and Industry, was having his deliberations there. We are also told that besides the agreement on Uruguay round, which was the first and final round of discussions on G.A.T.T. and which was later converted into W.T.O., a few more items are about to be included in the discussions. We do not know the exact position which the Government has already taken in Seattle this morning or what it is likely to take there. So, it would be appropriate if the Government comes forward with a statement, after ascertaining the latest position from Shri Maran who is now in Seattle, and report to the House, so that we can react appropriately thereafter as to what is our stand in the matter. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I should be given a chance to make my submission. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, I have called Shri Jaipal Reddy now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, my name is there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes; I am not denying that. Your name is there.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir.

I wish to bring to the notice of the House that a despatch has been sent from Seattle which appeared in *The Hindu* this morning to the effect that the Government of India has already reached an underhand understanding with the United States. The despatch quotes a source of the United States to say that we have agreed with the United States in regard to electronic commerce Information Technology Agreement-2- without insisting on any *quid pro quo*. Our approach was that we would ask for a review of the patent regime which was mandatory as a part of the Uruguay Round. We did not get that in return. Even before the Seattle round was inaugurated formally, we have already reached a clandestine agreement.

This is what *The Hindu* of today says, Shri Rammanohar Reddy, who is a noted expert and who is covering the proceedings at Seattle, sent the newsitem this morning.

The Government should be able to respond to this. If you have agreed with the Government of the United States behind the back of the nation, behind the back of Parliament, even before the convention was started, we would like to know as to what we have got in return.

Shri Murasoli Maran, who is our Minister there, could not assure the country when he was responding to TV presenters on Star TV last night that he would be able to resist linking of non-trade issues, such as, environment and labour with trade.

All this only shows how weak this Government is in its approach. Therefore, even before this Government commits itself to anything, we want Parliament of India to be taken into confidence. This mistake cannot be allowed to be made because if the Government of India commits itself, Parliament becomes helpless. Therefore, I suggest that the Government makes a statement on this issue categorically that it will not make any commitment whatsoever either clandestinely or otherwise without taking Parliament into confidence.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): We should also be allowed to speak on this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, I have got a number of names.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No, Sir; I have given a notice.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You ought to have given the

notice at 10 o'clock. Now only you realise that it is an important matter.

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will not allow.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are a number of people who have given notices on important matters. I will allow them to speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It has appeared in today's '*Hindu*'(Interruptions) it is a very serious matter. The House should be informed about what has transpired there and why the Government has surrendered to the United States of America. Is there any agreement which the Government propose to have with the developed nations there? The Parliament should be taken into confidence. Since yesterday, thousands and thousands of workers in Seattle are demonstrating. The local administration had to impose curfew against the movement by the workers who are against the conditions which are being imposed by the developed nations under the leadership of the United States of America.

Here, Sir, in our country, more than two lakh employees of insurance sector, today, are on strike ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Where are you going, Shri Acharia? What is your topic? You are clubbing all matters together.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, this is surrendering of our country to them.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, The Member who have given notices, are not being allowed to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not complicate further. Please take your seat. Shri Acharia, please conclude now.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we demand that the House should be taken into confidence before any agreement is arrived at Seattle. What is happening there; what are the conditions which are being imposed by the United States of America? The House should be informed of all these issues(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (FARRU-KHABAD): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to wards the potato producers..... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, this is a very important issue that we have raised. There should be response from the Government...(Interruptions) There is no response from the Government...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): Sir, this is a very serious issue....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANS PARSAD SINGH: The pride of the country is in danger...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please, Raghuvansh Parsad Singhji, the Government is Reacting.

..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : This Government is selling the pride of the country. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You do not want the Government to react!

..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH): This Government is not working properly.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You do not allow me also to speak in this House. A very important issue was raised and the Government wants to react. If all of you stand up like this, then how can the Government react to it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Prime Minister should himself come here and reply.... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Prime Minister should come and respond..... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is a very important issue... (Interruptions) The interest of our country is at stake. I feel that the whole propriety demands that either the Finance Minister or the Prime Minister or someone from the Government should respond and react to the grievances and issues raised by the Opposition Members. It is not a lighter issue. A decision is imposed on us in Seattle and these issues are expected to come. Some more issues have come in the *The Hindu*. The Finance Minister is competent enough to respond or the Prime Minister should respond.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR.C.P. THAKUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we will convey the feelings of the Members to the Prime Minister, but there is nothing like what he is saying....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please hear him first.... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we have raised a very important issue and no less than the Prime Minister should respond to it.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, this is 'ZERO HOUR' and the matter has already been taken note of by the Government. How can you expect the Prime Minister to respond right now?

....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA): Sir, the hon. Minister says.

[Translation]

Noting like that is happening and we will inform Prime Minister about it. There is nothing as such, this is the reply of hon'ble Minister.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please go to your seats I will not allow this. I have to take serious note of it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please go to your places. Shri Mulayam Singh, please ask your Members to go back to their places.

.... (Interruptions)

12.30 hrs.

At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members came and sat on the floor near the Table.

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: I request the leaders to ask their Members to go back to their seats. This is not the way.

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: Please go to your places. I will have to take a serious note of it. Please go to your places.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: I will have to take a serious note of it. Please go to your places.

..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, what are doing this?

[English]

Shri Mulayam Singh, you are a Senior Member. What is this? You do not want me to conduct this House. This is very very unfair.

....(Interruptions)

12:31hrs.

At this stage, Shri Tarit Baran Topdar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister can come to the House and react on this issue. It is not a matter to be taken lightly. The Prime Minister should come and react. If he is preoccupied, the Finance Minister can come and react on this issue.

[Translation]

Sir, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee used to say that the leader of the House should come in the House and give assurance on important issues. It is an important issue, in the interest of the country, therefore, the Prime Minister should come and give a statement in the House and should clarify the present situation. It is a question of the decorum of the House....(Interruptions)

[Translations]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Call Mr. Prime Minister in the House....(Interruptions) He should come here and clarify the situation.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please go to your places.

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: I am directing you to go to your places. Unless you go back to your places, how can they reply?

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: You please go and occupy your seats.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI): Do we have a Government inside the House? (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Now, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has come. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to react if you go to your places. Then only I will ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to respond, otherwise not.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Let the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs go to the hon. Prime Minister and tell us the position and take the House into confidence since the matter is very serious. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You please hear me. Will you allow me to speak? Will you not allow me to speak? Please go to your seats. I will ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to interfere. I will ask him to react. You please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Members should first go to their seats, then only I will ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to react.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: The head of the Government, the hon. Prime Minister must answer. The Government is not coming forward with an answer.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the matter of Seattle is not a simple matter. The hon. Prime Minister should come and respond. There is nothing wrong in that. (Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: The Government is not discharging its constitutional duty. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would request the hon. Members to cooperate. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please help me. I will not ask the Government to react until and unless the Members go to their seats. I am helpless. You are an elder Member of the House. This is most unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not the way. I am asking the Government to react. Shri Yadav, you will have to ask your Members to go to their seats. I will ask the Government to react. If you are not satisfied then you can raise it again. I am asking the Government. Please ask your Members to go to their seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Government will react.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA): My point is that the Government should have come on their own. ...(Interruptions). We have raised the issue. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will request the hon. Members to go to their seats. I will ask the Government to react.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not the way. This is most unfortunate. This is 'Zero Hour'. Shri Pilot, you know that you are a senior Member. This is 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I agree. But this is a serious matter. Let them say something....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: How can the House be conducted? I am sorry to say this. This is not the way the House is conducted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is 'Zero Hour'. They are not expected to be sitting here like this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It may be 'Zero Hour', Sir, but if there is information that the country's interests have been compromised, is it not important? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure, everybody in this country, not only in this House, will agree....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Prime Minister himself says...(Interruptions). What is the present status of that, Mr. Prime Minister knows it. He himself can reply and take the House in confidence....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, the President of Vietnam is in the town. The Prime Minister is busy meeting with them. He cannot come immediately....(Interruptions). The Prime Minister is meeting him. He cannot leave that diplomatic meeting with the Vietnam President and rush to the House. They must appreciate it ...(Interruptions) I can contact him only after his meeting is over. How can I contact him just now when he is busy meeting the Vietnamese President?... (Interruptions) I am surprised why do they not call Shri Kamal Nath and ask him what is happening ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, this is not the way. When a matter of such greatest historical importance is going to happen to this country, this should not be the attitude. Let him not show red eyes to anybody. The question is, is it a matter of concern for the country as a whole or not? Everybody knows what are the serious implications of WTO. Even the Minister concerned who has gone there, has been meeting people and even trying to get everybody's support for this. We have cooperated. Our Members have gone along with him. But the reports of what is happening there are very disquieting. The Government itself should have responded and come on its own with a statement here at the highest level. But the way the House is being treated shows as if the matter is of no importance to this country. What is the good of having this House then?(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : May I have a word on this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please hear me also?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh, I request you to please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not the way to behave.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad, I will not allow you like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: May I request all leaders to hear me? It is a very serious matter that has been raised. The Minister has already told you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please ask these Members to go to their seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a question of your chair and your prestige and honour. But at present, it is a question of the country. Is it an ordinary demand? If the Prime Minister attending a meeting now then that is not more important than this issue. Today the issue which has been raised, is the sense of the entire House.(Interruptions) Therefore, we want that the Prime Minister should come here and give reply. Till then, you adjourn the House....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, let this House be adjourned....(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH): Sir, let the House be adjourned till the Prime Minister comes here.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the Congress Party will like to make it very clear that this matter has been very widely reported today by a number of news media, followed by the latest information on what is going on in Seattle. The members have taken up this issue in the House considering the interest and importance of the basic interests of the nation itself, not only on the economic front but on various other things related to Seattle Conference.

When the issues were taken up in all seriousness by almost all the leaders of all the political parties here, excepting the Government, the propriety demands that the Government should have come out earlier with a statement. However, since the hon. Prime Minister is busy in his meeting with the Vietnam Prime Minister, we do not want that he should come out from the meeting. But his aides could have informed him and told us what time he will be available to come to the House and to make a statement taking the House into confidence. There was nothing wrong in it. I do not know why the Government is delaying these simple matters....(Interruptions) If the Government is not serious to respond to the issue by the hon. Prime Minister, it means something is going very wrong.(Interruptions) How can the Parliament keep quiet on it?(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHRJEE (PANSKURA): Sir, how is it that the hon. Minister is not aware of it? All over the world, everybody knows what is happening. We have to take up this issue.(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, let the House be adjourned till the hon. Prime Minister comes.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, when India has agreed to some proposal, is it not the duty of the Government to take the House into confidence? Otherwise why should the Parliament function without the Government?(Interruptions) Let

the hon. Prime Minister come and answer. It has appeared in the Press. We came to know only through the Press.(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY) Sir, this is a very serious matter. Let the hon. Prime Minister come here. The Government cannot take the House for granted.(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : This is an important matter with international ramifications....(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The House cannot be taken for granted.(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : The Government cannot take the House for a ride.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, let the hon. Prime Minister come and clarify the position as to whether what has come out in the press is true or not and how our national interest is going to be protected at Seattle.(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, let the hon. Minister say that the hon. Prime Minister will come and make a statement.(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Sir, the Parliament is not the ambit of the Executive. The Executive should submit to the House.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Can the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs say something?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I will contact the hon. Prime Minister as soon as he comes out of the meeting and inform the House. What can I say at this juncture?.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, this is a matter of prime importance. The hon. Prime Minister should come and tell us as to what he is doing.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, let the House be adjourned till he comes.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The Prime Minister should come and clarify the position of the Government.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has taken an oath. He should come here.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House is adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.47 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Three Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRACKPORE): Sir, there is no one in the Treasury Benches.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is there.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, before the House was adjourned, we raised the issue of Seattle – what happened there, what information has been sent to the Government, what has appeared in the Press – and we all, from all the Opposition Parties, demanded that the Prime Minister should come and inform this House. As this is a very serious matter, the information which is there with the Government of India should be shared with us. We demand so because it concerns the interest of our country and we do not want that the Government of India should surrender before the United States of America. Certain disturbing news items have appeared in the newspaper and we want that the House should be informed about this and the House should be taken into confidence as this concerns millions and millions of people of our country.

So, the Prime Minister should come and inform this House as to what has happened there, whether the Government of India has accepted certain conditions which are imposed by the United States of America, what are those conditions and what are those matters. This House should be informed about it.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no one in the opposition is of the opinion that the proceeding of the House should be obstructed, but the question is such that it is linked with the fortunes of not only hundreds of people but with hundred crores people. It is not a question of a few people but of the whole nation and only on the basis of this we have demanded that the hon'ble Prime Minister should take the House in Confidence. We suggest the same and we are also of same opinion. As far as the suggestions of the Samajwadi party is concerned, that is surely the same. Because he should have come back to the country after walking out of the Conference and should have headed the developing countries. There was no need to further participate in the Conference.

All my colleagues and friends will agree that the Agenda which was drafted, that too was being manipulated by the

Americans with high handedness. The result of this will be that not only a few Government servants but even our agriculture, farmers and poor people will also be affected. If the Agenda with these kind of conditions is signed then the essential commodities at every level will become costlier due to which our poor and middle class people will be ruined. I have said it earlier too and even now I am saying that by this way our country will not only move towards economic slavery but the capitalist forces will also start interfering in our political sphere. Therefore if any treaty or convention is signed without taking the House into confidence, it will amount to anti-national act. Therefore my submission before you is that you need not indulge in such an act of blemish. Therefore my demand is that Prime Minister should give a chance to the Members to have their opinion in the regard and take the House in Confidence.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the forenoon, apart from raising general questions relating to Seattle Round, we referred to informal clandestine understanding reached between the Government of India and the United States.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : It was 'reported' in that way. Please do not take the responsibility for that news item.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I am prepared to take reasonable kind of responsibility for that fairly reliable report. That report quoted the US officials, and the items on which the Government of India agreed to relate fortuitously, though not fortunately, to the portfolio which is held by my good friend, Shri Pramod Mahajan. The Government of India agreed to zero tariff on electronic-commerce, and agreed to ratify information technology agreement too. You have agreed to all these, even before the Convention was formally inaugurated, without getting anything in return.

The understanding among all the political parties, when the Government did consult the political parties, was that the Government of India's priority would be to raise the question relating to implementational difficulties arising from Uruguay Round itself, and the Uruguay Round itself mandates that the patent regime should be reviewed by 2,000. So, why are we not taking advantage of this millennial Round, and why are we trying to concede on agriculture and other things? My friend, Shri Pramod Mahajan, would say: "How do you know all this? The Convention has not been started."

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Actually, you are making my speech also.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Let me have the privilege of anticipating and pre-empting your speech, dear Sir. In all these

International negotiations, there are bilateral negotiations that go on between Governments. Let us not forget, the mightiest man in the world, Mr. Bill Clinton, he may be a lame-duck President of the USA, but he is sitting right in Seattle breathing down the neck of every country.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, please conclude now.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Therefore, there is a need for the Government to come forward and say that no agreement, formal or informal or open or clandestine, has been reached.

Shri Murasoli Maran was asked by the journalists of Star TV last night whether India was trying to assume the leadership of the developing countries. He could not give an assurance. I heard him on Star TV and the journalists of Star TV further asked him whether Shri Murasoli Maran would succeed in delinking trade from such issues as environment and labour. He was not able to give an assurance. I also heard the BBC and spokespersons from Britain and America. They were very insistent on these things. We really do not know what is happening there. We have faith in this Government but not in the will of the Government. What is required is will and commitment.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, I have given notice. I may be allowed.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. This is not 'Zero Hour'. Yes, Shri Dasmunsi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you would kindly recall that in the first Leaders' meeting convened by you, I, on behalf of my Party proposed to the hon. Prime Minister that since the Seattle agenda is on, let the Government come out with their viewpoints as to what business they would like to transact and what should be the stand of Government. Rightly or wrongly, the last Session of Parliament continued for a shorter period. The Government perhaps thought that that was not the appropriate time and they would make their viewpoints know at the time of the departure of the delegation.

Sir, the delegation left before the 29th of November, 1999 and this Session of Parliament commenced from the 29th of November. Right after the departure of the delegation, in the media—not only in the Indian media but in a number of major Asian news media as well—it has been reported that controversial issues have come up in WTO. It has been reported, quoting US officials, that before we approached the Seattle, some kind of understanding had been reached and arrangements were made with United States on areas of agricultural tariff regime. It has caused a serious kind of apprehension and tension in the minds of Indian farming community about their future.

Sir, secondly, it has further been reported that over and above the agenda of the Uruguay round of talks which was

concluded as the first and final agenda of the GATT negotiations, converted into a WTO arrangement, more new chapters are being planned and propagated by the US Trade Department which is being monitored and piloted by no less a person than His Excellency Mr. Bill Clinton. Individual nations were brought into the net and they got from them an oral assurance or made some other arrangement to placate those things against the respective interests of the developing world.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, the Chair is this side and not that side. You are not addressing the Chair.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am addressing you only.

MR. SPEAKER : No, you are not addressing the Chair.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, whichever side he may sit, he is addressing you only.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this House has genuine reason for concern on the report which was published today, specially in *The Hindu*. All these reporters who are publishing these reports are not useless people. They are very competent people. They keep track of all the proceedings of the WTO including the proceedings at the Seattle. Further, this morning it was reported that not only in Seattle, even in the United States, huge demonstrations are going on against the new agenda and the new kind of arrangements which are against the consent of the respective nations. The result of it has been so bad that the host authorities at Seattle had to impose Civil Emergency and curfew in the entire city and even the Ministers had difficulties in entering the venue.

Sir, therefore, it is a natural thing, when the Parliament is in Session, the Parliament would react to such happenings and it is more appropriate as well that no less than a person than the hon. Prime Minister should come to House, take the House into confidence and react to the apprehensions that have been expressed by the Members and the news media. This demand is not a very major demand. Courtesy and propriety demands that the hon. Prime Minister should come and respond to the situation.

We were given to understand by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister that the Prime Minister was in discussion with His Excellency the Prime Minister of Vietnam. We value that discussion very much and want that it should be fruitful and go in best interest of friendship between India and Vietnam. However, there is still time. Hon. Prime Minister can come before the House now. PMO must have received reports from Seattle. We have also received reports, we may be wrong, saying that the latest briefing in this regard was given by PMO to Shri Murasoli Maran in the late evening of yesterday. We do not know what instructions were given in that briefing. Therefore, I plead with the Government to realise the importance of the issue. In view of the importance of the issue,

it is appropriate for the Prime Minister to come here and make a statement to update the position before we further react.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, we are very much concerned over this issue. I believe my friends on the other side are equally concerned, maybe some are more concerned and some are less, but the country as a whole is highly concerned over this matter and rightly so. This is not an ordinary matter. Our reservations over WTO are there. Certain developments are emanating out of that and we are greatly worried. We had seen Shri Murasoli Maran expressing that he wanted to be equipped to fight against many onslaughts that were apprehended. This is precisely what has happened. Their apprehensions seem to be justified from what appears in the newspapers. Even then this Government is sitting like a sphinx. This is an important matter, a matter concerning the country as a whole, its future, its economy and the Government does not seem to wake up!

I have been requesting the earlier Governments also that in matters of great moment for India's history such as this, the Government should on its own come and make a *suo motu* statement on the floor of the House. Somehow, we are not able to develop that culture. It has become a habit that unless Opposition Members rise in their places, justifiably so, and express their reservations, Government does not wake up from its slumber. This Government is following all the bad habits of some of the earlier Governments, and with better expertise it seems. It is a matter for them to consider, I do not know, and a matter which country will decide.

The House is agitated over this issue. The whole country is agitated. Who will tell the country as to what is happening except the leader of the Government? Who will take the country into confidence through this House? It is not a routine matter where one can say that one is not available, somebody else is there to take notes while one is away. Is this a matter to be dealt with in such manner? We are highly concerned, and I am sure you are also concerned, over this issue. Let the Government respond adequately through the appropriate authority.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. speaker. Sir, I too, have to speak on this issue(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh you have already raised this issue during 'zero hour' today.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Sir, there is another thing here. In view of the seriousness of the situation the Prime Minister should come to the House. The nation must know about this from the highest level because there are serious misgivings. This is our humble demand and simple demand. I do not know why the Government is so adamant! Let the Prime Minister come here and satisfy the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, the Government is ready to respond. The Minister is on his legs.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA): Sir, kindly give me two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is ready to reply. Please do not obstruct the Minister.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Should I sit down?

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down please.

[English]

I have allowed the Minister.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You have listened the views of everyone but are not giving me a chance to speak. It is a question of country's interest..(Interruptions) I do not have to speak much on this....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Hundred crore people may be slaughtered and we are expected to keep quite....(Interruptions) WTO is going to be signed(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much. This will not go on record.

....(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: His speech will not form part of the record.

....(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes now the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, there cannot be two opinions that the Seattle Conference is a very important conference, and the decisions taken there, as rightly said by our hon. colleague Shri Mulayam Singh, are going to affect one billion people of this nation. That is why, this Government, right from the beginning, not only tried to take the decision at the Government level but we would like to talk to the Opposition also.

For the first time in the history of the Seattle Conference, the Indian delegation is there not only with Government delegation but the major opposition party Members are also

* Not Recorded.

there to consult, advise and guide the Leader of the delegation so that the national interest is protected there.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST): Who is representing from the CPI(M), please let us know. Kindly tell us the names of the persons who are representing at the Seattle Conference.(Interruptions). We would like to know the names of the Members participating there....(Interruptions).... We are keen to know.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, please take your seat.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : As I told earlier that any decision taken at the Seattle Conference is not only going to affect the particular portion of the society, it is going to affect the entire nation. So, naturally, we tried this time to see that the delegation also reflects the whole country, and not the Government side only.

The Seattle Conference has started. I cannot comment as to what reports are there. But I appreciate the concern of the Opposition. It is not only concern of the Opposition, the whole nation has a right to know about it(Interruptions).... Let me complete.

The nation has a right to know as to what is happening at Seattle. The nation will only know through Parliament, and Parliament is in Session. So, naturally, we appreciate the concern of Parliament and particularly of the Opposition Members that the Government should come out with the recent developments at Seattle. As I told you earlier, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is busy with a luncheon discussion in Hyderabad House at this juncture with Vietnamese President. That will be over by about quarter to Four. So, the hon. Prime Minister will come to the House at about five o'clock and answer all questions raised.

If any further questions are there, the Prime Minister is competent here to answer. I will request one more thing. I appreciate the concern of the Opposition. But my only request is this: It is 2.30 p.m. now. I promise to bring the Prime Minister at 5 o'clock. Between these 2 1/2 hours, it being almost early morning or night in Seattle, nothing is going to happen in Seattle in the next 2 1/2 hours. So, I would request the Opposition to wait till 5 o'clock and then the Prime Minister will come and answer all your queries.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has agreed to reply to such an important question and since morning we were of the opinion that the Prime Minister should reply to it and should take the entire House in confidence. He is always in favour of

consensus. Hon'ble Prime Minister has said that he is in favour of consensus but this was such an important question which relates to the entire country and the House was not taken into confidence. We demand that the House should be adjourned till the arrival of the Prime Minister(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: In the meanwhile, we will have business also.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Do not act in an arbitrary manner....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : No one is acting in arbitrary manner. When I told the Hon'ble Prime Minister that Shri Mulayam Singhji wants you to come to the House then he said that he would definitely come, can't you wait even for 2 ½ hours? Why are you so anxious to meet the Prime Minister? You please wait for 2½ hours.... (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, over this question, the Member of Samajwadi Party have to express strong opposition in this House. In its opposition, the Members of our Samajwadi Party walk out from the House for five minutes.

14.27 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other hon'ble Members left the House.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I have suggested that if the Government comes on its own in such important matters in the morning, so much valuable time can be saved and we can know the Government's view because it came out in the newspaper.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. The hon. Minister is here.

14.28 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House.

....(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Rampal Singh says.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): If necessary, you must reprimand the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: This is happening many times. It is happening on both the sides. Shri Rampal Singh will now raise his Matter under Rule 377.

14.29 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **Need to formulate a plan for industrial development of Siddharth Nagar District, U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (DOMARIAGANJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, district Siddharth Nagar is a very backward because it is hit by flood every year. As this district is located adjacent to Nepal border. Most of the rivers of Nepal pass through this district. It is a no industry district and there is acute shortage of electricity there. In village Sirsiya, which is situated near district Domariaganj, one sub-station of 132 KV is under construction since 1989. This sub-station was being constructed with the assistance of loan from Central Power Financial Corporation. Even today, its construction has not been completed. As a result, no industry is being set up in the district. There is no sugar mill in this area. People have to migrate to other places in search of employment. This district is among one of those 100 districts which are below poverty line.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to chalk out a package for the development and industrialisation of this district so that people of this area could get employment in this district itself.

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (SHIMOGA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your kind permission(Interruptions) What happened to that word which has gone on record now? May we know what you are going to do with that word on the record?(Interruptions) It may or may not be a Parliamentary word but please try to understand that that word should not be there on record. It would be better if you remove that.(Interruptions)

(ii) **Need to provide more railway facilities in Jamnagar region, Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL (JAMNAGAR) : Mr. Speaker,

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Railways towards following difficulties related with railways:

1. Long distance trains coming to Rajkot and Ahmedabad should be extended to Jamnagar, Dwarka, Okha and Porbandar.
2. Trains running twice, thrice and five days a week should run daily.
3. Reservation quota for Jamnagar, Dwarka, Okha, Porbandar and Junagarh should be increased.
4. Local, ISD and STD telephones should be installed at all the railway stations.
5. Irregular trains should be regularised and punctuality should be ensured.
6. General Manager, Mumbai and a delegation from Railway Board should be sent to study and dispose of these matters.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to take immediate action on all these matters.

(iii) **Need to accord sanction to Narmada Kshipra river project and Ranjit Sagar Project of Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (SHAJAPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Malavanchal of Madhya Pradesh is constantly heading towards becoming a desert. Water level in the said Malavanchal is going down very fast. People are facing acute shortage of drinking water. There is no water in rivers, rivulets, wells and hand pumps as a result of which the people and the cattle do not get water during summer season. To save it from desertification Narmada-Kshipra and Kalisindh River link and Ranjit Sagar project schemes were formulated which are pending between Union Government and State Government for a long time. With the help of proposed schemes electricity could be generated, irrigation can be done and alongwith all districts of Ujjain division, Rajgarh district will also be benefited. Approval of both these schemes is essential. I request the Union Government to accord approval to these projects immediately in public interest.

(iv) **Need to look into the problems being faced by people living in border area of Assam due to barbed wire fencing**

[English]

SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS (KARIMGANJ): The Government has erected barbed wire fencing on the border facing Bangladesh and Assam. This barbed wire fencing has been provided deep inside the Indian territory with the result

that a large number of Indian people are still living outside the fencing but well inside the border. They have cultivable lands on both sides of the fencing. Similarly, a good number of Indian people are living inside the barbed wire fencing but have agricultural land on the other side of the fencing right up to the border.

These Indian citizens living on both sides of barbed wire fencing have to cross the fencing through check posts to reach their respective fields for cultivation. In the process, they face hardships in crossing the fencing through check posts. These people have been provided passage through the check-posts during limited prescribed hours only which are most unsuitable for cultivation of their lands. The cultivation time starts in the morning at 5-6 a.m., but the B.S.F. personnel do not allow these people to cross fencing at that time.

I request the Government that the Indian population living on both sides of the barbed wire fencing inside the border be issued Identity Cards and they be allowed entry at any time through check-posts particularly from sun rise to sun set to reach their respective fields and homes.

I also draw the attention of the Government that due to construction of barbed wire fencing and border road, a number of families have been displaced but till today, these families have not been rehabilitated and they have been living on either sides by making temporary houses. Government should take immediate steps for their rehabilitation.

(v) Need to formulate a plan to check influx of persons in the major cities particularly in capital city of Delhi

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (AURANGABAD, BIHAR):

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the appalling condition of major cities particularly Delhi where due to influx of people from villages and small towns the situation is deteriorating day by day.

A large chunk of people from villages are rushing to the major cities in search of employment. Due to influx of persons from villages to major cities, the population imbalance between rural and urban areas is increasing. The growth of cities has been affected. The mushroom growth of slums in the cities particularly in the capital's NDMC Zone has an adverse impact on foreigners and on other high dignitaries visiting capital frequently. The local civic bodies have totally failed to check such mushroom growth of slums in the capital's NDMC Zone. To avoid further deterioration in the situation of major cities in the country particularly in New Delhi, I urge upon the Government to formulate a strategy to check influx of persons in the major cities particularly in the capital and also to prevent growth of slums.

(vi) Need to obtain World Bank loan for development of Forest Projects in Maharashtra

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): I would like to

draw the attention of the Union Government to the proposals submitted by the Maharashtra Forest Department to the Union Government for obtaining the World Bank loan of Rs. 708 crore for implementation of the Forestry Project in the State.

The Maharashtra Forest Department is the first after China to have received loans from the International Bank for its overall developments in 1992-93. The Bank had initially sanctioned an outlay of Rs. 431.51 crore which was later revised by Rs. 353.16 crore after a midterm review.

Sir, the Maharashtra Forest Department launched several forest development programmes with the help of World Bank, including plantation, civil works, developing nurseries, launching village eco-diversity programme was strengthened and infrastructure developed in the State during the period.

Sir, the World Bank Mission which visited different forest areas in the State during the last week of October, 1999 to supervise and review the project has lauded the efforts of department for achieving its goal.

Sir, as the proposal for World Bank assistance is still pending with Union Government for the last several months, I urge upon the Government to kindly process the report and obtain the World Bank assistance in time, so that the projects will continue even after March, 2000.

I request the Union Government to expedite the proposal and forward the same to the World Bank for implementing the forest projects in the State.

(vii) Need for a 'Damodar Action Plan' to dredge out silt and sand in Damodar barrage

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR) : In order to save thousands of acres of agricultural lands in the districts of Bankura and Burdwan on the bank of Damodar River, Durgapur barrage was conceived over Damodar River in the year 1957, with an object to store water in the rainy season and to distribute water for irrigation in the dry season. But since its inception, no action, whatsoever, has been taken to dredge the silt at the catchment area of Damodar River, as a result, the holding capacity has gone down to a great extent. In the year 1978, the people who used to live in the embankment of Damodar river had witnessed an unprecedented flood. Not only the barrage collapsed and thousands of areas of agricultural lands were submerged, but also huge layers of sand were left on the agricultural land, thus damaging the fertility of lands perpetually. In the last week of September 1995, villages namely Kuidiha, Pingrui, Madhapur, Napara, Metali under Maliara G.P., did face such a problem, and again in the year 1999 September, we witnessed that the right canal of Durgapur barrage which has a syphonic system for flowing water from Maliara jorebandh to a channel of Metali village under Maliara G.P., that channel was completely washed out as a result thousands of areas of land of Metali village again submerged. So syphonic system should be immediately

expanded for flow of water. In the district of Bankura, on the bank of Damodar river from Mijia to Metali and from Pakhama to Patrasayer Panchayat Samity via Rangamati the poor agricultural labourers thrown out of employment for ever. The West Bengal Government has come out with a limited resource.

I demand immediate action plan for regular dredging of the silt and sands, deposited for years in the catchment area of Damodar and feeder canals of Durgapur barrage.

(viii) Need to look into the problems of wheat and paddy growers with regard to sale of their produce

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (SIRSA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, during recent months the paddy growers had to sell their produce at a loss of Rs. 80-100 per quintal. They had to sell paddy at Rs. 420 to 480 per quintal which is far below Rs. 520 per quintal as fixed by Government. The Food Corporation of India has the responsibility to purchase 40% of the crop arriving in the market. But it procured only 28 per cent. The same trend is being apprehended for the ensuing wheat procurement season. Like rice the wheat stock is also piling up in the ware-houses.

I urge the Government to take timely and required preventive measures to save wheat farmers from such losses as the paddy growers.

(ix) Need to ensure that onion growers receive remunerative price for their produce particularly in Maharashtra

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): The farmers bring onion crop to market for sale in the country particularly in Maharashtra State. With input cost and cartage onion costs Rs. 400 per quintal. The procurement rate of Rs. 340 per quintal puts the onion growers in loss. Their condition is not good. Ban on onion export should be lifted so that the onion growers may get remunerative price for their produce. The farmers should get Rs. 700-1000 per quintal.

I request the Union Government to make an early decision in this regard.

14.45 hrs.

**INSURANCE REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY BILL - contd.**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up Item No. 13 — further discussion on the IRDA Bill.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today when we are discussing a Bill to open up the Insurance sector to private companies, about 2 lakh employees of LIC and GIC have gone on strike. I hope everybody knows that the employees belonging to almost all the Parties have gone on strike. The Government, I think, should take the warning that they are in a belligerent mood and rightly so. Why should they not be? I do not see any reason why the Government should not take this into consideration and instead rush through the Bill in the House. Why is the Government rushing through with the Bill?

In the Business Advisory Committee meeting held yesterday, some of the Party representatives wanted that consideration of this Bill be postponed for a few days but the Government declined their request. It is a bill which has wider ramifications on the future economic development of the country. The Government seems to dispose of such an Important Bill in a hasty and improper manner without there being proper parliamentary consideration.

Yesterday, I quoted some figures regarding the LIC and GIC contributions to Government bonds and securities. I would like to throw some more light on this. It is common knowledge that in India the public sector insurance companies, LIC and GIC, have performed extremely well in spite of not only the continuing debilitating situation of the country's economy but also the threat of their privatisation during the last several years. For example, while the world wide premium income increased by only one per cent by 1996, the inflation adjusted growth rate, in real term of LIC premium income, is about 17 per cent, nearly three times the growth rate of the Gross Domestic Product. Be it in respect of insurance cover, settlement of claims, return on investment through dividends, providing support budget through taxes and mobilisation of scarce resources for national development, both LIC and GIC have registered exceptional performances. The growth level, as well as claim settlement percentages are higher than the international experiences.

14.49 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Therefore, there is no justification to privatise the Insurance sector. As I pointed out yesterday, it is totally harmful to the national interest.

Insurance is not covered by WTO agreement. A number of developed as well as developing countries have opposed the inclusion of Insurance sector in the WTO regime. Therefore, there is no compulsion for the Government to open up the Insurance sector to private companies. The then Secretary of Ministry of Finance while deposing before the Petitions Committee of the other House had admitted that so far as its obligation towards WTO is concerned, there is no compulsion whatsoever to open up the Insurance sector.

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

According to the reports, despite stagnation in domestic savings, record growth rates in premium mobilization has been achieved. Privatisation of the insurance industry in the name of growth and competition would only weaken and jeopardies the existing potential. The private companies both Indian and foreign will operate only in profitable areas of business. Rural areas and vulnerable segments would be neglected and social orientation in providing insurance cover and investment could be completely neglected. The private companies without any social obligation will operate for profit and nothing else. Looking to the world around, it is clear that far from healthy competition a thriving cut-throat competition, mergers, acquisitions and growth of private monopolies and oligopolies will vitiate the insurance sector. The asset base of the foreign companies is so huge that it may afford to undercut the domestic companies and absorb the loss till LIC and GIC are wiped out. After having acquired the monopolistic position, the foreign corporate are sure to overcharge the customers and reap super profits. Whatever insurance support presently available for the poor people through crop insurance etc. will not be available.

Now-a-days, *tendu* leaves collectors, *bidi* workers, fishermen, etc. are enjoying subsidized insurance through low premium. Now it will also be abolished. Therefore, the opening of the insurance sector will not bring any gain to the country as a whole, leave aside the poor people of our country. The Government is claiming that the country will be flooded with additional foreign funds if the private companies are allowed to enter insurance sector. It is nothing but a hope. Therefore, IRDA Bill, 1999, instead of helping the country will harm its interest. Please let us know why the Government is so afraid to allow the Bill to be scrutinized and closely looked into by a Joint Committee. It may be a matter of months a JPC can submit its report. It could submit it in the next Session. Is the Government in a hurry because they have made a commitment to a foreign country? I appeal to the Congress Party to have a second thought and agree to send this Bill to a Joint Committee.

While concluding, I submit that there is no economic consideration for opening up of the insurance sector. That is only a political compulsion arising out of this commitment to trans-national companies that too which was given by the Finance Minister to a foreign country. We ourselves are seeing what is happening in Seattle. Instead of India leading the Third world countries for the interest of Third world countries, India is bowing its head before Mr. Bill Clinton.

This is the position and the same position is being seen in the insurance sector. We are very sorry to say that this is absolutely against the interests of our country and we refuse to become an accomplice to this crime that is being committed today. I again appeal to the Congress Party to understand

that the parliamentary system is being taken for a ride. I appeal to them that they may not allow the present Government to commit this crime. For all these reasons, I want that this Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, here we are debating a very importance Bill. It has been the history of our country that whenever the talks for reforms have taken place, differences of opinion have always existed. It is not a new thing. After independence our party has remained in power for more period, therefore, we know better as to how and where the differences have existed. Whenever the Congress talked about and tried to implement the reforms, differences cropped up among us. The truth is that this difference of opinion is our real strength. Better things always come out of the differences of opinion and this outcome is then implemented.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do believe that the welfare of the country is supreme regardless of the fact that which party assumes the power. This thing is in the minds of all of us. The process of liberalisation was begun by our party. This issue was raised when I was the Minister of Transport in the Cabinet of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. However several of our decisions were made when we were in power and were fiercely opposed throughout the country. When the Banks were Nationalised, Congress was cursed and it was declared as a wrong thing but the day also came when the Congress, in its own regime reversed the same. It is the duty of the party in power to do what is good for the country so that the country may not lag behind in any sphere. We should not leave our values and customs. But when the whole world is going in a direction, if we do not move in that direction, it is also the loss of our country. Following this principle, when our party formed the Government in 1991, we paved way for the concept of liberalisation. It was opposed in the country at that time. Today, the subject we have been debating is also being opposed. But the truth is that those who are bringing forward this Bill are bound to do so. Our colleagues who are sitting among us want from the core of their heart that this Bill should be passed, but the Members who are against us should also remain with us. We had started the liberalisation quite sincerely. It is a fact that when the process of liberalisation started there were some deficiencies in it. I do not say that our steps were right and we also met with success. Some of our steps had some flaws but when a new step is taken, these deficiencies gradually come up. The phenomenon of liberalisation was a new thing for our country. Our Government tried that whatever steps were to be taken must be flawless but flaws remained there, these flaws should be gradually removed and the steps for the welfare of the country should be taken. There are differences in our party too and this topic was debated in our party. Today, if I rise to speak in its favour, it is a conditional one. We have moved some amendments on behalf of our party to be included

in it. When in 1997, the United Front Government of which Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav was also a member was in power Shri Chidambaram ji had brought forward this Bill. At that time also we had said the same thing. Our party was supporting this Bill but besides supporting it, our party had also raised these issues at that time when this was discussed within our party.

15.00 hrs.

Today too, the issue is being discussed in our party for the last two days. We feel that the direction is right but some amendments are to be brought in it keeping in view the interest of the country. Therefore, we have moved some amendments after consulting and discussing it in our party and we hope that the Government would accept, those amendments.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR): If the Government does not accept then what will you do?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: If it does not accept, then we have our own ways...(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: At that time, we shall remember you...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a session of our party was held in Tirupati and many things had come to the for front. Many friends were against it and many others were in its favour. An open debate in this regard was conducted in the party and it was decided that liberalisation is very essential and the party took steps towards that direction. Views are openly expressed in Congress party while it is not so in case of other parties.

SHRI GIRDAHRI LAL BHARGAVA: Well, Sir,

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Bhargavaji, You do not compel me to say something. Shri Madan Lal Khuranaji uttered a sentence what has happened of him. What had Kalyan Singhji said. Sardar Patel used to differ with Pandit Nehru but still remained in the Congress.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL): That era is over.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Kalyan Singhji uttered a few words against Mr. Prime Minister and he was removed from his post. It is against the democracy.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are deviating from the subject.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the deviation from the subject is occurring because when this Bill was brought...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rajesh Pilot, you are inviting trouble.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): What wrong had Mr. Sharad Pawar committed, why was he forced to leave the Congress...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I do not say that our party have no shortcomings. I was saying that the issue was discussed in our party and we decided for liberalisation and we mentioned in our party manifesto that in the infrastructure sector of our country there is a need for investment and this is one sector where very little money is flowing in. From 1991 onwards had the required amount been invested in this field, we would have been reaping the benefits of liberalisation. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, unless the benefits of liberalisation reach the masses and the villagers do not understand its true benefits, it will be of no use. When I was the Minister of Communication, I advocated about it by giving example within my party and Government. Cellular phones were started during my tenure. I had suggested to give the charge of cellular phones to these companies and not to demand money or licence fee from them. You should direct them that the company which provides cellular phones in Maharashtra should also install the telephones in the villages of Maharashtra within five years. This is the policy of liberalisation. It will only succeed when the common man will come to know about its benefits. Now there is the question of unemployment. Where ever we have opened our sectors in consonance with the policy of liberalisation, we have been able to impart benefits to the people. Our policy was to link liberalisation with the cotton industry too but we could not follow that. It was also our policy that backward areas should not be neglected due to this, otherwise the gulf between villages and cities will increase. But today it is happening so. Unless this gulf decreases, no policy can affect common man.

Therefore there is a need to bring a change in liberalisation. Everyone is in favour of liberalisation. Everybody want that it may extend further and its benefit reach to the villages. We have been saying that the facilities should reach the common man.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have reservation on this Bill and thus we have moved some amendments. It will be good for potentiality of this sector. With the equity ratio of 24 percent and 76 percent. I feel there is potentiality and it will be better to bring this sector under fair competition. The figures with me reveal that the percentage of GDP of Life Insurance Premium is 1.3 in India whereas it is 5.2 in USA, 6.5 in U.K. and 8 in South Korea.

[English]

There is an availability of potential.

[Translation]

He has also told that today only 22 to 23 percent population is covered by insurance policies.

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

There are approximately 1 lakh total policies. There is potential in this sector and it will be better if fair competition is ensured. The intention behind bringing this Bill and formulating this policy is good provided there is no deviation. I have been mentioning in my speeches time and again that our country is lagging behind due to difference in intention of authority while formulating and implementing the policies. For better result there should be no change in intentions while implementation of policies. In view of potentiality of this sector many good points have been included in this Bill appropriately.

Our several colleagues are raising the issue of LIC and GIC. It is very clear from the Bill that these are not going to be privatised. These are being brought in fair competition and there is nothing wrong in it. If these insurance companies are competitive enough, why are they worried. I will be ready to participate in race with Acharaji if I am confident to win but if I am not confident then I will try to give up the ground on pretexts like race was started earlier or whistle was blown earlier otherwise I would have won. If fair competition is ensured....(Interruptions) Equity share is uniform for all the companies. Companies will enter the market with same rules and regulations. It is being feared that foreign companies will take over the market. I would like to cite some examples in this regard. Even 10 years after privatisation in China, private companies have been able to get 20 percent share only. Same is the case of Taiwan. Though it is a small country and I do not want to compare it with India but China can be compared with India. So, we should not worry about take over by the private companies.

In view of the present scenario regulations are appropriate. Unreliable and temporary persons and companies would not be able to enter. Minimum equity is Rs.100 crore and it is Rs. 200 crore for the insurance companies. It is a good step. It will prevent fraudulents to enter the sector who actually have interest in earning money dubiously. The profit will not go out of the country....(Interruptions) It has been written in the bill that necessary safeguards have been provided to prevent the companies from taking the profit out of the country. Acharaji don't be offended but in 1997 your party was supporting the Government...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): At that time our party was supporting the Government but in spite of that, we opposed this bill. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee will bear me out that Shri Indrajit Gupta was the Home Minister in the United Front Government and it was that Government which had brought this Bill.(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETAMUKHERJEE (PANSKURA): In spite of that, we opposed the Bill and that is why it was withdrawn.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I have told you this fact....(Interruptions) I have not switched over to English language out of anger. This bill was brought in 1997 when Chidambaramji was Finance Minister.(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (THANE): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, China has accepted this proposal. Our friends from the Left parties always say : 'Mao Tse-tung Zindabad.' So, why should they oppose this proposal?

[Translation]

They should not raise any objection when this proposal is being accepted by China.(Interruptions) I donot know whether it was accepted by Russia or not but China has accepted it.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it was introduced during the tenure of the United Front Government. But the fundamental difference, at that time, was that there was no proposal to amend LIC and GIC Nationalisation Act.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): Sir, even now there is no proposal to amend the LIC and GIC Act.(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No, there is a proposal to amend the LIC and GIC Nationalisation Act. (Interruptions)

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: It is specifically mentioned in the Bill that there is no such proposal and LIC and GIC will be intact...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rajesh Pilot, are you yielding to him?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I am not yielding.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record

....(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, nothing is going on record. What is the use of your speaking now?

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he was making a good speech which has been interrupted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, you should not interrupt it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was making a submission that there is no need to fear. As I have stated in the beginning itself that they are compelled to bring this bill and from the core of their heart they also want the Bill to be passed but due to politics of vote they are showing as if they are against it. We are really well wisher of the country. This is the difference between us and them and, therefore, I say that they are compelled to bring this bill.

Yesterday Achariaji read out the speech given by Shri Vajpayee when he was in the opposition. So this is not their actual intention. Congress Party has taken several such measures since beginning of liberalisation in this country. That is why I am saying that it is a good bill. Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance is present here and he belongs to farmers' community. At present rupees 2 to 3 thousand crore are available for social sector and that will be spent on the welfare, education and health of poor people living below poverty line, long-term programmes are taken up under this fund. Funds from other sectors can be taken for programme of one or 2 years' duration. This fund has sufficient money for long term programmes. You have given assurance that their interests will be protected but I have a doubt about that because in this Bill at some places the word 'Government securities' has been used and at some other places the word 'Under Government' has been used. The text of the Bill will offer a chance to bureaucracy to wield its power in regard to the Bill. I would like to know formally that you give a guarantee to the country that social sector will not be affected due to this bill. The actual benefit of liberalisation will percolate to the poor man. Therefore, our party has moved an amendment in section 27 of the Bill to the effect that a clause should be inserted in the Bill to safeguard the social sector. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we hope that our hon'ble Minister will continue to fight to achieve this. He has served in our party and we have enjoyed his company for 20-22 year. He is our senior and elder and has lead the co-operative movement of the farmer in Maharashtra. Because he is in the Cabinet we have full hope from this Government for some of the people in the Government have been amongst us earlier and share the same ideology as we do. Therefore we have moved this amendment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my last point is as to under what circumstances TRAI was constituted. You must have remembered that the Government have made a declaration in the House that we want to have deregularisation and decentralisation and thus TRAI was formed. But today what has happened to TRAI? It has moved to the Court and the Government is in tangle. The IRDA also could meet the same fate for today everything is looking right and afterwards it may go beyond control. The Government would have to take care of the fact that the very purpose of bringing forward this Bill may get defeated due to legal loopholes arising out of the safeguard clause which is being inserted in the Amendment Bill. We have made this amendment because of the wording

used in the original text of the Bill by you. The wording of the Bill offer a chance to divert and take advantage. This Bill is consistent with our policies because we had started the liberalisation in 1991. We always maintained that more and more sectors should be opened up so that the common man could be benefited. As I have said earlier that care should be taken in ensuring that the social sector does not get adversely affected due to this Bill. The era of liberalisation which has been started will entail thousands of crores of rupees which will benefit the masses. Some of our Members have raised this apprehension that this money may go outside the country. You have made provisions in the Bill that it should not happen but stronger safeguards are needed to assure the people. If you assure the Members, they are ready to support the Bill but as I have said, you have to take them in confidence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say a few things about social sector while moving the amendment. I express my thanks to you for giving me a chance to speak. I conditionally supports this Bill. Thank you.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill is being debated since 1996. The Government brought this Bill in 1996. Then this Bill was withdrawn on the eleventh hour. Once again when our Government assumed power, this Bill was presented before the House with great enthusiasm and full vigour and we have assembled here to discuss the basic provisions of the Bill. Sir when, Life Insurance Corporation was nationalised in 1956, the companies working in the insurance sector prior to its establishment had established their monopoly and were free from any control. These companies used to extract money from the people and use it to their advantage and people had no faith in them. This was the reason as to why Life Insurance Corporation was nationalised in 1956 and General Insurance too was nationalised in 1973 because there were a lot of deficiencies in its functioning. It was felt that its benefit remained confined to the cities only, money was being misused. Companies used to collect money from the people in the name of Insurance and then vanish. The very little investment was being made in the name of industrial development. Nationalisation was started, keeping all these issues in mind. Besides this it was also intended that its benefits reach to the maximum number of people, the insurance scheme may reach even to the villages and the people could get the security of the insurance with minimum money. At that time it was the intention of the Government that the money collected by this mean would play an important role in the development, especially of the economy of the nation and the country can be provided with a strong infrastructure in respect of industrial policy and economic development by using it. At that time too when it was analysed it was found that the insurance premium which are collected, mostly come from the big industrial houses and the number of private premium is comparatively less but even through this a healthy core fund was being developed. But the

[Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy]

Government had to face great difficulties to achieve the purpose for which the Insurance companies were nationalised and the such an environment kept on developing in the whole country that there was a need for utilisation of great amount of money to strengthen the economic infrastructure of the country and to achieve this goal long term infrastructure funds were required and the insurance sector should have played a major part in it. But unfortunately, during the last thirty years our hopes and aspirations could not be fulfilled through Insurance sector and corpus fund. Therefore, the Government has been forced to consider over the issue of creating a broad based structure of the Insurance sector in order to strengthen the economy. In 1991, the Congress Government was in power. At that time, the process of liberalisation was started in the country which was a good beginning for the country. During the discussion, as I understand, whatever Shri Rajesh Pilot ji has said during the entire discussion, said it in favour of the Government and amendment moved by him is essential to play the role of the opposition. His views reflect that he is fully in favour of the Bill and seeing its utility and progress he wants that I.R.D.A. Bill should pass and a new fund could be created in the country and a new beginning in the field of investment could be made by creating a fresh atmosphere in this country.

Sir, in context of industrial development, insurance, especially in India, is such a sector which has potential worth more than Rs. 400 billion and such a big investment helps in the growth of infrastructure. The money of the Insurance Sector is invested for a very long period. All over the world, the pension funds and insurance funds are used to develop the basic infrastructure of countries. Many kinds of discussions were held and our colleagues from Leftist parties told and propagated it among the people that by opening up the Insurance Sector, arrival of capital investors and private foreign companies and foreign sources, a lot of problems will emerge and it, in some way or the other, will harm the interests of local people. The companies like G.I.C. and L.I.C. are likely to suffer loss due to it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would especially like to draw your attention towards the fact that the basic benefit of Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill is to the economy of the country. As I have stated earlier also that it is essential for smooth running of economy, especially in present situation when India owes a debt of 90 thousand crore. We will not be able to get the proposed investment in the coming days if our economy remains burdened in this way. It is, therefore, essential to increase the potential of investment through Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill.

As far as Government are concerned I would like to say that Government will also benefited by it, especially in field of social infrastructure and employment generation. It is also being discussed that employment opportunities will diminish with it, but I would like to tell that GIC and LIC and its authorised

companies have been unable in tapping insurance potential available in the country and as a result of it employment opportunities could not be generated to the required extent. Now with the coming of foreign and private companies risk assessment capacity will increase in different manner. The foreign companies, private companies and new entrepreneurs, who have capacity to invest will create competition which we have not been able to create so far.

What is the position of insurance companies in our country. I feel that Members of this House have also been associated with insurance companies in one or another way. The structure of insurance created by insurance companies and the manner in which Insurance Sector is being protected in India I think that such an attitude does not exist anywhere in the world. People have to face lot of difficulties in getting small insurance covers. They are part of our governmental system and people are not getting immediate benefit and facilities of insurance to the desired extent due to monopoly of certain institutions.

It is being doubted that share holding of foreign companies will increase and later on they will dominate the insurance sector. In this context I would like to say that it has been clearly mentioned in this Bill that their share will not increase more than 26 percent. Therefore, during the debate raising this point again and again is not in the interest of the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have noticed it earlier also and the leader of Opposition has also gone in the meeting of FICCI and Chamber of Commerce which are the prime institutions of our economy, which create awareness and consensus on such issues and encourage industrial activities in the country, also supported and welcomed it. These forums play a vital role in strengthening the economy.

Several hon'ble Members have raised the issue of the protest being raised by employees of Insurance companies against this Bill and on this basis our colleagues from Left Front are saying that it will harm the interests of people associated with this sector. As per employees there is no untapped potential left in insurance sector of this country but I would like to say that in view of a population of 100 crore, insurance cover could not be provided to the desired extent. We hoped that poor people would also get benefit and secure their pensions through insurance with small investments and employees are saying that there is no untapped potential in insurance sector.

Sir, it is a misleading statement. So far no efforts have been made to reach the poor. With coming of foreign and private companies a competition would be created among GIC, LIC and these companies and it could improve the quality of their service.

Sir, apprehensions are being raised that employment

opportunities will decline with the coming of foreign companies. I would like to say that at present there are 6000 branches of LIC and GIC and several employees are engaged in it. Insurance plays an important role and covers entire area of the country. In view of the large population of the country, our economy and this sector is developing slowly and stabilising now. It has a huge potential. It is not proper to say that job opportunities will decline in this sector with computerisation and use of new techniques as so far with use of new techniques decline in potential of a trade or industry has not been noticed anywhere in the world. We have to make up our mind on this issue.

Sir, in the end I would like to make a point on this subject. Apprehensions have been expressed that foreign companies will enter in the field of insurance in private sector and they will try to earn maximum profit. It is not proper to say that they will be unable in discharging their duty towards rural areas and poor.

Sir, I would like to cite an example. I come from Bihar and know that lakhs of small hutments catch fire during the summer months of May and June. As per my information every year State Government pay Rs. 60 Lakhs to GIC under insurance scheme for providing assistance to the owners of those hutments. Several State Governments pay huge sums as insurance premium to these companies and this is my personal experience that if an inquiry is conducted in this matter one can find out that these companies embezzle this money and poor do not get any benefit of insurance. They are not given any amount as assistance. Government employees feel themselves protected in the present system. Whether they are at higher level or lower level of bureaucracy. It is high time to decide the path of progress for our country. We have to decide how we play our part in making the bureaucratic system responsible.

Sir, we are entering in 21st century. In this millennium we need such schemes which could play an important part in the progress of the country not only today but in future also. With these words while supporting the Bill, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Bill. But, at the very outset I would like to make my party's position clear on one thing that as such we are not opposed to reforms. But in whose interest are reforms made? We oppose the quality and nature of reforms, the direction of reforms and, of course, taking into account the obtaining reality, the sequencing and the pacing of reforms. There is no consensus on the nature and quality of reforms undertaken in India.

I am just making a reference to the B.J.P. Manifesto in 1998. They say :

"It said, it was liberalising the economy and actually gave itself more opportunities for corruption."

They are speaking about Congress. The BJP has been describing the Congress liberalisation since 1991 as 'phony liberalisation'. I am not reading extensively, but there are many more things in this. At one place they say:

"The last six years"- they are saying this in 1998 - "when the much touted reforms has been under way, have been years of extreme difficulty for common man. The wholesale price index of foodgrains has gone up, the availability of cereals for the common people has come down and there is an uneven playing field for Indian industry. They assured that the BJP will be guided by the *Swadeshi* or economic nationalism."

About FDI, they are saying - and which is their argument right now - and I am reading:

"Even after the so-called reforms"-please note my congress friends - "the share of FDI in national investment is less than two per cent, that is, out of the total national investment of about Rs. 12,30,000 crore, FDI amounted to only Rs. 18,500 crore during the years from 1991 to 1996." It is clear that foreign capital will be only of little value to the national economy, though crucial to some sectors like infrastructure."

Then they said:

"The BJP will clearly define the contours and schedule of the liberalisation. The procedural reforms like rectification of corporate law, tax law and other commercial laws will be separated from policy formulations, like the policy on Insurance and Pension Fund"

This they said in 1998. Then came the NDA. What have they said? They said that they are setting for a consensus on a common cause. And to what end? To *Swadeshi* thrust. India shall be built by Indians....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Sengupta, you are not expected to be talking to the officers in the Gallery like that.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: At the same time, they say that the country cannot look at others for employment, for technology and all these things. Then they assure they will not undermine but strengthen the national economy, the indigenous industry base and financial and service sectors. This is the assurance given by the NDA. Is there any consensus within the BJP? I am coming to that one by one. When Shrimati Sushma Swaraj was the Chairman of the Petitions Committee of the other House, what had the Committee to say? The Petitions Committee unanimously, I repeat, unanimously recommended. But the fifteenth report of the Standing

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Committee was not unanimous. We had submitted our notes of dissent. I am sorry to mention that if you go through the note of dissent, You shall find how large number of people belonging to different walks of life were denied the opportunity to depose before the committee. I have already mentioned that more than 1.5 crore people have signed against this move to open up the insurance industry. Who are they? They are M.Ps. belonging to this side and that side also. Legislators, jurists of national and international stature, economists, social scientists, prominent journalists, a large number of people had also offered to depose before the Standing Committee.

I am sorry to mention that I had to write that the Standing Committee was failing to perform its role. Such important people like bureaucrats, Members of the Planning Commission, former Members of the Planning Commission were deprived to depose before the Standing Committee and only the corporate friends were taken to give it biased views.

You are not accepting your own leader's unanimous report and you are depending on the report of the Standing Committee whose Chairman was from the Congress Party, who had ignored representations of important people who wanted to depose before the Standing Committee. What is the report given by Sushma Swaraj Committee? It says:

"The Committee strongly feels that the time has not come for departing from the earlier nationalisation objectives of the insurance sector and would recommend continuing with the existing policy framework along with improving the system of higher efficiency."

It strongly felt that it should not be done.

What, our good friend Shri George Fernandes, had to say?(Interruptions) Yes, I have everything with me, One by one, I will take them up. I find that the majority is against it. The majority of this House is against it. I shall mention them one by one as to who are the people who opposed it not long back but in 1997 or 1998 but even some people have come out in 1999 against this opening up and they are now changing their stances. Shri George Fernandes opposed 26 per cent foreign equity.

In India with 8 per cent of stake the largest Indian company can be controlled by someone. Shri Swaraj Paul, who is a Lord now, had come to India earlier in relation to the take-over bid of Escorts. When he was going back he made a public statement. He asked: "Is there any private company in India at all?" He was giving a list of private Indian companies which, totalling among them, have invested — at that point of time — Rs. 264 crore only and were controlling Rs. 27,000 crore of money belonging to L.I.C.I., G.I.C.I., U.T.I. and other nationalised financial institutions.

You are now speaking of 26 per cent of equity, in the Bill. Let us see what Shri George Fernandes has to say with regard to foreign equity:

[Translation]

"Whether these are Indian companies or foreign

companies, they are not barred from purchasing shares. They can buy shares in Mumbai, Delhi or anywhere in India. They are permitted to buy shares. It is known to them and we are also aware of it."

I would like to read out the speech of a congress leader. He stated that he visited England a few days ago.

[English]

It is on record. I am reading from the proceedings of other House. Sir, please listen.

"I had an opportunity to meet Members of Parliament in England, and some of the Congressmen have been asking me.... Members of Parliament were there. I met them and discussed with them. Congressmen from the United States were also there. We had a discussion there and during the course of the discussion they asked me whether our Government was going to privatise the insurance sector. I told them that the pros and cons of it would be looked into by the Government and no decision was taken. They were in such a hurry that one Member of Parliament told me - I do not want to name the Member - that he does not want to contest elections but would like to come and invest in India when we open up the Insurance Sector in India. That is the kind of anxiety which the Western countries are showing."

Sir, Mr. Frank Wisner, who was the U.S. Ambassador in India is now the Chairman of Indo-US Business Council. He said that insurance was their flagship and if we did not allow their flagship, why should the fleet like FDI come to India? I can go on quoting a number of things. Before you open up insurance, there are people who are already waiting. I can read out the names of a number of foreign insurance companies that are already writing. They have entered into contracts, poaching has started, and more than 246—I think, it has crossed that number—of our very efficient professionals have been taken away to lucrative posts and other financial attractions. Insurance involves national savings. Our own professionals, our own experts will be taken by foreign companies and our own people will be deprived of the same national savings now being used for nation building.

When the BJP was in opposition, they moved an amendment opposing the opening up of insurance sector for the foreign insurance companies also. I am referring to Shri Rajesh Pilot. He was waxing eloquent. Let us not ignore their view points. I quote from his previous speech:

"Social sector is very important. Rupees one Lakh crore are going to the social sector. That safeguard is not there in the Bill. So, if you propose for a Standing Committee, we can give our view about that"

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I am maintaining that.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Now, he has given a condition, but he has not yet suggested that it should not only be analysed

and studied by Parliament but the expert views should also be taken into consideration. It is not concrete. It is very vague.

I just refer to one of the Members of the Congress Party who spoke in the other House....(Interruptions) I shall come to the Manifesto of Congress Party and its interpretation by their important leaders later. Shri Vayalar Ravi, a Congress MP in the other House, had written one article and I have got that article with me. As Congressman, he had said: "We have no right to open up." He has gone to the extent of demanding conscience vote. I am also appealing to the conscience of this House because if I go on quoting, we shall find that there have been very serious reservations at some point of time or other. In 1993, when T.N. Chaturvedi wanted to know why one more Committee had been set up, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that the Indian Insurance companies were doing as well as the foreign companies. The Minister read out the Terms of Reference of the Committee to assure the Members that the question of foreign companies was not being studied and the aim was only to review working of LIC and GIC. What has the Congress to say in its manifesto? It is mentioned at page 50 of their Manifesto.

This was mentioned under the chapter "infrastructure". I may not be very intelligent, but I have a little bit of intelligence. The point is that they have referred to LIC and GIC in relation to infrastructure. It says:

"The rapid expansion of the infrastructure that India desperately needs requires the mobilisation of long-term finances. The Insurance industry will be restructured to enhance the flow of long-term funds to infrastructure development. LIC and GIC will be strengthened, corporatised and professionalised to equip them to deal with competition. Private companies, with majority equity to Indians, will be allowed in all insurance and pension businesses....."

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: You have quoted our Manifesto? What is wrong with our Manifesto?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I shall come to that later. What does the World Investment Report say?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You may refer to Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury also. She opposed the privatisation and the opening up of the insurance sector.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I shall do that.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM): I have the courage of my conviction to stand today in this House and say that we are sensitive and responsive to the changes that a society dictates that you cannot view insurance in isolation, that we must see it in the comprehensive vision which takes India forward.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Within one year, you could change your vision!

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: That is the accelerated process in which the country moves. That is the way the world moves.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is going on in the house, Shri Acharia?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: One year before you opposed it, and within one year, you could change yourself!

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The nation has changed, the world has changed, but of course the Communists would not be aware of that. It is a little difficult for them to catch up with the times.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: She has provoked me to make a reference to the very recent statement of the former Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, who initiated the reforms in the country.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: What about him? Please refer to the present Prime Minister also and to what he has said.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Pal, you have taken 17 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He just started his speech.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Please look at the time. That is how they estimate the time.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: They are feeling uneasy; let them not feel uneasy. I am only appealing to their conscience.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, it is Shri Acharia, who is interrupting you and not any of us.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Now, I refer to the World Investment Report. In 1998, out of US 642 billion dollars of FDIs, 39 per cent higher than in 1997. Bulk of the FDIs were used for mergers and acquisitions only. The World Investment Report says that the FDI inflows to developing countries have declined to the tune of US 166 billion dollars. India has lost a large amount of foreign direct investment inflow during this period. FDI has not gone up, and it will not go up.

On the other hand, how did the LIC serve the nation? During the Sixth Plan, it was Rs. 12,000 crore; in the Seventh Plan, it was Rs. 25,000 crore; in the Eighth Plan, it was Rs.56,000 crore, and in the first two years of the Ninth Plan, it was Rs. 43,000 crore. LIC alone can provide Rs. 1,30,000 crore for investment during the Ninth Plan. Who can do it? Will any foreign company do it? GIC can provide no less than Rs. 30,000 crore, and they are giving increasing dividends to the Government. During 1997-98, the dividend given by LIC was Rs. 198.35 crore.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

The dividend for the year 1998-99 was Rs. 235.70 crore. The Government is talking about corporate tax. I would like to give some figures here. It was published last week that the Multinational companies are not paying income tax. The Grindlays Bank is not paying Rs. 700 crore in spite of the directives given by the Reserve Bank of India. They are looting Indian money. But these Indian companies have paid corporate tax to the tune of Rs. 563.06 crore. In the year 1998-99, they have paid corporate tax to the tune of Rs. 726.96. What was the Government equity in 1956? It was only rupees five crore for the LIC. The Government equity for GIC in 1971 was Rs. 21.5 crore. Not a single paise has been added by the Government since then.

Sir, what about claim settlement? They are best in the world. It is 98 per cent for the LIC and 74 per cent for the GIC. I would like to ask the Government as to what is the world average. It is only 48 per cent. Then, are we inefficient?

Sir, then I would like to come to the regulatory mechanism. It has been said that we are not privatising; we are not opening up and we are not going to disinvest. I have got a paper with me here which carries a statement by Shri Rahul Bajaj.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRACKPORE): He is the Chief Advisor of the Government.(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI): He is the one who has appointed him as the Finance Minister. It is not Shri Vajpayee who appointed him as the Finance Minister....(Interruptions) He is the agent of CII sitting here.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: He has said that financial reforms are needed. These include the banking sector, the insurance and the capital market. It also covers privatisation of banks. He has also said that finally there should be privatisation by disinvestment in all areas including the banking and insurance sectors.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: You please look that side.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am appealing to their conscience.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Please look there, those people are against you.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: What had the management of the LIC and GIC had to say? I would not quote elaborately here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You please conclude now. You have already taken 25 minutes.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I am making very valuable points.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, it is just the preamble to his speech.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, this is what has been said by the Managing Director of the LIC and quote:

"Once the private sector is allowed to enter the field it would be difficult to keep out the undersirable entrepreneurs in view of the temptations to raise their resources through the LIC. Capital is bound to be very low as has been stated in the previous paragraphs."

Sir, why should the foreign companies be eager to exploit the Indian market. It is only with Rs. 26 crore. No high technology is involved but there is high profit and the national savings would be used for speculative purposes which is now being used for purposes of social development. The pre-1956 scenario is going to be repeated.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, I am calling the next speaker Shri B.B. Ramaiah.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I am concluding within five minutes.

Now, I would like to quote what Shri C.D. Deshmukh replied once to Shri Feroz Gandhi. I hope, both the names are known to you.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): Very much.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It was about the private sector and how they were going to exploit the situation. We are going back to the pre-1956 situation.

C.D. Deshmukh told Feroz Gandhi:

" The number of ways in which fraud can be practised which was 42 in the day of Kautilya...."

Hon. Finance Minister once quoted Kautilya and that is why I am referring to Kautilya.

" which was 42 in Kautilya's days has risen to astronomical figure these days."

if we go through this report we will find C.D. Deshmukh speaking about the importance of nationalisation. It is very important to remember. When nationalisation took place, there was Swatantra Party, the heritage of which is borne by some Members even now, and there was Jansangh, although less in numbers, which opposed nationalisation. Ultimately, within the Congress there was a division in 1969 which started to be called as a division between the 'Syndicate' and the 'Indicate'. BJP is carrying on with the same tradition, from Jansangh to BJP, with different tactics, with a different *mukhauta* and a different camouflage. Have the present congressmen forsaken the old Congress leaders? Do they not respect their own leaders? Do they not agree with reason and rationale based on which it was nationalised? They are casting away their own ideology. They are leaving their own heritage. If they have

to demarcate they should have the guts to say that Congress party oppose the privatisation of insurance sector. The Government is doing it out of compulsion, under pressure, out of expediency and out of opportunism.

Sir, in 1988, there was a discussion held in Mavalankar Hall on Super-301. Hon. Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha, said in that discussion that liberalisation was going to ruin our economy, that he would fight through his life against American imperialism for pressurising us with Super-301 to open up financial sector. Shri Atai Bihari Vajpayee, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Shri George Fernandes, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Murasoli Maran and Shri Karunanidhi, everybody spoke similar things in the past. Shri Karunanidhi inaugurated a demonstration in Tamil Nadu in the presence of Shri Murasoli Maran. I can show the photograph of that demonstration. Hon. Speaker also put his signature when 116 Members of Parliament had written to the Prime Minister opposing the move to open up. Many friends from Congress had put their signatures, and the BJP leaders who opposed this had put their signatures and submitted memoranda. Sir, I am trying to score any debating points. I am just appealing to the conscience of all those who love this country and in whom a little bit of patriotism is left. This is going to cause havoc to our national economy with so much of financial strain. If your read, 'Failed Promises', the report of the House of Representative the scenario in USA will become clear. Do they allow outsiders to operate in their country? Yes, they do, but only to the extent of meagre three per cent. We talk of reciprocity. Everybody knows that WTO could not take up insurance sector because it is a highly protected market. We Indians are opening up when there is no compulsion on us and we are being party to it knowingly or unknowingly.

Sir, the scenario will be very very difficult. After privatising LIC and GIC, the most profitable areas will be taken away from them. Urban areas will be taken away. Some say that we do not have attractive products? But the products of LIC and GIC are for common people.

16.00 hrs.

But the products of LIC and GIC are for the common man, for the working people and the fashionable products are for the upper middle class and large number of such products as insurance for the cover for legs of the film actors and for the eyes of some artists may not be available with GIC and LIC (*Interruptions*) That is good. But the more important is how the weaker sections and the poorer sections of our nation are being served by LIC and GIC.

I am mentioning about the regulatory body, the SEBI. What is our experience with regulatory bodies like TRAI and RBI? In a highly regulated market like the US, they have failed and stories of "failed promises" have come. Do you want to break the State monopoly of insurance? The world over, the

scenario is cartelisation, oligopoly, monopoly merger and acquisition. Do you want more penetration? With GDP, as with 425 dollars of per capita income in India, how can you expect more penetration? Look at the report of Switzerland on Insurance. There the insurance business is only three per cent. Very few people believe in Insurance Companies in Europe and US. Will those same foreign companies come and serve our social sector and strengthen our process of nation building? They believe in premium. The Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory Authority has come out openly that the Authority will not have any particular functioning with regard to tariff and fixation of premium.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is a limit. Please conclude. Enough is enough.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am concluding. While opposing the Bill, I want to say that the Bill is not IRDA in the true sense. The Bill could better be named as Insurance Deregulatory and Desturction Authority Bill. I oppose the Bill wholeheartedly. With these words I conclude.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (ELURU): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill on Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority, as Shri Rajesh Pilot has mentioned, was taken up during 1993. Reforms have started in 1991, of course, and then at that time, this was referred to Shri Malhotra, former Governor of Reserve Bank of India, to go into these details and give a report on that. The report was submitted in 1994 and later on 20th December, 1996 during the United Front Government, this was brought to Parliament and it was also submitted to the Ministry of Finance and the Departmental Standing Committee to give its own comments. Subsequently, it was introduced in March, 1998 and again it was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance. Then the Standing Committee submitted its report.

Now this Bill has come for discussion in the House and it has gone to a number of sectors. People said that this would require some more time. It has not just come out without any proper investigation or opportunity for people to go through that. During the last six years, this Bill has come a number of times. It has been presented to Standing Committees and they have examined it and also submitted reports and finally the hon. Finance Minister has given all the consideration to it and it has come to the House. I am sure this has given enough time to make the drafting and to give whatever suggestions they want to make on this matter. Now this Bill has mainly come to the consideration of the House because insurance is one of the important factors for any economy. Today the amount of resources that we can develop in Insurance is very important. We have also liberalised Indian Airlines and we have also seen lot of differences before the liberalisation and after that and lot of people opposed at the time of private airlines. Today they feel the difference in regard to the culture of the people, the attitude of the people and other developments and the same is the case with banking. We have given banking

Dr. B.B. Ramaiah]

sector to outside country also and even foreign banks have expanded various banking operations. Here we want technology to come, as Shri Rajesh Pilot has put it.

Why have you gone in for having private sector in various sectors like telecommunications? Why do you want to be in competition? That is the policy of the Government today because after going through many difficulties, the same Government which nationalized several sectors, have realized that in the interests of the people and in the interests of the country, we have to go in for reforms and liberalization, so, wherever possible, we must bring in the private sectors also and provide competition which is essential. In the area of telecommunications, there has been a very fast expansion.

The representation has come from the various associations of workers of the insurance companies. Their main anxiety is about job security. I can assure them that after liberalization, after the private companies come in and after the competition comes in, more jobs will be created. There will not be any problem. Today, we are employing two lakh people and it will be multiplied several times. More resources will also be generated.

Shri Pilot referred to social obligations. I am sure, that will be a part of the obligations of private insurance companies. In Andhra Pradesh, the hon. Chief Minister has ensured that even the huts are insured by the State Government. He wants to support the people belonging to the lower class. So, a girl child born in a poor family is given an insurance policy for Rs. 5,000 so that by the time she attains the age of 15 or 16, she will be able to get Rs. 25,000 for marriage or education. I am sure, this new policy of opening up the insurance sector will generate more and more new developments.

In the field of agriculture, there are various possibilities of expanding the insurance business. There are billions of cattle in this country. They also require to be insured. Today, we are talking of crop insurance. It requires to be expanded and they have to cater to a lot of people.

We require a tremendous amount of resources to be generated for the development of our infrastructure. We need more than \$ 20 billion and we do not have enough money. The Government has brought in the private sector also. We need resources to come from outside. That is why in the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front it was proposed that an investment of \$10 billion have to come from outside. The idea is to see that some resources are generated for development. Thus, the development that can take place in probably twenty years, will now take place in five years.

We are travelling by Boeing aircraft. Why do we not travel by jet planes? We want to give the facilities to people. Everyone wants to take advantage of the developments that are happening in the rest of the world. We have a lot of

technology. We have a lot of scientists. Look at what has happened in the field of software technology. We are producing the bulk of the world's software. Even George Bush Jr. has made a statement that in the next ten to fifteen years, 60 per cent of the world's software technology will come from India. That is where we have opportunity. We must believe in the talent and abilities of the people of this country. We must open up and it is only in our interest.

Look at what has happened in the case of airlines, shipping and other large industries. A substantial quantity is going in for refinancing. We do not have enough resources. We are doing a lot of refinancing. That is why we want to strengthen the insurance sector. We must improve the insurance sector. We have to expand the insurance sector. Our resources must increase. We must have technology and competition to generate resources. This is exactly what we are looking for and this is why social obligation, as Shri Pilot said, is very important.

There are a lot of industries like hydel projects which require a long gestation period. This is where the resources generated by the insurance companies must be utilized.

The Government will always be able to regulate it. The legislation that we pass today is not final. Parliament has got the right to modify it, to correct it and to develop it. The hon. Minister of Finance has to monitor whether we are going in the right direction and whether the implementation is going on properly. We can monitor it constantly; we can change it constantly. We can always take the advice of the people. We must take advantage of what is good today. If we require some resources for development from outside, we have to get them.

What is being done in the Silicon Valley is basic, fundamental research. It is not done in Japan. But Japan would develop it much faster and start the commercial production also. So, we also should go in for applied research and make use of developments in other countries. We should always have international linkages. If we are talking today about globalization or liberalization, there is nothing wrong in it. We have also to utilize to our benefit the developments that take place in the world. A lot of countries are today waiting for the WTO.

They are all very anxious to come in. If it is not good, they will not come. I know that people are approaching us, saying that they will also be introduced into the WTO. That is why, we should be able to stabilise our position. When we first started, we had the Marrakesh Agreement. We have done something; we are continuously improving; and our position will become stronger and stronger tomorrow. There is no way we can fall in that. We can always take the interest of our country. This is the policy which we are going to follow.

There are some more items on which I feel we have done something. What did they tell here? What does the policy say? In 1956-57, 56 lakh of policy holders were there; now it

has gone up to 850 lakhs. Income from premium has increased; the number of employees has increased; and the number of branches has increased. What we need today is the service to the policyholders. What percentage of people are doing it now? What percentage of people are covered in this? It is not even 5 per cent. We need to cover at least 30 per cent to 40 per cent people of this country. They should be given opportunities. That means, we require a lot of new technologies, new methods of approach, and new ways of doing all these things. The process of constant development is important. They should also have investment of funds which is important. These funds must be utilised for development, expansion of industries and infrastructure.....(Interruptions) The Government has the right to do it. They can always put a lot on, what is called, social obligations; in the case of banks we are telling that we want to have so much money at a lower interest rate; for export, so much; for small scale industries, so much etc. That is how we can also do it. We have always done it; We are always monitoring; and we can always dictate it with them. No sector or no company can do it without the assistance of the Government.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ramaiah, please address the Chair.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Thank you, Sir, That is why, we have this policy of liberalisation. We also have to see various figures that have been provided here. Income from premium has increased to Rs. 19250 crore; the number of employees has increased to 1,25,000; the number of active agents has increased to 5,58,000. How many agents are working today? We see a lot of agents who just come in the last two months before close and for the rest of the time, they do some other business. I know quite a number of people like them. I have also explained to these people. That the need exactly is a good challenge. The young generation, the dynamic generation, dynamic and active people have to come into the picture. They should be able to work full-time satisfactorily in order to make insurance sector economical. The economics of this depends upon how we reduce the cost of these things and how efficiently we can make use of them. Inefficient people are not good to help us. It is the efficiency and the capacity of the people who will be able to produce the best results, which is very important. We have a lot of our own resources and our own talent, but we need additional resources and talent at the appropriate time so that we can expand our activities. We are producing our own satellites and we are producing our own rockets. We are also producing so many things in this country. They are all not because we are lacking. If you take the pharmaceutical sector, people say that we are lacking here. But we do not have enough resources to put into the basic research, but with the applied research we are doing it. Today we are the largest producers of bulk drugs and we may be taking them from other people who have done it. We have that capacity.

So I feel that this policy of liberalisation is very important; this structural policy and this insurance policy is very important at this point in time of this country. I know that the Finance Minister will be able to constantly monitor it. I will give all the advice that is required. The House has got every right to check it with due modifications.

I thank you very much for having given me the opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, statement, was to be made at 4 o'clock.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, please wait for a minute.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: That time has passed. Now statement should be made after my speech. I will not take much time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right, you can speak.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was no need to bring Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, therefore I rise to oppose it. As it has been mentioned that in 1956 when insurance companies were brought under the public sector, only a capital of Rs. 50 crore was invested....(Interruptions) It is 5 crore or 50 crore Yashwantji will tell the correct figure. I have given this figure from other sources. So far these companies have earned a profit of Rs. 1700 crore for the Government then what was the need to bring this Bill. We seek a categorical reply to it from the Government. Nehruji had proudly brought these companies from private sector to public sector. Pilotji, you have done away with the ideology of Gandhi.....(Interruptions) Please do not say anything. Let him speak. You proclaim to be the follower of Nehruji but you worked for destroying the ideology of Nehruji. Instead of supporting BJP on this issue, you should have supported the opposition parties. We are unable to know whether you are supporting or opposing it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: We have extended conditional support to it.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I have to say because you have stated that you are supporting it whole heartedly. We are opposing it openly. We are not at all in favour of bringing this Bill, and thus we oppose it.

So far as the quality of service of Indian Insurance Companies is concerned I would like to say that our Insurance Companies are superior to other insurance companies in the world. Scams have taken place in insurance companies of country like USA but no such thing has been noticed in Indian

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

companies. These companies have contributed a lot in the economy of our country. Earlier policies of insurance companies were only within the reach of owners of companies and rich people but now poor people living in villages in hutments have also been covered under it. Presently 52 percent insurance policies are from rural areas. It is a wrong impression that villages lack awareness as share of villages is even more here. Now insurance has reached villages and hutments of the poor and it is not confined to affluent class only. This Bill is a conspiracy to snatch the source of livelihood of poor farmers and labourers, and hence, we are opposing it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Share of urban area is more than rural area.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Policies of villages are more in number. Hon'ble Minister will tell its correct percentage which may be 45 or 51 percent. There are several people like you and me who have migrated from villages but actually we belong to villages. Rajesh Pilotji, you might have given the address of your Delhi residence but I have given my village address only.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, insurance companies have earned a profit of Rs. 700 crore last year. These have made excellent contribution in improvement of our economy at every level but even then why is it being handed over to foreign companies?

Our insurance companies have made important contribution in construction and maintenance of Government buildings and gradually they are trying to cover the poor living in hutments. It is a wrong impression and can be termed as day-dreaming of the Government that capital of foreign companies will be utilised in the development of infrastructure in the country. I am neither speaking on behalf of the ruling party, nor the opposition party, I am speaking as neutral person and we wish that both BJP and Congress should be displaced so that we are able to form the Government. It is our policy and a time will come when our policy will be successful. Our colleague from the Marxist Communist Party was saying something about you and you were also saying something about them. They contested election as alliance of Congress party and are now supporting your Party. Only two months have passed and such a big change has taken place. Third force has to come to power in this country. You were saying that we also want to get this bill passed but I would like to say that we do not want it to be passed. Congress Party is secretly supporting them and they may get it passed on the basis of majority or highhandedness. We are unable to find out whether Congress Party is supporting this Bill or opposing it. Also, I do not know whether it is being discussed in their party or not. Secondly, please do not say that....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: We have clearly stated that we

are offering conditional support to it and that is why we have moved amendments.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Let me speak. We are persuading you...(Interruptions) Rajeshji, we are trying to make you understand this. You and me can discuss it later on. You are saying that your party is supporting this Bill. But I feel that you are not supporting it from the core of your heart. He has stated that democratic system is not followed in any party except theirs.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I have stated that democratic system of our party is better than others.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Is democratic system not followed in our party? Due to paucity of time I do not want to discuss this issue in detail but the fact is that your party do not follow democratic system at all.

Sir, as it has been mentioned just now that it is being done under the pressure of U.S.A. I would like to give an example of it. The increase in policies by insurance companies is 3.2 to 3.5 percent in U.S.A. whereas this increase is 15 to 18 percent in India. This is the reason why all the developed countries, foreign agencies and rich countries are setting their eyes on our country. When the rate of increase in insurance policies is so high then why are we indulging in this dangerous game of inviting foreign companies in insurance sector? I cannot understand that. It should be given a serious consideration. I would like to tell you about the contribution of Indian Insurance Companies in our economy. In the Sixth Plan insurance sector contributed Rs. 700 crore, in the Seventh Plan the contribution was 1300 crore. In power sector, the insurance sector made a contribution of Rs. 8000 crore and to health services and housing sector Rs. 10 thousand crore each have been contributed. A target of providing Rs. 30 thousand crore has been fixed for the next plan. In this way insurance sector companies, have made an important contribution in the development of the country. Why then foreign companies are being invited in this sector? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTARAI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, not only our appearance but our hearts too match closely with each other. I would like to bring it to your notice that Shri Rupchand Palji had stated just now that Rs. 1 lakh and 30 thousand crore have been earmarked under the Ninth Plan for the insurance sector and in the first two years of the plan alone, Rs. 43 thousand crore have been invested. Shri Mulayam Singh Ji I am presenting your case only. When such a situation is present, then you better work for strengthening the market of the country instead of weakening it.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: All right, they are ready to give. This is their plan. I am only telling what I know. Besides

this, hon'ble Minister of Finance only can give the correct figures.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the foreign companies have been coming in our country to earn money. Then, won't the drain of our wealth and capital take place? What is the guarantee that the drain of our country's wealth and capital will not take place. The foreign and private companies are coming to our country in order to earn profit and to make big money. They are not coming to benefit us. Whoever does the trade, he somewhat provide service but we must learn this lesson that we have suffered subjugation only due to these companies. We have suffered this bondage for the longest period but you have still not become conscious. The premium of our insurance companies are the lowest. Our insurance companies namely Life Insurance Corporation and General Insurance Corporation have made payment up to 99 percent and 78 percent respectively of claims in the same year where as the insurance companies of the developed countries have made payment of claims in 55 percent cases. Therefore, how far justified it is to bring these foreign companies in competition with better performing Indian companies. Is it not a fact that the developed countries like Germany, France, and Japan and others have declined to invest their capital in the private and foreign insurance companies? When they have declined to invest the foreign capital then why do you need it? You have left the doors of the country open to the foreign companies. The arrival of foreign companies will result in very high increase in the cost of medicines due to which the lower and middle class people will be forced to die without medicines. This situation has emerged. They have cast their dice in some countries. I had cited the example of Malaysia, if you read the statement given by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, you will become conscious and learn a lesson from it. But to learn your lesson there are several countries other than Malaysia. But you did not learn lesson from any country. The countries where the foreign companies have invested their capital, are the poorest, most indebted and most suffering countries in the world. I had given its example to you. A year ago the Prime Minister of Malaysia had stated that these companies have not only ruined our economy but have also interfered in our political affairs. These companies will also interfere in the polity of our country. I have such an apprehension. You are asking as to why you have this apprehension then I have made you acquainted with this fact. Why the country is being harmed by allowing entry of foreign companies. Hon'ble Mr. Finance Minister, we can never be satisfied with this. We want that you should withdraw this Bill. It will be better to withdraw it in the interest of the country. When all the facts have been placed before you, why the insurance employees, poor farmers and workers are being punished? Why are they being deprived of their source of livelihood? When we are better in every sense in this sector and our companies are performing better than the other companies of the world then why are you opening the doors of this sector to foreign companies. Today, you can

see, lakhs of people have been demonstrating against it. Won't you respect the feelings of the people? Would you run the country in arbitrary manner or on the basis of majority? If you run the Government in such a manner then I have told you that this kind of highhandedness will not do. I had warned you earlier and I warn you today also that if you continue to run the Government in such a highhanded manner, you will meet a bad end. The Britishers always believed that they would never have to leave this country but owing to their highhandedness they had to leave the country. The Congressmen too indulged in bungling and, therefore, the people displaced you from power. I would like to say that you too will soon be forced to step down due to this bungling. ...*(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER): You too are not unblemished ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You will know in a shortwhile as to how much unblemished you are. Now you have been reduced to 112, nobody knows what will be your strength in future. You should not say so because now you have neither a policy nor any stand. You have nothing in your hands, so we want that you should sit quietly and listen. Does it not amount to appeasing the rich countries and wealthy people? It is clearly evident that this Bill is being brought to appease the rich and wealthy people and developed countries including U.S.A. We oppose the way you are toying with the country. We will not allow this to happen because it is our responsibility and, hence, we have come to this House.

As far as this insurance Bill is concerned, some Members will insist that it should be sent to the Committee, some will favour its sending to the joint Committee and some others will insist on its reconsideration. It is our clear opinion that you should withdraw this Bill.

There is only one way in the interest of the country. Only the future will tell whether you or we are on the side of truth. But I am afraid that by that time we would be in the grip of economic turmoil. You can see that interference is being done in economic matters. It is not only in economic sphere but in polity too that the interference is taking place. ...*(Interruptions)* As far as our company is concerned, I do not want to say anything regarding that. Do not pass comments on my party. Both of you have become the cards of the same pack ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: You aligned with them in 1977 and in 1979 and instead we have been labelled as the card of the same pack. ...*(Interruptions)* You used to take dinner on Wednesdays with them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You do not say about us...*(Interruptions)* You allow others to speak, and you keep seated. It will be known as to where they are in collusion. ...*(Interruptions)* Both of these are in Collusion ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is only because of you that they have reached here....(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: If it is so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am demanding that a debate should be held over this issue....(Interruptions) One day's debate should take place. If the BJP has formed the Government, it is so because of the Congress....(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is because of you.(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is your doing.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

....(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, do not provoke them.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You come to the subject. Why do you get provoked unnecessarily.(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You have not served the interest of the country but have helped the BJP to come before the people.(Interruptions) But we want to say that do not come in the way of socialists, your position has deteriorated due to the fact that you have tinkered with the socialist....(Interruptions) We will get them removed. Some of our friends had made a mistake over the issue of removing BJP otherwise they would have been removed. If your company had been with us(Interruptions) Jayalalithaji has been repenting. Read the report of their proposal.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji you are deviating from the subject and not speaking on the subject. You are unnecessarily wasting the time of the House.(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is not a question of amendment, it is our demand. We are trying to make them understand that when the voting over I.R.D.A. Bill takes place, keep the issue of amendment aside and simply ask them to withdraw it....(Interruptions) Therefore, we are opposing it. Mr. Finance Minister, though you have joined the Bhartiya Janata Party but your thoughts will never change. Therefore, we want that you should withdraw this Bill. It will be a great service to the country. You have rung the bell, and therefore, I conclude.

16.34 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Imposition of Customs Duty on Wheat

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, currently, under the EXIM Policy on foodgrains, import of wheat is canalised through the Food Corporation of India. However, Roller Flour Mills are free to import wheat directly or through the STC, MMTC or PEC for milling purposes. Import of wheat does not attract any customs duty at present.

In view of the bumper production of wheat during 1998-99 and the higher Minimum Support Price of wheat fixed for procurement, the procurement of wheat during the current marketing season, 1999-2000 has been very good. During 1999-2000, a quantity of nearly 141 lakhs tonnes of wheat has been procured for the Central Pool as against 126 lakh tonnes during the previous year.

With the availability of relatively cheaper imports, the offtake from the Central Pool has been low, despite the liberalisation done through the Open Market Sale Scheme. Between May and November 1999, almost 15 lakh tonnes of wheat has reached Indian ports. The landed cost of wheat is much lower than the open sale rate fixed for the FCI. If the current situation continues, it is estimated that there will be excess stock of over 100 lakh tonnes of wheat with FCI by 1.4.2000 over the minimum buffer norm of only 40 lakh tonnes.

The carrying cost of foodgrains for FCI is heavy, estimated at around Rs.1600 per tonne per year. Carrying the excess stock would impose a massive financial burden on the Government, which would be determined to the economy.

With a view to rectifying the situation, and stimulating the offtake of wheat from the Central Pool, the Government have come to the conclusion that it is imperative to impose customs duty of 50 per cent on common wheat and drum wheat. A notification seeking to amend the relevant entries in the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 by invoking the emergency powers vested under Section 8A of the said Act is being issued and the levy shall become effective from today. Copies of this notification shall be laid on the Table of the House in due course. A resolution seeking the approval of Parliament to the notification shall also be moved shortly.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Mr. Minister, why did you allow this till yesterday? This is the question which I put to you....(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI): Why did you allow it till yesterday? Why did the Caretaker Government not do this? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The question is this. It is deliberate. Why did the caretaker Government allow it knowing fully well the buffer stock position? Why did you allow the import with zero duty thereby causing crisis for the farmers? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Only today, the duty has been raised to 50 per cent. This is the biggest scandal in the country. ...(*Interruptions*) This is the proof of total corruption of this Government in this country. For the last three months this is happening and you put hardship on the farmers ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, they are in the knowledge of these things. They allowed things to continue till yesterday and deliberately created this thing...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA): Sir, the Government has to answer these things....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Today, it is 50 per cent. Why was it zero per cent till yesterday? This is the proof of the total corruption of this Government....(*Interruptions*) This is the biggest wheat scam.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): This is most scandalous. Wheat was allowed to be imported till yesterday ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you have to allow us to seek clarifications....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (UDAIPUR): He is rectifying his mistake....(*Interruptions*) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it seems that there is some conspiracy in this. I do not fully agree with this....(*Interruptions*) The Government have to give a categorical clarification in this regard.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please hear me. Please resume your seat. I am on my legs. .

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Why are you annoyed with us, you should be annoyed with the government which have imported wheat without permission. You should be angry over them, why are you angry with us....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON):

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as a result of this decision the farmers of this country will suffer. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Do the Central Government intend to make farmers suffer. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: This will make the condition of farmers even worse....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You please sit down.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was no need for it? Will the Government be able to provide wheat at cheaper rate by imposing levy?

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER; Please take your seat. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Again you are standing up. What is this Member doing?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I may have to name you. Please do not interrupt like this. I am on my legs.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): I am also on my legs....(*Interruptions*) The entire nation has taken for a ride. We cannot tolerate such a situation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, unlike the other House, the Upper House, you cannot put questions now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We know the rule position, There is also a convention.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I am only reminding you of the position. You are standing up. Let me complete it . I am on my legs.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): You are always on your legs!

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Rule 372 makes it clear that you cannot ask a question and you cannot seek a clarification after a statement is made. You have many other options. You can ask for a discussion.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. I would like to address the hon. Finance Minister, through you, that the wheat import was going on and on for the last few months, even before the elections. The F.C.I. authorities, with all the responsibility, the Department of Agriculture, with all the responsibility, and the

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

farming community apprised the Government of the expected procurement position and the crop position on time. In spite of that, the import of wheat went on and the scandalous import was allowed to be continued. When the Government found that things could not be managed and reached beyond certain proportions, they have come out with this statement today, allowing this country to be looted. We cannot take this matter lightly. This is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government owes an explanation as to why the import of wheat was allowed till yesterday. The Government has imposed customs duty on the import of wheat now. Why was it not imposed earlier? Why did the Government allow a crisis to be created in the wheat market? So, we demand a statement from the Government.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has already made a statement.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Not this type of statement; we want a detailed statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can ask for a discussion on this matter in a different form. You cannot ask questions now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can have a discussion in an appropriate form.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, in spite of a bumper production of wheat in the country, why was the import of wheat allowed to go on? We want to know the reason behind it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can have a discussion on this matter in an appropriate form. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a Minister, who makes a statement on any issue, is required to give full information to the House. The Finance Minister has told us as to why he has raised the tariff by 50 per cent today. What he has not told us is as to why the interim Government did not address the problems of India's farmers while it had addressed the problems of a few international telecom operators. The Finance Minister's statement refers to imports from the month of May. From the month of May till October, they were running a caretaker Government which took important policy decisions. But one policy decision which it could have taken and did not take was with reference to

raising the customs tariff on the import of wheat. Today, they have raised it from zero to 50 per cent. Why did they not raise it to 10 per cent? Why did they not raise it to 20 per cent? Why did they not raise it to 30 per cent? Why did they not raise it to 40 per cent earlier? Is it not because they were engaged in....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please hear me.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, it is absolutely wrong. I refute that allegation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Why did he allow?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will you listen please?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: You are levelling charges and allegations. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Why now?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA): Sir, he has said something objectionable.

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

...*(Interruption)**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: We walk out in protest. ...*(Interruptions)*

16.47 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and some other hon. Members left the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have already repeated that under Rule 372, a statement may be made by any Minister on a matter of public importance with the consent of the Speaker. But no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made. That has already been done. Therefore, I will not allow anybody to go on record.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he could have given details....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do not interrupt now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, a fullfledged discussion should be allowed on import of wheat....*(Interruptions)* Why was import of wheat allowed?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

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

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (DEORIA): Sir, when you have allowed him to speak, we must also be allowed.
....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have not allowed anybody to speak. Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Sir, he has accused the hon. Minister....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Nitish Sengupta, please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we have a right to get full information....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, please do not interrupt. I have called Dr. Sengupta.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Government owes an explanation....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: What explanation?
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, I told you that on a statement made, the hon. Minister is not expected to give any explanation. That is not the rule of this House. Dr. Sengupta, please.

16.52 hrs.

INSURANCE REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY BILL- contd.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (CONTAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise in support of this Bill. The question of reforming the insurance sector has been agitating the nation since the Era Sezhan Committee in 1983, which was by and large accepted but somehow or other because of the pressure brought on by the trade unions, the then Government developed cold feet and did not pursue this matter.

Since 1991, this matter has been coming up again and

*Not Recorded

again, appearing and disappearing like King Charle's head. Today, I feel the basic issue is to get away from a certain mindset which has been bedeviling us for the last so many decades about everything should be in the nationalised sector.

Sir, I don't disagree that insurance business has increased since then, since nationalisation in 1956 and 1973, but it could have increased much more. There, I fundamentally maintain that Government management and service industry do not go together. Wherever it is a question of Government management running a service industry, it cannot run economically, it cannot run efficiently. Although, figures were quoted to show how much the LIC or GIC's business has increased, I maintain that it could have been much more, many times more, had it been allowed under the private sector as also with the Government....(Interruptions) I have individually asked many of the insurance employees....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): What has happened in other countries?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is his maiden speech. Please do not interrupt.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Shri Rupchand Pal gave a brilliant speech with a lot of facts and figures. It was more like a lawyer who is given a brief and he is asked to collect all evidence.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as there is no Panel Member available in the House, I would request, with the consent of the House, Shri Basu Deb Acharia to preside over the House.

16.54 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA in the Chair]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Mr. Chairman Sir, my friend, Shri Rupchand Pal gave a very eloquent speech, giving lot of facts and figures. But as it was found out that there was a lot of inconsistencies and contradictions in the figures given, as was pointed out by many Members. It was very much like a lawyer who is given a brief and asked to collect all possible evidence in his favour, but they may not be necessarily true to life.

Sir, we are at the end of 20th century and are moving into the new millennium. The basic question now is not what the LIC and the GIC have done but what more they could have done; and can we get away from allowing other players to come and operate in this particular field of insurance business.

Sir, there are two aspects in this Bill. One is that of permitting the private sector initiative to come into this area and second one is that of permitting foreign investment in a limited way. Unfortunately, the second aspect seems to be the kind of dominating spectre, which is affecting everybody

[Dr. Nitish Sengupta]

and not much was said about permitting the private sector initiative. It was mentioned that the United States, Japan, etc. do not permit foreign investment. What they do not understand is the fact that foreign investment comes in the form of a Japanese company or American company. The entire picture is different. Even in the United States, there is a great deal of foreign investment. I know of an Irish Company which acquired a US company only two, three year ago. There were many such cases.

First of all, I will take the arguments against them and then, I will come to the arguments for them. The basic objections to this measure are three or four. The first one is ideological; the second one is undue fear of foreign investment; the third one is the question of security of employment; and the fourth one is the question of service to the public. Now, I will start with the job security. I appeal to my distinguished colleague, the hon. Finance Minister, that when this matter is discussed, the trade unions should also be taken into confidence and the matter should be discussed with them. Certainly we would like an assurance to go them that nobody's job will be at stake and there will be a complete job security for some time. In the case of Sri Lanka ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): Up to what time?
...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Untill they retire. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST): Mr. Chairman, Sir, how can they dominate the House every time? When the whole House is silently hearing him, why do they interrupt him? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Lakshman Seth, please take your seat. Please do not interrupt.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Let me tell that after they have destroyed West Bengal...*(Interruptions)* Having destroyed West Bengal, having turned West Bengal, which was an advanced State, a forward State in the 1970s into one of the most backward States in the country, now they are trying to dominate everything and turn the entire nation ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, he has made a signal contribution. This is the loyalty that he has ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: No, it is not the question of loyalty. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We all know everything. Please do not force me to say things which you would not like to hear. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Please tell anything that you want to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It has become a fashion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Sengupta, please confine to the subject.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I said, I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that he should take the Unions into confidence and talk to them. I have personally spoken to a number of people. Believe me or not, you talk to an average insurance employee separately, not in the presence of leaders, and ask him whether he would like denationalisation or privatisation. I think, in 99 per cent cases, you will get the reply, 'Please help us to go into privatisation. We are tired of this sort of stagnant atmosphere in which we are working everyday.' ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI): Dr. Sengupta, may I ask you a question? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (COIMBATORE): Sir, this is his maiden speech. Why are they interrupting him all the time? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA): Sir, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is a senior Member and he is talking in such a way...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: "Are you afraid? Are you scared of my face?"*

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, he cannot go on for long. Firstly he cast aspersions on the Finance Minister. Now he is interrupting him. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, how can you run the House if a Senior Member is talking like this? ...*(Interruptions)*

17.00 hrs.

Every time he is using sentences affronting individuals. ...*(Interruptions)* He cannot say like that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Shri Rudy, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Chairman. Sir, how can he say like this, you please expunge this word from the proceedings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will see to it.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: He is levelling personal allegation....(Interruptions) He addresses the Members personally.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will go through records.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, this is not fair. This is not the way to talk.(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (THANE): Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is disturbing every time. He is advising Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav also.(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Sir, this is not the only case. Every time he is getting up.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, please take your seat. I have not allowed you.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Sengupta's speech.

....(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Shri Swain, I am on my legs.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, you please take your seat.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: He cannot behave in this fashion.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, please take your seat. Nothing will go on record.

....(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh Prasad ji, you please sit down.

[English]

You please take your seat. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please take your seat.

....(Interruptions)

*Not Recorded.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is five o'clock but hon'ble Prime Minister has not come to the House. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had given an assurance that the Prime Minister would make a statement at 5.00 p.m. . He has not yet come. Neither he has given any explanation nor there is any information to this house.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He may come just now.

[English]

Shri Sengupta you please continue.

....(Interruptions)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Sir, as I emphatically stated, let there be no fear of job loss or insecurity in the minds of our friends in the insurance sector. Now, the total number of(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED ALVI (AMROHA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Prime Minister was to come at 5.00 p.m. but he has not yet come.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He may come just now.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you doing like this? Please have patience. Ramdasji, first you please sit down. The Prime Minister will come and make a statement.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: The number of employees of the GIC is about 79,000 or 80,000 and the LIC employees number about 1,20,000 or 1,29,000; altogether there are about two lakh employee in the insurance sector. I submit that for protecting the interests of these two lakh employee, are we not preventing the possibility of creation of new jobs, many times more than that? Unless insurance sector is opened up, this will remain stagnant.

Now, there has been very little innovativeness in the last few decades, since they were nationalised. In the last few years, of course, with the possibility of competition, the insurance authorities have somewhat opened up, but earlier it was a total lack of innovativeness which characterized them.

Sir, till today, we do not have any proper insurance scheme in place. Had there been proper insurance in Orissa, the people would not have been suffering so much.

Health insurance is a sector which I should not even say has been neglected; it is just totally absent. There is no

[Dr. Nitish Sengupta]

insurance. Even now I make bold to say that Hindustan Lever's presence is more felt in rural India than the presence of LIC or GIC because they have not been able to do that.

17.06 hrs.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

The second thing is ideological objection and there my appeal to my friends—well, they are no longer to the Left but are now in the Centre—is that please try to come out of the ideological shell or the cocoon. Try to be at least like China or Vietnam. The world did not come to a halt with the Communist Manifesto of the 1848 or the Das Kapital of the 1864. The world has changed a lot. Specially with the new information technology, today the world has changed so much that we cannot shut ourselves from the rest of the world. Whether we denationalise insurance or not, with the information technology, with the Internet, I can tell you that there will be ways found where foreigners will enter this area, just as in the case of insuring our planes or satellites, we are always running to foreign insurance companies. So, many people will do their insurance abroad. By shutting ourselves off, it will not be possible to change the movement of the world.

In China, they have permitted insurance. It is true that it is twenty per cent, but China has other means of control which we do not have. China has other means of dividend repatriation. About the fear of foreign direct investment, how little is the foreign direct investment in the total quantum of India's investment? Somebody said, it is not even one per cent of India's GDP, it is not even one or two per cent of the total aggregate corporate equity of our country. So, why are we so unduly worried about foreign investment? When my friends from West Bengal go all out in the world to seek foreign investment, why are they objecting to permitting 26 per cent of foreign investment in a company in the insurance sector where it can bring a lot of new technology, a lot of new services?

According to an estimate, the opening up of the insurance sector will bring in six billion dollars of foreign investment. According to some of the estimates, it will create, I should say, not just these two lakhs of jobs as we have got now, but many times more. It will create a lot of new business, a lot of new innovatives.

Now we come to the arguments for insurance sector. I told you about the possibility of much greater inflow of foreign direct investment, and once again I say that it is much better to seek foreign direct investment than to seek the foreign loans—loans from the IMF, from the World Bank or from any other country. Foreign direct investment is much more dignified, much more respectable. It is more economical, it is more productive than taking loans from the World Bank or the

IMF or any other country. Yesterday or day before, while the Orissa debate was on, my esteemed colleague Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, whom I hold in very high respect, mentioned that it should be declared a national calamity because then we will get international assistance, we will get the help of the Red Cross. May I ask, where does the money for these international agencies come from? Where does the Red Cross get its money from? Once again from companies. So, why do we not get them directly to invest? If some companies have 26 per cent of foreign capital, I do not think heaven is going to fall. With 74 per cent, our people can have greater control. On the other hand, there will be new technology. And when foreign direct investment comes, how does repayment take place? Repayment takes the form of a certain percentage of the profit earned, after the company has started earning profit which can usually happen six, seven or eight years afterwards. Till that time that inflow of funds remains as a part of our foreign exchange reserves. By the time we start repaying them in the form of dividend, employment has been created, taxes have been paid, production has started and a lot of new things have already happened. Therefore, I would say that foreign direct investment is much more economical, much more productive and much more respectable and dignified than taking money from international agencies like the World Bank and the IMF(Interruptions)

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (ELURU): Some countries have refused external aid. Japan has refused it.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: That is why Japan is in such a soup and Japan's economy is in such a soup..... (Interruptions) Japan only wants to export and does not want to import or wants to take anything from outside.(Interruptions) That is why Japan's economy is in such a soup.

The next thing is the question of innovativeness and service. Having been an L. I. C. policyholder for many many years, I always found that paying them their premium is as though it was a punishment and they were doing a favour to me, to the policyholder by accepting my payment. They will never remind me, whereas in the days of private sector they would always send premium notices which were coming. L.I.C. would never think it necessary to give you a proper notice. I hope things have improved now. But at least in my time I remember that it was always that they accept the premium as if they are doing you a favour by accepting your premium.

Take the case of claims in regard to car accidents. How many times has it not happened? There is an accident and you have to go through a net of corruption between the inspectors of G.I.C. and so many others. Unless you pay money, your claims will never be settled. Well, someone questioned about the claim settlement record. That is all right to say that no claims will be given and it is settled. But then, is it really settled? How many people suffer whose houses have

been burnt? They cannot go through a sort of web of bureaucratic delay and corruption and all that. Therefore, I would say that for the sake of greater service and better claim settlement....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): You were also in the same line....(Interruptions)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Sir, everytime they hold a threat of strike. They go on strike....(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRACKPORE): He has been a bureaucrat for years. He had served the L.I.C.(Interruptions)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: I have dealt with L. I. C. and G. I. C. and everybody in my official career. But the point is that all the time they are holding the threat of strike. Let L. I. C. or G. I. C. go on strike. The Government should try to solve this problem as late Shri Charan Singh did solve the problem of *Patwari* strike in U.P. which was successful. You should always remember that in trying to protect the interests of these two lakhs people are we not sacrificing the interests of many millions of people who are jobless and who are in unorganised sector? In Bengal, there is a saying. The English translation of the saying is that you are putting oil in a oily head. I am afraid our trade union friends are all the time doing that. They are all the time trying to protect the interests of the organised sector which is not more than about 30 million in our country and forgetting the interests of 400 to 500 million workers in the unorganised sector who cannot put all barriers here and who cannot go on *Dharma*....(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Is there any guarantee in the Bill that the foreign companies will take care of unorganised sector in the country?(Interruptions)

DR. NITISH SEN GUPTA: You will have a chance to speak.

Sir, therefore, I would strongly support the Bill. As I went through the Bill I have felt the need for some minor changes in the Bill like, for instance, when you talk about insuring any applicant, you say of a quality company. When you talk about employment and about persons who will be employed as members of the insurance authority, you have given so many things like accountancy, administration etc. You also try to add one more subject like business management or something. Today many management experts are there.(Interruptions) No, not for me. I have passed that age and I am not worried about that.

But the point is that there are some other little points here and there which, perhaps, I will come to when the Clause by Clause Consideration takes place. For the present I am ending here with my full-throated and complete support of the Bill as it is.

My Congress friends gave me some suggestions. I have not had time to go through them. But I can promise that I will go through some of the suggestions. I did appreciate Shri Rajesh Pilot's approach and speech very much. About the amendments I will go through them and raise them when the right time comes.

17.15 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Start of the Third Ministerial WTO
Conference in Seattle

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Hon. Speaker Sir, I rise to make a statement in response to comments made and concerns voiced by hon. Members on the Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation, which began in Seattle yesterday.

The Ministerial Conference was to begin at 10.00 a.m. However, due to demonstrations and disturbances, including teargas shelling, the inaugural session could not start. Even the US delegation could not arrive at the venue and the inaugural session was abandoned....(Interruptions)

Most of the Ministers from different countries could not even attend the lunch hosted by Director-General, WTO. It was decided that the plenary will be set up at 3.00 p.m. It could start only at 3.40 p.m. Ministers could not use their cars due to disturbances and had to walk to the venue.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Shri Sunil Khan, hon. Prime Minister is speaking.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The Commerce Minister of India made a statement just after 5.00 p.m., that is, 6.30 a.m. Indian time. A slightly longer version of the statement was also circulated.

I beg to place on the Table of the House the statement made by shri Murasoli Maran, Minister of Commerce and Industry at the WTO Conference.

Our basic position in Seattle Ministerial Meeting is:

1. We are not in favour of a wide-ranging new round of negotiations, often called the Millennium Round.
2. We are opposed to relating with trade:
 - (a) Core Labour Standards,
 - (b) Environmental issues.

- (c) Coherent Global Architecture,
 - (d) Investment issues,
 - (e) NGOs' involvement in WTO negotiations, and
 - (f) Competition policy.
3. We are prepared for a few new items being taken up for negotiations provided implementation issues arising from the Uruguay Round are also resolved to our satisfaction.

These are the matters for negotiation in Seattle and I have no further information to share with the House at this moment.

I assure the hon. Members that India's national interests will be fully protected and promoted at the Seattle negotiations.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Sir, may I seek one clarification?

MR. SPEAKER: No.

17.17 hrs.

INSURANCE REGULATORY AND
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BILL —Contd.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (RAMANATHAPURAM): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you very much for the opportunity given to me to make my presentation on this subject on behalf of the AIADMK which is functioning under the able and stable leadership of Dr. Jayalalitha, who is a mass leader, a magnificent leader, a marvellous leader, a field leader, a fearless leader, and a famous leader.(Interruptions) It is our leader who, among a few personalities of the country, has come forward to oppose the Bill with millions and billions of people, and in conformity with her guideline and her views, let me make my submissions and divulge and dilate a little further.

In fact, I am constrained and compelled to be a little critical for more than one reasons towards the Treasury Benches which has introduced this most unpopular Bill with undue haste, with hidden purpose and with untold agenda. I may hasten to join with my colleagues in this House who have opposed the Bill. As far as I am concerned, this is one of the most controversial and sensational Bills in the annals of this House in terms of Public reaction by way of opposition to the Bill in writing by 1.5 crore people, by way of numerous demonstrations, protests, processions and other means to

oppose this Bill and by way discussions, debates and disputing the Bill through Press and media.

In spite of all these things, unmindful of the public reactions, the Government seem to be very keen in passing the Bill.

Coming to the Bill, I am able to see two major objectives; I can divide the objectives into the two parts. One is to regulate, promote, protect enable or to ensure the smooth growth of insurance industry. As far as this objective is concerned, none will have any objection; it is most welcome.

Coming to the Second part of the objective, namely, to enable the entry of private companies, both from foreign as well inland, and destroying or removing the monopoly or the exclusive privilege enjoyed by the nationalised companies, I could see that the sponsors or the promoters of the Bill expect a huge flow of money from foreign countries as well as inland on the one side. They expect a huge business penetration in the insurance sector and also better services and better products in the market. These are all the major points or the merits or advantages advanced on behalf of privatisation.

Out of these three or four advantages, the real advantage which the Government is very keen to derive is the flow of money from outside. In respect of others by making some structural changes, by making some changes here and there and in the system by efficient personnel management etc., the business can be improved or system can be improved and new products can be introduced. All these things could be possible. As such the core or the real or the main reason behind going for privatisation seems to be that they are in need of money. They want to get a huge inflow from outside. As far as I could see and I am given to understand from the Press and other materials, including the number of statements made by our hon. Finance Minister, that the country is in great peril, in terms of financial crunch or financial crisis. On account of financial indiscipline, on the one side and inefficient financial management on the other, the country is in doldrums, as far as the financial aspect is concerned.

It may not be out of place to touch upon some of the reasons for the financial crisis. There is a sharp decline in the annual growth rate; there is a high non-Plan expenditure, while there is a gradual decline in the Plan expenditure, the revenue receipts have come down; and the fiscal deficit has gone up because of subsidies, populist measures and unproductive expenditure; the fiscal deficit for the first time has touched six digits, exceeding more than rupees one crore, internal liability and external debt have gone up to Rs. 3.5 lakh crore amounting to 58.8 per cent of GDP resulting a huge outflow by way of Interest alone. This liability would still go up in the Budget. It is again seen that 57 per cent of the Budgeted expenditure for this year has been spent in the first five months itself. This, of course, exclusive of Kargil expenditure. If such

things continued, then there would be a record deficit. This is not only the position of the Central Government but also that of the State Governments. Many of the State Governments are on the brink of bankruptcy.

Sir, under these circumstances the States in general and the country as a whole are in dire need of funds. We agree there is a need for it. If globalisation, liberalisation or privatisation is the way out to this crisis — having been a former bureaucrat for the last so many years and having seen the system of the Government and how the Government function — I would not object to the initiation of any economic reforms or for taking any appropriate measures which would lead to the improvement and upliftment of the financial position of the country.

While considering the way out and measures, one should be extremely careful, selective and elective as well. Instead of choosing a right course the Government has chosen the wrong course by mean of privatisation. They could have chosen so many other areas. There are umpteen number of Government undertakings, Government companies and institutions which might have been in need of assistance in terms of foreign capital. We have seen that there are several sick undertakings and companies which need such kind of revival packages. Instead of doing that, the Government has now chosen the wrong line of going for privatisation. As our leader Puratchi Thalaivi has said, this is more like killing a goose at one stroke which has been laying golden eggs everyday. What I mean is that the LIC and the GIC have been performing exceedingly well. Our friends here have already said in so many words giving elaborate details with facts and figures highlighting their performance and achievements. Performance of the LIC and the GIC are really excellent in terms of providing insurance cover, settlement of claims, return on investment, Budgetary support. As such, it is time that the LIC and the GIC have done exceedingly well. It is also seen that the growth level and claim settlement is much higher than the international experience. Even the WTO agreement has not covered this area. As such there is no compulsion from W.T.O. to go for privatisation.

It is to be noted that speaking from past experience of our country with other foreign nations the expected capital outflow has fallen. In 1997 it was 3.35 billion dollars, in 1998 it had come down to 2.28 billion dollars. Again, there is a big gap in regard to FDI also. The approved FDI was 308 billion dollars but actually obtained was 133 billion dollars. As such, what I am trying to point out is that the hon. Members from the Treasury Benches cannot afford to be sure of a huge flow of money from outside under this scheme as proposed. The earlier experience has shown that there is a sea of difference and a very big gap between what is expected and what is actually achieved. Not only that, in foreign countries, insurance business to outsiders has been restricted to three to five per cent only and not 26% as proposed here.

We do not understand why 26 per cent participation is being allowed for foreign companies. The Government says that multinational companies will enter this field subject to certain safeguards and conditions. But by virtue of their money power and their influence through international organisations like IMF, World Bank and WTO, they could succeed to become a monopoly in this sector by driving out all domestic companies out of business. A scenario may develop in which, instead of the domestic companies being a monopoly as is the case now, foreign companies may come to hold the monopoly in the industry. Though the Government say that they are going to ensure safeguards to protect the interest of domestic insurance industry, in practice it is not likely to happen.

In practice, it may not be possible to achieve the objective of the proposal through this measure of privatisation. This is what our past experience has shown. We have seen Governments regretting for having taken decisions of this nature in the past. Instead of going in for privatisation of insurance industry to get more the flow of capital, Government should concentrate on the inherent strength and unexploited potential of the country. For example, India has a tremendous potentialities in terms of vast domestic market which is yet to be exploited. We have a lot of cheap manpower which has not been exploited fully. We have a well-defined system of governance and a time tested democratic system over the past 52 years. There are vast area of unexploited natural resources. By taking advantage of these, the Government can do a lot without touching the sensitive areas like privatisation of insurance. As such the Govt. can explore and exploit the said areas within our country for the growth and development of infrastructure.

In this connection may I make a mention of some relevant areas to be exploited. We have been talking for decades about the Setusamudram project which is expected to bring economic transformation to the Southern districts of Tamil Nadu. It is yet to take a concrete shape. The eastern coastal area touching Ramanathapuram Constituency has a great potential for sea wealth. Why cannot such projects be taken up by the Government and develop for the upliftment and growth of such most backward areas. There are a number of minor ports potential like Tondi, Rameswaram, Mookkaiyur, Valinokkam, etc. which can be developed and which would contribute to the economic growth of the country. Broad Gauge conversion of railway line from Tiruchy to Rameswaram has great economic potential. Presently the broad gauge conversion is sanctioned up to Manamadurai only. It requires to be done up to Rameswaram. There are umpteen number of such projects which would contribute handsomely to the economic development of the country. This would help for the creation of assets and infrastructure facilities beside ensuring inflow of money. The Government, instead of disturbing the sensitive areas L.I.C. and G.I.C. which would affect the interest of millions of people, should concentrate on areas which I

[Shri K. Malaisamy] mentioned for development within the country. Under these circumstances let me restrict my stand of opposing the Bill and the Bill may either be withheld or dropped once for all.

SHRI ADHI SHANKAR (CUDDALORE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Bill. I rise to support this Bill on behalf of my party DMK.

The Bill in question has created a furore in the country apart from generating a lot of political propaganda. However, one should keep in mind that this Bill, when it comes into effect, will not immediately lead to Privatisation of insurance. It will only pave the way in that direction.

Governments keeping a tight hold on certain industries would only result in a lack of responsibility on the part of people and lack of healthy competition in those industries.

At the same time, it should demarcate the Sectors which are to be privatised on the basis of the nature, profit, achievement and service to the society. In the case of insurance sector, healthy competition is a must for its growth.

Further, competition can ensure awareness of the benefits of insurance, timely payment of the premium, immediate release of loan and timely disposal of the matured amount.

As per the present Bill, private organisations cannot act on their own. The Bill makes it clear that conditions like benefits to the society, needs of the villages and some conditions on investments or deposits would be imposed. Hence, the chances of an economic gamble on the entering of the private organisations in this arena are very remote.

Even during the regime of the United front Government, this Bill was presented before the Parliament, but not enforced and various parties of our country have felt its need.

When healthy competition comes in, the mind of the labourers extends not only to salary and rights, but also responsibility and duties.

Though the Indian population is about 100 crore, insurance has not become popular. Hardly one per cent of the population is under medical insurance.

Viewing from the political angle also, the time is conducive and it is also the correct time to open the insurance sector for private parties.

This Bill can be considered as an economical tool for developing some benefits from the international arena. The Central Government should pave the way for this.

To protect the interest of the policyholders and to promote the growth of Insurance Scheme, this Bill is very essential to the country.

Healthy competition is a must and essential for the growth and development of the insurance sector because then only the people of this country can get several benefits from the insurance sector.

I support this Bill on behalf of the DMK Party.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this major initiative in tune with the economic reforms of the country, is in controversy for the last few days in the electronic media, in the print media including the positions of respective parties towards this Bill.

Before I speak on this Bill, I would like to share the agony, the apprehensions and the anxiety of those employees of the insurance sector who are on strike today. I do not like to disregard their call and their struggle. They are part of us. They are part of our family and they are a part of our system in the trade union movement. But we have to deal with a very important matter today just on the eve of the new millennium.

I am grateful to the trade unions that while I receive their memorandum at least for once respectfully they have quoted the contribution of late Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi whom they have traditionally criticised and abused year after year.

The Congress policy on this subject right after Independence is known to everyone of this country. The members sitting on the opposite on the treasury benches, members here and members there, cannot deny the fact that right after the national struggle, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister, picked up the basic issues. It is the people of India who will decide their destiny through the system called democracy and, therefore the concept of mixed economy was relevant at that time and the struggle for the process to accelerate the goal of democratic socialism further culminated in the pattern of socialism by late Shrimati Indira Gandhi and was incorporated in the Preamble of the Constitution.

The abolition of the zamindari system in this country, the fight against feudals for aggressive land reforms in various States and the acceleration of the process of rural development leading to the establishment of the panchayati raj system were the dreams and contributions of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

We never tried to undermine the importance of economic growth of this country be it on the industrial front or the agricultural front. Today, we are placed in a situation where we have to share the reality of the global economy. It is true. Let us admit the fact too that the entire Third World, the entire developing world has suffered a serious political and economic jolt because the Soviet Union got destabilized or dissolved. The dissolution of the Soviet Union and the destabilization of the Eastern Bloc, the socialist world did create a situation which was rightly or wrongly well exploited by the western countries to their own advantage. The developing world could

not express anything except its helplessness for some of their projects were undone and the concept of economic self-reliance in countries like India and Malaysia were in jeopardy.

In such a grim situation, it was not India alone which was affected. Even the then leader of the Communist movement in China, Deng Xiaoping, in his first address in the Chinese People's Congress said, 'We now look forward to a new era and we have to cope with situation. It was not only Deng Xiaoping but it was Jiang Zemin who came forward to say that it was time for China to enter into WTO and, after the prolonged negotiation with the US, got the status of Most Favoured Nation. These are facts of history. Let us be very objective and address this issue free from all other prejudices.

We are very much concerned about the fate of the LIC and GIC. These issues have been addressed as if the LIC and the GIC are going to be casualties. If that is so, the Congress has to equally think about it because the LIC and the GIC were a continuation of the concept of the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1956 and Shrimati Indira Gandhi when she also abolished the privy purses and declared that the right to property is not a birth right of a few in the cover of the fundamental rights. In that of evolution or revolution, this was stated by the Indian National Congress from the Treasury Benches. The Congress policy is therefore not to compromise with those who want to exploit and plunder our country.

It was Mahatma Gandhi, who, on the first day of his arrival in India, being a very competent and articulate advocate in South Africa, decided first not to wear the type of dresses which were worn by the British in those days. He was projected as a half *fakir* and in reply, he said in the Round Table Conference, "I have not come here for drama but just to give you an image of how you have plundered India so that this much of cloth is not available for the poorest of the poor." This message of Mahatma Gandhi was further translated into action to the extent possible by Constitution of India, by Pandit Nehru and further established by Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

Can anybody deny – from any side of the House- that there was not a single programme in the panchayati raj system, be it in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Bengal or Bihar, be it in States ruled by the BJP, the CPI(M), the Congress or any other party, which was not drafted or articulated by Shrimati Indira Gandhi in her 20-point programme. You put all the programmes for the rural poor in a basket and pick out any one blindfolded and you will find that programme was either declared or articulated or projected by Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Yet, the leader had to suffer many things. In a democracy, criticism is natural. Pandit Nehru was not spared. Shrimati Indira Gandhi was not spared. That is why, while saluting the workers and the trade unions today, I congratulate them for quoting at least once the contributions of Pandit Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi in this vital sector. Since this sector is very vital, I would like to refer to the memorandum which I fully support. It

has been stated that the investment of the Government is very low; in LIC, it is Rs. 5 crore and in GIC, it is Rs. 21.5 crore.

We still feel that it is low. Therefore, to strengthen our argument, I address the hon Finance Minister to first remove the apprehension of the GIC and LIC. Please consider in your Cabinet, if it is possible, so that LIC and GIC are made as Board-managed companies like the ONGC under the Companies Act, so that the share capitals of the LIC is increased from the present Rs. 5 crore to at least Rs. 100 crore and of the four GIC subsidiaries is increased from the present Rs. 40 crore to Rs. 100 crore.

I think this will give a message to the employees and the nation that the dream of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his eight objectives and the subsequent policy of Mrs. Gandhi on the General Insurance are not going to be frustrated and also the question of dilution would never arise in the growth of LIC and GIC.

I will address you, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister and also the Members of the Opposition. Let us handle this issue today with great care. About 70 million people have life insurance today. About two million have health insurance. We talk a lot of health insurance, but only two million have health insurance. About one million only have pension policies and about 20 million have some form of provident fund cover. Thus there is a vast scope to augment the efforts of LIC and GIC, within the broad-based network, if they expand the share capital along with competition from the other side.

I repeat that let us not undermine the contribution of GIC and LIC, to the limited capacity in our economy of the country. They did contribute to the planning; they did contribute. They did contribute to the social sector and they did contribute to the Government securities. I do not deny the fact. I am not going to argue with the juggleries of the figures. But let us also understand that the challenge is huge.

Today no State Government in the country can deny that the situation is in such an order that in the basic infrastructure development, the output of the State's revenue and the output of the national revenue are not enough. I thank the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu, for having his wisdom to understand that, to fight the situation in Calcutta's road traffic, a big flyover cannot be constructed with the State's revenue alone and that unless Japanese funding is assured, he could not do it. Thus, he has done so with their assistance. I thank him for his wisdom.

These are realities. What happened in Bakreshwar Power Plant? We could not have the Bakreshwar Power Plant without funding from Japan. It is true. That is the reality. If you simply keep aside these realities and say that since the Congress took the initiative to have economic reforms, it is selling out, I would say that it is not selling out. It is to cope up

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

with the reality and to keep pace with accelerated growth of the country, to the demand as it is responded by the people in this country. I do agree that all the reforms are not good.

I was talking to Dr. Manmohan Singh the other day. We initiated economic reforms. I did mention this to him. When I go to a particular village at midnight or during summer, whether it is in Gujarat or in Bihar, and ask somebody to bring a glass of drinking water, he might hesitate and say that, Sir, it is a village; either water is full of arsenic contents or fresh water is not available and that he would ask me to please wait for five minutes so that he could bring me a drink. He would rush to a *pan* shop and bring a pepsi or coke; and say that here is a drink and no drinking water.

It is reality. We do not deny the fact. This reality demands much more resources mobilisation; this reality demands much more technical inputs; and this reality demands much more investment mobilisation. Are we in a position to cope up with the network, with the existing structure that we have? The answer is no.

Therefore, each one of us is looking for as to what best could be available in present circumstances? The insurance sector, with pain I say this, should not have been touched, if our approach to rural economy would have been exploited in the right earnest by all of us. Rightly or wrongly, we could not do so. I will not explain the political reasons. I do not want to invite any political acrimony to this debate. I only want to invite the reality, the realistic situation in this hour of crisis.(Interruptions) I am just coming to the point. Please try to understand.

We would like to make clear that the Congress Party would not compromise with any attempt which would destabilise, dilute, wind up and discourage the growth of the LIC and the GIC. That is very clear. The Bill itself is not attempting to do that. The Bill is providing certain safeguards in some sectors. The sector which needs to be safeguarded the most is the social sector. Should the benefits which will come out of the participation of the private and foreign investments to the tune of 26 per cent, be totally converted at appropriate time after ten years and some amount of profit be repatriated in a manner that the country will suffer? No, The Government has to ensure that safeguard at appropriate time, either through the authority or through the legislation or through appropriate notification. What we demand is the investment in the sector and obligation to the social sector should be on par with the public sector. If the GIC and the LIC can participate in the social sector in a pattern that has been developed so far, why can they not do that? In fact, it should be more. That is our demand. This is the issue which the Government should address.

We cannot afford to adopt double standard. I am sorry

to say that when we initiated reforms, many have objected and criticized the Congress Party, the way usually the Congress Party is criticized. We are attuned to being criticized in many ways for the last fifty years, either by this side or that side. But we stick to one gun. For political purposes, we have not joined one party to defeat other, and then coming out of that one fine morning, and saying that 'X' is right and 'Y' is wrong. We never shared power with the BJP or the Jan Sangh at any point of time before or after independence. Shri Ram Manohar Lohia used to criticize the Congress vehemently. But I have great respect for the great social leader whose books I have read and learnt many things. Shri Sharad Yadav is a product of that socialism. Today, he might have changed his stance and joined saffron clan, but I have not done that; and we have not done that.

We took a very convincing line that economic reforms is the call of the day to the extent permissible in India. The economic reforms should not be done in such a manner which would compromise with the interests of the poor and the rural sector. We took that line step by step....(Interruptions) I do not want to talk about the State Governments. I do not want to join the political debate. Please do not compel me. If you compel me to open the Pandora's box, it would help neither me nor you.(Interruptions) Since you compel me, I would say that I am proud of Shri Jyoti Basu as he had the guts to say in the open session of the CII in Calcutta that the time has come to improve the infrastructure through foreign and private investments. If you defy him, then it is your business and not mine. I do not want to go into the details. Today, in this hour of crisis, not a single new project could be executed with the State Revenue or the Central revenue. I think he is correct. I am not saying that he is not a Marxist. We have to do this within the limited option available to developing nation; and we have to do it within the limited framework of parliamentary democracy. Theoretically, you can accuse us. I can also join some seminar and debate how Das Kapital is wrong and Gandhiji is right. That is for the consumption of certain intellectuals. But at end of the day, you would see that it has not served the poorest of the poor who wants drinking water first and not Pepsi. So, the country has to think as to how to mobilise the resources. I personally feel that on this aspect we should not indulge in jugglery of words and we should not fight over facts and figures. We must respond to the reality. So, our first duty is to remove the apprehensions of the thousands and thousands of employees of the LIC and the GIC. I do not agree with Dr. Nitish Sengupta that they have delayed the settlements. Dr. Sengupta, as an ex-bureaucrat, know well as to how difficult it was to move the files. It took longer and longer days. You people used to say that it is not Shrimati Indira Gandhi or Shri Vajpayee who has to rule. When you sat in bureaucracy, you thought that we are the fools of the politics and that will go out. You are the bureaucrats who have to rule. But I am glad that you have come here. Ultimately, this is your place and not that.

Today, the reality is, we have to understand that situation in the most objective manner. What we said in our election Manifesto, about the infrastructural structure, we stand by that. We got vote, though we did not come to power. WE told the people that this was our Manifesto. We are simply sitting in the Opposition. We have never said that since the Congress Party could not get a mandate to form the Government, we have to *vote face*. To adopt such double standards, is not the policy of the Congress. It may be the policy of others.

The Congress has made it very clear that it will not only act as constructive Opposition, but it may even confront with the Government whenever the situation arises. We shall stand by whatever we have said. We will never think that we have no role to play in the law courtyard of the country. We are the architects of many legislations. We are the initiators of many dialogues. They have changed themselves but we have not.

I remember, in 1972 when Simla Agreement was signed between Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Bhutto, there were different comments made by many people. It is on record. What were the comments made by the RSS then? I am glad and I thank Shri Vajpayee who in his wisdom has found in Lahore Declaration that the ultimate Indo-Pak talks can only be articulated within the framework of Simla Agreement. He has proved that we were right. We have proved that we have never done wrong in history. We proved ourselves that we were correct. The Non-aligned Movement which was founded by Tito, Nasser and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, still carries the flame that India was right. The Congress was right. Pandit Ji was right. We have not devalued our position. We have not changed our concept and the character. We had differences. Aberrations are always there in every political Party and the system. There may be fight within the Party, that is a different thing. When the challenges come, we do not compromise on the people's issue and at the same time we do not confront on the issue of politics.

The Prime Minister is here in the House. I am sorry to say that it pains me to say that spokesman of BJP said on television that the Congress is bargaining on IRDA Bill on the removal of Shri Rajiv Gandhi's name from the Charge sheet. It pains me. Shri Rajiv Gandhi will never come to us. He has gone for ever. The Congress Party and its commitment in its Manifesto is not equated on such issues. For that, we know how to play the role outside the Parliament through the people. After her victory from Chikmagalur, when Shrimati Gandhi was prosecuted in the House by the Shah Commission, we did cry in this House. But nothing could happen. The people of India rose to the occasion and replied rightly. We have faith in democracy and the people. We are ultimately answerable to the people. So far as this Parliament is concerned, it is sovereign and supreme. It is above everything and in Parliament we cannot play double standards. Indian National Congress may or may not come back to power, it should never be recorded in the history that it played double standards and

played as hypocrite whenever it was convenient. That is why, we have taken a decision that we shall participate in this debate. We shall extend our support to the Bill if some of our amendments are taken care of by the Government ...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. He is not yielding.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The social sector is most important. Foreign equity will come. Private companies will come. Why did we nationalise the banks. The banks have to support 14 or 16 houses in the country. At that time, many on the other side did not support us. But today, when a rickshaw puller says with pride that he is not indebted to Birlas or Tatas but is indebted to a particular bank in which he is also a partner, I feel proud and feel that Shrimati Indira Gandhi is still alive. Shri Venkaiah Naidu can abuse Shri Rajiv Gandhi and say that Congress has compromised on bargaining, I hold his statement with utter contempt. This is not the way the responsible Party should talk when an important issue is being discussed in the House. A rickshaw puller feels proud that his rickshaw has come to him through a bank and Birla is not its owner. Equally a policyholder, be it a barrister or a peasant or a politician or a clerk, feels proud that he is also a partner in contributing to the nation-building process through LIC or GIC. So, please for God sake, Mr. Finance Minister, do not take away that pride of the nation, through LIC and GIC, from the people.

18.00 hrs.

That is our submission from Congress to you. That is our appeal to you. I must thank Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and hon. Finance Minister— whatever you said against our economic reforms while you were in the Opposition—because at the end of the day you have agreed to accept our initiative in respect of economic reforms. I thank you for your belated wisdom. But I again repeat, please do not make a mistake of allowing them to do whatever they like. You have made an authority of ten people. What is the point in it?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, still we have 24 speakers, So, unless we extend the House till 8 o' clock, we cannot cover all of them. I think the House agrees to extend the House till 8 o' clock.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, India's life insurance premium as percentage of the GDP is 1.3 per cent as against 5.2 per cent in the United States of America, 6.5 per cent in the United Kingdom and 8 per cent in South Korea. Only 22 per cent to 23 per cent of the insurable population in India currently has a life policy. The life insurance accounts for just about 6 per cent of the domestic saving in the country. It is 24 per cent in the United States of America, 41 per cent in the United Kingdom and 32 per cent in South Korea. Our

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

economic reforms are not for surrendering the nation. The Congress' viewpoint of economic reform is not to compromise the Constitutional obligations. The Congress viewpoint is not to dilute the public sector or to dilute its expanded growth or to curtail the commanding height. But in the insurance sector, we feel that large areas of the nation has to be covered in a manner it is required at this moment. Our neighbouring country Bangladesh and another smaller nation, who is our good friend, Nepal are planning to give insurances coverage to the last man of the village. If they have started the negotiations, should India be left behind? We are asking the industry to grow and we are asking many new ventures to come. At the dawn of information technology which has taken the business today right in the drawing room through Internet, in that atmosphere we should not place India into isolation from the entire economic situation of the globe. We must compete by not causing harm to the cherished goals of the public sector. But we should motivate them. I therefore, demand that the Finance Minister must professionalize the functioning of LIC and GIC. I know that you have given them computers. But computer is not a machine. It is also motivation. You gave internet to many offices. I know that. But it is not merely a technological innovation. It is the technological upgradation of the men and motivation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I therefore request to all the Opposition Members not to misinterpret our approach on economic reforms which is given in our election Manifesto. We would like to make a clear distinction between the approach of the Bill and ours. The approach of the Bill is just to say that the authority with ten people will take care of the entire thing. We feel it is too much. I think it is just to please a few professionals who have retired or who are on the verge of retirement. You make it a little smaller and make clear-cut provisions for the investment in the social sector in line with public sector. You give a guarantee that if the private companies further violate your obligation, they will be penalised by economic fines and then their registration should be cancelled. You begin with this and see how they behave. If they do not behave properly and come back to Parliament we will further give amendments and we will further endorse our view. Again I repeat please do not destabilize the GIC and LIC.

With these words I commend. I request the Finance Minister to consider our observation in the Bill in terms of amendments and suggestions at an appropriate hour. Thereafter, we shall certainly be happy to support this Bill. It is because it is not a Bill, as Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has predicted on the political terminology.

[Translation]

There is nothing like collusion between the BJP and the Congress.

[English]

If anybody had fought consistently with BJP, and Jansangh right from the birth of Jansangh, it was Pandit Nehru and the Congress and nobody else.

[Translation]

You people had thought a lot. When you formed the front during emergency, you thought. When you fought against Shri Rajiv Gandhi at that time also you thought Allright. The problem with us is that when people use abusive language against us, we tolerate that but the matter of grief is that the people who were appointed Ministers with our help tend to forget whether we are good or bad.

*SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I represent Shiv Sena party and Parbhani Constituency of Maharashtra. I represent rural area of Maharashtra. Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill has been discussed in the House for the past few days. I do not propose to discuss all salient features and aspects of this Bill. I would like to highlight only one particular aspect of this Bill. Insurance, insurance company and the beneficiary of the insurance are three important factors. We have to consider whether the actual beneficiary gets benefited through insurance and insurance agencies. I welcome the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill brought forward by Finance Ministry. I extend the support of Shiv Sena party for this Bill and I also extend support on my own behalf also for this Bill. But while implementing provisions of this bill especially in rural areas certain difficulties may come up. India consists of rural areas. 70% of our population resides in rural areas. Whether farmers, artisans labourers, agricultural workers living in rural areas are going to be benefited by implementing this Bill is the real question? We have to think how the insurance companies would be implementing the provisions of this bill and whether the beneficiary would face harassment at the hands of these companies. I welcome the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill brought forward by the Finance Ministry because it would allow foreign companies to enter the insurance sector. This will enable in putting an end to the monopoly of the domestic insurance companies. Whether it be LIC or GIC. The holder of the policy will certainly be benefited on account of this Bill. Insurance has become an inseparable aspect of life. Whether it is an insurance of one's life or tractor, jeep, electric motor, house, animals like cows or buffalo. A common person or a farmer should have the facility of insuring these things. He must get sufficient amount of compensation if he insures his life or his belongings. Whenever there is an incident because of which the beneficiary claims the insurance amount, he should not face hurdles and difficulties in getting the claim settled. Farmers or agricultural workers who have insured their life or belongings should actually get the benefit. When we are discussing this issue, I feel it is necessary to ensure that common man does not face any hurdles and obstacles while getting the amount of insurance. No technical difficulties should come in the way while he is seeking his insurance claim. I feel it is necessary to ensure this so that actual beneficiaries get their claims settled without difficulty.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

I do not want to discuss much on this issue. But through this discussion I would only like to point out that while the insurance claim is settled, the common man should not be harassed by insurance company, the agent or the insurance inspectors. Technical considerations should not come in the way and deprive the beneficiary of the benefit which he is going to get on account of his insurance. I request Hon. Finance Minister and Finance Ministry that the benefit of insurance should go to the farmers, agricultural workers, artisans, persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, backward class people and above all the people living in rural areas. We have to see that no technical problems come in their way and their insurance claims are settled without any difficulty. This is the aspect which I want to emphasise in this debate.

With these words I conclude my speech.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to strongly oppose the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999.

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvansh Parsadji, why are you speaking so loudly ?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will speak in low tone. We have to speak loudly when no heed is paid towards our views.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my firm opinion that this Bill is retrogressive in nature. This Bill is not only a retrograde step but it will also sound death knell to the 'Swadeshi' economy. One Insurance Bill is of 1938, another Insurance Bill of 1956 and yet another Insurance Bill is of 1972-73. We have heard of two-in-one, three-in-one, but this is one-in-three. A Legislation is being enacted over these three Bills. In 1956, when the private insurance companies became bankrupt they were nationalised and the Life Insurance Corporation was created. Thereafter in 1972-73 people felt that the companies in General Insurance Sector were not functioning properly and there were lot of irregularities in their working. This led to their nationalisation and the G.I.C. was created. From the reports, which Members have quoted just now, it seems that these companies are progressing and earning profit. I would like to know that when these companies are progressing and earning profit then why private companies are being invited to participate in this sector?

The Government is inviting not only private companies but also foreign companies to participate in this sector. What kind of economics is this. I am not able to understand as to why it is being done. The Government is very anxious. It wants that somehow this Bill should be passed. What is the need to pass this Bill? Are LIC and GIC running in losses due to which government wants to bring improvement in them? Would it be proper to operate upon a healthy wrestler even when he is winning all competitions? Today, when the GIC and LIC are

earning profit, even then foreign private companies are being invited for participation in this sector. In this, three of them are very anxious. One is foreign companies. They want an opportunity to enter in LIC sector of India at any cost. Secondly, private companies are anxious and thirdly America will be anxious. Only these three of them will be anxious, others will not be anxious to enter this sector. The left parties are even agitating on this issue. The workers of their Union are organising strike. Ruling benches are behaving like anti-democrats. The person who is working.....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): If you speak in a low tone even then it will be audible.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It will be worthwhile to speak in a low tone if they pay attention to it. About 1.5 crore people have signed a memorandum which is pending with the Petitions Committee. Even then the Government did not bother about it. They are saying that they will listen if we speak in low tone. 1.5 crore people have signed a memorandum and submitted it. The representatives of Employees Association are agitating. You are not listening to them. The Government is saying that if we remain peaceful then they will listen to us, this is not correct. How they will listen to us? We know the power of money. The multinational companies want to enter in this sector. The Private Companies and Foreign Companies are desiring to enter in this sector though the Insurance Corporation, which is working under Government, is functioning in an excellent manner. Everyone has supported it through figures. Right now, I don't have time, otherwise I would have also quoted the figures. Private companies in other countries are in bad shape. About 300 Companies out of 3000 companies in America are bankrupt. They now want to enter the Indian Market. Similarly in other countries the Life Insurance Companies are in the red and their business has come to a grinding halt. All these companies are incurring losses. They want to take this opportunities to enter the Indian Market so that they could come out of the red. Their lobby is very strong. The ruling party is wilting under their pressure. When our life insurance sector is progressing then what is the need of bringing this Regulatory Bill ? The Government is saying that it will improve the situation by this Regulatory Bill? I challenge this Government that it cannot bring any improvement in this way.

Nitishji knows better about non-banking companies such as Kuber and JVG which have looted the hard-earned money of poor people and vanished. People are running from pillar to post to find out as to where our money has gone. Non-banking companies with the name of Kuber, Burns India and many others were opened and they vanished with the hard earned money of the people which was deposited in these companies by the poor people. Now they are bringing private companies to the insurance sector. If these companies too run away with the hard earned money of the people then what will they do, can they give an answer to it? When the private

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

companies of the country too run away with the money and the poor people will run helter-skelter calling for mercy then do they have the accountability for that. That give licence to non-banking companies. An enquiry committee was constituted over it and some people even went to jail but it has, in no way, helped the poor people. One poor person came to me and said that if I do a bit of advocacy for him then he will be able to get back his money. A widow who has deposited her hard earned money amounting to Rs. 3 lakhs with these companies also came to me pleading that her daughter's marriage is to take place and if I make some efforts then she will be able to get back her money.

These people are the partners in such kind of private companies which thrive on the loot of the hard earned money of the poor people and declare themselves bankrupt. We have big doubt about their intention. They demand that a Joint Select Committee should be constituted for probing the matter. Then they say that the Standing Committee has passed it with some dissent. When a committee in Rajya Sabha was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj who is the Member of their own party, the Committee was of the unanimous view that private and foreign companies should not be allowed to enter in the insurance sector. Some people even admit that the entry of foreign companies pose a danger. Yet they say that you should not oppose it as their share will remain only 26 per cent. It is hard to guess as to why they are saying so. They feel that if the foreign companies arrive they will invest the capital, remove poverty from the country and the economic situation of the country will improve. Only these people can think that the foreign companies are eager to alleviate poverty, make capital investment, generate employment and start economic reforms in the country. While the truth is that the foreign companies will aim at earning profit. Our Congress colleagues talk about social sector but what do these foreign companies have to do with social sector? There are hutments of poor persons in our country. A poor person rears a cow of good breed for Rs. 10-15 thousands. If the cow falls sick and dies, it deprives the poor person of his only source of livelihood. Have the Government made or will make any provision in that regard? Poor people are not going to be benefited from foreign and private companies in any way. They will come here for their own profits and will go away when they find a chance to do so. We do not feel that they will be able to protect the interests of the poor. We have examples in this regard.

The management of J.V.G. company ran away from here while the poor people had invested thousands of their hard earned rupees there. Nobody is there to look after their interests. Therefore, we are of the firm opinion that in no case, the private and foreign companies should be allowed to enter in this sector. Life Insurance Company and General Insurance Company have been performing well(Interruptions)

Mulayam Singhji's submission is correct. Nothing will come out of the amendment and Joint Select Committee. It should be withdrawn, otherwise they should tell as to what is the hurry and what is the urgent need and why the country needs the entry of these foreign companies. The privatisation of Life Insurance Corporation was completed in 1973. Since then this sector is progressing well.....(Interruptions) When any sector comes under the Government Control it starts running in losses. People ask to privatise it for it has become inefficient after becoming a Government enterprise but it is the only sector which has become more efficient and is progressing after coming under the control of the Government. But these people are saying that we will bring it under Government control to make it more efficient. We feel that this is a retrogressive step and will put a check on the progress we are making. It is a death warrant for the Swadeshi economy. Therefore we submit before the House that this document should be withdrawn in the interest of the poor people. If the Government do not withdraw it then our friends from Congress should never support any proposal brought by this Government. The House should reject this proposal and if this proposal is not passed then their Government will also fall. They say that we will rule for five years. Earlier they ruled for 13 months, but I feel that now they are going to lose power in few days.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Sir, I rise to support this Bill. I was listening with rapt attention to the *ghangore virodh* of Raghuvansh Pratap Singhji which was very high in sound and low in substance. Of course, since it is always like that, I just do not want to comment on that.

But anyway, very strong opposition was made by Shri Mulayam Singh Ji and Shri Rupchand Palji. I listened to them with rapt attention. I also listened to the very spirited speech given by the hon. Shri Dasmuni, which was full of self-eulogy for the Congress Party. Since he has supported our Bill, I will not enter into any argument with him, I will not point out any of the duplicacies shown by the Congress Party several times within these 50 years. I will not mention all those things here. Since he has supported us, I will also like to seek all help from him because we require it now.

Already very illuminating defence has been given by Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy and Dr. Nitish Sengupta from our side, from the Treasury Benches. I will not go into the details of what they have already told. I will not repeat it. My point is that there are two-three myths, which are being spread.

In the Twelfth Lok Sabha, when I was speaking on the Patents Amendment Bill, hon. Members from the leftist parties raised the spectre of great East Indian Company again coming to India, engulfing the entire country, engulfing LIC, engulfing the social fabric of this country, engulfing the General Insurance Company and everything. They raised that spectre at that time. They are saying the same thing now also.

But my point is that society has changed, the economy has changed. Shri Rupchand Pal read many paragraphs from the 1998 BJP manifesto and he reminded us that previously we were supporting *Swadeshi* and now we have become *Videshi*. So, we are the people who have changed our views. But I want to make this point here that economy of a country is a variable proposition.

In 1886, when there was a famine in Orissa, three lakh people died. At that time, there were almost about 15 lakh people in Orissa. Three lakh people died and the Government could not do anything. But now, even after this super cyclone, now the entire world has come to its help. Whether the Government of Orissa is capable or incapable or whether they want to retain their Chief Minister or they do not want it, that is a different matter, but now the world has become small. Now the world will never allow three lakh people to die in a State. That is why I said that the Congress, the Leftists Parties have all changed their economic policies in due course of time from the Nehruvian Era.

The Congress Party had the economic ideology of socialism first. Then during Shrimati Indira Gandhi's time, they came to nationalisation policy and again during the time of Narasimha Raoji, they again came to the policy of globalisation.

I want to say that the *Swadeshi* which was enunciated by the *Sangha Parivar* or the Bhartiya Janata Party has its own meaning. What is the meaning of *Swadeshi*?

Swadeshi means that India will be made by Indians and Indians will stand on their own legs. Now, every time we are being told that the East India Company and other Foreigners will come; the foreign direct investment will come; and the FIs will come and capture the Indian economy.

I will give you two or three examples. Take the example of Maruti Company. It was basically an Indian company. Maruti Company identified itself with India. Now, the automobile sector in India has been opened up. The foreign manufacturers have come in a large number. The Indian road scenario has been revolutionized and now you will see so many foreign cars. Have they been able to drive out Maruti company from competition? Compare the Maruti car of today with the Maruti car of ten years back. The technology has improved. The quality of the Maruti car has improved. Now, Maruti company has also been able to produce cars of the international standards. I was just seeing the other day in a magazine about a new medium range car, 'Maruti Baleno' which they have produced.

Take the example of the banking sector. We have opened it up. Many foreign banks have opened their branches in India. But after all these operations, if you take the total deposits in the entire Indian banking sector, the deposits of all the foreign banks combined together do not come up to

more than eight per cent of the total deposits. They have not been able to elbow out the Indian banks out of the business.

Take the example of mutual funds. Now, this sector has also been opened up. Now, the foreign companies, the multinational companies have also opened up their mutual funds in India but still the Unit Trust of India is the leading player. They have not been able to elbow out the UTI from the business.

I will give you another example. In the two-wheeler market, Suzuki, Honda and other companies have entered India. The Indian company, Bajaj has not been closed. They competed with them and now, 300 Indian two-wheeler companies are selling their goods in Europe, Africa, and United State of America. So, why do you have a fear that all the time the foreigners will come and will make India small? Why do you not think that Indian companies will go to America and capture their market also? I will give you the example of the computer sector. Take the case of WIPRO. It is now the number one computer manufacturing company in the United States of America. The owner of WIPRO—I am forgetting his name—is considered to be the richest Indian in the world today.

18.33 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

One day the time will come when the Indians will go abroad; India will also create its own multinational companies and we will go to other countries and also capture their markets as Japan has captured half of the Hollywood companies. It is not true that the American market is a totally protective market and other companies are not entering it. It is not true. Dr. Sengupta has said, other companies have also entered it and have captured a greater part of American economy and American companies. So, we can do that.

We want to make India great. We want to make India a world power. How? It cannot be done by resorting to protectionism; by giving protection to our companies, who do not improve in quality and who do not improve in giving qualitative service.

I agree that the insurance companies of India—Life Insurance Corporation and General Insurance Corporation—have done a good job. I do not deny it. But I also agree with hon. Member, Dr. Nitish Sengupta, that much better could have been done. Everyone has already mentioned that about 22 per cent of the insurable population of India have been insured. Why not more? Why could we not do more? I am saying that there is a place for everybody in India. If the foreigners come, if the multinationals come, they are not going to weed out others.

I will just give one example. Take the example of Philippines and Taiwan. Even after the entry of the multinational

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

companies and insurance companies, they are having only 5.5 per cent market share in Philippines and only 2.9 per cent market share in Taiwan. If you ask me why their market share is not more, then how will they provide money for our infrastructure for which we are inviting them?

Sir, I mean to say that it is just a signal. I am not saying that insurance companies will bring money. They may not bring much of money, but it is the signal we are giving to the West. It is a signal we are giving to the multinational companies that India has opened up its economy, opened up its sector in real terms. We require 60 billion dollars for only the power sector.

We require Rs. 1,25,000 crore for the National Highways and Express Highways, a pet project by our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Where do we get all this money? This money will have to come from outside because this requires a long gestation period for recovery because to construct a road and to gain profit on this, you require 30 to 40 years. Not many investors will come and invest their money and just wait for 30 years or 40 years to get back their money and profit. So, for this gestation period, we require them and they will only come, if they are really convinced that India has opened up and Indian economy has opened up.

The General Insurance Corporation and the Life Insurance Corporation are having a wide network of more than 6,000 branches. These are the two institutions, which are having their branches outside India; they are having their branches in Baharin and in the United Kingdom. So, I am saying that these are the institutions which are capable of giving a tough fight to the foreign multinational companies and if the multinational companies come and if there is competition, then the quality of service provided by the Life Insurance Corporation and the General Insurance Corporation will improve. As a result of that the people will be benefited and they will get better qualitative service at a low premium.

I mean to say that the small companies or multinational companies which will come, will not be able to compete with the life Insurance Corporation and the General Insurance Corporation for ten or twenty years to come and they will not be able to elbow them out of their business. So, let the General Insurance Corporation and the Life Insurance Corporation stand up as Indian Companies like the Maruti and WIPRO and let them fight with the multinationals and prove that they are the best in the world and they do not require any protection from the Government of India.

So, finally, let me say, as Dr. Nitish Sengupta, has told that only because some people will lose their leadership in trade union activities, let us not go to deprive the millions and millions of people of this country from getting benefit from the Private Insurance Company and from the insurance sector.

Lastly, I would say that because of the fear that the multinational companies might come and might engulf us, let us not do away with this golden opportunity of just inviting other companies which will give us the advance technology and which will provide us with better quality service so that the Indian companies will also improve.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR); Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether I rise to support this bill or oppose this Bill. It is in between. This particular Bill was the baby of the Congress, as a follow up of the Malhotra Committee. This was hijacked by Shri Chidambaram. All our friends had supported it at that time, though CPI(M), as usual, opposed it, I must say. But afterwards it was tactically kidnapped by Shri Yashwant Sinha. Why we were worried and why I particularly was trying to stop it for the last two days was, as Shri Dasmusi has said, because of a very unmannerly remark by your spokesman. He is a good spokesman, but he should take the reality of life. You can not browbeat a party of 136 Members and get the support in that manner. Your Parliamentary Affairs Minister says that this is your Bill and is going to be passed. Your spokesman says that this is a bargain by the Congress to save Rajiv Gandhi. Rajiv Gandhi will save himself. Shri Bhagat has come out, Shri Jain has come out, Shri Balram Jakhar has come out. Nobody with political vendetta can do anything to anybody. The Indian Supreme Court and the Indian High Courts are still alive. My hats off to them. What the CBI do, let them do, but justice will come from the proper place. Today what makes you to think that we are going to oppose this Bill? If you say this is your Bill and you are going to pass it and the Congress has to support it, this is not fair. We dialogued for two days. I tried to resist, but hat off to my leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. She stood firm and said: This is our commitment; they are doing it and we should support it. Even then you are saying that Sonia Gandhi is not supporting, that they are doing this thing, that thing. She has overruled our opinion. Even then I have one small submission to make and I know the Finance Minister will appreciate it. I do not know of many things which have been said against him today. I know he is basically a sportsman, a tennis player. I am also a player. So, we know each other very well. What I want to say is that I have been a victim of this liberalisation. I was the first man to do delicensing in steel. I was the first man to take away freight equalisation. I was the first man to do decontrol. The Finance Ministry had assured me that they would always see that we did not get an unhealthy competition from outside. To my surprise, within two years, the customs duty was reduced. Officers like N.K. Sengupta and Montek Singh Ahluwalia say, it is a level playing ground. Level playing ground I have seen in Cricket and tennis, not in economics. I want to my P.S. and asked him what is this that all should be given equal facility to fight? The power rate is going up, the railway freight is going up, the employees' salary bill is going up, the bank interest is going up, everything is going up.

At the same time you reduced the custom duty and you asked the Steel Ministry to fight with you.

I am glad that today, of late, you have made some reduction. I will appeal to you to see that such things should not happen here. Why am I saying this? During the briefing on this over the last three days, one of the greatest economists of the country or the world, in reply to a question, said that the premium will come down when the foreign companies or the private sector comes. How does it help L.I.C. and others? If the premium goes out, L.I.C. may again become sick and they might have to go to B.I.F.R. Premium should not go down to outlive L.I.C. if there is a reason. But do not forget that the establishment cost of the L.I.C. is much higher than that of a small private company coming in the market. They go to Calcutta and have a small, computerised office and say that so much is the premium for this. All will go from L.I.C. to 'A' Company and then what will happen after some time? There will be an agitation. They will say: "Hell with this staff of L.I.C. and G.I.C."

I am not a Communist. They are always against me. But I want to say that the employees must also be protected. I have seen what had happened in I.I.S.C.O. The Ministers were coming and I was advising them. But I.I.S.C.O. is not revived. The staff is still there without work. What is the help? Nothing else is happening. We must learn from history. Some protection has to be given.

Secondly, L.I.C. is doing very very good work in the field of social justice in the country. They have a number of schemes. I have seen in my constituency. I have seen a good L.I.C. Manager. I have got it done. They help. Even in fire-fighting, they have come and helped. It is the attitude of the L.I.C. which the Government has inculcated, and imparting it depends on you and me.

They are coming with this 26 per cent and doing business. You must take care that it does not happen like the Steel Ministry. All the people of steel sector are crying. They do not come to pay donation during election time saying that there is no money and they cannot pay. That is their condition. You be very careful. We have to see it.

We are definitely going to support this Bill. But it should not be diluted. If you accept what the Standing Committee has said and amendments that are coming before you, it is good. If you can convince us that you cannot do it, that is another thing. We are open to it. But we have thought over it very very carefully and we thought that these things can be accepted by your Government.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRACKPORE): What apprehension is there for it?(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I will not make a big speech. I would like to say that I do not go with the opinion that the employees of L.I.C. and G.I.C. are irresponsible. Their unions are very strong. They do this thing and that thing.

Generally they have proved well and they have contributed to the national exchequer for various things by collecting the premium and other things. Today we are on the street. Their representatives should be called by the Minister of Finance or the hon. Prime Minister. The views and the apprehension expressed by them should be taken care of. You have said in a public meeting—I have seen it—that you have no intention to see that the L.I.C. goes out of business or they go out of the social cause which they are serving. You yourself have said it. Why are they not believing?(Interruptions) It is because they are seeing what happened in the past. It may not be your Government. Many Governments have not kept their word. As I said, I was the Minister looking after the steel sector. I did many things. I could not keep my word when I told the industry people and others.

You say you are going to build a new India. It is good. Many people said about it. Sh. N.K. Sengupta, a former bureaucrat said something. You are also a reasonable bureaucrat but not a bad bureaucrat. Within your circle, you are doing well

The functions of the LIC should be considered vis-a-vis the functions of the private sector. We have seen in the past that North-Eastern sector is a sensitive area. We have no objection to private companies going there, but the companies having foreign investment should be restricted from going to the North-East. Why am I saying so? It is better to ask the Home Ministry, not me. In the guise of the agents of LIC and other companies, many persons will land there and contribute to destabilisation. That has to be monitored by the Government in one way or the other. You know that at one time, there used to be a lot of foreigners in the tea industry and other industries. Gradually, the Government of India had to ask them to go back and Indians took over. They have to see on this factor also.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, Shri Bhakta is not here. You are from Lakshadweep. He told me that neither Andaman and Nicobar Islands nor Lakshadweep was looked after by the LIC. I do not know whether it is correct or not. You cannot speak sitting on the Chair. I am speaking and you look at me. In these sectors also, the insurance companies can get better business than in many of the big cities because people use to keep their money in a place where it is secured. As you know, many of the finance companies have ditched money of the investors in this country. The Government is taking action, but it is a long process. So, more branches of the LIC should be opened in the remote areas. Let cities be taken over by the private companies. Let the expansion of the LIC be in the rural areas, in the remote areas whereby we can avail of the facilities provided by the LIC. At the same time, the message goes that the facilities to the rural sector and urban poor will be maintained.

With these words, under constraint, I am supporting this Bill, which I was not supposed to do originally. But something

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

came in the newspaper against me. I do not know how it came. My point was only that the issue has been mishandled by your managers. Many more Bills will come where we have to cooperate with you and you have to cooperate with us. Kindly tell them tonight that thus far and no further. When they go in front of Zee TV or Star TV, they become mad thinking that the whole nation is listening to them and they do not know what to say and what not to say. They should not say anything at the expense of the Government or at the expense of the relationship between friendly parties here. Everybody is here for constructive work.

Shri Nitish Kumar, are you listening to me?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: No.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Okay, you are not listening. Let some Bill pertaining to your Ministry come. I will see how you get it passed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, with these words, I request that.....

Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Are you supporting it?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: No, I am not opposing it. I am toing the line of my party. But we were hurt when it was equated with Rajivji. We do not want to see that. Whatever might be the constraints of the Government relating to CBI or other things, that is another issue. It should not be tagged up with this particular issue. Tomorrow, there will be a headline in the newspaper that the Congress party, at last, sacrificed Shri Rajiv Gandhi and taken Shri Jaswant Singh in their lap and supported the Bill. This also should not come. If it comes tonight, the situation may change overnight and voting is to take place tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (ALIPURDUARS): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill.

We are discussing a sensitive issue today. We wish that a policy should be formulated in accordance with the present condition of the country. Through this Bill, the present Government is trying to open insurance sector to private companies and invite foreign companies in this sector. I rise to oppose it on behalf of R.S.P. Insurance Companies are in a bad condition in foreign countries, be it U.S.A., United Kingdom or any European country. The position of several insurance companies has worsened there and under the pressure of multi-national companies and super powers, the present Government is trying to accommodate those insurance companies in our country. I, therefore, oppose this Bill.

You can see the position of foreign banks which have

set up their branches here. We want those institutions to work for the welfare and development of villages and for facilitating common man but our experience shows that foreign banks set up their branches in big cities, urban areas and metropolitan cities only. Should we not learn a lesson from this experience? Then why insurance sector is being opened to multinational and private sector companies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my point is that when the Government has not been able to control and regulate branches of foreign banks and foreign companies and these have been unable in fulfilling social obligations, should we not then get any lesson from it? Now you are trying to handover insurance sector to foreign companies. You are not working keeping in view the conditions prevailing in our country and are trying to help multinationals under some pressure and that is not in the interest of the country. Today, more than 1.5 crore people engaged in insurance sector are on strike. They are staging demonstration. It is our duty to respect their sentiments because we the public representatives have been elected by their valuable votes. Our policies should be framed for the welfare of downtrodden, backward, and the poor living in villages. We should formulate rules and policies for their development. But it seems that this Government is trying to bring this amendment under some conspiracy. The LIC and GIC are providing excellent service to the people of urban, rural and as well as people living in far flung areas. It seems that the Government is not interested in the progress of these services. In stead of supporting them, the Government is trying to remove them from insurance business.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know that invitation to foreign companies in insurance sector will put the future of LIC and GIC in dark. We oppose this Bill keeping the interest of the country in view. We oppose this Bill. With this, I conclude.

19.00hrs.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is no quorum in the House. I would like to say that first let there be quorum and then next speech may be made.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the quorum bell be rung.

Now there is quorum. Hon'ble Member Shri Amar Roy Pradhan may continue.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (COOCHBEHAR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the views that have been expressed by Shri Rupchand Pal and others of the Left Front and also of Shri Mulayam Yadav.

Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill vehemently. I would like to

raise my voice as high as possible against this Bill because of the fact that this is a Bill which is not only anti-people and anti-labour but is also an anti-national Bill.

The two lakh employees of the LIC and GIC have done a lot and their contributions have been mentioned here by so many hon. Members from both the sides. The LIC and GIC are profit-making companies. According to my knowledge, I am not an economist, and according to the data available with me, let us try to look at performances of the LIC and GIC. In 1998, there was a growth of 13.3 per cent in respect of new policies; growth on first premium was 22.55 per cent; growth on total premium income was 22.66 per cent. Total income during the last fourteen years, that is from 1984 to 1998, is Rs. 36,352.59 crore. Total assets is to the tune of Rs. 1,32,764 crore. They also have contributed a lot towards the social security net.

There are a lot of companies in India which are not profit-making. But these two companies, namely, the LIC and GIC are performing very well. I do not know the reason as to why these two companies would have to be privatised and would also require foreign investment.

One major criticism that has been levelled against the LIC and the GIC is that it has not spread according to the population and the GDP. Mr. Finance Minister you would be knowing better as to what is meant by GDP? GDP is the total growth of the economy. GDP does not mean as to how much money has been distributed. What is the position of our country at this moment?

About fifty per cent of total population of India lives below the poverty line. Is it not a fact that about forty per cent of total population of the country lives in thatched houses? Is it not a fact that in our country a great number of people are half-fed, ill-clad and without shelter? After allowing for this fact, you will find that the data of insurance coverage in foreign countries like USA and UK is not much more than that done by LIC and GIC in India. In a country like ours, who will go in for insurance cover? Will those who are living in thatched houses go in for insurance cover? Will they go to LIC and GIC and buy insurance policies? Only ten per cent of population in the country can afford insurance and they have taken insurance cover. When you consider the figure of insurance coverage by LIC and GIC in India for the year 1998 in the light of these facts, you will find that it is actually much more than what it is shown to be. In these circumstances, why should the Government go in for this measure?

Sir, my 'hats off' to insurance employees who had submitted a detailed memorandum to Joint Committee of Parliament. That memorandum says:

"In such a situation what will be happening is, the savings of our economy channeled through insurance compa-

nies would be taken out of the country in diverse ways without India being in a position to have a share in the foreign insurance market and savings and capital in their economies. This is what has happened in regard to all developing countries..... Insurance Markets in foreign countries, particularly in advanced and industrialised countries are very tightly regulated and are closed markets. There is no scope for registration of Indian companies in USA. For example, only three per cent of total insurance premium collected in USA was controlled by non-US companies in the year 1990. In case of France it is five per cent; in UK it is five per cent; and in Japan it is three per cent"

If that is the position in other countries, India is better off now than it would be after allowing foreign participation. The memorandum further says:

"There is an interesting study of the RBI as published in *The Hindu* dated 11th November, 1998, where it is mentioned that in the process of foreign collaboration more money has flowed out of the country than received, causing apart from balance of payments problems, several other destabilising effects."

In India, a Reserve Bank study on foreign collaborations reveals that the operations of the 458 survey firms with foreign share-holding resulted in a net drain of foreign exchange over Rs. 15 billion over a five year period. If it is fact that we have lost this heavily, why is the Government still insisting on inviting foreign private companies into this sector? We know that in the insurance sector there are some private companies, this way or that way, which are having some scope for insurance. What is the fate of those companies? They have been paid their due share.

Sir, the report of the Reserve Bank of India is something which we should take note of. They said that whenever we invited foreign companies into our country our units became losing concerns in that particular sector. This should be taken note of.

Dr. Nitish Sengupta talked of what happened in China. China has a controlled economy.

Can you tell me which are those foreign countries which have allowed LIC and GIC to do insurance business in their countries? None. Can you be guided by them? Never. I know the difficulties that you are facing today. Can you guide the WTO? No. It is because India's position is not so much that you can guide all the foreign companies in India. This is the position. China can direct the Italian and US firms that they can guide only in hotel industry. They have directed the USA to just invest money only in hotel sector. But here in India can you dictate the foreigners in such a manner as has been done in China? Can you direct the multinationals in that manner?

[Shri Amar Roy Pradhan]

You cannot do at this present moment because India is a very poor country. Why are you having so much craze about foreign companies? You speak about the *swadeshi* but what have you done about *swadeshi*? When I travel in trains, I saw that only *dahi* was in the earthen pot and then I felt "Yes. The Vajpayee Government have done something for keeping *dahi* in earthen pot." We have not been able to keep up the culture of *swadeshi*. It is not possible at this moment because India is not a new member of the WTO.

How much export have you done? It is simply 0.9. If it is so, then our position is very very weak and in that respect at this fag end of this debate, through you I have to appeal to the Ministry, to the Finance Minister and others that in the interest of the two lakh people of our country, those who are working in the LIC and GIC and for the interest of the country and of the people, you please do not take up this Bill. You please withdraw this Bill. That is my request to you because this Bill will not do good work. It will give signals to other organisations which are making profits, like the LIC and the GIC. If you put 26 per cent shares to these company and if you put the private parties here, if you put the foreigners here, if you put multinationals here, then the signal will go to other organisations. Even in India till today there are some organisations which make profit just like the GIC and LIC and then the employees of those companies will feel shaky and the production will be less. If it is so, we should not handle those profit making bodies in such a manner through privatisation.

So, my appeal to you is to please withdraw this Bill even at this stage.

DR. JAYANT RONGAPI (AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT – ASSAM) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to register my total opposition to the IRA Bill. I have been listening to the debate and specially listening to the Treasury benches and to the Congress who are engaged in friendly match.

The entire debate has been limited to the Congress saying that they are placing some amendments and requesting that they be considered and the ruling party saying that it was basically a Congress commitment and that the Chairman of the Standing Committee belonged to that Party. The entire game of the debate was restricted to that.

I feel that the crux or the essence of this Bill is far more deeper and far more consequential to our national life than what both the major political formations have put forward. More than 1.5 crore people of India have signed a memorandum asking the hon. Minister of Finance and the Government to reconsider the Bill. Here is a Government, which, from the very first day has been speaking about consensus. They are not bringing in the Bill to provide for reservation to women saying that there is no consensus. They are not bringing in

the Statehood Bills for three new States saying that consensus has to be evolved. In the case of the present Bill, there is no consensus at all. There has been no consensus not only in the Parliament but lakhs of workers have openly registered their resentment in the street. There is no consensus. Still, they are pushing through this Bill because they have the majority and maybe they are assured of support from the major Opposition Party. It is evident from this that their main intention is to go by the diktats of the World Trade Organization.

I was a Member of this House when the entire process of liberalization started by the Congress in 1991. The then Minister of Finance used to say that initially there might be some difficulty but after two years the results of globalization and liberalization would trickle down to the village level. He used to say this giving out much data and many explanations. He painted a very rosy picture that the effect of globalization, the effect of more funds coming into India would solve unemployment, that the Government could spare more funds for developmental work. What is the reality today? Now, it is the fag end of century. Eight years have already passed after the process of liberalization started. Has the benefits of globalization trickled down to the village level? Could the Government spare more funds? They can say on paper that so much funds have gone to the social sector or villages. Is it a fact? Is it not a fact that half the population of Orissa is devastated by the cyclone? We have the Government of Orissa saying that they do not have the money to tackle the problem. The Government of India is also saying that they are facing problems.

For the North-East, many packages have been declared by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance but the money has not gone there. So, in spite of the theories that globalization will strengthen the economy nothing has been done as they had promised. I still remember how again and again the advocates of the New Economic Policy have been pointing towards Thailand and Philippines. If you go through the records of the proceedings of those years, you will find that they have been convincing us that Thailand has gone ahead of us and Philippines has gone ahead of us because of globalisation.

But these days, they do not give the example of Thailand and Philippines because the result was very much obvious. Their entire economy, the very backbone of the economies of Thailand and Philippines, the very essence of self-reliance which they had earlier to the economic policy had been smashed due to the process of globalization.

This particular Bill, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, is a part of a bigger design to economically destabilize India and not to economically smash whatever self-reliance the people of India had been trying to build up. So, it is a bigger conspiracy to make us weak economically so that we can succumb to the pressures of the multinationals and we can succumb to the global players

especially the United States of America and other super powers.

Therefore, this Bill is not only anti-people and it not only involves LIC and GIC, if you go deeper into this Bill, you can also see that in the larger interest, if I am permitted to say, it is anti-national.

So, I register my strongest protest. If I had more Members in my party, I would have definitely not restricted myself only to giving this speech, I would have stalled the proceedings so that this Bill could not have been introduced. But maybe luckily for them and unfortunately for me I did not have the requisite Members to stall the proceedings.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I strongly oppose the Insurance Bill presented by the Minister of Finance in this House. The statement of objects and reasons says that the economy of our country will improve or develop by inviting foreign companies to invest in India. The Government think in that way. But I think that the development schemes should be implemented to develop the economy of the country. This bill should not be passed as we had made efforts in this direction, but the Congress party has said that they will support it. We strongly oppose the issue of privatisation because this will effect the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. There is a provision in the Constitution for reservation of 22.5% of jobs for the SCs and STs. With the rise in privatisation, the job opportunities for SCs and STs will automatically decline.

Sir, we are demanding it from the very beginning that if you want to develop the private sector, is the Government thinking to provide protection to SCs and STs in private sector also? There is no such provision in this bill for the foreign companies or other private companies. There should be a reservation policy in companies of private sector. I would also like to request my colleagues of Congress Party that many times in the past they have shown concern towards the SCs and STs. But with the rise of private sector, the job opportunities for SCs and STs will decrease. As a result of it, the backward class of this country will require to wage a struggle against it. Therefore, I would like to say that you have got a majority, and you too have supported it. We are not in a position to stop this bill, even if we oppose it, but we can stop you. If you help in the passing of this bill, the Government should also think about it. LIC and GIC companies are doing good business. Two lakh employees are working in them. And at least one crore 50 lakh people have opposed this move. In spite of this, why they have brought this bill. I do not understand it. If you had waited for some days, it would have been better,

but you cannot wait. The Minister of Finance has brought this bill due to his own compulsions. I oppose this Bill. With the entry of private companies, the foreign exchange of the country will flow to other countries. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to stop this anti-poor bill, so that the foreign companies may not come to this country. Let LIC and GIC do their work. I would also like to tell you that people living in slums are not at all to be benefited by it. Corruption also prevails in insurance companies, therefore a committee should be set up to check corruption in these companies. If private companies enter this sector, then the possibility of black-money and corruption will also increase. Until corruption and black money are curbed, the country cannot make progress. When action is taken against the people who indulge in acts of corruption and violate laws they manage to get stay orders from the court(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, there are two three other Members who want to speak, please conclude quickly.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I will conclude my speech at 8 O' clock. Until, I finish my speech, the hon'ble Minister cannot deliver his speech. All that I would like to say is that if the ruling party wants to rule for five years, they should withdraw this bill. We and our communist friends are of the same opinion in opposing this Bill. The Congress Party is also with us, but they have got their own compulsions, because they have introduced this Bill earlier. This subject belongs to the Congress Party only. They have pursued the subject of Congress Party. You have brought the subject of Congress Party. We request you to withdraw it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I request you to conclude your speech.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I appeal the Government to withdraw this bill and in deterence to your words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are many divisions, but they are lacking basic facilities, and in spite of this public servants are taking bribes and are running these divisions. This is the condition today. The Minister of Finance and Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance should fix a target to reform these divisions. The Former Minister of Finance, Shri Manmohan Singh had done so. On that occasion, Shri Sinha had strongly opposed it. The hon'ble Minister is trying to get fame by passing this bill. The Minister of State is also supporting him. There are many rivers in our country. The Kumbha fair is held at Ganga in the North and at Godavari in the south. The insurance sector is very important. It has provided help to power sector, in construction of big dams at some places it has been involved in the construction

[Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale]

of houses also. It also provides financial help to many sectors. A lot of bungling used to take place before nationalisation of the insurance companies. A lot of good work has been done in this sector after the nationalisation. In my constituency, a person got himself insured, he had deposited the money also, but 15 days after that, he died. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance is aware of this fact. He is aware that my constituency is facing a great difficulty. There is no transport facility there. It is a forest area. Under these circumstances, the Insurance Company paid Rs. one lakh to the wife of the deceased. I am not opposing for the sake of opposing it. One should not interfere in the sectors where companies are operating smoothly. The nationalisation of insurance companies have proved beneficial for all. It has generated confidence among common people. Government servants are linked with the public welfare. The former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Yashwant Rao Chavan had set up Zila Parishad in 1962. On that occasion the question of retrenching Gram Sewaks was raised. He has solved that problem. Now multinational companies will come. They will retrench our people. The people who are not highly educated do not get jobs outside. But this class serves the country very well. The Government is there to control the SEBI. The people have invested a lot of money in share market, and various mutual funds. Many people have embezzled money, but the Government have not taken any action. How will the Government control foreign companies? You should solve the problem of the working class. This bill will be passed, because Congress is supporting you. The ruling party will manage to get this bill passed. I request that the Government should fulfil my demands which I have raised.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to express my views on the bill presented in the House. Since the last few decades, the world is passing through a transitional phase, because of new thinking, new philosophy is being developed in economic and social sector. I think no country of the world, whether it is a developing country of Asia or Africa can remain in its shell in the state of hibernation. It has to move with the times and that is the need of today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, an effort is being made to bring economic reforms as part of economic liberalization, about which we are having discussion, today in the House. I remember, you might also be remembering that when Congress Party first introduced the strategy of liberalisation, different political parties and analysts had criticised it. At that time an effort was made. I would especially like to mention those people who have brought this bill, were on this side, and we were on that side, whenever, the issue of economic liberalisation was raised, they used to oppose the economic reforms by expressing their apprehensions. I am happy and I would like to congratulate Shri Yashwant Sinha that he has atleast realised that the economy of the country cannot be

brought back on the right track without carrying out economic reforms. That is why they are compelled to accept the views expressed continuously by the Congress Party before the House and before the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I remember, and you might also be remembering that when discussion on GATT and WTO was held, some people had tried to vitiate the atmosphere of the country and some political parties had tried to create such type of atmosphere. People in villages used to ask us whether they will be having a right on the pregnancy of the cow, whether they will get neem sticks to clean their teeth or not. Today we are happy that the people who had created this type of atmosphere agree with us, I would like to congratulate them for it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not possible to stop the process of globalisation spreading all over the European countries. All limitations have been removed. The whole of the Europe is becoming one. Earlier they were not ready to give up their own currency but today they are readily accepting Euro currency in the name of unification. It is happening due to the global economical change taking place everywhere. Keeping in view, all these changes, we have to prepare ourselves to solve the problems that might arise. I am happy that today this process has been initiated.

I was listening to Shri Yashwant Sinha while he was debating the economic situation during the short session of last Lok Sabha. He had given a statement on the economic situation of the country in which he mentioned that the country is paying Rs. 88 thousand crore as interest. The economic resources available in the country are insufficient to cater the needs of the country. Certainly, we all have to consider this issue cutting across the party line. We have political differences which continue to be will remain but, I am of the opinion that we should rise above all these things when a question concerning the economy of the country comes. These are some issues where consensus is necessary for the progress of the country. Any party can be in the power but our narrow approach towards these issues will only show that we are not serving our country. Atleast I am of this opinion.

We have started foreign direct investment in the country. I agree with my friends that foreign direct investments and the earnings were not up to the expected extent. In such a situation, it is necessary to find out the new sources of economic resources. It is our prime responsibility to find out such sources. I would not like to go into such discussions as to who has said what but when we discussed the issue with Congress Party leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and put forth our view points, she clearly stated that political differences can be there but so far as economic condition of the country is concerned, political differences are not above country. It is our moral responsibility to support every such action which strengthens the nation, no matter from which side it has been proposed. I rise to state in that regard only.

Today, we have been able to bring only 1.3% of the cross Domestic Product under Insurance cover. Even today 88% of our population is still not covered by insurance. Even after 50 years, the insurance sector comprising of Jeevan Beema Nigam and other organisations has failed to tap such a large potential in our country. Definitely, they have their own limitations which restrict them to expand their business. They are unable to organise the resources. Now, when the foreign insurance companies having the potential and expertise with them are likely to expand their business in our country, they have to follow some terms and conditions. The first condition is that the economic resources trapped by these companies should be put into use for the social and economical development of the country. Shri Sinha and other members have stated and I would also like to emphasise that such terms and conditions or provisions should be made there. I have seen the provisions made by the Government but I think they are not sufficient. They should be implemented strictly and it should be made mandatory for all such companies that a larger share of their income rather I would say.

[English]

larger share of the income should go to the social sector, agricultural sector, rural development sector and in building up infrastructure like power and so on. That is the requirement of the day.

[Translation]

Therefore, I would like to request you that a provisions should be made to ensure that the income earned by these companies should be reinvested. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to conclude very soon.

My second submission is that the provisions made by you should ensure that the income should not be taken out of the country. Income earned by these companies should be utilised in the country. Our past experiences reveal that legal litigations in regard to some matters concerning us had been raised in foreign lands. So, there should be a provision that the jurisdiction of such legal litigations, if any, raised in this regard should be in India itself so that we may not be compelled to go to other countries to dispose off the matter.

I was very carefully listening to my colleagues of Rashtriya Janata Dal and Samajwadi Party. I am surprised to listen to the views of the hon'ble Members of these parties. During the regime of United Front Government of Shri Indra Kumar Gujral, one of the main point of their common minimum programme was to allow foreign insurance companies to enter in our country. At that time these very colleagues were in favour of this bill. At that time they did not see any fault in it. However, today, when this bill has been introduced here, they are expressing so many apprehensions about it. It seems that heavens are going to fall.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit another point. Priyada had stated this and it will not be an exaggeration if I say that today the State which has got maximum benefit from liberalisation it was West Bengal. I congratulate the Chief Minister of the State Shri Jyoti Basu. It is good that he travelled abroad and invited them to invest there. Shri Priyaranjan Das Munsi has mentioned so many such projects. It is just like to swallow a camel, to strain at a gnat.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will you wait for half a minute? The Chief Minister of West Bengal had stated that liberalisation for the mutual benefit will be on our terms and condition and not theirs.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Pal Saheb has reminded me. While giving his statement he quoted statements given by many leaders during the years 1989, 1991 and 1993 etc. I agree that they must have stated so. Earlier our ancestors used to bless us. "May you have 100 sons". This would have been relevant at that time but today this blessing is like a curse. The circumstances change with the time. A concept which was right in the past becomes wrong today. Those concepts would have been right in those circumstances.

At that time this would have been said. Meanwhile a lot of water has flown under the bridge, a lot of developments have taken place. New concepts have come, perceptions have been changed. Today, within the perview of these circumstances we can definitely say that the authority and the arrangements you are trying to create are essential. Besides, I hope that the suggestions which I have made must be taken into consideration. The last point which I would like to make.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

[English]

SHRI SATYAVARAT CHATURVEDI: I am finishing it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it is his maiden speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Sir, I will conclude just now. I only want to say that politics should not be dragged into such issues. It would be in the interest of the House as well as in the country. It is disgusting that responsible people issue such baseless statements. I think as a gentle man you can realise that pain. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (AMROHA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on behalf of "Bahujan Samaj Party". First of all, I would like to say that my party represent backward and weaker sections of society. They are being discriminated all

[Shri Rashid Alvi]

over the county but they should not be discriminated in the House. After making many requests. We get a little time to speak in the House. Therefore, I would submit that earlier my party was a small one but now it is representing a large section of the society and I will be grateful if you treat us like a big party.(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Sir, small children need extra care.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your's is a single member party therefore, you have got the time to speak first. That is why he is getting less time.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill which is being supported by Congress Party also was first moved by Congress Government and after that the consequent Governments also favoured it. Finally the present Government is also supporting it. What I am going to say is keeping in view the interest of the country. Though Bahujan Samaj Party has decided to support this bill but it does not mean that it is going hand in hand with BJP Government. There should not be such misunderstanding. I am considering the fact as to how this bill is going to benefit the common man and not from which side it has been proposed. That's why I am supporting this bill.

I want to submit that 52 years have been passed since our country got freedom. There has been large scale global changes in these 52 years. Changes occurred in our country also. The map which was on paper 52 years ago has also changed. Ideology and concepts are changing all over the world. The countries which were earlier 100% socialist are also changing their concepts gradually. An example of Russia is before us. Whatever is happening in that country is before the world. India should also adapt to the rapidly changing global scenario.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am of the opinion that India has slow pace of reforms which should be speeded up. Till now, a common man has not felt the benefits of privatisation. The process of liberalisation has come gradually in our country. However, it has benefited the common man in all those sectors in which it has been introduced. We have noticed the Changes which have taken place in the Banks. When a person who has an account in a nationalised bank goes to withdraw money, he is treated as if he is asking for a loan. He has to wait there for an hour to get his own money. He is misbehaved. Similar situation prevails in every nationalised bank. The performance of foreign banks is excellent. A common man has easy reach to them. Today, it is not easy to open an account in a nationalised bank. However, an official of a foreign bank or private bank with a cameraman goes to the interested person and opens his account on the spot. We should not confine our knowledge to the narrow limits. I will appreciate Shri Sinha—

[English]

In the private joint venture insurance companies, the Indian promoters will hold 74 per cent stake in the venture initially leaving foreign partners with 26 per cent.

[Translation]

You are leaving 26%. It is not a big percentage. It is reasonable but alongwith it I would like to say as other members have also said that stringent measures should be taken in this regard and it should be emphasised that the income earned by such foreign companies should be spent for the progress of the country and it should be made mandatory that these companies will go to the rural areas.

It is true that the common man in the villages has not been benefited from the Insurance. But with regard to this Bill, I would like to tell Shri Yashwant Sinha Saheb that there is a need for more honesty and good intension on the part of the Government. Whatever good work you do, if your intension is not good, the outcome will also be not good and if intension is good the country will also be benefited. Things changes according to one's intension. There is a couplet in Urdu "Tauba-tauba sharab se tauba." It seems as if vow is being taken to restrain from liquor. But on the other hand the same person is saying "Tauba, sharab se tauba". The couplet is same, its wording is same but the meaning of both is entirely different. This difference is due to intension of the person. One drunkard is expressing his strong abhorrence to liquor and the other one is reflecting the impossibility of abstaining from liquor. The couplet is same but there is lot of differences in its meaning. Therefore, my submission is that in this the intension of Government would be more important. If their intensions is bonafide and the welfare of the country takes place it will be a great job.

Alongwith it, another question which arises here is that two lakh employees have been raising their voices vehemently that it would harm their interests. My opinion is that if there is healthy competition then it will benefit the country and if it is not so then it will neither benefit the country nor the Insurance companies. Anywhere in the world, only that race, live with dignity which overtakes others. A weak race, weak person and a weak nation cannot lead a life of honour. Iqbal has said:

"Taqdir ke kazi ka yeh
fatwa hai azal se
hai jurme jayefi ki saza,
marge mafajaat."

It is the destiny that decides ultimately. Death shall be the fate of a weak race, nation or a person. Therefore, we

have to emerge victorious in competition. We shall have to make our nation powerful. We shall have to make our nation powerful and for that it is essential that we bring in liberalisation. Therefore, I fully support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity for saying something about this Insurance Regulatory Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please say it in short.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : I will be as brief as possible. But I should convey the message.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, please do it.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : There is a wrong notion that attracting foreign investment into the insurance sector will create problems for the country. It is not so. The present insurance sector—either the Life Insurance or the General Insurance—is mostly covering the urban areas. It has not reached 65 per cent of the people in agricultural sector. In many of the villages, only few people will go for insurance. Unless we make it competitive, unless we liberalise it, unless we attract international players into the field, I am sure that with these monopolistic tendencies and protective nature, it will be very difficult to grow this sector. We have also seen so many other sectors. After liberalisation, they have grown beyond our expectations.

Some of the friend in the House mentioned about cars. For example, you take the case of Maruti cars. After the other players arrived into the field, the growth rate has increased in the case of Maruti cars. Likewise, in the Insurance sector also, if you liberalise it, if you attract the other players, a competitive nature will come into the insurance sector. Ultimately, you have to take into account not only the employees but also the beneficiaries. The employees will continue to have their jobs. I am sure, more jobs will be created if you liberalise it because it has to spread for survival. It has to reach the other sectors where there is no insurance at all. The agricultural sector is not having any insurance. The hon. Minister of Finance and other hon. Members are here. Only a limited number of crops are insured. The other crops have not been insured.

20.00 hrs.

Unless you make it competitive, the economy will not grow. The hon. Finance Minister is here, to say what are our interest rates? The insurance rates are higher, our interest rates are higher and still we wanted to be very competitive. With the manufacturing activity, it is very difficult, to be competitive, that is why, our friends in the Opposition also have agreed for liberalisation of Insurance sector also. I am

very glad that the nation's interest is paramount in this hour of juncture. So, we should all unite together in making this liberalisation full and expanding in other sector also.

Unless you expand the economy, we will not be able to achieve a good growth rate. The slow growth rate which India is facing in that past few years is being observed elsewhere and also some of the people feel why India is not able to attract the desired level of investments? Why China is attracting more investment, because there is a consistent policy in China, and their approach to economic policies. There is more stability in China for attracting foreign investment. Whereas in our country too often or too frequently, changing the policies or uttering something and seeing something which will be affecting our economy in the years to come. So, I feel this Insurance Bill as it is, should go and we should also make so many other things liberalise so that the foreign investment or the money that is required by way of equity would come to the country. Otherwise borrowing money from institutions will not help this country. We have to get money by way of equity, by way of investment so that the country will grow further and further and we will have the fruits of liberalisation.

Everybody is looking at the time, so I do not want to continue. With these words, I fully support the recommendations of the hon. Finance Minister so that the Bill should go through as it is.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members the House was extended up to 8 O' clock. There are three more Members who are waiting for a chance to speak. It would be a good gesture, if all of us sit and hear in short all the three of them so that tomorrow to that extent we will minimise our job.

Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time of the House by fifteen minutes?

SEVERAL MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): With great respect to the hon. Deputy-Speaker, I have got certain *locus standi* to speak because I do not want to make it as a very great thing. But in Mahabharata there is a story that Kunti tried to use the vow given by the Sun God and she bequeathed a child even before her marriage. That was Karna. Karna was treated as an orphan and subsequently he became a king.

In the same way, this Bill was bequeathed and unnoticedly a floodgate was opened by my best friend, Shri Chidambaram against whom I contested and I defeated him with a margin of more than one lakh votes. I am not just claiming myself to say about it but I have to express my views because when I opposed Shri Chidambaram I put forth these ideas that foreign investment and other things should not be so easily allowed in India. That was only one of my speeches made during the election period.

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

Actually I was supported by the Communist Party of India, Marxist Party of India, other Left Parties, and especially the AIADMK headed by a very strong dynamic leader, *Puratchi Thalaivi* Dr. Jayalalitha. Therefore, I have got certain duty to express my views and their ideas also because I have got the votes from them. That was the difference I could wedge with my opponent. Therefore, I feel that even though I have got the duty to say certain things supporting my party line, I would like to express my views.

If Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi were alive now; if our hon. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had not turned like that and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi was the Prime Minister now, I do not feel that this type of a Bill would be introduced because from the very beginning we were having the feeling that our Indian entrepreneurs should be developed. We were having the mixed economy as the policy of the Congress party. Even in Avadi Congress session, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru very clearly said that it was the socialist pattern of society. Indira ji amended the Constitution making it as a socialist country. We cannot go away from our Constitution. We have to be very clear in telling the country whether we are signing in the WTO or any other pact that we are socialist. Our country is a socialist country. We cannot go away from it. We have not amended our Constitution. It is a declaration made in the Preamble. Therefore, socialism should be the touchstone whenever any Bill comes before this august Parliament.

I feel that these type of Bills should have that flavour when they come before this august Parliament. I feel there is a great difference from our election manifesto.

Unfortunately we are having a party which is ruling now, who has stolen away the *Swadeshi*, Gandhi ji from us during the election period. Now they have forgotten Gandhi ji and *Swadeshi*. Now, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is sitting as the Prime Minister and he forgot about *Swadeshi*. He forgot about his own speeches made in the Parliament when he was the Leader of the Opposition. He forgot about the RSS program or *Sangh Parivar's* programme that the foreigner should not come inside; our entrepreneurs should come up and they should have a healthy competition within India; we have got a very big market; our national companies should come up and then only we could compete with the international companies. That was the thinking of BJP at that time. I feel that they have changed everything now while sitting in the Treasury Bench. Actually, I am feeling very unhappy. Are we going in a wrong way?

We should be very patriotic when we are looking after our own industries, LIC and GIC are our own assets. They are our community assets. They are our nation's assets. We invested the money of our people. We have spent crores of rupees for the health of the county and for the health of our

people. When we attained Independence, our mortality rate was around 69 or 70 per cent. Now mortality rate is very low, 13 or 15 per cent.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Sir, I would like to continue my speech for some more time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have to accommodate other Members. Please make your speech short.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Therefore, I feel that we should have that feeling that a proper leadership is very important for making the people patriotic and the institutions to come up.

As you all know, any insurance company, any proprietor will think about the profit. It should go to the shareholders or to the policy holders. Now, the Life Insurance Corporation and the General Insurance Corporation are having the fourth area and that is social obligation. We are spending more than Rs. 1,00,000 crore for the community upliftment. Even in Sivaganga water facility is given by the Life Insurance Corporation; roads are laid from the Life Insurance Corporation funds. Many houses are built by the Life Insurance Corporation. In the same way, Other Backward Classes are getting employment and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are getting employment in the Life Insurance Corporation and the General Insurance Corporation. Will they go for employment when a lot of foreign companies come here? We have to think about it. I am telling you that you are denationalising it. You are making it an elephant and then you want to run it like a lion. It cannot run like a lion because it is an elephant. You have to feed more because it is having power to pull things. Therefore, elephant cannot become a lion and lion cannot become an elephant.

Now foreign companies cannot take away our money. It is a saving. We are creating assets—cash in hand. It is just like a territory—our own land was given for the East India company. So, are we going to give money to the foreign companies? They will take away our money. You may have restrictions that they should not take it away, but they will reinvest it which will be detrimental to our own interest. So, I request you to keep it in mind when you are bringing these types of Bills that we should protect our economic rights. We are having only political rights just remaining with us and if we go on giving everything to the foreign countries, I do not think we may survive. In due course of time, we may have some other countries dominating upon us.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Regarding the amendments, I would like to tell you only one thing. At page five, there is a clause giving authority to regulate. I am quoting from Section 14(2) (a):

"Issue to the applicant a certificate of registration, renew, modify, withdraw, suspend or cancel such registration."

If they are not doing it properly, why do you not add one word 'nationalise'? If they are not doing it, we can nationalise it. In that way if it is added, then it will be good.

The other thing is that 26 per cent is only promoters' share. If it goes to the secondary market, then they will grab the entire area. Therefore, we cannot control them in the secondary market. They can purchase it and only promoters will just oblige for having 26 per cent initially, but they will increase their shares subsequently. Therefore, the Government should have at least 20 per cent share in any insurance company so that they can have social control over private insurance company. In that way, we can invest the money in social sector.

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (NASIK): I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak. There should be competition in the Insurance Sector and their efficiency should increase. The policy holders should get better service, so it is being privatised. That is why I support this Bill. The Employees of LIC of our district had invited me and Shri Haribhau Mahale a day before session was about to start.

I am with BJP and he belongs to opposition. Both of us were attending the same meeting. Three-four thousand employees were present. They told us about this Bill. I said alright. I would like to take one minute's time to explain their misunderstandings. They fear that they will be removed from job and will become unemployed. In this way, what would happen to three lakh employees? The conditions and the qualifications prescribed for an agent was that representative operating in rural areas should have passed 8th class whereas those operating in urban areas should have passed SSC. I do not want to go into details. While supporting this Bill, I would like to tell only this to Shri Yashwant Sinhaji that no employee should be removed from service. Secondly, there should be no stipulation that one should do this or that course or acquire certain qualification. They should be assured that they will not be removed from service. With these words, I thank you giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The extended time of the House is also over now. Is it pleasure of the House to extend the time by another ten minutes?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, the time of the House is further extended.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to express the views of the All India Anna DMK on the IRDA Bill. Privatisation of insurance is a challenge to the Indian sovereignty. The Finance Minister is sitting here. He needs no transfer of technology. Money is an essential commodity, both for the insurance industry and the banking industry. It need not come from outside, from a foreign country; we can generate funds from our own resources. Instead of introducing this Bill, if the Finance Minister had concentrated on the recovery of some other dues like excise duty, income-tax, loans due to the banks, which amount to crores of rupees—two thousand or three thousand crores of rupees—he need not have piloted this Insurance Bill.

Insurance is not a sophisticated industry. A foreign investor or a foreign company need not enter India to promote our existing insurance industry. Our insurance and banking industries have been carrying on well for so many decades, since 1938. This Bill is based on a novel classical principle, that is, public interest versus private interest. Whether this Bill has been introduced or piloted and debated in public interest or in private interest, only the Government will know.

The BJP Government is bent upon getting this Bill passed and has given top priority to it. On 27.11.1999, our General Secretary, Dr. Jayalalitha had issued a statement that the All India Anna DMK expresses its grave concern on the move of Government of India to get this IRDA Bill passed in this session. When so many legislation which are necessary for our rural and social sectors are pending and are yet to be debated, this Bill has been given priority.

So, as I said, this privatisation is a challenge to the sovereignty and economy of our country. The Ministers take oath saying that "We bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India, as by law established".

We are not promoting any legal company. We are not promoting any Indian. We expect a foreigner, a foreign company to enter into this market. I have seen a newspaper item wherein it is said that the foreign insurers are waiting in queue to join this Indian insurance. The following firms have already engaged Indian partners — Allianz AG of Germany. Prudential Life of U.K., American international group of U.S., Commercial Union of U.K., General Accident of U.K., Sun Life of Canada, Chubb Corp. of U.S. ING Group, Standard Life, CIGNA of U.S., Canada Life, GLO Australia Holdings, All State, Guardian AXA, Zurich, Metlife of U.S. and AMP. The following firms are looking for Indian partners — Legal and General, Manulife of Canada, Royal and Sun Alliance, Yasuda Fire, Tokyo Fire and Marine, Aegon, Sumitomo, Mitsui Marine, GE Capital, New York Life International, Swiss Re and Munich Re.

I would like to stress that all these companies are not

[Shri P. H. Pandiyan]

going to transfer any technology or they are not going to invest the whole money. It is only 26 per cent. With this 26 per cent they are going to dominate our existing insurance industry. Since you are bent upon passing the Bill, where is the safeguard introduced in the legislation? I want to know whether, for a violation of the I.R.D.A. Act by the companies, if it is passed, any monetary penalties are to be imposed or not. It is not there. What is the penal action to be taken? It is not there. It is well evident from the fact that the Standing Committee's Report on Finance for 1998-99 of the 12th Lok Sabha concerning Ministry of Finance, on page 27 said that there is no such provision for considering imposing stringent punishment including monetary penalties.

I have gone through the Bill. This Bill has no relevance to Indian social and rural sectors. To develop rural and social sectors we have enough human resources and natural wealth. We have money. Why do the Finance Minister not explore the possibility of expanding the resources or augmenting the resources by investing our own brains and our money? We have men.

Shri Yashwant Sinha, you are the Finance Minister. Can I ask the Finance Minister of the U.S. to come and occupy this chair? He can develop India. I will not allow it. I want you to be the Finance Minister. We do not want them. We select the best among our people. In that way, there is no transfer of technology. If that is so, after some years, they will say that they will also want to get a berth in the Cabinet. The foreign investors may ask this question. Then, will you provide a seat here just like the East India Company? The India will become a colony in that way.

This Bill has no sanction of the poor people. The poor people do not understand what are the implications of this I.R.A. Bill. The Bill does not guarantee the ploughing back of the profit into the nation. What is the profit that you are going to get back to the nation? There is no prescription enunciated in the Bill.

As it is, L.I.C. and G.I.C. are participating in the nation-building activities like housing. They have invested thousands of crores. They invested Rs. 10,000 crore for electricity.

The equity prescribed for the private companies is Rs. 100 crore. If there is a calamity that had occurred in Orissa or the Bhopal gas disaster, these companies will prefer to go to litigation. What is the check? How about the Union Carbide? We are not able to get even Rs. 400 or Rs. 500 per family. The case of Union Carbide is a valid example.

If you allow a foreign investor. A foreign company to prosper here and they go back on the commitment, what is your jurisdiction? Can you try them? Can you summon them?

Can you take action against them? You have no cover. They will file a liquidation petition. They will file a winding-up petition. You had bitter experience in India that if the foreigners come in, they live like parasite. They are leaches and they will suck Indian blood. So, I appeal to the Finance Minister to withdraw this Bill because we oppose this Bill tooth and nail, having gone into the fact that it is not going to help the nation, it is not going to improve our social and rural sectors.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude. We are crossing the extended time. Otherwise, we will have to go in for a further extension.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Just a minute. I wants to say these things initially. Hon. Deputy-Speaker has given me the opportunity to speak now.

I quote an item from *The Hindu*. It says:

"When life insurance was nationalised in 1956, C.D. Deshmukh, the then Finance Minister said, insurance in the developing country must be seen as an essential service which a Welfare State should provide to its people and not as a business proposition or additional source of investment to those who put their money in the stock market.

So, Mr. Finance Minister, please see it in this perspective that if you allow these industries to prosper, then we can also ask the British to come back and rule, we can also ask America to come back and rule. These companies will dictate terms.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude. I cannot seek further extension.

SHRI P. H. PANDIYAN : Therefore, I appeal to the Finance Minister that even at this moment, he has got time till tomorrow. He may go to his house and think over this, think over all the deliberations and withdraw the Bill.

I oppose this Bill on behalf of the AIADMK, tooth and nail.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The list of the speakers is over. The reply of the Minister will be tomorrow after the Question Hour.

The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 a.m.

20.27 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 2, 1999/Agrahayana 11, 1921 (Saka).

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Wednesday, December 1, 1999/Agrahayana 10, 1921 (Saka)

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<u>Col./line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
10/32	COL.(RETD) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY	COL.(RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY
83/23	(SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHARAVARTY)	(SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)
102/20	SHRI G.M.BANATWALA	SHRI G.M.BANATWALLA.
108/14,15	FOOD AND PROCESSING	FOOD PROCESSING
148/1,2	(SHRI JAWANT SINGH)	(SHRI JASWANT SINGH)
183,184/6	26.37	26.7
219,220/8	1.11	1.00
221,222/6	25523	52523
231,232/17	4.38	- 4.38
246/10	SHRI M.M.KRISHNADAS	SHRI N.N.KRISHNADAS

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