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Thursday, April 9, 1992
Chaitra 20, 1914 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Third Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)**



(Vol. XI contains Nos. 31 to 40)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 9, 1992/Chaitra 20, 1914
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roser):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out that we are holding Nyay Jyoti Yatra and as such not coming to attend the House. We have come here only to draw the attention of the Government towards one thing. The hon. Home Minister, Shankaranandji and Shri Kesariji are present here. The Government has done an excellent job by declaring 14th April, the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar as a public holiday but at the same time this has not been declared as a public holiday in public sector and public sector undertakings etc. and the U.P.S.C. examinations would be conducted on that day as scheduled. In the light of this we would urge the Government that this holiday becomes meaningless if a discriminatory attitude is adopted.

We would urge the Government to declare Baba Saheb Ambedkar's birthday as a holiday for all sectors. There is consensus in the entire House on this point. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): We will try to cover Public Sector and Public Sector Undertakings under Negotiable Instruments Act.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Relief to Drought Affected States

+
*613. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA
RAJE:
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States/Union Territories at present affected by drought;

(b) the estimated loss caused thereby to crops and livestock in each affected State/Union Territory; and

(c) the Central assistance sought by each such State/Union Territory and the amount actually released so far?

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

STATEMENT

Drought conditions in some parts of the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan have been reported by the State Governments.

According to these reports, the crop area to the extent of 8.12 lakh hec. (Rabi) in Karnataka, 25.00 lakh hec. (more than 50%) in Madhya Pradesh, 58.60 lakh hec. (more than 50%) in Maharashtra and 77.99 lakh hec. in Rajasthan have been affected. The Government of Gujarat has reported an estimated loss of 10.42 lakh M.T. in the production of kharif foodgrains, 11.71 lakh M.T. kharif oilseeds and 7.37 lakh M.T. in cotton. No loss of livestock has been reported.

The State Governments of Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have submitted memoranda seeking additional Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 50.00 crores, Rs. 650.00 crores, Rs. 220.00 crores and Rs. 789.41 crores respectively for relief measures.

Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure, the State Governments are required to undertake relief measures in the wake of natural calamities, using the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund. The Central Government need provide additional assistance only in the case of calamities of 'rare severity' warranting handling at the national level. The requests from the above State Governments for additional Central assistance in the wake of drought conditions have been considered in the light of the existing scheme for financing relief expenditure and the gravity of the drought situation. It has been decided to depute Central teams to the States of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh to assess the situation. A Central team is presently in Madhya Pradesh and the Team for Gujarat will leave shortly. The quantum of Central assistance if any required to be provided to these States will be decided on receipt of the report of the Central Team. It has also been decided that no additional Central assistance is required to be provided

to the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, Rajasthan drought is something that we all have to live with. However, I want to ask the Government - knowing that the situation in Rajasthan is very very bad at the moment - why the wheat allocation in January, 1991 to Rajasthan was 1 lakh tonnes per month; in November 1991, this was reduced to 67 thousand tonnes and is currently 75 thousand per month? This works out to a measly per capita consumption of 1.7 kg per month per head to Delhi's ten kgs per month per head. Does the Government intend to increase these allocations to the level at least comparable with Delhi immediately in view of the prevailing drought conditions?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Sir, will you request the hon. Member to refer this question to the Food and Civil Supplies Minister. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: This is ridiculous. (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

SHRIJASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Please allow me to speak for a minute. Hon. Balram Jakhar is aware and it need not to be explained to him that due to failure of rains in Western Rajasthan Bajra did not grow and rice is not the staple food for people of this region and you have curtailed the supply of wheat. You give 10 kilo wheat per person to Delhi whereas Rajasthan is given only one Kilo and when the hon. Member has raised this issue you are asking him to refer this question to some other Ministry. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry concerned with this question is in a better position to answer this question. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIJASWANT SINGH: You may give even an unsatisfactory reply. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The Ministry which is concerned with it, may answer it. It is not dealt by me. *(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: I am very sorry. It is very ridiculous. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I am always prepared to do it. I do not shirk from my responsibility at all. *(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I would not like that the procurement done by us..... *(Interruptions)* The Ministry which is concerned with this will deal with this subject and my intervention will not be proper. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: You can at least console them and express your sympathy.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I have full sympathy with you but how can I do a wrong thing? How can I commit that I shall do their work?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: You have done a wrong thing by curtailing the supply of wheat. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Are you aware of the functioning of the Ministries? If you ask me questions about my Ministry, I am prepared to answer instantly. You ask me questions pertaining to my Ministry and I shall reply within no time. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak one by one, kindly be seated. Let the hon. Lady Member ask her question.

[English]

She is quite capable of dealing with it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please, not like this.

You take your seats. Let her deal with it.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I just want to know from the Minister that does it mean that he is declining to answer this question completely. The question is about drought relief in Rajasthan and I asked him that considering that he is also from Rajasthan and he knows the severity of the drought conditions in Rajasthan, does he really feel that it was worthwhile cutting the wheat which is going to Rajasthan, considering that the *bajra* crop is completely failed and we are not rice eaters. He says that his Ministry is not competent to deal with it.

MR. SPEAKER: I will try to help you. You know that unfortunately this question can be divided in two parts. One part relates to the Agriculture Ministry, the other part relates to the Food and Civil Supplies Ministry. Probably the hon. Minister is not having enough information to give reply to your question on supply of food to the State. As far as the agriculture part of your question is concerned, he is willing to answer.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not like this.

[Translation]

Not like this, please resume your seat.

[English]

Let her speak. Now, part (c) relates to Food and Civil Supplies, parts (a) and (b) relate to Agriculture.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Joshiji, please resume your seat and allow the hon. Lady Member to speak.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as drought relief is concerned I am ready with every information in this regard but as regards allocation of foodgrains like rice, wheat and sugar etc., it is done by the

Food and Civil Supplies Ministry. As such, if I reply to it, it will be termed as an under interference. You please ask me questions regarding drought relief and I have no objection in replying to those. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please be seated and stop interrupting. Let the hon. Member ask her question. If you want you can ask supplementaries later. Please don't stand and cause disturbance.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, there are two parts of this question. If you have the information about the Civil Supplies also, we will appreciate if you give it. If you do not have the information, I will not insist on that.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, there is no question of that information being with me.

MR. SPEAKER: The Government is jointly responsible to the House and the people.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: That is right, Sir, but I am supposed to know what is in my jurisdiction.

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not have the information, we will not insist.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: But Sir, that does not mean that I have the information of the other Ministry. That Ministry must consider their job and I must consider my job.

MR. SPEAKER: Anyway, you ask the question. Now you understand the intricacy involved in it, if not the delicacy. The agriculture part you can ask.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, he says that part (c) does not belong to his Ministry. But he has given the answer for part (c) also.

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat. You are going beyond your limit. This is not a question-answer session between you and me.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat now.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I just want a clarification whether part (c) really belongs to him because he has given the answer to part (c).

MR. SPEAKER: He might have collected the information and given the answer.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: He has given the answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Now this is little too much, Mr. Nirmal Khatiji. I am trying to help the Member and you are trying to complicate the issue. You do not have to do that.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I am not doing that.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to ask a question using your ingenuity, I will allow you to ask your supplementary. You always do like this. This is not correct.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I never do like this.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: O.K., it is a good promise. Anyway, you ask your question.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, in this case it is very obvious that the Minister is not interested in answering the question. So, I will not press that point. I hate to feel that the Government would divide something like drought relief, into this Ministry and that Ministry and refuse to make it a collective answer, like they could have done. However, it is unfortunate for us in Rajasthan, that is probably the reason why we are suffering for the last 40 years under the Government that Mr. Jakhra belongs to.

In the current year also the Ninth Finance Commission certain allocations are being made to the Government of Rajasthan and also I believe they are very meagre considering that we have been going through drought for a period of over 26 years out of 36 years Rs. 124 crores is a very small amount. In 1988-89 alone the Government spent Rs. 900 crores. What I want to know from the hon. Minister is that he does intend to set this inadequacy right immediately by increasing the drought relief to more realistic levels for the State, and secondly, is the Government thinking of according Rajasthan a special status in view of these very unusual circumstances?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not decided by my Department because it is the Finance Commission....

MR. SPEAKER: You will send through the supply Ministry, they will look into it.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: It is the Finance Commission which was appointed and they went into the whole gamut of calamity relief and in full consideration and consultation with the States it was decided that a certain portion, three-fourths, by the Central Government and one-fourth by the State was to be provided for each State each year in quarterly disbursements and that was of Rs. 84 crores. That was decided after complete consideration by all the parties concerned and taking into account 10 years' average, and that is why Rajasthan got Rs. 124 crores, and I have got the statistics here to show that this year Rajasthan had about Rs. 200 crores plus which was unspent from the last year and Rs. 124 crores of this year.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: It seems that the Minister is upset that there was no drought last year and therefore, Rs. 200 crores were left unspent.

MR. SPEAKER: You will have the chance of asking the second supplementary.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I can provide a list which has been provided by the State Government and this is what it is with me and I can hand over this also to you. There is no problem with that, but it has to be decided by another Finance Commission, how much is to be given and how much is not to be given. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: I have asked a very very pointed question.

MR. SPEAKER: Is this your first supplementary or second supplementary?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: I am asking him from this Supplementary. (Interruptions). I am just asking the Minister, Sir, whether his Ministry is going to recommend, since it is a fact that Rajasthan is reeling under this drought, does his Ministry intend to rectify the problem that we are facing at this moment? If he could tell me the terms of reference under which his Ministry operates, then we can ask the question, Sir. But every time he gets up and says, 'It is not concerning me, it concerns the Finance Commission, it concerns the Food and Civil Supplies Ministry.' If he could just tell me what the terms of reference are, I will ask him the question accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER: You are also expected to know which Ministry deals with the drought.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Under drought..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: She is also expected to know, you need not explain to her.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: I am surprised that he wants to deal..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: She is trying to understand whether you would help Rajasthan by forwarding it to the concerned Ministry.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Are you trying to do it?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, there is the question of a severe calamity and there is always a way out and for that certain times a team is sent to ascertain the damage caused by a drought and if that comes under the purview of the severe calamity, then there could be a separate allocation for that. But that has not been so decided, we can send a team. We have sent one to Gujarat and one to another State and the Report will be coming and we can send the same to Rajasthan also. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:sent a team to Madhya Pradesh and to Karnataka.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: That only can be decided later on at the national level, how far is the severity of that drought, that is all.

MR. SPEAKER: Second Supplementary now. He has replied saying that he will send a team to Rajasthan and try to find out if something more is required.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Thank you, Sir, for having clarified it because I really would not have been able to make out. But I asked another question to which he has not been able to reply as yet. Considering the special status and peculiar circumstances of Rajasthan, are you going to recommend to the Government perhaps, you also belong to Rajasthan, that would perhaps be a very good idea to accord special status. In view of the calamity that we are facing every year and in view of the failure of the crop that we are facing every year, are you going to accord any special status to Rajasthan?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We have always done like that. In 1987 and 1988, we had provided Rs. 800 crores to Rajasthan. But, this is a special case here and if the team which goes there to ascertain the things recommends that it is a severe drought, then I can put it to the Cabinet and then it can be done. I am not prone to any other extraneous circumstance. The whole of India belongs to me and I belong to that.

[Translation]

SHRI AYUB KHAN: Sir, as you know that the hon. Agriculture Minister hails from Rajasthan and he is well acquainted with that State.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right. You can ask now.

SHRI AYUB KHAN: Sir, as you know that the hon. Agriculture Minister hails from Rajasthan and the Lady Member speaking before me had made allegations against the Congress Government. I would like to point out that Rajasthan is in the grip of a devastating drought and 80 per cent of the State has been affected by it. Due to scarcity of fodder Rajasthan is facing a critical situation. The present Government of Rajasthan has not succeeded in initiating any new programme in any of the districts of Rajasthan. (Interruptions) I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would give powers to Rajasthan Government to give assistance for fodder for cattles or not. Rs. 134 crores have been allocated for undertaking drought relief measures. In this context, is there any proposal to send a special investigation team to assess requirement of enhanced the funds or not?

MR. SPEAKER: You have replied to this before.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, I only want to say that the hon. Member has rightly pointed out that Rajasthan has Rs. 202 crores of the previous year and Rs. 124 crores of this year. If need be I can release one more instalment this year. For this it is essential on the part of State Government to take some steps. In this connection, I have not received any representation from the Rajasthan Government so far.

[English]

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the statement made by the hon. Minister, it appears as if no report has been

sent by Bihar to the Central Government for relief and central assistance, but it is a fact that most parts of Bihar have been badly and adversely affected by drought and severe losses have been incurred by the State of Bihar. So, I would like to know whether some steps will be taken by the Central Government if any report is submitted by the State Government now and how much central assistance will be released by the hon. Minister in this regard. The southern part of Bihar is adversely affected by drought. So, I would also like to know whether the Central Government is contemplating to undertake its own just measurement and survey about the extent of losses which have been caused by the drought to the State.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, it is a hypothetical question and what will be in the future, I cannot predict.

Gas for Gas-based Power Stations

+
*614. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H.
TOPIWALA:
SHRI DILEEPBHAI SANG-
HANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the daily requirement of gas for gas-based power stations in Gujarat;

(b) whether the gas is being supplied to these stations according to their requirement;

(c) if not, the reason therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to meet their requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (b). The total

commitment of gas for gas based power stations in Gujarat is

(MMSCMD)		
1.	GEB, Dhuvarani	— 0.42
2.	GEB, Utaran	— 0.70
3.	AEC, Vatwa	— 0.40
4.	GIPCO	— 0.70
5.	NTPC, Kawas	— 2.25
6.	NTPC, Gandhar	— 1.50
7.	GEB, Gandhar	— 1.50

Some of these projects are yet to be established. Approximately 1.6 MMSCMD of gas is being supplied at present. One of the constraints in meeting the full present requirement is the current availability of gas.

ONGC is expediting the drilling of wells, laying of pipelines, etc. to enhance the availability of gas in order to meet the requirements as per commitment.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Probably you are all aware that today and yesterday we are all on 'Agriculture'. You can discuss this issue. You can ask not only one question; but you can make a speech of 10 or 15 minutes.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. What is this going on. Why this is not being taken seriously? You are not allowed to do whatever you like. I have already told you that you can discuss the issue at the time of discussion on the Demands on agriculture. It is not the correct way of discussion.

SHRIDATTA MEGHE: It has been written in the reply that no production is undertaken in Maharashtra. (Interruptions) *

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the House.

SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: I am sorry to say that the hon. Minister has given the commitment figures. My specific question has been what is the requirement of gas for the gas-based power stations in Gujarat and not the commitment and the commitment has been over the year 7.45 and the allocation is 1.6. I would like to know the requirement of the gas power station of Gujarat and then I will ask my supplementary. This is a specific question. I want a specific answer for this. I would like to know the exact number.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: The commitments are the same as the requirements, more or less. Now I will read out what exactly has been supplied if that is what the hon. Member wants. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you know that you should not ask a question like this? You can ask Supplementary later on.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: I am omitting the million cubic meter per day which is common. The requirement of AEC Vatwa power station is 0.4. Supply is 0.3.

The requirement of GEB Utaran is 0.7 Supply is 0.25

Full supply is made of 0.50 to GEB Dhuvaran. The requirement of GIPCO is 0.70. It is being supplied. 0.60.

NTPC Gandhar and GEB Gandhar are projects on the anvil. The requirements are 1.5 each and we have committed 1.5 each.

NTPC Kawas is a project of the future. The entire question of supply of gas to the

power plant is under consideration.

SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: I have not received my answer as to what the requirement is. But anyway I will go ahead with my supplementary. NTPC's Rs. 1,500 crore gas based power project is covered where the commitment is 2.25 while the requirement is much more. How and when will the Government be able to fulfil this gap?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: The question of supply of gas to NTPC Kawas is under the consideration of the Government the decision is pending because it involves certain issues of availability. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: Now I put my second supplementary. (Interruptions) I cannot help it because I am not getting a specific answer to my question. For my first supplementary I did not get a specific answer.

MR. SPEAKER: This is your third supplementary.

SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: Yes, But that was a sort of a clarification which I asked. I could also read out the commitment. I have the commitment with me. My second supplementary is this: projects which require gas are denied gas for some technical reason or the other. As you know, gas is available but it is not being supplied. May I know from the hon. Minister what are the reasons for not having a pipeline from Hazira to Utran covering a distance of only six Kms.? Is there any plan by when the pipeline will be laid? This is my specific question and I want a specific answer to it.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: I would like to clarify again to the hon. Member that the requirement is the same as the capacity. They have asked for the requirement on the basis of capacity. So, I had answered that question specifically.

MR. SPEAKER: Please send it to her in writing also.

SHRIS. KRISHANKUMAR: As regards Utran, the gas released as at the moment is 0.70 – 0.25 has been released earlier and 0.45 committed in June 1988. All are in million cubic metres per day which I am omitting. It was committed in June 1988. For supplying this additional gas of 0.45, a 37.5Kms. 16 inch pipeline from Anklesvarto Utran is required to be laid which can be completed by December 1993 at a cost of about Rs. 7.5 crores. That is the position.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Government about its decision to earmark the land at Pipavav as per its assurance to supply gas for gas-based power-plants from Tapti High and what the Government is doing in this regard. What steps have been taken and when it is going to be started? Last week, on behalf of the Chief Minister a State Government delegation met the Prime Minister. What was its demand? The Utran Power Station has been completed, but gas is not being supplied to it. Crores Of rupees were spent on commissioning this power station but it is not being utilized. I would like to know the time by which the Central Government will sanction the supply of gas for it.

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: The hon. Member is talking about Pipavav, I presume. The question of supply of gas for the power station located at Pipavav on the Saurashtra Coast and the modalities thereof is under active examination of the Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to submit that we have been observing for many years that gas worth of crores of rupees is being burnt and there is no provision for its being utilized. In this connection, I would like to know from the Government whether it has given a thought to supply this gas for being utilized at power stations in Gujarat.

Has the Government chalked out any plan in this regard, If so, the details thereof?

[*English*]

SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR: I may mention to the hon. Member that the entire gas which is produced in Gujarat is used in Gujarat only. Now, we have many schemes for augmentation of production of gas in Gujarat. This is an on-going programme and will be accelerated during the Eighth Plan. I have the figures here of what the production in Gujarat will be at the end of the Eighth Plan. It is 9.2 million cubic metres per day at the end of the Eighth Plan.

As regards the second part of the question about flaring, it is true that about 20 per cent of gas produced in this country is being flared because of lack of infrastructure. We have a very comprehensive programme to achieve zero flaring in the whole country by 1994 and a World Bank aided scheme of Rs. 7,200 crores is under implementation.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that in Gujarat two power based plants have already been lying idle due to non-supply of gas. In spite of that, the National Thermal Power Corporation awarded a contract worth Rs. 1200 crores to a foreign company to start a new project in Gandhar. As regards the supply of gas, the Gandhar Plant will be completed in 1993 and the Government will supply gas to the plant in 1994 whereas two gas-based plants are already lying closed. Therefore, what was the need to invest the capital of Rs. 1200 crores, and will the hon. Minister, enlighten us about the necessity and hurry to award the contract by moving earth and heaven. This is a scam involving Rs. 1200 crore. This contract was awarded to a foreign company overnight; this is very uncommon. The hon. Minister should present the factual position before the House.

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: There are several schemes for development of gas potential in Gujarat. It is an on-going process and the gas production in Gujarat will get a quantum jump when the Tapti Gas Field is developed. Gandhar-II Project is also awaiting Government sanction. If you are asking about the development process of gas in Gujarat, this is an on-going process and we are giving emphasis to it.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been answered correctly. I wanted to know the necessity to commission the third project while two projects were already lying ideal for want of gas. When will you supply gas to these projects. This is a scam involving Rs. 1200 crores. Officers have finalized all the contracts within four days. While doing so, the indigenous companies have been ignored. The Government should tell us about the supply of the gas.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): I very well appreciate the concern of the hon. Member for supply of gas to the two power stations which he has emphasised just now. It will always be the endeavour of the Government to see that investment made for generation of power, whether in Gujarat or elsewhere, and the feed-stock that is made and committed to this, is fulfilled. We will be doing our best to see that these power stations will not suffer for want of gas.

With regard to the supply of 1.5 million cubic metres of gas per day to the NTPC, this decision was taken after a great detail of discussion with the Chief Minister of Gujarat with the Prime Minister and myself. This was done not behind the screen, not behind anybody. This decision was taken quite openly and this commitment of 1.5 million

cubic metres of gas per day to the NTPC was made. Hon. Member should know that there has not been any hanky-panky in the process of generation of power in this country. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Only two questions have been answered in half an hour.

(Interruptions)

SHR HARIN PATHAK: Gujarat has been facing injustice for the last five years. A sort of agitation is imminent there..... (Interruptions)..... great injustice is being done.

MR. SPEAKER: Please, sit down. This is not proper. You are all rising to ask supplementaries simultaneously. It is not at all proper. There are other questions also which should also be replied. 35 minutes have passed and we have taken up only 2 questions.

[English]

Exploration of Oil Reserves

*615. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are huge oil reserves in Gujarat and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in exploring the same; and

(c) the time by which the oil is likely to be explored from those reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (c). There has been no delay in exploring for oil and gas in Gujarat and West Bengal. Exploration for oil in Gujarat since 1956 has established geo-

logical reserves to the tune of 768.55 mmt of oil as on 1.1.1991 of which 254.57 mmt of oil is recoverable. Exploration for oil in West Bengal was initiated in the year 1949 and 41 exploratory wells have been drilled and 3 wells are under drilling. No oil reserves have been established so far. Exploration work is continuing in both States.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: We are heavily dependent on oil imports. The country needs 50 lakh tonnes of oil out of which only 30 lakh tonnes of oil is indigenously produced and for the rest we are depending on the imports, spending a huge amount of foreign exchange. Is it a fact that there are claims that the basins of West Bengal and Gujarat contain huge oil reserves which the ONGC is neglecting?

Is it also a fact that carbonate rock extending from the coast offshore of Bay of Bengal to the South West for a length of 100 kilometres has been demarcated as potential for oil production?

SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, the hon. Member's figures are correct except that it is not in lakhs but it is in million tonnes. There is a vigorous programme of exploration and production of oil in the various sedimentary basins of our country. Some basins are prolific; there are different categories of basins. West Bengal comes in the second category. The exploration is going on. 41 wells have been dug in West Bengal but no trace of hydrocarbons have so far been found.

Similarly, in Gujarat, which is next to Bombay High, highest activity of exploration is going on.

The hon. Member is ostensibly referring to certain claims made by some scientists that there are large reserves of oil in certain areas of Gujarat and West Bengal and ONGC is not taking sufficient interest in developing those reserves. Already about Rs. 600 crores have been spent in West Bengal and about Rs. 3,500 crores in Gujarat. The claims made by the particular scientist have been

found to be untenable and very far-fetched. We have, for production of oil, a scientific basis and sequence that is first surveys, then exploration, discovery and then developmental drilling leading on to production. And this is being carried on, on a scientific basis. There is no question of neglecting any of the potential fields either in Gujarat or in West Bengal.

PROF. RAM KAPSE: The global tender was issued for 72 areas for oil exploration recently. Which are those areas included in this global tender from West Bengal and Gujarat?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, 72 blocs — 33 on-shore and 39 offshore have been given for international bidding and the final bids are expected by middle of this month. On the Bengal on-shore, there are two blocs, one is in the districts of Nadia and Hooghly and the second is in the districts of Midnapore and Howrah. In the Bengal offshore, there are three blocs in the sea but there are no names but only technical nomenclature.

May I know which was the other state you mentioned.

PROF. RAM KAPSE: It is about Gujarat. If you want to say anything about Maharashtra, that is also welcome.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: In Gujarat Kutch on-shore, there are three blocs which have been put up in this international bidding. The names are not available we have some technical notation for each block.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our country, we are spending the maximum amount of money on foreign exchange basically for import of oil. At the moment, we have some very good reserves in the Bombay High region, in Gujarat and in all these adjoining areas. However, one finds that the crude which is being recovered from these wells is not suitable for our refineries here. And it has also come to the notice of lot of people that most of this crude is being

exported to foreign countries and against that some crude which is suitable for our refineries is being imported. So if this is a fact, will the hon. Minister let us know whether the refineries here are going to be suitably modified so that the crude oil which is procured from our own oil wells can be refined here itself?

SHRI S. KRISHANKUMAR: Sir, roughly 30 million tonnes of crude on the average which is being produced in the country as of now per year is fully utilised in our refineries. Only the balance required is imported. Of course certain types of crudes are required for certain types of refineries depending on the product mix and the technology. So this is taken into account in the import as well as in the technical planning of the future refineries.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Till the technology is available to harness the natural gas into our domestic and industrial consumption, how much of natural gas will be wasted in terms of dollars?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: The production of natural gas in the country is 48 million cubic metres per day. It is proposed to be raised to 80 million to 90 million cubic metres per day at the end of the 8th Plan. Presently about 11 million cubic metres of gas is being flared. About 10 million is being flared due to lack of infrastructure. As I said earlier, through a series of development programmes including a very massive gas flaring reduction project, we hope to reduce flaring to zero by the end of 1994-95 financial year.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: What is the outflow of dollars?

[*Translation*]

Freedom Fighters' Pension

*616. SHRI RAM TAHAL CH-
 OUDHARY:

SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for grant of freedom fighters' pension pending with the Union Government at present, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for their pendency; and

(c) the steps taken to dispose of these applications expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM LAL RAHI): (a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The last date prescribed for receipt of applications under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension - 1980 was 31.3.1982. All the applications received by the prescribed date had been considered once and disposed off. However, new applications continue to be received even after the prescribed date. These are 'delayed' applications and are liable for summary rejection unless they are accompanied by documentary evidence from official records in support of their claimed sufferings. There are 9,387 delayed applications pending as on 8.4.1992. An Annexure showing the State-wise position is enclosed.

Incomplete information, non-production of documentary evidence from official records in respect of the sufferings undergone and non-receipt of the recommendations of the State Governments are the main reasons for their pendency.

Special drives are launched from time to time to dispose off the applications.

State/U.T	Name of the Institution	Title of the project	Achievement	No. of beneficiaries	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
	M.A. Singamma Sreeni nivasa Foundation, Bangalore	Field testing, prototype paddy transplanters designed to reduce strain in transplantation of paddy seedlings	Prototypes have been developed and are being field tried.	*	Rs. 53,000/- for six months
Kerala	Shoranur Potters Welfare Society, Shorapur	Health improvement of rural women through application of Science & Technology-Low cost latrines for women potters.	Women potters were associated in making low cost toilets.	40 families	Rs. 69,000/- for six months
	Welfare Services, Ernakulam, Cochin	Dissemination of sericulture & silk weaving practices, Science & Technology for women.	Training provided in mul- berry cultivation, silk- worm rearing, reeling & weaving.		200 lakhs for 2 years
	Integrated Rural Technology Centre, Kerala Shashtra Sahitya Parishad, Palghat	Dissemination of sericulture and silk weaving practices, science and technology for women.	Training provided in mul- berry cultivation, silkworm rearing and weaving.	250	Rs. 2.5 lakhs for 3 years

State/U.T	Name of the Institution	Title of the project	Achievement	No. of beneficiaries	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
	The RETREAT, Cochin	Uplifting the traditional skills of village potters in Chelakara, Kerala	A training cum production centre set up to produce diversified value added pottery items and building materials	40	Rs. 5.51 lakhs for one year
	Kerala Agricultural University, Trivandrum	AICP on low cost preservation of horticultural produce	Training in solar drying and other low cost preservation techniques for jackfruit, papaya, banana, etc.	150	Rs. 1 lakh for one year
	Kerala Gram Nirmana Samiti, Kozhikode	AICP on water, health and sanitation	Created awareness and demonstrated technologies related to water, health and sanitation.	60	Rs. 70,000/- for one year
	Centre for Water Resources Development and Management, Kozhikode	Application of water conservation, waste water recycling & micro irrigation in the domestic sector for the upliftment of rural women of Kerala	Water conservation technologies popularised Water management aquaculture and health education provided.	200	Rs. 3.58 lakh for 3 years

State/U.T	Name of the Institution	Title of the project	Achievement	No. of beneficiaries	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Mitraniketan, Trivandrum	Weaving of coilmats to conduct research and improve the technology of weaving to start pilot loom centre, fabricate looms and to train coil workers for economic production	1 prototype fabricated for weaving round and rectangular coilmats	10	Rs 5.7 lakhs for 2 years
Madhya Pradesh	Govt. Polytechnic, Rudri	AICP on water, health and sanitation	Created awareness amongst rural women and demonstrated technologies relating to water, health and sanitation.	60	Rs. 70,000/-
	Technical Teachers Training Institute Bhopal.	-do-	-do-	60	Rs. 70,000/-
	Vidya Academy, Jabalpur	Nutrition and cooking project for SC/ST and	Health and nutrition camps organised	100	Rs. 58,800/-

State/U.T	Name of the Institution	Title of the project	Achievement	No. of beneficiaries	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
Maharashtra	National Institute of Training in Industrial Engineering, Bombay	other underprivileged women of Bijadandi village in Mandela Dist. An ergonomic study of material handling and design of tools in construction industry for improving the quality of life of women workers	Common equipment used by women in construction work have been suitably modified for reducing fatigue and ensuring safety.	60	Rs. 3.05 lakhs for 2 years
	Swami Vivekananda Sewa Sanstha, Nagpur	AICP on water, health and sanitation	Generated awareness and demonstrated technologies relating to water health and sanitation.	60	Rs. 70,000 for one year
	National Environment Engineering Research Institute Nagpur.	-do-	-do-	60	Rs. 80,000 for one year

State/U.T	Name of the Institution	Title of the project	Achievement	No. of beneficiaries	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
	SNDT Women's University Bombay	Estimating employment needs for women in information technology.	Training offered by university and other institution has been evaluated and various job opportunities for women identified.	*	Rs. 36,000
	Vigyan Ashram, Pabal, Pune Dist.	Rural laboratory technology	Xth class pass girls trained in estimation of haemoglobin, sugar, erythrocyte sedimentation rate, total differential count, urine sugar, sputum, stool, water contamination soil analysis, fat content of milk.	83	Rs. 1.23 lakhs for 3 years
	Bharat Agroindustries Foundation, Pune	AICP on low cost preservation of horticultural produce	Training-cum-production centre established for making mango papad and mango pulp.	80	Rs. 1.00 lakh for one year

State/U.T	Name of the Institution	Title of the project	Achievement	No. of beneficiaries	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Jagrit Mahila Samaj Chandrapur.	Development of visual aids for creating awareness about nutrition in women.	Women were trained in preparation of nutritious dishes and weaning foods.	50	Rs. 39,000 for 18 months.
	Verala Project Society, Sangli	Studies in improving the skills of rural women in self-help project.	Training in cockerel raising, diagnosis of diseases, remedial measures, feed formulation, etc.	80	Rs. 200 lakh for 2 years
Manipur	Government Polytechnic, Imphal	AICP on water, health and sanitation	Created awareness and demonstrated technologies relating to water, health and sanitation.	60	Rs. 70,000/-
Nagaland	Khekrie welfare Society, Viswema,	Low cost preservation of horticultural produce	Installed a flue heated drier for processing potatoes.	67	Rs. .00 lakh
Orissa	Institute of Socio-Economic Development Dhenkanal	Training of women to enhance their level of earning in Angul block of Dhenkanal Dist.	Leaf cup making and rope making	45	Rs. 83,000/- for six months.

State/U.T	Name of the Institution	Title of the project	Achievement	No. of beneficiaries	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
	India, Institute of Youth and Development, Phulbani	Income generation through bee-keeping by tribal women.	Women were trained in bee keeping	50	Rs. 1.00 lakh for 2 years
	Rural Technology Development and Research Centre, Dhekanal Distt.	Women Vigyan Kendras for training women in bee-keeping and palm products	Women trained in bee-keeping and palm-gurmeera	50	Rs. 45,000/- for 3 months.
	Integrated Rural Development of Weaker Sections in India (WIDA) Koraput	Modern sericulture techniques for upliftment of tribal and weaker sections of Koraput Dist.	Trained in mulberry plantation silkworm rearing and reeling of silk.	50	Rs. 4.94 lakhs
Punjab	Punjab Agricultural University Ludhiana	AICP on low cost preservation of horticultural produce	(Report not received)		Rs. 1.00 lakh for 9 months.
Rajasthan	Social Work and Research Centre, Barmer	To construct low cost geo-desic domes with smokel-ess chulha and water storage tank for sheduled caste women artisans.	20 geo-desic domes. constructed	20	Rs. 1.98 lakhs for 9 months.

State/U.T	Name of the Institution	Title of the project	Achievement	No. of beneficiaries	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
Tamil Nadu	Sri Amman Industrial College, Palipalayam, Erode	Teaching science & technology to women in some villages of Salem Dist.	Training on motor rewinding, radio repairing, plastic wire & polythene bag making & arappu powder making. A cooperative has been formed which is managing the training cum production centre	60	Rs. 3.89 lakhs for 3 years
	Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram	Evolving replicable model for improving sanitation & water management practices of rural women floks in Tamil Nadu	An improved soapkit has been designed and introduced in few villages near Gandhigram. A rain water harvesting device & a device for recycling of spill over water at hand pumps has been developed.	500	Rs. 3.36 lakhs for 1 1/2 years
	Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram	AICP on water, health and sanitation	Created awareness and demonstrated technolgis related to water, health and sanitation for women	60	Rs. 80,000/- for one year

State/U.T	Name of the Institution	Title of the project	Achievement	No. of beneficiaries	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Holycross Home Science College, Tuticorin	AICP on water, health and sanitation	Created awareness and demonstrated technologies related to water, health and sanitation.	60	Rs. 70,000/- for one year
	Tamil Nadu Board of Rural Development, Madras	Development Improved Dairy Farming Technology for economic upliftment of small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural women in rural areas	Training given to women of 210 marginal farmers and landless agricultural labours in improved technologies for fodder production, utilization of crop residue and animal Husbandry technology including artificial insemination.	210	Rs. 1.37 lakhs for 2 years
	Shri AMM Murugappa Chettiar Research Centre, Tharamani, Madras	Biodynamic Garden Cooperative and Sustainable Eco development	A cooperative of 100 households has been formed and the vegetables produced by the biodynamic method are providing income for the women.	100	Rs. 5.46 lakhs for 3 years

State/U.T	Name of the Institution	Title of the project	Achievement	No. of beneficiaries	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Avinashilingam Home Science College, Coimbatore	AICP on low cost preservation of horticultural produce	A cooperative has been formed with a training cum production centre for processing the vegetables and fruits such as papayas	133	Rs. 1 lakh for one year
	Madras Institute of Magneto-Biology, Anna Nagar, Madras	Effect of pulsed magnetic field on the life cycle of silkworms and silk reeling	Preliminary results of exposure to magnetic field has shown increase in Sericin and the increase in the tensile strength		Rs. 1.78 lakh for one year
Uttar Pradesh	Marwadaya, Lucknow	AICP on water, health and sanitation	Created awareness and demonstrated technology relating to water, health and sanitation	60	Rs. 70,000/- for one year
	Institute of Wasteland Reclamation and Rural Development, Sultanpur	Sericulture Development on wasteland for rural women in Sultanpur	Women trained in mulberry plantation silkworm rearing & reeling	55	Rs. 6.3 lakhs for 2 years

State/U.T	Name of the Institution	Title of the project	Achievement	No. of beneficiaries	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
	DG College, Kanpur	Training of rural women for provision of income and reduction of drudgery in their day to day life	Training in quail and poultry farming	60	Rs. 4.26 lakhs for 3 years
	Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation, Kotdwar	A coordinated project on application of diverse uses of biomass for eco restoration and employment generation for women in hilly areas of Garhwal	9 organisation have trained women in making various income generating items from under-utilised biomass such as Anaphillis, Agava, Graevia, Bauhinia etc.	200	Rs. 5.7 lakhs
	Narendra Dev University, Faizabad	AICP on low cost preservation of horticultural produce	Low cost preservation of minor forest produce such as Amla, Jamun etc.	100	Rs. 1 lakh for 1 year
West Bengal	Technical Teachers Training Institute, Calcutta	AICP on water, health and sanitation.	Created awareness amongst women and demonstrated technologies relating to water health and sanitation.	60	Rs. 70,000/- for year
	Ramkrishna Mission Belur Math, Calcutta	-do-	-do-	60	Rs. 70,000/- for 1 year

State/U.T	Name of the Institution	Title of the project	Achievement	No. of beneficiaries	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Manav Vikas Kendra Purulia	Setting up of Vigyan Kendra for women of Purulia Dist for self reliant gainful employment.	Women were trained in leaf 150 cup and plate making, candle making, plastic bags and pouches.		Rs. 89,100/- for 1 year
	Science Association of West Bengal Calcutta	AICP on low cost preser- vation of horticultural produce	Women of Sagar islands were trained in making chilly sauce, and preserving juice of water melon. A women's cooperative has set up.	36	Rs. 1 lakh for 1 year

* Denotes research and development and survey projects.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: My first supplement is this. Though several schemes have been sponsored, but most of the schemes envisaged had not reached the real beneficiaries. Most of the science graduates are non-tribals. Though recognised as predominantly tribal populated districts of Andhra Pradesh, Vishakhapattanam and East Godawari, have been ignored with any of the said schemes.

Likewise, perhaps, several districts in India have been ignored. These schemes have been mostly confined to the urban areas.

I would like to know, through you, from the hon. Minister, whether she will look into these aspects and direct that such schemes should also be launched in these tribally predominant districts.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: We have during the Sixth and Seventh Plan periods, various schemes for science and technology for women. These have been aimed at improving the quality of life of the woman, essentially in the rural and backward areas of the country.

The second aspect is about reducing the drudgery for women in their daily operations.

And thirdly, for training them for employment in the new emerging fields where science and technology would be applicable.

I would like to assure the hon. Member that we have no bias as far as providing these facilities are concerned for the tribal or the rural areas. In fact, most of the thrust areas have been rural-oriented and rural-based.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: My second supplementary is this. We are fortunate that the concerned Minister herself is a woman. This question also concerns women.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, the lady members will ask the supplementaries!

SHRI M.V.V.S. Murthy: Science and

technology has not percolated to the rural areas. The schemes should be such that they should spread science into the villages, particularly, into the women folk.

To achieve this objective, Training Centers should be started in the rural areas and not in the urban areas. I want to know whether the hon. Minister will assure the House that such emphasis will be given for starting such Centers in the near future in the rural areas.

In the Statements that have been laid on the Table of the House, in that, most of the Centers have been located in Delhi and also in other places. What I want to say is that such schemes should be really meant for women folk who are living in the rural areas and who are very backward. The amount that had been allocated for this year is also very meagre. It is about Rs. 100 lakh.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether she will be pleased to say that some emphasis will be given in future for the allocation of funds and also for locating these schemes in the rural areas.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: The programme has a two pronged approach of functioning. One is the actual Research and Development (R&D) for finding ways and means by which you can reduce drudgery in women's lives. You can develop new implements, new systems of doing things and so on. For this purpose, we have special research projects.

Sir, secondly we are transferring technology and making it applicable to women, who required these improved techniques, systems, implements and so on in order to make it easier for them to do their work and to spend less time, on these regular jobs or regular work which are part of their lives.

Therefore, research and development part may not all be rural-based, though the actual working, functioning and application has gone to be rural-based for rural women.

I would like to point out that most of the voluntary agencies which are involved in transferring technologies from the Labs to the fields, are rural oriented. These developments are taking place in the rural areas where women are working.

As far as allotments are concerned, as you know, general problems exist for financing the projects and I not only, as a Minister but as a woman would like that more is allotted for science and technology for women.

[Translation]

KUMARI VIMLA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any assessment of the schemes related to women has been done to ensure that these schemes are proving useful? If these schemes are useful, will she try for allocation of more funds in the budget to start these schemes in every State because we believe she is a capable Minister.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: There are 19 States which are being funded at the moment. I can give a list if the hon. Member would like.

As far as each State is concerned, the allotment depends on the projects which are sponsored, which are presented to us and we are funding.

As far as the second part of the question is concerned, we do not directly deal with this. Through the voluntary organisations or the State Government we sponsor projects and it is in this way able to carry R&D efforts to the women wherever it is necessary or possible.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for the spirit with which she is carrying on the work, but from the statement it seems She

wants to help women of a particular area whereas on the other hand she does not want to help in any way the women of other area. We have been crying hoarse over the backwardness of Bihar and we raise this matter almost every day in the House but in spite of that Bihar has been totally deprived of welfare schemes in the field of science and technology. By sanctioning only one scheme of sericulture in Khagaria the Government thinks everything has been achieved. I would like to know whether the Government intends to implement any welfare scheme in the fields of science and technology in the backward areas of Bihar?

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is the misuse of the time. This question is not related to welfare but to science and technology.

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking about that only.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I have been repeatedly saying that the effort of the Ministry of this Department of Science and Technology is to develop various things which would help women in various parts of the country. If it is a new implement or technology if it is something which the State Government or the voluntary organisation or local group are utilising it that are popularising it. I would like to give two examples of it. One is the smokeless chulha. It was developed, but various women's organisations, voluntary groups have brought it into their programme; and it is they who are popularising it, taking it to different parts of the country according to their local situation.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, did the people of Bihar demand it?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: The State Government has to do this work.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The improved chulha can be done anywhere; and it can be sent to Bihar.

SHRIMATIMALINIBHATTACHARAYA: The list which has been given in the answer, it does appear that some States are getting more of benefits from these schemes than the other States. Is there any thinking in the Government as to what extent the State Governments and local-self-governments in the area can be involved in identifying the beneficiaries; and also whether there has been any monitoring and reviewing of the situation as to whether the earning potential of women has increased as a result of these things?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I would like to point out that as far as the earning potential is concerned, the results have been very encouraging because the training that has been given to them in the new areas where jobs are becoming available have been very carefully planned; and I must say; for instance, even in traditional occupations like sericulture and various other areas where women have been working, the improved technique which has been brought in has increased their income and also made drudgery of the work less; whether we are talking about coir industry; even a simple question of fuel and fodder for rural women with wasteland development where particular type of plant which have been suggested, the drudgery of collecting fuel and fodder for women, which is very much part of the life of the rural women, has been eased. And therefore, when we are talking of science and technology for women we are talking only about laboratory developments but of its application.

It is true that different States are getting grants at different levels; it depends upon the projects which are sponsored, which are sent to us, which are funded by us; and it depends therefore on how interested and active the State Governments are in coming forth with projects which can be funded by the Department of Science and Technology. Besides this, I must also say that certain areas have got specific programmes which have been launched. For instance, we have separate programmes for coastal areas, separate programmes for the hill areas depending on the environment and the local

problems. In the hilly areas it has something to do with sheep rearing, with great rearing and with carding and other problems for wool development and we have also gone in, for instance, for medicinal plant development where women are able to earn by planting certain types of medicinal plants which have a market, if they are grown in the backyard their own homes. So, these are projects depending on the areas. When it comes to coastal areas we are talking about inland fisheries and other programmes by which the output and processing of marine products help the Women. So, in accordance with the areas, there are various programmes for various groups depending on the local problems.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Monitoring has not been answered.

Eighth Plan Proposals by Kerala

*595. **SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE:** Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has prepared the Eighth Plan proposals;

(b) if so, the details of the projects that are likely to be taken up in the first year of the Eighth plan;

(c) the estimated allocation thereof; and

(d) the extent to which it will be more than the previous year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The outlays are approved by planning Commission headwise/sub-headwise and not project wise. The Eighth Five year Plan of Kerala has not been finalised so far. However, for annual plan 1992-93 of the State which is the first year of the 8th Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 913 crores has been agreed to which is 13.1% higher than

the outlay of Rs. 807 crores approved for 1991-92.

SHRITHAYILJOHNANJALOSE: What are the main proposals submitted by the State Government to be included in the Eighth Plan, whether all proposals of the State Government are accepted by the Central Government, and what are the proposals not accepted?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: The State Government requested for an outlay of Rs. 913 crores and it has been agreed to.

SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: In view of the inflation and devaluation of the rupee, 13.1 per cent is very low as compared to the last year's outlay and it becomes much less after the devaluation of the rupee. So, it is necessary to increase the outlay at least by 30 per cent for 1992-93. In view of the financial constraint of the Kerala Government, will the Government increase its share if the Government of Kerala makes a request to that effect?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: So far as the increase is concerned, it is 13.1 per cent and considering the devaluation, there may not be much increase, I agree. But if you consider the last year's expenditure the outlay revised by the Kerala Government is now Rs. 620 crores; that is the latest information. So, the increase will be rather more than 13.1 per cent. But the Plan was discussed thoroughly with the State and they have agreed to the allocation.

SHRIRAMESHCHENNITHALA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Annual Plan for this year is finalised on the basis of the Gadgil Formula or the Modified Gadgil Formula.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: This is not in accordance with the Gadgil Formula. A revised Mukherjee Formula has been used this time.

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the details of the Eighth Five Year Plan for Kerala

have been finalised and when is it to be completed.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: As I submitted earlier, the Eighth Five Year Plan is still to be finalised. Only the Annual Plan has been finalised and we are having discussions. The Eighth Plan will have to be discussed in the next meeting of the National Development Council which is going to be held perhaps in the month of May.

SHRI E. AHAMED: The hon. Minister was pleased to inform the House that the Government of India now accepted the Mukherjee Formula. We know about Gadgil Formula and the Revised Gadgil Formula. Will the hon. Minister please explain to the House what is the difference between the Revised Gadgil Formula and the Mukherjee Formula?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: As a matter of fact, whether it is Gadgil formula, consensus formula and now Mukherjee formula, there is no substantial difference. Now the latest distribution of central assistance will be, population 60 percent, per capita income 25/- including 5 percent on distance method and 20 percent on deviation method and performance is 7.50 per cent ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Anyway the main question is on Kerala and not on formula.

Coal Based Industries

*596. **SHRI ANIL BASU:**
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal for setting up coal based industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any request in this regard from the Governments of West Bengal and Bihar; and

Sl. No	Name of the organisation	Nature of the complaints and action taken
1	2	3
RAJASTHAN		
6.	Rajasthan Mahila Bala Vikas Samiti.	The State Government of Rajasthan has stated that this organisation has been black-listed on the basis of an inspection report by them and as such the Central Government should not release any grants-in-aid to it. Release of grants has been withheld.
TAMIL NADU		
7.	Christian Foundation for the Blind-India Madras.	A complaint from one Shri Ceyril Fernandus claiming to be an accountant with the organisation has been received stating that there is corruption and 'golmal' in this organisation. The State Government of Tamil Nadu has been requested to furnish a status report.
UTTAR PRADESH		
8.	Kashi Club, Varanasi.	A complaint was received against the organisation about misuse of funds from one Shri A.S. Misra.

Sl. No	Name of the organisation	Nature of the complaints and action taken
1	2	3
NAGALA		
9.	Bethesda Youth Welfare Centre, Dimapur.	A complaint was received against the functioning of this organisation from Shri Diji Soloman and five other persons alleging, inter alia, nepotism, misuse of vehicle, absense of rules and regulations, payment less than the scale etc.
BIHAR		
10.	Bihar Rehabilitation and Welfare Institute, Patna.	On enquiry by the State Government, some of the allegations were found to be correct and the performance of the organisation not very satisfactory. It was, therefore, decided that the State Government should be asked to appoint one of their officers as Project Director. This has been done. A complaint was made by Shri Ashok Sehgal, Executive Director, Bihar Rehabilitation and Welfare Institute during the year 1991-92 against irregularities.

Sl. No	Name of the organisation	Nature of the complaints and action taken
1	2	3

According to the State Government of Bihar who were requested to conduct an inquiry, no irregularity was found in the working of the organisation.

WEST BENGAL

11.

Harijans Sevak Sangh,
Howrah.

A complaint was received that the Secretary of the organisation was misappropriating the organisational assistance given to it.

No reply has been received from the State Government of West Bengal who were requested to furnish a report.

Grants-in-aid to the organisation have been withheld for the last three years.

12.

Centre for Psychological
Training and Research, Calcutta.

In June, 1989 a complaint was received against the working of this centre that there was less payment of salary to the staff, and other irregularities. Another complaint was received on 9.8.89.

The State Government furnished its report through its letter dated 27.9.89 and on examination of the report, it was found that the allegations could not be substantiated. Accordingly, the withheld grants were released.

Sl. No	Name of the organisation	Nature of the complaints and action taken
1	2	3
13.	Bengal SC/ST Development Society, West Bengal.	<p>Complaint dated 5.12.91 from the residents of Mandalpara, West Bengal, was received on 24.12.91 regarding misure of funds.</p> <p>Enquiry was conducted through Director for SCs and STs, National.</p> <p>Commission for SCs and STs, Calcutta and the complaint was not substantiated.</p>

[*Translation*]

Oil Schemes/Projects of Gujarat

*626. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various oil schemes/projects of Gujarat are pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date on which the proposals for these projects were received from the Government of Gujarat;

(d) the reasons for delay in clearing them; and

(e) the time by which these projects/schemes are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) to (e): In the Central public sector, the following projects pertaining to Gujarat are at various stages of consideration:

Name of the Project	Estimated Cost	Facilities proposed
1	2	3
i) ONGC's project relating to the Development of Gandhar Field (Phase II).	Rs. 1245.62 crores including foreign exchange component of Rs. 428.34 crores.	Drilling and completion of 203 additional development wells; installation of oil and gas surface facilities, handling and separation facilities, pressure maintenance facilities by water and gas injections etc.
ii) Expansion of Hazira Gas terminal of ONGC.	Rs. 923.90 crores including a foreign exchange component of Rs. 325.19 crores.	Expanding the processing capacity from 20 MMSCMD to 41 MMSCMD.
iii) Kerosene Recovery Unit.	Rs. 52.95 crores including a foreign exchange component of Rs. 3.40 crores.	Recovery of Kerosene, from Natural Gas liquid.
iv) Gas Processing Complex at Gandhar	Rs. 737.48 crores with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 129.51 crores.	Extraction of Kerosene, C ₂ /C ₃ feed stock and LPG.
v) IOC's project for the setting up of LPG import facilities at Kandla.	Rs. 145.65 crores including foreign exchange component of Rs. 21 crores.	Setting up of port handling facilities for the import of 600,000 tonnes per annum of LPG.

These projects have not been received from the Government of Gujarat. The projects are being processed as expeditiously as possible. Requests for allocation of natural gas for projects relating to Gujarat received from time-to time are considered on merits.

Seeds Sold by NSC

*627. SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA
KUSMARIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price fixed by the National Seeds Corporation for yielding varieties of seeds are too high and beyond the reach of poor farmers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure reasonable prices for the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Downstream Industries

*629. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to set up a number of downstream industries at the time of sanction of HBJ pipeline of natural gas;

(b) if so, the list of industries to be set up with anticipated date of their completion;

(c) the estimated utilisation of their installed capacity;

(d) whether any of these industries have

since been set up; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) to (e). When the HBJ Pipeline was initially approved it was to supply gas to six fertilizer plants. The requirement of gas for these fertilizer plants. The requirement of gas for these fertilizer plants was expected to start between October 1986 and October 1988, and to each of them the allocation is 1.8 MMSCMD. Three of these plants have already been commissioned.

[Translation]

Petroleum & Natural Gas Industries in Bihar

*630. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petroleum and natural gas industries functioning in Bihar

(b) the production made in these industries during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up more such industries in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) In the central public sector there is one oil refinery and two LPG Bottling Plants in Bihar.

(b) The quantity of crude oil processed in the Refinery and LPG filled in the Bottling Plants during the last three years is as under:-

	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Crude oil processing in Refinery (Million Tonnes)	2.964	2.416	2.262
Filling of LPG Cylinders (TMT)	36.83	42.45	44.36

(c) and (d). There is no such proposal at present.

Sick Oil Wells

*631. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted regarding the sick oil wells in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the modern technology has been applied for the revival of those wells;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have signed any agreement with any other country for revival of those wells; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) to (d). ONGC contrarily monitors and reviews the status of oil wells. It undertakes workover operations in respect of sick wells on a regular basis. In this regard the best available technology is used. A Task Force set up by ONGC in December 1990, also made an analysis of sick wells in the Bombay off shore, Western onshore and eastern region.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Gas Reserves in Tripura & Assam

*632. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas reserves have been discovered in off-shore areas of Tripura and Assam;

(b) if so, the details along with the capacity of each of those gas reserves; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on the discovery and development of such gas reserves.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) to (c). Tripura and Assam do not have any offshore region. However, onshore recoverable reserves to the extent of approximately 10.6 billion cu. mts. of gas in Tripura and approximately 150.5 million tonnes of oil and 147.8 billion cu. mts. of gas in Assam have been established.

Probe into Disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

6687. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Political Party has demanded a fresh probe into the disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose;

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

(c) whether the Government have accepted reported by two committee set up to enquire into this matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c). The Government has already accepted the reports of the Shan Nawaz Khan Committee and the Khosla Commission to the effect that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose died in an air crash on 18th August, 1945 at Taihoku.

[*Translation*]

Funds Sanctioned by National Co-operative Development Corporation to Bihar for Development of Fishery

6688. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned by the National Co-operative Development Corporation to Bihar for integrated development of fishery industry during the current financial year;

(b) whether the Government of Bihar has spend the entire amount sanctioned for this purpose during the last financial year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). No proposal for financial assistance under Integrated Fisheries Development Project has been received from Bihar so far.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Shale Oil Production in North Eastern State

6689. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any task force has been constituted to make indepth studies of the potential and economic viability of shale oil production in the north-eastern State of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A multi-disciplinary Task Force was constituted in February, 1991 to assess the geographical spread and volume of oil shales and related coals, review of existing technologies and work in progress in different research centres in the world, determine R&D efforts to be undertaken including setting up of the pilot plant, assess the economic and environment implication of this activity and carry out cost benefit analysis of the selected processes/pilots.

Receipt of Foreign Contribution by Aware

6690. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of aid received by 'AWARE' during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount spent by the said organisation on housing schemes for tribals and scheduled castes in Kereem Nagar, Khammam, Mahaboobnagar, East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh during the said period; and

(c) whether the utilisation certificate has been furnished to donor countries by the said organisation?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) The quantum of aid received by 'AWARE' during last three years is as given below:-

Year	Amount
1988	Rs. 11,12,34,706
1989	Rs. 3,33,05,538
1990	Rs. 7,35,50,062

(b) AWARE has reported that it has not taken any housing scheme during last three years in the district of Kereem Nagar, Ma-

haboobnagar, East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh. It has given Rs. 77,000/- to few tribla families in Bhaadralam of Khammam district to construct traditional houses during 1989-90.

(c) AWARE has stated that it sends audited statements of accounts to its donor agencies.

Agricultural Products under Negative

6691. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the agricultural production which come under negative list of imports; and

(b) the total production and demand of these products during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) A Statement is attached.

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

STATEMENT

The list of agricultural products in the negative list of imports appearing in export and import policy (April 1992-March 1997) is as follows:-

NEGATIVE LIST OF IMPORTS

Part-I Prohibited items — Nil

Part-II Restricted items

A- CONSUMER GOODS.

Sl. No.	Description on of items	Nature of restriction
1	2	3
1.	Saffron	Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a public notice issued in this behalf.
2.	Cloves, Cinnamon & Cassia	Import will be allowed against a licence subject to export obligation of twice the value of imports. The goods qualifying for export obligation shall be as specified.
D-SEEDS, PLANTS & ANIMALS		
	Plants, Seeds and other plant material.	Import permitted:- (a) against a licence on the recommendations of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India subject to the provisions of Plants, fruits and Seeds (Regulation of Import into India) Crader, 1984; and

Sl. No.	Description on of items	Nature of restriction
1	2	3

(b) in accordance with a public Notice issued in this behalf.

J - MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

4. Raw Cotton Permitted to be imported only against a licence or in accordance with Public Notice issued in this behalf.

Part-III Canalsing Items

Sl. No.	Description of items	Canalsing Agency
1	2	3
1.	Seeds (Copra, Groundnut, Palm, Rapeseed, Safflower, Soyabean, Sunflower, Cotton).	The State Trading Corporation of India Limited and Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Ltd.
2.	Cereals	Food Corporation of India.

US Committee for Refugees

6692. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the U. S. Committee for Refugees (USCR) had urged upon the Government to halt the repatriation of Tamil refugees to Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether USCR had also urged upon other countries to halt repatriation of refugees from their respective soils; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for such a call to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALFARO): (a) to (c). Government are aware of the report by the USCR, a non-government body, in this regard. Repatriation of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees is continuing on the basis of their desire to return and the assurance received from the Sri Lankan Government regarding their security and rehabilitation.

(d) Government have not information.

(e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Strike by NDMC Employees

6694. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report regarding strike by the employees of New Delhi Municipal

Committee had been submitted to the Union Government by the Delhi Administration;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c). A section of workers of New Delhi Municipal Committee struck work from 3.12.1991 to 22.1.1992. Their main demand was the extension of Siva Shankar Committee Scale to the left out categories of New Delhi Municipal Committee. The Administration has not so far considered it advisable to extend the scales to the remaining employees of NDMC because such extension among others could lead to similar demands from the employees of other civic bodies and branches of administration in Delhi and the financial implications would be staggering.

[*English*]

Starvation of Tribal Students Living in Hostels of Kerala

6695. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that students residing in tribal hostels in Kerala are on the brink of starvation;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c). The Govern-

ment of Kerala has inform that as a result of decentralisation of the administration of subjects relating to Scheduled Tribes development in Kerala with effect from 1.4.1991, the administration of hostels for tribal students was also transferred to the newly formed District Councils. The funds for implementation of various schemes/instalments are allotted to District Councils in monthly instalments. The allotment of funds was not made for hostels after three monthly instalment due to non-receipt of the utilisation certificates of the previous instalments which resulted in the shortage of supply of food materials. However, supplies were arranged from local shops on credit basis. The administration of the subjects relating to Scheduled Tribes Development including all institution like hostels have been taken back by the State Government from the District Councils in November, 1991 and sufficient funds allotted to the hostels for agganging normal supplies. Now there is no problem.

[Translation]

Facilities to Freedom Fighters

6696. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of freedom fighters who have refused to take pension and other facilities provided to them by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980, Pension and other facilities such as free 1st class railway pass, free medical facilities in all hospitals under the Central Government and the Bureau of Public Enterprise and C. G. H. S. facilities wherever the scheme is in operation etc., are provided only to those freedom fighters who are desirous of the same on

receipt of their application and subject to their fulfilling the criteria prescribed in the above said scheme. The question of refusing the pension etc. would not arise.

However, as a token of the Nation's gratitude to the invaluable contribution made by freedom fighters in attaining the goal toward the Country's Independence. Central Government offered freedom fighters' pension Suo-moto to 270 eminent freedom fighters so far. Out of them 17 freedom fighters have refused to take pension and other facilities.

[English]

Per Capita Availability of Milk and Milk Products

6697. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of milk, ghee, butter and cheese in rural and urban areas in each State during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) A statement indicating Statewise per capita availability of milk during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 (provisional) is attached. Separate data for per capita availability of milk, ghee butter and cheese in rural and urban areas are not available.

(b) Following are the main strategies being pursued to increase the milk production:-

- (i) Genetic improvement of nationally important cattle breeds by selective breeding in their hometracts and upgrading in other selected areas;
- (ii) Cross-breeding of non-describe cattle with exotic dairy breeds;
- (iii) Genetic improvement of important buffalo breeds by selective breeding and upgrading of non-descript buffaloes;
- (iv) Development of feed and fodder resources;
- (v) Organisation of effective animal health services to support the production programme; and
- (vi) Implementation of Operation Flood Programme.

STATEMENT

Statement Indicating State-wise Per Capita Availability of Milk During 19 88-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91

Sl. No.	State	Per capita availability of milk (Kgs/annum)		
		1988-89	1989-90	1990-91 (Prov.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	45.2	47.7	45.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	49.2	50.1	49.8
3.	Assam	25.7	25.7	26.6
4.	Bihar	33.9	35.2	35.8
5.	Goa	21.1	20.5	20.0
6.	Gujarat	75.7	81.8	84.4
7.	Haryana	176.5	194.9	193.3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	99.9	102.9	108.6
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	62.8	65.9	73.2
10.	Karnataka	52.3	52.4	53.7
11.	Kerala	52.2	54.4	56.6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	70.7	71.5	72.7
13.	Maharashtra	37.8	43.2	48.5

Sl. No.	State	Per capita availability of milk (Kgs/annum)		
		1988-89	1989-90	1990-91 (Prov.)
14.	Manipur	46.7	46.3	45.0
15.	Meghalaya	29.2	28.3	28.1
16.	Mizoram	12.7	13.7	11.7
17.	Nagaland	33.1	30.9	40.0
18.	Orissa	14.2	14.6	14.8
19.	Punjab	237.1	250.4	254.7
20.	Rajasthan	97.7	99.8	100.4
21.	Sikkim	60.8	63.0	62.9
22.	Tamil Nadu	59.6	62.2	60.9
23.	Tripura	10.9	10.6	11.0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	68.3	69.5	72.3
25.	West Bengal	42.6	43.4	44.3

Production of Diesel

6698. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the current demand for diesel in
agriculture, transport and industrial sectors
respectively;

(b) the share of indigeneious sources of
supply in meeting the current demand for
diesel;

(c) the projection of indigenous supply
during the Eight Five Year Plan period; and

(d) whether the country can be self-
sufficient in production of diesel in foresee-
able future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-
ANAND): (a) The sector-wise consumption
during 1990-91 is as follows: -

(1) Transport (Incl. Agr. Retail (Trade);

18813 TMT

91	Written Answers	APRIL 9, 1992	Written Answers	92
(2)	Plantation/Food (incl. processing)		318 TMT	
(3)	Power Generation (Utilities)		104 TMT	
4.	Industry		1431 TMT	
(5)	Misc. Services (incl. DGS&D)		473 TMT	

(b)				(FIGS. In TMT)			
Year	Demand	Indigenous Production	%Share				
1990-91	21140	17186	81.3				
1991-92	22638	17244	76.2				
	(Latest outlook)						

(c) and (e). The indigenous supply during Eight Five Year Plan will be dependent upon availability of crude and augmentation of the refining capacity. Though there are plans to augment the refining capacity, indigenous production is likely to lower than the projected demand.

Tension on Assam-Nagaland Border

6699. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tension is mounting again in those areas of Assam and Nagaland border where violent incidents took place during 1985.

the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to defuse the tension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M.

JACOB): (a) Some report to this effect have been received.

(b) In view of the sensitives in the disputed area, the two State Government had decided to maintain status-quo in the area and to deploy of Central paramilitary Force for maintaining peace. A mechanism for liaison between officers from the two States, at different levels, was also evolved. An Empowered Committee comprising of Officers from the Central and State Government of Assam and Nagaland was also constituted. The State Government have been addressed to reactivate the mechanism of liaison at various levels and ensure maintenance of peace.

[Translation]

Fire Tender in Delhi

6700. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of fire tenders in

Delhi;

(b) the number of fire tenders among them which are more than two years old along with the number of those which are still in use in spite of being totally unusable; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to replace them by new ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The Delhi Fire Service has 88 fire tenders of different types. All the fire tenders are more than two years old. Of these 31 tenders are still in use despite completing their recommended life of 10 years.

(c) The Delhi fire service is acquiring 66 new fire tenders.

[English]

Oil Refinery at Paradeep

6701. SHRI ANADI CHARANDAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an oil refinery at Paradeep;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) to (c). There is a proposal to set up a grassroot refinery with a capacity of 6 million tonnes per annum in Eastern India during the 8th/9th Plan period.

Modernisation of Refineries

6702. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVISINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of refineries under the Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) whether there is any proposal to modernise some of the refineries during the Eighth Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) Six.

(b) to (e). The details regarding the expansion/modernisation of existing refineries by Indian Oil Corporation are given below:—

Name of the project Location	Addl. capacity Proposed to be created (In MTPa)	Estimated cost Rs. in crores)
1. Koyali Refinery	3.00	303.00
2. Barauni Refinery 0.5	0.5	19.5
3. Guwahati Refinery	0.15	0.20
4. Dighobi Refinery	0.15	350

Bio-Technology Projects

6703. SHRISANTOSHKUMARGANGWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Bio-technology has sanctioned a number of Bio-technology Project in various Institute under the ICAR;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several projects sanctioned for Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) have been closed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken against the persons responsible for closure?

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

(b) Twelve ad-hoc Biotechnology Projects amounting to Rs. 327.1 lakhs were sanctioned by the Deptt. of Biotechnology for implementation at the ICAR Institute.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Stamp Duty Exemption

6704. SHRICHINMAYANANDSWAMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have been given powers under the Delhi Cooperative Societies Act, 1972 to exempt from stamp duty in respect of any instrument executed by or on behalf of a Cooperative Society or a members;

(b) if so, the date of the notification; and

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to issue the notification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No notification have been issued under the Delhi Cooperative Societies Act, 1972.

However, a notification on the subject under the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, was issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) in November, 1960 and the same notification was renitified under the Cooperative Law in December, 1960, exempting cooperatives societies in Delhi from the payment of Stamp Duty.

Allocation to ICAR

6705. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation proposed to be made to ICAR during Eighty Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount of allocation made to ICAR in Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) the percentage increase and the various new programmes proposed to be taken up by Indian Council of Agricultural Research during Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Sir, the size and contents of the Eighth Five Year Plan have not been decided.

(b) Rs. 452 Crores.

(c) Does no arise in view of (a) above.

LPG Bottling Plant at Haldia

6706. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision regarding expansion of LPG bottling plant of the Indira Oil Corporation at Haldia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). There are no plant at present to expand the capacity.

Damge to School Buildings by Fires and Bomb Blasts in Kashmir

6707. SHRI SHARAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether over 50 per cent of the Schools buildings in the Kashmir valley have been wrecked by 'mysterious' fires and bomb blasts during the past two years as reported in the Tribune dated January 20, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c). The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have informed that of 5167 government schools 245 schools in the Kashmir valley had been damaged/gutted in the terrorist action. The academic activities were however, restored in rented buildings

and tented accommodation. Simultaneously, the process of re-construction of school buildings has been started within the available resources with priority on the primary schools.

Movement/Immovable Wakf Properties

6708. SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the value to move able and immovable Wakf properties, State-wise; and

(b) the amount of grants provided by the Union Government to the Wakfs during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Smuggling of Jain Idols

6709. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether antique Jain idols are being smuggled out of the country;

(b) if so, whether some idols have been recovered from the smugglers during the last three mnths;

(c) if so, the details of the idols recovered and the places from where such recoveries have been made; and

(d) the corrective measures taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M.

JACOB): (a) to (d). Information on theft of particular idols is not compiled and monitored by Central agencies. It is for the concerned State police to register cases and take-up investigation and also take necessary steps to prevent the theft/smuggling of idols.

Officials Involved in 1984- Riots

6710. SHRI RATILAL VARMA:
SHRI ANAND RATNA
MAURYA:
SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:
SHRI RABI RAY:
DR. RAMESH CHAND
TOMAR:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA:
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
SHRI RAM BAHADUR:
SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD
YADAV:
DR. A. K. PATEL:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
SHRI SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO VADDE:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PAN-
DEY:
SHRI BOLLABULLIRAMIAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of the officials against whom disciplinary action and other appropriate action have been recommended by Ms. Kusumlata Mittal;

(b) the details of the charges levelled against such officials;

(c) whether the Government propose to initiate action against them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d). On the basis of the recommendations of Ms. Mittal, it has been decided to proceed against police officials indicted in her report. In all, Ms. Mittal had indicted 72 police officials. Of these, 13 have retired and 2 died. The charges against the officials mainly relate to dereliction of duty, lack of supervision and failure to maintain absolute devotion to duty. Of the 57 officials being proceeded against 6 are IPS officers 1 Addl. DCP; 10 Assistant Commissioners of Police; 19 Inspectors; 12 Sub-Inspectors; 2 Asst. Sub-Inspectors & 7 Head Constables.

[Translation]

Allotment of Dealership on Production of Bogus SC/ST Certificate

6711. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI ROSHAN LAL:
SHRI PROBIN DEKA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases have come to the notice of the Government where petrol/diesel retails outlets and LPG dealerships have been allotted on the production of bogus SC/ST certificates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of dealership cancelled on this account?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The retails outlets at (i) Babhnan in Basti District (UP) (ii) Dēesa in Banaskantha (Gujarat) and the LPG dealerships at (i) Karvi/Chitrakootdham in Banda District (UP) (ii) Patna in Patna District (Bihar) (iii) Hojai in Nowgong district (Assam) & (iv)

Dondiacha in Dhule District (Maharashtra) were allotted for SC/ST candidates.

The correctness of the SC/ST certificate has been questioned. No final decisions have taken place as most of the cases are sub-judice.

[English]

Auction of Agricultural

6712. SHRIMANORAN JAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andman and Nicobar Administration has auctioned any agricultural land for recovery of colonization loan allotted to the refuge settlers under Colonisation Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the colonization loan advanced to settlers were written off and the persons against whom loan was recovered have been refunded; and

(d) if so, the total amount so refunded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir. Agricultural land was auctioned for recovery of colonisation loan in 4 cases in the Diglipur tehsil and 13 cases in Mayabunder tehsil.

(c) In 1981 the Government of India decided to write off in full the loan amount of Rs. 1730/- sanctioned to each of the settlers in A&N Islands under the colonisation scheme. It was also decided that those

migrants who had entered India before 31st March '58 and who had already repaid colonisation loan in full or in part, would be refunded the repaid amount.

(d) The total amount refunded is of the order of Rs. 91,956.30 p.

Police Personnel on Night Duty

6713. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any instances of police personnel in Delhi attending to their duties during night under the influence of liquor have come to the notice of the Government during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against the concerned personnel; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to check the recurrence of such instances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c), 3 Police personnel were found under the influence of liquor while on night duty during the period from 1.1.92 to 31.3.92. The officials were (i) Constable Tara Chand, who was on antisnatching duty; (ii) Constable Ram Kumar, who was on sentry duty, and (iii) Constable Jeet Singh, who was performing duties as a driver. They were all placed under suspension. Against two of them, departmental enquiry has been initiated and against the remaining official, prosecution was launched.

(d) Stringent actions is taken whenever such misconduct comes to notice.

Economic Collaboration with South Africa and Israel

6714. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish economic collaboration with South Africa and Israel; and

(b) if so, the areas indemnified or the agreements signed by the Government for establishment of such collaboration with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). It proposed to establish economic cooperation with Israel. While no agreement have been signed so far, some of the areas identified are agriculture, science and technology, medicine, civil aviation tourism.

Regarding trade relations with South Africa, India is a party to the decision taken at the Commonwealth Summit in Harare in October 1991, which declared that economic sanctions, including trade and investment measures, should be lifted when appropriate transitional mechanisms have been agreed which would enable all the parties to participate fully and effectively in negotiations. India will establish economic ties with South Africa when this stage has been reached.

Spray of Pesticides from Aeroplanes

6715. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pesticides are increasing being sprayed from aeroplane;

(b) the pesticides along with their quantities sprayed during the last three years,

State-wise;

(c) whether any monitoring is done on dangers caused due to spraying of these pesticides; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

(c) and (d). Pesticides after evaluating their efficacy; and safety to human beings, animals, environment, etc. are approved for use. To avoid hazards, precautions like (i) marking of area for spraying; (ii) to exclude water sources and dense human habitation; (iii) informing public not less than 24 hours in advance of aerial operations; and (iv) preventing entry of animals and persons for specified period; are taken before/during aerial spraying, and hence no regular monitoring in such cases is generally required.

[*Translation*];

Banning of Lotteries

6716. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
PROF. K. V. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints regarding conduct of lotteries by private agencies without the approval of the competent authority have been received by the Union Government;

(b) whether any requests for banning the lotteries being run by the States have

also been received by the States have also been received by the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government to (a) and (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Such complaints are occasionally received.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) So far as private lotteries are concerned they fall within the purview of State Government. The Central Government issued guidelines in 1984 to all the State Government regarding regulation of lotteries run by them. However, the complaints received are sent to the State Government for appropriate action.

Decrease in Number of Farmers

6717. KUMAR UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of farmers in the rural areas has decreased as per the 1990-91 census whereas the number of land-holding has increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). 1990-91 Agricultural Census has not been completed as yet.

Price of Indigenous/Imported Fertilizer

6718. SHRI PHOOL VERMA:
SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of indigenous fertilizers are costlier than imported fertilizers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to equate the price of indigenous fertilizers with imported fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. For every fertilizer covered under the statutory price control, the consumer price of indigenous as well as imported fertilizers is the same.

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

Production of Pistols and Revolvers

6719. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to go in for indigenous production of pistols and revolvers in order to bring down their prices so as to enable the common man to purchase them for security purpose; and

(b) if so, the time by which such production is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M.

JACOB): (a) and (b). According to the existing policy, manufacture of pistols and revolvers and their ammunition in private sector is not being permitted.

[English]

LPG Distributorships in Kerala

6720. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to sanction new LPG distributorship in Kerala during 1992;

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

(c) the details of LPG distributorship allotted during 1991?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). LPG distributorship are opened at different places in the country on the basis of market survey, economic viability, product availability, etc. under various marketing plant.

(c) Nil.

Marketing/Distribution of Petroleum Products

6721. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms and criteria laid down by the Balmer Lawrie Co. Ltd. for marketing/distribution of petroleum products and grease;

(b) the details of distributors/consignment agents etc. for these products;

(c) whether the Balmer Lawrie Co. Ltd. propose to give advance technology assistance to small sector for manufacturing of grease to provide gainful employment to needy individuals;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the names of State which are unrepresented by agents so far for marketing/distribution of petroleum products and grease?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The requisite information is given in the statement attached.

(c) and (d). There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(e) The States unrepresented by Consignment Stock Agents of the Company are: West Bengal, Bihar, Assam and North Eastern States, Orissa, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.

STATEMENT

1. The norms and criteria followed by Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. for the selection of Consignment Stock Agents are: sufficient market potential, financial security, suitable godown space, solvency of the Agent, experience in marketing etc.

2. The names and locations of the Consignment Stock Agents are given below:

- (i) Nasvaaks Enterprises, VIII/417, South Cherlai Mattancherry, Cochin.
- (ii) Bhrith Bearings, 20/4 Kamaraj Salai, Pondicherry.
- (iii) Bright Associated, 54/1, 10th Cross, 4th Main Hanumantha

Nagar, Bangalore.

SHRI S. B. THORAT:

- (iv) SM Industrial and Consumer Products Pvt. Ltd., 136 A, Begumpur Malaviya Nagar, New Delhi.
- (v) Shri Products India, 15 Bahagat Singh Market, Latoouche Road, Kanpur.
- (vi) K. K. Enterprise, Sadar Bazar, Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh.
- (vii) The Universal Supply Corporation, Sogani Bhawan, M. I. Road, Jaipur.

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount received by the N. S. F. D. C. from the Union Government till date;

(b) the amount given to the SC/ST entrepreneurs by way of loan for small scale and medium project during the last year;

(c) whether the share capital of the NSFDC is deposit in various banks; and

(d) if so, the amount of interest realised from those banks on deposits during the last three years?

Loan to SC/ST Entrepreneurs

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Rs. 55.00 crores as paid up share capital.

6723. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

(b)	1989-90	Rs.	35.00 lakhs
	1990-91	Rs.	613.59 lakhs
	1991-92	Rs.	4051.52 lakhs
	Total	Rs.	4700.11 lakhs

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d)	1989-90	Rs.	533.10 lakhs
	1990-91	Rs.	681.26 lakhs
	1991-92	Rs.	833.10 lakhs
	(unaudited)	Rs.	2047.46 lakhs
	or	Rs.	20.4746 crores

[Translation]

Recruitment of Constables in Delhi Police

6724. SHRI AVTAR SINGH
BHADANA:
SHRI S. N. VEKARIA:
SHRI MADAN LAL KHUR-
ANA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the written examination were held for the recruitment of constables in Delhi Police during the last quarter of the previous year;

(b) if so, the number of candidate appeared and the number of vacancies thereof;;

(c) the reasons for delay in declaring the result of the examination;

(d) the time by which the result is likely to be announced;

(e) whether the Government have also received complaints about leakage of question papers; and

(f) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter and if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 25,501 candidates appeared in the written test against 1700 vacancies.

(c) to (f). Following allegations regarding irregularities, leakage of question paper, etc., an inquiry has been initiated into the

matter by a senior Additional Commissioner of Police and the announcement of results has been with held.

[English]

Raid on Fireworks/Crackers Dealers

6725. SHRI AROUN SINGH YADAV:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sales Tax Department of Delhi Administration raided the wholesale dealers of fireworks/crackers recently;

(b) if so, the details of the dealers raided; and

(c) the outcome of such raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The Office of the Commissioner of Sales Tax (Delhi Administration) conducted a general survey of following 9 dealers dealing in fire works in the months of October and November, 1991:—

1. M/s. Vishal Fire Works
2. M/s. Imperial Fire Works
3. M/s. A. G. S. Fire Works
4. M/s. Jeggu Mal Ved Prakash
5. M/s. Shyam Trading Co.
6. M/s. Ram Chand Chunna Lal
7. M/s. Ajit Fire Works
8. M/s. Tara Chand & Sons
9. M/s. New Royal Fire Works Mfg. Co.

(c) Certain irregularities were detected. Action as per law is being taken in all these cases.

West Asia Peace Talks

6726. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India propose to participate in the West Asian Peace talks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if no, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the countries that are participating in the talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALFIRO): (a) India will be happy to participate in the West Asian peace talks if it is invited to do so.

(b) and (c). The details would be known only when India is invited.

(d) Names of countries participating in the different phases of the talks are given in the attached statement.

STATEMENT

List of countries that participated in West Asia Peace Talks - Bilateral and Multilateral phases

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1. USA | - |
| Co-sponsor | |
| 2. RUSSIA | - |
| | |
| 3. ISRAEL | . |

4. JORDAN

5. ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

6. CHINA

7. JAPAN

8. CANADA

9. TURKEY

10. SYRIA

11. LEBANON

12. PALESTINE

13. UKRAINE

14. SPAIN

In addition to the above listed countries, Representatives of the following organisations also attended the talks:-

1. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

2. EFTA

3. GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL

4. ARAB MAGHREB UNION

Refined Sunflower 'Dhara' Oil

6727. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board has launched 'Dhara', a refined sunflower oil in Karnataka in one litre tetra packs;

(b) if so, the cost of this pack; and

(c) the quantify of refined sun flower oil 'Dhara' proposed to be supplied to Karnataka during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The NDDB has launched Dhara Refined Sunflower Oil in Karnataka in one litre tetra packs in February, 1992.

(b) The maximum retail price of the oil is Rs. 42 per pack of now litre.

(c) At the present rate, NDDB has a capacity to supply 400-500 MT of Refined Sunflower Oil per month to Karnataka. However, the actual quantities to be supplied would depend on the market demand.

Prawn Production in Goa

6728. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is great scope for prawn culture in Goa;

(b) if so, the assistance given during 1991-92 to Goa;

(c) the total export of prawn from Goa during the last three years;

(d) the amount spent on prawn hatcheries in Goa during each of last three years; and

(e) the action plans frame up to increase the production of prawn in Goa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Goa has a potential for development of prawn culture in about 10,000 ha. brackishwater area.

(b) During 1991-92, a sum of Rs. 50.75 lakhs was given as Central assistance for development of prawn culture in the State.

(c) The total export of marine-products including prawn from Goa during the last 3 years is about 2030 tonnes.

(d) The amount spent on prawn hatchery at Benaulim in Goa during the last three years is as follows:-

		(Rs. in lakhs)
1988-89	:	27.50
1989-90	:	52.90
1990-91	:	91.84

(e) The Action on Plan framed up for increasing the prawn production in Goa include:-

- (i) establishment of a Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agency covering North and South Goa, for providing a package of technical, financial and extension support to shrimp farmers;
- (ii) Commission of a commercial prawn seed hatchery at Benaulim, with a capacity for production about 25 million tiger prawn post larvae per annum;
- (iii) establishment of a demonstration-cum-training centre for imparting training to shrimp farmers at Charao;
- (iv) provision of assistance to various categories of shrimp farmers for construction of semi-intensive shrimp farms, shrimp seed hatcheries and feed mills; etc.

[*Translation*]**Smuggling of Liquor in Delhi**

6729. DR. RAMESH CHAND
TOMAR:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA
KUSMARIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS
be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of smuggling
of liquor detected in Delhi during each of
the last three years;

(b) the number of persons arrested in
this connection during the above period;
and

(c) the corrective measures taken/
being taken to check smuggling of liquor in
Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS-
TRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M.
JACOB): (a) and (b) The information is as
follows:—

Year	Cases detected	Persons arrested
1989	84	96
1990	125	141
1991	259	312
1992	67	73
(Upto 31.3.1992)		

(c) Amongst the corrective measures
taken are (i) close vigilance by the police
check-posts and border pickets; (ii) regular
checking of suspected vehicles, shops, etc.
and (iii) maintenance of close rapport with
the police in the bordering areas, etc.

Government to protect India Missions abroad
in view of the increasing threat due to terror-
ist activities;

(b) the number of incidents of attack on
Indian Missions during the last two years,
year-wise; and

(c) the nature and extent of loss suffered
as a result thereof?

[*English*]**Protection to Indian Missions Abroad**

6730. SHRI CHETAN P. S.
CHAUHAN:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AF-
FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the special measures taken by the

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI
EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. The
Government of India carefully monitors all
threats to India Missions from terrorist groups
abroad. Whenever any information of threat
is received, it is immediately shared with the
host Government and it is requested to take

preventive measures to ensure the safety of the Mission.

(b) Nil.

(c) Nil.

[*Translation*]

UNESCO Centre for Tropical Ecology

6731. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Venezuela had requested India to become the member of UNESCO Centre for Tropical Ecology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

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

[*English*]

Bogus Visa Issuing Rackets in Delhi

6732. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI:
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA):

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some bogus visa issuing rackets have been unearthed in Delhi during 1991 and 1992 so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons arrested in this connection; and

(d) the remedial measures taken/being taken to check such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir. The year-wise cases of bogus visa rackets detected in Delhi are as under

Year	No. of Cases
1991	5
1992 upto 31.3.92.	-

(b) and (c). These cases relate to the recovery of forged passports, citizenship cards, visas, currency notes of foreign countries etc. 21 persons have been arrested in these cases. Two of these cases have since been instituted in the court.

(d) Intelligence collection staff upto Police Station level has been geared to curd such crimes. Criminal cases are registered and legal action taken against the criminals as and when any such complaint/information comes to notice.

[*Translation*]

Incentives to Paddy Growers

6733. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide special incentive to paddy growers to increase their production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). No. Sir. There is no fresh proposal to provide special incentives to paddy growers to increase production. Thorough ongoing Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPRD) incentives are being provided to the farmers to a limited extent in the identified areas to motivate them to adopt improved rice production technology. The intives being provided include distribution of inputs like certified seeds, micro nutrients, herbicides, pesticides, plant protection equipment, farm implements, etc. on subsidised cost.

Production Capacity of DMS Plants

6734. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present production capacity of various plants of Delhi Milk Scheme;

(b) the quantity of milk and milk products produced during the last three years; and

(c) the efforts made during the last three years to increase the production capacity of milk products by Delhi Milk Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) The present production capacity of Delhi Milk Scheme is five lakh litres of milk per day.

(b) Item	Unit	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Milk	Lakh Litres	1623.88	1873.19	1738.63
Ghee	M. T.	896	328	422
Table Butter	M. T.	82	33	59
Yoghurt (Cups)	Lakh Nos.	6.59	10.41	10.86
Flavoured Milk	Lakh Nos.	3.06	3.65	3.38

(c) The capacity of Delhi Milk Scheme; has been increased from 3.75 lakh litres to 5.00 lakh litres per day from April, 1990. The production of other milk products depends upon the availability of surplus fat from the fresh milk.

[English]

Drilling Operations in Ramanathapuram District

6735. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN: Will the

Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the ONGC drilling operations in Ramanathapuram district; and

(b) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) Two exploratory wells Mandapam-1 and Uchipali-2 have been drilled

without any success. The third well Uchipli-1 has been drilled down to 1985 m. and presently under testing.

(b) About Rs. 770 lakhs are likely to be incurred on Seismic Surveys and Rs. 655 lakhs on drilling during 1992-93 and 1993-94.

CISF Assistance for Maintenance of Law and Order

6736. SHRI PRATAP RAO B. BHONSLE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Industrial Security Force has been helping the local authorities for maintaining law and order;

(b) if so, the State where CISF was deployed during 1989, 1990 and 1991 for the purpose;

(c) whether the Central Industrial Security Force has also been providing security to the industrial units; and

(d) if so, the number of such units and charges collected during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of the State where CISF was deployed for law and order duties during 1989, 1990 and 1991 are given in the statement attached.

(c) and (d). CISF has been providing security to the 208 public sector undertakings etc. The amount recovered from them during each of the last three years is as follows:—

Year	Amount recovered from public Sector Undertakings etc.
1989	Rs. 1,41,15,37,251.00
1990	Rs. 1,45,25,80,479.00
1991	Rs. 1,64,23,56,656.00

STATEMENT

State/UTs Where CISF was Deployed for Law and Order Duties During 1989, 1990 and 1991

1989

S. No.	Name of the State/UT
1.	Punjab
2.	Tamil Nadu

S. No. Name of the State/UT

3. Mizoram
4. Nagaland
5. Kerala
6. Andhra Pradesh
7. Karnataka
8. Gujarat

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	S. No.	Name of the State/UT
9.	Madhya Pradesh	12.	Goa
10.	Uttar Pradesh	13.	Chandigarh
11.	Rajasthan	14.	J & K
12.	Delhi	15.	Gujarat
13.	Orissa	16.	Rajasthan
14.	West Bengal		1991
15.	Meghalaya	S. No.	Name of the State/UT
16.	Bihar	1.	Punjab
17.	Maharashtra	2.	Tamil Nadu
	1990	3.	Kerala
S. No.	Name of the State/UT	4.	Andhra Pradesh
1.	Punjab	5.	Karnataka
2.	Andhra Pradesh	6.	Gujarat
3.	Madhya Pradesh	7.	Madhya Pradesh
4.	Uttar Pradesh	8.	Uttar Pradesh
5.	Delhi	9.	Rajasthan
6.	Orissa	10.	Delhi
7.	West Bengal	11.	Orissa
8.	Bihar	12.	West Bengal
9.	Maharashtra	13.	Bihar
10.	Himachal Pradesh	14.	J & K
11.	Haryana	15.	Assam

**Bottling Plants in Purulia District of
West Bengal**

6737. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received and proposal for settling up new bottling plants in Purulia District, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). No decision has been taken to set up a bottling plant at Purulia in West Bengal.

[*Translation*]

Import of Agricultural Appliances

6738. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import agricultural appliances;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the foreign exchange involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). In view of reply to part (a), the questions do not arise.

[*English*]

**Project for Running Vehicles with
Compressed Natural Gas**

6739. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madras Refineries Limited had formulated a pilot project for running vehicles with compressed natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Madras Refineries Limited has taken up a pilot project in cooperation with the Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) and Cholan Roadways Corporation to convert and run 10 buses on an experimental basis, using Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and diesel on a dual-fuel mode. The first passenger bus thus converted has been in operation since 22nd March, 1992.

Ban on Import of Seeds

6740. SHRI V. DHANANJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impose a total ban on import of seeds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Goat Population

6742. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN STETHI:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

- (a) the population of goat, State-wise;
(b) the quantity of milk and meat of goat
produced during 1991-92, State-wise;
(c) whether goat are a major cause of
deforestation and soil erosion; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to provide
enough feed to these goats to conserve our
dwindling forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C.
LENKA): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) The information is being collected
and will be placed on the table of the Sabha.

(c) and (d). No, Sir, however, agro-
forestry system is being population to aug-
ment the availability of feed to the goat.

STATEMENT

Goat Population in India-Livestock census 1987 (Provisional)

(in thousands)

S. No.	State/UT	Goats
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4876
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	108
3.	Assam	2135
4.	Bihar	15636
5.	Gujarat	3584
6.	Goa	18
7.	Haryana	675
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1120
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1396
10.	Karnataka	3889
11.	Kerala	1581
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7751

(In thousands)

S. No.	State/UT	Goats
13.	Maharashtra	9191
14.	Manipur	44
15.	Meghalaya	194
16.	Mizoram	20
17.	Nagaland	72
18.	Orissa	4804
19.	Punjab	537
20.	Rajasthan	12578
21.	Sikkim	98
22.	Tamil Nadu	5920
23.	Tripura	442
24.	Uttar Pradesh	11321
25.	West Bengal	11907
UNION TERRITORIES		
26.	A & N Islands	45
27.	Chandigarh	(a)
28.	D & N Haveli	19
29.	Delhi	15
30.	Lakshyadeep	15
31.	Pondicherry	33
Total		100024

(a) less than 500

Subsidy on Seeds

6744. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to do away with the subsidies on seeds; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Dryland Agricultural Research Centre in Orissa

6745. SHRI SART CHANDRA PATANAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to set up a Dryland Agricultural Research Centre and a dairy Science College at Bolangir district in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Action for setting up a research centre of the All India Coordinated Research Project, on Dryland in Kalahandi district, adjoining Bolagir district has been initiated. The technology that will be generated from this centre will be applicable also to the agroclimatic conditions of Bolagir district. A pro-

posal to set up a Dairy Science College in the eastern region has also been mooted.

Fishing Harbours.

6746. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Central Team to assess the progress of construction work at fishing harbours in the country;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the said Team;

(c) the action taken on the recommendations; and

(d) whether the Central Team has drawn up a programme to visit other fishing harbours during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There is no single central team to assess the progress of construction of all fishing harbours in the country. Central teams are constituted to assess the progress of work of specific fishery harbour/harbours as and when required.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Extradition of LTTE Leaders

6747. SHRI RABIRAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to take up the question of the extradition of LTTE leaders with Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The ongoing investigation into the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case is in its final stages. The Designated Court for the assassination case for Shri Rajiv Gandhi has, so far, issued Warrants of arrest and Proclamations as per provisions of Section 8 (3) (a) TADA Prevention Act of 1987 against Prabhakaran and Pottu Amman. The two accused have failed to appear before the Designated Court by 28 February, 1992, as required in the Warrants of arrest and Proclamations. Further legal action, which could include extradition, for the arrest of the accused is being pursued.

Plan Outlay for Delhi

6748. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Plan-outlay of Delhi for 1991-92, head-wise;

(b) the details of the funds that could not be utilised by Delhi Administration during 1991-92, head-wise, and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Plan-outlay of Delhi for 1992-93 has been reduced as compared to 1991-92; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) The original Plan-outlay of Delhi for the year 1991-92, as approved by the Planning Commission, was Rs. 920.00 crores. This was, subsequently, reduced to Rs. 839 crores in view of the Government's instructions to effect economy in expenditure. The statement indicating the original Plan-outlay and the revised Plan-outlay, head-wise, is enclosed.

(b) The details will be available after June, 1992 when final accounts are available after reconciliation.

(c) No, Sir. The Plan-outlay for the year 1992-93 is Rs. 920 crores.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Head-wise Approved Outlay and Revised out lay for Annual Plan, 1991-92.

(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	Plan Head	1991-92.	
		Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay
1.	2.	3.	4.
1.	Agriculture	7.00	8.96
2.	Cooperation	0.60	0.47
3.	Rural Development	5.00	5.00

		(Rs. in crores)	
<i>S. No. Plan Head</i>		<i>1991-92.</i>	
		<i>Approved Outlay</i>	<i>Revised Outlay</i>
1.	2.	3.	4.
4.	Minor Irrigation	2.47	2.04
5.	Flood Control	13.00	11.85
6.	Energy	270.00	210.00
7.	Industries	10.00	14.57
8.	Transport	130.00	123.67
9.	Science, Teach. & Env.	0.93	0.15
10.	Secc. Eco. Services	0.36	0.50
11.	Tourism	1.00	1.00
12.	Survey & Statistics	0.96	0.30
13.	Civil Supplies	0.13	0.25
14.	Weight & Measures	0.10	0.08
15.	Gen. Education	67.00	65.32
16.	Technical Education	18.00	11.62
17.	Sports & Youth Serv.	3.00	2.58
18.	Art & Culture	3.00	2.35
19.	Medical & Pub. Health	70.00	59.14
20.	Water Supply & Sanitation	127.00	130.79
21.	Housing	37.00	35.52
22.	Urban Development	110.00	114.34

(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	Plan Head	1991-92.	
		Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay
1.	2.	3.	4.
23.	Information & Pub.	0.65	0.65
24.	Welfare of SC/ST/OBE	5.00	3.90
25.	Labour & Lab. Welfare	4.00	2.37
26.	Social Welfare	2.00	1.27
27.	Nutrition	8.00	6.65
28.	Jails	2.50	1.85
29.	State. & Printing	0.10	0.10
30.	Public Works	8.00	10.35
31.	Other Admm. Services	8.16	11.16
32.	Provision for equity base for employment Generation	5.00	—
GRAND TOTAL		920.00	839.00

Technical Project Report

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

4749. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(c) the action taken thereon?

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any Technical Project Report for the industrial development and maintenance of ecosystem through the use of Petroleum and natural gas in the cities of Ahmedabad and Mehsana of Gujarat to the Union Government;

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) and (b). A "Market Survey Report for supply of Natural Gas to Industrial Consumers in Ahmedabad City", was received.

(c) In view of the present position of availability and commitments of gas, no gas been allocated for Ahmedabad City.

[*Translation*]

Schemes of Save Petrol

6750. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of petrol saved during the last six months due to measures adopted by the Government;

(b) whether the Government propose to formulate other schemes to save petrol; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Although the rate of growth in the consumption of petrol has been contained during the last two years as compared to the earlier years, it is not feasible to quantify the petrol actually saved during the last six months due to measures adopted by the Government.

(b) and (c). In addition to the on-going measures, the other proposals being pursued use of compressed natural gas in place of petrol at selected locations on an experimental basis and assessment of techno-economic feasibility of blending methanol with petrol.

[*English*]

Police Station in Delhi

6751. DR. RAVI MALLU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Police Stations in Delhi;

(b) the number of Police Station headed by SC/ST SHOs; and

(c) the number of SC/ST Assistant Commissioner of Police out of the total strength?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) 104.

(b) 9.

(c) The total strength of Assistant Commissioners of Police is 160. Of these, 35 belong to SC and 8 to ST community.

Annual Passport Officers Conference

6752. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Annual Passport Officers Conference is being held regularly;

(b) if so, the deliberations conducted, the recommendations made and the extent of their implementation during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Deliberations and recommendations of Passport Officers Conference are of such nature that it will not be in public interest to place these on the Table of the House. However liberalisations in passport procedures for expeditious issue of passports, some of which emanated from these deliberations is enclosed in the statement.

STATEMENT*Simplification of Passport Procedures*

1. Following categories of applicants have been exempted from requirement of prior police and CID verifications before issue of passports to them:

- (a) All Government servants and Employees of Public Sector Undertaking who along with their applications submit No Objection Certificate (NOC) and verification certificate signed by their Head of Department on Official stationery.
- (b) Retired Gazetted Government Servants.
- (c) Former Members of the Union Parliament (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha) and State Legislatures (Assemblies and Councils).
- (d) Sitting MPs and MLAs have been exempted from requirement of police verification where they choose to apply for an ordinary passport.
- (e) Where an applicant submits his application accompanied with a verification certificate signed by either:
 - (i) a Deputy Secretary to the Government of India and above;
 - (ii) a Joint Secretary and above to a State Government;
 - (iii) A Sub-Divisional Magistrate and above;
 - (iv) District Superintendent of Police and above;

2. In cases where Regional Passport Officers/Passport Officers are otherwise satisfied with genuineness of applicant, a passport may be issued where police and CID do not send their reports in 4 weeks after despatching personal particulars forms to them.

3. Children below the age of 15 years may be issued passport without waiting for police verification.

4. Persons holding normal passports may be issued fresh passports after 10 years of its validity without waiting for prior police/CID verification.

5. As from 16-8-90, the Indian ordinary passport has been made valid for a period of ten years at a stretch from date of issue.

6. Procedure for recognition of Travel Agents dealing with Passport Offices has simplified for ex-servicemen.

7. To increase the productivity of Passport Offices steps are being taken to computerise the Passport Offices.

8. Attestation of photographs of applicants by Gazetted Officers has been dispensed with.

9. The Application Forms completed in all respects will be accepted on counters of Passport Offices, even from persons other than the applicants.

10. Passport Officers have been advised to accept a copy of letter of employment from reputed employers towards proof of stay of an applicant within jurisdiction of passport offices.

11. The Passport Application Form has been revised and all relevant pieces of information have been compiled and appended

to each application form so that applicant is able to fill up application form correctly.

12. In case of Gulf evacuees, it has been decided to issue then Police Clearance Certificate based on verification certificate issued by the concerned District Superintendent of Police.

13. Restriction on Indian Passport holders visiting South Africa has been removed with effect from 10th December, 1991.

Pakistan's Abetment to Terrorism In India

6753. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had pointed out in UN that Pakistan is aiding and abetting terrorism in India;

(b) if so, the reaction of the UN and other member countries thereto;

(c) whether the Prime Minister discussed this matter with various leaders during his recent visit to New York; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Countries have taken note of our position. Many countries are also seriously concerned with the threat of terrorism, particularly State sponsored terrorism.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Our position was noted.

World Environment Court

6754. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had put forward any proposal to the UN for the setting up of a World Environment Court on the lines of International Court of Justice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the legal jurisdiction of this court; and

(d) the time by which this court is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

NDDB Project in Kerala

6755. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) propose to set up some projects Kerala; and

(b) if so, the locations in thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The National Dairy Development Board is financing the Operation Flood Programme in Kerala covering eight districts of Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki, Ernakulam and Thiruvananthapuram. Besides, a similar dairy development programme is also being implementing in six districts of Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kassar-

god with assistance of Government of Switzerland.

Fishing Harbour in Kerala

6756. SHRI THAYIL JOHNNANJALOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted to the Union Government a development project of Thottapally fishing harbour in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

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

(b) and (c). The project report for development of Thottapally Fish Landing Centre in Kerala has been received in the last week of March, 1992. Detailed examination of the same for technical feasibility has been taken up.

Hydroponics

6757. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether researches are being conducted to cultivate rice and other crops by Hydroponics;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to promote cultivation of various crops by Hydroponics?

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

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

National Centre for DNA Finger printing

6758. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a National Central for DNA Finger printing;

(b) if so, the location thereof and the estimated capital outlay involved in this project;

(c) whether evidence through DNA Finger printing would be legal; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to amend the relevant portions of the Criminal Procedure Code and other relevant laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed Centre would be located at Hyderabad and it is estimated to cost Rs. 432 lakhs.

(c) and (d). Legally, there is no bar in the acceptance of the evidence based on DNA Finger printing.

Children Going for Militancy in Kashmir

6769. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that minor children in Jammu and Kashmir have take the path of militancy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the places where these children get training; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to bring these children back to the national mainstream?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d). The Government of Jammu & Kashmir have informed that it had come to their notice that some minor youth joined terrorist gangs and received training in Pakistan as well as by other Pakistani trained terrorists perhaps under duress, monetary inducements or fundamentalist propoganda. The Administration has taken steps through publicity etc. To persuade the minor children not to fall victims to terrorist pressures. Also, the terrorists, including minors, are exhorted through publicity to surrender to the authorities.

Drug Offences Committed by Nigerians

6760. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of 234 foreigners arrested in India in 1990 for drug offences; 104 were Nigerians;

(b) if so, the nature of their offences;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this matter with the Nigerian and other International authorities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b). Yes, out of 234 foreigners arrested in 1990 in the country for offences under NDPS Act, 104 were Nigerians and in almost all the cases, the nature of offences was possession of narcotic drugs, mainly heroin.

(c) and (d). The Nigerian authorities have been informed of the widespread involvement of Nigerian nationals in hero in trafficking. Instructions have been issued to State Government/U. T. Administrations for expeditious disposal of such cases against foreign nationals.

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

6761. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the stand to be taken and the strategy to be adopted by India during the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) to be held at Rio de Janeiro in Brazil;

(b) whether the Government propose to table the proposals put forward by the former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi for the creation of a Plant Protection Fund during the Conference;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government are aware of the recent study report of the Washington based World Watch Institute regarding a treaty between developed and developing countries for the protection of global environment;

(f) if so, the salient features thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(g) whether the Government are aware of the recent resolution passed by ASEAN regarding global efforts for the prevention of further destruction to environment; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) India will strive to establish a regime for international cooperation for the protection of the environment which takes into account the need for developing countries to achieve the desired pace of development. India will urge provision of adequate, new and additional financial resources and transfer of technology on preferential basis in order to enable developing countries to adopt environment friendly technologies.

(b) to (d). We have advocated the proposal for a planet Protection Fund in the Preparatory Committee of UNCED.

(e) and (f). More than one recent publications of the World Watch Institute deal with arrangements for Protection of Global Environment. Currently Global Conventions are under negotiation on Climate change and Biodiversity. India is actively participating in these negotiations.

(g) Yes Sir.

(h) The details are being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Appointment of Inquiry Commissions

6762. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Inquiry Commissions appointed by the Union Government to inquire into different cases which are functioning at present;

(b) the dates on which the said Commissions were appointed;

(c) the time by which these Commissions were initially scheduled to submit their reports; and

(d) when these Commissions are now to submit their reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Land Acquired by ONGC

6763. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land acquired by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for its projects in Gujarat, particularly in Baroda, during the last five years;

(b) the number of persons displaced as a result thereof;

(c) the guidelines laid down by the Government for compensation as well as employment of the displaced persons;

(d) the number of displaced persons who have been provided compensation/employment so far; and

(e) the time by which the remaining persons would be provided compensation/employment?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) 1527.24 hectares. Nil in Baroda.

(b) Nil according to ONGC.

(c) Compensation is paid as per rules and regulations.

(d) and (e). Do not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

Gas Terminal at Waghoda

6764. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited propose to install a gas terminal at Waghodia for supplying gas for domestic use in the surrounding areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No gas has been allocated for domestic use in this area.

Screening Committee for Freedom Fighters' Pension

6765. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria being followed which appointing/nominating the Member on the Non-official Screening Committee for sanctioning pension to freedom fighters;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to associate Members of Parliament on the said Committee;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Prominent persons including Members of Parliament having intimate knowledge of the Movement are appointed as Members of the Non-officials Screening Committee for sanctioning pension to the freedom fighters relating to that Movement.

(b) At present no Non-official Screening Committee is functioning. As such, there is no proposal to associate Members of Parliament on the said Committee.

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

Indo-Turkish Talks

6766. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether high level Indo-Turkish talks were held recently;

(b) if so, the bilateral matters taken up in the talks and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether Kashmir issue also figured in the talks; and

(d) If so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Turkish Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Mr. Ozdem Sanberk Visited India for bilateral talks on 16-17 March 1992.

(b) Improvement of political relations and enhancement of trade, economic cooperation and cultural exchanges figured in the talks. Both sides agreed that efforts should be made to realise the full potential that exists for cooperation between two countries.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) We explained to the Turkish side our well-known position on the Kashmir issue and conveyed our over Pakistan's interference in Kashmir. The Turkish side took note of our views.

Sugarcane Production In Haryana

6767. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total areas of land under sugar-

cane cultivation in Haryana during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any assistance has been provided to Haryana for sugarcane research and development during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any research project has been implemented by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research in the State during last years; and

(e) If so, the assistance provided to Haryana under the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Sir, The total area under sugarcane cultivation in Haryana during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 was 131000, 126000 and 147000 hectares, respectively.

(b) Yes.

(c) Under All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane, assistance amounting to Rs. 2.72 lakhs, Rs. 3.67 lakhs and Rs. 3.41 lakhs was provided during the year 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively.

(d) Yes.

(e) ICAR has released a grant of Rs. 28.84 lakhs to the Haryana Agricultural University under the Sugarcane Adaptive Research Project. Details are given in the statement attached.

STATEMENT

Sugarcane Adaptive Research Project

S. No.	Name of gramme	Name of the Centre	Grant released		Total (Rs.)
			1989-90 (Rs.)	1990-91 (Rs.)	
1.	Seed Production Programme	Uchani	4,37,580	10,82,320	15,19,900

S. No.	Name of gramme	Name of the Centre	Grant released		Total (Rs.)
			1989-90 (Rs.)	1990-91 (Rs.)	
2.	Ratoon Management Programme	1. Yamuna nagar	2,26,580	4,55,600	6,82,180
		2. Uchani	2,26,580	4,55,6000	6,82,180
			8,90,740	19,93,520	28,84,260

Dairy and Poultry Farming

6768. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to promote dairy and poultry farming in Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Financial assistance in the shape of loan and subsidy is made available to the people in the rural areas to encourage dairy and poultry farming. Under this scheme mini dairy units are proposed to be set up with 3 to 5 milch animals.

New Artificial Insemination centre are being set up under the Extension of Frozen Semen Technology Programme.

11 egg and poultry district Cooperative societies have been set up.

Farmers are being encouraged to establish poultry breeding farms to enhance

their income under Integrated Rural Development Programme and Special Livestock Breeding Programme.

(c) Does not arise.

Hostels for SCs/STs in Haryana and Delhi

6769. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the hostels constructed for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Haryana and Delhi during the last three years, location-wise;

(b) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the purpose during the above period; and

(c) the number of hostels under construction and proposed to be constructed during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) No proposals Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of hostels for Scheduled Castes girls and boys were received from the Government of Haryana and Delhi Administration during the last three years. Scheduled Tribes have not been specified in relation to Haryana and Delhi.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposals for the construction of hostels for 1992-93 have not yet been received from the State Government of Haryana and Delhi Administration.

Common Junior Accounts Officers Examination

6771. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKATA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amalgamated clerical cadre employees and their associations have been representing to the Andaman and Nicobar Administrations to allow them to sit in the Common Junior Accounts Officers Examination on Delhi Administration pattern; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Administration in the matter and the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) The amalgamated clerical cadre employee association, Port, Blair, submitted a representation that such of its members who are working in Departments other than the Pay and Accounts Organisation under Andaman and Nicobar Administration may also be allowed to appear in the Junior Accounts Officers Examination conducted by the Controller General of Accounts as all clerical staff in all other State and Union Territories are allowed irrespective of the Departments in which they are working.

(b) The representation was examined by the Government in the light of provisions regarding eligibility in the Regulations made by the Controller General of Accounts for the Junior Accounts Officers Examination. Since

the Regulations restrict eligibility for the Examination to clerical staff permanently transferred to the departmentalised Accounts Organisations only, the request of the Amalgamated Clerical Cadre Employees Association could not be accepted.

Increase in Pay of Part-Time Employees

6772. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAK TA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andaman and Nicobar Administration employed part-time sweepers, peon, watchmen, chowkidars, chaudhry, craft teachers etc. in various Departments and pay Rs. 50/- or so per month as consolidated pay;

(b) if so, the number of such employees;

(c) when the wage of Rs. 50/- or so was fixed;

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase this amount in view of the high cost of living; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c). The Andaman & Nicobar Administration engaged 44 Craft Instructors at the rate of Rs. 250/- per month since January, 1986, 29 Ayahs at the rate of Rs. 150/- per month since August, 1987, 24 Class IV employees at the rate of Rs. 50/- per month since September, 1980, 46 village chowkidars and 46 village chaudharys on fixed remuneration of Rs. 200/- and Rs. 190/- respectively per month and a few Dais on consolidated pay of Rs. 50/- per month.

(d) and (e). A proposal to increase the

consolidated remuneration to all these part-time employees is being taken up by the A&N Administration in view of increase in the cost of living.

Coconut Development Board

6773. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the activities undertaken and results achieved by the Coconut Development Board during the last three years in Goa; and

(b) the action plan drawn up for development of coconut plantations in Goa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The activities undertaken by the Coconut Development Board in Goa during the last three years include;

(i) Bringing additional area of 223 hectares under coconut; and

(ii) installation of 128 pumpsets.

(b) The action plan for development of coconut plantations in Goa for the year 1992-93 proposes to produce and distribute TxD hybrid coconut seedlings; expansion of area under coconut; and provide assistance for irrigation facilities.

Consulate of Protugal in Goa

6774. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Protugal for the opening of a Consulates of that country in Goa;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision on custodian property in Goa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter has been referred to the Goa Govt. for their views in this record.

(c) and (d). These properties are being managed by the Custodian of Evacuee Property of the Government of Goa.

Economic and Commercial Wings in Indian Missions

6775. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the role played by the economic and commercial wings of the Indian Missions abroad in promoting our commercial and economic interest;

(b) whether the officials heading such wings are specially trained and equipped for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to revamp these wings to promote actively the exports of our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The economic & commercial wings of Indian Missions abroad play an action role in promoting our commer-

cial and economic interests. The commercial wings have undertaken an aggressive drive to increase our exports, to attract foreign investment and to channelise latest technology. An attempt has also been made to forge closer links with the major regional economic groupings, including the Association of South-East Asian National (ASEAN) and the European Community.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Foreign Service Training Institute regularly conducts refresher courses for our commercial representatives abroad to equip them better for the task of promoting our economic and commercial interests.

(d) The Government assesses, on a continuing basis, the strength and functioning of the economic and commercial wings in our Missions and Posts abroad. Computers and other facilities have been provided, wherever required, to reinforce the economic and commercial wings. Posts have also been reallocated, within the overall strength of the Ministry, to meet the requirements of actively promoting our exports and pursuing our economic interests abroad.

International Conference on Goats

6776. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Conference on goats was organised in Delhi;

(b) if so, the recommendation made at the Conference;

(c) the recommendations relevant to Indian context; and

(d) the follow-up action taken to implement these recommendations;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir. An International Conference on Goats was organised by the Indian Society for Sheep and Goat Production and Utilization in collaboration with the International Goat Association.

(b) The recommendations have not been received by the Government.

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

Increase in Production of Gas

6777. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate natural gas deposits in the country; State-wise;

(b) the new natural gas deposits discovered during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have any propel to increase the production of natural gas; and

(d) if so, the specific steps proposed to be taken to step up gas field during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) As on 1.1.91, the estimated recoverable reserves are as follows:—

State	(Billion cu. mts.)
Gujarat	117.1
Rajasthan	3.6

State	(Billion cu. mts.)
Tripura	10.6
Assam	147.8
Nagaland	0.9
Andhra Pradesh	25.8
Tamil Nadu	2.2
Arunachal Pradesh	4.1
East Coast Offshore	13.9
West Coast Offshore	535.9

(b) Approximately 8.27 and 6.79 billion cu. mts. recoverable reserves were established in the year 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively. Discoveries during 1991-92 are under appraisal.

(c) and (d). Various project such as development of the Neelam Mukta, Panna, Gnadhara and R-15-A oilfields, and Enhanced Oil recovery from the L-II and L-III reservoirs in the Bombay High fields which will also lead to increased production of gas are to be implemented during the 8th plan.

Registered Insecticides Units

6778. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of insecticides units registered with the Registration Committee of Central Insecticides Board U/s 9 (3), 9 (3B) and 9 (4) of the Insecticide Act; and

(b) the number of applications pending before the Registration committee for grant

of registration U/s 9 (3), 9 (3B) and 9 (4) of the Insecticides Act as on March 31, 1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Registration Committee (under the Central Insecticides Board) set up under the Insecticides Act, 1968 grants Registration to Insecticides after satisfying itself about their efficacy; and safety to human beings, animals and environment. The number of Insecticides registered under Section 9 (3), 9 (3b) and 9 (4) are 134.27 and 110 respectively. However Units manufacturing insecticides are not registered by the Registration Committee under this Act.

(b) The number of applications pending with the Registration Committee for grant of registration as on 31st March, 1992 are as under:-

9 (3)	-	33
9 (3b)	-	36
9 (4)	-	727

Production Capacity of Off-Shore West-Coast Field

6779. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the production capacity of off-shore west coast field,

(b) the cost incurred for establishing the potential and cost of development of each field including trans-potation etc. upto land fall point; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) to (c). Production from the western offshore fields during the last 3 years has been as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Oil Production (Million Tonnes)</i>
1989-90	22.32
1990-91	21.21
1991-92	18.96
(provisional)	

Total investment in these fields has been Rs. 12085.5 crores upto 31.3.1991.

Development of Cashew Plantation

6780. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank team visited Andhra Pradesh to assess the potential available in the State for further development of cashew plantations;

(b) if so, the details of areas identified; and

(c) the response of the World Bank in this regard?

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

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

Wastage of Petroleum Products

6782. SHRI SMRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 25 percent of the petroleum products are being wasted;

(b) if so, the whether any strategy to harness the petroleum resources to the optimum and to give a thrust to the entire field of oil conservation has been or is being worked out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) Some Working Groups have estimated the potential of conservation of energy including petroleum products to be 20% to 30% in the major sectors.

(b) and (c). Various measures under implementation to promote conservation of petroleum products include mass awareness campaigns, imparting of education and training to the target group of oil users, promoting use of fuel-efficient devices/equipment and upgraded lubricants, initiating action in the newly identified areas, encouraging use of alternative fuels and reducing wastages as well as wasteful use of petro-

leum products. Increasing the effectiveness of these measures is a continuing effort.

Import of Crude Oil from Saudi Arabia

6783. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import crude oil from Saudi Arabia in 1992-93;

(b) if so, the details including terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether some officials of the Indian Oil Corporation had visited Saudi Arabia recently in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) to (d). During the first week of March, 1992, a delegation had visited Saudi Arabia to finalise the supplies of crude oil for the year 1992-93. Saudi Aramco have agreed to supply 5 MMT of crude oil to Indian Oil Corporation during 1992-93.

[Translation]

Post-Matric Scholarships for Backward Classes Students

6784. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government

propose to provide post-metric scholarship to students of backward classes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b). One of the objection of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation incorporated under Station 25 of the Companies Act, 1956, as a Company not for profit, is to extend loans to the backward classes for pursuing general/professional/technical education or training at graduate and higher levees.

Voluntary Academic Institutions/ Organisation on External Affairs

6785. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of registered voluntary academic institutions/organisations which are involved in the study and research work relating to India's external affairs and international relations;

(b) whether the Government provide annual or any kind of grant to such institutions/ organisations, and

(c) if so, the details thereof, institution/ organisation-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) A Statement is attached detailing the institutions/ organisations receiving financial assistance from the Ministry of External Affairs.

STATEMENT

<i>Name of the Institution/Organisation</i>	<i>Annual Grant Final Estimates 1991-92 (In thousands of Rupees)</i>
Indian Council of Cultural Relations	135000
Indian Society of International Law	500
Indian Council of Social Science Research.	1000
Society for Research and Information System for Non-aligned and Other Development Countries.	7502
Indian Council For Research on International Economic Relations.	100
Institute for Studies in Industrial Development.	1000

[English]

wise, has been as under:

Vehicles at Disposal of India Missions	1988-89 - Rs. 1,22,38,506-76
6786. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:	1989-90 - Rs. 1,32,25,281-05
	1990-91 - Rs. 1,46,12,428-54

(a) the number of vehicles at the disposal of Indian Embassies and High Commissions abroad; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on their maintenance during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) There are 327 vehicles in Indian Mission and Posts abroad.

(b) Expenditure incurred on their Maintenance during the last three years, year-

[Translation]

Setting up of Refineries with Assistance of Non-Resident Indian

6787. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken for setting up of refineries with the assistance of non-resident Indians; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Production of Prawn

6788. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the production of prawn in each coastal State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): The steps taken/proposed to be taken for development of shrimp farming in each Coastal State include:

- (i) Establishment of Brackishwater Fish Farmer's Development Agencies in the potential coastal district for providing a package of technical, financial and extension support to the shrimp farmers. So far 31 such Agencies have been sanctioned for establishment in the potential districts of 9 maritime States.
- (ii) Establishment of demonstration-cum-pilot shrimp farms and shrimp seed hatcheries in selected areas for demonstrating the techno-economic viability of shrimp farming.
- (iii) Setting up of demonstration-cum-training centre in each Coast State

for imparting training to prawn farmers.

- (iv) Providing assistance in the form of subsidy to different categories of shrimp farmers/entrepreneurs/technocrats, for establishing semi-intensive shrimp farms, shrimp hatcheries and shrimp feed mills; and
- (v) Implementation of a World Bank assisted shrimp culture project in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal covering a net water area of 3810 ha. from 1992-93 onwards for a duration of 7 years, at an estimated cost of about Rs. 250 crore.

Fish Landing Centres and Fishing Harbours

6789. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fishing harbours and fish landing centres cleared by the Union Government during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the cost of each of these projects along with Central and State share, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Four Fishery Harbours and twelve Fish Landing Centres were cleared by the Union Government during the last three years: A Statement showing details is attached.

STATEMENT

Fish Landing Centres and Fishing Harbours

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of fishery Harbours (FH), Fish Landing Centre (FLC) and year of sanction	Sanctioned cost	Central share	State share
1	2	3	4	5
1989-90				
1.	Gopalpur F.H. (Orissa)	672.40	336.20	336.20
2.	Onjal ELC (Gujarat)	42.00	21.00	21.00
3.	Rajpura FLC (Gujarat)	43.35	21.68	21.68
4.	Sarjekote FLC (Maharashtra)	30.00	15.00	15.00
5.	Agrao FLC (Maharashtra)	64.50	32.25	32.25
1990-91				
6.	Paradip Major FH (Orissa)	2834.43	2834.43	Nil
7.	Panchubisa FLC (Orissa)	32.68	16.34	16.34

Sl. No.	Name of fishery Harbours (FH)/ Fish Landing Centre (FLC) and year of sanction	(Rs. in lakhs)							
		Sanctioned cost	Central share	State share	1	2	3	4	5
1									
8.	Navabunder FLC (Gujarat)	33.91	16.96	16.96					16.96
1991-92									
9.	Mopla Bay (Kerala)	564.00	282.00	282.00					282.00
10.	Chombal (Kerala)	556.00	278.00	278.00					278.00
11.	Quilandy (Kerala)	23.00	11.50	11.50					11.50
12.	Kansabansa (Orissa)	46.40	23.20	23.20					23.20
13.	Soran (Orissa)	9.97	4.98	4.98					4.98
14.	Nairi-stage II (Orissa)	6.00	3.00	3.00					3.00
15.	Rushikulya (Orissa)	9.40	4.70	4.70					4.70
16.	Palur (Orissa)	17.00	8.50	8.50					8.50

Assistance of Army to Tackle law and Order Situation

6790. SHRI RABIRAY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the civil authorities have taken the assistance of the Army to tackle the law and order problem in various parts of the country during 1991 and 1992 so far; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Industrial Parks

6791. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation is setting up Industrial Park for the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of cities where the Industrial Parks are likely to be set up?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Haj Pilgrimage

6792. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MAN-
DAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Haj Pilgrims face uncertainty about their pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia for Haj this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the arrangements being made by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the number of pilgrims who are expected to go for Haj this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) About 35,000 pilgrims are expected to go for Haj this year.

Dryland Farming

6793. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:
SHRIGOPINATH GAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to assist Cyprus in dryland farming; and

(b) if so, the details of agreement signed between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes Sir. The programme of cooperation (POC) between Government of India and the Government Cyprus signed on 26.3.1992 during the visit of the Cyprus Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, includes

Rainfed Farming as one of the several fields of cooperation between the two countries. The fields of cooperation which the 'POC' would encourage are given in enclosed statement.

(b) The technical cooperation will be implemented inter alia by exchange of scientific and technical information, organisation of lectures, symposia, exchange of trainees, delegation of scientists and specialists, joint agricultural research programme and sharing of results thereof.

STATEMENT

Field of Technical and Scientific Co-operation under POC between India and Cyprus

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Field of Co-operation</i>
(i)	Horticulture including floriculture and viticulture.
(ii)	Field crops including breeding of new high yielding varieties.
(iii)	Soil fertility, fertiliser use and irrigation technology including improved irrigation systems, fertigation and re-use of treated effluents for irrigation.
(iv)	Study, design and construction of water development projects and irrigation systems.
(v)	Land reclamation and erosion control of soils.
(vi)	Conjunctive use of surface and groundwater resources.

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Field of Co-operation</i>
(vii)	Water conservation, artificial recharge projects.
(viii)	Scientific research in the agriculture sector.
(ix)	Rainfed Farming.
(x)	Animal Husbandry and livestock development.
(xi)	Extension education.

Closure of Poultry Industries

6795. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether poultry industries are facing the closure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the maize, the main poultry feed is in short supply;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to save the poultry industries from closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) and (b). The poultry industry in the country has been passing through a difficult period, mainly due to the shortage and high prices of maize, an important feed ingredient.

(c) and (d). Maize is in short supply for poultry feed due to decrease in production

and increasing demand from poultry and other competing sectors viz; Starch Industry, Human consumption etc.

(e): The following steps have been taken:-

- (i) State Government have been requested to intervene to prevent hoarding of maize by traders.
- (ii) NAFED has been asked to procure maize locally and explore the possibility of its import to make it available to the poultry sector at reasonable price.
- (iii) Steps are being taken for increasing the production of maize in the country.
- (iv) Financial assistance has been provided to State Level Poultry Corporations/Federations and similar other organisations for streamlining the marketing of eggs and poultry and supply of balanced poultry feed at reasonable prices.

Mushroom units

6796. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVISINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up mushroom units in the country with external assistance; and

(b) if so, the States where these are proposed to be set up?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Soil Erosion

6797. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems posed by soil erosion in Orissa;

(b) if so, the total hectares of land in Orissa affected by soil erosion; and

(c) the Central scheme proposed to be launched to check the soil erosion in Orissa?

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

(b) According to available information an area of 78.03 lakhs ha. is affected by various soil erosion and land degradation problems in Orissa.

(c) Substantial problem areas affected by soil erosion and land degradation are being tackled under State Sector Soil and water conservation programmes. The efforts of State Government to check soil erosion are supplemented by the following Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes:-

- (i) Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects.
- (ii) National Watershed Development in Rainfed Areas.
- (iii) Drought Prone Area Programme.

Fishery Co-operative

6798. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an urgent need to strengthen the Fishery Co-operatives in order to promote fishing in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by National Co-operative Development Corporation and Central Board for Fisheries to promote Co-operative fishery?

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

(b) National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) started promoting fishery cooperatives since 1974. NCDC has developed Specific patterns of assistance for promoting various activities of fisheries cooperatives (the quantum of which ranges from 75% to 100% for different activities.) It also provides funds to State Governments at concessional rates (12% in cooperatively underdeveloped and least developed States/ Union Territories and 12.5% in the cooperatively developed states), helps formulation of proposals for individual societies as well as integrated fisheries development projects covering various districts and arrange funds from international agencies like EEC, World Bank etc. for promoting fisheries cooperatives in the country. NCDC provides assistance to fisheries cooperatives, amongst others, for the following purposes:

1. Purchase of operational inputs such as fishing boats, nets and engines.
2. Creation of infrastructural facilities for marketing (transport vehicles, cold storages, retail outlets etc.)
3. Establishment of processing units, including ice plants, cold storages etc.
4. Development of Inland Fisheries, seed farms, hatcheries etc.

5. Preparation of feasibility reports.
6. Appointment of Experts under Technical & Promotional Cell Scheme.
7. Integrated Fisheries Projects (Marine, Inlands & Brackishwater). Up to 31.3.92, NCDC has sanctioned an assistance of Rs. 174.790 crores and released Rs. 70.643 crores for development of fisheries cooperatives in various states and Union Territories.

LPG Cylinder Plans

6799. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up some LPG cylinder manufacturing plants during the Eighth Five Plan period;

(b) if so, the locations where these plants are proposed to be set up; and

(c) the target set for manufacturing LPG cylinders during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLIEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No targets have been set.

[Translation]

Entry of Multi-national Companies in Dairy Industries

6800. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL:

SHRI V.S. VIJAYAR-
AGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some multi-national companies are seeking permission to set up dairy industries in the country;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the dairy industries are likely to be affected as a result of entry of these companies; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard our industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir. There is no pending proposal for foreign collaboration either from any foreign company or an Indian applicant.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Special Aircraft for VIPS

6801. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times special aircraft have been used by the members of the Union Cabinet, excluding Prime Minister for domestic visits during the last six months;

(b) the names of the ministers given permission for the use of special aircraft; and

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M

JACOB): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Drilling of Oil and Gas wells on coast of Bay of Bengal

6802. DR. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil and gas wells drilled under PY2 offshore at Portonova on the Coast of Bay of Bengal, and

(b) the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) and (b). One well on PY-2 structure was drilled which proved to be dry.

Production of Paddy Varieties

6803. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the varieties of paddy grown in the country at present;

(b) the yield per acre of these varieties; and

(c) the varieties of paddy which have successful in increasing the production of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The varieties of paddy grown in the country at present can be classified as under:

(i) local/traditional paddy varieties.

- (ii) improved paddy varieties
- (iii) high yielding paddy varieties
- (iv) scented/aromatic paddy varieties

(b) The yield per acre of these varieties depends on the Agriculogical conditions and input use under which these are grown. The traditional/local varieties, improved varieties and scented/aromatic varieties are generally poor in their production potential as compared to the high yielding paddy varieties. The average productivity of these varieties of paddy in the country is about 1.75 tonnes per ha. in terms of rice.

(c) The propagation of cultivation of high yielding varieties of paddy has helped in increasing the over all production in the country.

Production of Rice

6804. SHRI A. PRATHAP SAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present production of rice is sufficient to meet the requirement;

(b) if not, the manner in which shortfall is likely to be met;

(c) the present requirement of rice, State-wise; and

(d) the estimated production of rice during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d). According to Report of the working Group on Demand and Supply projections and Improvement of Agricultural Statistics for the Formulation of Eighth Five Year Plan, the demand projection for rice has been esti-

mated as 73.95 million in 1991-92 Against this demand, the production of rice in 1991-92 is likely to be in the range of 73.0-73.5 million tonnes. The State-wise information on demand for rice is not available.

2. Since 1992-93 Crop Year is yet to start, it is too early to indicate estimated production of rice for that year. However, for increasing the production of rice, the Government is implementing Integrated Programme for Rice Development in various States.

Participation of Indian Diplomats in Political Function Abroad

6805. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian diplomats abroad including permanent representatives of India to the UN are permitted to participate in political or quasi political functions such as those held in honour of visiting leaders of Indian Political Parties or those organised by Associations, Societies or Organisations which work for Indian Political Parties in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the particulars of the public functions of the Political or quasi Political character in which Indian diplomatic representatives have participated during the last three years, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) All Indian diplomats including permanent Representatives to UN are bound by the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules 1964 which prohibits taking part in politics including participation in functions of a political nature. However,

whether a function is of a political nature is to be decided by the Government.

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

[*Translation*]

Production of Pulses

6806. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND
TOMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the largest pulses growing States in the country;

(b) the percentage of pulses being grown in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether any assistance is being provided to these States to further increase the production of pulses; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The largest pulses growing States in the country are Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa followed by Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Bihar.

(b) Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh contribute 12.3 and 19.6 percent respectively to pulses production.

(c) and (d). For increasing production of pulses, the Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP) and the Central Sector Special Foodgrain Production Programme (SFPP)- Pulses are being implemented to provide input support to the farmers. Under these programmes,

financial assistance is given to States on various inputs like seed production, plant protection measures, distribution of seed minikits, sprinklersets, rhizobial cultures and farm implements and organisation of demonstrations to induce the farmers to take up cultivation of pulses with improved technology on large scale. Pulses have also been brought under the ambit of the Technology Mission in the Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation.

[*English*]

Export of Agricultural Products

6807. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the agricultural commodities along with their quantity likely to be exported during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period;

(b) the present level of production of these commodities;

(c) whether the production areas for specific crops are identified for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to increase their production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Rice, wheat, coarse grains, spices, cashewnuts, HPS groundnuts, fruits & vegetables, and cotton are likely to be exported during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period. No specific targets have been fixed for export of these items during the Eighth Plan Period. The export of rice, wheat coarse grains and cotton will however, depend on the surplus being made available after making adequate provision for meeting domestic requirements.

(b) The present level of production of these commodities during 1990-91 is as under:-

(Million Tonnes)	
<i>Name of the Commodities</i>	<i>Production</i>
1	2
Rice	74.58
Wheat	54.52
Coarse Grains	33.05
Spices	2.08
Cashewnuts	0.29
Groundnut	7.62
Fruits	28.00
Vegetables	57.80
Cotton	97.59

(lakh bale of 170 kgs. each)

(c) and (d). The following thrust programmes which concentrate on specific crops and areas for increasing production and productivity are being implemented:

- i) Integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPRD).
- ii) Special Foodgrains Production Programme-Wheat (SFPP-Wheat).
- iii) Special Foodgrains Production Programme-Maize and Milletes (SFPP-Maize and Millets).
- iv) Intensive Cotton Development Programme- (ICDP)

v) Elite Progeny Orchards-cum-Nursery Scheme.

vi) Schemes of Re-planting and supply of Quality Planting Material in respect of Small and Large Cardamom.

[Translation]

Starvation due to Shortage of Foodgrains

6808. SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be please to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the starvation of the people in certain parts of the country due to shortage of foodgrains;

(b) the areas affected by starvation;

(c) whether there is acute shortage of foodgrains in the country due to which these are being imported; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Starvation due to shortage of foodgrains in any part of country has not been reported to any State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The stock of Wheat and Rice in the Central pool as on 1.3.92 were of the order of 124.00 lakh tonnes, which is considered adequate to meet the reasonable requirements of the Public Distribution System. However, the Governments have decided to import 1.00 million tonnes of Wheat with a view to increasing its availability and containing the market prices.

[English]

Procurement of Milk by DMS

6809. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHAR-
GAVA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH
SHAKYA:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Milk Scheme has taken a decision to procure milk from a private company due to increasing demand for milk in Delhi;

(b) if so, the rate at which the milk is procured to be procured from the private company;

(c) whether several complaints have been received against the proposed agreement with the private company; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) and (b). Last year, a situation arose when some local cooperative societies stopped the supply of milk to Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) demanding higher prices for milk while their contract with DMS was still current. In order to maintain the level of milk supply to consumers in Delhi and avoid such situations, DMS decided to diversify its sources of supply. Accordingly, after calling open tenders orders were placed with some private agencies for the supply of milk. The private agencies are supplying milk to DMS at Rs. 7.53/Kg. and Rs. 7.73/ kg. per day.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Gas Pipeline upto Samgarh Gas Thermal power project In Rajasthan

6810. SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHAR-
GAVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd. has awarded any contract for construction associated gas pipeline up to Samgarh Gas Thermal Power Project in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the construction work has been started; and

(d) if so, the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Sustainable Agriculture

6811. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up an Expert Group of eminent Scientists to advise the Government on strategies to be followed on attaining sustainable agriculture;

(b) if so, the composition of Group; and

(c) when the Group is likely to Submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Sir, The Standing Policy Planning Committee of the Indian Council of

Agricultural Research has set up a sub-group on "Sustainability".

(b) The sub-group has fourteen members with Dr. J.S. Kanwar, an eminent Soil Scientist, as chairman. The members are eminent experts in the disciplines of Agronomy, Plant Breeding, Soil Science, Horticulture, Forestry and Plant Protection.

(c) The sub-group is to meet once in three months and submit recommendations from time to time.

Oil Palm Cultivation

6812. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oilseeds Technology Mission has identified areas in Andhra Pradesh for cultivation;

(b) if so, the areas identified by the Mission;

(c) whether the proposal envisages replacement of existing crops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) An Expert Committee constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture has identified certain areas in Andhra Pradesh for oil palm cultivation.

(b) The Expert Committee identified 50,000 ha. in Krishna district and 1,00,000 ha. each in West Godavari and East Godavari districts.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Most of the areas identified are up-

land areas where the crops like bajra, jowar are presently grown.

Occupation of Land by Bangladesh

6813. SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that over 250 bighas of land at 'Dornbari' along India-Bangladesh Border under Paltharkanoli L.A. Constituency in Karimganj district of Assam have forcibly been occupied by the Bangladeshis although the same are within Indian territory;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that as per Indira-Muzib Pact in 1974, Lathitila are under the above said constituency was transferred to Bangladesh and the Indian occupants had to surrender their rights of possession in lieu of compensation but until now nothing has been done in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/being taken in regard to (a) and (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). There is no provision for payment of compensation in lieu of surrender of rights of possession in case of transferred areas in the Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement of 1974. The people have the right of staying on where they are as nationals of the State to which the areas are transferred and status-quo is to be maintained pending demarcation of the boundary.

[*Translation*]

Agreement between India and Vietnam

6814. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement is likely to be signed between India and Vietnam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Settlement of Dues by Egypt

6815. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item regarding Egypt's agreement to settle all outstanding dues in favour of India appearing in "The Financial Express" dated March 19, 1992; and

(b) if so, the facts regarding matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI
EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of Indian companies exported equipment/material to certain Egyptian public sector companies in the Arab Republic of Egypt under a deferred payment facility for which ECGC had provided insurance cover. The Central Bank of Egypt

stopped release of Foreign exchange in October, 1985, for such payments due to difficult foreign exchange position. The Egyptian public sector companies, however kept depositing local currency with their bankers as and when the instalment fell due. In the meanwhile, in India ECGC paid to the Indian parties, the insured amounts. The Central Bank of Egypt has now finally approved the remittance of these blocked funds amounting to approximately US\$ 3.7 million in full. The Government of India is pleased at this outcome and appreciative of the Egyptian gesture, which is in keeping with the friendly relations between India and Egypt.

As regards the other two outstanding dues mentioned in the news item, the question of settlement of the balance of Rs. 7.6 crores outstanding since the termination of the Rupee Trade Agreement is still under discussion while the Indian Oil Corporation's claims on the Egyptian General Authority of Petroleum have been referred to the Arbitration Court of the International Chamber of Commerce and the award of the court is awaited.

Selection of Stenographers in ICAR

6816. SHRI RAM TAHAL CH-
OUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICUL-
TURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 4690 on March 26, 1992 and state:

(a) whether it is fact that as a result of malpractices some of the candidates who qualified in the examination, could not be appointed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government would reconsider their cases for appointment in ICAR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) to (c). Sir, out of 20 candidates, who qualified in the examination, appointment could not be offered to two for want of vacancies. The validity of the panel has already expired and recruitment is now made through the Staff Selection Commission.

Contracts for Supply of Petroleum Products

6817. SHRI AL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one Government Company of Malaysia had been given term contract for supply of petroleum products at a much higher rate as compared to other Government Companies, thereby resulting in a loss of several million dollars;

(b) whether again recently substantial quantity was increased for this company causing further loss to our country;

(c) the names of the Companies with whom Government have term contracts and their rates for products supply to India; and

(d) whether there is an attempt also to give long term contracts to private companies or semi-Government Companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) have entered into a term contract with PETCO for the supply of 1.49 MMT of petroleum products. This quantity was not increased subsequently. During 1991-92 IOC had term contracts with M/s. BANOCO, ADNOC, SNE, SINOCEM and PETCO for supply of petroleum products. The prices for each term contract are negotiated separately and are different.

(d) No such decision has been taken.

Indian Council of World Affairs

6818. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:
SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the deteriorating conditions of the world renowned library of the Indian Council of World Affairs;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in that regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to take over the management of the Council to improve its functioning,

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are also aware of the deteriorating living conditions of its staff; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Government are considering various measures for revitalising the functioning of the Indian Council of World Affairs.

(e) and (f). Government have received representations from the Council's employees in this regard. Government hopes that the present management of the Council will take appropriate steps in this matter.

[Translation]

Telecast of Blue Films on Cable T.V.

6819. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI:

SHRI BARE LAL JATAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that blue films are being telecast on Cable T.V. in the name of late night movies;

(b) whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct any inquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action being taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) One such case has been reported recently.

(b) to (d). The Delhi Police has reported that following a public call that an obscene film was being shown on the cable T.V. at A-214, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi, a police party conducted a raid and found that T.V. Philivision was on and a V.C.R. "NIKON" was showing an obscene English film.

A case u/s 292/34 IPC was registered at Police Station Lajpat Nagar and four persons arrested.

The Delhi Police have further reported that the cable workers had taken the plea that the film had been released through National Film Development Corporation and had a Censor Certificate. Police investiga-

tion did not bear out these pleas.

[English]

Supply of Gas to Industries in Andhra Pradesh

6820. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several industries in coastal Andhra Pradesh have applied for gas linkage from K.G. Basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of gas likely to be provided annually to those industries separately?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Against an estimated availability of 3.2 MMSCMD by 1996-97, allocations of 5.91 MMSCMD of gas have already been made in the Krishna-Godavari basin. Apart from this 35, industries have registered their demands, totalling to approximately 22 MMSCMD, with GAIL. In view of the allocations already made, and the position of availability, no further allocations in the K.G. basin have been made.

SC/ST Employees in Ministry of Welfare

6821. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees under the Ministry of Welfare category-wise;

(b) the backlog of unfilled posts for these categories; and

(c) the steps being taken to clear the backlog? tached.

(b) Nil.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) A statement is at-

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>SC</i>	<i>ST</i>
1.	Group 'A'	22	9
2.	Group 'B'	29	4
3.	Group 'C'	45	10
4.	Group 'D'	24	4

Amount given by Financial Institutions to projects sanctioned by NSFDC

6822. SHRI S.B. THORAT: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state the details of the amount provided by IDBI/ICICI/IFCI and other financial institutions for the projects sanctioned by or sponsored through the National Scheduled Castes and Tribes Finance and Development Corporation during each of the last two years, project-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): IDBI/ICICI/IFCI and other financial institutions have not provided any amount for the projects sanctioned by or sponsored through the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation during the last two years.

[*Translation*]

Water and Wind Erosion Problem in Orissa and Gujarat

6823. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the geographical area in Orissa and Gujarat affected by water and wind erosion during the last three years;

(b) the value of crops lost as a result thereof during the last three years;

(c) the funds allocated by the Union Government to these States in this regard; and

(d) the details of the works carried out in these states during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) According to available information area affected by water and wind erosion including land degradation annually in Orissa and Gujarat are 78.03 lakh hectare and 125.85 lakh hectare respectively.

(b) Information is being collected from the States.

(c) The funds allocated to the States of Orissa and Gujarat under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the

Catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP) and Central Assistance to State Plan for Reclamation and stabilisation of Ravinous Area and Control of Shifting Cultivation Scheme for the last three years are as follows:

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	Scheme	Orissa	Gujarat
1.	CSS of RVP	772.52	387.42
2.	Ravine Reclamation	Nil	526.82
3.	Snifting Cultivation	280.00	Nil
Total		1052.52	914.24

(d) Information is being collected from the States.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:
Speaker, Sir,.....

MR. SPEAKER: Somnath ji, after Shri Nitish Kumar you may speak.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government to an important issue. Recently, a fierce controversy was raging throughout the country over the sharing of cauvery water, particularly between Kamataka and Tamil Nadu States. But a more serious dispute than that of sharing of water of Sone river by Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The Centre is also involved. An agreement was reached through

which it was decided to release 5 million acre feet (m.a.f.) of water to Bihar on priority basis from Sone canals of Bihar which are more than 100 years old. But it is being violated. It has been violated for the last many years not only by the Government of Uttar Pradesh but by N.T.P.C. also.....(Interruptions). It was the pereptual right of Bihar to utilise its water. Today, the farmers of the Sone region are staging dhama at Boat club to register their protest against this violation and the matter is going to assume serious dimensions. Taking the m.a.f. factor into account, Bihar was to get a total of 5 m.a.f. of water on priority basis. A policy decision was taken at a Secretary-level meeting held in the Ministry of Irrigation in 1983 and it was decided that if any State utilises the water for other purposes except for irrigation and hydel projects, it will have to use water from its own share and 5 m.a.f. of water would continued to be supplied constantly to the remaining canals of Bihar at any cost. Only after that the water may be utilised for other purposes. But unfortunately, the Government of Uttar Pradesh was given the right to construct hydel power project by using water from the Rihand reservoir. But water is being used

there for thermal power. A thermal power plants of the capacity of 18,000 megawatt has already been set up in the Rihand valley which is using 1.2 m.a.f. of water of the share of Bihar and Bihar is facing shortage. Now the position is that the N.T.P.C. is planning to generate 22000 MW. electricity there. If the target is achieved, Bihar will not be able to get even a single drop of water from the Rihand reservior and the cultivation of the entire Sone region, constituting one-fourth population of Bihar and known as rice bowl, would be ruined. It causes much concern in the entire Bihar and the farmers of Sone region are very much agitated.

Through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the Bansagar agreement concluded among the three States – Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh be implemented. The policy decision taken in the Secretary-level meeting on 4 June, 1983 be implemented. Otherwise the injustice being done to the farmers of Sone region can take a serious turn. It will again worsen the situation. The Government will be in trouble tomorrow in case a controversy like Karnataka and Tamil Nadu rages there. That is why I want to draw the attention of the Government to this issue and appeal, through you, to convene a meeting of Chief Ministers of all the three States immediately. If the Government of Uttar Pradesh or the N.T.P.C. creates disputes, then the whole matter may be referred to any Tribunal or to the Supreme Court of India. I mean to say that the dispute may be settled with honour and patience. The Government should protect the perpetual right of Bihar on Sone water ensuring full share of water for Bihar in accordance with the provision of the agreement. Otherwise, the situation would worsen.....(*Interruptions*) Its responsibility will lie on the Central Government. Therefore, I would urge upon you to direct the Central Government to make a statement on the subject and take an initiative immediately.....(*Interruptions*).....It is

quite a serious matter. So, I would request that the Government should respond to it.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttak): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want to know whether the Standing Committee of the NIC has met the Home Minister.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jena, please take your seat. Yesterday, I said that we were going to fix a discussion on this, after consulting all of you. Why do you worry about it?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Let me make my submission Sir. You have said that you would fix the date. We want to know whether the Members of the Standing Committee of the NIC and the Members of Parliament who went to Ayodhya have met the Minister of Home or not.

MR. SPEAKER: All that can be discussed in one go. Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen, the matters sought to be raised by others may also be meaningful. Don't do like that.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you not satisfied unless all of you speak together?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked you to speak one by one. But 5-6 Members are speaking at a time. In this way, how will I

regulate the House and whose speech would be listened by me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I don't know whether there is tension outside or not. But you are creating tension here unnecessarily. Please sit down.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, I allowed preliminary discussion on it. All of you have made statements this way or that way. Then I have said that since you all are interested in discussing it, we would discuss this matter with all concerned and fix up the time for the debate. Today, again you raise the issue as if the other Members do not have anything to say.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We are saying about 'Sone' itself.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know that you are not on the same point. Please sit down. I have allowed Shri Nitish Kumar to make a statement. I have told that since they are going to discuss Power, Water and Irrigation, this can also be discussed at that time. But in view of the fact that you are very much agitated and this being an important issue, I allowed him. Again you are prolonging it, as if the other hon. Member have nothing to say on other issues.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this time we are not going to have a debate on the Grants of the Ministry of Industry. But when the Parliament is in Session, a very important announcement has been made outside, not only in this country but abroad also. The

Finance Minister goes to Japan and makes an announcement on the dilution of the shareholdings in public sector undertakings to the extent of 49 per cent. He announced the Exit Policy which was adopted by this Government, when he was in Bangkok. Now he goes to Japan and to please his Japanese friends – I do not wish to use harsher words, so I would only say 'Japanese friends' – he announces the dilution of shareholdings in the public sector undertakings to the extent of 49 per cent.

Sir, there is something more to it. Mr. Thungon, the Minister of State for Industry, goes a step further. He holds a press conference on this very important issue and he says that a 49 per cent will be given to the foreign investors. While the Finance Minister says 'public at large', Shri Thungon says that this 49 per cent will be given to foreign investors for purpose of modernisation, etc. This is a very very serious matter. If such an important policy announcement is to be made outside this House, I do not know how we can function, how far this House is important and how well its status is being maintained by the Government. I oppose this very strongly. So far as our public sector undertakings are concerned, the Finance Minister has said that this would cover steel and telephone industries. Whichever industry we feel like offering, we can offer to the public. Therefore, let this Government say categorically that they do not, any longer, believe in public sector industries. Let them also say that the statement of Jawaharlal Nehru that the public sector would occupy the commanding heights of our economy no longer holds good, so far as this Government is concerned and so far as this country is concerned. We want a categorical statement on this issue.

Sir, I hope, you will express your annoyance as to how such important announcements are being made outside the House, when this House is sitting.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): You, pull up the Minister.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we oppose this. This is nothing but a sell-out to the foreigners; sell-out to the foreign multi-nationals.

Our industrial policy and our economic policy are now totally guided and controlled by these foreign multi-nationals in this country. What is going to happen? Is it the principle of self-reliance? Does it any longer hold good that we would like to know. How does the Finance Minister of this country go to a foreign country, when the House is sitting and making such important announcements?

Sir, we want that immediately, the Government should respond. Otherwise, it is very difficult to perform in this House. Important policies are being made; important economic issues are being decided and the House is not taken into confidence.

Sir, while replying to the debate on the General Budget, the Finance Minister never said this. Only a few days back, the discussion was held. Then, what is the purpose of having a discussion?

Sir, we would like to emphasise on the importance of discussing the demands here in the House. We also want to discuss important issues inside the House. Otherwise, all these discussions will become meaningless. Parliament is becoming irrelevant to this Government. Sir, we cannot allow this and the Government must here and now respond. Then, we shall decide what to do.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barackpore): We demand that these two Ministers should be dismissed. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapara): Mr.

Speaker, Sir, it is a very important question. Earlier also, through this question the attention of countrymen was attracted through you in this House that it was an act of indiscretion on the part of hon. Finance Minister. He went to Bangkok and at the behest of I.M.F. he gave such a statement there without taking the Parliament into confidence. The House knows this thing. You also know it. The House is going on at present. It is also true that there is no likelihood of a discussion on the Ministry of Industry before the house is prorogued. That is why I am raising the question of propriety that when the session of Parliament, the Budget session is going on, how can the hon. Finance Minister give a statement at Tokyo against the declared policy of the Central Government? I would like to have a clarification about it. The hon. Finance Minister should not have done this. He has done an act of impropriety. It appears as if it was already decided that the hon. Finance Minister will go to foreign country and give statement there at the behest of I.M.F. and the World Bank and the hon. Minister of Industry, Shri Thungan will announce the same policy here. We feel that we have become slaves of the two institutions, i.e., I.M.F. and the World Bank. The Government is responsible for it. That is why it doesn't look nice on the part of the Government to say that the public sector undertakings are still at commanding heights insofar as India's economy is concerned. We condemn the act of the hon. Finance Minister who has given such a statement abroad.

Therefore, we would like that the Government should make a statement immediately on the issue with which the self-reliance of the country is linked.

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, this is a very serious matter.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, the Defence Minister has agreed for a technical tie-up in defence production with America also. The Defence Minister has stated yesterday in Washington. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Mr. Jena, have you give given it in writing? He has allowed me.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Just a moment. Please don't mind Mr. Joshi.

Sir, this is a very serious matter. The House has no idea about the Defence and Finance Ministers' statements. Yesterday, in the House itself, the Industries Minister, while replying on Maruti Udyog did not even mention about this and after the house adjourned, he had addressed a Press Conference and said that 47 per cent will be given to the foreign multi-nationals and foreign entrepreneurs. This is most unfortunate. What for we are here in the House? Why are we not discussing such things in the House? Unless this is settled and a specific ruling is given by you, we are not in a position to discuss any other item in this House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Mr. Anna Joshi. After him, you can speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): This relates to the rights of the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Mr. Anna Joshi. Let me regulate the proceedings in the House. He has also an important issue to raise.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When Mr. Somnath Chatterjee had spoken, he had spoken for all of you. I cannot allow each and every Member to speak. I cannot offer the luxury of allowing every member to speak when other members have to speak on other points.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: We are not questioning your judgement. The question is too important.

MR. SPEAKER: If you wanted to raise it, you could have discussed it with your Leader and you could have raised it yourself. Now, I cannot offer the luxury of giving each and every Member a chance to speak who feels the same way to say the same thing on the same point in the same hour.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: This is not a question of luxury at all. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing Mr. Nirmal Kant Chatterjee;

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What kind of cooperation you are giving to other Members? Do you think that this is the only one issue to be discussed. There are other Members who want to speak; they want to discuss some issues. How can you compare this thing?

If I had not allowed this issue to be raised, you could have asked for that. But having put it ably before this House, you again want to repeat the same thing. This is not correct.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I cannot accommodate this way.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: We cannot accept handing over the public sector units to the multinationals. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: On an important issue like this – the Senior Ministers are here – let some response be made. That is why, we, Members, agitated. They are sitting like sphinxes.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Let me, first of all, say that Shri Somnath Chatterjee is such a senior Leader and a Member of Parliament. He said, this is a sell-out to foreigners. Let me say that I have a strong objection to what the hon. Member has said. This has been said time and again; rather this Parliament Session started with this only; the first week of the Parliament Session was devoted to this. And I think the Finance Minister was capable enough to satisfy many hon. Members on the left side; he was competent enough to satisfy them. So, I have an objection that this is not a fair way of raising this question that we have sold out thing.

As far as any policy announcement is concerned, I agree with the hon. Members that this is the propriety on the part of the Minister to make a policy statement on the Floor of this House. But I think the hon. Members will agree that the Finance Minister is not in the country; and sometimes there are compelling circumstances also. As far as compelling circumstances are concerned, I think the Minister is within his right to do so. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We want to protest against this. *(Interruptions)*

This is very bad. What he has said has compounded the matter.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Let me add another thing.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: What were the compelling circumstances?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: We are discussing in this Session, the Finance Bill, we are discussing the Defence Ministry and we are discussing the Industry Ministry. While discussing all these three Ministries, the Ministers will be requested to come forward with the circumstances under which they had to make those statements.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The situation is becoming more serious.

(Interruptions)

We must emphatically protest and we will walk out as a protest against the Government policies.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: You are handing over the public sector. Forty-nine per cent of the shares are handed over and you say that it is not selling out! *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Sir, decisions about economic policy are being made about which there can be differences of views and which can be debated. But today a new thesis is being propounded and that thesis is something about which I would like you to give your ruling. The Government does not come in.

The Government has maintained today that the statement that has been objected to is really a policy statement but because there were compelling circumstances, therefore, even though the House was..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: I did not say "there were". I said "there could be".

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: My submission is that till now the Speaker's stand is that if there is any policy statement to be made and if the House is in session, then that should be made only in the House, not outside. There has never been a provision, at least from the Speaker, for compelling circumstances providing exceptions to this rule and today the Government on its own — firstly, I am not sure because I have not gone through the entire statement, whether it was really a policy statement that was made, or something different from what the Government has been saying till now — but if the Government itself says that a policy statement is there and normally it could have been made in the House, because there were compelling circumstances, he had to say something in Tokyo, and therefore it was said. It is a situation in which you must set the record straight and examine the statement that has been made and see if you can agree with the Government's contention. This House cannot agree with this contention.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Let me make it clear. Let me answer the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I do not want you answer. I want the Hon. Speaker's answer. I am sorry.

MR. SPEAKER: To reply to you I must listen to both sides. To give some ruling. I must hear both the sides.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: At least the statement that he has just made provoked me to point out to you that it is within your sphere, not within his sphere. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: I have

said, well, there is a propriety that any policy statement must be made on the floor of the House. This I have said. But as far as this question is concerned, this is already a policy. There is nothing new in this policy. This is part of the policy. This is not anything new. That is why, I have said that one week of Parliament was devoted to this, and the Finance Minister was strong, enough to meet all their points and he was strong enough to satisfy them. So, there is nothing new in what he has said. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We have become a supplicant nation. We cannot be a party to this. *(Interruptions)* Amends must be made. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: One after the other please.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Otherwise we will not participate in the debate. As a protest we walk out.

12.25 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, the hon. Members on the other side do not want to hear the truth. The Industrial Policy was extensively discussed during the last Session of Parliament. I had also participated in the present Budget discussion. Disinvestment in the public sector was one of the major policies contained in the present Budget. There was a proposal to disinvest upto 49 per cent. And whatever has been stated by the hon. Finance Minister in Tokyo — I have also gone through the newspaper — is only within the policy that has already been stated and discussed here. They want to give a wrong message that we are selling the country and we are always surrendering our economic sovereignty. It is unfortunate that they are not willing to hear the truth. I would

like to communicate to them, through you, Sir, that this is not a sell out but this is an implementation of the policy which has been already stated here. All minor details in regard to implementation need not be declared in the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems that our leftist friends had come here with an intention to boycott the House today on any matter. But the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs gave them a chance. So, they have once again stepped back.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may recall, the same situation that took place on the day when Shri Solanki resigned. Today, he has really pushed his Government in a fix. If I were in his place, in which I am not, I am on this side and I don't want to be on that side, I would have said the hon. Finance Minister has not said anything new. The discussion has already been going on for quite some time. He has not mentioned it. He said that there is a propriety in that a policy statement is made on the floor of the House but there were some compelling circumstances.....

SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD: I have said that it always happens but since it could not.....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am recollecting a couplet:

Zaroor koi Mazboori Hogi,
Yon koi Bewafa Nahin Hota."

So, should we take it that our hon. Finance Minister has become indifferent. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given is not to the point. I submit to you to intervene in it. Just pull up the Government.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: First of all, I think that the Parliamentary Affairs Minister did properly what he should do. This is my impression. Some Members may have a different impression. Secondly, we have such learned and erudite Members in the House, who know the propriety, the rules and the decisions given. It is not always necessary for the Presiding Officer to go on telling the Members on this side of any other side that this is to be done and this is not to be done. They all know about it. So, it is not necessary to give a new ruling. There cannot be a new ruling on the points which have been raised.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Please repeat the old ruling.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Innumerable rulings have already been given. As far as the factual position is concerned, supposing the Finance Minister has said that the equity can be to the extent of 49 per cent and all those things, this is something alleged, this is something said, and from the other side it is coming that this has already been decided and this was discussed also. My impression is also something like that. But then I should not go by impression. And I should have factual position before me. There is an allegation and there is also a defence. After the allegation and the defence are tallied the decision should be given and not otherwise.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): There was a disastrous explosion in the Kirki Arms and Ammunition factory on Wednesday, April 8, 1992 at 11 O' clock. In this explosion, about 13 persons were killed on the spot, 40 seriously injured and hundred wounded. Explosion resulted in a big fire in which two buildings got gutted and collapsed. Total monetary loss must be around some lakhs of rupees.

There is a wide spread feeling among the workers and the citizens of Kirki and around that no proper security arrangements have been taken in spite of repeated request from workers and the union leaders.

I hereby appeal to the Government that a thorough inquiry should be made; proper responsibility should be fixed; reasons for the explosion should be found out and full compensation and financial help should be given to the family members of the deceased workers' and also to the wounded workers.

In the end, I once again appeal through you Sir to the Defence Minister to make a full statement after the inquiry is completed.

DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM (Tiruchengode): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I bring this urgent matter to the notice of the Government of India for immediate action. The farmers in the Delta regions of cauvery are preparing for 'Kuruvai' cultivation. Water is also to be released from Mettur Dam by 12th June, 1992. The Tribunal for cauvery water dispute has rejected the review petition of the Karnataka Government against its interim award. It is a triumph for justice and dharma. So, the people of Tamil Nadu expects Karnataka to implement the award and release the water as stipulated in the award. The Central Government should take immediate steps to impress upon the Karnataka Government for the release of the water.

I once again appeal to the Central Government to take up this matter urgently and do the needful for the early release of water by the Karnataka Government in appropriate quantity and at the right time, as per the interim award of the tribunal.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSAGAR (Barabanki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise an urgent matter

of public importance for consideration of the Government. Mr. Speaker, Sir the opium cultivation is being done under the control of Government in districts Barabanki and Ghajipur. Sir, the Government served a notice to the opium cultivators that the loss to opium cultivation caused by storm and flood shall not be assessed after the 7th of March. If this assessment is not done, then the opium cultivators shall lose their licences.

I would like to give two more suggestions in this regard. Firstly, for the purpose of opium cultivation, 4 divisions were made in Barabanki district. Another division was included in it, and the cultivators of the third division, were asked to deposit the opium produce in Faizabad divisions.

Sir, from the point of view of security, this is dangerous and farmers may suffer considerable loss by this I would like to say one more thing in this regard. For the purposes of evaluation hand based and machine based criteria has been made. I would request that opium should be evaluated on only one criteria and the Central Government should solve all the problems of opium cultivators.

SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR (Sagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh on 6th of April fire broke out in New Colony and people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, poor workers, were rendered homeless. One boy, one girl and many people are still in the hospital. They have not got the facilities which they ought to have got from the State Government. 300 houses have been affected by this fire and most of them are workers we work on daily wages and somehow manage two square meals a day. Their plight is miserable. The Government had given them an electricity connection and they were provided Jhuggi Jhonpri type houses. That is why I would like to request the Central Government to provide Rs.

50,000 for each house that has been gutted.

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI (Robertsganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention and the attention of the House to an incident that took place in Mohalla Durga Prasad on 7th under Bisalpur Thana in Pilibhit district, where the Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's statue, was broken by some undesirable elements belonging to the higher castes. Dr. Ambedkar is Messiah of crores of down trodden, Harijans and the backward classes. The way in which his statue was desecrated is regrettable and deplorable. The Bharatiya Janata Party is in power in U.P. but so far it has not succeeded in maintaining order. I would like to make a demand that keeping in mind the backward classes and the way in which their sentiments have been hurt, the central Government should immediately take action in this connection and interfere. All officials should be immediately removed from there and orders should be issued for a judicial inquiry into the entire episode, because there is lot of tension there. This is also a reason for terrorism that is spreading there. The U.P. administration is not taking action against these bad elements. (Interruptions) If the statue of our Messiah is desecrated, how can this country progress? People are shouting slogans of all kinds there. As a mark of respect to the leader and on our demand the Government made an announcement for a public holiday, but on the other hand, his statue is being desecrated in U.P. I would request you that those who have broken the statue there should be immediately apprehended and all those officials there, should be immediately removed because this incident took place as part of a conspiracy. (Interruptions)

DR. P.R. GANGWAR (Pilibhit): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever the hon. Member said here is not true. No statue has been demolished there. I myself went to that locality and I am a Member of Parliament from

that constituency and the locality which has been named is a Harijan locality. The groups of Harijans had certainly clashed in which stones had been hurled but no statue has been demolished there, only brick-bating took place between two groups. There is no tension there, as the hon. Member has suggested. It is only a cooked up story and there is no tension or any other thing. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI (Robertsganj): I have the newspaper there in which a photo of the incident has appeared.

[English]

SHRI ANBARASU ERA (Madras Central): Sir, as per the recent import and export policy, we are aware that pre-inspection has been abolished in respect of all commodities exported. All incentives have also been abolished and Exim Scrips have been done away with. It is quite surprising to know that all Export Promotion Councils have fallen in line and done away with inspection formalities, except the Central Silk Board. The Central Silk Board has still not issued any instructions to their field units to stop forthwith the inspection formalities. Consequently, the Customs authorities at all the airports still insist on the Central Silk Board certificate. This is being done deliberately by both the Textiles and the Finance Ministeries to fleece the silk exporters for paying speed money. This is in violation of Government's liberalised Export-Import policy as Appendix 17, part I and III of the Export policy 1990-93 has been deleted. Similarly, the Customs Department insist for a copy of the Test Certificate of the Central Silk Board for issuance of Duty Draw Back on silk goods. This is also in violation of Government's policy. Now the Duty Drawback for all products is given at a flat rate of two per cent as per sub-serial No. 2604, 2702(4) and 2709 of the Drawback Schedule for All Industry rates.

12.38 hrs.

[English]

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

I, therefore, urge the hon. Minister for Finance and the hon. Minister for Textiles to issue suitable instructions to the concerned departments to prevent the production of pre-inspection certificate by the Central Silk Board and not to insist on the production of the test certificate for the issuance of Duty Drawback by the Customs Department.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir, the public Distribution System in Mumbai, with a population of one crore ten lakhs, has completely collapsed. Those shopkeepers/consumer societies who have paid money to the Government for supplying the goods, are not receiving the goods. As a result, about nine hundred shopkeepers have sent their resignations to the Government and in that, six hundreds cooperative societies are also included. They have said that hereafter they will not run the ration shops. In all there are 3000 shops. The remaining 2100 shops also are deciding that they also want to run the ration shops. As a result, the common man, the factory workers, the middle class persons, are not getting their daily requirements. So, I would request the Government to rush the foodgrains immediately to Mumbai and also assure the shop-keepers, the consumer cooperative societies and the consumers' organisations that steady flow of the ration shops' goods will be made to them. If this is not done, it will collapse and I am afraid that there would be food riots in the city. So, the Government must make a statement and in addition to that, they should rush the goods on a war footing to the city. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have received a telegram on this matter from my constituency.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing you now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH (Adoor) Sir, the Air India's flight charge from Trivandrum to the Gulf countries is at a very high rate. The longstanding demand of the passengers flying from Trivandrum to the Gulf countries had been a reduction in the flight charge of Air-India. But the Air India had not taken any action so far. During the year 1978, the Air India operated their flight service from Trivandrum to the Gulf countries and in the past 14 years, the passengers flying from Kerala to the Gulf countries had been demanding from the Air India for their urgent steps being taken in reducing the unjustified higher flight charge from these sectors. In this regard the Malayalees residing in the Gulf countries had also submitted a memorandum to the Government of India. But the Air India did not take any action so far in meeting this justifiable demand in the reduction of flight charge from the Gulf passengers. The following are the demands:—

1. Flight charge of the Air India for the passengers by the Gulf-Trivandrum flight should be reduced.
2. The Air India be requested to refund the overcharge taken from the passengers so far.

The other demand is to allow the same landing facilities to Trivandrum Airport also as has been done to the other international flights from the foreign countries to Trivandrum Airport.

I draw the attention of the hon. House to the real fact in regard to the higher flight charge taken from the passengers from Trivandrum to the Gulf countries. For example,

the Air India is charging the ticket fare of 2757 Dirham to UAE-Trivandrum-UAE journey. (Interruptions) Sir, it is a very vital subject.

The Air India's flight charge is higher for their England-USA and Tokyo flight. Their fare to UAE-Trivandrum-UAE is double the above fare for taking the passengers to the Gulf countries.

Today the Air India is charging 3040 Dirham for the flight to the Gulf from Trivandrum. I want that this amount should be reduced to 2,000 Dirham.

The Air India is telling that the fare structure was decided by the IATA from Geneva. Hence they cannot interfere in the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: It is very very important, Sir. I am coming to the main point.

But various Gulf-Malayalee organisations contacted the IATA authorities in that regard. They replied that the IATA should not be asked to interfere with the fare structure of Air India since the same was finalised after discussion by various countries.

Therefore, Sir, I request the Government of India and the Ministry of Civil Aviation to reconsider the unwanted, unjustified fare charged by the Air India from the Gulf-Malayalee passengers at Trivandrum and Gulf countries.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY (Howrah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today is the 72nd day of the strike of some jute mill workers of West Bengal. You know that on the 28th January, 1992, the jute mill workers of West Bengal started an indefinite strike to realise not only their payments and wages,

but also for determining man-machine ratio, the problem of *badli* workers and the problems of production and productivity which are the nodal points of the industry itself. Through the historic struggle, the workers could come to a settlement, on the one hand by increasing a bit of their wages and on the other hand, by setting up a committee to go deep into the basic problems of the industry. But some of the owners are disregarding this welcome development. Three of such delinquent owners belong to my constituency. They are the owners of Amb Mill, Ianuran Jute Mill and Tirupati Jute Mill. A total of about 8,000 workers are involved in the process. I have visited the *basti* of the workers and I found that the workers are facing a lot of miseries.

Besides, the authorities of Baranagar Jute Mill and the North Brooke Jute Mill have refused to implement the agreement that they signed on 17th March and as a result, the strike has been continuing in these five mills. The Labour Minister of West Bengal has taken active initiative to settle the dispute, but till now the problems have not been solved. The Central Government is looking at the things from a distance and sometimes it is issuing sermons from Delhi. It transpires from their behaviour that they have nothing to do in the matter. I therefore demand, through you Sir, that in line with the tripartite agreement arrived at very recently, Textile Ministry should take up the issue and intervene to bring these errant and delinquent entrepreneurs to book, because they are defaulters in payment of Provident Fund, ESI benefits and many other statutory obligations that are under the purview of the Central Government. So, the Labour Minister and the Textiles Minister should jointly and actively intervene in the matter.

[Translation]

SHR SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I

would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very serious problem. A railway line connects the Mansi Junction of Bihar to the Saharasa junction and this line dates back to the time of the Britishers. Many trains run on this line. The train which should run at a speed of 40 kilometre per hour runs at a speed of merely 10–15 kilometres in this area. Every year the Railway Division undertakes repair operations. This being a border area I would like the Railway Ministry to include the proposal for changing the metre gauge line between Mansi Junction and Saharasa Junction into broad gauge in this year's Railway Budget so that the inconvenience to crores of people could be removed.

[*English*]

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the news item of *Hindustan Times* today, which says: 'Lanka fears LTTE—Naval Instruction! The fears of Sri Lankan Naval Vice Admiral Shri Ciancy Fernando are unfounded and his statement is misleading our Indian newsmen. The Indo—Sri Lanka Accord of 1974 is quite clear that Indian fishermen have every right to catch fish near Katchatheevu and dry their nets and catches at Katchatheevu. But our fishermen are often attacked and harassed when they fish near Katchatheevu. Shri Ciancy Fernando is giving bogus news saying that the Sri Lankan Navy refrained from taking action against genuine Indian fishermen despite the fact that they violate the international law every time when they fish in Sri Lankan territorial waters. But, this is not the fact. He further says that about 400 fishing trawlers are found in Palk Strait on April 7. There cannot be 400 trawlers putting Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu together. So, this is a bogus news given by the Vice—Admiral of Sri Lanka against our fishermen.

His further statement is that India has

been doing a yeoman's service in containing the LTTE and according to Indian Intelligence LTTE traffic has virtually ended. So, it is quite clear that the Vice—Admiral's fear is unfounded.

So, the misleading news about our fishermen should be rectified by the Sri Lankan Government.

I want our Government to clarify the truth to the Sri Lankan Government and to protect the interests of our fishermen who are being often harassed by Sri Lanka Navy and Sri Lanka Army.

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI (Amalapuram): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise this important matter during Zero Hour.

At present, in our country lot of educated people have been suffering with unemployment. In this situation, it is not possible for the Government to provide employment for all these people. Hence only the small—scale industries can provide better employment to these people. Also there is good scope to earn foreign exchange through these smallscale industries. This sector also meets many needs of the people.

Hence I request you to bring out a Central Government Order to the 1894 Land Acquisition Act so as to enable the employed to acquire land locally in either village areas or town areas and start their own small—scale industries, cottage and village industries through which they can provide employment for themselves and they can provide employment for others also and thus improve the backward areas.

Through you, I request the Central Government to take necessary immediate action in the aforesaid case.

DR. RAMCHANDRA DOME (Birbhum):

Through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government and of the House to an important public health problem.

This issue is brought to my notice by an article written on 1st April by Indian Express. I convey my thanks to the press.

Over 25,000 children and adults have been affected by the excessively high level of fluoride content in drinking water in the fluorosis villages of Amreli district in Gujarat, and in many other parts of our country.

In 1986 under the National Drinking Water Mission, a sub-Mission was formed to tackle the problem which affected roughly 25 million people in 8,700 villages. Thirteen States like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh etc., are the affected States. The objective of the sub-Mission was to provide safe and potable drinking water to all fluorosis endemic villages by 1990.

A pilot project was set up for all the three worst affected States of Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat (in the 37 villages of Amreli), which took several years to complete.

A project to construct pipeline from Kalubhar dam in Bhavnagar district to bring potable water to the affected villages dragged on for as many as eight years after it was first proposed in 1984.

Medical and health experts after in-depth study opined that too much of fluoride results in hardening of blood vessels and there is every possibility that the foetus can be affected and miscarriages and still births and deformed babies are there frequently.

Many of the infants, adults and even older people now cannot see the sky. They are worst affected due to high content of

fluoride in the drinking water. This is a major public health problem and I think that the Government has been rendering no service in this zone. They are committing criminal offences in not providing them safe potable drinking water.

So, I ask the Government to come forward to expedite the Project to provide potable and safe drinking water to avert a major public health hazard in different villages of our country.

12.55 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review on the working of the tribal cooperative marketing Development Federation of India Ltd Delhi for 1988-89 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (On behalf of Shri Sitaram Kesri): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (a) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, Delhi, for the year 1988-89 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, Delhi, for the year 1988-89. [Placed in Library See No. LT-1774/92]
- (b) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi

and English versions) of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, Delhi, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, Delhi, for the year 1989-90. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1775/92]

- (c) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, Delhi, for the year 1990-91 along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, Delhi, for the year 1990-91.

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1776/92]

Notification under Central Reserve Police Force Act, 1949

[*Translation*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIRAM LAL RAH): Sir, On the behalf of Shri M.M. Jacob, I beg to lay on the Table-

A copy of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Commandant (Senior Veterinary Surgeon) Recruitment Rules, 1992 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 88 in Gazette of India dated the 29th February, 1992 under sub-section (3)

of section 18 of the Central Reserve Police Force Act, 1949. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1777/92]

Annual Report and Annual Accounts of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi for 1990-91 etc.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): On behalf of Shri K.C. Lenka:- I beg to lay on the Table.

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91 together with Audit Report thereon.

- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1778/92]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 1990-91 along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 1990-91. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1779/92]

Review on the working and Annual Report of West Bengal Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta for 1984-85 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) On behalf of SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (i) Review by the Government on the working of the West Bengal Agro-Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1984-85.
- (ii) Annual Report of the West Bengal Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1984-85 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above [Placed in Library See No. LT-1780/92]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Account (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the review (Hindi and

English versions) by the Government on the working of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91.

- (4) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above [Placed in Library See No. LT-1781/92]

12.57 hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

Second Report

[English]

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal): Sir, I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

12.57/1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Second Report

[English]

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam): Sir, I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (1) Need to mine coal from coal fields of Chimumr Area, Maharashtra

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimumr): Mr. Chairman, Sir coal reserves in the Bandar coal fields Morpar-1, Morpar Block, Bandar Block and Morpar West and Bandar

[Sh. Vilas Muttemwar]

Ax coalfields of the Chimur Area of Western Coalfields have been estimated at 6 million tonnes, 5 million tonnes, 40 million tonnes and 0.45 million tonnes respectively. Likewise in the nearby coalfields of Makardhokra Makardhokra-II the coal reserves are estimated to be million tonnes, 7 million tonnes and large deposits of coal at markdhokra-III. In addition, it is believed that 41 million tonnes of coal deposits are available at Nand Coalfields. Approximately 7 thousand million tonnes of coal can be mined from these coalfields per day. Therefore, if the aforementioned coalmines become operational then directly or indirectly employment could be provided to 10,000 persons and also many a coal based anullary industries will come up, leading to development of the above mentioned very backward area of Maharashtra.

Mining of such large coal deposits available in the area will prove a boon for the development process in view of the impending coal shortage. Grade-C quality coal is available in the area which is considered best for the power plants and industries. To transport the coal to different parts of the country it is necessary that Morpar, Bandar, Nand and Makardhokra coalfields be liked by rail. Total length of route is 120 kilometres. As you are aware that the people of Chimur were in the fore front in opposing the Britishers and also many of them sacrificed their lives for the country. In their memory if the development of the area is taken up then it will be a fitting tribute to their sacrifice. For early implementation of this scheme and to facilitate transportation of coal to different parts it is necessary that coordination be established between the Ministries of Railways and Coal.

(ii) **Need to connect Jagdalpur by Delhi-Rajhara Railway line**

Madhya Pradesh

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the last 25 years all the

political parties have been raising the demand of linking Jagdalpur with Delhi-Rajhara railway line. However even after the completion of last survey there seems to be no attempt to include it in the eighth five year plan. State Government has also submitted a copy of the resolution passed unanimously in the legislative Assembly in this regard to the Planning Commission.

Therefore, the Centre is requested to include the proposal for the construction of this railway line in the eighth five year plan on priority basis, to facilitate speedy development to the predominantly tribal area.

(iii) **Need to clear the proposal of Maharashtra Government for mobilising resources through open market borrowings for funding mankhurd Belapur Railway Project, Bombay**

[English]

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): Sir, a Rs. 285 crore Mankhurd-Belapur railway project connecting Bombay city with New Bombay is under implementation for the past several years. The project is the life-line for the new Bombay area. The commissioning of the railway line is to take place in May, 1992.

However, the on-going work on the project, now in its final stages, has come to a grinding halt for non-availability of funds.

The Maharashtra Government and the Central Government have to share the cost of the project in the ratio of 2:1. In the past five years the State Government was permitted by the Union Finance Ministry to resort to open-market borrowing through CIDCO to partly finance the project. But similar borrowing to the extent of Rs. 100 crores in 1991-92 was not cleared by the Central Government. This has led to the present stoppage of the work.

Since the new financial year has commenced, I urge upon the Central Government to accord clearance to the State Gov-

ernment's proposal to mobilise resources through open-market borrowings for early completion of this important project.

13.00hrs.

- (iv) **Need to recognise 'Rajbhar' caste to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar as Scheduled Caste**

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMBADAN(Lalgañ): Sir, in most parts of the country, especially the Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the condition of 'Rajbhar' castes is quite pitiable from economic and social point of view. Despite their pitiable condition these castes have not been included in the list of Scheduled Castes. As a result of which a sense of frustration and deprivation has engulfed these castes. Time and again they stage demonstrations and rallies in the capital.

The Centre is requested to include these castes in the list of the Scheduled Castes and may provide all the facilities made available to the Scheduled Castes.

- (v) **Need to recognise fishermen and washermen of Andhra Pradesh as Scheduled Tribes**

[*English*]

SHRI G.M.C.BALAYOGI (Amalapuram): In my Constituency, nearly two lakh fishermen face social and economic problems in their daily life. Even after Independence, this community has not been provided with the basic requirements like drinking water roads, hospitals, education to children and a small pucca house, even though Government earn crores of rupees of foreign exchange due to their efforts. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has recommended that the fishermen and washermen communities be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. The matter was represented by several Members of Parliament. So far, the Government has not taken any initiative in the matter.

Hence I urge upon the Central Government to take immediate and necessary steps for inclusion of these Castes in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

- (vi) **Need to develop Dhenkanal Keonjhar road via kamakhyanagar, Kaliahata, Nudurpuda, Narayanpur into a National Highway**

SHRI K.P.SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise the following matters under Rule 377.

An alignment exists between Dhenkanal, Orissa, the district headquarters on National Highway Number 42, only 35 kilometres from the Calcutta-Madras National Highway Number 5 and Keonjhar, Orissa, district headquarters town on the National Highway Number 6, the Calcutta-Bombay Highway, a distance of 135 kilometres.

Dhenkanal-Angul-Talcher on the National Highway Number 42, is fast developing into an industrial area with the establishment of National Aluminium Company, Smelter and Captive Power Plant, the Fertilizer Plant and the NTPC Super Thermal Plant. Similarly, Keonjhar which is in the heart of the iron ore deposits, is gradually developing with the charge Chrome Plant and the proposed second steel plant.

It is therefore, desirable and necessary to develop the road Dhenkanal Kamakhyanagar MDR 28 kilometres Kamakhyanagar Kaliahata via Kankadahad CVR- 39 kilometres. Kaliahata Nudurpuda CVR 48 kilometres, Nudurpuda-Narayan Pur MDR, 12 kilometres, Narayanpur-Keonjhar SH-five kilometres into a National Highway.

Apart from reducing the distance between Dhenkanal industrial area to Keonjhar industrial area by 100 kilometres, it will open up the rich mineral bearing area, comprising Chromite and iron ore. It will also open up for development and economic activity the entire tribal area for tribals, who have been denied the fruits of development even after seven Five Year Plans due to lack of and

[Sh. K.P. Singh Deo]

Inadequacy of infrastructure like communication, since no railway line exists at the moment.

(vii) **Need to make early payment of dues to the farmers of Gujarat under Crop Insurance Scheme**

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL (Jamnagar): Sir, for approximately one year and a half, farmers of Gujarat have not been paid dues under the Crop Insurance Scheme. On a number of occasions myself and other hon. Members from Gujarat, Organisations of farmers and cooperative Societies have written for immediate payment of dues. Even personally the position has been apprised off but till date the payment of dues has not been made to the farmers under the afore said insurance scheme. As a result of which the farmers are not being given new loans. Though the farmers are entitled for the claims but even then the payment of dues has not been made.

As a result of which the farmers are not able to buy seeds and insecticides etc. Thereby causing extensive loss in agricultural production and also adversely affecting not just the farmers but also the Government and the country. Burden of interest on loan to be repaid by the farmers on bank loans has increased two four folds, but no interest is being paid on payment of outstanding dues to the farmers, thereby defeating the very objectives of Crop Insurance Scheme.

The entire Saurashtra-Kutch belt in Gujarat is in the grip of draught and both the farmers and animals are facing starvation. In the prevailing conditions the payment of dues under the Crop Insurance Scheme is the only ray of hope. Farmers are now dependent just on this payment.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Central Government to immediately disburse the outstanding payment of dues for 1991-92

under the Crop Insurance Scheme to the farmers.

(viii) **Need to take steps for protecting the interests of fishermen of Rajapur, Maharashtra**

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur): Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under Rule 377:

Rajapur Constituency is the most backward constituency of the country, in spite of it being declared as having achieved 100 percent literacy. Presently the catch on the coast has reduced as ships from the neighbouring States are conducting massive poaching operations with the modern vessels at their disposal. Bare necessities like salt for drying of the fish is not provided to the fishermen. 90 per cent of the catch is thus wasted due to lack of processing facilities.

The entire shipping industry has collapsed and resultant effect on the fishing industry is clearly visible. Today the future of one lakh fishing community is at stake. I would therefore request that the following steps be taken urgently:-

(a) Establish a deep sea fishing harbour in Rajapur with required research facility.

(b) Start work on the fishing harbours at Sarjekote and Anandwadi.

(c) Provide assistance to the Maharashtra Government for desiltation of all the harbours of the region.

(d) Evolve a master plan for promotion of the fishing industry to include. Aquaculture, Deep sea fishing, Shallow water fishing, marketing, promotion of cooperatives, provision of infrastructure and inputs for fishing.

(e) Promote Joint Venture operation with foreign flag ships for deep sea fishing.

(ix) **Need for construction of a foot bridge along the railway bridge over the river Dhansiri, Assam.**

SHRI PROBINDEKA (Mangaldoi): The NF Railway users living on the eastern side of Dhansiri river on Rangiya-Rangapara branch line are experiencing great difficulties, because there is no foot-bridge alongside the Railway bridge there. In the absence of a foot-bridge there, many people are run over by trains or some other people fall down in the river as there is no railing alongside the existing Railway bridge. If this foot-bridge is built, it will cater to the needs of the population of that area; because they will have to travel only one kilometre to reach the Routa Station. Since there is no foot-bridge alongside the rail bridge people have to travel 10 Kms. to reach Routa Railway Station. I request the Central Government to take up necessary scheme for constructing the foot-bridge alongside the railway bridge over the river Dhansiri.

(x) **Need to clear the proposals of Rajasthan Government for development of tourism.**

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are many possibilities of development of tourism in Rajasthan. During the last 16 years there has been 4 fold increase in the influx the foreign tourists to the State. This phenomenon is continuing and it is expected that by the end of 1992 atleast 40 per cent of the total foreign tourists visiting India will be visiting Rajasthan. Therefore, to goar up the State of Rajasthan to meet this challenge, there is a need to augment the capacity by 10,000 beds during the next two years and to also develop other places from the tourism point of view in the State.

In the absence of liberal financial assistance from the Central Government it will be difficult to develop the tourism in the state as per the plans. The State Government has submitted to the Centre Plans for strength-

ening of the existing five circuits and development of 3 new tourism circuits. In the plans submitted, assistance is sought for construction of midway cafeteria, resting and transportation facilities and tourism places etc. Proposals to the tune of Rs. 760.68 lakhs for the development of all the eight circuits (3 new and five existing) are under consideration.

The Central Government is requested to immediately clear the above mentioned proposals which are under consideration.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjointed for lunch break is reassemble at 2.10 p.m.

13.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunhc at Seventeen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA-
in the Chair)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1992-93— CONTD.

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT ;
MINISTRY OF FOOD; MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE

AND

MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION— CONTD.

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purilia): Madam Chairman, I resume my discussion today for the problems of lac cultivators. There are three million lac cultivators in this

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country. They have been exploited for a long time by some industrialists, middlemen, moneylenders and exporters. It is only cash crop of the lac cultivators. Most of them are scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Their upliftment is proclaimed to be the sacred responsibility of the Government.

Lac cultivation generally takes places in West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and some parts of Himachal Pradesh. India was the first country in the world in the 1950 in the production of lac. It produced about 85 per cent of the total production of the world. In 1978-79, the production of lac has declined and it came down to 53 per cent. Now it is just 50 per cent. In the Eighth Plan, the Government of India assumed that about 21,485 metric tonnes will be produced. It is just 50 per cent of the total production of the world. There are at present 194 manufacturers. But in 1950, there were 489 manufacturers.

India is exporting lac to USA, UK and Germany. India's position is very bad now. Thailand is competing with us and previously, India's total contribution in lac production was 74 per cent in export of lac. For the benefit of the lac cultivators who are mostly Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and poor people, I suggest the hon. Minister for fixation of minimum support price and Lac Development Board should be constituted like Tea and Jute Development Boards. Plantation of host trees should be encouraged and it should be brought under the social forestry scheme. The entire processing of lac from cultivation to export, should be brought under the cooperative sector.

My next point is regarding the public distribution system. Prime Minister had admitted that the present system of public distribution is urban oriented and most of the people from the rural do not get benefit from it. So, the Government has advised the State Governments and UT administrations for opening fair price shops. At present, 50 per cent of the foodgrains are under the

public distribution system and are consumed only by five States like West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala and Delhi. 20 per cent of the foodgrains are consumed by major States like UP, Bihar, Rajasthan and Orissa whereas 50 per cent of the people live below the poverty line and one-third of them are in the rural areas. Now, a decision has been taken by the Government in the 13th Advisory Council meeting in August, 1991 and the Chief Ministers Conference in September 1991 that 1700 blocks would be identified in 27 States and UTs for opening 11,000 fair price shops by which 16.7 crores of people will be benefited. But till now, due to lack of effective innovative steps, nothing has been done. In West Bengal, there are 17,256 modified ration shops by which 536 lakhs of people are benefited. In urban areas, 2767 statutory total shops are these by which 105.74 lakh people are benefited. But the question now is that foodgrains availability has assumed a critical stage. Central Government is not sending foodgrains on time. The West Bengal Government gave several representations to the Central Government to bring 14 items of necessary consumption under the public distribution system. I request the Minister to do something about this.

A few days ago, a newspaper reported that 49 per cent impurities have been accepted by the Government. Minister should come forward about the actual state of affairs. Now I request the hon. Minister for the revival of the Food for Work Programme. This is a very popular programme. I also press upon the hon. Minister for enhancing the procurement system. At present the procurement rate is 10 to 12 per cent. It must be enhanced to 25 per cent. With the availability of about 170 and odd million tonnes of foodgrains, the public distribution system can be run smoothly.

Lastly, I would like to know the views of the hon. Minister of Agriculture on the Denkal Draft. I want to know his views because he says that he belongs to a farming community and is concerned about their welfare. Being a farmer, the hon. Minister of Agriculture

must reject the Dunkel Draft. Most of the farmers have already rejected it. He should not allow Dunkel to penetrate into our agricultural sector. I say this because if the Dunkel proposal is accepted, there will be no possibility of the Government offering any price support to the farmers. While replying to the debate, I request him to come forward with a concrete proposal regarding his views about the Dunkel Draft. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister, Shri Lenka will now intervene.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): Madam Chairman, as many as 31 hon. Members have participated in the debate on the Demands for Grants of Agriculture. While discussing on these demands, almost all of them have given greater emphasis on education and research activities and their extension to the fields of agriculture.

At the outset, I must thank them for their valuable suggestions and innovative ideas for sustainable growth of agriculture in our country. The excellent contributions of our agricultural scientists have been recognised nationally and internationally also.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Still, you are not providing adequate funds for their work.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: For providing more funds for the research sector, I need your help also. I will come to it later.

Madam, the scientists have been working in contemporary areas and they have made impressive plans and projects. They have made outstanding research in the laboratories as also in the fields. Our Scientists have produced some of the finest modern technologies in the world which really need exposure and application in the fields for the rapid transformation of the lives of our rural masses.

Madam Chairman, I want to place be-

fore this august House some of the major achievements of the ICAR in the field of research and education.

A large number of improved crop varieties have been developed and appropriate technology has been developed for controlling biotic and abiotic stresses. We have achieved the foodgrains production of 176.23 million tonnes 74.6 million tonnes of rice and 54.5 million tonnes of wheat which is an all time record in production of foodgrains. The overall productivity of foodgrains increased by 38 Kg hectare. Oilseeds production has reached about 18.5 million tonnes which is 1.5 million tonnes higher than the previous year.

SHRI ANIL BASU: We all appreciate what the ICAR Scientists have done but you may also tell us out of the total fund allocated for the research work how much has been spent. Out of the Budgetary support of Rs. 190 crores only Rs. 15 crores have been spent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister complete his speech.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: As per Plant Genetic Research is concerned, India is considered as one of the eight important gene centres in the world. Germplasm collection, evaluation and conservation are the high priority areas of research.

Madam, I would like to mention some of the major achievements of ICAR. Twenty seven new crop varieties and hybrids - 18 in cereals, 2 in forage crops, 4 in pulses and 3 in cotton have been released. In addition 33 horticultural crop varieties have been developed to meet the objectives of the high crop productivity and sustainability in crop yields under different agroclimatic zones. New and more efficient cropping systems have also been developed so as to enable water economy up to 30 per cent without any loss of production on a sustained basis. Integrated Watershed Development approach has helped to substantially increase yields of food, fodder and fuel from drylands.

Success has been achieved in developing crossbreed animals, cattle strains for milk and sheep for wool and meat production. An elite herd of buffaloes established at the Central Institute for Research on Buffalo yielded 2,790 Kg. of milk per lactation of 305 days.

New technologies have helped to increase productivity of fish ponds from 50 kg hectares/year to a spectacular 1850 Kg./hectares/Year and reservoirs from 20 to a record 220 Kg/Hectares/Year on national basis. New technologies for long term storage of milt have helped to hasten establishment of fish gene banks. Stock assessment of multi-species resources have led to the location of new fishery potential in Exclusive Economic Zone.

The ICAR is an apex body responsible for promoting, conducting and coordinating agricultural research, education and primary extension education. Agricultural Research is undertaken by ICAR through 46 Central institutes, 9 Project Directorates, 20 National Research Centres established so far on fundamental and applied aspects of individual crops commodities or disciplines which have direct relevance to agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and allied sectors.

The Council also operates 71 multi-location, multi-disciplinary, all-India coordinated research projects all over the country.

On important commodities and research areas, 27 State Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutes, selected public and private institutions are there. We have been able to create a very sound and best infrastructure of the ICAR throughout the country. It has become the biggest institution not only in the country but in the whole of Asia with more than 26 lakh scientific workers. It is the third largest in the country where scientific and technical manpower are there.

It has been estimated that Rs. 4,000 crore have been spent on development of science in this country since independence, uptill now. At present, there are more than

900 research and development institutions in the country, including, the bio-gas and science and technology institutions. So, this is about the research, infrastructures and achievements in the country.

Now I will come to education. As regards education, we have to go a long way. Most of the hon. Members, while discussing this subject, have suggested that each State should have one University.

This means that all the hon. Members realise the importance of agriculture in the country. They also realise the need to enhance the education system and also education regarding agriculture throughout the country for maximising production. Madam, I feel, if the agriculture education is not included in the curriculum or in the textbooks of schools and colleges in a smaller form, then it is very difficult to achieve the goal. I think, every individual should be trained and should be equipped with the knowledge of agriculture and they should also be equipped with modern technology. It should be done in order to see that in their day-to-day life in the practical field, they can engage themselves. For better agricultural production, it is necessary.

As far as Universities in the States are concerned, in the Eighth Five Year Plan, we are going to do it. A proposal is under consideration for establishment of a Central University in the North-Eastern State. Almost, all the Members are aware that North-Eastern States have no Agricultural University. Most of the North-Eastern States are backward so far as agricultural education is concerned. They are also backward in regard to research and also in regard to the extension.

So, it has been decided to have a Central Agricultural University at Imphal. It will have seven colleges. These seven colleges will be located at Manipur, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and so on. It will go a long way in educating the youths and also developing the agricultural sector in the North-Eastern States.

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SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS
(Karimganj): There was a proposal to set up
an Agricultural University in Karimganj.

SHRI K.C.LENKA: I will examine that
point.

112 acres of land has already been
allotted for this University. This is about
educational target that we have to keep in
mind to work in this direction. I have to inform
the House about the infrastructure of the
educational system in the country. The
educational programmes are by and large
being conducted through 27 Agricultural
Universities located in various parts of the
States.

The four ICAR's institutes are as fol-
lows:-

- (1) Indian Veterinary Research Insti-
tute;
- (2) Indian Agricultural Research Insti-
tute;
- (3) National Dairy Research Institute;
and
- (4) Central Institute of Fisheries

They perform educational functions by
offering courses for Post-Graduate Degree
Programmes in the capacity of well recog-
nised "Deemed University" and award de-
grees. The National Academy of Agricultural
Research Management Hyderabad, trains
new Agricultural Research Service recruits
in various aspects of Project Planning, Im-
plementation Monitoring and Research
Management.

The third aspect of the ICAR is agricul-
tural extension. I had heard most of the
Members while they were speaking on this
subject; they laid emphasis mostly on exten-
sion matters. Our scientists have achieved a
lot in the agriculture sector, but, uptill now,
we have not been able to transfer this tech-
nology to the grass-root level. I can say that
we have a very weak system, weak infra-

structure at present to take this technology to
the farmers; unless this modern technology
reaches at every doorstep of the farmers,
we cannot maximise production. So, we
have to give emphasis on that subject, this is
research extension.

Most of the Members opine that why
ICAR is not doing the extension work re-
search rapidly at the grass-root level. I can
say if ICAR is given this extension respon-
sibility, the whole purpose of the ICAR will be
diluted; ICAR is engaged in education and
research; and ICAR also conducts first line
demonstration of the modern technology not
only to the farmers but it also gives training
to the farmers but it also gives training to the
Government officials, officials of the State
Government and the farmers.

Regarding first line demonstration of
modern technology which they have
achieved, how it can be spread to the grass-
root level? It is the responsibility of the State
Government to extend their infrastructure of
extension so that this modern technology
can reach every doorstep of the farmer.

Of course, ICAR is having an agency for
this extension in the country. 109 KVKS
have already been established. These KVKS
are functioning as light-houses of the mod-
ern technology and there is an interaction
between the farmers and the scientists in the
KVKS.

The land to lab programmes are being
executed through the KVKS in 107 districts
in the country. But we need more. Many hon.
Members have demanded that the KVKS
must be established in their constituencies.
Hundreds and hundreds of memoranda have
come from the hon. Members demanding
this. That means the KVKS are discharging
their functions well.

So far as the transfer of technology is
concerned, the KVKS only can take this
technology to the farmers at the grass-roots
level. We have not been able to start even
one KVK in each district. We have a proposal
to start a minimum of one KVK in each district

of the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan. But that depends upon the availability of funds.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): What is the cost of establishing one KVK?

SHRI K.C. LENKA: In the first phase it will be Rs. 2 to 3 crores. Ultimately it will end up in about Rs. 15 crores of expenditure.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): In constructing a KVK, the main expenditure is on erecting the building. If you can do that, in the way the farmers themselves live and work, it will be good. You can build your KVKs in the fashion.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: You are a very learned person, I know. but the building of a KVK means first to erect a laboratory. because the KVKs do the research in agroclimatic zones where much of the crops suitable to the area grown. So, the first we require the laboratory, then equipment. Then this research will go to the farmers. Of course, most of the technologies are being transferred direct to the farmers. The KVKs are required largely for the construction of building and equipment. For the KVK is the answer.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: It is so only if it is complete.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: I want to inform the House about the achievements so far made by the ICAR so far as extension is concerned.

About 400 demonstrations covering most of the agroclimatic zones showed the increased yield of rice, wheat, pulses and oilseeds two or three times the yield of neighbouring farmers. Under the lab to Land Programme, 20,000 adopted farm families, especially in areas of rainfed farming, obtained the increased productivity of 40 per cent. Krishi Vigyan Kendras organised 9516

training courses, benefiting 2,07,446 trainees. As many as 1445 trainers were also trained. Over 26,500 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe farm families have been benefited and thereby their annual income has been raised from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 3000 through projects designed for their socio-economic upliftment.

Besides this, there are other programmes also that have been taken up. It will take time if I give the details of these programmes in the House.

So far as agricultural engineering is concerned, most of the hon. Members also opined that most of the land holdings in the country are not suitable for the use of modern agricultural implements.

A number of hon. Members have discussed about land reforms. After the implementation of the land reforms in the country most of the land holdings are still subjected to further fragmentation day by day.

AN HON MEMBER: How much land have you got?

SHRI K.C. LENKA: I have got only four acres of land. I am a small agricultural labourer. I am a small farmer having four acres of land.

SHRI E. AHMED (Maujen) : Compared to your Cabinet Minister you are a small farmer.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: I am telling my experience in the field because, I worked in the field...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request the hon. Minister to address the Cfair.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: Madam, I was telling about land reforms...(Interruptions)

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS: The Minister has not anything about employment generation...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.C. LENKA: I request the Hon. Member to have some patience. I will come to that point later.

Madam, I was talking about lagricultural implements. After the land reforms, lands are being fragmented day by day. The small and marginal farmers constitute about 80 per cent of the farmers in the country. And 15 per cent of the farmers are the big farmers. These big farmers occupy 75 per cent of the land. Shrimati Indira Gandhi stressed this in 1974. She had not kept in her mind the maximising of our production and she said that we should give land to the tillers.

so far as Orissa is concerned, we have done it. And we have given ten acres of land to every farmer in Orissa. In Orissa you can recognise not even a single farmer as a big farmer. In India, Orissa distributed maximum percentage of the surplus land to the landless labourers *(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHMED: I do not think that Orissa has done better when compared to kerala..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.C. LENKA: That might be. At that time, as the Planning Minister and afterwards as the Revenue Minister, in the State of Orissa I myself had executed these plans..*(Interruptions)* I have done it in my state. I am satisfied. So far as equipment is concerned, we have to change our attitude. The big tractors would not be suitable to our small farmers. Still the farmers are using the traditional equipment for farming. Our scientists are now engaged in discovering the best indigenous technology and equipment based on traditional methods which would be suitable to small lands. This is the thrust area which we have identified in the Eighth Five Year Plan. We are encouraging the entrepreneurs to manufacture equipment which can be placed in the suitable and specific areas under the agroclimatic zones of the country. There are six agroclimatic zones in the country. So, we want different kinds of equipment for small and marginal farmers. The number of tractors which has been utilised by the farmers will not give the

idea about agriculture in the country. A very few big farmers are having tractors. Now, we have to think about the conditions of the small and marginal farmers.

Really the landless agricultural labourers are the real farmers. They work in the field. They know what to do and what is required for the development of agriculture . The landless agricultural labourers are the real farmers of the country because 80 per cent of the rural force is engaged in agriculture..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: They do not have the land..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.C. LENKA: That is the point. The States should give priority in distributing the surplus land to the landless labourers so that they can show the result. As the State of Orissa had implemented land reforms properly, the production has gone up twice there. It is the opinion of the agricultural experts..*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): We do not want to ask questions connected with it. The subject has been included in the ninth scheduled but the land tribunals have not been constituted till date. Though the hon. Minister is dealing with ICAR but even then he is not prepared to come out with a reply. Why? Land tribunal could not be Constituted even though the subject has been put in the ninth schedule. The Government is prepared to distribute surplus land as has been states in the House.

[English]

SHRI K.C. LENKA: You know everything because you were incharge of this and you know the details as to how to run an agricultural department. Sardar Vallab Bhai Patel told that there is no culture than Agriculture. We have nothing to tell about irrigations, we have nothing to tell about pesticides, we have nothing to tell about fertilisers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt him again and again.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Sir, we also appreciate the difficulties the hon. Minister is facing in developing agriculture in the country. That's why we are in favour of a son of a farmer becoming the Hon. Prime Minister of the country so that all the problems confronting the farming community could be solved. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI K.C. LENKA: The present Prime Minister is the son of a Kisan. During his leadership, he wanted to develop agriculture. He was the first Chief Minister in the country who implemented Land Reforms Act in Andhra Pradesh. So, our country is now fortunate to have a Prime Minister who is the son of a farmer. So, what do you want? You should be satisfied now and help this programme. Fortunately, the minister of Agriculture is a learned and experienced farmer in this country.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): There is a difference between a farmer and a landlord. *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Field): The definition of a farmer is the one who ploughs the field himself and owns less than 30 acres of land. Such a farmer cannot be called a landlord. That is why the definition needs to be changed. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI K.C. LENKA: To me in the country, there is no landlord. When the Land Reforms Act has been implemented, there should be no landlords. So, everybody should

be farmer. There may be some land owners. *(Interruptions)*. There is no landlord. We have taken land from them. *(Interruptions)*. I am a small and marginal farmer. My senior colleague Shri Balram Jakhar is an experienced farmer and the Prime Minister of the country is the son of a farmer. So, what do you want now?

I am coming to the Animal Husbandry sector.

Hon. Members are aware that the Diary Development.....

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are too many interruptions. Please allow the Minister to reply.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: In the field of agriculture, we achieved a lot. If I mention and read, it will take half an hour. What are the results have we shown so far as the modern agricultural equipments are concerned? I only mentioned about our objectives. These modern technologies so far invented are not suitable to the small and marginal farmers of the country. So, we have identified these areas where we have to give priority in the Eighth Five Year Plan to invent such equipments which will be indigenous, based on traditional methods and will be suitable to the small and marginal farmers of the States.

15.00 hrs.

That is what I have said. But of number of things have been invented, number of equipment have come out. So, it will take time.

Now I am coming to animal husbandry and diary sector. Hon. Members are aware that this animal husbandry and live stock sector is an excellent tool for generation of employment in rural areas. Most of those who are engaged in the agricultural field, are agricultural labourers and they will be benefited if diary development projects can be taken up well in the rural areas.

After the Operation Flood, we have seen that in hilly and backward areas, we have not developed well, so far as the dairy development and animal husbandry sectors are concerned. In most of the North-Eastern States also, we have not achieved a lot. So, this has been visualised by the Government. NDDB is functioning only in ten per cent areas of the country, where there is infrastructure, where milk is available, NDDB, according to its principle, are implementing their schemes in those areas. The backward areas, the hilly areas and most of the North-Eastern States are deprived of getting any facilities from NDDB. That is why regional imbalance is now found so far as the dairy development and livestock sector in the country is concerned. This has been visualised by the Government. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, the Government has decided to launch an Integrated Dairy Development Programme throughout the country in non Operation Flood areas, in hilly areas, in North-Eastern States and in backward areas. This will function as a Central scheme and will be implemented through State Governments, and all help will be given to the State Governments in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Nagpur): They have not yet implemented Dairy Development project there. Shri kurien is sitting here, he knows that NDDB undertakes activities only in those areas where infrastructure is existing. Why hilly areas and backward areas are being neglected? They provide funds to the areas where milk is already available, this is not dairy development. Funds are given to Gujarat, and other States, why not to hilly areas? What has Government thought in this regard? Funds to the tune of crores of rupees are allocated for the purpose but the entire amount is spent on oil projects. Does the Government propose to take any action in this regard?

[English]

SHRI K.C. LENKA: Madam, I have said that the projects will be implemented by the

State Governments. If the State Governments do not send their proposals, what will the Central Government do?

This aspect of the NDDB has been discussed number of times by the Government. NDDB follows its principles. Their principle is to start their activities in places where there is infrastructure existing because they are running their business on commercial basis. That is why they have selected areas in the country where already there is infrastructure, where already milk is available. That is why I have said that in order to avoid this, the Government, during the Eighth Five Year Plan, are proposing this Integrated Dairy Development Scheme which will cater to the areas which are not included in the operation Flood. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: This is a Central Scheme. There are other schemes also. But this scheme will be a Centrally sponsored scheme and the State Governments have to implement it. Our Schemes will be provided to the State Governments and it depends upon them how to implement them in their areas.

As regards poultry development in the country, this is a sector where we can employ Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and poor sections of people in the society. But for the information of the House, I may tell that we have the lowest per capita annual consumption of eggs in the world. Our per capita consumption is only twenty two eggs per year. It has been estimated that if we can give priority to this sector... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GOVIND CHANDRAMUNDA (Keonjhar): Kindly give the information in regard to podu cultivation.

[English]

SHRI K.C. LENKA: That the Cabinet

Minister will be replying. He will take up this podu cultivation by Adivasis.

It has been estimated that if you increase the per capita consumption by just one egg, 25,000 jobs will be generated in the country. So, kindly imagine that this dairy sector, this fishery sector, this animal husbandry sector can provide ample opportunity to the rural masses and can solve the unemployment problem of the rural masses.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Why are you speaking like this? You are speaking like an ordinary Member. You are a Minister. You should not say that this should be done, that should be done, you must tell us what is being done.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: Please listen to me. We are now proposing to establish a National Poultry Development Board in the country which will look after the development of the poultry industry in the country. I can tell the hon. Member that I am asking the West Bengal Government to please give the Poultry industry the status of agriculture, but your Minister has not replied to me up-till now. In order to develop poultry industry.

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL (Erandol): Sir, I will like to have one clarification. On various Boards- Silk Board, Coffee Board, etc. Members of parliament are there as members, but on the National Dairy Development Board, there are no Members of parliament. I would like to know whether the Government is going to consider this aspect because it has to be controlled properly. So, are you going to nominate Members of parliament on that Board?

SHRI K.C. LENKA: Sir, the hon. Member have given a very valuable suggestion. I have gone through the Act of NDDB. The Government will consider this proposal also.

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: The Act has to be amended because there are lot of complaints about that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, may I ask you how much longer are you going to speak?

SHRI K.C. LENKA: I am just concluding.

At the end, while concluding, I want to inform the hon. Members here that the working Group on Agricultural Research and Education has clearly stated that there is no future for Indian agriculture unless it becomes knowledge intensive and is oriented towards the generation of more income and skilled jobs for the rural masses. Our rural population is predominantly young.

It would be difficult to attract or retain the young in agriculture unless agriculture becomes intellectually stimulating and economically rewarding. Based on the Working Group's Paper, the following priorities and thrust areas in respect of agricultural research, education and extension have been identified for the Eighth Plan:

1. To prepare Inventory of Natural Resource
2. Conservation of planned exploitation of germplasm
3. Enhancing productivity through evolution of new high yielding hybrids
4. Development and refinement of Dry Farming
5. Improving integrated Nutrient Management Systems
6. Diversification of Agriculture
7. Research on Export Oriented Commodities
8. Energy Management in Agriculture
9. Post-harvest Technology of Hort. Crops, oilseed and pulses, livestock products

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10. Fostering excellence in Research and Education

11. Transfer of Technology and Informatics

12. Human Resource Development.

I may submit that we have given priority for all these things during the Eighth Plan.

Madam, several hon. Members have given cut motions. Shri Zainal Abedin, Shri J.N. Das and others have given cut motions.

[Translation]

Why did you give cut motion in support of your demand to set up krishi vigyan Kendra? Now you withdraw your cut motion.

[English]

We have already established a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in the Jalpaipuri district of West Bengal.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Setting up of one Krishi Vigyan Kendra in West Bengal will not solve the problem of West Bengal.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not now. They can be raised later.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Just one question. Nearly Rs. 800 crores worth of betel leaves are produced in the country. There are mainly two demands from the producers of these levels. One is regarding the preservation of the leaves for longer period and the second is about the production of medicinal oil from these leaves. Research and development is needed in these two issues. The earlier Minister has also promised in this regard. I want to know

what are you going to do in these two aspects? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.C. LENKA: Madam, the hon. Member is aware of the situation that most of the small farmers living in Orissa and West Bengal earn their livelihood from the cultivation of these betel leaves. We are doing our best to help them. We have not failed in this regard. The Bidhan Chandra Krishivishwa Vidyalaya Kalyani has started its centres there. They are doing their research.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Madam, two specific issues—preservation of the leaves and production of medicinal-oil have been raised. The hon. Minister may kindly answer on those points.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: I wish to submit that research work is going on in these aspects. In addition, the Bidhan Chandra Krishivishwa Vidyalaya at Kalyani has started a branch there. They are doing research work on these lines. More than Rs. 6-7 lakhs of rupees have been given to them.

Shri Hardhan Roy, Basu Deb Acharia, Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya, Ajoy Mukhopadhyay, Sudhir Giri and others have given cut motions. I would like to inform them and the House that an All India Coordinator Research Project on Betelvine is in operation since Seventh Five Year Plan. This project has ten centres. Bidhan Chandra Krishivishwa Vidyalaya, Kalyani, West Bengal is one of the ten centres of the project. Research work on various aspects of Betelvine is already in progress in this centre.

Earlier, in the same State of West Bengal, roving survey was conducted twice in a year once during pre-monsoon and another during post-monsoon. Technique for raising healthy crop, dosage of fertilisers, cultural practices have been investigated. Therefore, there is no failure on the part of the Government to strengthen researches on Betelvine. And also things like new medi-

[Sh. K.C. Lenka]

cines are included. So, Rs. 6.8 lakhs have been allotted for this centre.

So, I request all the hon. Members to withdraw their cut motions.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): When was this money given?

SHRI K.C. LENKA: Already given.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: When?

SHRI K.C. LENKA: We have already given. Whether it is the Seventh Plan allocation or Eighth Plan allocation, I do not know.

Like this most of the Members have given cut motions opining that more money should be given for the extension of KVKs. Of course, with this constraint of resources we are trying to do it is during the Eighth Five Year Plan, and most of the Members also wanted the Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Most of the areas have been given Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Now, 74 new KVKs are on the verge of implementation. Over and above that, we will give more.

Madam, with these words I request the hon. Members, those who have given cut motions, to withdraw their cut motions. With these words, I conclude. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chandresh Patel. May I request the Members to economise on time because two other Ministers are to intervene.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is just my request to everybody.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL (Jamnagar): Madam, Chairman, every Government whether it is Congress Government, Janata Dal Government or any other Gov-

ernment promises to look after the interests of the farmers. Why the same thing has to be promised time and again? It means that none of the Governments have ever taken care of the interests of the farmers. That is why the same thing has to be repeated even after 43-44 years of independence. On one side the Government promises to safeguard the interests of the farmers while on the other with draws the subsidy on fertilizers. The prices of pesticides, tractors and other machineries have increased. But if the prices of wheat, rice or edible oils are increased, people come out on the streets to launch agitations and politicians also involve themselves with such agitations. Agriculture suffer heavy losses some times due to excessive rain and some time due to drought or scarcity. Kutchh, Saurashtra, Rajasthan etc. are drought prone areas. The farmers of these regions look towards you not for small subsidy but for irrigation facilities. Mere availability of fertilizers won't be of any use there. They rather demand irrigation facilities and work. The Government provided 2 or 3 kg. fertilizers, 500 Mg. seeds and also pesticides to farmers, agree that these facilities do count but these do not provide water to the farmer to irrigate his land or to give him employment. Farmers toils hard throughout the day and night whereas the Government employees work from 11 A.M. to 6 P. M., we also sit upto 6 P.M. but whenever we have to sit late, say upto 7 or 8 P.M. we feel quite uneasy and worried to call at our residence to inform that we will be coming late. But the farmers work from morning till night and if he dies due to snake bite he does not get any compensation. People die due to consumption of illicit liquor. In Ahmedabad and Surat in Gujarat some persons died due to consumption of poisonous liquor and each of them was given Rs. 10-20 thousand as compensation. But what do the farmers get? They do not get even a single penny? The Government should make a provision that if a farmer dies while working in his field, he would be given Rs. 10,000 as compensation. It is correct that at present we have to pay one and a half per cent as premium for crop insurance and we have been paying it for one and a half year. We met the hon.

Minister of Finance and the hon. Minister of Agriculture, but they are all helpless because they find it difficult to give the money for the farmers. The hon. Minister of Agriculture claims that the Government is taking initiative for the development of the country. But I regret to say that the population of the country is increasing and the farmer is still backward. If the farmer is backward rural area remains backward then this will ultimately affect the country.

Madam Chairman, I would like to submit that if we do not have foreign exchange, we should export our products. Saurashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh produce about 6-7 lakh tonnes of garlic. One year garlic is sold at Rs. 15/- per bag and other year it is sold at Rs. 1500/- per bag. I do not think that there is any such commodity in the world which is sold at Rs. 15/- per 50 Kg. at one time and at Rs. 1500/- per 50 Kg. at the other. This garlic should be exported because it is in demand in the whole world while here in our country it is thrown away. Same is true in the case of onions. Therefore, my submission is that we should undertake to garlic export and onion, it would fetch us foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 1500/- crores. But nobody has paid any attention towards this. We suggested that NAFED should purchase at least 12,000 tonnes of garlic every year but nothing has been done in this regard even after the lapse of a period of two years.

Madam Chairman, we live in the coastal region I think that more than half of the country lives in the coastal regions. The land in the Saurashtra in Gujarat is salty, if the farmers get water from wells, it would further expand the saltness of the land. No doubt, the area receives rain but the land is salty and salt industry has been set up there. Certain norms and conditions have been laid down but nobody follows them.

Salt is being produced in about 500-1500 areas of land. Though lease period of the land has expired yet salt is being produced there which is increasing saltness of the land. If the area under the sea land

increased even by one M.M. in a Year, there would have been not a single drop of water to drink.

Madam Chairman, the total production of groundnut in Saurashtra is 25 lakh metric tonnes. As the area is drought prone the seeds of groundnut get destroyed. This year our groundnut production has been 5-5.5 lakh metric tonnes. That is why we talk of importing the groundnut to meet the requirement of the whole country. It is in great demand and the Government has been liberal enough to allow the mixing of mustard oil and cotton oil into it. But when the trader indulges in adulteration, he is taken to task. My submission is that instead of providing financial assistance to the farmers irrigation facilities and employment should be provided to them Saurashtra is a drought prone area so majority of the farmers there have become poor and idle. They have to go to others for work due to scarcity of work. Therefore, small dams should be constructed and production should be increased so that farmers as well as labourers may get work.

In the end, I would like to say something in regard to crop insurance. Wherever the money related to crop insurance is payable to farmers, it should be paid at the earliest and agriculture should be given the status of industry.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV(Saharsa): Madam Chairman, I strongly oppose the Demands for Grants placed by the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Madam, in the first instance, it is bad luck of agriculture that demands of all these departments viz agriculture, rural development, cooperative, animal husbandry and fishery have been clubbed together in one Ministry. We all know that the Government is not concerned for the 80 per cent of our population who live in villages. I am not talking of this Government only. All the Governments, whichever have so far come to power, had no concern for the rural people. As a result, the condition of the villages continued to be worse. Just now,

our hon. Minister was saying that there are a lot of difficulties due to which we are unable to do several things. I agree. But what is the lasting solution? Taxes are recovered from the villages. If they or the farmers stop paying taxes today, the economic condition of our country will become very critical. The farmer is paying tax even after going through all these hardships, but even then, he bears all burdens of the society.

Madam, just now, one of our hon. friends was saying that whether it is scorching heat or rain, the farmer works in his field day and night. No notice is taken if he dies of cold or hailstorm fall. But if a person dies in an accident in a city or is killed by a terrorist, the Government provides a compensation of Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 lakhs. What is this? Do you want that the farmers should organise themselves? Shri Balram Jakhar is an experienced person. God knows what will happen to this country when the farmers organise themselves.

Madam, the farmer of this country is eager to form his organisation today so that he can raise his voice through it. We the members, Officers and the people living in air-conditioned palatial houses like the fragrance of rose and perfumes, but for the farmer, the best fragrance is the fragrance of soil, which comes out of the hot earth after a little rain. Have you ever given it a serious thought. I don't want to blame the experts. But whom should I blame for the absence of any provision in the Budget for the farmers, which will be presented by Shri Manmohan Singh and implemented by Shri Balram Jakhar.

That is why, I said that until a farmer's son is elected to the post of Prime Minister or President, no provision will be there for the farmers in the budget of this country. I have the experience of the last 50 years. The Britishers had come to exploit this country and their biggest victim was the rural public. We are independent today, but even then

there is no end to his exploitation.

I am not saying that there is no development in the field of agriculture, but there is only 25 per cent development. Only a 25 per cent allocation has been made in the Budget for the farmers and the rest 75 per cent allocation has been kept for others. This allocation should be increased.

We should not follow the examples of America, Japan and Russia in our country. There is no need to compete with them, because their circumstances are different. There is no need to cite their examples. There should be at least a 50 per cent allocation in the Budget for the farmers so that different surveys regarding farmers can be conducted and something can be done for their welfare. When a 50 per cent allocation will be made for the farmers, it will certainly strengthen them.

Wheat is produced on a large scale in the entire country, but the Government has only got Rabi Crops developed till now. I agree that the Government has contributed a lot in it, but nothing was done for Kharif Crops. The Government has given 10 per cent priority to those farmers who cultivate Rabi Crops. We would have to look to America and Russia, if wheat was not produced by our farmers in our villages today. The credit of improving the situation goes to the farmers. They were given some knowledge about how to cultivate scientifically and they made us self-reliant in foodgrains. Not only this, they improved the situation to such an extent that our country can export foodgrains now. When the situation has improved to such an extent, why there was import of wheat. It was done, because the Government does not want that the cost of foodgrain or wheat should increase, but the prices of other items should increase. This is an injustice and the farmers will not tolerate this double standard.

15.34 hrs.

[RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

(Gen.) 1992-93 Ministries of Rural Development; Food; Agriculture; and

Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister to put an end to this double standard. The farmers of this country should be given the price of wheat at the same rate at which wheat is being imported. A bag of fertilizer costs Rs. 200. After producing wheat in one acre of land, only the cost of husk remains with the farmer. The Government can work it out with the help of its auditors and scientists. If a farmer produces wheat or paddy in one acre of land, only the cost of husk remains with him, as he has to pay back his loan or debts after selling the wheat and the paddy.

Therefore, I would request you to consider the entire situation seriously. You go through the books and say that a 33 per cent or 20 per cent allocation has been made in the Budget or there has been a deficit of 30 per cent. But percentage is meaningless for the farmers of this country. The Government should prepare a developed infrastructure for agriculture in the villages and should provide high quality seeds to the farmers. The State Governments are also at fault in providing seeds to the farmers. When the centre supplies seeds late by 5 days, the State Governments take 10 days more in supplying them to the farmers. In this way, the seeds reach the farmers late by 15 days. Then it is said that it is late variety. The seeds which should have reached him in April, reaches late. Due to this the crops become late and there is less yield. This results in a loss for the farmer. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the fertilizers and seeds, which will be given to the farmers, should be sent to the godowns of the State Governments in time.

I would like to tell the hon. Minister that large scale adulteration is going on in fertilizers. Maximum adulteration is done in the black type of fertilizer called D.A.P. and that adulterated fertilizer is supplied to the farmers. It is necessary to pay attention to it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, When we go to our constituencies, we find that there are no roads in the villages, leave alone roads, there is not even a single culvert so that the

farmer can move from one place to the other easily. He says that at least a culvert should be constructed for him. This is the situation, large figures are shown here regarding the construction of roads.

Similarly, there is the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, under which Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 6 lakhs are given to a block. But when near about one and half lakh or two lakh people live a block, how to distribute this merge amount. Although this scheme is good that funds will be provided to the Gram Panchayats and they will decide the construction of roads, but according to the funds provided by the Centre, only an amount of Rs. 50,000 reaches a Gram Panchayat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Surya Narayan Ji, please conclude. I am giving you time as agreed to by your party whip. That time cannot be increased. Nothing can be done in this regard.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: If the Panchayat builds a school, the cost is estimated at Rs. 3 lakhs and for one kilometre of 'Kuchcha' road, the cost is estimated at Rs. 1.5 lakhs. In this way, Rs. 50,000 is chicken feed. You make all claims in the House that you have brought about all round development in the villages, but nothing of that sort has taken place in the villages.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to make a submission regarding the houses provided in the Harijan colonies by the Government. It is indeed ridiculous. It is known to one and all whether he be an Engineer, an expert or any hon. Member that it is not possible to build a house with fourteen or fifteen thousands rupees. Nobody can build a house with this meagre amount. However, the Government has built such houses to which not a single Harijan has shifted. Such houses have been built both in Delhi and in the villages. They are of inferior quality. In the villages, the people themselves tell the Government officials to pocket the entire amount and give them a receipt in return. They say it very frankly. If at all, the Government is serious about provid-

ing them with homes, then let it be a unit with a room along with a kitchen, a toilet and a bathroom, which would cost about Rs. 60,000. The houses that the Government provided earlier, were washed away during the rains. No Harijan or Adivasi had shifted to those houses.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are continuously ringing the bell. You are also a farmer, who wishes to alleviate the problems of the farmers. I would like to make some suggestions. First of all, agriculture should be granted the status of an industry.

The price of produce should be determined on the basis of the expenditure incurred on it. Granting of industry status will immensely benefit agriculture. Today, the number of unemployed people runs into crores and not in lakhs and this factor is responsible to a great extent for the increase in the incidents of theft, dacoity, kidnappings etc. It is said that an empty mind is a devil's workshop and these incidents of crime are reflective this. If agriculture is given the status of an industry, the children of the farmers won't migrate to the cities in search of jobs. They will cultivate their one or two bighas in better way and won't run from pillar to post in search of employment and thus the problem of unemployment will die a natural death. Therefore, the Government should give a serious thought to it and study its implications. I can understand your compulsion and that is why I demanded that a farmer should be made the Prime Minister so that he can take his own decision.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswari, to speak now. Kindly restrict your speech to ten minutes.

PROF UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will try to brief as far as possible.

I will confine my speech to certain salient features and this is more in the way of suggestions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you please speak in the mike, so that the Reporters can hear you properly.

PROF UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: This is more in the shape of certain suggestions to be taken by the Government, particularly at this juncture where we have got an apprehension that the country is self-sufficient or very comfortable in food production. And the country cannot be complacent over the present state of affairs.

I have got certain figures to show as what treatment has been given to agriculture. It is getting deteriorated from time to time and from plan to plan. Except in the First Five Year Plan where 34.5 per cent of the total Budget allocations were given to agriculture and its allied subjects like the irrigation, flood control etc, in the Second Plan it was reduced to 25.5 per cent; in the Third Plan, it was 21.7 per cent; in the Annual Plans between 1966-69, it was 22 per cent; in the Fourth Plan, it was 23.9 per cent; in the Fifth Plan, it was 21.9 per cent; in the Sixth Plan, it was 25.5 per cent; in the Seventh Plan, it was 21.8 per cent; in the Annual Plan for 1990-91, it was 20.3 per cent and in the present Annual Plan, it is around 20 per cent.

This is the treatment that is being given to agriculture and its allied sectors. And we have been harping upon that the agriculture production should be stepped up and also the teeming millions are to be fed with. We have just now heard the comments that have been made by our hon. Minister Shri Lenka, who has been paying very good sentiments against the scientists available in our country and also about their competency.

Being one of the agricultural scientists I have myself worked for about 27 years in the agriculture universities. I really take pride that we have got the very best and competent scientists in our country when compared to several other countries. The only thing

that is lacking here is that the scientists do not have any autonomous powers. I have been seeing in several universities and institutes that even to get a few rupees sanctioned they will have to approach and wait for months together thereby most of the projects get delayed and the expected technology is not being generated.

In previous year the present Government has taken certain measures on the economic front. It proved as indicated by the Key Indicators of Growth Performance of 1991-92 that besides the GNP and GDP which have fallen down to 2.5 per cent in 1991-92 when compared to 6.1 per cent in 1989-90 and 5.8 per cent in 1990-91 for GNP and 6.0 per cent in 1989-90 and 5.6 per cent in 1990-91 for GNP the growth performance of agricultural products has also been reduced to zero. The foodgrain production shows a much more dismal figure. It has been reduced to -1.5 per cent. Even the industrial products stand at -0.8 per cent. This has resulted in heavy reduction of per capita foodgrains availability also in the country.

Right from the beginning I have been mentioning that we are not that comfortable in agricultural production. Even in the previous years of 1990-91 and 1991-92 the agricultural production has been much more dwindled. The latest production is hardly 170 million tonnes as against an estimated target of 182.5 million tonnes.

The per capita foodgrain availability is very much alarming. We have to look back right from 1951. In 1951 the per capita foodgrain availability in this country per day was 394.9 grams. In 1961 it had been increased to 468.7 grams per day. Right from 1961 to 1991 the per capita availability of foodgrain in this country has almost been stagnant. In 1970 it was 455 grams per day, in 1980 it was 410.4 grams per day, in 1990 it was 474 grams per day and in 1992 this has further been reduced to 465 grams per day per head. This is where we have been standing as far as the per capita availability of foodgrain is concerned. Whatever achieve-

ment is there, it is getting nullified in the teeming millions and in the population growth.

As and when there is an adverse climatic condition, we have been attributing the reduction in the foodgrain production to adverse climatic condition. I can accept that reduction will be due to adverse climatic conditions; but besides adverse climatic conditions the Government also has got certain impact in production of foodgrain. This country cannot afford to be complacent over the present position. The buffer stocks also are getting dwindled and are likely to reach alarming levels shortly. The food prices are sky-rocketing. This disappointing trend cannot always be attributed to adverse climatic conditions. The Government policies in successive years are also responsible.

This is mainly due to the decreased plan allocations to agricultural and allied subjects in successive Plan periods; non-formulation of National Agricultural Policy even after 45 years of independence; present defective fertiliser policy; increased power tariff in agriculture; non-availability of adequate quantities of foundation, hybrid and improved seed; defective implementation of fertiliser and pesticide control orders, lack of encouragement to agricultural scientists to generate more and more technology; inadequate and untimely supply of institutional credit, heavy transmission losses in transfer of technology from laboratory to land, non-availability of low cost agricultural tools, implements and machinery particularly which are suitable for small and marginal farms; non-remunerative agricultural prices and the dwindling cost benefit ratios in agriculture non-availability of suitable technology in dry land farming; defective comprehensive crop insurance scheme and its non-coverage of this to all the crops and non-sophistication of cyclone and weather forecast infrastructure.

These are some of the issues which can be engineered and mottored by the policies of the Government. The condition of the soil is not only that it is thirsty but it is also hungry.

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

Even the fertiliser consumption is getting increased from time to time. With the recent fertiliser policy of this Government, the growth rate in fertiliser consumption has also tremendously decreased. I will just substantiate my statement. As far as the nutrient consumption in the country is concerned, the position is like this. In 1950-51, 0.69 lakh tonnes have been consumed. In 1960-61, 2.92 lakh tonnes have been consumed, thereby there was a growth rate of 32.3 per cent. In 1970-71, 21.77 lakh tonnes have been consumed and there was an increased growth rate of 64.5 per cent. In 1980-81, 55.16 lakh tonnes have been consumed and the growth rate was 15.4 per cent. In 1990-91, 125.76 lakh tonnes have been consumed and the growth rate was 12.8 per cent. As against this background, during the last year, with the fertiliser policy of hike in price by 30 per cent adopted, 135 lakh tonnes only has been consumed and the growth rate was hardly 7.3 per cent.

This is how the consumption of fertiliser has gone down very much particularly during the last year. Major set back its growth rate is there, only during 1991-92 owing to the Subsidy withdrawal policy that has been adopted with regard to fertiliser. I can understand that subsidies are bound to be cut down but should be in a gradual phase. As far as the subsidy is concerned, even the scientists advised differently. I will quote only one or two aspects of what a scientist says:

"Fertiliser subsidy is a common feature in most developing countries. It is justified on the ground that it makes fertiliser available to farmers at prices they can afford and thus seeks to ensure self-sufficiency in foodgrains production. The fertiliser subsidy is thus an unavoidable outcome of pursuing the basic goal of self-sufficiency in foodgrains production based on increase in fertiliser use supported in turn, by low price of fertilisers to

the farmer and increased availability from domestic production."

I will the quote again what Mr. Gupta says:

"The adoption of this recommendation aims at preventing an increase in the quantum of subsidy without adversely affecting the healthy growth of the Industry."

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI (Amreli): There is lack of quorum in the House.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is lack of quorum in the House. The bell is being rung.

Now quorum is there. Please wind up, Prof. Unmarreddy Venkateswarlu.

SHRI UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, the fertiliser is relatively cheaper in several other countries when compared to our country. This can be compared in terms of the foodgrains required to purchase one unit of nutrient, particularly nitrogen. In Philippines, the paddy that is required to purchase one kilogram of nitrogen is 2.25 kgs, In Pakistan, it is only 1.97 kgs; in Japan, 0.34 kg, but in India, it is 3.19 kgs. In Korea, it is 0.16 kgs and in France, it is only 1.82 kgs.

When compared to all these countries, the foodgrain requirement to purchase one unit of fertiliser nutrient 'N', in India is very costly. Even the fertiliser consumption per hectare in India is the lowest when compared to some of the Asian countries. The consumption of all the nutrients put together is Bangladesh 93.2 kg; India 64.1; Israel 181; Japan 367.1; Korea 397.4; Korean Republic 407.8; and Pakistan 71.7 kgs per hectare. So, India almost records lowest per hectare consumption as far as fertiliser consumption is concerned. It is proved

beyond doubt that the present fertiliser policy of the Government is proving futile. It is going to be counter-productive. Hence, I suggest that the total subsidy, which has been lifted earlier, should be restored. The farmers should be aided in the interest of the nation.

Though I have got several other issues to space I would like to say that the Fertiliser Control Order, 1957 and also the Insecticides Act of 1958 have almost become redundant and nowhere these are being implemented.

You have been receiving several figures saying that they collected so many samples and sent them for laboratory analysis. None of these figures are correct. So, this. Even in Andhra Pradesh itself, the circulation of spurious pesticides and fertilisers is no a very high scale that it is to be prevented.

Particularly about the agricultural prices, these prices are to be announced quite ahead of the season. You have to take into consideration the several aspects of cost components, the paid out cost and overhead cost. While considering the imputed cost, family labour should also be computed at the rate of actual wage or minimum wage, whichever is higher. The managerial cost should be taken at 15 per cent of the total cost. Risk and uncertainty element should also be taken at 5 per cent of the total cost.

With regard to the crop insurance, the Prime Minister had recently announced that a new comprehensive crop insurance scheme is going to be announced. So far, nothing has been done. While taking into consideration the crop insurance, even if the crop is harvested, as long as it is there in the field, the insurance should cover it. The village should be taken as a unit.

Finally, I would like to say that I oppose the demands for grants that have been presented and I thank the chair for the opportunity given.

16.00 hrs

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): Mr. Chairman, I listened with great attention the speeches of the hon. Members. I want to be as brief as possible. As you know, Sir, the primary responsibility for the Food Ministry is the management of the food economy and undoubtedly, it is a challenging responsibility for a country like India with a population of 844 millions and to ensure food supply from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and to far-flung areas like Leh, Nagaland and Mizoram. It has also to be appreciated that we procure only 15 to 20 per cent of the total production of the country. So, our effort is only supplementary and the central pool stocks depend on the cooperation of the State Governments also. As you know, our procurement is mainly confined to a few States like Punjab and Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and western UP. These are the main concentrating States where from we get the maximum procurement. I will try my level best to involve all the States to procure more and more. Otherwise, it would be difficult for us to sustain or to increase the allocation. In spite of the constraints, you will be happy to know that last year, we have made allocations more by four million tonnes of foodgrains, about two million tonnes of rice and about two million tonnes of wheat. This is all in spite of the fact that last year procurement was three million tonnes less. Our responsibility is also to see to the interests of the farmers so that they get the support price and farmers are not forced to sell at distress price. Keeping in view this policy, we continue to procure whatever quantity the farmers offer us at the support price. In the meantime, as you know, we have increased the support price of paddy and very recently, we have increased to support price of wheat also from Rs. 225 to Rs. 250. I made an announcement yesterday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it from Rs. 225 to Rs. 250 or from Rs. 250 to Rs. 275?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Rs. 25 is the bonus. Support price is increased from Rs. 225 to Rs. 250 and we have declared a

bonus also. Whoever supplies to the central pool will get this bonus of Rs. 25 per quintal. Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices go into the costs and other details and on the basis of their recommendations, we fix the support price so that farmers are not compelled to sell at a distress price. This is not the market price also.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack):
Support price itself is the distress price.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: How can I say it as a distress price? Farmers are volunteering. It is not a compulsory one. We buy whatever they offer us. It is not that we can compel the farmers to sell at the support price. If the market price is higher, they are free to go and sell at the market price. The responsibility of the Government is also to see that the consumers are getting it at a reasonable price. Though the economic cost is more, we supply it at a lower rate to the consumers. And the Prime Minister made it clear and reiterated that food subsidy will continue in spite of what others may say. On the other hand, Prime Minister has given more stress for providing subsidized food to the tribal and other areas including vulnerable sections of the people. My friend Shri Kamaluddin will deal with that subject.

One hon. Member has mentioned about the poor quality of the foodgrains distributed through the P.D.S. We do receive complaints occasionally but the complaints are really very few. We allot the foodgrains to the State Governments. The State Governments have every right to inspect the godowns and satisfy themselves about the quality of the foodgrains. If they are not satisfied they have every right to reject the foodgrains.

Now, I come to the aspect of import and export of foodgrains. As you know, Government has decided in the month of January to import foodgrains because at that time a situation arose when the stock position had

gone down. As on 1st January, the stock was 52 lakh tonnes while the buffer stock norm was 77 lakh tonnes. This was one of the reasons why we took the decision to import wheat. As far as export of wheat is concerned, on 17 August 1990, it was decided to export about 10 lakh tonnes of wheat, out of which two lakh tonnes were exported. On 11 April 1991, it was decided to allocate 10 lakh tonnes of wheat for export. In the month of June when we found that the procurement had gone down, we reduced it from 10 lakh tonnes to eight lakh tonnes in the month of September. In the meantime we increased the allocation to the P.D.S. by more than two million tonnes. Had we not increased the allocation to the P.D.S. by another two million tonnes, prices would have gone up by there would not have been any need to go in for import of wheat. This is the reason why we decided to import. As regards exports, we exported 6.77 lakh tonnes of wheat and earned about Rs. 179 crore worth of foreign exchange.

As far as import is concerned, we called for tenders and 25 parties have submitted the tenders. In view of the fact that the international price is higher and also in view of the fact that the new crop is coming to the market, we deferred the decision to import, though we have kept the option open. As a measure of food-security, whenever we feel the need for it, we will go in for import of wheat.

Shri Nitish Kumar has raised the matter of impurities in foodgrains. I may clarify that this is a wrong appreciation of the technical specifications... (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Why is the procurement price increased all of a sudden by way of bonus? It should have been increased much earlier. The FC's finding is that if you do not offer at least Rs. 280, you will not get the foodgrains. That is why you announced the bonus. When the procurement season has started, you fixed the price at Rs. 250. And now, only yesterday, you have decided to give another Rs. 25 as

(Gen.) 1992-93 Ministries of Rural Development; Food; Agriculture; and bonus. What is the reason for this change in policy in the course of just 15 days? You should not go on changing it like that.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Are you or your party not willing to give another Rs. 25 to the farmers? Are you opposed to this increase?

SHRI AMAL DATTA: We are not opposing it. There should be consistently one policy and it should be realistic.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is replying. Please do not interrupt.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: It is only to deprive the small farmers of this benefit of Rs. 25.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: That is not correct. Only small farmers sell between April and May and this incentive is meant for them only. The big farmers hoard the grain and sell much later.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Why was it not done earlier? He should give a clear answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already said that he has examined the situation and he thought it fit to announce Rs. 25 more as a bonus.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Is that an answer Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you not change the policy according to the situation? There is no ground in your argument. Please sit down.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: I am saying, that was known. The so called situation was known before, that is what I am saying. While speaking on the Budget I myself said...

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Punjab has agreed to give one million tonnes of Wheat.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: That is why we are giving bonus.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rs. 20 is no bonus.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: But they are opposing that also.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: They will not be able to procure that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, I do not think it would be quite correct to say that they are opposing it. His point is that it should be announced earlier rather than announcing it here now. I think we should welcome it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: About the impurities, I would like to say that they are within the limits of the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and they are comparable with other countries also. These are all not impurities, these are wrong appreciation of the technicalities. Otherwise, if anybody violates the provisions of Food Adulteration Act...

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Has the Government got examined the reports appearing in the newspapers about 49 per cent impurities? Then there are many other factors involved in it like foreign elements, colour, moisture contented etc. Have you got these examined... (Interruptions)....

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Yes, I have examined it. These are all impurities and they are found in conformity with the standard of the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): What is the permissible....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly do not interrupt him. This is becoming too frequent. Shri Amal Datta is a senior Member, that is why I allowed him. Kindly do not interrupt him.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request you to kindly not to interrupt and secondly, kindly address the House through the Chair. Do

not start to cross talk between two Members. Address the House through the Chair and kindly do not interrupt. Shri Amal Datta is a senior Member of the House that is why I allowed him. Otherwise, there are a number of other Members who want to speak. They will be denied of the opportunity of speaking if too much time is taken up in interruptions of this nature.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Through you I would like to know what is the permissible limit of foreign materials....

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no provision to ask like this unless there is a point of order. The Minister has to complete his intervention.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: About the storage capacity, the FCI has got 20.33 lakh tonne...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, interruptions will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is indeed a very bad news, as mentioned by the hon. Minister and as reported in the newspapers that 49% impurities have been made permissible. We raised this issue here because the hon. Minister's statement that 49% is the permissible limit, has perturbed us, it is our subsection that there should be proper clarification. Today the hon. Minister is going to reply, but you know that Ministerial replies are not given proper coverage by the newspapers. So the proper clarification that the Minister gives should be given wide publicity through advertisements. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: I will supply you a copy of the order also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you covering that impurity point also?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: I have already covered the question of impurity. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: These are all permissible limits under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, I think the point that has been raised appears to be very valid that if 49 per cent is permissible limit, it does appear to be a bit on the higher side.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: It is not 49 per cent, it is 18 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If what they are pointing out is a fact, then what is your reaction?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNANDAM LAL BHATIA (Amritsar): Sir, it is a confusion. It is no impurity, it is a mixture. A mixture of barley grain and moisture also.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Take for example moisture to the tune of 18 per cent, it is not impurity. Similarly, take the example of 10 per cent barley and other grains. These are not impurities. According to the paper, these are impurities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: My way of thinking is this. I think, in a way, if there is 50 per cent

of barley, then also, it does not appear to be an impurity.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Yes, Sir, it is not an impurity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If it is not an impurity, then will you call it as an adulteration?

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Barley is also a food item. Wheat is also a food item. Then, how can you say that it is impurity? I am surprised to hear this. Sir, what kind of discussion is going on in this House?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: If such is the case, even then, it is not an impurity. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request the Government that if this is the fact, the matter may be examined and suitable reply be given.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No more interruptions.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Now, I will come to storage. The Working Group has gone into it and according to them, it will be sufficient if storage capacity worth 23 million tonnes is there by the end of 1994-95.

In the meantime, we have got more than 23 million tonnes. F.C.I. has got 20.53 million tonnes. CWC has got 7.76 million tonnes. SWC, has got 9.59 million tonnes. But, it is a fact that in the rural areas there are shortage of storage capacities. Besides that FCI, CWC and SWC have also got their own storage capacities. Particularly in the rural areas - taluks and blocks - the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation and the Ministry of Rural Development have their schemes.

Now, I will come to sugar. We are all interested to know about sugar. The country is still very fortunate enough to rank top in production of sugar in the world. Last year, we had produced about 120.40 lakh tonnes

of sugar. We have now got an installed capacity of about 1 lakh tonne though the licensed capacity is 170 lakh tonnes. We have got about 405 sugar factories although the licensed factories are 507 lakh tonnes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are the top producers in the world.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Yes. We are number one now. We have already allocated last year 5.61 lakh tonnes of sugar for export. Already, we have exported about 4.83 lakh tonnes. We have earned foreign exchange worth about Rs. 338 crore. This year also, I have already allocated 2.5 lakh tonnes of sugar for export. The international market price of sugar is still higher. We have to improve our quality and see that the cost of production is a competitive one. If it is done, we can go in a big way for exports. There is a great possibility for expansion of sugar industries in the country. Still, there are about 689 applications for licence are pending. We have already reviewed the whole licensing policy. Now, the guidelines have been announced. It was announced in the month of November. But, in the meantime, we had given importance to expansion of sugar mills which have below economic capacity, that is 2500 TCD.

As regards sugarcane price, I would say that we have already increased it from Rs. 23/- to Rs. 26/-. We have already increased this statutory minimum price. As a result of the increase in the statutory minimum price, we had to increase the ex-factory price. Due to this, we have to raise the issue price of sugar also.

Shri AR Tope yesterday raised a point about incentive also about 27 new mills I think. In the meantime, the cost of installation of the sugar factories has gone up; it was earlier about Rs. 20 crores; now it has gone upto Rs. 34-35 crores. The hon. Members have met me as well as the Prime Minister. They have submitted their representations for incentive also. We have gone through them. It has to be approved by the Finance Ministry then it has to go to the Planning

[Sh. Tarun Gogoi]

Minister; then again it has to go to the Cabinet. So, it is in a final stage. I hope we will be able to come to a decision.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: The State of Maharashtra produces 40% more than the average sugar production in the rest of the country. There are many co-operative mills in the state. Although, last year 27 licences were granted and orders to the effect issued, but a policy is yet to be formulated. Delegations have met the hon. Minister and the Prime Minister in this regard. Why does not the Government take a decision? Farmers possessing one or two acres of land are members of the co-operative sector. Why is it being delayed?

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: We have gone into it. We came to power after that. Then we reviewed the whole thing only in the month of November. There was a proposal. It has to go to the Finance Minister - it is a long process; then it has to go to the Planning Minister; then it will go to the Cabinet. That incentive is not only for cooperatives but also for others. In fact, we had already an incentive scheme in the Seventh Five Year Plan. Now, we are going to the Eighth Five Year Plan. In the meantime, we want to consider their case also; otherwise, normally, you are not entitled for it. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Thousands of small farmers are there in the co-operative section.

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: We have now reviewed it. That was in Seventh Five Year Plan. That is why, we want to cover it. Normally, the incentive plan is for every five year. You know better than I.

About SDF, we have also reviewed the whole thing. In the meantime, we have sanctioned about Rs. 676 crores; out of that, Rs. 394 crores have already been disbursed as loans. So, this is the fund for modernisation, rehabilitation and for sugarcane development.

I think I have covered almost all the points. Some hon. Members have asked for sugarcane factories in UP; some hon. Members have asked for these factories in other areas; some hon. Members have asked for sugarcane technology. I will look into them.

I will reply to all the hon. Members in respect of the points raised by them during the debate. I earnestly request them to withdraw their cut motions and extend support to the Demands for Grants.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the hon. Minister Shri Uttambhai H Patel like to intervene?

SHRI E. AHAMED: As per the rule, the Speaker has to decide the time for all the parties in the House for a discussion on the Demands for Grants for all the Ministries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Speaker does not decide. It is decided in the Business Advisory Committee meeting.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Now for these four Ministries, we have already spent more than 11 hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order involved in that.

SHRI E. AHAMED: I would like to say that all the big parties have been given time. Only one member of a small party, Shri Bir Singh Mahato has been given 15 minutes out of these eleven hours of debate. No other Member from the smaller parties has been given time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order.

SHRI E. AHAMED: The discussion went on for eleven to twelve hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will be recorded. Kindly sit down.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You kindly take up the matter with the Hon. Speaker in his Chamber. Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Uttambhai H. Patel.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to all the hon. Members of the House, who expressed their valuable thoughts regarding the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development. They have given very important suggestions. They also referred to the drawbacks in the implementation of various programmes of my ministry. In my reply I would like to respond to some of these issues. My friend and colleague Shri Venkat Swamy has also responded to some of the issues. I would like to assure the hon. members that necessary action would be taken immediately on all the suggestions given by the hon. Members.

Under the leadership of Shri Narasimha Rao, the Government has taken many important steps in the field of rural development in the past nine months. The Government is committed to removing poverty and accelerating rural development. Our policies include the planning and implementation of programmes at the local level, the

involvement of voluntary agencies in development work and stress on providing maximum benefits to the poorest of the poor. It is my firm belief that if the state Chief Ministers follow the path shown by the Prime Minister and answer the important task of rural development themselves, then the rural development programmes would certainly get a boost.

The Rural Development Policy of our Ministry has three major components - Poverty alleviation and provision of maximum employment opportunities, provision of minimum needs including potable water facilities and motorable roads and land reforms and programmes related to rectification of land records. Apart from this, we also have special area programmes for drought affected areas and desert areas which are facing extreme resource shortage.

The Integrated Rural Development Programme (I.R.D.P.) is such a scheme which has direct link with the people living below the poverty line. This programme envisages the policy of providing income generating assets by way of providing grants from the Government or providing loans from financial institutions to selected families below the poverty line. Under this programme the families having an annual income upto Rs. 4800 during the Seventh Five Year Plan and during 1990-91 and 1991-92 were considered as the targetted group. The objective of this programme was to ensure that the families provided with income generating assets would get opportunities of self employment which will boost the income of these families and help them cross the poverty line.

Now, a decision has been taken to redefine poverty line by adjusting it at the price level of 1991-92. In the eighth Five Year Plan the poverty line in the rural sector would be fixed at an annual income level of Rs. 11000 for a family. The targetted group would be the families having an annual income upto Rs. 8500. The experience gained

during the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes have brought to light the fact that in the case of these programmes the selection of the targetted group is required to be made very carefully and properly. The State Governments have been asked to select the families living below the new poverty line properly and to circulate the list approved by *Gram Sabha*.

In 1991 a provision was made according to which at least 40 per cent of beneficiaries should be 40 per cent women. Earlier, the percentage of beneficiaries was 30 in the case of women. The previous target earmarked for the coverage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was 40 per cent. The said percentage has now been increased to fifty from 1990-91. At present, both the Scheduled castes and Scheduled tribes get a subsidy equal to 50 per cent of the loans amount subject to the maximum ceiling of Rs. 5000.

Under this programme 182 lakh families have been provided subsidy to the tune of Rs. 2708.03 crores and Rs. 5372.53 crores as bank loan during the seventh five year plan. In 1990-91, as compared to the target set to benefit 24 lakh families, as a matter of 29 lakh families were actually benefited who were provided subsidy to the tune of Rs. 668.16 crores and bank loans worth Rs. 1190.02 crores. During the year 1991-92, till February 1992, twenty lakh people were extended assistance out of the targetted figures of 22.51 lakh families. Set for the year 1991-92. Under the programme subsidy to the tune of Rs. 508 crores and bank loans to the tune of Rs. 905 crores were made available. From the beginning of this programme till 31st March, 1991, out of the 38 million beneficiary families, 16.1 million families belonged to Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

At present this programme is being evaluated through a large number of non Governmental organisations. It has been found that 28 per cent of the beneficiaries have

risen above the poverty line. Even now 33.4 per cent of rural population is still living below the poverty line. Keeping this in view we will continue to give importance to our objective of extending assistance to the poorest of the poor under this programme.

The second aspect of this question pertains to the quantum of loan and subsidy that is to be provided. The subsidy amount of Rs. 3000, Rs. 4000 and Rs. 5000 was fixed about ten years back. Keeping in view the limitation of budget, our Government will consider the question of raising this amount.

To eliminate the role of middlemen the Government have issued orders to abolish assests purchase system under Integrated Rural Development programme in 50 per cent blocks of the country through purchase committees. Favourable reports have been received regarding the new system. We will consider to implement it in all the blocks of the country after reviewing it in consultation with the Reserve Bank.

We have already introduced Group Insurance Scheme for all the beneficiaries selected after 1.4.1988 under the Integrated Rural Development programme. After the death of the beneficiary his successor will be entitled to get an insurance amount of Rs. 3000. Similarly, the cattle purchased under this programme will also be insured.

The State Governments have been asked to take stringent steps under this programme to curb corruption wherever it comes to light. District officers have been made especially responsible for it.

Under TRYSEM, which was started in 1979, the existing talents among the rural youths belonging to the age groups of 18 to 35 years have to be developed and in addition to this there exists the provision to teach them new techniques and to increase their managerial efficiency so that they might be prepared for self employment and employment as workers. Under this programme in 1992-93 three lakh people will be trained.

A special programme for women and child development was started in 1982 in rural areas. The aim of this programme was to give maximum opportunities to women for self employment and enhance their reach to social services. Initially the programme which was implemented in 50 districts of the country has been extended to 241 districts. Every year this programme is being extended in 50 additional districts and it is estimated that all the districts of the country will be covered under this programme during the eighth five year plan. Under this programme poor women in rural areas are organised and market support income generating activities relating to them are provided. For this purpose, a sum of Rs. 15,000 is given as recurring fund. Till date 45,212 women groups have been formed in the country and the number of beneficiaries under this programme is 7,56,171.

The issue of providing water to all the 5.83 lakh villages is a subject matter of top priority for our Government. The hon. Members are well aware of this fact that the primary reason behind the high rate of infant mortality is the use of contaminated water for drinking purposes, for household chores and for other purposes. The National Drinking Water mission was established in 1986 to accelerate water supply with the help of improved and low cost technologies. Out of the 1,61,722 identified problem villages, 1,57,376 problem villages could be provided with safe drinking water facility. There are still 4,346 villages which do not have even a single clean drinking water source within their reach. Out of these maximum number of villages will be provided drinking water by 1992-93.

Keeping in view the fact that still there are around one lakh villages or settlements which have been partially covered by the facility of clean drinking water supply, as also the need of the hour to cover these villages entirely, the State Governments have been asked to conduct country wide survey to make a proper assessment. This survey would be completed by July 1992. On the basis of the results of its report the Rajiv

Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission will prepare a time bound programme to cover all the villages and settlements completely during the eighth Five Year Plan.

In the policy of providing drinking water facility we have laid particular emphasis on making available drinking water in those places in the villages where scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are residing. The State Governments have been given special central assistance to the tune of Rs. 60 crores for providing clean drinking water to 30 thousand settlements of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes facing scarcity of water under the programmes launched to celebrate the centenary year of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

Under the National Drinking Water mission the guinea worm problem which is prevalent in only 6 states will now be eliminated from by the end of the current year. Similarly the Central Government has taken several steps to remove the excess quantity of flouride from drinking water. Alternative sources of clean drinking water and equipments to remove flouride will be made available to the affected villages. For both the works a special provision to provide funds to the states is being made. Public awakening campaign is being launched in this regard.

The Government have taken this decision to open laboratories at all the places for the qualitative test of drinking water. The setting up of 110 such permanent and 26 mobile laboratories have already been accorded sanction.

I would also like to point out that the constructed amenities provided for the disposal of dirt and dirty water are comparatively very inadequate. This issue will be taken up for discussion at an early date in the National Seminar and the policy will undergo change.

I would like mention that World Bank, U.N.I.C.E.F. and many countries of the World are extending their assistance for the implementation of these two programmes.

The programme started to make available drinking water in villages through Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission is the biggest in the world and has become a model for other developing countries.

In order to systematic agricultural development and to maintain it, an effective system is essential for marketing of agricultural products, so that the interests of producers and consumers may be safeguarded. A model act has been circulated to the States in order to make uniformity in the regulation and management of markets. Till now out of 6,934 wholesale markets 6,640 markets have been brought under this regulation. In order to provide basic infra-structure facilities for these market under a central, sponsored programme, the committees of the trade centres are given an amount Rs. 4 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh per market through State Government. Under this programme, the total amount given to State Governments from the inception of this programme, till now for 3,854 markets is Rs.90 crore. Similarly, State Governments have been given Rs. 37.61crore for construction of 4,628 village godowns.

Now both the programmes of the development of markets and construction of village godowns have been completely entrusted to the State Government. Classification and standardization of agriculture and related matters are very important. In order to ensure classification and graduation services the Marketing and Inspection Directorate have set up a network of regional offices and sub-offices in the country and many Eggmark Laboratories have been set up.

In order to review the function of present State Mandi Acts, and various Agriculture Marketing Bodies and recommend proper measures to strengthen and systemise the marketing of agricultural products, the Government has commissioned a high-level Committee. The Committee has already started its work and it is expected to submit its report within three months. The Commit-

tee's report will be an important guideline for marketing policies of the Government in future.

For the complete development of our villages and the rural people, the maximum participation of the people themselves is essential. In order to encourage voluntary organisations in rural development, the Government of India has set up a registered society of Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART). As a part of our development policies like the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, supply of Drinking Water, Rural sanitation etc. CAPART takes the help of many other voluntary organisations as its partners to implement many programmes. Taking into account the necessities of special areas, CAPART helps new projects also. In order to find out markets for rural handiworks and products the CAPART organises 'Gram-shree' fairs also. Such fairs have proved very successful and they have encouraged rural artisans.

During 1991-92 the CAPART has sanctioned 1921 projects of Voluntary Organisations upto January 1992, which will be given the aid of Rs. 37 crores. In comparison to the number of projects sanctioned during 1990-91, the number of those sanctioned during 1991-92 is double. Our Government will always be giving importance to the participation of voluntary organisations for rural development.

In my present capacity of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development, I held discussions with many State Governments, in the country and reviewed the rural development programmes on district, block and village level. I talked with the Voluntary Organisations and have made my efforts to introduce the rural development programmes to the poor with the cooperative of everybody and through our Ministry as well.

I do not think that I have mentioned all issues which the Hon. Members have raised during their speech. Once again I would like

to assure the hon. Members that the Government headed by Shri Narasimha Rao is wholly committed to materialise the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Nehru, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi about rural development. While performing this task we shall always take the Hon. Members into our confidence and guide ourselves with the suggestions of these hon. Members.

I appeal that we should work and give full support to the work started under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister for the development of the country and the upliftment of the poor together with the Members of Parliament, intellectuals, scientists, industrialists and through the media like television, radio and advertisements.

I would also like to remind you that eradication of poverty is as important as was to free the country. As we make every effort in elections to wake up the people, like that I request all that we should wake up people and be united to remove poverty. This is my polite request.

Before, I conclude, I would like to request to pass the demands of Grants introduced in the Budget of my Ministry.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, ten hours were allotted for the discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministries of Rural Development, Food, Agriculture, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution. Upto now we have spent, approximately, 12 hours when 10 hours were allotted. Hon. Ministers, Shri Karnaluddin Ahmed and Shri Balram Jakhar are yet to speak. Shri Balram Jakhar has indicated that he would like to speak at 5 O'clock.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, the Ministers have already taken two hours.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly listen to me. We can arrive at some conclusion. Shri Balram Jakhar has indicated that he would like to speak at 5 O' Clock. However, there are still about 8 to 10 Members who appear to be very keen to participate in the discussion. Even if five minutes are allotted to each Member, it will take another 40 minutes time. So, it is entirely upto the pleasure of the House whether you would like to extend the time by 40 minutes and also whether Shri Balram Jakhar is prepared to postpone his reply after 5 O'Clock.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Sir, why not we take up the reply tomorrow?

SHRI AMAL DATTA: I think we have already agreed to sit upto 8 p.m.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: (Chittorgarh): I think we can have the reply tomorrow. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I too have been enlisted to speak here. I want that at least our questions be allowed to be raised.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL DUTT (Bombay North West): Sir, I may submit that ten hours' time is nothing for such a massive and huge Department of our country. There are so many factors - Agriculture, Food, Rural Development, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution - involved. I think this is one of the main sources of livelihood of our country because 80 per cent of the people live in rural India. This House is giving only ten hours' time for this. I think this is nothing. I request the Chair and the hon. Minister that the hon. Minister can reply even tomorrow. But we must speak on these issues.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I agree with him. For the convenience of the House four or five Ministries have been put together. Generally every Ministry is discussed and answered separately. This is right, as you told that ten hours have been allotted. If the House or the hon. Members are not satisfied with the time of ten hours and now only Dr. Jakhhar remains to speak, I would like to request the hon. Minister that despite the fact that the hon. Minister will have to attend the meeting of Chief Ministers, he should spare one hour for us and instead of replying today he may do so tomorrow. It will be convenient to the House and the Hon. Members.

16.49 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Till now I have not been given an opportunity to express my views. I have been sitting here regularly from the day before yesterday but I got no such opportunity. If I am not allowed to make a speech, at least I should be allowed to ask questions.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think let us extend the time.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Extend it upto
6'0 Clock.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think that we can do.
Thank you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us see. We will find time for the Members who want to speak and make new points. Those Members, you

know, who would like to make the points which are already made, they need not repeat them. Balramji will give reply today.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Do it 7 '0 Clock instead of 6 'o clock.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think let us start with Mr. Ahamed. Mr. Ahmed, I think you will certainly help us by not repeating the points which are already made.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): One minute, Sir. With your permission I would like to make this one point and this request is related to the discussion on the Demands for Grants and the foreseen events which are going to appear tomorrow. Tomorrow, Sir, in the scheduled will get listed the beginning of the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs. Tomorrow is also Friday, it is Private Members's day. The time available for the beginning or the commencement of discussion is going to be barely 40 minutes. On as important a subject as the Ministry of External Affairs, if the beginning of the discussion is compressed to nearly 40 minutes and then the discussion is fractured by a whole of 10 days and thereafter the discussion to come on the 20th, it will be injustice to the participants and also to the subject under discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: I agree. I don't think that we are going to conclude the discussion and voting on this today itself. It is going to spill over to tomorrow.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: What about the External Affairs Ministry's Demands?

MR. SPEAKER: External Affairs will come later.

(Gen.) 1992-93 Ministries of Rural Development; Food; Agriculture; and

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If that is the case, then let him reply tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him reply today. Mr. Kamaluddin will reply tomorrow.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is all right.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I just go to the subject I may just inform you, because out of these 12 hours, the smaller parties have only been given very little time.

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard what you are saying, you need not raise it. You, in fact, have very very limited time. It is not necessary for you to raise it again.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Because a number of Members of the smaller parties are there...

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the point.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, while supporting the Budget proposals for the Departments put forward by the respective Ministers, I may point out certain points which, I should say, the Government has not taken care of.

Sir, for the Rural Development the Budget allocation has been reduced compared to last year. In the year 1991-92 the Budget allocation for the Rural Development was Rs. 3,521.24 crores while the allocation to 1992-93 is only Rs. 3,113.24 crores. Sir, there is a reduction of about 12 per cent of the Budget allocation compared to last year. I do not know what justification is there for the Ministers on this reduction of the Budget allocation for such an important Ministry. Especially when the Government is going ahead with the policy of alleviating the poverty in the rural public. Likewise, the allocation Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in 1991-92 was Rs. 2,100 crores whereas this year's allocation is only Rs. 2,046 crores, again less than 3 per cent of what has been allocated last year. Therefore, the Government's perspective so far as the rural development and

JRY, whatever may be the commendable things are concerned, is not in consonance with the policy adopted by the Government in this matter. What I would like to bring to the notice of the Agriculture Minister is that there is a reference for setting up of an Agro-Business Consortium, in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister. I would like to know what the Government proposes to do in this matter; what steps the Government has taken to implement this Agro-Business Consortium project, the setting up of which was announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech. Again, I would request the hon. Minister for Agriculture to enlighten the House at to the clear idea with respect to this Agro-Business Consortium.

The third point I would like to mention is about the Government's promotional projects for horticulture. It is said that the Government wants to promote horticulture and that efforts will be made to boost the exports. But, it is a matter of regret that horticultural crops which earn valuable foreign exchange are neglected by the Government. Take the case of cashew-nuts. It earns foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 500 crores a year. What is the total outlay for the development of the cashew crops? It is not even one per cent of the foreign exchange that cashew is earning for the country. The cashew industry is an export-oriented one and to meet the raw material requirements, the country is still importing raw nuts from the African countries. Even then the Government has not taken adequate measures to increase the production and the productivity of cashew cultivation within the country. The provision during 1990-91 for cashew cultivation was only Rs. 47 lakhs. During 1991-92, it was just Rs. One crore. It is heartening to note however, that there is an increase in the provision for cashew development during 1992-93, but this is also not enough. I wonder why there is no Cashew Development Board. There are several boards, for example, Coffee Board, Tea Board, Spice Board and such other organised institutions. The spices which earn only less than a ha of what the cashew is earning by way of foreign exchange has a Board and coffee

[Sh. E. Ahamed]

which is also earning only a half of what cashew is earning by way of foreign exchange has a Board. Therefore, it is high time for the Government to constitute a Cashew Development Board for the development and also for rapid cultivation of cashew.

Sir, another example is coconut, it is also an important oilseed which has been neglected for years. I am happy to note that there is an increased provision for coconut development this year; it has been increased from Rs. 5.5 crores to Rs. Nine crores. However, there is need to strengthen the Coconut Development Board to make it an effective instrument for the development, protection and productivity control. Adequate planting material like hybrid seedlings are not available. More seed farms may be set up and the incentive for cutting and removing of the wild root from the diseased plants may be raised from Rs. 75/- per tree to Rs. 200/- per tree. Then, Coconut and Coconut by product processing unit also may be set up.

Sir, another important matter which I may just bring to the notice of the concerned Ministry is with respect to the fisheries. It is a marine product and it earns about Rs. 1,000 crores by way of foreign exchange every year, but still some of our fishery projects have not been taken care of. Even now, there is the complaint of water pollution.

17.00 hrs.

In Kerala recently there is a disease called Epidemic alcerator syndrome which affected the fisheries very much and also affected our marine products exports which I hope the Government will take care of.

One important thing is about our food processing units. Quite unfortunately our products are not having that much of sufficient market in the international market only because of the price structure. High price is not because of its cost of manufacture from

the factory. It is mainly because of the duties on the packaging material. Unless the Government implements or brings out a duty cut on the packaging material, our products may find it difficult to get sufficient markets.

I may just bring to the notice of the Food Minister one more point. FCI is supplying rice in Kerala and Kerala is perhaps the only State where there is statutory rationing. Two days back, FCI has even issued instructions to their FCI Manager not to supply rice to the distributors because there was some problem between the FCI and the State Government. How can a Government-controlled Corporation issue such arbitrary orders preventing the supply of rice to the distributors? The entire rice distribution in the State had collapsed for the last two-three days.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government that when they are dealing with a sensitive matter like the distribution of rice, they should be more careful and they should have been very discreet in passing such orders.

I hope the hon. Minister will enlighten the House about this very innovative idea of the agro-business consortium for agricultural development.

I conclude my speech.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT (Bombay North West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Rural Development, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution.

I compliment our hon. Minister Shri Balram Jaxhar who is keeping in view the dreams of our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi who always felt and said that the progress of India lies in the progress of rural India.

We have to fulfil the aspirations of the people of rural India. We have to make their dream come true. More than 80 per cent of the people dwell in rural India. Right from the relics of Mohanjodaro and Harappa and from

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ancient civilisation who came and settled on the bank of the Ganges and Jamuna and the Chola dynasty of South India, agriculture was the main source of livelihood.

Therefore, a new democracy was introduced after the independence of India and all our stalwarts who came and adorned this august House whether they were in opposition or in position, they also felt that agriculture is one of the most important aspects of the livelihood of our Indian people.

I do not deny the contribution of the Opposition leaders and the opposition stalwarts who adorned this House and contributed to the welfare of India but I will be failing in my duty if I do not pay my compliments to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. If Mahatma Gandhi is the Father of the Nation, I will call Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as the Father of India's Democracy. He had capable colleagues with him and with the capable colleagues and stalwarts in the Opposition, he built a modern, self-reliant India and he dreamed to make India beautiful and self-respecting. Like a true Gandhian, he started his movement and he thought of rural India. He knew what the land of India needs. There used to be famine earlier. But he said what India needs is water. So, he started programmes to harness the rivers. He knew that we need power and so he started power-stations. That is how we started building up our India with the help of our great leaders like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We started building up a self-reliant India, the fruits of which we are now reaping. In this august House we are discussing the progress of Rural India. After Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri started a movement called *Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan*. This movement also picked up. We started growing more food for the people of our country. Shrimati Indira Gandhi completed the task of Green Revolution. Our beloved leader the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi felt that with all our efforts, still the rural poor is being neglected; women and children of the villages are not having a proper distribution of essential things which they need. Therefore, he felt that they not only needed to be upgraded with food but to be upgraded

mentally and physically. So, more emphasis is laid on rural health-care, good living, education and creating self-employment and local jobs so that they do not run to the cities.

Sir, about Agriculture, I would like to say that the farmers of India always stood by the needs of the country. If the Green Revolution is successful, it is because of the sweat and blood of the farmers of our country. In the same way, I would like to say that so far as our fishermen are concerned, if the farmers grow food for us from the soil, the fishermen go deep into the sea and fight with the waves and strong currents of the sea and bring food for us from the sea. They also fight the strong currents and this is how they bring plenty of food for us. But unfortunately we give incentives to them to produce more and we do not give many incentives to them to earn more. A farmer needs good seeds, favourable weather fertilizers, pesticides, water, electricity, tractors, diesel, bulls, labour and his own hard-labour and work. In the same way, a fisherman needs good boat, good nets, diesel, good weather, favourable sea, suitable places to anchor his boat. All these things cost money, labour and a lot of risk to life. But the price fixed for their labour and yield is much less than the labour and money involved. We should not forget that a farmer or a fisherman has to raise his family, educate his children, take care of their health and see to it that they attend festivals, they have proper clothing and he has to see to it that he gets his children married with respect and dignity. He can manage all these things from the yield of his fields or the catch of fish from the sea. Today, with the essential commodities of life becoming very expensive, it will be fair on the part of the Government to give a reasonable, fair price to the yields of the farmers and fishermen.

[Translation]

Mr. Balam Jakhar is very fond of Urdu poetry. I would like to recite a couplet-by famous Urdu poet Shri Allamah Iqbal:-

"Utho Meri Duniya Ke Garibon Ko Jaga Do,
Takho Ubraha Ke Daro-Divar Hila Do,

[Sh. Sunil Dutt]

Jis Khet Se Dehkan Ko Mayassar Na
Ho Roji,
Us Khet Ke Har Khosh-a- gandum Ko
Jala Do."

[English]

Our farmers toil there in the villages. I am not talking of the big farmers. But I am talking of the small farmers. I am sure they cannot provide full, proper, nutritious diet to their children. I am sure, our hon. Minister being a farmer himself, he will do the needful. I know that he has many programmes and he will definitely take care of the smallest, and the smallest of the farmers.

About Civil Supplies and Public Distribution System, I feel that everything looks very rosy on paper. But at the grass-root level, the enthusiasm fades away. What we need is a social and moral commitment from the members of the Government, politicians or bureaucrats, civilian shop-keepers who have got licence to distribute the various essential commodities of life. They all must have a commitment that any food-stuff that reaches the poorest of the poor, any food-stuff that reaches the villages, will be pure, of good quality and healthy. And, anyone doing any malpractice should be heavily punished. People must have confidence that whatever they are getting at the distribution shops, is the best. Unfortunately, in this regard, the people of our country have got won that confidence.

About the rural development, what is the progress of a country? Is it called progress if we provide more food or if we make dams or we make power stations or bring more jumbo-jets over here to the country or give more economic and commercial freedom? No, Sir. These are material gains, material progress. But the most essential progress is the progress of human beings, our people, the people of our great country. Our people should be morally, spiritually, physically and mentally progressive. This can only happen when we uplift the men,

women and children of rural India, the poor people, the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes people. This should be and must be our moral commitment—neither verbal nor governmental commitment to our nation. We have to make them feel about the equality. We have to make them feel that they are part of us. We have to create a sense of belonging. They should not feel that the Government, politicians and bureaucrats are giving charity to them. Unfortunately, till date, they are feeling as though they are living on the mercy of the Government. This feeling in them has to go. This can only go with the total commitment from all of us. Our beloved leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi felt the pains of the rural India. I remember what he said once in his speech at the Red Fort. He said, "When we give an aid of one rupee to help the poor people of our country, the poor man gets only thirty paise out of it. Where does that seventy paise go is not known. This is because there is no feed-back."

Under the leadership of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, lot of programmes were introduced for the upliftment of rural India. The programmes were put into gear during the period of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. And like a true and dedicated Congressman, our Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao is keen to see that these programmes are implemented very soon so that people in villages have the benefit of these programmes.

I am very happy that he picked up a right man Shri Balram Jakhar who comes from a village. I am sure that he will be an instrument in fulfilling all these programmes whatever the Government of India has decided.

Towards the rural development, we have programmes like the Integrated Rural Development Programmes, Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, Rural Water Supply Programme, Sanitation System, Panchayat-raj, Indira Awas Yojna, Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment, Development of Women and Children in Rural India and so on. If we sincerely implement all these programmes, it will change the destiny of our country. These programmes cover every problem of

rural India and takes care of people living in villages. Integrated Rural Development Programmes are very good on paper. They are being implemented also and other programmes are also being implemented. But we do not have the feed-back, we do not have any agency to tell us whether the aid is going to the right people or not. Therefore, it is very essential that whatever programmes that we have on paper, we should implement it. These programmes are for the future modern development of India. We have thought of sanitation, we have thought of safe drinking water, we have thought of Indira Awas Yojna whereby we give houses to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people. All these programmes are planned with great vision and thinking. But we do not know whether these programmes are being implemented with the same sincerity or not. Media has been writing that these programmes are not being implemented properly. There is no feed back. The food back is only on paper. There is a lack of will and dedication on the part of the people who implement this. My submission is that there should be commission appointed to keep a watch on these programmes as to whether they are being implemented properly or not. And there is no leakage of funds.

Secondly, out of the allotment of funds for the programmes, how much goes towards the salaries and conveyance of the people who are implementing these programmes? How can that be curbed? Proper feed back should be there. Rural Development should be considered as an integrated part of India's progress. Therefore all the Ministries that are concerned with the human beings progress, they should, together, have an integrated coordination and that is, in the case of water resources, welfare, health, family welfare, education, sports, energy and environment and forests. They are all interconnected with each other as far as the progress of the rural India is concerned. And they should be equally involved when we think on how we can upgrade the rural India. We must doubly encourage the local music, pottery, dances, theatre which

are the most important aspects which you must keep in consideration.

I may suggest that the non-Governmental organizations like the social organizations who have been doing a great work in the rural India, they should be encouraged and they should also be helped and some of the finances should be given to those people also. Lastely, I always felt that there is nothing that you cannot achieve. I always felt that there is nothing that is impossible in the dictionary of human beings. And I will end my speech by saying a urdu couplet:

"Wah Kaun sa Mushkil kaam Hai jo
 poora Ho Nahi Sakta,
 Koshish Kare Insaan to kya Ho Nahi
 Sakta"

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Dil Kumari Bhandari to speak now. You may please restrict your speech to five minutes.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim): Please give me ten minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: No, many other Members are there who want to speak.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Sir, I have not spoken, since the beginning of this Session. So, I may please be given ten minutes time.

Sir, I rise to support the Demand for Grants of the various Ministries that are being discussed today. I was very much touched today by the sincere concern that was shown by the state Minister of Agriculture for the development of hills and backward areas. The hilly areas of the country have been neglected which is a fact-an historical fact. The direct fall-out of this neglect has been the demand of Gorkha land, the demand for Uttarakhand, the demand for Himachal, the demand for Jharkhand and now the problems in Kashmir.

Today, while intervening in the discus-

sion, the Minister of State of Agriculture show sincere concern about the backwardness of these areas. The glaring regional imbalances between these backward hilly States and the plains is very much obvious by the fact that the Government itself is aware of it. Though it is too late, but it is always better to be late than never. Many hon. Members have already expressed their views on the achievements of the Government and the problems in respect of these Ministries, facing by the country people very eloquently. So, I will dwell upon the problems faced by mostly the hill people, who are living in the hilly areas.

For a mountainous and hilly State like Sikkim, rural development is the crux of any development strategy. Sikkim, where over 90 per cent of people live in rural areas has yet to achieve a level of economic growth which can adequately uplift the living standards of rural population. This is despite the enormous efforts put up by the State Government in the last one decade.

Rural development in the hills should first address itself to the utterly neglected infrastructures and then the basic needs. The ultimate goal should be to create a sustainable system of development that generates both income and employment without adversely affecting the natural resource base in the rural areas. We in Sikkim have been trying to adopt this strategy of development. For example, the problem of providing potable drinking water to every village is a very stupendous task. The Sikkim Government with its meagre resources has been doing its utmost to cover all the villages in the near future. This is true that the Centre is helping the State. But the assistance is not adequate and is not commensurate with the problem of this magnitude.

Heavy rainfall bring with it constant land erosion, land slides, natural calamities of various proportion and it is a regular phenomenon for us. The damage done is so large and widespread that the funds at the

disposal of the State Government is sordidly inadequate even for the restoration work. That is the reason why some of the damaged portions are still crying for adequate help to bring them back to normal condition. I see no reason why the Centre cannot create a separate fund for the restoration work and initiate some effective preventive measures.

Sikkim has a very limited scope for generating employment in the Government sector. We have seen that unless we set up professional institutions that would sharpen the skills of the rural population, we cannot give any job orientation to the rural people. I feel, despite the immense potential of the small and cottage industries, they have largely remained unexploited. The Union Government must come in a big way with finance, technology and institutions in order to give a boost to this sub-sector.

I can assure that the atmosphere is very congenial in the State for such economic intervention in the State by the Union Government. The first priority item of rural development strategy should be infrastructure. In the hilly regions because of its historical negligence and topographical variations, this sub-sector stands to be the very basis of rural development. For Sikkim, the story is not different. In the absence of any meaningful and substantial initiative by the Centre, rural infrastructure continues to remain poor and inadequate. This is only strengthening the socio-economic imbalance in a strategically situated State. I appeal that this crucial sub-sector of infrastructure should be given serious thought in terms of its multi-faceted development.

In regard to agriculture many people may not be aware that only 14 per cent of the total area of Sikkim is cultivable. Over 90 per cent of the State population depends on this meagre land for existence. The pressure on the land is very high. The tragedy is that the cultivable land is fast shrinking because of continuous soil erosion and huge landslides. A major option is to go in for intensive cultivation, use of more fertilizers, better seeds and modern methods of agricultural opera-

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tions. This is the only way to increase production and productivity.

Here I must mention that the last ten year's data indicate the production of total foodgrains has almost doubled from 62.9 thousand tonnes in 1982-83 to 116.3 thousand tonnes in 1989-90. I am still perturbed that the growth rate could have been much higher particularly for rice and wheat, which is not so. This certainly calls for more agricultural research and lab to land practices. Intensive cultivation has its own limitations. Hence there is need for diversification in the agricultural sector. The State's resources being meagre, it is not in a position to develop or undertake this in a big way, though they have also started pisciculture, floriculture and horticulture. Hence the Agriculture Ministry needs to come to help the State to achieve its plan for diversification in the agricultural sector.

In 1983-84 Sikkim was promised to be given one agriculture university. But that has not materialised as yet. I would urge upon the Government to sanction the same forthwith. I am hopeful that our Agriculture Minister himself being an agriculturist, he knows the need for such an agriculture university in such a backward area. I am very happy that the Minister of State has himself said that the North Eastern areas including Sikkim are very backward and I hope that they will do something positive in this respect.

Sir, poor technology, inadequate critical inputs and geographical constraints have made Sikkim's agriculture more vulnerable to any natural calamities. The level of food production today cannot meet the requirements of the State. Large quantity of food like rice, wheat and other essential commodities like sugar, kerosene oil, etc. have to be brought from outside the State. On the face of it, the population growth together with increasing floating population and tourist traffic, the quota items provide to Sikkim has been sharply falling short of the demand. The Centre is requested to increase the quota on a more rational and scientific basis at the earliest.

Another aspect that needs consideration is that during rainy days, there are landslides on the only line of communication, Sikkim has got with the other States of the country, that is the National Highway 31-A. The whole movement of goods comes to dead halt for a number of days. As a result prices of essential commodities and other consumer articles shoot up by leaps and bounds. So, to contain such a situation, there is a need to have food godowns, cold storage and warehouses, so that perishable and non-perishable commodities could be stored to meet any emergency situation. The Ministry of Food needs to look into this problem and help Sikkim to set up such an infrastructure.

One more aspect I would very much like to highlight is the transportation cost in carrying food and other consumer articles to Sikkim from outside the State. The hike in transportation cost is reflected in prices of commodities in the State. The people of Sikkim have had to pay a much higher price for essential items and other products as compared to other parts of the country. That means the actual rate of inflation in Sikkim is generally very much higher than the rest of the country. In this background, the public distribution system has a very crucial role to play in Sikkim. To make it successful, the supply should not only be adequate but should also be regular.

Secondly, fair price shops should be set up at places easily accessible to the people even in remote villages. Care should be taken to ensure that the supply reaches the people and they are benefited thereby. Hence, there is the need for streamlining the whole set up. It requires adequate machinery and this calls for allocation of more funds to make the system a success. I hope the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies are aware of the difficulties faced by the hilly States in the country. Hence, I am sure that they would, while appreciating these difficulties, help such hilly backward States or areas in streamlining the public distribution system so that the poor people of such areas can

avail of the facilities that fair price shops offer.

Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Amal Datta.

Shri Amal Datta, your party's time is already over. So, you shall have to make a brief speech.

17.29 hours

SHRI AMAL DATTA: I am very sorry that the time is over. Just on that point, may I say that the time allocated to discuss the Demands for Grants of the four Ministries is less?

MR. SPEAKER: That was decided in the Business Advisory Committee and approved in the House.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Maybe. But, it should be considered at least next time. I am not saying anything about this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. But, you are quite capable of making the points in a short time and very forcefully.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: These four Ministries are most concerned with the lives of 75 per cent people of India living in villages.

MR. SPEAKER: That is exactly why we want you not to make the points on the subjects which are not listed.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: My earnest request is this. There were only one or two opportunities in the whole two-three Sessions of the House to discuss these matters. So, next time at least 15,20 hours should be allocated when these Ministries come together.

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you. Now come to the point.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond

Harbour): The Agriculture is a Ministry which is very very wide. In this country, we have lot of things under agriculture naturally. India is a country which has been traditionally agricultural. Only recently, we have gone into industry. We have gone into industry with such a gusto that we have tried to reverse the original capacity, the original - what should I say - tendency of this country to depend on agriculture. This we have done at a time when the relative advantage of agriculture all over the world has increased beyond all imaginations. In 1950s, when the industrial policy was formulated and agriculture was relegated to background and again agriculture had to be brought back to some amount of prominence because of the food scarcity from which we suffered in the 60's, barring that, agriculture has always been neglected in this country.

I for one have always felt that the people ruling the country - whether politicians or the bureaucrats - have not been able to truly biggest the significance of the recent advances - advances which have taken place in the world since 1950's in the biological sciences - giving rise to biotechnology, whose potential has not yet been truly realised not only in this country but not even in the whole world. The potentiality is vast. But we have not done very radically towards biotechnology. Ever forgetting that, biological science development has allowed some improvements in seed production in plant production and all that, in agronomic practices and everything. That we have not been able to absorb in this country.

Now we do not have a proper agriculture policy. We do not have proper economic policy. In the budget speech, I said that this country is not giving proper emphasis to agriculture. Unfortunately then and there the Finance Minister agreed with me that this was a correct assessment. But nothing has been done to change that situation. I am sure that with the able persuasion of our Agriculture Minister and all the other Ministers heading the different Departments which are under discussion now, very soon a policy change should take place. I say this because today

it is possible—according to FAO's report—for India produce twice the foodgrains that India is producing with less amount of fertiliser.

We have done nothing to exploit the water resources of this country. We have done something. It is really significant to exploit the water resources. In fact, we have not done the detailed engineering work which is required to store the water and use it over the years. We have let it run along and let it run away with the top soil which is being depleted very quickly. A proper agricultural policy is required because we are lacking in resources. Wherever we lack in resources, a proper allocation is necessary and that policy should decide what should be the proper allocation.

We have to decide whether we go for foodgrains production, we go for commercial crops production, we go for all kinds together, but we cannot do that. Therefore, where the emphasis has to be put, for how long? And when we put the emphasis, we should not scatter our resources too much. What we have been hearing in this House— we know from other sources also—is that the Government has scattered its research resources over a wide range. And much of the research which is being done, remains in the laboratory and does not go into the field. For one thing, there is no coordination between research and extension work. The field services are not coordinated to the laboratory. Laboratories say, we do not have a mandate to take it to the people. Something has to be done because it has gone on too long in this way that money is being spent on research and fruits are not being made available to the people. It is being done over such a wide range of areas that we are losing the benefit of concentration of resources in one sector. For instance, in foodgrains, we are still with high-yielding varieties. But we have not gone for hybridisation which has allowed China to double its crop production in the 70's. Due to hybridisation, China could double its foodgrain production in the course of a few years. I think my statistics should be authenticated by the Agriculture Minister. State-wise highest production in terms of

wheat is 20 quintals per hectare and for rice, it is 27 quintals per hectare whereas in China, it is 37 quintals of wheat and 55 quintals of rice. It is about double in some cases. In wheat, it is little less than double. Now, this has been possible because of improvement in technology. Of course, they are using more fertilisers than India. But we are not concentrating on our resources. That is one point.

Secondly, we have a better climatic condition while, in China, they have four to five months of winter and during winter, they cannot grow anything at all. Whereas we can grow practically all over India Barring some hill regions, we can grow three to four crops a year. Now, we would like to have some information from the Agriculture Ministry. Even though agriculture should be an open book, we do not get the necessary information from that Ministry as to how much land is under high-yielding varieties and what is the intensity of agriculture in those lands in respect of high-yielding varieties. What is the production State-wise, block-wise and district-wise? We should get the statistics to see whether there is room for improvement or not. These are absolutely essential information without which no critical examination of the achievements in the field of agriculture can be made. Only after we have suffered a food crisis in the 1970s, agriculture came to limelight. Before that, we saw that our tendency has always been to concentrate on foodgrains as the only subject of agriculture and not diversified little bit of our efforts on fruits, vegetables and other horticultural products on which the world trade is the highest of all agricultural products. The Minister must know that certain under-developed or developing countries in the world like Turkey, Thailand and Indonesia have recently gone in for horticulture production and have done very well in a very short pace of time. I think the idea of the Government of India to improve our performance in exports could be better achieved if we concentrate on certain aspects of agriculture like different horticultural products and piscicultural products and things like and there is enormous scope in it for

India. In fact, I am told by no less a person than the Fisheries Minister of West Bengal that we can produce so much bracksh water shrimps that we will be able to feed the entire world. Probably, the world will not be able to buy, at today's price, the shrimps produced in India and price of shrimsp will come to millions of dollars. Efforts in these sectors are very minimum. One should seek out sectors where we can make the greatest gain in the shortest possible time and where our medium and long term advantages lie. so, we should have an agricultural policy with short term, medium term and long term persepctives. We do not have that. I hope, in a hort time, the Ministry will take upon itself the burden of having such a policy.

Now, when I go from the macro to the micro level, I wonder to see that there is no idea in the minds of the people of my constituency as to what is the best suited ago climatic conditions. It is because the soil has not been tested. They do not know what should be the correct crop pattern for different blocks or different parts of different blocks. I understand that the soil conditions vary from field to field. There is no arrangement for doing this. But there should be an arrangement. If there is such an arrangement, then the ideal or the optimal crop pattern can be told to the people that this is their crop and soil condition and with certain additions or alterations, they can grow this crop and so on. But the farmer has not been told that. Extension services are not equipped for that. In fact, our Extension Services have no knowledge of the latest developments in the fields of horticulture and agriculture. I am sorry to state that no State Government has got this knowledge. As I have already said, the links between the laboratores and the extension services simply do not exist. Today, Shri Lenka was intervening in the debate and certain questions were put to him with regard to betel leaf. He replied that this question should be addressed to the Kalyani University which is doing some work on betel

leaf. This is the only university in West Bengal and we do not know that they are doing this work. Though we are very much concerned about betel leaf, the growers do not know about it; their leader do not know about it and traders too do not know. It is not known that certain amount of money is given. It is also not known what achievements were obtained with that money. So, what I am saying is that absolutely there is lack of information. How much are we to suffer because of this lack of information! We cannot really assess our achievements. But whatever we are able to assess, is very poor because there is really no policy and no coordination. And whatever we are doing, we are doing it in a haphazard fashion and spreading the given resources very thinly. Thereby, we are unable to get the effect that could have been obtained through concentration. If you put two and two together in a concentrated way, then you may get a result of even five and not merely four. This is the effect of synergism. But I am very sorry to observe that we are getting only two or three and not even the minimum of four! I hope the Ministry realises that there are various lacunae and addresses itself to the task of removing them.

Reverting to the performance of Parliament in this matter, I say that there is a Select Committee on Agriculture. But this Committee is not functioning. Many countries of the world which have such forums have utilised them very usefully. Especially, the British Parliament has utilised the services of their Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture to achieve very good results. I hope a similar exercise will be undertaken here also.

MR. SPEAKER: We are doing it. Thank you for a very good speech.

[*Translation*]

*C.K. KUPPUSWAMY (Coimbatore): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I thank you for having given me an opportunity to express my views in support of the demands for grants of the

(Gen.) 1992-93 *Ministries of Rural Development; Food; Agriculture; and Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Development and Food.*

As far as Agriculture Loan is concerned, I would like to draw your attention to the sorry plight of farmers whose burden increases manifold due to accruing interest on the loan amount obtained. For instance, an agriculturist in Tamil Nadu who had taken a loan of about Rupees fifty thousand continued to have the loan burden to the tune of about one lakh rupees and above even after paying back about Rupees forty thousand. There is another instance where a farmer had to finally part with about one lakh and seventy five thousand rupees against a loan of about Rupees fifty thousand. At the same time, businessmen and industrialists could manage loan assistance in various forms at lesser interest rates. Even if they do not pay back the banks properly their loans are ignored. They even get waivers in some form or the other. But the plight of the farmers continue to be in a pathetic state. Agricultural lands are taken over for default in payments. As far as Coimbatore district in Tamil Nadu is concerned, Agriculturists have to rely on ground water alone. They have to dig up well up to a depth of about 300 ft to 400 ft. They have to erect pump-sets to draw water and to irrigate their fields for cultivation. Both cotton and paddy have to be cultivated only in this fashion. Hence I request the Minister for Agriculture to consider the case of such farmers in Coimbatore district who have to put in so much towards the inputs and I request the Hon'ble Minister to waive the agricultural loans in the case of such industrious farmers.

Irrigation facility in Tamil Nadu have not been improved ever after 1967. No dam worth its name has been constructed ever after late Kamaraj's regime. It is a sorry state of affairs to which we are mute spectators now. No irrigation scheme has been drawn up after 1967. After the departure of the great leader Shri Kamaraj, many viable irrigation schemes have not been taken up at all. For instance, there was a proposal to turn the course of the West flowing rivers like Pandiar and Punnampuzha to irrigate and

benefit both the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Instead allowing the wasteful flow of these rivers into Arabian Sea, their course could have been diverted to benefit farming community from both the States. Centre must now take up this scheme pending for a long time now. Both the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala could share the expenses and must go ahead with the scheme. Centre must help in all possible ways to overcome hurdles, if any, in carrying out this irrigation project that will also save invaluable water. I urge upon the Centre to consider this much awaited irrigation project and give ago by to the satisfaction of farmers living in the border districts of both the States.

As far as river Cauvery is concerned, we are aware of the issues involved in tackling the vexed problem. Lakhs of Tamil farmers migrated to Karnataka several years ago and contributed a lot to make that land a fertile one. But, recently thousands of them were rendered homeless and were made refugees in their own country. A relief to the tune of about Rupees two crores and seventy lakhs has been paid. Hon'ble Prime Minister also convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the riparian States. The relief and compensation paid to the affected farmers is inadequate and dismal. Hence, I request the Centre to look into it to pay more relief to aggrieved and displaced farmers.

While referring to Animal Husbandry, I must have to point out to the Kangeyam breed which is famous for its sturdy built and industrious labour they offer to the tiller of the soil. There used to be a very big dairy farm in Palaya Kottai in Kangeyam area which is famous for rearing cattle of that breed. It is reliably understood that the dairy farm is proposed to be wound up. There are about two thousand cattle heads which may be handed over to prospective buyers. I request to the Government to go in for buying the same and preserve the Kangeyam breed of cows and bulls intact. As far as milk cooperatives are concerned, efforts should be made to ensure that genuine cattle growers and milkmen are members of such cooperatives. Certain anomalies like people

from other occupation being made members of such societies are there. This should be stemmed out. I bring this to the notice of the Government to ensure that any genuine farmers and cattle growers are made members of such milk societies. The Government may also chalk out a plan to introduce a provident fund scheme to benefit farmers thereby ensuring legally valid minimum wages.

Finally, I would like to conclude my speech drawing the attention of the Government to the persisting drinking water problem in Coimbatore district. I am a Member representing that constituency for third time in a row now. I have raised this issue on earlier occasions too. Now I bring it to the notice of the Minister for Rural Development. The upgradation of infrastructure facilities for providing drinking water to people of Coimbatore district calls for your attention still now. Kindly attend to the problem at the earliest. With this I thank you and conclude my speech.

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD
(Salempur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Congress party has betrayed the people of the country as well as the farmers by giving a false assurance of bringing down the prices within hundred day. With your permission, I would like to make some suggestions in respect of the Demand for Grants presently being discussed in the House.

There is much difference in the words and deeds of the Congress Party. The policy through which Congress proposed to give remunerative prices to farmers for their crops has been changed. Broadly, I consider that the Government headed by Shri Morarji Desai in 1977 was the best for farmers. That Government implemented many schemes for the benefit and welfare of the poor farmers and for those who were fully dependent on agriculture. Ours is an agricultural country. That Government took many measures which helped in large production of foodgrains. At present we are not only meeting the domestic

requirement but exporting the foodgrains.

During the regime of Morarji Desai one bag of urea used cost Rs. 51/- which is now proposed to be increased to Rs. 175/- per bag. Therefore, had you adopted the same attitude which was adopted by that Janta Government you would have been able to do some good to the farmer of this country. After that came the Janata Government which also thought of doing some good to farmers. It announced to spend 50 percent of the Budget outlay of the country on farmers and rural upliftment. When Janata Party Government waived off the agricultural loans of farmers up to ten thousand rupees then the some member of the House criticized this step and opposed it.

Many of our friends had opposed and criticised this step of waiving off the loans saying that it had brought the Government of India on a verge of bankruptcy. But I would like to ask a question from my those friends and particularly from the hon. Minister as to why the loans given to big industrialists were waived off by the Government in the past. Janata Government had waived off loans only upto Rs. 10,000/- of small needy farmers and you people made great hue and cry over it and blamed that Government but you people do not say anything when the loans of big industrialists are waived off. In this way Government has set a precedent of even waiving off big loans. In my opinion, no agriculture policy has so far been chalked out. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh had prepared a detailed policy which is now gathering dust in almirah. Please take the trouble of seeing that policy also. The conditions have changed now. While fixing the prices of the wheat the cost of production is not taken into account. The price of sugarcane produced by farmers is fixed by Government and not by the farmer. Report says that the total area under sugarcane cultivation was 35,00,000 hectares and out of it 16 lakh hectare was in Uttar Pradesh alone. The target fixed for sugarcane production was 23 crores tonnes for the year 1991-92. Procurement price of sugarcane has not yet been fixed and 50% crop is still standing in the fields. If it continues like this

farmers will be compelled to burn their crop. Half of the produce will be burnt by the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: You have a little time at your disposal. Please conclude soon.

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: I would like to submit that the price of the sugarcane should be genuine and Government should take steps to stop the five percent cut in the Commission by sugarcane committees.

It has been stated in the report that Government proposes to set up six fertilizer factories but the Gorakhpur plant in Eastern Uttar Pradesh is lying closed. Government on one hand proposes to set up six new factories and on the other hand some factories are lying closed. At least Government should take measures to recommission the closed factories.

Agriculture should be declared an industry and the agriculture inputs like fertilisers, water, seeds etc should be sold at cheap rates. Crop insurance scheme should be implemented strictly. Loans at low interests should be made available to the farmers and fifty percent of the budget should be allocated to villages. The price of the agricultural products should be fixed by taking into account their cost of production.

In the construction of the houses under Indra Aawas Yojana, third rate bricks are used. It cannot resist water even for two year. You can find out for yourself that all the houses built under Indra Awas Yojana are in this condition. Government should ensure that such things do not recur. You launched a scheme to construct 10 lakh wells. Under this scheme officials and big contractors have misappropriated the money which was to be given to the people. You please make an enquiry. Now I would like to raise a question related to the land reforms. The land, on which thousands of people belonging to poor and backward classes are inhabited is owned by big (rich) people in the whole country. These rich people force the poor people to work for them. When these people refuse to

work they are beaten by them. Sometimes case is filed in courts. I would like that you please look into such matters. You please make arrangements to distribute the land owned by big landlords, rich person and Ministers, among the poor and landless people. So that they can get land for their livelihood and the unemployed persons can get the employment. A few days ago, I read a statement of the Prime Minister in a newspaper in this regard. If hon. Agriculture Minister is true in his words, he should declare at once in this House that a campaign will be launched in the whole country to distribute the excess land belonging to the landowners rich persons among the poor. Under the Land Reforms Act. I will greatly benefit the Farmers. With these words I appose the demands of grant.

SHRI DATTA MEGHA (Nagpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the demands of the Ministry of agriculture, rural development, civil supply and public distribution. Before my allotted time expires that the drought in Maharashtra is very serious. I would like to mention for which the hon. Minister has already made a reference in Question Hour. That question reads that 58.16 lakh acre. of land had been affected by drought in Maharashtra and the State Government has sent a proposal of Rs. 791.41 crore for relief works. In reply to that question it has been stated that a Committee will be sent in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh but there is no need to provide an additional assistance to Maharashtra and Karnataka. In these circumstances, when there is an acute shortage of drinking water in the villages and there is severe drought on large scale in Maharashtra, we get this written reply that the Central Govt. is not going to provide any assistance. I appeal to the Central Government that the poor, dalits and adivasies also live in the villages of Maharashtra and they all are facing the draught. It is correct that Maharashtra also has big cities like Nagpur and Bombay.

The Central Government especially our Prime Minister has a very good relations with Maharashtra. Shri Balram Jakhar also visited

[Sh. Datta Megha]

there. He knows each and everything about Maharashtra. Today there is heavy draught. You please send a Committee there. If it is not done people will take a wrong impression about the intension of the Government. The Central Government should fulfill the justified demands of the Maharashtra Government because all the States are equal before the Central Government.

18.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding agriculture, I would like to mention a few vital points due to lack of sufficient time. A scheme for procurement of cotton has been under operation in Maharashtra, since several years. We request the Central Government to provide assistance to the Maharashtra Govt. for ten years. But in Maharashtra there is some rumour that the State Govt. wanted discontinue this scheme because other states do not have similar scheme. Maharashtra is a good State Co-operative sector has done well there. Today the farmers get good profit from cotton production and if there is any loss the Government bears it. We always make request for export of cotton and to prepare yarn from the cotton. We can get more price if we prepare yarn and cloths but I find that the rich people are demanding to discontinue the scheme for the procurement of crores of rupees of Farmers are lying with the State Government deposit as. This scheme is very important for the farmers. All of us and the all the farmers of the State want that the Central Government should start this scheme in other states also so that the farmers may get full assistance. I think, the rumours to discontinue the scheme is baseless. In my constituency oranges are produced in abundance. It is the Central Government' scheme and the State Government bring it into practice. But today, the crop of orange is very good.....?

MR. SPEAKER: Time is over.

SHRI DATTAMEGHE: I am speaking at the first time during the session. This is the

first time I have been given an opportunity to speak and moreover I am not making a speech; I am stating only some points others have taken 15 minutes for their speech. I am not taking so much time but if I do not talk about my constituency, my presence in this House has no meaning. I fail to refer the problems and difficulties being faced by the people of my constituency, my coming to this House becomes fruitless and it would have been better if I had not been elected to this House.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a Maharashtra Government budget.

SHRI DATTAMEGHE: I know it, well. That is why I am stating that the Central assistance is being asked for the cotton scheme. But the Central Government does not want to provide assistance and wants to discontinue the scheme. It is a good scheme of Maharashtra Govt. please you should take over this scheme. The Central Government can help the orange producers and can provide assistance to the research Centre.

The Central Govt. is providing assistance to the Rural Deptt. of Maharashtra Govt. and I think it is also the duty of the Central Govt. and I think it to the State Govt. in this regard. I had already mentioned about rationcard in Delhi. Bombay too is an economic capital of India. It is a very big city. It gets grains etc. from the whole country. But we get very little quota of civil supplies while Delhi gets double of it. Cities like Bombay and Delhi should be given equal quota. We do not supply equal grain to those people who work hard, who are labourers and they cannot afford to purchase it from the market. So you please arrange to supply the same quota of foodgrains as you are supplying to Delhi. Bombay is a big city and when the matter relates to the big cities it should be treated alike. I conclude with one more point that the development should be equal. For years, we have been demanding for the constitution of a development board. Our Chief Minister will come and will have a talk with the Prime Minister tomorrow. We have talked to the

Prime Minister, he has told us that he would constitute development board within 24 hours if a proposal is brought before him. We can spend money, for the construction of roads and irrigation in villages, which we will get from the development board. Our demand is that the demand of development boards should be set up for Vidarbha, Marathwara, Konkan and other regions of Maharashtra and funds for these Boards should be allocated. Then, we can develop these areas from the money which we will get from these boards. Maharashtra Government says that it has sent the proposal to the Central Government but we do not know the whereabouts of this proposal. When Shri Rajiv Gandhi visited Nagpur, he publicly announced that he would consider about the development boards if he came in power. We want to fulfill the promises made by Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. So you should consider our demand for development boards so that we can get funds for the development of backward regions of Maharashtra State.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to express my views on Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. Our hon. learned Members have said so many things and I don't want to repeat them. But some things have been left out. I want to put forth those things in the House. Sir, I have been straight forward from the very beginning and it has become my habit.....

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nagina, there is no time for such things.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: You kindly listen to me for a while. It was said that people were dying of starvation. Any hon. Member who is above sixty years old may tell whether two square meals was available to the people of the country 42 years back. But today people get two square meals. At that time, the population was 36 crore and now it has increase to 84 crore. Food is made available to everybody. It is all due to the efforts put in by our agricultural scientists. That is why, I am thankful to them. Today, the

people of country are getting food and we are self-sufficient in the matter. But it is true, as our hon. friend has said just now, that the production in India is lower than that of other countries and he has given an example of China in this regard. I would like to make a request that our scientists should go abroad to acquire knowledge. Our population has increased from 36 crore to 84 crore. We are providing food to the people of our country. It will create problem, if we don't increase our production at the ratio the population is increasing. Therefore, we should increase our production.

Today, the most important thing is that ceiling of farmers' land has been fixed. It has been fixed after independence and during the regime of Congress Party. It is a good thing. I want to tell you that still there are some big Talukedars who possess a large area of agricultural land. On papers, it has been shown in the names of their grandsons - daughters and dogs and cats. It is a matter of pride that the Minister of Agriculture of the country has been bestowed upon the title of 'Krishi-Pandit'. Farmers are proud of their Minister who is expert in agriculture and a 'Krishi Pandit'. Thus, I would like that the hon. Minister of Agriculture should get the matter examined. I belong to rural area and Lekhpai is the highest officer in a village. His version is considered to be final. Most of the agriculture land is in the possession of big landlords though it has been shown in different names. Secondly, I would like to submit if he has shown the land in the name of poor persons, the landlord will litigate even upto the Supreme Court and try to maintain his possession. That is why, the law should be amended. The litigation has been going on for the last twenty years. The Government should formulate such a law that landlord has no scope to move to the court. Government should get back the agriculture land from them and disburse it among the poor people. Not only this, some people have formed trust and made their family members as members of the trust. They too utilising it. I would like to request that the Government should get it examined.

MR. SPEAKER: Tenancy law and land ceiling is the subject of State Legislatures. You have explained your point of view. Now please come to the next point.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: The Central Government can also enact law.....

MR. SPEAKER: It is the subject matter of the State Government.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: It is true that much of our cultivation depends on nature. I belong to such an areas where drought and flood occur almost every year. I would like to submit to provide irrigation facility where it is not available. If the country wants to progress, the Government must provide irrigation facility. There should be arrangement to check the floods. There are areas in the villages which generally remain water logged. Thousands of acres of land is submerged under water and standing crops are ruined. There must be some drainage system to flush out that water. Today, the fate of sugarcane-growers is in dark in Uttar Pradesh. You will be surprised to know as the hon. Minister has said in his statement that the Government realises taxes worth billions of rupees. I do not think that there is any sugar mill from which Government does not realise as Rs. 2-3 crore as taxes. Government also realises taxes from Sugar Development Corporation. But what is the condition of farmers? Large sums of farmers are outstanding against mill owners. At the time of marriage in the family, the farmer has to take loan from moneylender or Talukedar against this slips of sugarcane at the rate of interest of Rs. 25-30 percent. There is also Government recovery. If he does not pay his property is attached, warrant is issued against him. He is arrested and imprisoned. What is all this going on today.?

The Government is giving subsidy on wheat. Immediate payment is made at the time of procurement of wheat and pulses, etc. Sugarcane grower is the most unfortunate person who faces hardships and has to face even attachment and warrant. Thus, I would like to point out that in the past

also, Central Government had done favour of farmers. Loans to the tune of Rs. 120 crore advanced by banks to farmers have recently been waived off. If you can't do anything in this regard, you may do one thing I am not begging any sympathy. I would only request the Central Government on behalf of the sugarcane growers that arrangement should be made to make payment to them by banks against the slips given by the mills owners to the farmers so that they may be able to meet their requirements. These slips are their guarantee. When the mill owners make the payment, it should be paid to the Banks. No other facility can be as big as this facility.

Secondly, I would like to submit that there are 105 sugar mills with 800 to 1200 tonnes capacity in Uttar Pradesh. They are incurring losses of crores of rupees. Their recovery is the lowest. According to an information given by the Government, only 30 percent sugarcane of the total production of Uttar Pradesh comes to mills and the remaining goes to 'Kobhu' or crusher while the mill rate is Rs. 45 per quintal and the crusher rate is Rs. 28 to Rs. 30. The difference is that the crusher owners who procure sugarcane at the rate of Rs. 28 to Rs. 30 makes cash payment whereas the payment of sugarcane which is sold to the mill at a rate of Rs. 45 per quintal is not made immediately and is paid later on. There is considerable production of sugarcane. I would like to make a request because you have become the advocate of farmers. We are having rich crop of wheat as well as sugarcane because of the efforts put in by Deptt. of Agriculture. I would like you to be an advocate of farmers. You are the advocate of sugarcane growers, you should plead the case with the Government and make proper arrangement of procurement of sugarcane. The small factories are sick and their recovery is going down. The capacity of mills with 800,2200 tonnes should be increased to 2500 tonnes. Besides, I understand that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has asked for more licences from Central Government keeping in view the importance of sugarcane. Applications seeking 50-100 licences from the Government have not yet been cleared. No

licence has been issued so far. There are billions of rupees lying in the account of Sugar Development Fund. Earlier, also, the Central Government has given permission to increase the capacity to some sugar mills. Allocation to Devaria mill has not been increased for the last two years. It was assumed to raise the allocation of funds to Laxmiganj, Betalpur and Bhatni mills. But due to paucity of funds, it is not being raised. In the same way, I would like to make a request to handover these mills to the private sector, if you cannot run them properly. We know that all the applications are lying pending with the Central Government. There are 14 sugar mills in Deoaria. The capacity of these sugar mills is 800, to 1200 tonnes. There is a need of increasing the capacity of sugar mills throughout Uttar Pradesh especially in Deoaria. There is need to set up 3-4 sugar mills in Deoaria. The applications seeking licences to set up sugar mills have been by the private sector. I want that sugarcane should be crushed in time. The conditions in South India differ from those of north India. Weather conditions of south India are congenial to sugarcane crop all the year around, but in North, sugarcane begins to dry just after May and thereafter the recovery comes to 4 per cent. Therefore, sugar factories do not work for more than 6 months in North India, whereas in South India they run for about 9 months. Therefore, attention should be paid towards crores of farmers who depend on sugarcane and steps should be taken for their welfare.

Sir, our area falls in the terai region and just now the hon. Minister also made a statement that water of our area does not contain iodine. Deficiency of iodine causes diseases like goitre, elephantiasis and malaria people are drinking water from ditches. My submission is that clean water from tubewells should be made available to people there so that they are saved from the diseases. Likewise, there are no roads in Narayani area in the Nepal border. If sugarcane and other crops are produced, how to transport them from one place other without roads. There are also no bridges

over the rivers. Hence sugarcane and other commodities are being transported by boats from one place to other. So, I request that roads and river-bridges should be constructed.

Similarly, the Fair Price Shops are allotted to a selected few. The commodities are either grabbed by officers or sold in black market by shopkeepers themselves. Only 1/3rd of it is distributed. In this connection, I would suggest that these shops should be allotted to crores of unemployed youth of the country. In this way the unemployment problem could be solved and the distribution system too would improve. The middlemen should be removed.

In the same manner there was also a reference to wheat procurement. The thing is that even Government purchases are made through middlemen. When the farmer goes direct with his wheat, it is first filtered in water and then the defects are pointed out. But when the same wheat is brought to the centre through middlemen it is accepted without any check. Therefore, I want that at least the farmer should be assured that he will not be harassed and there will be no middlemen in between.

With these words, I conclude with the hope that due attention would be paid to my suggestions and the problems solved.

[English]

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundargarh):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak in Oriya.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you given notice to speak in Oriya?

[Translation]

*KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Yes Sir, Interpreter is there in the booth and he has been informed that I would like to speak in Oriya.

[Kumari Frida Topno]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the demands for grants in respect of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development, Food, Civil Supply & Public Distribution. As time at my disposal is very short, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government to some problems of Orissa pertaining to these Ministries. Sir, Irrigation facilities are not available in the State of Orissa except the coastal districts. So, the farmers in the other districts mostly depend on rain water to cultivate the land. Irrigation projects have not been executed in these districts. So, they have no other way to get water. They can develop the agriculture if proper arrangement has been made to set up dug wells in large number in the dry areas of the State. There are some areas where irrigation is possible through lift irrigation only. Keeping in view the difficulties of the farmers in the absence of water for cultivation, the Government of India should arise the State Government to give priority for lift irrigation where it is found possible. Constraint of resources should not pose any problem. The Government of India should allocate adequate fund for this purpose. At the same time dry land farming should be encouraged. If it is done, the farmers in the dry areas can grow new varieties of crops. In this connection, Sir, I would like to say that the dry land farming was initiated in my district, Sundargarh in 1988-89. The farmers were supplied with good quality fertilisers and certified seeds. That is why they were able to get good crops. Even they had done the cultivation on the fallow land and had good harvest. The poor people, particularly the small and marginal farmers were mostly getting benefit from dry land farming. But, it is regrettable that this centrally sponsored scheme is not being properly implemented now in these districts. The present Government in Orissa is not paying proper attention to supply good quality seeds and fertilisers to the small and marginal farmers. So, the farmers are not much interest to take up dry land farming. Sir, this is a centrally sponsored scheme. So, the State Government should be advised to implement this scheme vigorously in Sundargarh and

other dry districts of Orissa. Farmers should be helped adequately to start dry land farming.

Sir, it is not possible for the farmers to earn their livelihood from farming alone as they do not have the facilities to grow crops throughout the year in every area. They remain idle for several months in a year. How can they meet their family expenses when they have no work? In order to generate employment as well as purchasing power, the Government should create job of some kind or the other. In this connection, I would like to stress on dairy development. There is a great scope to promote dairy in Orissa. If the rural people get facilities like loan to buy good variety of cows and buffaloes and also some help under the centrally sponsored scheme they will be able to produce milk and milk products from which they can generate income to earn their livelihood. Therefore, I urge the Government of India to pay adequate attention to promote dairy in different parts of the country. Priority should be given in implementing schemes pertaining to dairy in the districts where farmers do not get irrigation facilities.

Then Sir, there is a great scope for the development of fishery in the coastal districts of Orissa. The fishing potentiality of the State has not been properly tapped. There are several villages in the coastal areas where people do not have work throughout the year. Therefore the villagers should be assisted to undertake fishing operation. It is regrettable that the big private companies are given lease in Orissa for fishing particularly prawn cultivation. I urge the Government to direct the State Government of Orissa to assist the traditional fishermen and local youths to undertake fishing. In this process local unemployment problem will be resolved to a large extent. Therefore the Government should identify the fishing zones in the State and exploit the fishing potentiality in order to generate employment for the people of the coastal villages.

Sir, I would like to give emphasis on rural development in my constituency. We have got a steel plant at Rourkela and a

cement plant at Rajgangpur. People of these areas have got some employment. Rest of the areas in my district have a number of problems. The people of rural areas do not have any other scope to earn their livelihood throughout the years. The centrally sponsored schemes are not properly implemented. So, they do not have any work to do. Therefore, Government should monitor the implementation of the rural development programmes and see that the benefit is actually given to the people for whom the schemes have actually been sponsored by the Central Government. It is regrettable that every village do not have roads. There are several villages where health centres, schools and drinking water facilities have not been provided. No industry is set up in these villages as there is no motorable roads. Therefore every village should be connected by roads. There are some tribal areas which are located in the forest and hilly tracks. Roads should be constructed to connect all those villages in the hilly area under the centrally sponsored rural development programmes. Priority should be given for construction of roads to the inaccessible areas. Sir, the Government offices, hospitals and school buildings located in the villages are not being properly maintained due to constraint of fund. I request to the Central Government to allocate fund adequately for the proper maintenance of the Government establishment located in the rural area in my districts As it is a backward district, Government of India should made fund provision for that district for that purpose under the centrally schemes. I hope the Minister for Rural Development will pay proper attention to implement my suggestion.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the problem of drinking water in my district. The potable drinking is not available in every village. We have got some tubewells in some villages. Sir, those tubewells have become defunct. They should be immediately repaired. Otherwise the problem of the people will become more acute. Then, Sir, there are several villages which have not been supplied with potable drinking water. The crisis will deepen further

if we are not able to provide drinking water in those villages. The Government of India should give top priority to ensure potable drinking water facility to those villages before the ensuring summer season.

Lastly, Sir, I would like to say a word about the Food and Civil Supply Ministry. The allocation of wheat and rice to Orissa is not adequate. The poor people are not getting rations from the Fair Price Shops according to their actual need. Moreover, there are some irregularities in the distribution system. I request to the Minister of Civil Supply to put an end to the irregularities and revamp the public distribution system expeditiously.

I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak. I support the demands whole heartedly and conclude my speech.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the number of hon. Members who participated in this discussion is 42. I am thankful to them for offering their views. Everybody expressed his sympathy for the farmers. In fact, they should. There can be nothing more important than this for use. Some of our friends say that 70 to 80 percent people depend on agriculture. I believe that 100 percent people depend on it. Sant Kabir has said -

"Na Kuchch Dekha Nem Dharm Mein,
 Na Kuchch Dekha Pothi Mein,
 Kahe Kabir, Suno Bhai Sadho, Jo
 Kuchch Dekha Sarothi Mein".

Bread is the biggest thing. these is a saying in Punjabi -

"Dhid wich Ni Rotiyan
 Te Sari Gallan Khotian."

If the stomach is empty, everything appears useless and nothing can be done. Agricultural production is the very basis of bread. If there is production everything runs smooth. Some of our hon friends are saying that production has declined and food grains are not available. It is also not so that there

[Sh. Balam Jakhar]

was no agriculture policy earlier and there is none now. It is not that we are running the work without any policy. Had it been so, we would not have commended the farmer. We would not have praised them that they have shouldered the responsibility of the whole country. Earlier the population of the country was 34 crore whereas it has exceeded 86 crore now. Everything runs smooth. Earlier we required 50 million tonnes and now our requirement is 176 million tonnes. It is needless to say that still we require more foodgrains. We are moving ahead and expecting increase in agricultural production. On the other hand, nobody sees that production has increased. People will complain that they are not getting sufficient food. It is because every year there is an increase of 2 crore people in the country. How can it be checked. We shall have to think over it. There is no expansion in the land area. It remains static.

We shall have to consider all these points. Everybody asked me as to what is the Agriculture Policy and what I was going to do. A system is being followed right from the beginning and the production increases at the same ratio. There should be co-operation from both sides. Nothing can be done single-handedly. Our scientists are busy in research. Had there been no co-ordination and encouragement from the Government, perhaps we would not have achieved that much progress. My efforts and endeavours are also aimed at it. We are proud of our achievements. During the course of the debate there was, inter-alia, a reference to Bhanu Pratap Committee. It was alleged that the recommendations of the committee were not implemented properly. It was discussed in the Cabinet as well, but it was not implemented that time because of certain consider actions. It would not be good if we act without proper thinking. During the past months I asked all the States and reply from almost all the States have been received. I consulted the farmers of different States separately thrice. Just now Shri Venkateshwar was saying something. He

happened to be an agriculture scientist earlier. I would like to inform him also that if there is anything practical he should come direct to me and offer his suggestion. I will accept them. There is no objection in it. We all should work together. This matter is above party politics. If agriculture prospers, all the parties will be benefited and the health of all will improve. That's why we will have to work with national spirit at heart and in this connection have also invited suggestions from all. I have got no objections in this regard. I will arrive at same conclusion very shortly and in the coming session. I will definitely come up with it before you, so that development and progress could be ensured by following a set of policies in a systematic way. I hope your valuable suggestions will definitely enrich the process.

It is the demand of everyone, including the hon. Members, that the farmers should be paid remunerative prices of their produce. And at the same time inability to pay remunerative prices is also expressed. I felt sorry at the burning of wheat during the protest staged on 6th. This pained me much because we are equally concerned about the welfare of the farmers. You people persistently raise the demand for payment of higher prices to farmers of their produce as if we are against it. Agriculture is my only vocation, which I did myself and did not pursue another profession viz. trade etc. An hon. Member enquired from me about the total land in my possession and whether I have distributed it or not. I would like to submit that I was the first person to have invited people for distributing land with ownership rights. You people can yourself witness how I have converted the barren land into the fertile land. The area which was once a desert now abounds in greenery and stands as a beautiful oasis. I love both nature and farmers. I love plants like my own offsprings. That's why I do not want to hurt the farmers sentiments nor I am against payment of remunerative prices to farmers of their produce. However, besides this we also have to think of the interests of the nation while taking care of our farmers. Farmers have voluntarily done a lot for the country.

Farmers have not got involved in any sort of corrupt practice i.e. black marketing, hoarding and profiteering. But if the demand is made for excessive increase in prices of agricultural products, then it is not correct. Decision to import of wheat is also opposed; it is another matter whether the imported wheat has arrived or not. The Ministry of Food has stated that the wheat has not yet arrived. Can the purchasing of medicine for a patient, Suddenly fallen ill, be postponed for next day if the medicine costing Rs. 5 is available at Rs. 15 in the night? You have alleged that as per our promise we could not rollback prices within 100 days. However, can it be achieved that way? We will have to see things in right perspective and also to keep a proper check and balance between various things. If the farmers' interests are to be watched then we will have to watch the interest of the common man too. We will have to consider the conditions of both the farmers and poor. That's why after a deep thinking I announced payment of bonus of Rs. 25 per quintal on wheat to farmers over the above the procurement price. The demand to increase the procurement price should be made after due consideration. We take so many things into account then we fix the procurement prices. I would like to inform you that.

[English]

"While making this recommendation, the CACP takes into account the need for "balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy and with due regards to the interests of producers and the consumers". The following factors are taken into consideration:

1. Cost of production
2. Change in input prices
3. Input-Output price parity
4. Trends in market prices
5. Inter-crop price parity
6. Effect on Industrial cost Structure.

7. Effect on general price level
8. Effect on cost of living
9. International Market Price Situation
10. Parity between prices paid and prices received.

It will thus be seen that while fixing support prices, it is ensured that it covers cost of production and also provides a reasonable margin of profit to give incentive to farmers for investment and adoption of improved technology.

The cost of cultivation/production taken into account includes all paid-out costs, such as, those incurred on account of hired human labour, bullock labour/machine labour (both hired and owned) and rent paid for leased-in-land besides cash and kind expenses on use of material inputs, for example, seeds, fertilisers, manures, pesticides, irrigation charges, including cost of diesel/electricity for operation of pumpsets. Besides, cost of production it includes imputed value of family labour. The cost also covers depreciation of farm machinery and buildings. As such, the cost of production covers not only paid-out costs, but also imputed value of owned assets including land and family labour for which the farmers do not incur cash expenses."

[Translation]

We do not procure the products forcibly. It is with the consent of the farmers. We only want to insure the farmers against loss in the years of bumper harvests when prices are very low. If we do not purchase then who will come to their rescue? At present the position is comfortable but a few years back what was the position? 5-7 years ago during harvest season the crop could not be sold at any price. That's why the support prices were fixed to prevent the prices from going down beyond a certain level so that the farmers may not be in loss. All this was done to insure the farmers against loss. You must be remembering the past time when the prices were not beneficial to the farmers.

There have been a failure of onion crop in Nagpur and Nasik. Recently, the issue of garlic crop was rightly raised that one year it was sold for Rs. 3,000 and another year for Rs. 500. We will have to check all these things and I have got a scheme in my mind as to how we can even out these cyclical changes with your cooperation. I would like to chalk out a scheme for farmers so that they may be able to know before hand the required quantity of crops to be sown and in which area it is to be sown depending on the marketing facilities. In case of more crops, prices come down and farmers suffer loss. In case of failure of crops, there is scarcity. Thus the farmers suffer both ways.

Mr. Speaker Sir, just now Shri Mishra was talking about sugarcane. Sugarcane is cultivated for profit if crop is bumper then it has to be burnt. Therefore, I propose a balanced cultivation of sugarcane depending on the total demand for sugarcane, sugar, gur and khandsari. Similarly, the cultivation of potato and other things should also be undertaken in proportion of demand for these items. The farmers need to be informed about all these things. I feel pained when anyone accuses us of lack of concern for farmers, because if farmers suffer then where will we go? We cannot ampute our legs because without legs we cannot move. So, it is not correct to make allegation against us that we are working; against the farmers' interest. Rather we will set right the vested persons who dare farm the farmers' interests.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demand to confer the status of industry on agriculture was raised. Undoubtedly, it is a heart moving demand and it will be given a thought as to what benefits can be provided to the farmers. There are so many issues which are to be considered in this respect. I would like to make available all such benefits to agriculture as are available to the industries but with certain changes. Should I make the loans available to the farmers at the rate which is applicable to the industries? Should I provide

electricity to the farmers at the same rate that is applicable to the industries? Should I do all these things which are not in favour of farmers. I want to make the agriculture profitable. I do not favour blanket increase in prices of agricultural produces because I have to keep in mind several things in this regard. I know how much toil and labour are involved in agriculture. Yesterdays' speech of Shri Nitish Kumar painted me very much. You must have heard the story of Caesar in which Cassious and his ruffian Caucus united to assassinate Caesar. They brought Butus to their fold. When Brutus struck at Caesar with a sword, Caesar had said, "Et Tu, Brute then fall, Caesar!" If a farmer's son questions me for putting on a suit, it does not look nice. Rather, he should be happy that a farmer's son can afford to wear a costly suit. It may not be tolerable to a king. The kings were repressive to us. A king may allow us to wear fur caps but not coats. We can prove that we were not born from heaven. We are the sons of farmers. We have vigour and ambition. I want to change the lot of the farmers. I want to make them aware that they are inferior to none. We want to go ahead shoulder to shoulder. We are not prepared to accept second class status. There is only one thing in my mind that we are all Indians, we are all equal. The kings have become a thing of past. Today we are the king because we produce. We earn with our own hands and make both ends meet. So please do not take it otherwise for my quotation 'Et tu Brut'. A reference was made to agriculture and to the rate of interest. There was a point in my mind but I could not so far talk to the hon. Finance Minister in this regard. Perhaps he is not understanding my language or I am not understanding his. He does not understand me because I am a farmer. But I will make him understand one day the basic problem of the farmer i.e. the rate of interest? How to effect a cut in the rate of interest. I will take up other things later. But I will say that the present rate of interest is low. It is now 11.5% upto Rs. 17,000 and 13% upto Rs. 25,000. The rate is higher when the amount increases further. I want to reduce the rate of interest of the amount between these limits. I seek your co-operation for it.

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Then comes the question of foodgrain production. There was a reference to China in this regard. As you all know, I have visited China. I have visited almost all the countries of the world in public interest. I studied the system prevailing in these countries and explored as to what can we do for our country and what can we learn from them. I put the same into practice after returning here. Had I not visited these countries, my outlook would not have been broader and I would not have been able to do what I am doing now. I would not have been able to think what I am thinking today. Because a man becomes weak without a broad outlook. I want to inform the House that we have 30 per cent irrigated land. We have worked hard and made progress year after year. But till now, no proper system could be evolved for irrigation. So agriculture is not that strong. Irrigation is the base of agriculture. This year the Kharif Crop was very good though there was no rainfall in the end of August and beginning of September. We suffered a loss of 5-6 million tonnes due to that. I sought funds from the Ministry of irrigation and other Ministries for better agricultural production. I have demanded more funds from the Planning Commission and I hope I will get it. I agree with you that the present allocation is not sufficient and that is why I have held meetings with Planning Commission twice. I know that the commission is also experiencing Financial constraints. Even then, I urged them some how to mobilise resources for the Ministry of Agriculture. If funds are not provided how will I fulfil my promise of annual production of 2 crore tonnes, for this, I want that there should be proper irrigational facilities. I want maximum benefits from minimum water. We experiment everything. We provide assistance for protection from flood havoc and funds for irrigational facilities. Still it is not enough. People have progressed a lot. Someone advised me to borrow modern technology from Israel or other countries. I have said already and again saying that —

“Uttam Vidhya Lijye Yadyapi Kishi Se
Bhi HO,

Paro Apavan Thaur Mai, Manchan Tajai
Na Koy”.

I am always prepared to learn from anybody and accept good suggests from any quarters. I want to infuse new blood in everything. If we can have irrigation, we can change that whole structure of agriculture. I am working on that today.

I want that we should adopt new methods for development works. At the same modern methods of irrigation by should be adopted. The hydel projects, and dams, for irrigation should be constructed with modern technology.

This thing is being done in Narmda Sagar. Vajpayeeji, I would like to inform you, for example, that today Gujarat has 20 per cent irrigated land and it will increase by 100 percent once the Narmda project is completed. Then it will be 40 per cent. It will change the entire shape. But we have to work for that and educate our farmers. Indira Gandhi Canal flows in Rajasthan. I know its weaknesses and since beginning I have been saying that the problem can not be solved only by releasing water. The main point is how to utilise it. We need extension services and develop command areas. If we release more water it may cause salinity, It may prove counter productive. So, we have to make research. That is why I have asked our researchers to go ahead. I do not want to keep them confined to laboratories. I do not want to make them show pieces only. Let them give results. I will not be satisfied to see them in laboratories alone. I want them to come out of the laboratories. I want that they should make their research in the fields practically.

We need more funds for irrigation. We will have to launch more schemes for irrigation. We require funds as much as possible for the water shed programmes. I want to implement this scheme in the entire country. I have directed in clear terms that the scheme should be implemented everywhere. I would like to make a submission about Bihar. How production will take place in Bihar unless the regional

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imbalance is removed? I can say that if Bihar can make progress like Punjab, we can also provide food to whole of Bangladesh. These States can provide food to the whole country as well as to other countries. We have everything. The only thing we lack is a desire and a devotion. Someone was appointed somewhere, but he did not work. As such people should be encouraged to work. The work can be accomplished in a better way by division of labour. We have to remove regional imbalances. I would like to inform about a new variety for which research papers have been published. A new research in agriculture has come to light. We have got seeds of a new variety which will produce 30 to 40 per cent more in dry farming. That is -

[English]

"Development of a new and more efficient cropping system to enable water economy up to 30 per cent without any loss of production on a sustained basis...."

[Translation]

I am talking about horticulture. New high-yielding varieties of seeds are being released.

[English]

"Development of superfast growing and early maturing rice varieties possessing a fair degree of tolerance..... Increase in the production of breeder seed of oil-seeds etc.

[Translation]

There can be no work without new varieties of seed. We have to keep in mind this special point in production. We will have to do more research on seeds. I have a scheme to amalgamate both State Seed Farm Corporation and Mietro Seeds Corporation. After that we should work in full swing to produce good quality seeds. Alongwith it I also want that farmers should increase production by using the new variety

of seeds and benefit from that. But I need good persons who work honestly so far as seed sector is concerned because supply of substandard seed will cause wide spread damage and ruin the entire crop. This is the priority sector so we will supply seeds keeping this fact in view.

In addition to that we have carried out research and here are its findings for you.

[English]

"Release; of high-yielding varieties/hybrids in various crops including 192 in cereals, 74 in oil-seeds, 21 in pulses, 30 in commercial crops and 16 in forage crops were released/identified. development of rice variety, increase in production, development of new cotton variety. LRA 1966."

[Translation]

We have done all this and have also developed a new variety of mango, which is very good. We have also developed Tendermat, Cocnut hybrid variety. Today, we are getting 8-10 kg. cashew from one tree whereas we used to get only 1 kg earlier. We want to do all this. We have stopped importing and we are producing those things in our country which may yield good crop. I had gone to Pattur to inaugurate a seminar. The Government has opened a research centre there which is very beautiful and this Centre has started releasing new varieties of seeds as a result of which there will be a sea-change in the condition of the farmers and a new ray of hope will be seen on their faces. The Government wants to work like this. Alongwith it, new high-yielding varieties of vegetables have been developed. If seeds are good, one can hope to have good production of tomato as high as 300 quintal in an acre. You go and see for yourself as to what the small farmers are going. They have adopted this technique.

[English]

Development of new techniques to increase productivity of fish farms.

They are doing a lot and just now our hon. Member Shri Amal Datta has left the House. I would like to tell him that I have recently inaugurated a project of Rs. 100 crore of prawn fish in brackish water

I have seen the production of paraewn fish in brackish water at our Research Centre in Madras where it is 2 to 4 tonnes in an acre and the price of 1 tonne is Rs. 2.5 lakh. It means Rs. 10 lakh from 1 hectare. I am happy with that too. I said that I would be satisfied by 5 lakh at one time but later on my appetite for more production will increase. I would like to do all this in the field of sea-products. Hatcheries and feed making machines should be there. After doing all this, I would like to take it up.

One of our friends Shri S.C. Patnaik said that nothing had been done in Orissa. We have started land and prawn farming in brackish water in seven thousand eight hundred hectare and not only this, the Government proposes to start it in many states and wants to implement it all over the country. We have increased the production of fish from 7.8 lakh tonnes to 38 lakh tonnes. According to my estimate and scheme it should be increased to 90 lakh tonnes. At present there is a small area under fish farming later on more area will be brought under it.

I would like to reserve 50% for small farmers and want to leave 50% for others, so that, they may not suffer any loss. I had requested the Government of West Bengal in the recent past to enact the law, which is not in force only in Bengal and Gujarat. No law has been enacted to check fishing by poachers. Poachers come there. We have to safeguard the interests and rights of small fishermen. Therefore, they should enact this law.

[English]

Then, holding of 4000 demonstrations covering most of the agro-climatic zones

demonstrating yield of rice, wheat, pulses, oil-seeds two to three times the yield of the neighbouring farmers.

[Translation]

We have done all this. Seeing is believing. The main reason of the development of agriculture in Punjab is that there are demonstration block in each village. These people do all this after watching one and the other. This is our position. Therefore, I want to make it clear that the farmer can do this much and given the incentives he can perform much better.

[English]

Adoption of 20000 farm families under land to land programme in areas of rain-fed farming demonstrating increase in productivity by forty per cent.

[Translation]

We would like to increase 40 per cent productivity in rainfed areas.

[English]

There were 95816 training courses of Krishi Vigyan Kendra benefitting 207446 trainees and 1445 trainers. 26,500 Scheduled Caste and Tribes farm families have increased their annual income from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 3,000. 183 Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been established in 180 districts in the country. This work was already started there.

[Translation]

I want to do a lot but at present I have to cut my coat according to the cloth and I shall not think of proceeding further. We would like to implement these schemes everywhere during the next five years. I would not like to set up Science centre only for name sake. I would like these centres to work in association with the farmer and develop a new attitude. I think of increasing production in this way. Not only this, horticulture will also be taken up along with it. I would like to adopt a new

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attitude in regard to Horticulture. I would like to produce value added products. Only .05 percent of the total production of vegetables and fruits in India is processed and canned. It is negligible. it requires an infrastructure. For that I have asked for Rs. 1000 crore from the Planning Commission. Let us see how much is given. Last year only Rs. 16 crore were given. I am fighting continuously. Neither I have learnt to say no nor I have ever learnt to lose. In spite of their repeated no, I will get it done.

I will include in that.....

[English]

Packaging, grading, forwarding, marketing, processing, storage, transportation; transportation by railways, by trucks, by aviation, by ships and then export orientation of fresh fruits.

[Translation]

I am the first person to take initiative in this direction and I am proud of saying that 14 to 20 container of grapes are being daily exported to England. I want to improve the quality of the grapes to such an extent that there is no one in the world to compete with it. People of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are producing it. Plum of these states is superior to the apple. There are also other crops which needs to be encouraged these are sapadibla, pomegranate etc.

People say that they require foreign exchange. Foreign exchange is lying beneath our earth, it is in the hands of our farmers. We can change the entire position. It is said that the fruits of the efforts put in by the farmers are received after a long time. For example an old man was planting a tree. Somebody asked him as to what was he doing. He said that he was planting a mango tree. The man said you are planting among tree but being an old man your life is short who will eat the fruits? He said my sons and grandsons will

eat them. I will also do such a work that all of you would be happy. We can make export of Rs. 40 thousand crore and it is 100 percent yours. Where is the need of IMF and the World Bank? There will be no need of aid from IMF the simple thing is that the farmer will produce and enjoy it.

I am optimistic. Life is hope and hope is life. The person, who is not optimistic in life becomes sad. Now I would like to come on co-operative sector. There is a good co-operative system in Maharashtra. Many mills are running on co-operative basis. It is also functioning well in Gujarat. We have also done some work in this direction. But there is a problem of interference by Government in this cooperative sector. It pinches me very much. I see the interference of Government in every sphere of co-operative sector. The Government appoints an I.A.S. or any other officer its managing director who remains there for 1 - 1 1/2 year and goes back. He manipulates the things according to its sweet and acts arbitrarily but nobody can challenge his authority. I shall do away with this system. I would like to entrust the responsibility on local people. They would be answerable after three year as we are. I would like to introduce a new legislature for the people who work.

The Government would like to introduce a new Bill soon for co-operative sector. The Government have also given some suggestion to the State Governments regarding co-operative. We will suspend it, if your party does not come into power; what is this way? What sort of democracy is this?

[English]

It is dictatorship; it is sheer negation of democracy.

[Translation]

We have to do away with this system.

19.00 hrs.

:You have asked about fertilizers. All is

well with your grace and will remain so in future. I have appointed a new committee which is determining as to how many mills are to be set up how much expenditure is to be incurred how much expenditure is superfluous. Hon. Members have also asked that last year Rs. 405 crore were allocated for it, but this year allocation has not been made. It is all under consideration. We will discuss it later on. There is nothing to worry about in this regard. I shall surely satisfy them. We will get funds in one way or the other. I will satisfy them but there is a paucity of funds. For this I have approached the Government. Government has reduced import duty and excise duty slightly. The Department of co-operative has asked good corporations to produce fertilizers and produce it properly so that it may be made available at cheaper rates. They act arbitrarily. Fear of inflation haunts them, if procurement prices are increased. It is said that inflation will increase if prices of agricultural products are increased. If prices of agricultural products are increased by only Rs. 25, inflation will increase. Does the increase in agriculture products increase the inflation? Nobody say anything when prices of car, sugar, spirit and razors are increased. But when procurement prices of agriculture produce are increased by Rs. 25 people become prejudice to farmers. Has anybody else ever done farming? He toils hard. He works day and night. Some people were suggesting to impose income tax on agriculture income, but come to me for one year if not possible for two nights.

Mr. Advani, if a person goes to water has field at 12.00 hrs. in the night in the month of January, when the temperature is zero degree, in the morning he is bound to be struck by pneumonia. Put on trousers in the month of June when harvesting is done, harvesting is going to start after 15th April. If you work for a week or 15 days harvesting the crop, you will come to know the travails and the ground realities. I had also said that he who has not worked in the field should not be made an Agriculture Minister or a Secretary in the Department of Agriculture. Everyone finds his own work easy. I admit

that the allocations for agriculture have always been less.

[English]

I want more investment in agriculture—private as well as governmental. That is my thrust.

[Translation]

If we do not invest money, how there can be production. The allocations for this sector are decreasing gradually. We want money and for this I would like to tell the House that all of us should be unanimous on agriculture and for its various disciplines i.e. Research and development, No obstruction of any kind should be there. Till money is not there, no irrigation project for development can be taken up and no factories can be set up. I would like to set up agro based industries and that too in villages. Even in this I need your help. Shri Manmohan Singh has proposed for creation of an Agri-business consortium. I want to expand it upto Kashmir. I would like to see that its target is achieved. I can only see one thing. Like Arjun, I can only see one eye of the sparrow. I see my target and nothing else. My aim is that the farmers should march ahead and alongwith it the country should make progress. Without farmer, the nation cannot march ahead.

An hon. Member talked about China. In China they take the entire production into account. But we do not do that. We only estimate the foodgrains. They include potatoes, fodder and vegetables also. It is only due to this their total shows such a high figure. I have seen all this and studied it. They cannot excelus. I have done it and even now I can do it and show. We will rejuvenate it and uplift the backward States. If I am required to make request with folded hands I shall do it and ask them to work. In Punjab the per capita consumption of energy is 631 kilo watt; but in Bihar and Orissa it is 106 kilowatt. Then how to work in this and make progress? This is not the way to make progress.

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Our hon. friends were saying that there are no roads. There will be roads when there will be money with us and when the Governments are effective. You may go to Punjab and Haryana each village has three approach roads. I have done them with my own hands. We put soil and constructed roads. A lot of hard work was done and we got its fruit. There were villages in which there was no water. But now, everything has changed. No village lacks electricity or roads. There is hardly a village in which water is not supplied through taps and there is not a village where there are no schools or middle schools. I say that there can be phenomenal changes. Today, there are telephone centres and telephone exchanges. Then, why there will not be a change? We have to work for this. In fact, a sense of enthusiasm should be there and people should have strength to work. This has been done.

As far as technology transfer is concerned, I want setting up of extension services for development. These are most essential. I want to do everything for extension services and I want that it should reach the villages. A link should be established. The Gramsevaks have no link with the villagers., Now everyone says, that no work is being done in the villages. Then what do we people do? Have you ever asked that question to yourself whether we have any sense of responsibility or not? They began to say that manure is not available, it goes in black. If black marketing of manure is done in the villages, then what the villagers are doing? Is there nobody from the Bhartiya Janata Party, the Janata Dal, the Congress Party or the Communist Party? Are all of our workers useless? Do they not have any feeling in their hearts love for the nation? Is there no honesty? We should do something about this. You talk of natural calamities. These are the whims of nature and we suffer great losses because of this. I had myself gone to Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry, I went every where. Just now, Meghe Sahib left the House. The people of Nagpur were saying that I did not go there. I keep going to

Maharashtra everyday. Their is no such thing. I have no objection in going there, but we shall have to change the policy for this. When we do not have anything, what is the use of going. There is a proverb that those who lack food make empty claims. When we lack basic things and just of there to show our faces, then can we be called very philanthropist people?

[English]

It looks so bad to me. I do not feel elated on that. I feel pained.

[Translation]

Earlier, we used to do it and extended help from the centre. The States which suffered losses used to get financial assistance from the centre. Now the States though that why should all resources concentrate in the centre. They wanted to amass the resources themselves and now it has proved counter productive. That is why we should do something new in this regard.

[English]

We have to bring it again for consideration.

[Translation]

Because a calamity does not come with advance notice. The States divert the funds for some other purposes. They do not keep it in resource to meet the eventuality.

One more important thing remains and that relates to insurance. Even the Hon. Prime Minister made an announcement about insurance. I said that we shall introduce an insurance scheme. We shall try to insure each crop and for that reason I had made an appeal to all of you very humbly to offer suggestions. I have convened many meetings. I called all friends for the insurance policy, I called you, I called the farmers, I called the exports, I called the officers, I called the officials of the general insurance corporation, I called everyone but till today

nobody has been able to give me a meaningful policy. Look Sir, at places floods occur. At places there is drought. At places there are illnesses. How to assess the quantum of production from various crops viz. sugarcane cotton and potato etc. How will you decide all these things. One crop is going to be plentiful and the other is not the same. In Gujarat and Maharashtra abundant cotton is grown through dry farming process. This time the crops were affected by drought and the yield has not been even two quintals. But in our area the yield from this crop was as 11 quintals. Last time the price of cotton was very low. But this time it fetches Rs. 1500 per quintal. When the price is high you should at least give us applause. When a child has studied and passed the examination, then the members of the house should pat him and give him a pencil at least, and applaud him. The work is done in this way, and that strengthen man's morale to do work. I think all this can not be done in this way. It shall be done after thinking properly. I have tried to make a pilot project in each district and I shall make an experiment for the new policy. I have asked the general insurance company to prepare a draft because we have to include all aspects before finalisation. We have to give shape to it and make it a success. We have to see as to what should be the premium for various crops. These are the things that needs to be considered. There are many different issues and I can not make any assessment right now. So, we should make an experiment after careful consideration. Whatever I have said, it is correct. Suppose one factory is covered by insurance. It gets money and this facility is not available at other places. Suppose that some villages, experienced hailstorm and they were devastated and a village close to them was saved. In this connection a reply had been given in the House that unless the entire village was affected, insurance money would not be paid. I had asked a question when I was sitting on the Speaker's chair and

Bhajan Lalji was giving the reply. I put the question which I should not have. But I did. I asked that if the entire industrial area does not catch fire, you will not give money. When the entire locality catches fire, only then you will give insurance money. All these things are in my mind, but how should I solve these vexatious issues? I am expressing my inability in front of you. I would not like to hide anything. I would like to do everything by taking all of you into confidence.

One of our Senior Members, Sultanji was just now, talking of our hills. States (*Interruptions*).....

I would like to provide them a new plant material which has been produced through issue culture. After procuring drawn varieties from abroad we want to produce twenty to twenty five tonnes in place of present two tonnes. I have gone and seen it. If it can be done, then why should not we do it. Our farmers capable of learning a technique if it is demonstrated to them just once. In Ludhiana, if you show them Jets and Vayudoot they will produce a prototype on the third day. It is a very minor thing. In a way, we have made a firm resolve to make progress and we are determined to do so, I would like to thank you a lot for listening to me. If something new is there, I will again come before you. We shall try to proceed well. Please try to ensure that the Agriculture Ministry is allocated more funds.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, Friday, 10th April, at 11 A.M.

19.12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, 10 April, 1992/ Chaitra 21, 1914 (Saka)