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Monday, January 21, 1985
Magha 1, 1906 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

First Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. 1 contains Nos. 1 to 11)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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(Original English proceedings included in English Version and Original Hindi Proceedings included in Hindi Version will be treated as authoritative and not the translation thereof)

PREFACE

This is the first Volume of the Lok Sabha Debates for the Eighth Lok Sabha. Upto the end of Seventh Lok Sabha, two versions of Lok Sabha Debates were brought out, *viz.*, (i) Original Version containing the proceedings of the House in the languages in which they took place except that in the case of speeches made in regional languages, their English/Hindi translation was included and the Urdu speeches were put in Devnagri script and their Persian script was also given within brackets, and (ii) Hindi Version containing the Hindi proceedings, Urdu proceedings in Devnagri script and Hindi translation of English proceedings and also of speeches made in regional languages.

2. With effect from the First Session of Eighth Lok Sabha, in pursuance of a decision of the General Purposes Committee of Lok Sabha, two versions of Lok Sabha Debates are being brought out, *viz.*, (i) English Version containing Lok Sabha proceedings in English and English translation of the proceedings which take place in Hindi or any regional language, and (ii) Hindi Version in its present form except that Urdu speeches are being put in Devnagri script and their Persian script is also being given within brackets.

3. In addition, Original Version of the Lok Sabha proceedings is being prepared and kept in Parliament Library suitably bound for purposes of record and reference only.

4. In both the English and the Hindi Versions, an appropriate indication is being given to specify where a particular part of the proceedings is original in English/Hindi or a translation,

5. It is hoped the two independent Hindi and English Versions will be found useful by Members and others interested.

NEW DELHI ;
January, 1985

SUBHASH C. KASHYAP,
Secretary-General.

CONTENTS

No. 5, Monday, January 21, 1985/Magha 1, 1906 (Saka)

	COLMNS
Oral Answers to Questions :	
*Starred Questions Nos. 17, 18, 21 to 24, 28 and 29	... 1-29
Written Answers to Questions :	
Starred Questions Nos. 19, 20, 25 to 27 and 30 to 36	... 29-52
Unstarred Questions No. 30 to 73 and 75 to 100	... 52-152
Papers laid on the Table	... 153-158
Statement re. activities of some persons in the Government detrimental to national interests	
Shri S. B. Chavan	... 159-162
Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill—	
<i>Introduced</i>	... 162-164
Statement re. Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Ordinance, 1984	
Shri S. B. Chavan	... 164
Matters under rule 377—	
(i) Need for a fixed policy for marketing and pricing of cotton to save farmers from ruin	
Shri Ranjit Singh Gaekwad	... 165
(ii) Need for immediate clearance for establishment of railway coach factory at Palghat, Kerala	
Shri K. Kunjambu	... 165-166
(iii) Need to re-consider the decision to retrench surplus employees of Delhi Milk Scheme	
Shri Lalit Maken	... 166
(iv) Need to take steps to save the pulses crop in Vidisha parliamentary constituency areas affected by pests	
Shri Pratap Bhanu Sharma	... 166-167
(v) Need for Central assistance for construction of hill highway in Idukki district of Kerala	
Prof. P. J. Kurien	167-168

*The Sign * marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

(vi) Need for changing rules so that loan can be given to various States including West Bengal for providing tube-wells		
Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee	...	168
(vii) Relief for cyclone-hit areas of Andhra Pradesh		
Shri Puchalapalli Penchalaiah	...	168-169
Motion of Thanks on the President's Address	...	169
Shri Brahma Dutt	...	169-176
Shri C. Madhav Reddy	...	176-185
Shri Jaideep Singh	...	185-188
Shrimati Vyjayanthimala Bali	...	188-190
Shri P. Kolandaivelu	...	190-195
Shri Lalit Maken	...	195-200
Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munshi	...	201-208
Shri Sudini Jaipal Reddy	...	208-216
Shri Sharad Dighe	...	216-221
Discussion on the Statement <i>re.</i> tragic loss of human and animal life at Bhopal as a result of leakage of poisonous gas from storage tanks of the Union Carbide Factory there—	...	221-276
Prof. Madhu Dandavate	...	221-234
Shri Eduardo Faleiro	...	234-240
Shri Erasu Ayyapu Reddy	...	240-242
Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee	...	243-245
Shri Arvind Netam	...	245-248
Shri C.P. Thakur	...	248-252
Shri R.P. Das	...	252-256
Shri Dalbir Singh	...	257-259
Shri Chandupatla Janga Reddy	...	259-261
Shri Veerendra Patil	...	261-276

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, January, 21, 1985
Magha 1, 1906 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Capacity Utilization of Power Projects in Bihar

*17. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether capacity utilisation of power projects in Bihar has shown any significant improvement in the last five years;

(b) whether the low level of capacity utilisation in that State is due to faulty equipment or maintenance inadequacies; and

(c) the comparative performance of similar equipment in other States ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION & POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) & (b). The Plant Load Factor in Bihar has not shown any significant improvement mainly due to equipment deficiencies, aging of certain units installed in the sixties, extended period of planned maintenance on account of non-availability of spares, deterioration in quality of coal and inadequate trained operation and maintenance personnel.

(c) The performance of similar 50 MW units installed at Korba in Madhya Pradesh and Obra in U.P. is comparatively better, while it is poor at Harduaganj in U.P. as

compared to Bihar. The performance of similar 100 MW units—based on Lignite—at Neyveli is better than that at Patratu which is based on coal. As for the 110MW units, the performance of Patratu and Barauni is poor compared to similar stations elsewhere.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know what measures are being taken and the time that is likely to be taken for removing these deficiencies.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, as I said earlier, the performance of thermal power stations in Bihar has been comparatively unsatisfactory due to various reasons such as deficiencies in plant and equipment, deficiencies in operation and maintenance and due to weak management. Poor industrial relations have also been one of the contributing factors for poor performance. Roving teams of the Central Electricity Authority have been advising station authorities on the measure to be taken to improve performance on a continuous basis. The Central Electricity Authority have also been helping the State Electricity Board in preparing and undertaking plant betterment programmes. However, the performance of BSEB stations has not shown any significant improvement so far. In order to improve the performance of existing thermal power stations in the country, the Central Government have initiated a Centrally sponsored scheme for renovation and modernisation programme.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked a definite question as to what concrete steps are being taken to remove these deficiencies. There have been defects in the design of the boilers and I put this question : What specific steps have been taken to improve the design of the boilers ?

MR. SPEAKER : That is what he explained.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : No, Sir, he has not said that. He has made a general statement, not mentioned any specific steps.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, as I said earlier, in order to improve the performance of existing power stations a number of Centrally sponsored schemes have been introduced and for modernisation....

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : I want the specific steps that are being taken.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : That is what I am telling. We have been introducing a number of Centrally sponsored schemes to the tune of Rs. 500 crores for the improvement in the performance of these.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What about Bihar ? You are talking about Bihar now. Are these Rs. 500 crores for Bihar ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : No, no. Bihar is included in this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Bihar is included.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It includes Bihar.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : It includes Bihar also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why should it not be included, because it concerns the power generation ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : This question is about Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot separate it.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The hon. Member should know that Bihar is in India.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Why can't you make Bihar separate ?

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, there are three thermal power stations in Bihar and as I have said, Patratu, Barauni and Karbighia Thermal Power Stations of Bihar State Electricity Board have been included for renovation and modernisation under the scheme. Preliminary reports for renovation and modernisation programmes for the above power stations have been received by the C.E.A and the C.E.A. have also accorded techno-economic approval to the above scheme. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way. I have seen you. I will call you at the appropriate time.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to Patratu-Barauni 110 M.W. units, the performance of these units is poor compared to similar other units located elsewhere. What could be the particular reasons for the poor performance of Patratu and Barauni units ? It is because of lack of maintenance, poor maintenance or inadequacy in the equipments ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, I have already said that the reasons are :

Deficiency in plant and equipment; deficiency in operation and maintenance; and weak management.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : You have the same kind of equipment and designs elsewhere in other stations.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Elsewhere such units are doing better and I still say that it is due to weak management.

Speaker, international standard of capacity utilisation is 75%. What is our capacity utilisation in our country and what is the capacity utilisation in Bihar ?

(b) What is the break-up of hydro-electricity capacity utilisation and capacity utilisation of thermal power station;

(c) Our Prime Minister when he was a Member in the last Lok Sabha...

MR. SPEAKER : This is not cataloguing of questions. No please.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : He had told categorically that gravity floatation process had to be adopted in all the coal washeries.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you one specific supplementary. Please ask anyone question.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I want your protection.

MR. SPEAKER : I am giving you protection.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : This is the problem of the entire country.

MR. SPEAKER : There are other Members also in the House. You cannot ask questions all along thermo and hydro. You ask one question, if you want.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Am I asking irrelevant questions ?

MR. SPEAKER : You might be. I want you to pinpoint one supplementary.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : You are giving protection to the Opposition, which you gave three times to Mr. Biji Patnaik and Madhuji but you are...

MR. SPEAKER : Don't argue with me. You ask one supplementary.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : But you are discriminating against me.

MR. SPEAKER : No, Sir. I am not

discriminating. Why should I discriminate ? What does it give me ? I am not getting power. My constituency is starved of power.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE : Sir, a point of information. I have not sought your protection at all. Let him be clear.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, would you reply to his question ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANANAD : I was not able to understand his question. Let him put it again.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, one supplementary.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I am putting (a) (b) and (c).

MR. SPEAKER : No (a) (b) (c). Only (a).

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : What is the international standard capacity utilisation and what is our capacity utilisation and what is the capacity utilisation of Bihar ? And what is the break-up of hydro-power and thermal-power utilisation ?

MR. SPEAKER : Unnecessary jumble of so many questions.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Our Prime Minister when he was a Member in the last Lok Sabha stressed in the House for gravity floatation process in coal washeries.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, the hon. Member is confused. He does not know that there has not been any international standard of capacity utilisation.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I know it very well. The Minister cannot tell like this. I know, it is 75%. I will give my answer. I will not allow. If he wants, I will give so many things for his knowledge, to educate him. He should not talk like this.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has to give accurate answer.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : The Minister should not say that the Member does not know. He cannot insult on the floor of the House.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The Minister should come prepared.

MR. SPEAKER : You are now a seasoned parliamentarian. Please sit down.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : He should come better prepared.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : There is nothing like capacity utilisation in power sector. It is called the plant load factor.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Don't say that. I will then bring a privilege matter. I can produce all the documents which are at my command. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : It is the plant load factor that is always talked of in the power sector. The plant load factor is the ratio of the actual energy generated from a unit during a given period to the energy that could have been generated if the unit operates continuously at its maximum rate throughout the period. It is denoted as a percentage and that is an important indicator of the performance of any power plant. So, instead of "capacity utilisation", in common parlance, we refer to plant load factor.

Now, regarding Bihar, as I said, the performance of power stations is poor; it is not the lowest but it is quite low.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sharad Pawar

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Are you satisfied with the answer ?

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Allow me a supplementary.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Listen to me. Three questions have been allowed from your side; now one question from the opposition side should be allowed.

[English]

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : The condition of power in Bihar is very bad.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not proper. The Minister has recently taken over the charge. He needs some time to understand. [English]

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : The members from Bihar are not being allowed. It is a matter concerning exclusively Bihar.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you insist. Members from outside Bihar also be interested. We have to distribute this time equitably. Three questions have been allowed from your side. One Question may be allowed from the other side also.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Kindly allow members from Bihar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Are you trying to disapprove my ruling ?

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : I am only saying that this question is particularly about Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already allowed three supplementaries to members from Bihar.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Are you satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Since I have referred to the plant load factor, I must give the international figure. The plant load factor as per international standard is from 50 to 70 per cent. Regarding Bihar, I should say, the plant load factor in 1984-85 is 14.7 per cent; for Barauni, it is 29.2 per cent. for Patratu and 27.5 percent for Bihar. The all-India figure is 45.9 per cent.

SHRI SHARADCHANDRA GOVIND-RAW POWAR : How far the equipments which are supplied by BHEL are responsible for this inefficiency ?

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think there was BHEL at that time.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Generally, we cannot say that. So far as 110 MW units are concerned, there has been some mistake in the design and manufacture of equipment.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : The picture in Bihar of power generation is absolutely dismal. The total installed capacity is 940 MW and the average generation has never exceeded 150 MW. This matter has been debated on the floor of this House and in the State also. There are defects in the designing and other factors are also responsible. But I wonder why upto now no steps have been taken to improve the power generation. The power potential of the State which is the richest in resources is going down every year and in terms of *Per Capita* income, Bihar is at the lowest bracketed with Nagaland and other States. In the last Lok Sabha, we had raised this matter and Government was considering to set up an atomic power plant in Bihar. In view of the dismal performance of the existing power plant, will the Government consider improving power generation and also setting up of atomic power station in Bihar ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : This is a suggestion for action.

MR. SPEAKER : When the other power stations are not working well, how can you expect atomic power plant to work better ?

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Who is responsible for that ?

MR. SPEAKER : That has to be streamlined. You should devote that much energy to that !

Construction of Low Cost Houses for the Poor

***18. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN :** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have initiated any new programme for construction of low cost houses on a large scale to meet the shortage of dwelling houses for the poor; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) : (a) and (b). Housing is a State subject and the States/Union Territories are undertaking schemes for various target groups in accordance with the Plan priorities. The programmes in this regard include the schemes for assistance through Housing and Urban Development Corporation for construction of houses for economically weaker sections, the plan scheme for allotment of houses—sites and construction assistance to rural landless workers to step up housing facilities for them and the provision of finances for low income groups through institutional assistance. It is proposed to expand these programmes with higher outlays during 7th Plan period.

According to National Buildings Organisation, the housing shortage in the year, 1985 was roughly about 24.7 million of which 18.8 million is rural and the rest urban.

In regard to the housing scheme for the economically weaker sections, a target of 16.2 lakh units has been fixed and up to 30-11-1984, 7.28 lakhs has been achieved. One lakh more units are to be achieved by the end of 1985.

In regard to the houses for landless labourers, according to the Planning Commission the estimated number of eligible landless families in rural areas would be roughly about 14.5 million by 1985 and according to another estimate of the National Buildings Organisation rural housing shortage would be roughly about 18.8 millions. The plan target for economically weaker sections was about 16.2 lakh units, and 7.28 lakh units have been achieved. Regarding rural house sites, at development cost of Rs. 250/-, the plan target was 68 lakh families, and 50 lakhs have been achieved, for construction assistance of near about Rs. 500, the plan target was 36 lakhs, and 17 lakhs have been achieved....

AN HON. MEMBER : Let him ask his supplementary.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : The question he has asked is what are the new schemes, and I am explaining these so that

no supplementary will arise. Anticipating the supplementaries, I am giving all this information.

SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : May I know whether the Government have allowed the banks to lend directly for construction of houses ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : There are many schemes. I will give one example, that of HUDCO. So far as the loans to economically weaker sections are concerned, the assistance given by HUDCO is at the rate of interest of five to seven per cent; for low income group it is eight per cent; for middle income group it is 10½ per cent; for higher income group it is twelve and half per cent. These are the schemes under HUDCO, and HUDCO has achieved all the targets entrusted to it. If you want, I can give that number also.

(Inter-ruptions)

SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : May I know whether the Government are aware of the rural works housing scheme and if so, whether they will popularise it ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : I do not understand. If he means that according to a research work which the National Buildings Organisation has formulated, out of Rs. 5,000 they can construct a small house for the landless labourers, then research is going on for hilly regions and it is roughly about Rs. Rs. 7,000, and in a number of States, in a cluster form, these things have been organized by the National Buildings Organisation—in Kashmir and other places. A large number of houses, about 25,000 or so, have been done in some States. That scheme for exhibition sake is also being organized throughout the country.

SHRI VADDE SOBHANEDREE-SWARA RAO : Will the Government take necessary steps immediately through HUDCO to provide more funds to the Government of Andhra Pradesh which has taken up construction of 1,40,000 permanent houses at an estimated cost of Rs. 80 crores per year in the last two years ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : As you

know, everything is under consideration in the Seventh Five-Year Plan. If we get higher allocations, we will certainly look into your grievances and allot more funds to your State also. I can say that your State stands amongst first so far as housing scheme is concerned. I thank you for this, and we will try to help you.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV : With your permission, Sir, I want to ask the hon. Minister of Works and Housing as to how much is the cost of a house built in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh for weaker sections, when this cost was fixed and what is the amount of grant given for it ?

[English]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : It is near about Rs. 5,000 for Bihar and U.P. also. So far as sites for the landless labourers are concerned, they have achieved a good percentage. Now some of the States are insisting that the Central Government should give assistance also for purchase of sites to these landless labourers. So far as construction of houses is concerned, I am sorry to inform you that U.P. and Bihar lag far behind the other States.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The Minister has read out a number of schemes and has also given us the shortage which stands at present at 24.7 millions and which will go on increasing. What I would like to ask is this. There are a number of schemes and these schemes are having different types of concessions. This kind of thing creates confusion. Moreover, there is no linkage between the housing programme and the other rural development programmes like NREP, RLEGP, etc. Unless linkages are established and the schemes are simplified, it is not possible for the common people at the village level to comprehend the schemes, if the Government have any. Has the Minister considered that it is necessary to simplify the schemes and to establish linkages between the housing programme and the other schemes meant for providing employment in rural areas ? Also I want to know whether it is possible to see, if it just as we get loans at a very soft rate from the United Nations Organization, repayable in 50 years or so, similar loans can be made available in the rural sector also for the purpose of bridging the gap in rural housing.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Government is always responsive and willing to consider any good suggestion from any Member of the House, particularly from the Opposition.

Earthquake in Cachar District of Assam

***21. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether an earthquake rocked the Cachar district of Assam recently;

(b) if so, the loss of life and property suffered as a result thereof;

(c) the relief measures provided; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to rehabilitate the victims of the earthquake ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) According to available information certain parts of Cachar district were affected by an earthquake during the night of 30th and 31st December, 1984.

(b) As per reports received from the Government of Assam the losses to life and property are as under :

(i) No. of human lives lost	13
(ii) No. of cattle lost	1
(iii) No. of villages affected	125
(iv) No. of houses damaged	3000
(v) No. of bridges damaged	2
(vi) No. of timber bridges damaged	6
(vii) Estimated value of property damaged	Rs. 40 00 lakhs

(c) & (d) The State Government have reported that the next of kin of the deceased have been given ex-gratia grant at the rate of Rs. 1000/- per adult and Rs.

500/-per minor. However, the State Government proposes to enhance this assistance to Rs. 5000/- per adult and Rs. 2500/- per minor. Injured persons have also been suitably compensated. About six hundred affected families have been accommodated in six relief camps. Free blankets, tarpullines and other essential commodities have been distributed to the affected people. The State Government have reported that house to house survey to assess the extent of damage to dwelling units/institutions is under progress.

At the request of the State Government a sum of Rs. 5.00 crores has been sanctioned as a ways and means advance on 8-1-1985 by the Government of India for taking up urgent relief and rehabilitation works.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Sir, I must congratulate the Minister and the Prime Minister because they have acted very promptly to help the victims of the earthquake. I would like to know whether any modernised warning system has been provided in the country to fore-warn the earthquake victims so, that they may shift to a safe place. Secondly, due to different geological formations this type of natural disaster happens in which there are four formations—ancient formation, old formation, Gondwana formation and Rockfeller formation. Secondly, if we entrust the job to NSRA agency based at Hyderabad we can know where the actual disaster will happen.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I agree with the hon. Member that advance information should be given to the earthquake prone areas but so far as it has not been possible to evolve a fool-proof system by which we can really envisage the possibilities and the extent of earthquake. But I would like to tell the House that the country has been divided into five seismic zones. Assam is one zone in which earthquakes are expected quite frequently. In addition to this there are also 12 seismological observations in the North Eastern region and we propose to set up five more during the Seventh Five-Year Plan to make it possible that we could give some information about the earthquakes in the affected zones.

Sir, this particular district of Cachar is known to be an earthquake prone area. Adequate assistance has already been provided. We are waiting for a detailed report from the State Government. As soon as the report is received and if any more steps are required to be taken we will do the needfull.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Sir, I congratulate the Minister for giving a detailed information but generally when there is a big reservoir in our country due to silting the earthquake comes within a radius of 50 km in 30-40 years. The Minister has admitted that Cachar district is in earthquake prone zone. Will the Minister enlighten the House after how many years this particular area is a victim of earthquake and what preventive measures involving the professional expertise like the NSRA, Hyderabad have been taken to eradicate the zones of formation which are prone to earthquake in our country.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, I am sorry I cannot compete with the Hon. Member in technical knowledge.

But, I have this information with me.

This area has been affected earlier by an earthquake of great intensity on the 10th January, 1869 (Magnitude 7.5) when it caused extensive damage in Cachar district.

As the region lies close to the Dawki and Haflong faults, occurrence of recent earthquake was not unexpected.

In fact, the whole of north-east India lies in seismically active region where two of the greatest earthquakes in the world— (i) June 1897 (Magnitude 8.7) in Shillong Plateau and (ii) in August, 1950 (Magnitude 8.5) in north-east Assam have occurred. The occurrence of these earthquakes is attributed to the collision of Indian and Eurasian plateaus.

Regarding availability of latest technology, I have already mentioned that we propose to have five more centres in the north-eastern zone so that we can be in a position to know at least something fundamental about the observations regarding such earthquakes.

Procurement of Foodgrains by FCI

***22. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of foodgrains procured by Government through Food Corporation of India and other agencies during the 1984 rabi and kharif crops;

(b) the storage facility available for these foodgrains;

(c) whether foodgrains have also been stored in the open;

(d) whether Government have a perspective plan for maintaining high level of foodgrains stocks; and

(e) if so, whether there is a corresponding plan for storing this grain safely ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) A total quantity of 16.24 million tonnes of foodgrains has been procured during 1984-85 rabi and kharif marketing season upto 16-1-1985.

(b) The covered storage capacity available with the Food Corporation of India, owned and hired taken together, was 18.98 million tonnes as on 30-11-1984.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply to part (c) is in the affirmative. So, I would like to know what is the total quantity of loss suffered from being stored in the open. At the same time I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. The reply of the hon. Minister to part (d) is also in the affirmative. My question is this. Is there any plan to construct storage facilities at sub-divisional and block levels ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : There is a normal programme as well as a crash programme for building additional capacity and the policy is to try to set up capacities right up to the district levels, as was earlier ordered by the Late Prime Minister under her 12 point programme

for relief against drought and other natural calamities and we are following that.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Is there any proposal to stock foodgrains in modern silos ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : We are trying to find ways and means of constructing very cheap and efficient storage system including modern silos.

SHRI D.B. PATIL : It has been stated that foodgrains have been stored in the open. It has also been asked by the Hon. Member as to what is the total loss suffered due to foodgrains having been stored in the open. Now my question is this. What was the total loss suffered for the last 3 years ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : For that I need a separate notice. But I may point out that losses do occur on account of various reasons. It is partly due to storage in the open apart from transit losses etc.

SHRI ERASU AYYAPU REDDY : What is the quantity that is stored in the open ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I think it is about 2 million tonnes.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Has any effort been made to take advantage of the private warehouses which people have built for their own use in order to minimise these losses by keeping them in the open ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The total storage capacity now being utilised by the F.C.I. consists of about 50 per cent which is owned by the F.C.I. The other half belongs to Central Warehousing Corporation well as State Warehousing Corporations and also includes hired capacities from various private owners of godowns.

Serious Lapses by DDA Housing Divisions

***23. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been

drawn to a report published in *Times of India*, New Delhi edition of 7 January, 1985 regarding 'Serious Lapses' by Delhi Development Authority Housing Divisions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The Quality Control Cell of DDA carried out technical audit of three of their housing divisions on 7-1-85 and listed the following irregularities in different divisions, in addition to a few cases of over-payment :—

- (i) Lack of integrated planning and execution of development work.
- (ii) Lack of Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction.
- (iii) Absence of Technical sanction.
- (iv) Lack of detailed plans of existing work.
- (v) Large excess in quantities during execution.
- (vi) Refund of Earnest Money of tenderers other than the lowest on the same day.
- (vii) Acceptance of tenders by Asstt. Engineers beyond their powers of acceptance.
- (viii) Non-maintenance of important Accounts records.
- (ix) Non-recovery of taxes in unauthorised colonies.
- (x) Over measurement of a drain by 132 metres.
- (xi) Large over measurement for two pump houses in Nand Nagri.

- (xii) Simultaneous payment for disposal and supply of earth.
- (xiii) Large excess in expenditure over Budget provisions.

The DDA have taken several administrative measures to ensure that such lapses and irregularities do not occur in future. The important administrative measures taken by them are as follows :—

- (i) Inspection of divisions by Superintending Engineers.
- (ii) Insistence on the pre-requisite of Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction.
- (iii) Instructions that the works should not be split up and that wide publicity be given to tenders in the press.

In cases where over-payment and serious violation of rules were found to have been committed, explanations of the concerned officials have been called for.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : The Government has pledged clean administration, but the answer to this question is rather shy. This is because just a statement has been given in answer to my question and nobody would know that statement unless I say what it contains.

Firstly, this statement itself says that the Quality Control Cell which had carried out the inspection had given a report, and this report says that in addition to a few cases of overpayment, there were thirteen other irregularities. These irregularities are of the nature of non-maintenance of important accounts records, over measurement of a drain by 132 metres, large over measurement for two pump houses in Nand Nagri, lack of integrated planning and execution of development work, lack of administrative approval and expenditure sanction etc. This does not reveal the type of things that were done, and that actually, these irregularities involved crores of rupees.

The newspaper report, which I have quoted in my question says :

“All established accounting systems had been systematically violated by the three housing divisions operating in the trans-Jamuna area.”

The report further says :

“In a situation where the accounts are not so kept and details not so fully recorded as to afford the requisite means for satisfying any inquiry, the public sum spent in terms of crores of rupees on maintenance, repairs and minor works remains known only to the concerned officials of the division...”

The statement laid on the Table of the House by the Minister indicates only thirteen points.

The newspaper report further states :

“D.D A. engineers deliberately kept the names of projects to be undertaken incomplete, vague and confusing taking every care not to reveal the exact location and the actual scope of work.”

My question was based on this. The statement does not refer to the sums involved, but it lists those thirteen very serious omissions. What are the measures that have been taken ?

MR. SPEAKER : Why don't you put the question ? This is not the way.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Among the measures taken, you have indicated : Inspection of divisions by Superintending Engineers etc. Was there no system of inspection earlier ? Further, when was this report submitted, and when was this action taken ? What is the time limit ? What has actually been done in relation to these particular lapses ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR : I am grateful to the hon. Member; she has asked the question and replied also.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I have not replied for the benefit of the House, I have stated these facts.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : All right; I am very thankful to you for asking this question.

Firstly, the Government has not tried to conceal anything, because the report itself speaks how such irregularities have been committed. It was for your benefit and for the benefit of the House that the statement was laid on the Table of the House.

I am myself seized with these irregularities and the irregularities are such that not only the hon. Members, but the Government is also very much concerned about them and I am going to take the action called for.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : When was report submitted and when was the action taken ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : The preliminary report was received in the Vigilance Cell on 5-1-84, and the detailed report was received by the Vigilance Cell on 2-4-84. Memos submitted by CE on 14-7-84 Memo issued on 18-10-1984. Memo has been issued to one EE, 4 Engineers, 2 Assistant Engineers, and 4 Junior Engineers. Some replies have been received and some we are awaiting. You know, when action is going to be taken then there are certain rules and procedure which shall have to be followed. Otherwise everything will become null and void. So, first they are asked within a certain specified period of time to explain why these irregularities have been committed. Then some of them send replies and some of them take time. So, we are going to give them all the rope, before we hang them.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I would like to know where the rope's end is.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : She wants to cut short the rope.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : The hon. member is very vigilant and here the Minister is also equally vigilant. So there is nothing to worry.

Possession of Land to the Allottees in Sector—VII of the Rohini Scheme

***24. SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI :** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether possession of land to the allottees in Sector VII of Rohini Scheme of Delhi Development Authority has been given;

(b) whether the allottees have been permitted to start construction on the plots;

(c) if not, the reasons for not permitting the construction; and

(d) the time likely to be taken in allowing the construction ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) out of 4808 plots allotted in Sector VII in the first two draws, possession has been given to 2752 allottees.

(b) Yes, Sir.

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

SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI : I am asking this question through you, because a lot of suffering is caused to the people in this sector, due to some bureaucratic problems. I am sure the hon. Minister is aware that the cost of construction is increasing day by day and the allottees of these plots are very poor people. Will the Minister see that the allottees get their allotment properly and early. Also, they should be given the maps and other things in time, so that there need not be any complaints.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Certainly, What the hon. member has suggested will be looked into very carefully. There are certain things. When the DDA allots plots, certain things are demanded from those persons to whom the lands are allotted. When they make delay in giving these specific things, then the delay takes place. So far as the question of allotment of plots is concerned, I find from the answer given in the paper that somewhere

some delay has occurred and I will see that this delay does not occur in future.

SHRI D.K. NAIKAR : In connection with this question, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that because of some complications in the land acquisition proceedings, housing activities are not carried out so rapidly as expected. I want to know whether the Minister is going to bring in some amendments to the Land Acquisition Proceedings Act; and whether he proposes to implement the procedure in respect of acquisition of land, so that the acquisition proceedings will be held very rapidly.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : I think some amendments were made so far as land acquisition is concerned, to simplify the procedure.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARILAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker Sir, the farmers are paid meagre compensation for the land acquired by D.D.A. and when the plots are allotted it charges very high prices...*(Interruptions)*.

The applications of those people who had applied for other than Rohini Scheme have been pending for three to four years. Applications of the period when Shri Buta Singh was the Minister are still pending and allotments have not yet been made to them. I want to know the time by which the allotments would be made to them.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : There are so many applications. You know that the policy of the Government is to make allotment as early as possible.

You are well aware of the difficulties being faced in acquiring land. Even then efforts would be made in this regard. You will find that a Bill is being brought here about the National Capital Region in the current session of the Lok Sabha. It will include some parts of Rajasthan, U.P. and Delhi. In case land is available, all facilities would be made easily available to those people who want to build their own houses.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Amarsinh

Rathawa is not there; Shri B.V. Desai is not there, and Shri Chintamani Jena is also not there. So, we have our first hat trick to-day. Now Shri D.L. Baitha.

Disappearance of Rice from FCI

*28. **SHRI D.L. BAITHA :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an organisation of fair price ration shops has alleged that 45 quintals of rice has disappeared from the godown of Food Corporation of India belonging to three ration shop owners of Paharganj, New Delhi, despite the fact that the full amount required was deposited on the 28 November, 1984 by bank Draft; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) & (b) It is true that 77 bags of specified food articles (wheat, rice and sugar) pertaining to six fair price shops which had deposited Bank Drafts for them on 28 November 1984 were misplaced in the Food Corporation of India's godown at Central Telegraph Office, Pusa, New Delhi. After physical verification of the godown the bags have since been delivered to fair price shops.

SHRI D.L. BAITHA : May I know from the Minister when this physical verification of godowns was done? Was it also enquired into, i.e. to see whether there was any involvement of the employees concerned? If so, what action has been taken?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I do not know the date of verification, but I understand that at the time of physical verification, no discrepancy was found. Later, action was taken on the complaint.

SHRI D.L. BAITHA : The full amount was deposited on 28th November. So, it was very essential to know when this verification was done, because when a deposit was made on 28th November, if the

delivery was made after 2 or 3 months, there must be a certain involvement of the employees concerned. That should have been enquired into by the enquiring authority.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : There was some mix-up. Later on action was taken on the complaint and goods were delivered; I believe the FCI might be taking some action on its own, to try and stop recurrence of such incidents in future.

SHRI D.L. BAITHA : What action has been taken to see whether there was some involvement or not ? It is a specific question.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I will further look into the matter on the suggestion of the hon. member.

Transmission Losses

*29. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of maximum transmission losses in case of State Electricity Boards in the country during the years 1982-83 and 1983-84 giving State-wise and year-wise details showing the loss in rupees;

(b) action taken and result thereof; and

(c) which State has got the best performance in this matter and reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) A statement indicating the percentage of transmission and distribution losses in respect of different State Electricity Boards in the country during 1982-83 and 1983-84 is given in Annexure-I.

It is not practicable to estimate the loss in terms of rupees because (i) it is not possible to segregate the commercial and technical losses and (ii) the pattern of consumption and rates of power supply vary from State to State.

(b) A number of measures have been suggested to the SEBs for reduction of Transmission and Distribution losses. The SEBs have set up System Improvement Cells and on the basis of the studies conducted by these Cells, System Improvement Schemes are being implemented.

(c) The Meghalaya State Electricity Board has the lowest T & D losses in the country because the consumption of bulk power generated in Meghalaya takes place through High Tension Lines in the form of export to the State of Assam.

ANNEXURE-I

Details of percentage of transmission and distribution losses in each of the State Electricity Boards in the country during the years 1982-83 and 1983-84.

S. No.	Name of the State Electricity Board	(Figures in %)	
		1982-83*	1983-84*
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23.10	21.38
2.	Assam	20.00	19.98
3.	Bihar	23.15	22.21
4.	Gujrat	21.06	21.68

1	2	3	4
5.	Haryana	19.63	19.56
6.	Himachal Pradesh	18.07	17.39
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	41.40	40.71
8.	Karnataka	21.00	20.98
9.	Kerala	12.47	14.25
10.	Madhya Pradesh	20.47	19.45
11.	Maharashtra	15.14	15.14
12.	Meghalaya	7.00	6.10
13.	Orissa	17.96	18.00
14.	Punjab	17.17	17.03
15.	Rajasthan	23.58	25.29
16.	Tamil Nadu	18.80	18.75
17.	Uttar Pradesh	19.78	18.21
18.	West Bengal	17.00	17.00

*Figures provisional.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Minister has given a very strange answer. The answer is not relevant to the Question. Kindly, give us some protection. My question was regarding the details of the maximum transmission losses in case of Electricity Boards in the country, Statewise, because all the Electricity Boards are running in losses. The Venkatraman Committee had also expressed the same views in its report before 1978 and after that all the three Financial Commissions have also expressed the view that returns are not being received from these Boards and all Electricity Boards all over India are running in losses. I had asked regarding the details of the losses being suffered by each State Electricity Board. But no reply has been given in this regard. The reply being given is like this—

[*English*]

The Minister's reply is : "It is not practicable to estimate the loss in terms of rupees". After all, the Electricity

Boards are run by the State Governments. Can they not tell us about the amount of losses which they have been suffering ? Every Board has been suffering losses. I can give the figures.

[*Translation*]

In Andhra Pradesh, the transmission losses were 23.10 percent during 1982-83. Please clarify it in your answer.

MR. SPEAKER : When the answer is already with you, why are you insisting on it again ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know the total loss suffered by each State Electricity Board due to transmission losses. Kindly let me have this information.

[*English*]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The question is : "The details of maximum transmission losses in case of State Electricity Boards in the country during the years 1982-83 and 1983-84 giving State wise and year-wise details showing the loss-

in rupees." That is why I said, it is difficult to say about the commercial losses and the technical losses.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : This is a matter of calculation in terms of rupees. You may work it out.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You can see your answer. He has not give reply to my question.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : There are guidelines from the Central Government to all the State Electricity Boards that some fixed percentage of electricity has to be given for rural electrification out of the total generation of electricity, which is not being followed by any of the States. What is the directive of the Central Government in the case of those States which are not following the guidelines of the Central Government ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, it is good that the hon. Member has referred to rural electrification. The maximum losses do take place in transmission in the rural areas.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : No, no. I just asked whether the guidelines are being followed.

MR. SPEAKER : You put another question because the time is over.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Out of the total power generated some percentage is fixed for rural electrification in each State. Are they following that guideline or not ?

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Conversion of Kacha Roads into Metalled Roads under Food for Work Programme

*19. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND

RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State :

(a) the target fixed for conversion of kacha roads into metalled ones under the 'Food for Work Programme' in each State during the Sixth Plan period;

(b) the progress made so far in the country, particularly in Gujarat; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide link roads to the villages where there is acute shortage of such roads ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (c). Food for Work Programme guidelines had a clear provision that assets created under the programme should be durable ones. As such all the roadworks were required to be made durable and no separate target as such was fixed for conversion of kacha roads into metalled ones. When the Food for Work Programme was replaced by National Rural Employment Programme in October, 1980, it was observed that a number of road works taken up under the earlier programme were not durable. An amount of Rs. 105 crores was therefore provided during the year 1980-81 to make the non-durable assets durable.

Though complete information in regard to conversion of non-durable assets to durable ones has not yet become available from all the States/U.Ts., reports received from some of the States indicate considerable progress. The report received from the Government of Gujarat indicates that out of 2795 Kms. of kacha roads constructed under the programme upto 1980-81, 2329 kms. of roads were made durable upto the end of January, 1982.

National Rural Employment Programme guidelines specifically provide for village link roads being taken up under the programme. Construction of link roads is also taken up under the Minimum Needs Programme in all States and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme which was launched from August, 1983.

[Translation]

Employment of Farmers and Agricultural Labourers during Lean Period

*20. SHRI CHHITTUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a phased programme is being formulated by the Government to provide employment to the farmers and agricultural labourers in the villages during the period of seasonal unemployment to raise their income; and

(b) whether Government propose to promote village industries, cottage industries and domestic industries in the villages, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) In order to provide employment opportunities to the unemployed and underemployed in the rural areas, Government have launched the National Rural Employment Programme from October, 1980. In addition, Government have launched another rural employment programme namely the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme from 15th of August, 1983 with the objective of improving and expanding employment opportunities for the rural landless.

(b) Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme self employment is promoted by giving assistant to rural families living below the poverty line for taking up income generating activities including activities in the industries, service and business sectors.

In addition, the Khadi and Village Industries, Commission is engaged in promoting village industries and the entire funds for the activities of the Commission are provided by the Govt. of India. The Commission is likely to provide employment to about 39 lakhs persons under its various activities by the end of 1984-85.

The Government have also launched a scheme for providing employment to educated unemployed youth including those

in rural areas from 15th August, 1983. Under the scheme, educated unemployed youth within the age group of 18 to 35 years, who have passed matriculation examination and above and do not belong to the affluent sections are provided with a composite loan upto Rs. 25,000 at a lower rate of interest namely 10% for backward areas and 12% for non-backward areas. Against the target of 2.5 lakh ventures, upto 31st March, 1984, 2.42 lakh applications have been sanctioned by the banks for credit amounting to Rs. 401 crores. This scheme has been extended for 1984-85 with the same target.

[English]

Allocation of Foodgrains to States

*25. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the demands made by various State Governments for the supply of wheat and rice from Central Government for September, October and November, 1984;

(b) how much supply has been made to them for these months;

(c) whether certain States have not received the quota of foodgrains as per their requirement; if so, the names of such States; and

(d) what steps are being taken to fulfil their demands fully ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a), (b) & (c). A statement showing demand, allotment and offtake of wheat and rice from the Central Pool during September, October and November, 1984 in respect of various States is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 83/85]

(d) Allocations of foodgrains from the Central Pool to various states are made on a month to month basis taking into account the overall availability of stocks in the Central Pool, relative needs of the various states, market availability and other related factors. The allocations from

the Central Pool are, however, only supplemental in nature.

Effect of Inadequate Rainfall on the Rabi Crop

*26. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether large parts of the country have not received adequate winter rainfall during the last three weeks of December, 1984 thereby adversely affecting the standing rabi crop in the rain-fed areas of the country;

(b) whether the rabi production is likely to be affected to a great deal because wheat, which is the main crop, is largely under assured irrigation in north-west India; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the rain shortfall has upset the crop output and the steps being taken to meet the situation arising out of the shortfall of the rabi output ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Rainfall in large parts of the country has been deficient during last three weeks of December. However, important rabi rainfed crop areas have received some rainfall from the end-December onwards, which has proved beneficial to the crops.

(b) and (c). Rabi production is not likely to be affected to a great deal in view of good crop prospects of wheat which is largely under irrigation. The crop whether situation is constantly under review and availability of electricity and agricultural inputs is being monitored in consultation with the State Governments.

Coconut Extension Programme during Sixth-Plan

*27. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States where

Coconut Extension Programme has been implemented during the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether such Centrally-sponsored programme was also introduced in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details of the work done and the results achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) In the Sixth Plan, expansion of area under Coconut was taken up in the States of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura and Union Territories of Goa, Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry.

(b) Five Centrally Sponsored Scheme have been in operation with a total outlay of Rs. 402.127 lakhs for Sixth Five Year Plan period. In addition nine Projects are under implementation through the Coconut Development Board with a total outlay of Rs. 1516.538 lakhs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The achievements under different schemes are as follows :

- (i) A total of 1.1 lakh Tall × Dwarf hybrid coconut seedlings were raised under the scheme of production and distribution of hybrid coconut seedlings.
- (ii) 120 demonstrations of 0.25 hectare each were conducted under the package programme for development of coconut.
- (iii) A total of 2.20 lakh seedlings were planted on canal embankments.
- (iv) A regional coconut nursery at Marichpur in Balikuda Block of Cuttack was established.
- (v) An area of 23.79 hectares was

covered under expansion of area under coconut in 1984-85.

Implementation of Land Ceiling Laws

*30. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of implementation of land ceiling laws in accordance with the Central guidelines;

(b) whether land ceiling laws of some States are still under consideration of the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and names of States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) As per the latest available information of implementation of land ceiling laws in accordance with the central guidelines, 14,40,172 returns have been filed by surplus land-holders. Out of this 14,16,531 returns have been disposed of leaving a balance of 23,641 i.e., 1.6% only. 42.81 lakh acres of land has been declared surplus in these disposed of returns out of which possession has been taken of 30.01 lakh acres. Out of this 21.22 lakh acres have been distributed to 15.91 lakh beneficiaries,

(b) and (c). The following Bills passed by the State Legislatures are under consideration :—

(i) The Orissa Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 1979;

(ii) The West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 1981.

Survey of Uncultivable Land

*31. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(d) when the last survey was conducted to find out the areas of uncultivable land in the country;

(b) the quantum of surplus uncultivable land in each State according to that survey; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to make use of the surplus uncultivable land for cultivation purposes ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) The land utilisation surveys are carried out regularly in each season in almost all the States in the country. The latest survey for which the results have become available from most of the States relate to agricultural year 1981-82.

(b) The quantum of uncultivable land such as barren and unculturable lands alongwith culturable wastelands and fallows other than current fallows in the States is given in the attached Statement I.

(c) the information is given in the attached Statement II.

Statement—I

Quantum of Barren & Unculturable Lands, Culturable Waste Lands and Fallows other than Current Fallows-Statewise.

Lakh hectare (Provisional)

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Lakh hectare (Provisional)					
		Culturable Waste lands		Barren and Unculturable lands		Fallows lands other than current fallows	
		1980-81	1981-82	1980-81	1981-82	1980-81	1981-82
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhara Pradesh	8.7	8.9	23.4	23.0	13.5	13.2
2.	Assam	1.4	1.2	15.4	15.4	1.1	1.0
3.	Bihar	4.5	4.5	10.1	10.1	9.4	9.6
4.	Gujarat	19.9	19.7	2.50	2.50	3.3	3.0
5.	Haryana	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.7	—	—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2.2	2.4	1.4	1.4	0.1	0.1
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.5	1.4	2.3	2.7	0.1	0.1
8.	Karnataka	5.0	5.0	8.4	8.5	5.6	5.2
9.	Kerala	1.3	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.3
10.	Madhya Pradesh	19.1	18.4	23.2	23.5	11.0	10.7
11.	Maharashtra	9.9	9.9	17.3	17.3	8.0	8.0
12.	Orissa	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.7	1.9	1.9
13.	Punjab	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.9	—	—
14.	Rajasthan	64.2	62.1	29.2	29.6	20.9	20.6
15.	Tamil Nadu	3.4	3.4	5.8	5.8	4.6	4.9
16.	Uttar Pradesh	11.5	11.2	11.4	11.2	7.1	7.3
17.	West Bengal	3.7	3.7	1.2	1.2	0.6	0.6
18.	Others@	7.8	7.9	23.3	22.4	10.7	9.3
ALL INDIA		167.3	164.3	201.7	202.3	98.2	95.8

NOTE : The figures for Assam, West Bengal and some other States/UT's included under others relate to latest available periods. Those for Maharashtra are based on estimates available under the Timely Reporting Scheme.

@ Others include States of Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and the Union Territories.

Statement—II

The unculturable lands or barren lands include mountains, deserts, etc. which cannot be brought under cultivation unless at a very high cost. However, some parts of the following categories of land and degraded areas could possibly be made available for cultivation as well as raising utility trees and other plants :

- (i) Culturable waste land;
- (ii) Fallows other than current fallows;
- (iii) Ravine areas and gullies;
- (iv) Alkali soils;
- (v) Waterlogged areas; and
- (vi) Saline soils including coastal saline sandy areas.

2. Under the Centrally sponsored scheme of Survey and Categorisation of culturable wastelands, an area of 2.3 million hectares was located in blocks less than 100 hectares in 15 States, during the Third Plan period and upto March, 1969. Through another Centrally sponsored scheme, about 1.1 lakh families of landless agricultural labourers were resettled on 1.90 lakh hectare of reclaimed culturable waste lands. Since the Productivity Year of 1982, a programme of restoration of fallows other than current fallows was launched in 8 States which was subsequently extended to 13 States. A total area of 7.49 lakh hectares was brought to more productive land management system through cultivation, raising of utility trees, afforestation etc. combined with erosion control and moisture conservation measures wherever needed.

3. During the Seventh Five Year Plan Centrally sponsored schemes have been proposed for survey, categorisation and restoration of:

- (i) culturable waste lands and fallows other than current fallows;
- (ii) Ravines;
- (iii) Waterlogged areas, both due to

rise of ground water as well as due to surface ponding;

- (iv) Alkali soils; and
- (v) Coastal saline sandy areas.

Koel Karo Project in Bihar

*32. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been decided to take up the 700 MW Koel Karo Project in Bihar in the Seventh Plan period;

(b) if so, the steps taken to solve the problem of land acquisition; and

(c) other steps taken in regard to the implementation of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c). The problems relating to land acquisition are under discussion with the State Government with a view to finding a solution.

Schemes to Help Dry Land Farmers

*33. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether dry land farmers are under constant fear of failure of crops due to heavy or scanty rains;

(b) whether Government have thought of any schemes to help the dry land farmers by introducing insurance for crops like cotton, jowar, tuwar and other crops; and

(c) whether Government have thought of any other schemes to make dry farming more profitable ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Crop production on

dry lands is materially linked with variable rainfall and its intensity and distribution.

(b) Yes, Sir. An area based pilot crop insurance scheme covering important rainfed crops like paddy, jowar, groundnut, barley, wheat, gram, maize, cotton, etc. is already in operation in twelve States through the General Insurance Corporation of India in collaboration with the State Governments.

[Translation]

(c) Both area and commodity development schemes have been launched to reduce the risk and enhance the production in rainfed areas.

Talks with Nepal Regarding Water Resources

*34. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of official talks held with Nepal so far on the issue of utilisation and distribution of water resources including Pancheshwar Project and the outcome thereof; and

(b) whether Government are considering holding of high political level talks on Pancheshwar Project as there are reports that Nepal has not shown requisite interest in its construction ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Since the Prime Minister's visit to Nepal in 1977, six Secretary's Level meetings have been held with His Majesty's Government of Nepal. These talks have helped in understanding the positions taken by each of the Governments, on various complex issues, more fully. So far agreement has been reached on the question of entrustment of the preparation of feasibility report on Karnali Project to an International Firm of Consultants with loan Assistance from the World Bank. In the case of Pancheshwar Project, it has been agreed to locate two power houses of equal capacity on each side. Further talks are contemplated.

(b) At this stage there is no proposal to hold high level political talks.

[English]

Provision of Dry Land Farming Technology to Farmers in Drought Prone Areas

*35. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the major drought prone areas in the country;

(b) whether there are any plans to provide extensively dry land farming technology to farmers in these areas; and

(c) if so, the investments on this technology in the drought prone areas in the year 1983-84 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) A list of the states and districts covered under the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP) is given in the attached statement. These are the major drought prone areas in the country.

(b) One of the major objectives of the DPAP and the DDP is improvement in the productivity of dryland agriculture through restructuring of the traditional cropping patterns, adoption of suitable agronomic practices and techniques of soil and water conservation. These programmes lay emphasis, among other things, on the development of dryland farming on watershed basis by taking up schemes of soil and water conservation and improved dryland farming practices. Improved agronomic practices, new crops and crops rotations are introduced in these areas through crop demonstrations and application of desired quantities of inputs. Training programmes, seminars and field visits are organised for officers dealing with these schemes to update their knowledge about the latest dryland farming techniques. Field days and visit to the nearest dryland centres are also organised for the benefit of the

farmers. Agricultural scientists are being associated with preparation of plans for extension of the latest dryland farming technology to the farmer's fields.

(c) Since 1983-84, an expenditure of Rs. 10.54 crores was incurred on the development of agriculture including dryland farming under these programmes.

Statement

Coverage of the Drought Prone Areas Programme and the Desert Development Programme.

State	District	No. of Blocks covered under the programme
1	2	3
I. Drought Prone Areas Programme :		
1, Andhra Pradesh	1. Anantapur	16
	2. Chittoor	8
	3. Cuddapah	6
	4. Mahbubnagar	12
	5. Kurnool	13
	6. Prakasam	9
	7. Rangareddy	2
	Sub total :	66
2. Bihar	1. Palamu	24
	2. Santhal Parganas	7
		31
3. Gujarat	1. Ahmedabad	2
	2. Amreli	8
	3. Bhavnagar	3
	4. Jamnagar	2
	5. Kutch	7
	6. Panchmahals	7
	7. Rajkot	4
	8. Surendranagar	9
	Sub total :	42
4. Haryana	Mohindergarh	9
	Sub total :	9

1	2	3
5. Jammu & Kashmir	1. Doda	8
	2. Udhampur	5
	Sub total :	13
6. Karnataka	1. Bijapur	11
	2. Bellary	5
	3. Belgaum	4
	4. Chitradurga	6
	5. Dharwar	14
	6. Kolar	9
	7. Tumkur	6
	8. Gulbarga	8
	9. Bidar	3
	10. Raichur	4
Sub total :	70	
7. Madhya Pradesh	1. Khargone	7
	2. Jhabua	12
	3. Shahdol	5
	4. Dhar	8
	5. Sidhi	8
	6. Betul	8
Sub total :	48	
8. Maharashtra	1. Ahmednagar	8
	2. Sholapur	9
	3. Nasik	8
	4. Sangli	5
	5. Satara	4
	6. Dhule	4
	7. Aurangabad	4
	8. Jalna	1

1	2	3
	9. Jalgaon	4
	10. Beed	6
	Sub total :	53
9. Orissa	1. Phulbani	14
	2. Kalhandi	11
	3. Bolangir	8
	4. Sambalpur	6
	Sub total :	39
10. Rajasthan	1. Ajmer	2
	2. Bhanswara	8
	3. Dungarpur	5
	4. Udaipur	3
	Sub total :	18
11. Tamil Nadu	1. Dharmapuri	10
	2. Ramanathapuram	16
	3. Pudukottai	4
	Sub total :	30
12. Uttar Pradesh	1. Mirzapur	10
	2. Banda	10
	3. Jalaun	3
	4. Hamirpur	5
	5. Jhansi	3
	6. Lalitpur	2
	7. Bahraich	14
	8. Gonda	5
	9. Kheri	8
	10. Sitapur	3
	Sub total :	63

1	2	3
13. West Bengal	1. Purulia	17
	2. Midnapur	7
	3. Bankura	5
	Sub total :	29
	Grand Total :	511

2. Desert Development Programme

HOT ARID AREAS :

1. Gujarat	1. Banāskantha	6
	2. Mehsana	2
2. Haryana	1. Hissar	10
	2. Bhiwani	7
	3. Rohtak	5
	4. Sirsa	4
3. Rajasthan	1. Ganganagar	9
	2. Bikaner	4
	3. Churu	7
	4. Jhunjhunu	8
	5. Sikar	8
	6. Nagaur	11
	7. Jodhpur	9
	8. Jaisalmer	3
	9. Barmer	8
	10. Jalore	7
	11. Pali	10

COLD ARID AREAS :

4. Himachal Pradesh	1. Lahaul & Spiti	1
	2. Kinnaur	1
5. Jammu & Kashmir	1. Leh	5
	2. Kargil	1

Grand Total : 126

Production of Sugar

***36. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :**
Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the output of sugar for the last four years and till the current season of sugarcane of 1984-85;

(b) whether Government propose to import sugar to meet the country's demand; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to enhance production of sugarcane ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) The figures of sugar production during the last 4 sugar seasons and in the current season so far are as under :—

Sugar Season (Oct-Sept.)	Sugar Production (lakh tonnes)
1980-81	51.48
1981-82	84.38
1982-83	82.32
1983-84	59.16
1984-85	15.98
(upto 31-12-1984)	

(b) Apart from the import of 5 lakh tonnes of sugar for which contracts were entered into last year, no proposal for further import of sugar has been finalised. Sugar production in 1984-85 season has started on a promising note and has reached 15.98 lakh tonnes upto 31st December as against 13.78 lakh tonnes upto the same date in 1983-84 season. Further exports/imports of sugar would depend on the future production trends, total availability, requirement, prices of sugar in the domestic and international markets, etc. and it is too premature to estimate the extent of import/export now.

(c) In order to increase the production of sugarcane during 1984-85 season, various

programmes to provide better quality seed cane and other inputs, plant protection, field demonstrations, training of sugar cane development workers, etc. have been undertaken. More-over, the payment of remunerative cane prices by the factories to the growers is being ensured in the interest of maximising the production of sugarcane as well as sugar.

Funds for Rural Development Schemes

30. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the funds provided for rural development schemes to the States and Union Territories by his Ministry and the funds placed by the respective States for these schemes during the year 1984-85; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to achieve the targets thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The major Rural Development Schemes of this Ministry are (i) Integrated Rural Development Scheme, (ii) Drought Prone Areas Programme, (iii) Desert Development Programme, (iv) National Rural Employment Programme and (v) Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme. Expenditure on the first four schemes is shared by the Centre and States on 50 : 50 basis while the fifth scheme is wholly centrally funded. Statements showing central and States shares of funds provided for these schemes during the year 1984-85 are laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See No. L-T-84/85]

(b) The programmes are being monitored and reviewed regularly through the progress reports, audit reports, regional meetings and visits of central officers. The States which are lagging behind are alerted to improve their pace of performance.

Allotment of Funds to States for Irrigation

31. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR ; Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to

state :

(a) whether a high priority has been accorded to the execution of the irrigation projects, by the State Governments in view of the fact that irrigation happens to be the first item of 20-Point Programme;

(b) if so, whether any State has expressed dissatisfaction with the allotment of funds for irrigation in any one of the past three years from 1st April, 1981 to 31st March, 1984 as also in the current financial year (1984-85);

(c) if so, the names of the States which have expressed dissatisfaction regarding the flow of funds for the execution of minor and medium irrigation projects during these three years and current financial year 1984-85; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to meet demand of the States in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) to (d). Irrigation being a State subject, : Irrigation Projects are planned, funded and implemented by the State Governments. By and large it can be said that the States have given high priority for irrigation. The Central assistance is given in the form of block-loans and block-grants and is not tied to any particular scheme or sector of development. Allocation to the Irrigation Sector is done by the State Governments themselves. The question of dissatisfaction regarding allocation of funds to Irrigation Sector does not, therefore, arise. However, the States have been experiencing constraint of financial resources and due to similar constraints, it has not been possible for Government of India to assist the States in a meaningful way.

Works Assistants in NBCC

32. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Works Assistants working on daily wages in the NBCC and the rate of daily wages given to them;

(b) whether most of them are working for more than two years and have not been absorbed against regular vacancies;

(c) whether different wages are given to Works Assistants such as Rs. 20, 25 and 30 per day for equal work and if so, reasons for the differential treatment; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken to remove dissatisfaction among Works Assistants due to different wages ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) There are no Work Assistants in NBCC. The question of payment of daily wages to them therefore does not arise.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise in view of reply to parts a) above.

Categories of Contracts on the Rolls of CPWD

33. SHRI K.T. KOSALRAM : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of different categories of contractors who are on the rolls of CPWD and the value of contract work being awarded to each such contractor for building residential accommodation;

(b) the particulars of civil engineering firms which are eligible for major projects undertaken by the CPWD; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to bifurcate CPWD into two distinct departments, one for construction and other for maintaining the assets created by the CPWD ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) The details are given in Statement—J, laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library. See No. L.T-85/85*]. Besides, contractors enlisted with P & T Department, M.E.S., Railways and State P.W.D's are eligible to tender for CPWD works outside Delhi. In Delhi, contractors enlisted with P & T Department and M.E.S are eligible to tender for CPWD works.

(b) The details are given in Statement—II laid on the Table of the House [Placed in library. See No. LT-85/85]

(c) No.

Fishing Harbour Facilities in Orissa and Other Coastal States

34. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had a proposal to provide better fishing harbour facilities in the coastal States during Sixth Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details of the fishing harbour facilities provided in the current plan period in Orissa and other coastal States ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

Statement

Name of State	Name of site	Sanctioned cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
Orissa	1. Astarang (Integrated Project)	642.20
	2. Sabelia	2.42
	3. Chudamani	14.07
	4. Pathara	2.50
Gujarat	1. Vansi Borsi	16.10
	2. Kosamba	13.31
	3. Jaffrabad	13.92
	4. Salaya	16.80
	5. Mandvi	16.16
	6. Madhwad	17.76
	7. Sachana	17.77
	8. Surajbari	29.38
Maharashtra	1. Mahim Causway	24.64
Karnataka	1. Tadri (Integrated Project)	638.02
	2. Mangalore	90.00
	3. Majali	26.13
Kerala	1. Neendakara	370.00
	2. Munakkakadavu	10.25
	3. Neeleswaram	15.00
	4. Cheruvathur	18.43

1	2	3
	5. Palacode	15.00
	6. Chettuvai	19.50
	7. Dharmadom	20.95
	8. South Paravoor	24.94
	9. Thottapalli	25.27
	10. New Mahe	28.43
	11. Vallikkunnu	17.90
	12. Vizhinjam North	18.70
	13. Vizhinjam South	19.10
Tamil Nadu	1. Chinnamuttom	234.00
	2. Valinokkam	77.00
	3. Pazhayar	67.32
	4. Tondi	41.00
	5. Kottaipattinam	22.00
	6. Erwadi	25.00
West Bengal	1. Digha	139.34
	2. Jalda	9.50
	3. New Jalda	4.80
	4. Junput	9.80
	5. Kharpai	6.30
	6. Kalinagar	7.13
	7. Ganeshpur	5.31
	8. Bamanagar	4.18
	9. Akhoynagar	3.08

Power Projects in Kerala

35. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of major and medium Power Projects from Kerala awaiting Central clearance;

(b) since when these projects are awaiting clearance; and

(c) the time by which Central clearance will be given ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c). Details of the four major and medium power projects of Kerala awaiting clearance are given in the Statement.

Statement*Kerala Power Projects awaiting Clearance*

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Capacity (MW)	Date of receipt of project report in C.E.A.	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Puyankutty Hydro-Electric Project	750	April, 1981	The project report of Puyankutty Project Stage-I (2×120 MW) has been cleared by the Central Electricity Authority on 10-1-1984 subject to the clearance of the project by the Department of Environment from environment angle. Clearance of the Department of Environment is still awaited, on receipt of which the scheme would be recommended to the Planning Commission for inclusion in the State Plan.
2.	Chalaky Stage II	200	October, 1982.	The Project report has been examined in Central Electricity Authority/Central Water Commission and replies to further comments on hydrology etc. sent to the Project authorities on 10-1-1985 are awaited. The scheme would be considered by Central Electricity Authority after its techno-economic feasibility is established.
3.	Mananthawady Multipurpose Scheme	240	May, 1980	The Project report has been examined in the Central Electricity Authority/Central Water Commission and comments on hydrology and civil design aspects forwarded to the project authorities. As the project involves westward diversion of waters of Mananthawady river, a tributary of Kabini

1	2	3	4	5
				(Cauvery basin) for irrigation and power generation, the inter-State aspect of this project would need to be resolved. Also, being a multipurpose project the scheme would have to be cleared first by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission. Thereafter power portion would be considered by the Central Electricity Authority.
4.	Pallivasal Replacement Scheme	240	June, 1983	Project report is under examination in Central Electricity Authority and Central Water Commission. Comments of electrical aspects, construction, machinery and civil design aspects forwarded to the State authorities and replies to these are awaited. The scheme would be considered for clearance after its techno-economic feasibility is established.

Kameng Hydel Project

36. SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kameng Hydel Project was initiated in 1967;

(b) whether for the investigation work alone a sum of more than Rs. 1 crore has been spent;

(c) its present position and details thereof; and

(d) the target date for completion of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The investigations on this Project were taken up in December, 1968.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Project Report on Kameng Project received in the Central Electricity Authority in 1983 is currently under examination.

(d) The scheme is likely to take nine years for completion after the investment decision is taken.

[Translation]

Modernisation Scheme for Sone Canals in Bihar

37. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated a modernisation scheme for Sone Canals in Bihar;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of expenditure Government propose to incur thereon and the time by which the above scheme is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) A modernisation scheme for Sone Canals has been under the consideration of Government of Bihar. The first Phase of the modernisation proposal envisages a pilot project for modernisation of 30,000 hectares, essential repairs to the existing works and certain improvements to the communication system. The State Government is working on the preparation of a detailed project report and estimate for submission to Centre for clearance. Since the VII Five Year Plan outlays are not yet finalised, the quantum of expenditure to be incurred on this project and the likely date of completion cannot be indicated.

[English]

Fixation of Price of Vanaspati

38. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times the prices of vanaspati were increased during the last three years;

(b) when was the current price of vanaspati fixed; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to decrease the price of vanaspati taking into account the crop position ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) The prices of vanaspati were increased twice during the last three years.

(b) The current prices of vanaspati were fixed on 24th May, 1984.

(c) No, Sir.

Maintenance of Services in Government Quarters by CPWD in Lodi Colony

39. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY) : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that no action is being taken by the

CPWD authorities of Lodi Colony on complaints/requests registered with them by the allottees for repairs/maintenance of their quarters and they are just being neglected;

(b) whether maintenance services in this Government colony have much deteriorated since last year; and

(c) if so, whether any inquiry will be made into the working of the CPWD Services Centre to tone up its working and remove grievances of the residents ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) It is not correct that no action is being taken by the CPWD on complaints registered with them for repairs maintenance of the quarters. The complaints are being looked into and necessary repairs/maintenance are being done.

(b) No.

(c) In view of replies to parts (a) & (b) above, question does not arise.

Rural Electrification Schemes in Orissa

40. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Blocks covered under rural electrification scheme in tribal areas of Orissa so far;

(b) how many of them have been completed and how many are under completion;

(c) new rural electrification schemes sanctioned during the year 1984-85 to cover left over villages and the names thereof;

(d) the funds released by the Rural Electrification Corporation and utilised by Government of Orissa scheme-wise so far; and

(e) the steps taken by Government for speedy implementation of these schemes in tribal areas ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (e). The information is being collected from the Government of Orissa/Orissa State Electricity Board and will be laid on the Table of the House.

World Bank Funds to States for Irrigation Projects

41. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank assistance for irrigation projects are being released to the State Governments for specific projects;

(b) if not, the procedure adopted by Government to release the funds and the methods adopted by the States to utilise them;

(c) whether due to shortage of funds for the irrigation projects in tribal areas, most of the medium irrigation projects could not be completed so far though the World Bank funds were made available for them; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Credit/loan assistance is made available by the World Bank to Government of India and not to the States, by way of a partial reimbursement for the expenditure incurred on certain specified components of the projects which are accepted by the World Bank for assistance. Government of India makes available additional Central Plan assistance to the concerned State Governments to the extent of 70% of the reimbursement received from the World Bank. State Governments have to provide for the expenditure on their projects from their plan resources—taking into consideration the likely additionality as above.

(c) and (d) Due to resources constraints some of the States could not adequately fund some of their medium irrigation projects including those in the

tribal areas. In certain cases, due to cost over-runs, and/or change in the scope of the projects, physical targets for projects completion could not be achieved despite obtaining complete reimbursement of the World Bank credit.

Construction of Godowns in H.P.

42. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2349 on 12 March, 1984 regarding FCI godowns at Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh and state :

(a) the latest progress made for construction of godowns;

(b) whether there is a proposal for opening such godowns at any other places in Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Based on the assessment of storage requirement, the Food Corporation of India has decided not to construct godown at Bilaspur.

(b) and (c). The Food Corporation of India and the Central Warehousing Corporation propose to construct godowns at Simla, Chamba, Kangra, Solan and Mandi in Himachal Pradesh.

Rural Drinking Water Supply Scheme

43. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have ensured allocation of funds for the execution of the rural drinking water supply schemes during the past three years;

(b) if so, the total number of problem villages, State-wise, which have been provided at least one source of safe drinking water supply as on 1 January, 1985 and the percentage of these villages (covered so far) to the total number of problem villages in each State; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure 100 per cent coverage of problem villages during the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Water Supply is a State subject and schemes for providing drinking water in rural areas are formulated and executed by States. Provision for this purpose is made in the Minimum Needs Programme in the State sector. The Centre supplements the resources of States by releasing grants under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme for covering indentified problem villages. Grants were also released by the Centre in 1983-84 under Incentive Scheme based on performance. The outlay available to States under M.N.P. and the

grants released by the Centre ARWSP and Incentive Scheme during the financial years 1981-82 to 1983-84 are given in Statement-I attached.

(b) The information is given in Statement-II attached.

(c) During 1984-85, 41859 problem villages are targetted to be covered. By the end of VI Plan, 1,93,757 problem villages (84%) are likely to be covered. For this purpose, a provision of Rs. 365.87 crores under MNP, Rs. 242.50 crores under ARWSP and Rs. 50 crores under Central Incentive Scheme has been made during 1984-85. The remaining about 37000 problem villages at the end of Sixth Five Year Plan will be covered on priority basis during the VII Plan period.

Statement—I

(Figures in crores of rupees)

Year	Outlay in MNP (State Sector)	Releases under ARWSP (Central Sector)		Releases under Incentive Scheme (Central Sector)
		Works	M & I	
1981-82	236.16	109.02	0.91	—
1982-83	260.74	150.79	0.66	—
1983-84	318.41	197.71	0.82	66.11
Total :	815.31	457.52	2.39	66.11

Statement—II

Supply of drinking water to problem villages

PHYSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

STATE/U.T.	No. of problem villages without water supply as on 1-4-1980	No. of problem villages covered upto the end off December, 1984	Percentage Achievement
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	8206	7558@	92.10
2. Assam	15743	7409	47.06
3. Bihar	15194	12867@	84.68

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Gujarat	5318	3904@	73.41
5.	Haryana	3440	1796	52.21
6.	Himachal Pradesh	7815	4640	59.37
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	4698	1719@	36.59
8.	Karnataka	15456	15443@	99.92
9.	Kerala	1158	1074@	92.75
10.	Madhya Pradesh	24944	22893@	91.78
11.	Maharashtra	12935	11245@	86.93
12.	Manipur	1212	707@£ £	58.33
13.	Meghalaya	2927	628@	21.46
14.	Nagaland	649	374	57.63
15.	Orissa	23616	21676@	91.79
16.	Punjab	1767	460	26.03
17.	Rajasthan	19803	15300@	77.26
18.	Sikkim	296	204@	68.92
19.	Tamilnadu	6649	6478@	97.43
20.	Tripura	2800	2318@	82.79
21.	Uttar Pradesh	28505	24020@	84.27
22.	West Bengal	25243	11758@(*)	46.58
23.	A & N Island	173	145@	83.82
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	1740	1233	70.86
25.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
26.	Delhi	99£	89	100.00
27.	D. & N. Haveli	—	—	—
28.	Goa & Diu.	66	58	87.88
29.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
30.	Mizoram	214	100@	46.73
31.	Pondicherry	118	103	87.29
Total :		230784	176199	76.35

£ 3 problem villages transferred to the Delhi Development Authority and 7 problem villages deserted.

@ Includes partially covered problem villages.

£ £ Figure represents achievement upto November, 1984.

(*) Does not include coverage during 1980-81 and 1981-82 under Zila Parishads Programme of spot sources under the MNP.

FCI Godowns in H.P. Districts

44. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Food Corporation of India has considered the proposals for the construction of godowns in each of the districts of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the places/districts where the Food Corporation of India has sanctioned the construction work; and

(c) the likely dates by which the godowns would be constructed in Hamirpur, Una, Bilaspur and Kangra Districts and the reasons for delay; if any ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Food Corporation of India has approved construction of godowns at Simla, Chamba and Kangra. Besides, the Central Warehousing Corporation has also approved constructions of godowns at Simla, Mandi and Solan.

(c) The Food Corporation of India would examine the proposal for construction of godowns in Hamirpur and Una districts. The construction of godown at Kangra would be taken up as and when the land required becomes available. Based on the assessment of the storage requirements, the Corporation does not propose to construct godown at Bilaspur.

**Time-bound Programme for Rural
Electrification in the Country**

45. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has drawn up any time-bound programme for 100 per cent electrification in Himachal Pradesh and other Hill States;

(b) if so, an outline of this programme and the likely dates by which all the villages in the States/Union Territories would be totally electrified; and

(c) if not, the steps undertaken by Government to ensure speedy execution of rural electrification schemes and the allocation made by the Centre to various States and the Union Territories therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c). While proposals have been formulated to provide for cent per cent electrification of villages in the country, a decision on provision of resources and the phasing of implementation of the programme would be taken at the time of finalization of the Seventh Five Year Plan.

**Development Work on Plots Allotted to
Group Housing Societies**

46. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the development work on plots allotted to Group Cooperative Housing Societies has started;

(b) the number of Societies which have completed or started construction of houses;

(c) the number of those Societies which had not initiated any action so far and reason therefor; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken for providing assistance to them ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 17-1-1985, 9 Coop. group housing societies have completed their group housing construction projects and another 90 societies have started construction.

(c) 174 societies out of 424 allotted land by the DDA have not yet submitted their building plans. Development work is not yet complete on some plots and besides there could be organisation & financial difficulties.

(d) A high-powered body to look after the development of land/provision of services in the areas allotted to Coop. group housing societies has been constituted.

The societies are also being assisted by Delhi Coop. Housing Finance Society Ltd. and Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. by providing long term assistance.

Allotment of Government Accommodation to the Sons /Daughters/ Wives of Government Servants

47. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether sons/daughters/wives of Government servants who are in Government service at the time of retirement of their parents/husbands from Government service are allowed to continue on regular basis in the same accommodation if they are eligible and entitled to it;

(b) the number of cases, Ministry-wise in 1984, where benefit of this concession was made available;

(c) whether Government as a measure of social welfare and as an appreciation of services of retiring employees propose to allot appropriate category of accommodation not lower type of accommodation than the one entitled to the eligible dependents; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Yes, Sir, provided the prescribed conditions for ad-hoc allotment to the eligible dependents are fulfilled.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) and (d). This is already done in respect of dependents eligible for types A and B. There is no proposal for other types. Normally, ad-hoc allotments are sanctioned in the types next below the entitled type.

Statement

S. No.	Name of Ministry/Department	Number of cases of allotment of same type regularised in 1984
1	2	3
1.	Ministry of Finance	17
2.	Ministry of Home Affairs	17
3.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	14
4.	Ministry of Health	5
5.	Ministry of Works & Housing	27
6.	Ministry of Defence	30
7.	Ministry of Railways	4
8.	Ministry of Labour	4
9.	Ministry of Energy	2
10.	Ministry of External Affairs	10
11.	Ministry of Industry	

1	2	3
12.	Ministry of Agriculture	10
13.	Ministry of Social Welfare	1
14.	Ministry of Commerce	3
15.	Ministry of Education	7
16.	Ministry of Law	7
17.	Ministry of Communications	4
18.	Ministry of Rural Development and Civil Supplies	8
19.	Ministry of Science and Technology	2
20.	Ministry of Shipping and Transport	5
21.	Delhi Administration	13
22.	Comptroller & Auditor General of India	2
23.	Union Public Service Commission	3
24.	Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation	5
25.	Ministry of Planning	2
26.	Ministry of Irrigation	6
27.	Ministry of Rehabilitation	2
28.	Department of Steel	1
29.	Rajya Sabha Secretariat	1

High Acidity of Soil in Orissa

48. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 5 lakh hectares of high land in Orissa suffers from the low productivity due to high acidity of the soil; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by Government to save the land from high acidity and increase productivity ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Approximately soils in

5 lakh hectares in Orissa suffer from high acidity.

(b) A Centrally sponsored scheme on Reclamation of Acid Soils in Compact area was in operation in the State of Orissa from 1976-77 to 1978-79. Central assistance of Rs. 16.37 lakh was provided during these three years. This Scheme was transferred to State Sector from 1979-80 as per the recommendations of National Development Council. A special relief grant of Rs. 75 lakh for reclamation work was provided by the Central Government from 1980-81 to 1983-84.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on this subject is proposed to be launched during the Seventh Plan.

**Use of Sophisticated Nets by Foreign
Fishing Boats along Indian
Sea Coast**

49. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that certain foreign fishing boats are using sophisticated nets along our coast; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to prevent the use of sophisticated nets by foreign fishing boats which are destroying all marine life along our coast ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Some foreign chartered fishing vessels were reported to have used small mesh size nets. Steps have been taken to prescribe specific mesh size of nets and charterers have been advised to use a minimum mesh size of nets of 80 mm at the cod end. Government has also appointed Designated Officers at each base of operation to monitor the type of gear used by the chartered foreign fishing vessels.

Refining Units of Edible Oils

50. SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the potential of establishing refining units of edible oils in the rural areas which are famous for oil seeds producing areas; and

(b) whether Government propose to direct its oil technologists to investigate the possibility thereof and to prepare a plan accordingly keeping in view the economic feasibility of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Government is already encouraging oil refining units in rural areas. Such units have already

been registered/licensed in the co-operative/State sector and also under the auspices of the National Dairy Development Board.

Persons on Deputation in NBCC

51. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether persons are working at present in National Building Construction Corporation on deputation from other departments as Chief Engineer, Project Managers, Sr. Resident Engineers and Managers;

(b) since when they are working and how long they are likely to work with N.B.C.C. on deputation;

(c) whether they are likely to be regularised or absorbed in N.B.C.C.;

(d) what additional facilities are being provided to them in comparison to non-deputationists employees of N B.C.C.;

(e) the number of employees of N.B.C.C. adversely affected due to retention of deputationists and stagnation in a particular grade for several years; and

(f) the measures being taken to redress the grievances of non-deputationist employees of N.B.C.C. and to remove the stagnation in each grade ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) Their regularisation/absorption in N.B.C.C. would depend on their willingness, suitability and consent of the parent organisation etc.

(d) None. They are governed by their terms of deputation.

(e) NBCC regularly reviews promotion cases of their officers keeping in view their eligibility, seniority and merit.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Number of persons on deputaion	Period for which work- ing on deputation			Remarks
			Within 2 yrs.	2—3 yrs.	3—4 yrs.	
1.	Chief Engineer	3	2	—	1	These persons are likely to continue in NBCC till completion of their initial/ extended period of deputation.
2.	(a) Chief Project Manager	1	—	1	—	
	(b) Project Manager	16	9	3	4	
3.	Sr. Resident Engineer	—	—	—	—	
4.	Manager (Finance)	1	—	1	—	
Total :		21	11	5	5	

Allotment of Plots to Scheduled Castes of Karol Bagh Area

52. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had decided to allot plots to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes community of Karol Bagh Area, New Delhi in Regarhpura area; and

(b) whether D.D.A. is holding back the allotment and offering alternative place to these allottees ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) : (a) and (b). A proposal to allot plots to some old unauthorised occupants belonging to Scheduled Castes of Regarhpura, Karol Bagh area, New Delhi, is under consideration of the Government.

Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities

53. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of essential commodities continued to rise for the last few months;

(b) if so the month-wise details of the wholesale price index of the essential commodities during the year 1984; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to arrest and bring down the same ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRE DRA SINGH) : (a) During the past few months the prices of essential commodities have generally been subdued.

(b) The month-wise wholesale price indices of selected commodities during the year 1984 are given in Annexure Laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See. No. LT-86/85*]

(c) The main thrust of Government policy has been to increase the production of essential commodities particularly the ones which are in short supply. The Public Distribution System is being expanded and improved. The supplies of some essential commodities are supplemented by imports. The export of essential commodities is regulated. State Governments are enforcing the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations to curb the activities of hoarders and black-marketeers and other anti-social elements in trade.

Increase in Pulses and Oilseeds Production

54. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to concentrate on increasing the output of oilseeds and pulses in future in view of the high level of import of edible oils and low level of availability of pulses;

(b) if so, the strategies to be followed; and

(c) whether research and development work on ICAR projects will be restructured to make all out effort to increase output of oilseeds and pulses ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government propose to adopt the following strategies in future :—

OILSEEDS

- (i) To increase the area under irrigated oilseed crops, extension of area through double cropping/sequential cropping/inter-cropping and replacement of crops of low economic value;
- (ii) Maximising yield levels by the use of quality seeds, adoption of improved package of practices, including plant protection measures;
- (iii) Development of red oil palm cultivation in Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (iv) Restructuring the edible oil and oil seed production and marketing through National Dairy Development Board Projects; and
- (v) The National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board has been set up to bring about integrated development of oilseeds

production, processing and marketing and also for the development of the vegetable oils industry.

PULSES

- (i) Extension of pulses in irrigated area;
- (ii) Bringing additional area under short duration varieties of pulses in rice fallows by utilising the residual moisture in Rabi season;
- (iii) Cultivation of short duration varieties of moong and urad with irrigation in summer as a catch crop.
- (iv) Inter-cropping of Arhar in soya-bean, bajra, cotton, sugarcane and groundnut, both under irrigated and unirrigated conditions;
- (v) Maximising the yield levels by the use of improved seeds, adoption of improved package of practices including plant protection measures and price support; and
- (vi) Replacement of Khesri dal by gram, peas and other pulses.

(c) Yes, Sir. The research and development work on pulses and oilseeds has been reoriented from time to time keeping in view the changing needs of these groups of crops. During the 7th Plan the major thrust would be on increasing productivity, development of early maturing and disease resistant varieties and evolving area specific technology.

Farming Strategy for Drought-prone Areas in Bihar

55. SHRI SATYENDRA ARYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research has advised any specific strategy of farming for acute drought prone areas of Bihar like Palamau district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, when such a strategy would be evolved ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). No specific strategy has been advised for the Palamau District but a Centre for Dry Farming Research is located since 1971 in Kanke in Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad. This centre has generated research information with regard to crop introduction, crop improvement, improved farm machinery for tillage, seeding and fertilizer application use of fertilizers and plant protection, chemicals, soil and moisture conservation measures and planning for aberrant weather. These findings are equally applicable to Palamau District.

A beginning has also been made by arranging Orientation Training for dryland farmers at Daltongang on dry farming techniques. Also a watershed of 2258 ha has been selected at Gurustinala, 10 km away from Daltongang in 1984, where soil and moisture conservation measures and package of practices of dry farming techniques will be demonstrated.

Assistance to Coconut Growers

56. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coconut Board has any new scheme for extending the areas of coconut cultivation and provide assistance to the growers to maximise production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Coconut Development Board is implementing seven

schemes for extending the area of coconut cultivation and for providing assistance to the growers to maximise production. These schemes are (1) Project for extension of area under coconut in 12 States and 3 Union Territories. (2) Coconut plantation on canal embankment in Orissa. (3) Coconut plantation on khas land in Tripura. (4) Production of quality coconut seedlings at the headquarters of the Coconut Development Board and in Karnataka. (5) Establishment of hybrid seed garden in Tamil Nadu and 12 pilot hybrid testing centres. (6) Providing financial assistance to coconut growers for removal of root-wilt affected coconut palms in Kerala and (7) Providing assistance for irrigation facilities to coconut growers in six States. The total cost of these projects is Rs. 1478.784 lakhs. Besides, two new schemes have been proposed by the Coconut Development Board for implementing during Seventh Plan with an estimated outlay of Rs. 529.86 lakh. These are—(1) Establishment of demonstration-cum-seed Production Farms for Coconuts in States; and (2) Establishment of Field Publicity Unit. These Projects are under examination.

Completion of Irrigation Projects in Kerala

57. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of major and medium irrigation projects which are pending completion in Kerala;

(b) the total irrigation potential that will be added on the completion of these projects; and

(c) by what time these will be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c). The required information is given below ;

S. No.	Name of the Project	Ultimate Potential in 000' hectares	Likely date of completion as indicated by the State
A. Major Projects			
1.	Kallada	92.00	1989-90
2.	Periyar Valley	79.46	1985-86
3.	Pamba	49.46	1985-86
4.	Kuttiadi	35.85	1985-86
5.	Chitturpuzha	32.60	1985-86
6.	Kanhirapuzha	21.90	1986-87
7.	Pazhassi	32.37	1985-86
8.	Muvattupuzha	52.20	1989-90
9.	Chimoni	26.20	1988-89
	Total A.	422.04	
B. Medium Projects			
1.	Karapuzha	9.30	1988-89
2.	Attapady	8.05	1989-90
	Total B.	17.35	
	Total (A + B) :	439.39	

[Translation]**Availability of Milk and Ghee to the Rural Poor**

58. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether milk, butter-milk, desi ghee etc. were easily available in every house in the villages at the time of India's independence but now these are hardly available particularly to the rural poor;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps contemplated by Government to make them available in plenty, particularly to the poor, and the middle class people in the rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details of the phased programme chalked out to solve these problems ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). Dairy Development is a State subject. The Government of India and the State Governments are fully alive to the need for the development of cattle and increasing milk production in the rural areas. As a result of implementation of various Central/Centrally Sponsored and State Plan Schemes, country's milk production has increased from 17 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 36 30 million tonnes in 1983-84. The per capita availability of milk was 133 gms. in 1950-51, which increased to 137 gms in 1983-84. Some of the schemes, taken up in the State Sector

which have a direct bearing on the production of milk are Key Village Schemes and Intensive Cattle Development Projects. Besides, apart from Operation Flood II projects, Government of India have also sponsored a number of schemes such as Central Cattle Breeding Farms, Herd Registration, Gowshala Development, Cross-breeding of cattle with exotic dairy breeds and improvement of buffaloes using frozen semen techniques, Progeny Testing Programme and Central Frozen Semen Production-cum-Training Institute.

Whereas the increased production of milk will result in higher availability of milk and milk products in general, the milk producers cooperative societies being organised under the Operation Flood Project envisage payment of remunerative price to the producers who are largely small and marginal farmers and landless labourers for increasing their income and consumption level.

[English]

Allotment of Schemes to Gujarat by HUDCO

59. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of schemes allotted to Gujarat by the Housing and Urban Development Corporation;

(b) the names and places covered under the schemes and the total amount allocated for the same; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) and (b). As on 31st December, 1984, Housing and Urban Development Corporation has sanctioned 388 schemes in the State of Gujarat with project cost of Rs. 273.38 crores and with loan commitment of Rs. 164.17 crores. These schemes cover 60 cities and towns spread over 18 districts, the name of which are given in the statement attached.

(c) Implementation of the schemes as

per their time schedules is the responsibility of the concerned borrowing agencies. The Housing and Urban Development Corporation regularly monitors the progress of implementation.

Statement

(I) List of Cities/Towns Covered in HUDCO Sanctioned Schemes in Gujarat

S.No.	Name
1.	Rajkot
2.	Nadiad
3.	Baroda
4.	Surat
5.	Ahmedabad
6.	Bhavnagar
7.	Jamnagar
8.	Surendranagar
9.	Nandesari
10.	Vapi
11.	Navasari
12.	Ankleshwar
13.	Kalol
14.	Palampur
15.	Naroda
16.	Bhuj
17.	Amreli
18.	Gandhidham
19.	Kapadwanj
20.	Vithal Udyog Nagar
21.	Banaskantha
22.	Pandesara
23.	Gandhinagar
24.	Nagarpur
25.	Moorvi
26.	Khambat

S. No.	Name
27.	Junagarh
28.	Rajpipla
29.	Una
30.	Chitra
31.	Odhar
32.	Bharauch
33.	Umbergaon
34.	Vallabh Vidyanagar
35.	Valsad
36.	Veratal
37.	Halwad
38.	Himmat Nagar
39.	Kidana
40.	Halot
41.	Umreth
42.	Mehsana
43.	Panadhro
44.	Porbandar
45.	Virangam
46.	Zalod
47.	Vavdi
48.	Thangadh
49.	Dhangadhra
50.	Kadi
51.	Dudhraj
52.	Barsad
53.	Kalrad
54.	Modasa
55.	Singach
56.	Kaira
57.	Billimora
58.	Bhadaj
59.	Chaya
60.	Gondal

(II) *List of Districts Covering Rural Housing Schemes*

S. No.	Name
1.	Kheda
2.	Vadodara
3.	Panchmahal
4.	Ahmedabad
5.	Surendranagar
6.	Banaskantha
7.	Bhavnagar
8.	Mehsana
9.	Sabarkantha
10.	Surat
11.	Amreli
12.	Rajkot
13.	Nadiad
14.	Junagadh
15.	Bharauch
16.	Kutch
17.	Valsad
18.	Gandhinagar.

Power Crisis

60. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a power crisis in Punjab and Haryana;

(b) if so, the factors responsible therefor;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to augment water in the Bhakra reservoir;

(d) whether some other States in the country are also suffering from power crisis; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to solve the problem on short term and long term basis ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Both Punjab and Haryana are facing power shortage in varying degrees.

(b) The present power shortage in Haryana and Punjab, is mainly due to low water level in the hydro reservoirs of Bhakra-Beas System, rise in the demand for power from agricultural sector, unsatisfactory performance of thermal stations in Haryana and difficulties in providing shares of these States in Central projects

(c) The inflows into Bhakra reservoir depend on snow melting and are expected to increase from May, 1985.

(d) Except for some States in the Southern Region like Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, the States in other Regions, are by and large facing power shortage of varying degrees.

(e) To minimise the problem of power shortage efforts are being made to accelerate the programme of commissioning new generating capacity, undertake renovation and modernisation of existing plants, improving coal supplies and training of engineers and operating personnel of the power stations. Long-term measures include taking up of more new projects in the coming Five Year Plan.

Energy Board

61. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Energy Board is proposed to be constituted to coordinate the activities of this vital sector; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof including the powers to be given to it ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). The Government had set up an "Advisory Board on Energy" in its Resolution No. 64/1/83-Cab. dated 21st March, 1983. The main functions of this Advisory Body are given in the statement attached.

Statement

The functions of Advisory Board on Energy are as under :—

- (i) continuously reviewing the energy situation in the country in the global context and proposing future energy options on an integrated and coordinated basis;
- (ii) formulating an integrated energy policy covering commercial and non-commercial sources of energy, and evolving operational arrangements for management of supply and demand in all sectors and monitoring their implementation keeping in view technology options in industry, transport etc. having regard to the intensity of energy use;
- (iii) periodically assessing the likely demand and availability of different forms of energy and suggesting appropriate arrangements to meet the country's energy needs on an optimal basis keeping in view the need to conserve our resources as well as the environment; and
- (iv) proposing pricing policies of all forms of energy, keeping in view their *inter se* availability, opportunity costs and conservation of energy.

Distress Sale of Paddy

62. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of paddy procurement has been fixed at Rs. 103 per quintal;

(b) whether paddy is being sold at distress rate of Rs. 85 per quintal due to non-purchase of the same by the procurement agency, Food Corporation of India;

(c) whether Government have considered the desirability of inducting at least three representatives from the agricultuer

commodity in the Agricultural Prices Commission from different parts of the country;

(d) whether paddy grown under the irrigated areas of Hirakud-Ayacut in Orissa is being sold at Rs. 85 per quintal by the farmers; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to rescue the farmers by purchasing the paddy through the Food Corporation of India ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Support prices for procurement of paddy for 1984-85 marketing season have been fixed as under :

Variety	Rs. per quintal
Common	137.00
Fine	141.00
Superfine	145.00

(b) The Government have made adequate arrangements for procurement of paddy and no such report of distress sale has been received.

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

(d) and (e). The State Government have reported that there are no such reports of farmers selling Paddy at Rs. 85 per quintal. The State Government have reported that the Food Corporation of India and the Orissa State Cooperative Marketing Federation have been entrusted with procurement work in Orissa.

Irrigation Project in Command Areas

63. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen satellite photographs of irrigation project in command areas which show rising levels of salinity;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken about preventing loss of cultivable land due to rising levels of salinity; and

(c) whether there are any other known ill-effects of high levels on irrigation and water storage ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c). Some experiments have been carried out in pilot areas to delineate the waterlogged and saline areas by use of satellite photographs. The Government of India is seized of the problem caused by rising water table in irrigated, commands resulting in waterlogging and increased salinity and has been impressing upon the State Governments to undertake preventive/corrective measures which include provision of adequate drainage at the project planning stage, conjunctive use of surface and ground water to control rise in water table, modernisation of existing irrigation systems including lining of canals in reaches of higher seepage, introduction of improved irrigation water management practices including warabandi to ensure equitable distribution of water and reduce water wastage, and construction of field channels to avoid wastage of water by field to field irrigation.

Excessive surface water application without proper drainage and inadequate ground water development results in water logging and soil salinity and alkalinity which affect the productivity of land. Water storage can also be a cause of spread of water borne diseases.

Non-Implementation of Hydel/Thermal Projects in States

64. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of hydel/thermal projects proposed by various State Governments are not being implemented;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of such projects and reasons for their non-implementation; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). The prime responsibility for implementation of power projects in a State rests with the State Government/State Electricity Board concerned.

At present power projects totalling over 38,000 MW of capacity are under various stages of implementation in different States. The progress of implementation of projects is sometimes affected by factors such as inadequacy of funds, non-sequential and/or delay in supply of equipment, difficulties in land acquisition, shortage of key construction material and geological, engineering and labour problems.

(c) A number of measures have been taken to assist the State/project authorities in expediting the implementation of power projects. These measures include regular monitoring of the projects by the Central Electricity Authority, efforts to expedite supply of equipment and materials, visits to project sites by engineers of the Central Electricity Authority to resolve problems and organising review meetings of agencies concerned to coordinate project implementation. Detailed guidelines have also been issued to the State Electricity Boards for improved project management.

Implementation of Land Reforms

65. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to complete land reforms by the year 1985;

(b) if so, how many acres of land were acquired, Statewise, at the end of 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 and how much was distributed;

(c) the reasons of the tardy implementation; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken for its speedy implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND

RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDU-LAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (d). Significant progress has been made in Land Reforms and implementation of Ceiling Laws. Efforts are continuing to further accelerate the progress. Under the revised ceiling laws enacted in accordance with the National Guidelines, 1440172 returns were filed by surplus land holders. Of this 1416531 returns have been disposed of and only 23641 returns remain to be decided. An area of 42.81 lakh acres have been declared surplus. Of this till December, 1984, 30.01 lakhs acres has been taken possession of and 21.22 lakhs distributed to 15.91 lakh beneficiaries. A statement showing statewise position is Laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT.-87/85*]. Of the remaining area, part is unfit for cultivation and part has been reserved for public purposes including social forestry while some is involved in litigation. Efforts are being made to distribute area of which possession has been taken and which is actually available for distribution. In the current year the target for distribution is 2 lakh acres against which according to available information 82492 acres have been distributed upto November, 1984. It has not been possible to take possession of all the area declared surplus, primarily on account of litigation. States have been advised to strengthen the administrative machinery, to improve monitoring arrangement and to take effective steps for the disposal of court cases. Majority of ceiling laws have been brought under the protective umbrella of IXth schedule of the Constitution.

Development of Fisheries in Adivasi and Backward Areas

66. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Government sponsored schemes for development fisheries, particularly in Adivasi and backward areas of the country; and

(b) the action taken so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). A statement is enclosed.

Statement

For development of fisheries some of the important Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes under implementation in the country directly benefitting Adivasi and backward areas are as below :—

Name of the Schemes	Objectives and brief operational details
1. Fish Farmers Development Agency (FFDA) Programme. (Centrally Sponsored)	<p>(i) This programme is operated through two different schemes, viz. Development of Aqua-culture and Inland Fisheries Project with IDA assistance. Through this programme it is envisaged to develop rural tanks and ponds by giving assistance to fish farmers on :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) subsidy on reclamation of ponds and tanks; (b) subsidy for inputs for first year's fish culture operation; (c) imparting training to fish farmers on intensive aquaculture; and (d) providing technological know-how through continuous extension support besides arranging loan for additional requirement of the fish farmers both for reclamation of ponds and tanks and inputs. <p>(ii) The present sanctioned strength of such FFDA's in the country is 147 including 13 in the tribal districts. Most of these FFDA's are district based except 4 which are operating as regional FFDA's. All the major states except Meghalaya and Sikkim have been covered under this programme. In tribal FFDA's subsidy for tribal fish farmers is double the amount available to other category of fish farmers. Instructions have been issued to cover at least 25% beneficiaries from amongst SC/ST category of farmers in the non-tribal FFDA's and 50% in the tribal FFDA's.</p>
2. Group Accident Insurance for	(i) To provide accident insurance cover

Name of the Schemes	Objectives and brief operational details
Active Fishermen (Centrally Sponsored)	<p>for all fishermen actively engaged in the traditional and small mechanised sectors both marine and inland</p> <p>(ii) Premium on Personal Accident Policy to fishermen are subsidised by the Central Government to the extent of 50% per annum and remaining 50% is being borne by the States. In case of Union Territories the Central subsidy is 100%. An annual premium of Rs. 12 per beneficiary is payable for providing a cover of Rs. 15,000 for one year against death and permanent disability. Fishermen who are and who would be members of Fishermen Coop. Societies are covered by this scheme. Where such coops. are not functioning, the scheme is operated through a Fishermen Welfare Organisation duly recognised by the State.</p>
3. National Welfare Fund for Fishermen (Centrally sponsored)	<p>(i) To provide the fishermen with basic civic amenities like drinking water sanitation housing, medical and health facilities;</p> <p>(ii) to provide educational/vocational training facilities to fishermen children;</p> <p>(iii) To provide grant for housing facilities;</p> <p>(iv) To provide seasonal relief;</p> <p>(v) To provide old-age pension for subsistence to active fishermen after the age of 60 years.</p> <p>(vi) The scheme is being implemented by a non-profit-making society which has been registered under the Society Registration Act, 1860. The Union Ministry of Agriculture is the President of the Society and the Ministers in charge of Fisheries from all States and Union Territories are its members.</p>

**Talks with State Governments
regarding Power Shortage**

67. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the serious situation that has arisen out of the power shortage in many States for the last two months the Union Government have initiated talks with the State Governments for overcoming the power shortage in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks held with the State Governments; and

(c) the new measures Government propose to take to overcome the power shortage in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The talks have been fruitful and the concerned Chief Ministers have assured to take effective measures.

(c) To minimise the problem of power shortage efforts are being made to accelerate the programme of commissioning new generating capacity, undertake renovation and modernisation of existing plants, improving coal supplies and training of engineers and operating personnel of the power stations. Longterm measures include taking up more new projects in the coming Five Year Plan.

Hike in Procurement Price of Wheat

68. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to raise the procurement price of wheat in the ensuing rabi season;

(b) if so, when final decision is likely to be taken;

(c) whether in October, 1984, country-wide campaign was made to concentrate on mobilising all input distribution agencies to facilitate timely supply to the farmers;

(d) whether arrangement were made for quick disbursement of all the inputs, including seed, fertilizers etc; and

(e) whether Government are also making efforts to provide effective marketing support to coarse grains as well ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The price policy for wheat for 1985-86 marketing season is under active consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir. It has been decided that institutional arrangements should be made in States for price support operations of Coarse Cereals. Accordingly, the State Governments intending to implement the programme have been requested by the Department of Food which is the nodal Department to indicate the arrangements made in this regard.

Drought Relief to Karnataka

69. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka Government have sought assistance of Rs. 31.50 crores for drought relief measures in the State from the Central Team which visited Karnataka on 10 October, 1984;

(b) whether two memoranda were submitted in September, 1984 seeking Rs. 123 crores and Rs. 55 crores respectively for fighting drought which has affected 16 out of 19 districts in the State;

(c) whether Central team was convinced of the need to meet the drought situation; and

(d) if so, the total amount granted so far to the State Government to meet the drought situation in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Government of Karnataka sent a memorandum

on scarcity seeking Central assistance of Rs. 123.00 crores in September, 1984. Subsequently in October, 1984 the State Government sent a supplementary memorandum in which they enhanced their requirements of Central assistance by an additional Rs. 55.00 crores. The State Government sought another amount of Rs. 31.50 crores during the visit of Team, thus raising the total requirement of funds to Rs. 209.50 crores.

(c) and (d). The Central Team visited the State between 8th and 12th October, 1984. On the basis of the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief, thereon, a ceiling of Central assistance amounting to Rs. 32.73 crores was sanctioned to the Government of Karnataka for meeting the drought situation in the State on 22nd November, 1984.

Programme for Village Electrification

70. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation is keen on accelerating the programme for electrification of villages for promotion of employment/oriented small industries;

(b) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has prepared a comprehensive programme for 48 million house connections involving an expenditure of Rs. 2400 crores;

(c) if so, when this programme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) details of achievement made in 1984-85 ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The outlays involved in the programme for providing house connections have been estimated. A decision on the provision of funds and the phasing of implementation would be taken at the time of finalization of the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Acquirement of Land and Construction of Houses by DDA

71. SHRI D.L. BAITHA : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the area of land acquired by DDA in Dehli/New Delhi indicating total number of plots developed, houses constructed for distribution/allotment to the people and total number of plots/houses allotted during the last five years;

(b) whether some of the acquired land area, plots of land and constructed dwelling houses are still pending allotment; if so, total number of such plots/dwelling houses indicating reasons for non-allotment thereof; and

(c) whether Government are considering to dispose of the above land/plots/houses and if so, the details of the programme so chalked out ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) An area of 48281.980 acres of land has been acquired and placed at the disposal of DDA by the Delhi Administration. During the last five years, 2147 plots were placed at the disposal of Commissioner (Lands) DDA in addition to the plots already available. 3200 plots were allotted/auctioned. Under the Rohini Scheme, another 25445 plots were developed and allotted. During the period, the DDA constructed 60370 flats. But it could allocate/allot as many as 80,699 flats since there were some unallotted flats already available with them.

(b) An area of 4560.28 acres is available with DDA for allotment. This includes area under stay order and under encroachment. 5705 developed plots are under process of allotment. No constructed house is pending allotment with DDA.

(c) The area not covered by stay orders by the court and encroachments is under planning for utilization. 134 residential plots are proposed to be sold by DDA through auction in January and February, 1985. Additional 571 residential plots are

in the process of being allotted to those whose lands have been acquired.

**Registration under HUDCO Scheme 1979
and Allotment of Flats**

72. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of persons registered in each category with DDA under HUDCO Scheme of 1979 and how many of them have been allotted flats so far in each category; and

(b) the time by which the scheme will be finalised for allotment of flats ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) :
(a) The information is as under :—

Category	Total registrants	Flats allotted/ allocated
Janta	56249	13354
L.I.G.	67502	10821
M.I.G.	47521	6394
	1,71,272	30,569

(b) No time bound schedule has been fixed.

Buffer Stock and Import of Foodgrains]

73. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of buffer stocks of wheat and rice and the total cost involved thereof;

(b) the details of import of wheat for the last four years and foreign exchange involved, year-wise and country-wise;

(c) how do the expenses incurred in (a) and (b) compare and how does it affect nation's economy; and

(d) the losses due to storage for the last four years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) The stocks of wheat and rice with the public agencies as on 1st December, 1984, and value thereof are estimated as under :—

	Estimated Stocks (In million tonnes)	Estimated Value (In crore rupees)
Wheat	15.51	2915.26
Rice	6.02	1468.76
Total :	21.53	4384.02

(b) Year-wise and country-wise imports of wheat for the last 4 years were as under :—

Year	Country	Quantity contracted (In lakh tonnes)	Estimated FOB value (in foreign Exchange) (Million US dollars)
1980-81	—	—	—
1981-82	U.S.A.	15.15	262.066
	Australia	7.50	135.833
1982-83	U.S.A.	39.50	654.778
1983-84	U.S.A.	9.80	154.814
	Canada	5.00	80.246
	Argentina	6.50	97.750

(c) The maintenance of buffer stocks of foodgrains is intended as a measure of food security of the country so as to ensure stability in supplies and prices over the year. Imports are, however, resorted to as and when considered necessary and feasible taking all the relevant factors into consideration.

(d) Storage losses on Central operations on account of buffer stocks and distribution by the Food Corporation of India during the last 4 years were as under :—

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1980-81	39.41
1981-82	41.79
1982-83	42.48
1983-84	43.38

Vanaspati Units

75. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state the number of vanaspati manufacturing units in the country and the extent Government have subsidized them ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : There are 92 units manufacturing vanaspati in the country. No subsidy is provided to the vanaspati industry.

Recommendations by Committee Appointed to Investigate Causes of Fire in Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station

76. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had appointed a committee to investigate the causes of fire in Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station in U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the salient recommendations of that committee;

(c) whether the committee had suggested remedial measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents in other Super Thermal Power Stations in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). Government of India appointed a Committee on 30th October, 1984 consisting of the Director (Technical), National Thermal Power Corporation, and Member (Operation), Central Electricity Authority to investigate the causes of the fire and the report of the Committee is being finalised.

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

Increase in Urban Residential Land Prices

77. SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether urban residential land prices are increasing day by day in the country and particularly in metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to check this rising trend of the urban residential land prices in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) Yes, Sir, there is a definite trend.

(b) Rapid urbanisation, shortage of developed urban land and general inflationary trends etc. are the main factors responsible for increase in land prices in urban areas. There are many other contributory factors, such as increasing commercialisation of land, restrictive land tenure, land use and land lease systems and rent control and building by laws etc.

(c) Following steps have been taken to control urban residential land prices in the country :—

(1) Enactment of Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation Act), 1976.

- (2) Development of urban land for housing by the State Housing Departments and area urban development agencies and increase in the supply of developed land and houses.
- (3) Encouraging group and co-operative housing.
- (4) Other steps to control and trend are, rationalisation of land tenure, land lease, rent control, building by laws and land use systems.

[Translation]

Dhauliganga Hydel Project

78. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the investigation work on the Dhauliganga project has since been completed;

(b) if not, the time by which it is expected to be completed; and

(c) whether this project is proposed to be taken up for construction during the Seventh Five Year Plan keeping in view its importance from power generation angle ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No Sir.

(b) For Stage-I, field investigations are likely to be completed by April, 1985, and project report by September, 1985.

(c) This would depend upon the size of the Seventh Plan, which is under finalisation.

amount Allocated under R.L.E.G.P. and N.R.E.P. to U.P.

79. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount provided under Rural

Landless Employment Guarantee Programme and National Rural Employment Programme separately for various districts in Uttar Pradesh during annual plan for 1984-85 and the additional amount likely to be provided by the end of the year;

(b) whether several schemes submitted by Uttar Pradesh have not been approved by his Ministry; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The amounts allocated for Uttar Pradesh for 1984-85 under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme and the National Rural Employment Programme are Rs. 85.25 crores and Rs. 39.22 crores respectively. Under the NREP the State Government is required to provide an equal amount as matching share and make further allocations to the districts on the basis of a fixed formula. However, districtwise information of the allocations made in the State is not maintained at the Central level. In so far as the RLEGP is concerned, the funds are allocated to the State Government and it is not necessary for the State Government to make districtwise allocation. The question of additional funds under the NREP over and above the allocation can be considered for a State on the basis of its better performance and subject to availability of funds and provision of matching share by State Government. However, no request for the purpose has been received so far from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. In the case of the RLEGP no additional amount over and above the allocation mentioned is likely to be provided by the end of the year.

(b) and (c). Under the NREP work projects are to be approved by the DRDAs and no approval from this Ministry is required for their execution. In so far as the RLEGP is concerned, the State Governments are required to prepare specific work projects for sanction by the Central Committee for NREP/RLEGP. The State Government have submitted a number of project proposals under the RLEGP

for approval. The Central Committee has upto its meeting held on 11th December, 1984 approved 67 projects involving an estimated cost of around Rs. 135.77 crores in order to enable the State Government to utilise the entire allocation. The approval of projects is a continuing process and in some cases proposals were later withdrawn while in some others they were revised by the State Government. At present, two proposals are pending with this Ministry as clarification on certain points has been sought from the State Government.

Unauthorised Construction on Government Land in Delhi

80. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of unauthorised construction on DDA and Delhi Administration land registered during the last one year; and

(b) the action taken to remove these unauthorised constructions ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) and (b). The DDA has reported that 1597 cases of unauthorised constructions/encroachments on lands under its management were detected/registered during 1984. Out of which 623 encroachments/unauthorised constructions were removed.

The Delhi Administration has reported 62 cases of unauthorised construction during the period. One of them is pending in the court and the other 61 have been reported to the police.

Supply of Inferior Quality of Foodgrains to States

81. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that rotten wheat is being supplied in large quantity to the States from Food Corporation of India's godowns; and

(b) if so, the action likely to be taken by Government to stop the supply of this rotten wheat ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The Food Corporation of India issues wheat for public distribution system and to roller flour mills in the States according to the specifications prescribed by Government of India, and conforming to the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. The allottees are entitled to inspect the stocks and satisfy themselves about their quality before taking delivery from FCI depots.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Irrigation Target During Sixth Plan Period

82. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total irrigation facilities created up to end of Fifth Plan and additional target during Sixth Plan period in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the additional target has been achieved by the States;

(c) if so, the names of the major and medium irrigation projects completed during Sixth Plan and new projects taken up for execution, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Central and State Governments to achieve the targets before the end of Sixth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c). The information regarding irrigation potential created upto the end of Fifth Plan (1977-78) and additional target during Sixth Plan period, State-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement-I. Due to constraints of resources the achievement is expected to fall short of the target. Names of major irrigation projects completed or likely to be completed during Sixth Plan

period and of new projects are enclosed in Statements II and III respectively. Information regarding medium projects likely to be completed during Sixth Plan period and in respect of new projects taken up is enclosed in Statements IV and V respectively.

(d) The State Governments are according

priority for completion of on-going projects by allocating maximum possible funds. Further, the Central Government assists the State Governments to obtain scarce construction materials. Monitoring of the projects by the State Governments and select projects at the Central level is being done to identify bottlenecks for taking remedial measures.

Statement—I

(In thousand hectares)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/Union Territory	Irrigation potential created upto Fifth Plan (upto 1977-78)	Target for creation of additional Irrigation potential for Sixth Plan (1980-85)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4663	870
2.	Assam	309	226
3.	Bihar	4402	1680
4.	Gujarat	2312	453
5.	Haryana	2885	298
6.	Himachal Pradesh	91	28
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	398	65
8.	Karnataka	1933	715
9.	Kerala	717	303
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2656	1033
11.	Maharashtra	2628	875
12.	Manipur	20	61
13.	Meghalaya	18	15
14.	Nagaland	35	10
15.	Orissa	1846	660
16.	Punjab	5083	410
17.	Rajasthan	3086	482
18.	Sikkim	7	8
19.	Tamil Nadu	3018	233

1	2	3	4
20.	Tripura	33	13
21.	Uttar Pradesh	13062	4550
22.	West Bengal	2720	687
Total States :		51922	13675
Total Union Territories :		95	66
Total States and Union Territories :		52017	13741

Statement—II

Names of Major Irrigation Projects Completed/likely to be Completed during the Sixth Plan

S. No.	Name of State/Project
1	2
ANDHRA PRADESH	
1.	Improvement to Nizam Sagar Stage-I
2.	Samalkot Summer Storage Reservoir
BIHAR	
3.	Rajpur Canal
GUJARAT	
4.	Kakrapar
5.	Mahi Stage-I
6.	Sabarmati
7.	Ukai
8.	Kadana
HARYANA	
9.	WUC Remodelling Beas Unit I & Extn. Beas Unit II & Extn.
10.	Loharu Lift Irrigation
11.	Sewani Lift Irrigation
12.	Augmentation Canal Project
KARNATAKA	
13.	Tungabhadra LBC & RBC
14.	Kabini (NON-PLAN)

1	2
KERALA	
15.	Periyar valley
16.	Kuttiadi
17.	Pamba
18.	Pazhassi
MADHYA PRADESH	
19.	Bhandar Canal
20.	Hasdeo RBC
21.	Halali
22.	Chambal
23.	Barna
24.	Tawa
25.	Sukta
26.	Rangwan HLC
MAHARASHTRA	
27.	Bagh
28.	Itaiadoh
29.	Kal
30.	Tulshi
31.	Manjra
32.	Mula
ORISSA	
33.	Salandi
34.	Mahanadi Delta
PUNJAB	
35.	Extension of Non-Perennial Irrigation to areas in UBDC Tract.

1	2	1	2
36. Beas Unit I & its extn.			6. Warabandi in existing irrigation system.
37. Beas Unit II & its extn.			ASSAM
38. Diversion weir of Shahnahar Canal			7. Champamati
39. Utilisation of surplus Ravi Beas Waters			8. Puthimari
RAJASTHAN			BIHAR
Beas Unit I & its extn.			9. Auranga Res.
Beas Unit II & its extn.			10. Masan Dam
40. Rajasthan Canal Stage-I			11. Ajgaibinath Pump
TAMIL NADU			12. Jamania Pump
41. Chittarpattamamkal			13. Amanat Res.
42. Modernisation or Vaigai Channel			14. Table Res.
UTTAR PRADESH			15. Kanhar Res.
43. Ramganga Gandak			16. Lilajan Res.
44. Kosi			17. Upper Sakri Res.
45. Adwa			18. Mahananda Barrage at Bagdob
46. Dohrighat			19. Mohane Res.
47. East Baigul			20. Barari Pump
48. Parallel Lower Ganga Canal			21. Mahananda Barrage at Taiyabpur.
49. Suheli			22. Sonua Res.
50. Madho Tanda			23. Punasi Res.
WEST BENGAL			24. Burhai Res.
51. Mayurakshi			25. Bansloi Res.
			26. Dhakwa Res.
			27. Sarkunda Res.
			28. Kanchi Res.
			29. Sukasanaghat Pump
			30. Damanpur Res.
			31. Jiajore Res.
			32. Koel Karo.
			GUJARAT
			33. Narmada Project (Sardar Sarovar)
			34. Zankhari (W.B.)

Statement—III

New Major Projects of the Sixth Plan

S. No. Name of Project/State

1

2

ANDHRA PRADESH

1. Srisailem Right Bank Canal
2. Polavaram Barrage
3. Madras Water Supply Scheme Kandaluru Res.
4. Jurala Project
5. Yeluru Res.

1	2	1	2
35. Sidhumber		56. Johat	
HARYANA		57. Chota Tawa	
36. Making Parallel WJC increasing its capacity from Tajewala to Munnah.		58. Upper Narmada	
37. Conservation measures by installing 750 Ms sprinkler irrign. sets		59. Kutpali	
38. Installing 25 Nos. Drip Irrgn. sets.		60. Marwahi	
39. Providing Irrgn. to Mewat areas and Pataudi areas.		61. Bamraha	
40. Interlinking old augmentation tubewells to augmentation canal.		62. Sindh Ph. II	
41. Remodelling BMB and its distribution system.		63. Narmada Sagar Unit-I	
42. Scheme for use of flood water.		64. Bawanthadi	
HIMACHAL PRADESH		65. Upper Tapi	
—NIL—		66. Mahi	
JAMMU AND KASHMIR		67. Pancham Nagar	
—NIL—		68. Chamba! L.I.S. Kanera	
KARNATAKA		MAHARASTHRA	
43. Varahi		69. Poshif	
44. Dudhganga		70. Lendi	
45. Upper Bhadra		71. Lower Penganga	
46. Ramthal Lift		72. Lower Thirna	
KERALA		73. Ghosi Khurd	
47. Idamalaya		74. Lower Wardha	
48. Beyprepuzha		75. Lower Warna	
49. Kuriarkutty Karapara		76. Wan	
50. Kakkadavu		77. Arunavati	
MADHYA PRADESH		78. Tultuli	
51. Mahanadi Res. Ph.III		79. Sangola Branch	
52. Arpa		80. Karwa	
53. Bargi Diversion		81. Talomba	
54. Dhobatoria		82. Punad	
55. Man		83. Gated weir at Khodashi	
		MANIPUR	
		—NIL—	
		MEGHALAYA	
		—NIL—	

1 2

ORISSA

84. Subarnarekha
85. Samakoi
86. Addl. spillway of Hirakud dam.
87. Ong St. II (Chiroli)
88. Indra
89. Kanupur

PUNJAB

90. Low Dam in Kandi Area
91. Shahpur Kandi
92. Providing Irrigation facilities o
area left side of Narwana Brancht

RAJASTHAN

93. New works of Chambal
94. Narbada
95. Mt. Abu Hydel Irrgn. Project.
96. Bisalpur Irrgn.-cum-water supply
project.
97. Thein Dam
98. Nohar Feeder
99. Sidhmukh

TAMIL NADU

100. Parambikulam Extension

UTTAR PRADESH

101. Kishau Dam
102. Kothi Behl Dam
103. Arjuna Sahayak
104. Increasing capacity of Chillimali
Pump Canal
105. Increasing capacity of Bhopali
Pump Canal
106. Lining of Lower Ganga

TRIPURA

—NIL—

1 2

WEST BENGAL

107. Darkeshwar Reservoir
108. Sidheswari Reservoir
109. Teesta Barrage Project 2nd Sub-
stg. of Stg. I Ph. I
110. Ajoy Reservoir
111. Barrage on Subarnarekha at
Bhosraghat
112. Upper Kangasabati
113. Lift Irrigation Scheme for Gazel
area.
114. Tangon Valley
115. Ramangola Hebpur lift Irrgn.

Statement—IV

*Number of Medium Schemes completed/
likely to be completed during the Sixth Plan.*

S. No.	Name of State	Nos.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19
2.	Assam	3
3.	Bihar	18
4.	Gujarat	9
5.	Haryana	5
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	6
8.	Karnataka	4
9.	Kerala	—
10.	Madhya Pradesh	35
11.	Maharashtra	21
12.	Manipur	1
13.	Meghalaya	—
14.	Nagaland	—
15.	Orissa	21

1	2	3
16. Punjab		—
17. Rajasthan		—
18. Sikkim		—
19. Tamil Nadu		12
20. Tripura		—
21. Uttar Pradesh		9
22. West Bengal		—
Total—States :		165
Union Territories :		—
Total—All India :		165

Statement—V

New Medium Schemes of VI Plan

Sl. No.	Name of State	Nos
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14
2.	Assam	10
3.	Bihar	40
4.	Gujarat	68
5.	Haryana	—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	5
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	14
8.	Karnataka	3
9.	Kerala	3
10.	Madhya Pradesh	17
11.	Manipur	3
12.	Maharashtra	26
13.	Meghalaya	2
14.	Nagaland	—
15.	Orissa	1
16.	Punjab	2
17.	Rajasthan	4
18.	Sikkim	—
19.	Tamil Nadu	19
20.	Tripura	2
21.	Uttar Pradesh	19
22.	West Bengal	14
Total—States :		266
Union Territories :		—
Total—All India :		266

Land Reforms

83. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the national guidelines issued to the States in regard to land reforms;

(b) the measures taken by the States so far to achieve the stipulated objectives, State-wise;

(c) total land vested in the Government surplus declared, cases pending for disposal and the SC and ST persons benefited so far, State-wise; and

(d) the measures taken by his Ministry and the States during Sixth Plan period to achieve the target and objectives ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (d). The Land Reforms Policy has been spelt out in the Five Year Plans. It aims at :

(i) abolition of intermediary tenures;

(ii) conferment of ownership rights on the general body of tenants (including share-croppers);

(iii) provision of security to those classes of protected tenants whose tenancy will continue to exist;

(iv) imposition of ceiling on agricultural holdings and distribution of surplus land among landless agricultural workers particularly members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and other eligible families;

(v) consolidation of holdings; and

(vi) updating of land records.

The main features of the National Guidelines drawn up on the basis of the conclusions of the Chief Minister's Conference on ceiling on agricultural

holdings held in July, 1972 is at statement-I attached.

The intermediary tenures like Zamindari, Jagirdari, inams etc. have been abolished virtually all over the country. Legislative provisions have also been made in extensive areas of the country providing for conferment of ownership rights on tenants or allowing cultivating tenants to acquire ownership rights on payment of reasonable compensation 77.19 lakhs tenants have acquired ownership in 56.02 lakh hectares. Details of these are given in statement II attached. Rents have been fixed at 1/4th and 1/5th of the produce except in Andhra area of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana. Steps have also been taken for imposition of ceiling on agricultural holdings of families and individuals,

The programme for consolidation of holdings has been undertaken in several States of the country. By now more than 50 million hectares have been consolidated in the country.

Land records are fairly up-to-date in all the States except some of the formerly permanent settlement areas and certain trabal and hilly areas. Revisional survey and settlement operations are being carried out in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal.

A statement indicating progress in implementation of revised ceiling laws is at statement III attached.

States have been advised to implement ceiling laws vigorously by strengthening administrative machinery, improving monitoring arrangements and by expediting disposal of Court cases.

Statement—I

Guidelines drawn up on the basis of the Conclusions of the Chief Ministers' Conference on Ceiling on Agricultural Holdings held on July 23, 1972.

The salient features of the Guidelines

are as follows :—

- (i) The ceiling on agricultural holdings should range between 10 to 18 acres of the best category of land, viz. land with assured irrigation and capable of yielding at least two crops in a year.
- (ii) The ceiling for inferior classes of land may be higher but should in no case exceed 54 acres.
- (iii) The ceiling should apply to a family unit of 5 members and where the size of the family is larger, additional land may be allowed for each additional member so however that the total area held by the family does not exceed twice the ceiling limit.
- (iv) The amended ceiling laws should be given retrospective effect from a date not later than 24th January, 1971.
- (v) The ceiling should not operate on land under tea, coffee, rubber, cardamom, and cocoa.
- (vi) State Governments may, in their discretion, grant exemption to the existing religious, charitable and educational trusts of a public nature.
- (vii) Private trusts should not be allowed to hold land in excess of the ceiling.
- (viii) In the distribution of surplus land, priority should be given to landless agricultural workers, particularly to those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
- (ix) All the amended laws should be included in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution.

Statement—II

Conferment of ownership right on tenants (As per reports received upto December 1984)

State/Union Territory	Number of tenants who have become owners	Area involved (in Hectares)
1	2	3
Andhara Pradesh (Telengana area)	33,000	82,000
Gujarat	10,50,000	4,77,529
Himachal Pradesh	54,000	21,000
Karnataka	4,76,000	7,77,806
Kerala	24,40,000	N.A.
Maharashtra	12,83,000	16,14,000
Rajasthan	8,22,000	17,50,672
Punjab and Haryana	22,000	59,000
Tripura	10,000	4,800
Uttar Pradesh	15,00,000	8,00,000
Delhi	29,000	16,000
Total :	77,19,000	56,02,807

Statement—III

Statement showing the land declared surplus under the revised ceiling laws vested in the State, number of SC/ST beneficiaries and the number of cases pending (as per reports received upto December 1984).

State/U.T.	Area declared surplus (acres)	Area taken possession (acres)	No. of beneficiaries	No. of cases pending	No. of S.C. beneficiaries	No. of S.T. beneficiaries
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	10,14,050	4,56,021	2,51,263	208	1,22,592	42,902
Assam	4,50,918	3,76,445	2,75,142	482	23,564	19,947
Bihar	2,74,794	1,70,463	1,80,533	607	1,02,563	19,828
Gujarat	1,82,180	87,046	6,411	—	4,086	959
Haryana	27,088	22,699	6,500	592	3,119	—
Himachal Pradesh	2,69,379	2,68,671	4,393	4	2,929	263
J & K	5,000	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Karnataka	2,95,019	1,52,260	26,137	1,027	15,303	657
Kerala	1,23,107	85,498	1,02,530	1,468	42,183	6,362
Madhya Pradesh	2,25,636	1,39,500	36,435	1,764	10,965	14,441
Maharashtra	3,84,552	3,66,202	80,622	1,194	25,616	16,516
Manipur	1,029	424	326	38	3	15
Orissa	1,58,749	1,36,486	98,615	922	33,581	37,305
Punjab	27,714	15,209	3,346	41	1,576	—
Rajasthan	2,58,248	2,32,064	28,853	1,544	11,522	4,261
Tamil Nadu	90,491	84,438	51,797	1,694	23,939	19
Tripura	1,929	1,847	1,228	—	283	277
Uttar Pradesh	2,99,693	2,73,134	2,03,233	1,549	1,46,903	1,405
West Bengal	1,79,470	1,24,485	2,31,276	10,369	93,399	46,088
Dadra & N.H.	8,958	6,776	1,776	—	13	1,762
Delhi	722	374	—	46	761	—
Pondicherry	2,560	1,161	1,060	94	—	—
Total :	42,81,786	30,01,203	15,91,476	23,641	6,64,900	2,13,021

Ganga and Tista River Waters

84. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state the present position of India and Bangladesh in the matter of Ganga and Tista River Waters ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : During the meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission held in December, 1984, the Commission reviewed the present stage of finalisation of the modalities for ad-hoc sharing of Tista Waters which was agreed to in the Joint Rivers Commission meeting held at Dhaka in July, 1983. It was decided that the Secretaries of the two countries should meet early to finalise the documentation of the ad-hoc sharing arrangements and Terms of Reference for scientific studies for sharing of Tista Waters.

The arrangements for sharing of the dry season flows of the Ganga at Farakka as per Memorandum of Understanding of October 1982 were valid for the years 1983 and 1984. During the period of this Joint Rivers Commission meeting, the Ministers of India and Bangladesh also discussed the subject of sharing of the dry season flows of the Ganga at Farakka and of augmentation of the dry season flows of the Ganga at Farakka. They recognised the need to continue the dialogue further.

Assistance to Drought and Flood Affected Areas

85. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance and other

facilities provided by Central Government to the drought and flood affected areas in the country during 1984-85, State-wise;

(b) whether this Central assistance is very inadequate to meet the requirement of the drought and flood affected areas; and

(c) if so, further steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) The State-wise information on ceiling of Central assistance

sanctioned so far during 1984-85 to the States affected by drought and flood is given in the statement attached.

(b) and (c). Ceilings of Central assistance are sanctioned to the effected States on the basis of the reports of the Central Teams, which visit the State to make an on-the-spot study of drought and flood situation. The recommendations of the Central Teams are made with regard to assistance in the different sectors with a view to enable the State to meet the situation caused by the natural calamity, adequately.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	(Rs. in crores)	
		Drought	Flood/Cyclone Etc.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54.42	4.73
2.	Assam	—	39.12
3.	Bihar	—	58.94
4.	Haryana	8.70	1.55
5.	Himachal Pradesh	5.47	2.73
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	3.78
7.	Karnataka	32.73	—
8.	Kerala	—	21.33
9.	Maharashtra	1.20	—
10.	Manipur	—	0.28
11.	Orissa	—	23.43
12.	Punjab	6.35	—
13.	Tamil Nadu	—	8.41
14.	Tripura	—	7.99*
15.	Uttar Pradesh	8.10	47.89
16.	West Bengal	—	58.68*

*including spill over for 1985-86 Tripura (0.69) and West Bengal (10.65).

**Production and Allocation of
Foodgrains to States**

86. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
SHRI KAMAL NATH :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) the production of rice and wheat and their allocation to each State and Union Territory since 1980 till December, 1984, year-wise; and

(b) the criteria of allocation of rice and wheat to each State and Union Territory ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Two statements showing production of rice and wheat during the crop years 1980-81 to 1983-84 and the allotment of rice and wheat during the years 1980 to 1984 are laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-88/85]

(b) Allocation of rice and wheat from Central Pool to various State/Union Territories are made on a month to month basis, taking in to account the overall availability of stocks in the Central Pool, relative needs of the various States, market availability and other related factors.

**World Bank Aided Storage Project
Schemes**

87. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States where World Bank assisted storage project schemes to provide adequate storage facilities have been implemented;

(b) whether any such World Bank storage project scheme has been taken up in Orissa during the Sixth Plan period; and

(c) if so, the details of the progress made in the completion of such World Bank financed storage project in Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) National Cooperativ

Development Corporation (NCDC) is implementing, with International Development Association assistance, Cooperative Storage Projects in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Under NCDC-I Cooperative Storage Project, which became operational in 1979-80, 958 rural (including rehabilitation of 200 old godowns) and 227 marketing godowns with a total storage capacity of 1.66 lakh tonnes and costing Rs. 10.25 crores were sanctioned in Orissa, of which 743 rural and 201 marketing godowns with a capacity of 1.39 lakh tonnes have been completed upto 31.10.1984 and the remaining 215 rural and 26 marketing godowns involving a capacity of 0.27 lakh tonnes, will be completed by March, 1985. The second Storage Project i.e. NCDC-III Project has been launched in the State with effect from 1.7.84 and is targetted to be completed by end of 1987-88. It envisages construction of 741 rural and 484 marketing godowns with a capacity of 2.626 lakh tonnes in Orissa at an estimated cost of Rs. 23.47 crores. About 200 rural and 100 marketing godowns are expected to be sanctioned under the Project by 31.3.85.

**Research on Root-Wilt Disease in
Coconut Trees**

88. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any research on the root-wilt disease which has affected large number of coconut trees in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures being contemplated ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Research is being conducted on the Root-Wilt disease of coconut in Kerala mainly at the Regional Research Station, Kayangulam of the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The precise cause of the Root-Wilt disease has not yet been finally established. Various types of micro-organisms like fungi, bacteria, nematodes, viruses and mycoplasma like organisms (MLOs) were reported to be associated with the diseased palms. Of these, the MLOs have been claimed to be consistently associated with diseased palms only. Further research on the transmission and possible association of insect vectors are being carried out in an intensive research programme of the Institute

Even though the cause of the Root Wilt disease is yet to be finally established, the scientists after detailed investigations have suggested the following ameliorative measures to reduce losses due to this disease :

- (i) Collection and screening of different cultivars and hybrids of coconut for disease tolerance and high yield under good management practices. Already 2500 nuts of 24 different types were collected by the CPCRI scientists from the Polynesian and Solomon islands in 1982 and grown under quarantine conditions in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. This germplasm will be screened against root wilt disease and the resistant ones will be used for upgrading our indigenous coconut types.
- (ii) Taking up adaptive research programmes (a) to contain and prevent further spread of the disease in the northern border of Trichur district after removal of all disease affected palms; (b) to carry out prophylactic plant protection measures on soil and adjacent palms and (c) to plant quality seedlings raised in disease free areas.
- (iii) Rehabilitation of affected plants

by adopting a set of package of practices like organic recycling, mixed cropping/inter-cropping, addition of plant nutrients, spraying fungicides and adopting good management.

- (iv) Advocating removal of wilt affected uneconomic palms to avoid spread of inoculum.

**Damage to Coconut Tress due to
Root-Wilt Disease**

89. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have studied the extent of damage to coconut trees due to the root-wilt disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of Central assistance provided for giving relief to the farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A survey was conducted during August, 1984 covering the eight districts in Kerala namely Trichur, Ernakulam, Idukki, Kottayam, Alleppey, Quilon, Pathanamthitta and Trivandrum where root-wilt disease is prevalent, jointly by the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, State Government of Kerala, Coconut Development Board, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, Kerala Agricultural University and Central Plant Protection Station of Government of India at Cochin. The Survey has brought out that there is an increase of the incidence of the disease by thirty per cent in the bearing palms since the last survey conducted in 1976. The spread of disease in the bearing and non-bearing palms in the eight districts are as follow :—

	Total No. of Palms ('000)	No. of disease Palms ('000)
Bearing Palms	59188	24209
Non-bearing Palms	32358	5422

(c) A sum of Rs. 54.75 lakh has been released through the Coconut Development Board in the Sixth Plan as Government of India's share under the Scheme to be matched by an equal amount by the State Government of Kerala for providing financial assistance to the coconut growers. Under this Scheme cash assistance is given to the growers for removal of disease affected trees @ Rs. 75 per tree and 50% subsidy on the cost of seedling and inputs such as fertiliser and plant protection chemicals. Another Scheme for rejuvenation of diseased and unproductive plantation in Kerala is implemented in the State as Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Scheme envisages supply of 4.4 lakh hybrid seedlings and fertiliser at 50 per cent cost. The total cost of the Scheme during Sixth Plan is Rs. 102.93 lakhs to be shared equally by the Centre and the State Government.

Likely Power Famine in Kerala

90. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kerala is likely to experience a power famine by the end of 1985; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Kerala is purely a hydel power system. With a normal rainfall during 1985, it is expected that Kerala will be able to meet its energy requirements.

(b) Does not arise.

Micro-Hydel Project in Arunachal Pradesh

91. SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh to set up a series of Micro-Hydel Projects near Sessa in West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, their present position;

(c) whether equipments purchased for these projects are lying unutilized due to delay in work;

(d) whether despite the cost of production per unit of electricity being very low, the projects are being delayed; and

(e) if so, the reasons and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a), (b), (d) and (e). The revised project report of Sessa Micro Hydel Scheme (3×500 KW) in West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh, received in October, 1983, is under examination in Central Electricity Authority and Central Water Commission. The Project authorities have been requested to depute their engineers for discussing the civil design aspects of the project with Central Water Commission. The scheme would be taken up for clearance, after its techno-economic feasibility is established.

(c) Information is being collected from the Union Territory authorities and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Recommendation of Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members

92. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament has recommended enhanced pension and first class railway passes for ex-Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). (i) Pension payable to

Ex-MPs may be increased from present maximum of Rs. 500/- per month to Rs. 750/- per month; and

(ii) Provision of facility of four journeys by rail, by first class from usual place of residence of ex-MP to Delhi and back in a year. These recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

Arrears in Payment to Sugarcane Growers

93. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge arrears are outstanding against the sugar mills payable to the sugarcane growers;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the outstanding amount; and

(c) the action taken by Government to ensure that payments of these outstanding amounts are made ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). State-wise position of sugarcane price remaining unpaid by sugar mills as on 30.11.1984 for the 1984-85 and earlier seasons is given in the statement attached.

(c) Ensuring payment of cane price arrears is the direct responsibility of the

State Governments, who have the necessary field organisations and powers to enforce such payments. The Central Government monitors the position and issues directions to State Governments, from time to time, for expeditious clearance of cane price arrears. The State Governments have been advised recently to keep a watch on cane price payments from the beginning of the season itself.

The Central Government, on its part, has been taking steps aimed at improving the liquidity of the industry to enable it to pay the cane dues. The steps taken over the last 2-3 years include liberalisation of bank credit facilities, reduction in bank margins on credit against sugar stocks, change in the method of valuation of sugar stocks to the benefit of the industry, judicious monthly releases of free-sale sugar for maintaining desired level of prices, creation of buffer stocks against which industry was entitled to 100% credit in addition to holding costs, etc. Besides, ways and means advances have also been granted to a few States in the context of high cane price arrears in those States.

As a result, for the 1983-84 season only about 2.6% of the cane price remains to be cleared, as on 30.11.1984.

Arrears in the earlier part of the season, when crushing is in full swing, tend to be high. However, as the season tapers off, the outstanding payments start getting liquidated faster.

Statement

Statement showing the State-wise position of cane price payable, price paid and balance outstanding for cane purchased during 1984-85 season upto 30.11.84 as well as the earlier years' arrears of cane price, as on 30.11.84

(Figures in Lakh/Rupees)

Sl. No.	State	Total price payable for cane purchased during 1984-85 season upto 30-11-84	Cane price paid upto 30-11-84	Balance cane price payable as on 30-11-84	Arrears of cane price as on 30-11-84 or the latest available date	
					1983-84 season	1982-83 and earlier seasons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	144.75	18.51	126.24	0.18	158.57

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. Assam		—	—	—	1.28	0.30
3. Bihar		—	—	—	1285.81	405.26
4. Goa		—	—	—	—	—
5. Gujarat		481.79	330.03	151.76	70.39	136.82
6. Haryana		198.62	26.51	172.11	0.12	0.24
7. Karanataka		1455.45	604.55	850.90	99.67	66.61
8. Kerala		1.99	1.99	—	0.12	41.08
9. Madhya Pradesh		—	—	—	8.87	16.76
10. Maharashtra		3407.85	983.83	2424.02	94.82	126.31
11. Nagaland		—	—	—	—	27.24
12. Orissa		—	—	—	0.50	0.30
13. Pondicherry		—	—	—	0.04	1.44
14. Punjab		511.22	152.85	358.37	0.91	0.57
15. Rajasthan		—	—	—	4.04	0.07
16. Tamil Nadu		155.63	78.45	77.18	0.33	30.07
17. (i) U.P. (West)		1326.98	349.08	977.90	3.23	25.03
(ii) U.P. (Central)		603.03	92.14	510.89	15.30	260.23
(iii) U.P. (East)		115.29	—	115.29	312.88	40.17
(iv) U.P. (Total)		2045.30	441.22	1604.08	331.41	325.43
18. West Bengal		—	—	—	1.86	20.08
ALL INDIA		8402.60	2637.94	5764.66	1900.35	1357.15

NOTES :—1. This does not include information in respect of 28 factories which have not furnished figures for 1984-85 season.

2. As per the provision in the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, the payment of cane price has to be made within 14 days of delivery of cane. The figures in col. 5 include amount which have not yet become overdue, i.e., the price of cane purchased in the previous fortnight.

Closure of Sugar Mills

94. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :
Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether many sugar mills in the country are still lying closed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the causes of closure of these mills; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to get them reopened and the results achieved thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Out of installed

sugar mills, reports of commencement of production, during the current sugar year have not been received from 43 mills. It is possible that some of these mills may be starting soon or may have already started and the position is known only when the mills send reports under statutory provisions of commencement of production. However, as per reports received 296 mills were in production on 15-1-1985.

(c) and (d). It is the responsibility of the State Governments to ensure that sugar mills commence cane crushing for any sugar season timely. Non-availability of cane, financial and labour problems are generally the reasons for which mills remain closed.

[*English*]

Kharif Production

95. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether kharif crops in 1984 was satisfactory;

(b) what has been the production of rice and other products in that crop;

(c) whether there is any proposal to export rice or other produce of the kharif crop; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Final estimates of production of kharif crops for 1984 have not yet become due from the States.

(c) and (d). Under the current export policy, only basmati rice is allowed for export under the open General Licence. Export of non-basmati rice is not allowed. Export of bajra is canalised through NAFED within a ceiling and within the overall canalisation policy, private parties are also allowed to export bajra subject to certain conditions. Export of maize is also allowed within a limited ceiling. Proposals to export agricultural

commodities are reviewed from time to time in the light of the crop size and surplus available within the country.

Recommendation of Lokur Committee Regarding Charges for Peripheral Services

96. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to refer to the reply given to part (a) of the Unstarred Question No. 3209 on 13 August, 1984 regarding recommendation of Lokur Committee regarding charges for peripheral services and state :

(a) whether Government have referred the recommendations of the Lokur Committee to the Attorney General of India;

(b) if so, his opinion thereon; and

(c) whether the requisite information referred to in part (b) of the above mentioned reply has since been collected ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes.

Impact of Late Crushing of Sugarcane on the Sugar Price

97. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether crushing of sugarcane started late in this crushing season as compared to last year;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it will have any impact on the production and price of sugar; and

(d) what is the estimate of sugar production for the current season ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The number of

sugar factories which went into production in the current 1984-85 season upto 15th November and 15th December were 95 and 247 respectively as compared to 69 and 243 upto the said dates respectively in the previous 1983-84 season.

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

(d) As per the present tentative estimates, the production of sugar in the current 1984-85 season is expected to be around 70 lakh tonnes.

Soil Conservation

98. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of soil conservation measures being taken in various parts of the country in the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) the details of Central assistance proposed to be made available to the State Governments for these scheme during the plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) The soil conservation measures proposed to be taken up in the Seventh Five Year Plan period cover both agriculture and non-agricultural lands on watershed basis and include agronomic, engineering and biological measures, such as :—

- (1) Contour bunding and terracing with run-off disposal channels;
- (2) tree plantation and development of pastures in waste lands and in hill slopes;
- (3) construction of soil conservation engineering structures to check run-off and erosion;
- (4) stabilisation of sand dunes, landslides, torrents, etc; and
- (5) building water impounding structures for harvesting and re-using rain

water as well as restoring degraded lands.

(b) The Central assistance during the Seventh Five Year Plan is proposed to be given through the schemes of :—

- (1) soil conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects;
- (2) Integrated Watershed Management in the catchments of Flood-Prone Rivers;
- (3) Soil, water and tree conservation in the Himalayas;
- (4) Drought Prone Area Development Programme;
- (5) Desert Development Programme;
- (6) Control of shifting cultivation;
- (7) Strengthening of State soil survey organisations;
- (8) Strengthening of State Land Use Boards;
- (9) Development and stabilisation of ravinous areas;
- (10) Survey, categorisation and restoration of culturable waste lands and fallows other than current fallows.

Payments Due from State Electricity Boards to Power Projects

99. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the areas of payments as on date due from each State Electricity Board to different power projects which supply power to the Boards (Board-wise figure for the country);

(b) the steps being taken to ensure prompt payment by State Electricity Boards;

(c) whether the Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board owes more than Rs. 70 crores to Neyveli Power Project; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to ensure the payment of arrears to Neyveli Power Project ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The State Electricity Boards owe Rs. 268.05 crores to different Central power generating organisations on account of sale of power. A statement indicating the outstanding dues in respect of different State Electricity Boards is attached.

(b) The State Electricity Boards are

being requested to clear the outstanding dues from time to time in the Review Meetings.

(c) Yes Sir. Tamil Nadu Electricity Board owes Rs. 88.72 crores to Neyveli Lignite Corporation for the sale of power as per the figures indicated by Neyveli Lignite Corporation.

(d) The matter for clearance of the arrears has been taken up with Tamil Nadu Government.

Statement

Dues outstanding against State Electricity Boards in respect of sale of power from National Thermal Power Corporation/National Hydro Electric Power Corporation/Damodar Valley Corporation/Neyveli Lignite Corporation (as on 31.12.84)

(Figures in Rupees crores)

Sl. No.	Name of State Electricity Board	Name of Organisation				Total
		NTPC	NHPC	DVC	NLC	
1.	Andhara Pradesh	31.46	—	—	—	31.46
2.	Assam	—	3.76@	—	—	3.74
3.	Bihar	—	—	45.09*	—	45.09
4.	Haryana	0.86	7.24@	—	—	8.12
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.99	5.41@	—	—	6.40
6.	Gujarat	1.29	—	—	—	1.29
7.	Madhya Pradesh	17.85	—	—	—	17.85
8.	Maharashtra	5.94	—	—	—	5.94
9.	Punjab	—	9.34@	—	—	9.34
10.	Rajasthan	9.32	—	—	—	9.32
11.	Uttar Pradesh	28.51	—	—	—	28.51
12.	West Bengal	—	—	12.27*	—	12.27
13.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	88.72**	88.72
						268.05

*as on 15.1.1985

**as on 17.1.1985 and reported by NLC

@as on 14.1.1985,

Irrigation Projects in Tamil Nadu**Statement**

100. SHRI K.T. KOSALRAM : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of irrigation projects—major, medium and minor that have been forwarded during the past three years by the Government of Tamil Nadu which are yet to be approved by the Central Government;

(b) whether medium and minor irrigation projects can be implemented by the States without the approval of the Central Government if such projects are implemented outside the plan funds; and

(c) if not, the names of medium and minor irrigation projects which have been implemented during the past five years by different State Governments in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c). A list of the names of major and medium irrigation projects forwarded to Centre during the past three years by Tamil Nadu and which are yet to be approved are enclosed in the Statement attached. Under the present system of National Planning Process, the project reports in respect of minor irrigation schemes are not required to be sent to Central Government for clearance. However, medium projects are required to be approved by the Planning Commission before implementation and it is expected that the States do not take up any medium projects without such approval by the Planning Commission.

A State-wise list of the medium irrigation projects which have been completed during the last five years is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House. As the minor irrigation projects are being sanctioned by the States themselves, the Government of India do not maintain a list of minor projects.

S. No. Name of the Project

A. Major Schemes

1. Paralbikulam Aliyar Ayacn Extension 1980—Coimbatore and Periyar District.
2. Parambikulm Aliyar Aliycut Extension (1982)—Combatore and Periyar.
3. Modernisatioid of Cauvery Delta System—Thanjuvur Distt.

B. Medium Schemes

1. Modernisations of Ananthnar Kodyiar Channel (Kanyakumari District).
2. Anaimaduvu Reservoir Salem District.
3. Orthupalayam Reservoir Scheme (Periyar and Tiruchy District).
4. Noyyal Reservoir Scheme (Coimbatore and Tiruchy Distt.).

12. hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Home Minister.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : I have one submission to you, Sir. On Friday the Prime Minister had made a very important statement on espionage.

MR. SPEAKER : He is going to make a statement on that subject. He is going to make a statement on that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : All right.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipolayam) : Mr. Speaker. Sir in the List of Business...*(Interruption)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : After that statement is made, shall we have tomorrow, the adjournment motion, of which I have given notice ?

MR. SPEAKER : According to the situation, as the national interests demand, We will act.

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, I want to...

MR. SPEAKER : After the Papers Laid.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : We should discuss it.

MR. SPEAKER : We will discuss it. You are always welcome any time,

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Adjournment motion must be... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : No question of adjournment motion. We can have a discussion any time you like. But it will—only be discussion. We will see that it is discussed.

AN HON. MEMBER : We should discuss it immediately.

MR. SPEAKER : The House is meeting for the first time after that statement and he is making a statement.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : One thing. About the Sri Lanka issue we have already given a Calling Attention. My grievance is that in the List of Business for the 22nd our names do not find a place in the Calling Attention. We have already given notice of it.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : It is according to ballot.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Bhoi, I will make him understand. He is a new member. The problem is we have to draw lots. It is not in my power or in anybody's power. It is done by just ballot. If you ask Prof. Dandavate, he will explain.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : On the 15th itself we have given notice of it.

MR. SPEAKER : You have done your duty. But it is neither in my power nor in anybody's power, You could not get the ballot in your name. That is the problem.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Is it proper for the Tamil Nadu people ?

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central) : I have given notice under Rule 184 for a short duration discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER : There is not question. Shri Abdul Ghafoor.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY (Buxar) : Sir, this is an important matter.

MR. SPEAKER : What is this now ? No, not like this. What is your point of order ?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : The President of an important political party in Bihar, a party which is represented in this House and also in the Bihar Assembly, has given a call to his followers to collect illegal weapons for the next Assembly elections. It is a very serious matter. It is an incitement to violence.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not my job. You give some notice. It is the Home Minister's job.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Sir, the Prime Minister has made a statement in both Houses.

MR. SPEAKER : What is it now ?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : He said "Don't ask for any further information now". But all sort of information has come in the Press. The information is available with the Press.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You are not serious about it.

MR. SPEAKER : I am serious about it. I am more serious than you. He is making a statement.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The Press has got the information already.

MR. SPEAKER : Nobody has given it to the Press.

Shri Abdul Ghfoor.

Do you think that whatever is printed in the Press is gospel truth ?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : They have given the names and also the photographs. The Prime Minister did not take Parliament into confidence.

(*Interruptions*)

12.05 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Annual Report and Audited Accounts of and statement re : review on Rajghat Samadhi Committee, New Delhi for 1983-84 and Audited Accounts of and statement re : Review on the accounts of Delhi Urban Art Commission, New Delhi for 1983-84

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajghat Samadhi Committee, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Rajghat Samadhi Committee, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-22/85]

(2) (i) A copy of the Audited Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Urban Art Commission, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84 under sub-section (4) of section 20 of the Delhi Urban Art Commission Act, 1973.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the Accounts of the Delhi Urban Art Commission, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-23/88]

Annual Report etc. of and Statement re : Review on Betwa River Board Jhansi, for 1983-84, Annual Report of Central Board of Irrigation and Power, New Delhi, for 1983-84, Annual Report etc. of National Water Development Agency, New Delhi for 1983-84 and statement re-delay in laying Annual Reports etc. of Brahmputra Board for 1983-84

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report

(Hindi and English versions) of the Betwa River Board, Jhansi, for the year 1983-84 along with Accounts and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (1) of section 15 of the Betwa River Board Act, 1976.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Betwa River Board, Jhansi, for the year 1983-84,

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-24/85]

(2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Board of Irrigation and Power, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-25/85]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Water Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the National Water Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-16/85]

(4) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Brahmputra Board for the year 1983-84 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-27/85]

Review on and Annual Report of Oil Palm India Ltd. Kottayam, for 1982-83 of Madhya Pradesh State Dairy Development Corporation Ltd. Bhopal for 1979-80 and of National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for 1983-84

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following

papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

(i) Review by the Government on the working of the Oil Palm India Limited, Kottayam, for the year 1982-83.

(ii) Annual Report of the Oil Palm India Limited, Kottayam, for the year 1982-83 along with Audited Accounts and the 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-28/85]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

(i) Review by the Government on the working of the Madhya Pradesh State Dairy Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1979-80.

(ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh State Dairy Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1979-80 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(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-29/85]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 1983-84 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 1983-84.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-30/85]

Notifications under Food Corporation Act, Essential Commodities Act, and Sugar Development Fund Act, Annual Report of and Review on Indian Standards Institution, New Delhi, for 1983-84, Annual Report of and Review on Super Bazar, the Cooperative Store Ltd., New Delhi for 1982-83 and statement re : Delay in laying papers. Food re : Corporation of India, 1983-84.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy of the Food Corporation of India (Staff) (Ninetieth Amendment) Regulations, 1984 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 33-F.No.1-2/77-E.P in Gazette of India dated the 15th Septemebr, 1984, under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Food Corporation Act, 1964.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-31/85]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :—

(i) The Sugar (Price Determination for 1983-84 Production) Third Amendment Order, 1984 published in Notification No. GSR 669(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 1984.

(ii) The Sugar (Price Determination for 1983-84 Production) Amendment Order, 1985 published in Notification No. GSR 14(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 1985.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-32/85]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 9 of the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 :—

(i) GSR 548(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th July, 1984 containing corrigendum to Notification No. GSR 752(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1983.

(ii) The Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Rules, 1984 published in Notification No. GSR 817(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 1984.

(iii) GSR 27 published in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 1985 containing corrigendum to Hindi version of the Notification No. GSR 548(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th July, 1984.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-33/85.]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Standards Institution, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Indian Standards Institute, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-34/85.]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Super Bazar, the Cooperative Store Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1982-83 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of

the Super Bazar, the Cooperative Store Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1982-83.

(6) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-35/85.]

(7) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Food Corporation of India for the year 1983-84 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-36/85.]

Annual Report of and Review on National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi for 1983-84

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) : I beg to lay
on the Table :

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts.

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-37/85.]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, Order. Please address the Chair. Mr. Home Minister.

12.05 hrs

STATEMENT RE : ACTIVITIES OF
SOME PERSONS IN THE
GOVERNMENT DETRIMENTAL
TO NATIONAL INTERESTS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : On January 18, 1985, the Prime Minister had taken the House into confidence regarding a matter of grave importance arising from the activities of some persons in the Government which were detrimental to our national interests. Since then more details regarding this matter have become available. I am now in a position to disclose that the secret operations undertaken by our intelligence agency had recently brought to light that some persons in sensitive positions in the Government of India had been passing on classified documents and reports to an Indian, who, in turn, was transmitting them to an agent of a foreign power based in New Delhi. Our intelligence agency was directed to vigorously pursue the matter and in the light of their further enquiries a case under the Official Secrets Act was registered on January 17, 1985. As a result, several persons, including a representative of a private firm and some employees of the Government in the office of the Principal Secretary to the PM, Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Finance and the President's Secretariat have been arrested and are being interrogated. Searches conducted in the course of investigation have resulted in the recovery of a large number of classified and highly sensitive documents. At the instance of the Government of India, the agent of a foreign power involved in this case has been withdrawn from our country. Further investigation is in progress.

I would like to assure the House that considering the wide-ranging nature of the espionage activity that has been brought to light by our intelligence agency, no efforts will be spared by the Government to bring to book all those even remotely involved in such activity. Simultaneously a thorough review of security procedures regarding handling of classified information has

already been undertaken and modified instructions in this regard have already been issued to all concerned.

Hon'ble Members will appreciate that more disclosures at this stage would hamper investigation of the case.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : We would like to have a discussion on this. *(Interruptions)* I have a submission to you. The Statement is very brief. For instance, today the press has mentioned that one French official, who has been named as an important foreign link in the espionage case, has been allowed to leave the country from Palam Airport. Therefore, we would like to have a full-fledged discussion on this so that we will be able to get better information, more reliable information in the interest of the integrity and security of the country. Please accept our demand. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you getting agitated unnecessarily? I can listen even to a small whisper. Even if you whisper, I will listen. I say that there is a provision, we can all for a discussion under the rules. There is no problem... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : But the House should be taken into confidence.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the first day when the Prime Minister came here, he immediately informed the House. Then I have also been keeping in touch because it is my duty to keep in touch, and that is why when I came to know, I asked him to make a statement before the House. And now it is open for us to have a discussion. We shall sit together and decide what discussion should be there...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you shouting unnecessarily?...

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN (Badagara) : I have given a notice for seeking leave for an Adjournment Motion.

It is a very complacent view that the Minister has taken in his statement. There has been a breach of security on all fronts—breach of security in the Prime Minister's Secretariat and in the Home Ministry and the Finance Ministry—and here he says...*(Interruption)*.

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right. It is in the national interest that I have to decide what sort of discussion we shall have...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : We want to censure the Government on this. Something unprecedented has happened.

MR. SPEAKER : I have never debarred any discussion, I am open to suggestions. I have told you that we shall sit together and find a way out...

(Interruptions)

Any problem I am ready to listen to.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : The House has not been taken into confidence...

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : We want to know whether the foreign person had any diplomatic immunity, whether extradition has been sought? We want to know the details of these and also we want to know which country has been involved. This has been agitating the public mind. You cannot shut us out.

MR. SPEAKER : Have I said that I am going to shut you out? Did I say that?

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Please ask him to clarify.

MR. SPEAKER : I say that we shall sit together and find a way out for discussion...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Am I doing something wrong?

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : No, no, I am not suggesting even remotely that

you are doing something wrong. I am just explaining. What I have said is that I have sent a notice of Adjournment Motion and I have suggested that an element of censure is involved in all that they have been doing. I have reason to believe that the case diary began ten months ago, it is not something that has happened overnight, and you are saying that the Prime Minister has informed the House...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, you are misinterpreting me. I only said when this case of espionage was broken, then he came. Other-wise, if it had been told ten months ago, there would have been no catch...

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : You are not following. Please ask him to clarify and answer some questions...

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I have given an Adjournment Motion...*(Interruption)*.

MR. SPEAKER : No question of Adjournment Motion. We are going to have a discussion...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Ram Dulari Sinha.

12.12 hrs.

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION
 (REGULATION) AMENDMENT
 BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
 MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
 (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :
 I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill

[Shrimati Ram Dulari Sinha]

to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN (Badagara) : it is true that the Secretary to the Prime Minister has resigned?...*(Interruptions)*. When the whole thing has appeared in the Press, should you ...not ask him to clarify those ?

(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Whatever was to be has already been done.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : There is no reference in his statement...*(Interruptions)*. You can at least ask him to clarify these questions...

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : The Principal Secretary has resigned.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Am I to take it that he has nothing more to add and all these are rumours ? Is he denying them ? Is he denying the rumours that the Secretary to the Prime Minister has resigned ?

MR. SPEAKER : He has said that he has resigned. That is what he has said.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramualla) : He must say that whatever has appeared in the Press is wrong. The House is not being taken into confidence. Photographs have appeared in the Press...

MR. SPEAKER : Photographs of what ?...

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you shout ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : He is shouting only to reach your ear.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Only to be heard by you.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not hard of hearing.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : My point of order is this. The statement was made by the Home Minister. Officials of the Prime Minister's Secretariat were arrested. The Secretary to the Prime Minister resigned.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a fact.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The resignation has been accepted. In the light of this, the statement must be made by the Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : That is not relevant. Over-ruled.

The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : I introduce the Bill.

STATEMENT RE : FOREIGN
CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION)
AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1984

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : I lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Ordinance, 1984.

12.15 Hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) **Need for a fixed policy for marketing and pricing of cotton to save farmers from ruin**

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD (Baroda) : The cotton growing farmers are anxious about the price of cotton this year. Their main difficulties are marketing and downward trend of the price structure. In 1982-83 the cotton production slumped due to the price crash in the previous year, due to an excellent crop of 84 lakh bales, against the next year's crop of only 6 lakh bales. Then the Government imported the same cotton at a higher price due to the shortfall, costing the exchequer very precious foreign exchange. A fixed policy should be formulated every year, according to the need of cotton and prices fixed accordingly.

When the cotton season ended last year in August, the price of leavy staple cotton per candy was around Rs. 7,000, but now the prices have come down to Rs. 5,500 per candy. That means approximately a loss of Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 per quintal. The Price of cotton is fixed by the cotton growing States on the basis of cost of producing the crop. With the sudden fall in prices, the worst sufferers are the poor farmers. Besides that, their returns are never paid to them on time. As the season is fast ending, the Government should take immediate steps to rectify the faulty policy for cotton marketing and save the cotton farmers from ruin for all times for doing their work too well.

- (ii) **Need for immediate clearance for establishment of Railway Coach Factory at Palghat, Kerala**

SHRI K. KUNHAMBU (Adoor) : An Export Committee was appointed to identify land for establishing a railway coach factory in Kerala. The Kerala Government indicated Palghat as a suitable place as water, electricity and railway lines were easily available. The Expert Committee, which went into the question, had expressed their satisfaction as to the

suitability of Palghat for such a factory. The former Minister of Railways had also given assurance to establish the factory at Palghat in Kerala.

Unfortunately, some people are making efforts to get the site of the railway coach making factory changed from Palghat. Today Kerala does not have any heavy industry related to railways. Therefore, I would request the Government to give immediate clearance to start work on this railway coach factory at Palghat in Kerala.

- (iii) **Need to reconsider the decision to retrench surplus employees of Delhi Milk Scheme**

SHRI LALIT MAKEN (South Delhi) : About 800 workers, who have worked for a number of years in the Delhi Milk Scheme, are going to be thrown on the roads, just because a State Inspection Unit, consisting of some officers, who are not well acquainted with the functioning of the organisation, has found these employees to be surplus. These employees, who have given their entire life to the organisation, have been found all of a sudden to be surplus. This has caused strong resentment among the other employees. The Central Government must intervene and save the jobs of these 800 employees; otherwise, the situation may go out of control.

The Delhi Milk Scheme is an essential service. The retrenchment of 800 workers will lead to labour unrest. This is against the well established policy of Government. The Government should not do anything which may render hundreds of workers jobless.

I, therefore, request the Minister to intervene so that these workers may be saved from being retrenched.

[Translation]

- (iv) **Need to take steps to save the pulses crop in Vidisha Parliamentary Constituency areas affected by pests**

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, pulses crops in thousands of acres of land of nearly 90 percent villages of Udaipura, Badi Budani and Nasarullah Development blocks in the

Vidisha Parliamentary constituency have been adversely affected by pests, as a result of which the farmers of the area are very much concerned. I, therefore, request the Central as well as State Governments to declare the aforesaid areas as pest-infected immediately, to provide the farmers with pesticides at fair prices. And the Government should make arrangements for aerial spray of pesticides on war footing. I hope the Union Agriculture Ministry would take immediate steps in this regard.

[English]

(v) **Need for central assistance for construction of hill-highways in Idukki District of Kerala**

PROF P. J. KURIEN (Idukki): Idukki in Kerala is one of the most undeveloped districts in the country. Perhaps this is one of the few districts where there is no industry worth the name.

Idukki is a hill district where much of the cash crops of Kerala namely cardamom, ginger, pepper, rubber etc. are grown. Thus this district contributes enormously to the foreign exchange earnings of the country. The idea behind formation of this district was to ensure the development of the hilly region of Kerala. But no significant development has taken place there.

One of the reasons for its backwardness is lack of roads. A major chunk of Idukki district such as Devikulam, Peerumedu, Udumbumchola etc. is in the high ranges of the Western ghats. In the absence of roads, effective communication is absolutely impossible and this has hampered trade and other activities. This area is inhabited by settlers and plantation labour, whose hard work has made it possible for the country to earn valuable foreign exchange. For the development of this district, construction of a hill highway is very essential. This hill-highway can connect all the important cash-crop growing areas in the district.

But the financial condition of the State is not such as would enable it to undertake such a costly project. Therefore, I would request the Centre to allot sufficient funds

so that this hill-highway could be constructed at the earliest.

12.24 hrs,

[Shri Sharad Dighe *in the Chair*]

(vi) **Need for changing rules so that loan can be given to various States including West Bengal for providing tubewells**

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): It is well known that States in the Eastern region, including West Bengal, are not yet developed in irrigation facilities as are necessary. Apart from big irrigation projects they also have to depend on the underground water resources in a big way.

For extending the network of deep and shallow tubewells the West Bengal Government applied for a loan of Rs. 10 crores from the Life Insurance Corporation of India. The West Bengal Government also pointed out that the same tubewells can be very well used for pure drinking water as well.

Unfortunately the LIC refused on the ground that they can give loan only for drinking water projects.

I draw the notice of the Finance Minister to this matter. Since the L.I.C. has substantial resources at its command and this is a problem of national importance, I urge that if necessary the rules be changed so that loan can be given to various State Governments, including that of West Bengal, for such projects as would meet both irrigation and drinking water requirements which are of prime importance for developing agricultural production.

I urge the Finance Minister to examine this question and help the West Bengal Government to get this loan of Rs. 10 crores.

(vii) **Relief for cyclone-hit areas of Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI P. PENCHALAIAH (Nellore):

The hurricane that developed in the Bay of Bengal on 12-11-1984 crossed the Nellore Coast and caused extensive loss of life and damage to property in Nellore, Chittore and Prakasam districts. A total sum of Rs. 18 crores has been sanctioned and spent by the State Government under different items of relief. A detailed Memorandum has been submitted to Government of India seeking an assistance of Rs. 115.86 crores, for undertaking relief measures. A Central Study Team has already visited the cyclone affected districts and assessed the severity of the situation. The Government of India have sanctioned ways and means advance of only Rs. 17.00 crores for undertaking the immediate relief operations. The final assistance from Government of India is yet to be received.

Hence, I request the Government of India to sanction the amount of Rs. 115.86 crores immediately and rescue the people of cyclone-stricken areas in Andhra Pradesh.

12.27 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we resume discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Mr. Brahma Dutt may speak.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT (Tehri Garhwal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the Motion of Thanks.

In his brief but meaningful Address the President at the outset has referred to those shocking happenings in the country during the last months of the preceding year. I am pointing towards the brutal and deceitful murder of our former Prime Minister. The Indian National Congress, its leader and its workers and the people of India deserve praise for the manner in which they faced these circumstances and challenges. The

appreciation of the wisdom of the people of India by the President is quite appropriate. People had thought that it would be difficult to control the situation which arose after the assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi, but all such misgivings proved to be wrong. Our new leader was elected unanimously and Shri Rajiv Gandhi while expressing his faith in democracy held the elections earlier than scheduled, belying the expectations of those who had thought that elections would not be held so soon. And it was an unprecedented election in that the people rose above regionalism, casteism and petty issues and voted for national issues and for a strong government in view of the unity and integrity of the country. The people of our country knew that for the administration of such a big country, which has a number of Provinces, a number of languages and religions, such a party is needed to be in power which is a national Party and that a party which is a regional party or a party based on caste or religion is not going to serve any purpose. They knew that regional leaders or leaders of small groups could not administer this country. So, they thought there should be a national leader with massive mandate. The electorate of our country also knew that a national programme should be framed for the administration of this country, because the smaller programmes prepared for a particular area or for a particular group were not going to serve any purpose.

So, the views expressed by the President about the Indian electorate are quite appropriate.

The President has referred to the achievements made in our economy. At the outset he has thanked farmers and praised them for increasing agricultural production. In this connection the hon. member who spoke before me has said a wonderful thing. He said that our increased agricultural production could be attributed to the timely onset of monsoon. I agree that monsoon is a major factor in the increased agricultural production, but monsoon is not the only factor. All the necessary inputs required by farmers had also to be made available to them. If we look at the history of the past few years we shall find that agricultural production

has increased two and a half times after the independence and it is all because of the steps taken during the regime of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru and Smt. Indira Gandhi. So many facilities were made available to farmers in Congress ruled States. Abolition of feudalism and Zamindari system was also a reason for the increase in agricultural production. Our scientists conducted research for the development of new types of seeds and means of irrigation were also developed. The most important step which was taken in this regard was the nationalisation of banks. Previously farmers were in the grip of the money lenders and they could not get finances on time, but after the nationalisation of banks, large scale assistance was provided to them so as to enable them to purchase the inputs. Those small farmers who could not get assistance previously, were also provided with assistance through the banks so as to enable them to purchase seeds and fertilizers easily.

For the safeguard of the interests of farmers, I would like to submit that generally when farmer increases production, the prices start sliding down and sometimes flood, drought and other natural calamities take place. Therefore, the Crop Insurance Scheme, which has been made applicable in certain areas, should be made applicable in more areas so that farmers do not feel insecure while increasing production.

He also referred to the industrial production. I would like to point out in this regard that he has compared it with the last year. This is the last year of the Sixth Five Year Plan and we are going to start the implementation of the Seventh Five Year Plan. The Sixth Five Year Plan started in 1980 and if we look at the year 1979-80 we shall find that the production all over the country had declined by 17 per cent. In 1980 when the new Congress Government took over, the economy of the country was in a very gloomy condition. So, if we compare it with that period, that would be more appropriate and meaningful.

The President in his Address referred to coal also. We should increase the production of coal, but its quality should

also be improved because only by improving the quality of coal our thermal power generation would increase. We had to make more progress in the field of generation of power.

Particularly, the capacity of our thermal power stations, thermal power houses should be utilized to the maximum. Three-four things are necessary for that, First of all good quality coal should be made available to them. Secondly, adequate number of rail wagons should be provided in time so that timely coal delivery could be effected. Timely supply of spare parts, which are manufactured by Instrumentation Ltd., Kota or at other places should be ensured to these power stations. I would also suggest that before the setting up of new thermal power stations, we should put in greater efforts to make optimum use of the capacity of our existing thermal power stations.

I would like to convey my thanks to the Government for having prepared a Rs. 500 crore plan for making improvements in the existing thermal power stations. Sir, I would also like to mention here that our agricultural production or Industrial production is related to farmers and all of us. The vast area of northern India which consists of Ganga-Yamuna belt has capacity to provide foodgrains to the whole country. But it has always faced two major problems. One is of floods and the second is of drought. Sometimes both the problems come up simultaneously. That is why I had mentioned about the insurance scheme, but that is not enough. There is only one solution to both these problems and that solution is that all the big rivers originating from Himalayas such as Ganga, Yamuna and their tributaries, and the Brahmaputra river which flows from east are linked. The Government should make arrangements for this, if necessary, with the cooperation of Nepal Government. Initiative has been taken in this regard but still there is enough water in these rivers which we can harness. This way we can control floods and save annual recurring loss of crores of rupees which West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have to sustain. Our irrigation capacity and Power Generation would also increase. This is the most important thing. There

should be multipurpose scheme for this important purpose so that maintenance and operational expenditure is minimised and our environment is also not polluted.

On the other side, we find that thermal power stations have to depend upon coal. The quality and quantity of coal counts very much and there should not be shortage of wagons to carry coal. A lot of expenditure has to be incurred on spare parts in these power houses. Hence, the proportion of thermal and hydel power stations may be balanced. Many problems of Northern India will be solved if we could implement our multipurpose schemes expeditiously.

Our States do not have much resources. We are preparing our Seventh Plan. I would like to request that all these schemes should be included in the Seventh Plan. All those schemes which are connected with one State or several States must be included in the national plan.

Sir, the President has referred to Narmada River in the concluding part of his Address. This is appreciable. But there are several projects which are not being taken up or implemented because our States are not able to sort out the problems connected therewith in a cordial manner. Where is the justification to think on parochial considerations? Therefore, I would like to say that a national plan may be formulated for these schemes and their capacity should be shared on the basis of a national formula.

[English]

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur) : Both States as well as Centre.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Our hon. senior member is quite right. The question is that there are some big projects which come under the purview of both the State as well as the Union Governments. There is a laid down formula for distribution. I think that becomes justful.

Now I would like to say something about the 20-Point Programme and other

National Programmes about which much has been said. I fully agree with whatever has been said. But on the basis of my own experience I would say that there is a need for bringing qualitative changes in all these schemes. We have an Integrated Rural Development Scheme and fourteen and a half crore families have been brought under this Scheme. There should be qualitative changes in that also. I would like to make a suggestion here. The root cause of the entire problem is the grant that is given, because that is at the root of corruption. If we sanction cash grant to some body then people misuse it and they distribute it among themselves. Therefore, we have to think over it. We have to change the form of grant. We can provide that much benefit by lowering the rate of interest and increasing the period of repayment. It will eliminate the difficulties connected with cash grant. Banks also have a major role to play in this regard. Smt. Indira Gandhi took a revolutionary step in 1969 and nationalised banks, which had a great impact. A number of branches of banks have been opened in villages and smaller towns but still we have to reach smaller villages, so that village craftsmen and the landless people could avail of this benefit. We should make efforts to open Regional Rural Bank in every district of the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan, because they are less expensive and they can gain confidence of the people in the most backward areas also.

National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme were mentioned here. Those who have themselves seen these being implemented, I have also seen, they can feel the impact made by these schemes. These have been much helpful in providing employment to people and in the development of the areas. Much help has become available for construction of roads, ponds, their repairs and construction of primary school buildings. The biggest difficulty being faced in this regard is that we do not have proper machinery in our villages to implement these schemes. People want to undertake many works in the villages but they hesitate to go in the villages situated in remote areas. Therefore, I request

particularly the Minister of Rural Development, that we have *Panchayats* and *Gram Pradhans*, *Block Pramukhs*. They may be empowered to get the schemes costing up to rupees fifty thousand or rupees one lakh implemented at their own level. Control and supervision over them can be effected. There are technicians available at block level. We should entrust the implementation of these schemes to the '*Gram Sabhas*' and *Block Pramukhs*. We should enlist their cooperation for these schemes.

I am in favour of decentralisation of planning system in the country and this decentralisation should not be only in name, there should be decentralisation of the implementation machinery in the country, there should be decentralisation of powers. We can achieve development through decentralised schemes only. The term of Eighth Lok Sabha and the period of Seventh Plan will be approximately the same. This would practically be from 1985 to 1990. We have to keep in mind that along with the development, regional imbalances should also be removed. We have to remove imbalances between one man and the other along with removing regional imbalances. We have to change the formula of assistance so that the regional imbalances and imbalances between man and man are removed. So long as these anomalies are there, we cannot achieve the real goal of Socialism.

Sir, I do not want to take much time, I want to congratulate the Prime Minister for having said about the setting up of a Corporation or Council for reclamation of barren land. My humble submission is that barren land can be used for afforestation purposes also besides agriculture and by doing so we can provide raw materials to industries. In most of the cases, instead of agricultural land we should use barren land for our housing schemes and for the setting up of big industries and we should develop that land for these purposes.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards one or two things, which have not been mentioned in the President's Address. A new Ministry has been created for dealing with wild life. This

is a good thing. Our aim should be protection of environment along with development and development along with the protection of environment. We have to keep a balance between the two. On one occasion I had suggested to the Prime Minister that the people living in one corner of the forest may also be covered under the wild life as they also lived like wild animals. Vast areas stretching from Kashmir to Mizoram and Nagaland have their own problems. Therefore, I would like to make a suggestion that a Hill Development Ministry may be created under the Central Government, so that the problems of those areas could be solved by which whole country could be benefited. With these words, I support the Motion moved by a senior leader of the House, Prof. N.G. Ranga and seconded by Shri B.R. Bhagat.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY (Adilabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my views on the Motion which has been moved. Forty minutes have been allotted to my party, but I shall take twenty minutes only. The hon Minister has just now mentioned that the Congress Party has secured a massive majority which shows that the people have cast their votes keeping in view the unity and the integrity of the nation. If he feels that the people have given them massive majority keeping the national unity and integrity in view, then he is mistaken, because all the people believe in national unity and integrity. There is not a single member or any person who is against it. This is incorrect to say that only the Congress Party stands for it. I disapprove this view and I protest against it. All those who have come here, after being elected, believe in the unity and the integrity of this country. Then, it has also been said that the Congress got the majority for the reason that it fought elections for a strong Centre. I would like to submit that we opposed the Congress in elections. We fought elections on the issue of strong Centre and strong States. For this reason we achieved a marvellous victory. This proves that the people of India want that the Centre should be strong and the States also should not remain weak. Wherever people are told by a party that besides strong states they believe in a Strong Centre also, they

are sure to get votes. If your feet are weak and hands are strong, you cannot walk on your hands. You can walk only when both your hands and legs are strong. I wish that we should realise that when the Centre is strong, then efforts should be made to make States also strong. It is regretted that what has happened in this House during the last 18 years is that the States have been made weak. Step by step you have adopted a number of measures and the result has been that all the States have become dependent upon the strong Centre. I can quote not one, but a number of examples in this regard. A glaring example of this is that a number of amendments in the Constitution of India were made in this House and every time, it was amended some power of a State was snatched away, and given to the Centre. Earlier forest, used to be in "State List." Thirty one years ago, when I was a member of this House, the subject 'forest' was a State subject. Now you can see, it has been brought in the "Concurrent List." Can you explain what was the reason for bringing it in the "Concurrent List?" Why was this subject taken out of the purview of States and brought under the control of Centre? This has resulted in the developmental works of the States lying paralysed. It has adversely affected their construction activities. They are being hindered. I would like to give you another instance.

Forest Conservation Act was enacted in 1980 and in accordance with this Act 'forest' was removed from the "State List" and included in the "Concurrent List." As a result of this, work of a number of our projects has been hampered. If we have to lay electricity lines through any forest, we have to seek permission of the Forest Ministry, Government of India, otherwise we cannot lay the line through that forest. Then, we do not get the permission from the Forest Office of the Centre. If we have to construct a canal through a forest, then again, we have to approach the Central Government for approval. If any project has to be set up, the approval of the Central Government has to be obtained. Before granting permission here, enquiries are made as to "How many bushes are there which are required to be cut

what are their species. What is their type. What is the area of the land which is going to be affected." When replies of all these points have been sent then probably they will ask about the number of leaves of those bushes. I would like to ask whether the preservation of forests would be effected in that manner by knowing these things, whether conservation would be done like that? Forest conservation does not mean that you enact a law for creating hindrances in developmental activities. Laws for conservation of forests must be made but their implementation must be entrusted to the States. If you, yourself start implementing those laws, then it will not be possible to do any work in the States. What to talk of big projects, I know thousands of small proposals of our State are pending here. Amongst them, there are many proposals of *Gram Panchayats* and *Panchayat Samittis* where the construction of 2, 3 or 4 mile long road from one village to another is involved, which passes through forests. We have to seek permission of the Central Government for each road which passes through forests, otherwise we cannot construct it. We do not get approval for three or four years after forwarding the proposal and the road cannot be constructed. Similarly, works relating to approach roads, big roads and electricity lines are held up. All the developmental activities come to a halt, the work relating to canals stops.

Our State has a very big project, namely Telugu Ganga Project, by which we want to supply 15 cusecs of water to Madras and send water to famine-affected areas of Rayalaseema. It is a big project and it is very essential also, but the proposal is pending here. The reason is that Telugu Ganga Project passes through Nalmallai forest and we have to seek approval of the Central Government for it. The file has been pending with you for two years. I would like to ask you, after all what you want to achieve by it. Would the Centre become strong in this manner? This way you are just increasing the number of pending files with the officers. I also know this fact that previously 10 to 15 files used to be submitted to our forest Minister and now the number of these files has increased upto 500 per day. After all, for how long

you will see the files. The result is that when the Chief Secretary of a State, who happens to be a Senior Officer, forward a proposal to the Centre, an Under Secretary or a Deputy Secretary at the Centre rejects the same and returns it or he does not take any decision over it and keeps it pending. Do you want to make Centre strong in this manner? I feel that Centre is not going to become strong by increasing routine work in this manner.

Therefore, unless you decentralise the small powers you have taken from the States, the country cannot progress. This is one example I have given to you. I can give you several more examples like this. I can tell you the number of subjects you have taken out from the "State List" and included them in the "Concurrent List."

Our grievance is that the past role of the Centre has been such that it has been causing a lot of discrimination. I am pointing to it because Congress ruled States are being treated in one manner and other States in a different manner.

I want to say something about electricity. Shri Shankaranand was sitting here just now, he would be able to tell. The electricity is generated by the Centre, whether it is in N.T.P.C., in Kalpakkam, or in Atomic Power plant or in Ramgundam, or elsewhere such electricity generating projects are there in several States where electricity is being sold to State Electricity Boards. At what rate this electricity is being sold? For southern States, it is being sold at 56 paise per unit and for northern states, it is being sold at 36 paise per unit. Why is it so? You may say that generation of electricity in the south is more or it is less. But it does not matter. You do not supply electricity from north to south.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Yes, the rate of electricity is more in eastern States. In Western States, it is far less. There it is 34 paise per unit. In the North Zone, it is 36 paise and in the South Zone, it is 56 paise per unit. Why is it so? Is it not a discrimination? Is it not so because

you do not have your government there? It is certainly a discrimination. I can give several examples like this, and I can prove it. Discrimination has become a regular feature and I request that this should not be done in future.

There is one more issue before us. It is very difficult for the States to get funds. The funds allotted from here for developmental works do not meet our requirements. We find that the main source for getting funds for us is the borrowings from the market. In this connection we find that during the First Five Year Plan in 1952-53 and in the Second Plan, out of the total funds borrowed from the market, 50 per cent went to the States and the Centre used to keep the remains 50 per cent. Now, the things have come to this pass that the States get 10 per cent out of the market borrowings and 90 per cent remains with the Centre. This has not happened in a day. States share has been reduced continuously. I can quote the figures. During the Third Five Year Plan, it was 51 per cent for the Centre and 49 per cent for the States and it was reduced to 27 per cent during 4th plan. Finally, it was reduced to 10 per cent in 1983-84.

Out of the funds you receive through borrowings, you distribute 10 per cent to the States and keep 90 per cent with you and even then you say that you would not allot funds to the States. You do so because you expect the States to come to you regularly and to request you for the funds. But in spite of that you will not allot them funds.

We are of the view that this discrimination should not be done with the States. States must get full funds. More funds should be allotted to them.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will now adjourn for lunch and resume at two O'clock.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch,
at Four Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

MR CHAIRMAN : Now Shri C. Madhav Reddy to continue his speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was mentioning how the Centre is meting out discriminatory treatment to the States. I would give one more example in this regard. Two years back, the Centre formulated a policy that the expansion of cement industry in two States, Andhra and Karnataka, should be stopped, as these had become surplus States in respect of production of cement. You know that there is no surplus production of cement till now. We had imported cement last year and in future also you would be importing cement every year. In spite of that the Central Government adopted this attitude that Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have become surplus cement producers and as such no cement factories should be set up there and thereafter licences for cement factories are being issued on selective basis. I want to submit that if you do not set up cement factories in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka where also are you going to do so? Will you establish cement factories in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar? You may set up sugar factories in U. P., but in southern region, especially in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, where there are large deposits of lime-stone, only cement factories can be set up there. The idea behind the policy adopted by the Central Government in this connection is that there is no Congress Government in these States. There are Governments of the opposition parties there. In this context, especially these two States are chosen and this policy is adopted for them. My charge is that this policy of the Central Government was politically motivated. If you kindly look into it, you will find that there is no question of surplus in the matter of cement, because cement can be transported from one place to another. The cement produced in Andhra Pradesh goes to Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh and can be sent to any State. Hence there is no question of surplus. I think that no hon. Member would agree with it that

we have become surplus in the matter of cement production. Thus, licences should be issued for establishing industries liberally to meet the requirement of cement and wherever it is feasible to develop cement factories, where raw material, coal and lime-stone etc. are available, licences should be issued to set up large and mini cement factories. I am not mentioning something irrelevant. It is on record. All are aware of the policy adopted by the Central Government and the notification to that effect is before the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the policy of the Central Government with regard to Andhra Pradesh has not been fair for the last two years. The work on several such projects in Andhra Pradesh has been held up. We have submitted our proposals regarding Mollavaram project but there is nobody to look into it. Similarly, Telugu Ganga Project has been held up for the last many months. It is not being cleared. Similarly, there is Pochamped Project, Sriram Sagar (Second Phase) Project for which sanction is not being accorded. Then there is no sanction for the Ichampalli Project. Nagarjun Sagar Project has been completed but Vansadhara Project (Second phase) has been held up. We do not know why it has been held up? (*Interruption*). There are so many projects on which no decision is being taken. Correspondence goes on, but no decision is taken. There is no justification in holding up so many projects and I request that immediate sanction should be given in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir in Andhra Pradesh, N.T. Rama Rao's Government has introduced a very important scheme for helping the poor. A scheme to provide rice to the poor at the rate of Rs. 2 per kg. being implemented there has proved very very successful. To save them from price rise, 50 lakh families belonging to poorer sections benefit from this Scheme. 20 lakh tonnes of rice is required for this Scheme. The Government of India procures rice produced by Andhra Pradesh but it refuses to provide rice to us produced by our own State. Our requirement is of 20 lakh tonnes but we get only 10 lakh tonnes. We have to purchase remaining 10 lakh tonnes of rice at a high price from

the market on which our State Government has to pay 140 crores of rupees. What is the difficulty in giving back our foodgrains to us? Please give us at least half of that which is procured.

AN HON. MEMBER : How much is procured ?

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Whatever quantity you procure, please give us half of it. In 1984 about 5 million tonnes of foodgrains have been procured. If not half, please give at least 2 million tonnes. If you release this much quantity of foodgrains then only we would be able to meet the requirement of everybody. People will feel happy as they will get full meal. We do not like this that you procure foodgrains but do not supply the full quantity required to be distributed through the Public Distribution System, with the result that we are unable to meet the requirements of the people.

AN HON. MEMBER : How much is required ?

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : The requirement is two million tonnes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this year there is a widespread famine in our region. Several families have been ruined. 50 percent of the sown area is affected. As per our assessment, the loss comes to about rupees two thousand crores. The State Government had asked for Rs. 370 crores as aid from the Central Government, but Rs. 44 crores only were provided.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : But Andhra Pradesh has got the highest amount compared to the other States.

[Translation]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : No other State may have faced this year such a big famine, such a terrible cyclone, so many serious calamities, and disaster of such majanitude. My only request is that our needs should be taken

care of. One hundred crore rupees were demanded but Rs. 50 crores only were sanctioned. You can see what was our demand and how much has been sanctioned. Whenever there is such a situation in any State, a Central team visits that State and submits its report to the Centre. Thus, till such time as your help reaches, their requirements remain unattended. I would, therefore, suggest that a permanent statutory body may be formed, which may be called Disaster Committee to assess the extent of assistance needed by a State. Such a situation may arise tomorrow in Bihar or West Bengal and State officials may have to rush to the Central Government four to five times and thus two to three months may pass and they may not be able to do anything for the people. Therefore, my submission is that there should be such automatic machinery as could provide help at the earliest after visiting the affected areas. We may be making exaggerated demands for securing funds. But then there is a plausible reason for it. If we ask for hundred crore rupees, you will give us only five crores. That is why we have to exaggerate.

Chairman, Mr. Sir. I shall take two minutes more. The Prime Minister has declared that solution to Punjab and Assam problems would be worked out soon. I quite realise that Punjab and Assam problems have become very ticklish. In finding out their solutions, the cooperation of opposition parties, especially of our party is with you. I would appeal particularly to my Sikh brethren that enough blood has been shed. Now this issue should be resolved at the earliest. India belongs to everyone of us.

Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims, all live in the Punjab. All of us in this country should live in peace and with amity and work unitedly to take the country forward. I would like to appeal to my Punjabi brethren in particular to keep this always in mind.

I will conclude with the following couplet of Iqbal :

*Chist ne jist Zamln main paigame haque
Sunaya.*

*Nanak ne jist chaman main wahdats ke
geet gaya.*

*Tatarion ne jisko apna watan banaya.
 Jisne hijaziyon se dashte Arab chhudaya,
 Mera watan wahi hai, mera aagan vahi hai"*

[English]

SHRI JAIDEEP SINGH (Godhra) : I have risen to support the Motion of Thanks on the Address made by the President of India. It has covered all aspects of various developments that have taken place in the country and what is expected to be done in the coming years. I would only like to draw the Government's attention to some aspects where I suppose, a very particular kind of attention will have to be paid.

I would like to mention that when we are talking of stepping into the twenty-first century, we must develop on a great priority basis the question of becoming self-sufficient in all our requirements. It is very often heard that whenever certain critical requirements of the country are very much in demand, there is always the danger, that this may be held back by countries in the West for one reason or another thereby affecting our development in that particular sphere.

In particular, I would like to draw your attention to the controversy which is now raging all along about the import of silicon. Silicon is required by the country particularly for defence purposes. We are a little afraid that we are too dependent on importing from other countries when we should be able to produce silicon in our country. As far as that is concerned, I am in complete agreement with it. But the question that is being debated at the moment is whether this silicon technology should be imported from America or some other country in the west or whether we should produce it in our country itself. In my opinion, this is a sphere where we must make every effort to produce it in our country. After all, our total requirement is only 25 tonnes and only 5 tonnes of it is for critical use. I think the negotiations that are going on for importing technology is with America and the cost that is being quoted is about Rs. 90 crores. I think that would be a criminal waste of money. We have scientists in this country

who have made it quite clear to the Government that if given a chance, they are in a position to make available all our requirement. Sir, with a little regret, I would like to say at this juncture that in this country on many matters decisions are taken in a way where there is a kind of bureaucratic stranglehold. These opinions that are sought and taken about getting it from abroad are not always studied in depth and found to be necessary. In this particular case, when our scientists have made it clear by the specimen that they have produced, which has passed all tests, then I do not see any necessity for the Government going in for foreign technology. Foreign technology basically is always sold to us when they have almost finished with it. It is not the latest that they give. And if we import that technology, the product of such an importation is always higher priced than anywhere else in the world. So, the scope for us to even export that product is also nil. There is every likelihood that in a few years time that technology may become also let. Therefore, instead of doing that what we should really do is to help the indigenous scientists to develop this project and if the time required by them to complete this project is, say, two years, we should buy the silicon for two years and stockpile it. The cost would be much less and we would be able to throw a challenge to the experts of our own country to see if they can help the country by producing what we require. Initially the product that you indigenously produce may not be as good as anywhere else in the world but there has to be a period when we have to give some trial to our own people. I still remember that years ago when Japan was entering the world market in various products, it used to produce things which were very sub-standard. It was always a joke that when a thing was of a very poor quality, it was known as Japanese. But what has happened in the last few years is that they have not only come at the same level as any other country in the world but they have gone even ahead. So, there has to be a period when we have to give some trial to our own people. This over-zest for trying to import technology all the time should be given up and I think we should make an attempt to produce this in our country.

A reference has been made here about the big stride that we are taking in the field of irrigation. In my State, Gujarat, the entire eastern belt of the State is a belly area, an area from where most of the rivers emanate, and an area which has a watershed. So, all the irrigation projects are located in that area. The area itself does not get much benefit from it but the biggest problem that is being faced now—and, I am sure, it is the same in many parts of the country—i.e. that when these irrigation projects are implemented, they disrupt the life of the people, villages after villages are uprooted and the people of those villages have to be rehabilitated some where else. In India, rehabilitating people in large numbers on land is not an easy task because there are no wide open spaces here where nobody lives and where these people can be rehabilitated. There are some areas in Gujarat where people, for the last twenty years, have not got land which was supposed to be given to them in the State. The lands which were promised to them have got stuck for up one reason or the other. They are only farmers. If you give them money, they are not able to do any business or set up any industry. They are the people who have to farm; that is the only thing they know. So, when they have not been given land, they are now on the streets so to say. Many of them are now earning their livelihood by collecting scraps of wood everyday to sell as firewood. So, I would ask the Government, since this is a problem which is known to them, what is it wanting to do about this on a war-footing, because, as I said, in some cases nearly twenty years have gone by, and new dams are being planned which means more people would be uprooted, but for those who have already been uprooted, we have not been able to find a solution. Even those dams which have been constructed in the past, have not reached their full capacity target of irrigation. Most of them are at the level of 50 per cent or even 40 per cent of their envisaged capacity. The result is that neither irrigation is complete, nor the people displaced have been rehabilitated. A special policy will have to be evolved to see that some remedial measures are taken very early and quickly to resettle these people.

In Gujarat we have the big problem of

the textile industry. Many mills in Gujarat have been closed down, because they are sick mills. Government can deal with the mill problem, but our biggest problem at the moment is that of the mill labour. More than 30,000 mill workers are today unemployed and they are daily paid workers. If they have to wait for months and months for some kind of decision to be taken, it is going to be impossible for them to exist. Therefore, the decision as to what is to be done about the sick textile mills will have to be taken at the earliest opportunity. The Government of Gujarat have even made an offer to guarantee whatever money is advanced by the banks to these mills. The Government of India is yet to take a decision. This question requires immediate attention.

We are giving loans to poor people under various schemes. But what is happening is that, though the decision for disbursing the loan is taken, there are too many formalities that have to be completed before the loans can be given and the result is that there are many people to whom the loan has to be given, but have not received it yet. The Ministry will have to look into the matter at the earliest and see that something is done to bring relief to them.

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI (Madras South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it gives me great pleasure, and I feel honoured, to be one amongst you all, the elected representatives of the people of India, in this sacred House of Parliament. We have all been elected with one purpose, and that is to serve the people of our country. Let us take inspiration from the great leaders, who shed political light and wisdom to guide the destiny of our nation from this very House of Parliament, I pay my homage to them and seek the blessings of God to discharge my duty, not only to the people of my constituency, South Madras, but to the people of the whole of India.

While participating in the discussion on the President's Address, I would like to deal with poverty, because this has been the greatest menace in our country which we all have to fight. Government alone

cannot fight this, because poverty is intermingled with overpopulation. The population explosion has to be controlled and that can be brought about only when people participate and get involved in it to do away with this problem. Therefore, family planning has to be dealt with very seriously, the family planning programmes and propaganda have to be attended to more seriously, instead of the usual hackneyed triangle, which is seen all over the place in India, or the stereotyped, out-dated, poorly-presented documentary films. I suggest that a serious thought should be given for the implementation of family planning which in turn will help stop population explosion and eradicate poverty.

India lives in villages. Therefore, villages have to be upgraded. They have to be developed, made cleaner and more beautiful because our villagers come away from their villages to earn their livelihood, to better their conditions and to earn their and their families living. And when they come to the cities, they, in fact, become homeless. They have to live in slums or live on the pavements. They feel neglected that they do not have any jobs. I would, therefore, urge that the Government's approach towards the villages should be such that they are provided with all the amenities, better hygienic conditions, good drinking water, good clothing and good houses to live in. They must have hospitals and schools. It should be seen that the villages in themselves are able to meet their own requirements and that the village dwellers do not have to come away to the cities for their betterment. The conditions there should be so clean and healthy that the people living in the cities should start thinking of settling down in the villages.

The President, in his Address, has referred to free education for the girls. I think is a wonderful move, firstly, because the poor parents of the girls will be greatly benefited by it and they will be greatly relieved of this burden by this scheme. Not only that the girls will get their education, but they will also be able to get better jobs and become self-sufficient and self-reliant. In such a situation it will all the more become easier to crush this evil of dowry that is so rampant in our

country. Therefore, I feel education for the girls is the most welcome scheme,

Sir, it is heartening to learn from the President's Address that a Constitutional Amendment is being brought in for anti-defection. It should have been done much earlier. It was long over-due in my opinion. Yet I welcome it and hope that this will be passed in the present Eighth Lok Sabha. Defecting from a party is like a soldier deserting the army. We all know what a serious crime it is. A party worker should be honest; he is supposed to be loyal and disciplined. Unfortunately it is not so. I hope this amendment will see that the opportunists are not able to jump their party or cross the floor just for their personal gains.

(Interruptians)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is her maiden speech, please do not disturb.

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI : I should like to say that they owe so much to their party. After all they come to the legislature on their party tickets. They have been helped by the party workers and have been guided by their party leaders. But when it suits them, they cross the floor and leave the party as if nothing has happened. It not only brings disappointment to the party and disillusionment to the workers, but on the top of it the voters are upset and are distressed and they get angry at this type of action on the part of the defector. So, I would gladly welcome the anti-defection amendment.

With these words I thank the hon. Chairman for giving me this opportunity to express my views to the hon. Members.

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichetipalayam) : Mr. Chairman, I am very happy, and I thank the honourable Chair for having given me the opportunity to speak on the President's Address.

I think, Sir, the President's Address may not be an encyclopaedia because it cannot have more details just like an encyclopaedia. But I would say that this

is just like a First Information Report (FIR), because as a lawyer I can give an example like this only. But anyhow, the Prime Minister of India, the glorious son of the glorious mother, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, is just like a modern manager and I think he will develop as rapidly as possible and flourish like any thing in future. The other thing is with regard to some of the welcoming features...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, describing President's Address as F.I.R. is an indignity.

SHRI. KOLANDAIVELU : No, this is a better example. For some of the welcome features, I have to congratulate and appreciate the Ruling Party and the hon. Prime Minister.

With regard to the record production in foodgrains, I have to congratulate the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development.

With regard to the price stability which was being maintained in the year 1984 when compared to other years, and with regard to NREP, IRDP and RLEGP, I would suggest that about NREP, you may be knowing well that when the Janata Party were actually the Ruling Party here, they brought the food-for-work programme and it became the National Rural Employment Programme when Mrs. Gandhi came into power. But when Janata Party was in power it was 100 per cent a centrally sponsored scheme. Later on it was made 50 : 50, i.e., 50 per cent of the finance has to be met by the States and 50 per cent by the Centre. I would suggest to the Government of India and to the Minister to revive it as a 100 per cent Centrally sponsored scheme again in respect of all the States.

Regarding the IRDP, the main basis of bringing out the Integrated Rural Development Programme is to help the poor and the down-trodden and the people who are below the poverty line. But the nationalised banks insist upon security. So, I would suggest to the Ruling Party here that furnishing of security by the poor and the down-trodden may not be possible and

so proper steps should be taken in this regard by the Central Government.

With regard to RLEGP, you are doing something which is better than other countries because almost all the works are being taken up by RLEGP. Within the purview of the Highways Department in the States there are so many roads like major roads, other district roads, State Highways and National Highways. The 'other district roads' are actually in the rural areas. The State Governments find it very difficult to finance the 'other district roads'. Under the RLEGP Programme, the other district roads should be taken up and better facilities can be provided by this Programme. Even under the NREP, the mandays generated have been calculated now. The question is, how many mandays are developed under this Programme. Supposing a labour gets work for only one week and is engaged in a particular work, he is again given the same work. But the mandays are being calculated on the same person. I would suggest that mandays should be calculated on the basis of number of persons being engaged for a particular work. That should be the proper statistics for this NREP work. I would suggest to the Union Government, even in the President's Address, I wanted to find something more than what the President has said.

With regard to the irrigation projects, Southern States are not getting big dams like Bhakra Nangal and other dams. We are not getting and therefore proper irrigation facilities must be given to the South and even I would suggest that all the rivers should be nationalised. Nationalisation, is the only thing that can bring some more areas to be covered under irrigation. That must be done at the earliest. Even when Mrs. Gandhi was here as the Prime Minister, the very same point was stressed by our learned friends. So, I would suggest that this has to be taken up as early as possible by this Government. I know very well, as a dynamic leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi will come forward, rise to the occasion and he will definitely come to this House to make all the rivers nationalised. When Mrs. Gandhi was in power, she made almost all the banks nationalised. So, by nationalising all the

rivers, the irrigation facilities can be extended to more areas in a better way.

Another importance thing is this. Even those Members numbering more than 200 who are senior Members know fully well with regard to the linking of the holy Ganga with Cauvery and Godavari and this should be done. The Southern parts have no irrigated areas like Northern parts, say Punjab and other States. By linking the Ganga with the Cauvery, we will get irrigation in more States and in more areas. That must be done as early as possible.

Even the Cauvery issue is the main thing between the States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Some other States have also joined together in this issue. The Cauvery issue should be settled because in 1924, there was an agreement between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. But they said this agreement was only for 50 years and this agreement was terminated after that. The Karnataka Government says that the agreement was terminated in 1974. But our case is not that. For us, it is a perennial agreement. It was not terminated but it is continuing. That is our plea. So, the Centre, the Union Government must come forward to settle this issue as early as possible.

With regard to the mention about Sri Lanka issue in the President's Address, I have to appreciate and congratulate the Union Government and the hon. Prime Minister for having taken action immediately. At the same time, I will say that the Tamil population in Sri Lanka is diminishing day by day because of the assassination, because of the murders and because of the killings of Tamils. The Tamil population is diminishing and therefore proper action should be taken. Even if we have to send military to Sri Lanka that should be done immediately.

With regard to the Anti-Defection Bill, there are some merits and demerits also. And my sister Mrs. Vijayanti Mala Bali was stating with regard to the Anti-Defection Bill that a Member of Party should be loyal to his party and disciplined.

I agree. But at the same time, supposing a Party gets an unscrupulous leader as the President of that Party, he becomes a dictator by this Bill. *Suo-motu* he can throw away a partyman from the Party and therefore proper amendments should be carried out in this Bill.

With regard to providing free education, the President has mentioned in his Address that free education for girls upto higher secondary stage would be provided. I would say that in Tamil Nadu we are giving free education to both boys and girls up to higher secondary stage. So, I would suggest that the expenditure incurred by the State Government should be reimbursed to the State Government because for the last four years, we are doing so. This amount has to be reimbursed to the State Government.

So far as the Tamil Nadu Government is concerned, we are having so many social welfare schemes for the poor and down-trodden people. Actually, in the last four years, in Tamil Nadu we have taken up the scheme of self-sufficiency by which all the villages are made self-sufficient by providing water, laying roads, constructing school buildings, maternity homes, colonies, burial grounds, etc. So far we have spent about Rs. 250 crores for this scheme itself.

We are also implementing a massive scheme called the Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Scheme. I would request the ruling Party here and the hon. Prime Minister to include this scheme of the Chief Minister in the 20-point programme, because it had been appreciated by Mrs. Indira Gandhi. It has also been appreciated by Mother Teresa. The poor students who are studying are getting a free meal upto the 10th Standard. Under this scheme, about 83 lakh students are getting one meal per day. A meal costs about 50 paise. The Union Government has to come forward to finance this scheme also and include it in the 20-point programme.

Another important thing that I would suggest is that even though the President has delivered an Address on 17th, Prime Minister should mention some of the new

schemes to be taken up in this session. Of course, I hope, the Prime Minister will come forward with new schemes at least in the Budget session. I hope, the Prime Minister will come forward with new schemes; he will implement them and he will give us an Eternal India. Mother Indira Gandhi wanted to give us an Eternal India. That must be done by the Prime Minister.

Then, Mother Indira Gandhi, by** Bangladesh brought about democracy there...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI PRIYA RAJNAN DASS
MUNSHI (Howrah) : Not** do'nt use that word,

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I suggest, let him not go on record that he said, "by** Bangladesh...

PROF. N.G. RANGA : That is not proper..

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It should be removed from the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes.

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU : Proper action was taken by Mother Indira Gandhi when there was trouble in Bangladesh. Just like that, in Sri Lanka also where the very same problem continues, a proper action has to be taken by the Prime Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI LALIT MAKEN (South Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon. President has referred in his Address to the strife and turbulence in our country during the previous year.

I think the previous year has been a year of challenges for us. The danger posed to the unity and integrity of our country during the previous year has been the biggest challenge faced by the country since independence. A reference has been made to the assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi. I would like to submit a vital

point in this regard. In my view Smt. Indira Gandhi was not assassinated by Beant Singh and Satwant Singh but she was a victim of communalism. Smt. Indira Gandhi was assassinated by the communalist forces, who injected the poison of communalism throughout the country and who were responsible for the murder of Mahatma Gandhi also in 1948. I do not consider Nathuram Godse as the assassin of Mahatma Gandhi but hold the forces, who built up an atmosphere of communalism in India, responsible for his murder.

Similarly, Smt. Indira Gandhi was not assassinated by one or two persons, but she fell a victim to the atmosphere built up in India by some persons functioning in some other countries. I would like to mention here that Jagjit Singh Chauhan had issued a statement in London that the person who killed Smt. Indira Gandhi, would be rewarded with a prize of one lakh dollars.

When he issued this statement some youngmen like me demanded that Jagjit Singh Chauhan be arrested and extradited to India so that he could be tried in a Court of Law here. However, some of the opposition parties kept silent on this point and assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi...

[English]

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can reply when your turn comes.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Let me complete. I should be allowed to complete.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can speak when your turn comes, you can reply.

[Translation]

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at that time some opposition parties, which are big political parties professing national interest did not condemn

Chauhan. When a reward of one lakh Dollars was announced by him for the assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi, many leaders, whom I don't want to name, did not utter even a single word against his statement. They did not condemn it.

When prior to her assassination, Smt. Indira Gandhi warned in unambiguous terms that the country faced danger from external as well as internal forces, a big political leader, whom I will not name, had said that the country faced no danger from internal or external forces but it faced danger from Smt. Indira Gandhi. Only a few days before the assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi, another leader had said that Smt. Indira Gandhi was a great leader and was enemy number one of the country. When such an atmosphere was created in the country and it was said that the country had a danger from Smt. Indira Gandhi and that she was enemy number one of the country and some of the opposition leaders in India said that Shri Chauhan had declared in London a reward of one lakh dollars for the assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi, anybody could be prompted to assassinate Smt. Indira Gandhi.

I would like to pose a very vital question that until religion is separated from politics, leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Smt. Indra Gandhi would continue to be assassinated. Today, we have to decide here in Parliament that no religious leader sitting in a temple, church, mosque or gurdwara in India shall be allowed to discuss politics of the country and take decision on political issues. If we do not take a firm decision and enact law to this effect, communalism will continue to divide and endanger the unity and integrity of the country.

The second point raised in the President's Address relates to corruption. I take pride in saying that it is for the first time in India and perhaps in the world that the Prime Minister has himself come forward to give a call for waging a war against corruption in the country, although it is quite usual for the opposition parties to allege corruption and to ask for its eradication. Many other persons have also launched movement against corruption. I would like to recall that late Shri Jai

Prakash Narain launched a big movement against corruption in 1974. In this very House, former Prime Minister of the country, whose name I do not want to mention, staged a 'Dharna' here demanding dissolution of Gujarat Assembly and dismissal of the Government of Shri Chiman Bhai Patel because he was a corrupt person. He launched a big movement. Smt. Indira Gandhi, showing due regard to the former Prime Minister and the hunger strike by him in Parliament, dissolved the Gujarat Assembly and dismissed the Chief Minister who was alleged to be corrupt. But I fail to understand how he became a pious man and was admitted in their ranks by the opposition parties as if they had some thing like the water of Ganga which washed all the sins. We have no intention to launch to such a movement. I am sure that our leader, the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, earnestly wants to eradicate corruption from the country. He has declared that no corrupt person, whether an officer or a leader how so ever big, will be tolerated either in the party or in the administration. I welcome the assertion made in this regard in the President's Address and the statement of our Prime Minister.

Next I will like to say a few words about the textile industry. It has been mentioned in the President's Address that a new textile policy is proposed to be evolved. I am very happy to note it as the condition of textile industry today is the worst. The future of lakhs of Indian textile workers is in dark. Lakhs of workers in the textile mills in Bombay, Delhi or Gujarat are affected. I do not want to criticise the present textile policy of the Government but the conditions in the organised textile mills are not good and weaving departments of 90 per cent of the textile mills in India are closed today. Birla Mill in Delhi has been closed for the last three years. When I was a Member of the Metropolitan council, Delhi, I had raised the issue there and also got it decided that it should be nationalised. You may be surprised to know that although its name is textile mill yet not a single metre of cloth has been produced in that mill during the last three years. I want to say that we are not against modernisation. We want that our country should be modernised. But I want to request the

Government that such a policy should be formulated and all the leaders of the trade unions of the country should be invited and discussions should be held with them and the entire textile industry of the country should be taken-over by the Government. If they want to bring modernisation they can do so, and we will give our full cooperation to them. But Government should give an assurance that not even a single worker shall be retrenched. Such a textile policy is required to be formulated. Today lakhs of workers of our country are in trouble. The workers who have been working for the last 25 to 30 years are being asked to leave their jobs. This is the situation prevailing in Delhi. This situation is not only prevailing in Birla Mill but might prevail in the remaining four mills of Delhi. Like Birla Mill, which is closed at present, the remaining mills will also be closed. After a long agitation in Bombay, 16 mills were taken over by the Government. Our Hon. colleague has pointed out that the situation in Gujarat is also deplorable. Today the situation of the largest industry of the country in which lakhs of people are working is deplorable. You have mentioned about it for which I am thankful to you. But the need of the hour is that a textile policy be formulated at the earliest. I also want that this matter should be discussed in the House and representatives of the trade unions should be invited, so that a policy could be formulated which might not be harmful to lakhs of workers and their jobs may be retained. Work should be provided to those workers who want to work. This is my submission in this regard.

Besides, a point has been raised regarding providing free education to girls upto Higher Secondary level. I also welcome that point. In some States this facility is already available but for the first time arrangements have been made at national level to provide free education to girls upto Higher Secondary standard. I think, it is necessary that women should work shoulder to shoulder with men in all spheres so as to remove the existing bad practices and evils in our society and they should also be given a status equal to men. For this purpose it is necessary that the little girls who are residing in remote villages of the country and whose parents

are not in a position to bear their school expenditure should be educated. Fifty per cent people of our country, residing in the villages, are not in a position to play any role in the development of our country due to illiteracy. The need of the hour is that they should be given education so that they could also make their contribution for the betterment of our country. I think by providing free education upto Higher Secondary standard, our country will become stronger. The country cannot be made strong unless the female community of this country worked shoulder to shoulder with men for strengthening the country. In this way, not only the country will be strengthened and the economic condition of the country will be sound but the existing social evils and bad practices in this country will also be removed. So far as question of bringing about changes in the education system is concerned, our Hon. Prime Minister has given some assurance and our Hon. President has also mentioned about it in his Address. We have been listening for the last many years that our education system should be changed but no changes have been made. We are very happy that now an education system is proposed to be adopted in our country in which lakhs of degree holders will not remain unemployed. Now education will be imparted not to produce clerks, but to increase production in the country. Today we need to prepare such youngmen in the country who can manage our factories properly. An education system should be developed in which B.A. degree may not be necessary for obtaining a job. Separate priorities should be fixed and education should be made job oriented. If you want to make them lawyer, or scientist or engineer, the education system should be reformed accordingly. I expect that keeping this fact in view that lakhs of our young people with B.A., M.A. degrees are unemployed and their parents are also perturbed, an education policy would be adopted in the country which would be helpful in providing employment to lakhs of our young people and removing unemployment. With these words, I support the Motion of Thanks on President's Address and also thank you.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MÜNSHI (Howrah) : Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Motion moved by Prof. Ranga on President's Address. Sir, the mandate that the people gave us in the last elections is not merely a mandate. It is a genuine manifestation of Indian people's will in the present day world in a positive manner that how they are prepared to accept the challenge when it comes forth.

1985 in the history of India and possibly in the history of world democracy is an important year. Next to Republican Party of United States, the Indian National Congress stands today as the largest political institution of the whole world and we are going to observe the centenary in this year. We are proud that in the centenary year of Indian National Congress the people of India provided strength to Congress by sending back for hundred and odd members from the remotest part of India—once again to the credit of Congress—to make the Congress record one of the strongest and a rich one in India's heritage and culture and world democracy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, members of the opposition should feel proud at the victory of Congress not in the sense that their Opponent has won but in the sense that the culture from which they once came, the party in which their forefathers were born and none can deny that their schooling in political institution in the country—either at the dawn of Independence or before Independence—had been through Indian National Congress and when that Indian National Congress in the centenary year received the mandate of the people to the tune of more than 400 members and that too in a positive manner when the unity was in peril it is really something to really feel proud of not only by the Congress members but also by the members of the Opposition that after all Congress and Democracy is going together to strengthen again the pride of the nation in the whole world civilisation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, why I say 'challenge' is for this reason. After the assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, our beloved late

Prime Minister, most of the newspapers in the West (and especially in the United States) in their Editorial Columns have tried to apprehend something that Indian democracy will not be so much strong after this, that India will not be united, and this and that. They also said that the poor Indian people and the illiterate Indian people will not be able to assert their rights this time. But what happened? In spite of that, the people of India tried to manifest their strength and their will—not in a negative manner but in a very positive manner.

I think, compared to all the last elections, this is the only election in India where the people in the villages and in the cities, breaking all the barriers of caste and religion, sensed one thing very important. They sensed it not from the Bible or the Gita or the Quoran, but from their hearts, that the unity of the nation is the prime need of the hour. For that very reason they came and supported our party in a big way and brought us back into power.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do feel that the emergence of our Prime Minister,—our dear young Prime Minister,—Shri Rajiv Gandhi, at this hour is also a unique part of Indian history. Who is our Prime Minister? Our Prime Minister is a young person who understood the history of our national struggle from his parents. He has gone through these stages of our national struggle through our books but he could not participate in the national struggle because he was born late. Who is our Prime Minister? It is he who knew what independence struggle was, what was seen and witnessed in the streets of India, who knew in his mind and in his heart, who actually are the beneficiaries of Indian freedom. He has got the occasion now to understand India, to re-shape India and to raise once again the value-system of the country, the values of democracy, the values of Parliamentary system, in a new manner, to bring a new India in another two or three generations. That is why I consider that the period and the moment of the emergence of our dear Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi is a period of renaissance of Indian people in the history of 1985. And in this hour, our Prime

Minister strives to begin a new, to re-shape India in a new dimension. I do hope that our Opposition Members will provide the necessary time to our Prime Minister to carry on with the work which he has begun; I do hope they will not go on starting questioning everything about his bonafides; I do hope that they will not think only about the Opposition Members sitting over there but that they will think about the next two or three generations. I am confident, Mr. Chairman, that our Prime Minister will link Gandhiji's India, Jawaharlalji's India, and Indira Gandhi's India on the one hand, with the present-day India, with all the hopes and aspirations of the people, on the other hand, and that he will make India a solid unit for Indian democracy and for world civilization.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will now deal with some part of the Presidential Address. I will refer to paragraph 15 which deals with price rise. Sir, it is true that inflation was under great control and check. It is a fact that it is women who came forward this time in greater numbers to defend democracy and the unity of the country, especially the housewives, and I wish to make this request to our Government and to our Prime Minister. Our housewives are not bothered whether we are in the Congress or in the Opposition. What they are bothered about is how to manage the expenses of the family in one month of the calendar year according to the monthly budget. Therefore, I request our hon. Prime Minister to find out whether it is possible at least to fix the rates of some of the most essential commodities for the benefit of our housewives, to see that they are enabled to take care of the family burden through an appropriate budget every month. It is my view that at least some of our essential commodities should be brought under a fixed price rate from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the second thing which I wish to point out is this. This has not been stated by the other hon. Members. But I would like to highlight this point in my speech. This is regarding International Youth Year. I am grateful to our hon. Prime Minister and I appreciate

his line of thinking when he inaugurated the International Youth Year which marked the Birthday celebrations of Swami Vivekananda, the great hero of national awakening of this country. When I have observed that our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, is marking the International Youth Year in the soil of India celebrating Swami Vivekananda's Birthday I feel he is also telling us like Vivekananda :—

“Uttisht jagrit barantu nibodhatah”

The great awakening has come and the time of the House is at our hand. We have to make use of it. In this International Youth Year, Mr. Chairman, I would request the Government to consider certain proposals because in paragraph 43, it has been stated—

“The need of the hour is to let the youth come forward to participate enthusiastically in nation-building. Appropriate programmes in this regard will be implemented.”

Sir, I would like to make some suggestions in this regard. First of all, I would deal with the Youth Movement—concerning international aspect. In the whole world youth Movement today is divided into three classes. One is the World Democratic Youth Federation Movement which is basically an anti-imperialist youth movement having its headquarters at Budapest and basically it receives the support from the socialist countries. We, from time to time, try to participate in the programme of this body. The second one is the socialist Youth Movement controlled by West Germany having link with the West and the third one is the World Assembly of Youth operated by the United States of America for a large number of clandestine operations through the youth in various developing nations. I would humbly request through you, Sir, the Prime Minister and the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement to use his good offices and see that the youth is protected from all hazards. I would also request the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement to create a Non-Aligned Youth Movement body to contribute to for world peace free from power blocs.

Sir, my second suggestion is that in this International Youth Year, employment

programme cannot be an abstract one. In this connection, I would like to make some suggestions which do not involve financial implications. We have to take care of the rural employment programme and we have to implement this programme and also strengthen it. But at the same time, we have also to care for the urban employment programme. At present there is no programme for urban poor. I would request the hon. Prime Minister kindly to consider this aspect of the problem also. I am talking of the urban youth in the slum areas, artisans and other semi-skilled and skilled persons in the slum areas whose living condition is woeful. I am talking of the Muslim youth and other minorities who have studied upto IV Class or V Class but they cannot get job anywhere. Otherwise they are forced to indulge in certain anti-social activities. I would therefore request the Government to make provision for the employment of urban poor.

Sir, in this connection, I would like to submit that there is a continuous exploitation of youth which is going on in this country. If a young man wants to get an employment in any government or public sector organisations, he has to submit his application for the post with a Postal Order to the value of Rs. 25 or so. How could an unemployed youth get money for buying the postal orders? We would not be doing justice to the youth to this country if we ask them to send postal orders with each and every application for the post he applies in a government or a public sector organisation. I would therefore request the Government kindly to consider total withdrawal of the requirement of postal order business with each application submitted by the youth.

Thirdly, Mr. Chairman, the age restriction has become a big factor. In my opinion, there should be no age restriction for anyone seeking for a job. Except in Army, Police and other sensitive services, I would plead that age bar should be removed. Everywhere unemployment of the youth is rampant. There is no harm if a person of 40 or 42 years is employed in any organisation and he can retire from service after 10 or 15 years of service. But there should not be any age restriction or

denial of job. Of course, this proposition would be a revolutionary one but the youth of the country would welcome this proposal.

Another important thing is about the sports and games. I would like to refer to the inadequate play ground facilities in the important cities and towns of our country. Sir, as the hon. Members are aware, the hon. Prime Minister was not in charge of sports and games or for that matter he was not holding any portfolio in the Cabinet of the Indian Government during Asian Games event, but he did his best for the success of Asian Games and he brought pride to the nation. Now that he is in charge of sports and games, I would humbly request him that he should take the initiative for the conduct of at least one Olympic event in our country so that we can make the best use of the infrastructure facilities available for this purpose in our country. When I had been to Los Angeles Olympics, even the organisers there told me that the arrangements for the IX Asian Games were thousand times better than the Los Angeles preparations in United States. This gave me a great pride to feel that I was an Indian... (*Interruptions*) I am not talking of medals, but of the arrangements. Kindly have some patience. Sometimes feel proud of the nation also; do not think always of yourself.

I carried the message of the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi to China with the football team. There the Chinese Sports Minister said to me: "We cannot think of any better possible sporting arrangements than what we got in India at the IX Asian Games."

I request the Prime Minister in this International Youth Year, to mobilise all friends to think that at least once Olympic games are held in India with the initiative of this Government.

Now, about sports. My friend from the opposition Shri Jaipal Reddy is right and I share his pain. I was also in Los Angeles and I felt very sad when I found that we were not able to get even one gold medal. India is a land where poor people go in the villages by cycles, and you will be surprised

to learn that in the entire cycling valodrome, no cyclist was there from India. India is a land famous for sword fighting, from Jaipur to Madhya Pradesh, the kings and palaces nursed it, but there was no person from India in this event. India is a land, where the archery is the prime and most important instrument. It has been there since the age of Ramayana and Mahabharat, but there was no man from India in the archery event. India is a land, where people can walk miles and miles, but no one was there in the walking event.

In Olympics if you want to get medals, do not concentrate on hockey and football alone. By the participation of eleven players, for ten rounds you have to get one gold medal. But if you shoot one pistol effectively, if you go for one walking, you get one medal.

Then, the various Sports Federations are sleeping and the Sports Ministry should remove the corrupt fellows from there. They are earning and trading in the name of these federations. Though I am opposed to any Government intervention in the autonomy of the functioning of the sports organisations, the sports will not improve if you do not take care of the culprits. I am in one of the sports federations. I know, the people go there to earn money and nothing else. They do not take care of the medals or anything else. They ask the boys, they bribe, they say: "We will include your name provided when you come back, you bring these things for us." I know it. I would request you not to ignore one game in this country. My friends from North may not like it, but I hope, they will also like it because they are also equally taking interest in football. India was very much backward in football. I tell you, I may not be there on that day, in this House, or I may not be alive, but very soon after few years in this field, Indian talents will come like anything. We used to lose the game by ten goals, eight goals or six goals, now that margin is reduced, and we are either drawing with the opponents one : one, or one : zero. When Shrimati Gandhi was alive, with her blessings, an International tournament was organised in India, called the Jawaharlal Nehru International Gold Cup Football tournament which is

now being held in Cochin. That was the first time when we had all teams from China to Argentina. The late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, went there to shake hands with the players. Indiraji was in the stadium on that day and she witnessed the game when India was drawing with China. I am reminded of her joke that day. She said: "We are not India of 1962, now we are drawing with China." That was a moment of pride for our boys. With lot of expectations we organised the tournament. It is the third year now. I am told that now the Finance Ministry officials have categorically told the organisers that from next year, they would not support the organisers by foreign exchange to organise this show. This should not be done. It will be an insult to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's vision for the world peace. By this tournament, we brought the whole world together under one umbrella. I would, therefore, request that our Prime Minister and the Government should give much more emphasis on sports. It is the sports that can improve the health of the youth of the country.

Lastly, no sportsman can contribute for the nation, or earn his bread after 35-40 years of age physically. I would request that so long as they are active in the field, kindly persuade the Finance Ministry not to impose any income-tax on their earnings. A politician can become the President of India upto 90 years of age, a musician like Bhim Sen Joshi, can continue upto sixty, but a sportsman after forty cannot be in the field. Why do you impose tax on his earnings? Let him spend this amount in his bad days. Kindly remove the entire income tax for sportsmen who are active in the field.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, when George Orwell wrote his celebrated novel '1984', one always wondered as to why George Orwell picked that particular year. Sir, when 1984 really came, intellectuals all over the world read the novel again and happily concluded that humanity was far away from the nightmarish visions conjured up by George Orwell.

But Sir, 1984 proved to be the darkest year of free India. The killings of innocent

Hindus and moderate Sikhs by the terrorists in Punjab, the fateful entry of the Indian Army into the Golden Temple, the treacherous killing of our Prime Minister in her own residence and the insensate mob violence that followed in Delhi and elsewhere in the country were the disastrous developments that darkened India's democratic horizon.

The extraordinary results of the recent elections, of which all the members of the Ruling Party are so proud, were only an engineered response to this absolutely alarming and shocking backdrop of 1984. Sir, look at the present Lok Sabha. I am really reminded of the National Assembly of the Three Estate Generals of the pre-French Revolution period. The three estates were represented by the nobles, the clergymen and the commons. I know, Sir, who represent the nobles here. The first noble, of course, is Mr. Rajiv Gandhi himself, now the first member of the ruling family of the country for the last 35 years, Mr. Frank Anthony was referring to one Janata aberration. He appeared to have forgotten another aberration, that was the short period of 18 months of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. But for these two aberrations, one family ruled our great democratic India for the last so many years. Apart from that, we have many other ex-nobles, children of princely families of course.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Roberts-ganj) : What are you speaking ? In a democracy everybody is free to become anything.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, they are interrupting and that time should not be debited to my account.

As to who the clergymen of this House are, the clergymen of pre-French Revolution...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. You may reply when your turn comes.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : May I interrupt Sir ? May I request the hon. member not to insult the people of this country who have elected Rajiv to be the Prime Minister of this country ?

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : I will come to the manner of election. Sir, you also tell the Minister not to insult the people who voted for the Opposition Parties.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. When I am on my legs, please take your seats. *(Interruptions)* You are old Members. When I am on my legs, please sit down. The Minister is not saying anything—he is simply saying that the people are the great judges. Have you any quarrel with that statement ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Reddy, please continue.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : That is the reason why 51% of the people voted for the Opposition.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : Mr. Jaipal Reddy was with us once upon a time. He was a great admirer of Mrs. Gandhi. Now he has changed his mind. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : I must say that the political knowledge of my friend Mr. Shankaranand is very much out-dated. It needs to be up-dated. *(Interruptions)* I parted company with Mrs. Gandhi during the dark days of Emergency. Since then I have started fighting for the freedom of the people of this country. I will continue to fight for that freedom.

You may now ask me who are the counterparts of the Clergymen of the National Assembly of the pre-French Revolution period. The clergymen of that period did

not lack in glamour. I am ironically comparing them to the so many film stars that are adorning the Lok Sabha benches. I am not casting any aspersions on film stars. I am merely drawing a historical parallel... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : I say that the ruling party members lack a sense of humour. (Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki) : Mr. N.T. Rama Rao is also a film star.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Reddy, your time is very much limited. You come to the point directly. You will lose your time by saying all these things.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : I am the only speaker from my party.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken eight minutes.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : I seek your protection, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are getting protection.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I request the hon. Members on our side not to take the hon. Member so seriously.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : I appreciate our Minister's sense of humour.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please continue, Mr. Reddy and come to the point. Otherwise you will lose your time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : The third section of the National Assembly was the Commoners who are represented in the Lok Sabha by the Opposition. In 1971, the Congress ruling at that time raised a positive slogan "Gharibi Hatao" and won a massive mandate. In 1980, it raised the hopes of the people by stating that it

would offer a stable Government. (Interruptions). On both the occasions, the slogans were positive; but the performance was negative. Therefore, when it came to 1984, they raised a negative slogan. They played on the fears of a shell-shocked nation.

I will draw the attention of the House to the record of 5 years of Congress (I) regime in the country. In 1980, the Congress (I) said that they would provide a stable government in the country. But the Central Cabinet was shuffled and reshuffled 18 times in those 5 years. Sensitive portfolios as Home of the Central Government changed hands three times and the fate of the Congress (I) Chief Ministers was even worse. We had four Chief Ministers in Andhra Pradesh in 4 years. The tenure of each succeeding Congress (I) Chief Minister was rhythmically halved in Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Chenna Reddy was there for two years. Mr. Anjiah was there for one year. Mr. Vengala Rao was there for 6 months. Mr. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy was there for 3 months. This was the case with Maharashtra which witnessed three Chief Ministers. It was the case with U.P. with 3 Chief Ministers.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please conclude because you have already taken 11 minutes; your party has been allotted only 10 minutes. I will give you two minutes more. Kindly note that every party is allotted time according to its strength in the House.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : In regard to their promise in 1980 Lok Sabha election about the control of price Line, may I tell them that the prices have gone up by 66 per cent in the last 5 years. In regard to their promise of improvement of law and order situation, will it not suffice if I remind them that 300 times army had to be called in aid of civil authorities during the last 5 years? In U.P. alone, the army had to be called in 70 times during the last 5 years. I have also gone through the President's Address of 1980. There was only a bare mention of the issue of Assam. There was no mention of the issue of Punjab. That means when the Congress

(I) took over the reins of administration in 1980, the problem of Punjab had not existed. Therefore, it clearly shows that the problem of Punjab is the sole contribution of Congress (I). The credit for it entirely goes to Congress (I).

Sir, they have won the elections; they have won the elections, no doubt. How did they win the election? As I said earlier, by creating crisis psychosis, and of by projecting the personality of one person, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. I would like to know, through you, from the Government what was the entire amount of time spared for Mr. Rajiv Gandhi on T. V. when he was nothing more than an ordinary Member of Parliament for four years before he became the Prime Minister. I want the Government to tell us. Secondly, Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude early.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : What was his Chief Minister before he became a Chief Minister ?

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : I am referring to the gross exploitation of the mass media owned by the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please come to the point.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : This point about Radio and TV, is it not a point ?

Now, Sir, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi would like to go about as a new detergent in the country, Mr. Clear a new political detergent. His identity, if any, has been completely lost in the welter of computerised image building. You do not really know him. You cannot track him down. Nobody can track him down.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : On the eve of elections, Sir, the Congress (I) unleashed a scurrilous, unpatriotic indecent propaganda against the national opposition parties. Now let me deal with the allegations levelled by the Prime Minister

during the election time and let him tell us in his reply to the President's Address, and make it clear as to whether he still stands by the allegations.

For example, the Prime Minister repeatedly alleged that the Opposition parties had supported the Anandpur Sahib resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : I want him to prove... (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : How much time do you give a particular member ?

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : I want him to produce any shred of evidence if he has got. I am talking of evidence in this respect.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude, please conclude.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN (Badagara) : He has got enough time.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : Our case is that Sant Bhindranwale was created, projected by the Congress. I am raising a few questions in regard to Bhindranwale. I am not raising any controversy. I am only putting questions so that they can give me clean answers.

Firstly, is it not true that the Congress (I) supported Sant Bhindranwale and Dal Khalsa in the 1979 SGPC elections ?

AN HON. MEMBER : No, no.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : The Akali moderates led by Shri Longowal and Shri Prakash Singh Badal...

(Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now please conclude. I will call another member. Please conclude.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : My time was taken by others.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : Why was not Bhindranwale arrested in 1980? Who owned responsibility for killing the Nirankari Chief, Baba Gurubachan Singh?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : Now I come to Dr. Chauhan.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will come to everybody, then there will be no end.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : Dr. Chauhan was supported by the Congress in 1969 mid-term poll as a candidate.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is your maiden speech and that is why, I did not disturb you. But now you are disturbing everybody.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : Dr. Chauhan was given the passport by the Congress Government in 1971. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. I will call the next Member. (Interruptions)

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : Dr. Chauhan came to India in 1980 on April 12th. While on Indian soil he announced the formation of National Council of Khalistan. I am asking the question as to why he was not arrested and his passport was not impounded. How is it that the Government of India took one more year, that is until April, 1981 to cancel his passport? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have given you enough time. Now, please take your seat.

I will call the next Member. Shri S. Dighe

(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever he says will not go on record.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN : You please allow him to conclude his speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have given him enough opportunity, enough time. You are a very senior Member. You must appreciate it. (Interruptions) I am giving him one more minute. This is not the way to run Parliament.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : On behalf of my Party I am pledging unstinted cooperation for the accomplishment of tasks that face our nation. But we do not want the statements of the Prime Minister to be no more than postures, gestures and gimmicks.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Motion of Vote of Thanks proposed by Prof. Ranga regarding the President's Address.

The Address of the President gives a complete review of the achievements of the past Government and also indicates ten points regarding the future task.

The saddest event of the last year was the cruel assassination of our Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi. A reference has been made in this Address that a Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice M. P. Thakkar has been appointed to enquire into the facts and circumstances leading to the assassination. I listened carefully to one hon. Member who made a very good speech on this point. I completely agree with him that in this enquiry attention should be directed to the main fact whether any imperialist power was behind this assassination. This enquiry should not be just like several other commissions of enquiry which go on and on and do not exactly come to the point. In this case the whole nation is interested to know whether

any foreign hand was involved in this assassination or whether it was intended to de-stabilise the peaceful and democratic Government of this country. From this point of view, proper and deep enquiry will have to be made. The recent reports regarding certain arrests of persons holding important positions in the Prime Minister's Secretariat, etc. indicate that there is a deep-rooted plan regarding the destabilisation of the Government in this country. Therefore, it is not a mere assassination, it is a question of going deep into the matter so that on the international plane also we shall be able to know who are our real friends and who are merely paying lip sympathy to this country. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should dig out the facts and leave no stone unturned to find out the exact forces which were behind the sad assassination on our Prime Minister.

As far as the election results are concerned, I have heard several speeches of the Opposition Members. I would only appeal to them that this is the time now for them to admit their defeat. It is no use saying or having hair-splitting by saying: "Oh, you have got only 50 per cent votes or 49 per cent votes, the majority of the people has gone against you." We have been working under a certain Constitution—the Westminster system—and for all these years, in all the elections, we have applied the same standard as to who gets the majority of seats. In the case of 1977 Elections also, you called it the rout of the Congress. On what basis? On the basis of seats only. Therefore, the 401 seats which have now been got are very important. They are indicative of the massive mandate given to this party. Even from the point of view of votes also, at no time in the past were 49 per cent or 50 per cent votes got by any political party in the elections in this country. Therefore, the Opposition parties should concede their defeat now and know the reality and should not live in a paradise which is the paradise of those other than a wise man. If they say that this is no mandate, this party has not got the people's support, there are noble men, there are clergymen, then I would humbly say that they are deceiving themselves. It is not in their interest even to think on these lines. Shri

Rajiv Gandhi was elected as Prime Minister by the party immediately after the assassination of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. But the Party did not stop at that. The endorsement has been made by the whole of the country by giving a massive mandate to this party. So, the election of Shri Rajiv Gandhi has been endorsed not only by the party but by a majority of the voters in this country. Therefore, my submission is that nobody should try to be little this success and they should now go ahead with this idea that this party has got the massive mandate. It is a vote for a strong Central Government. The strong Central Government does not mean vis-a-vis a weak States Government, the strong Government means one party which can form a stable Government, which will go on for full five years. Strong Government does not mean a coalition Government of a weak Government which may fall after two and a half years. Therefore, the mandate is for a strong Government, the mandate is for a young and dynamic Prime Minister, the mandate is for the good performance of this Government.

With these preliminary remarks, I now come to the points raised in this Address. Several points of progress have been mentioned here. As far as the wholesale price is concerned, it has been mentioned that, as against a rise of 7.7 per cent last year, this year it has risen only by 4.8 per cent. This is a very good achievement. But I would submit, as mentioned by one of the Members earlier, that the common man, the consumer, is interested only in the retail price. Therefore, care will have to be taken to see that the common man gets the essential commodities at cheaper prices, at rates which are suitable for his wage packet, so that the landless labour also would be able to purchase them. For this the middlemen will have to be eliminated and the consumers co-operatives will have to be encouraged so that the retail prices and consumer prices are within the reach of the common man.

Coming to the international field, the effort at world peace and disarmament should be vigorously pursued, because it is our humble contribution. The Super Powers have already met. But, as far as

the non-aligned countries are concerned, it is necessary for them to bring about a situation where the Super Powers will be compelled to follow the line of disarmament. Therefore, the meeting which is scheduled to be held under the Chairmanship of our Prime Minister, will have to be vigorously pursued and an atmosphere for disarmament will have to be created.

I come from a constituency, which is mainly concerned with textile mills. Therefore, I read with interest paragraph 39 of the President's Address, where it is stated that the textile industry is in very poor health and that this problem needs immediate attention. My first suggestion on this subject is that there should be a comprehensive policy for khadi, handloom, powerloom and the textile mills so that certain production would be reserved for different categories of mills.

As far as the textile mills are concerned, I would go ahead and say that the time has come to nationalise this industry. Our policy of taking over only the sick mills is not a wise policy, because the management or owners of the textile mills are deliberately following a policy whereby the units become sick. They squander the money of the mills, remove the machinery and make the units sick with the result we have ultimately to take over mills, which are in a very poor condition. Now we are taking over such mills and running them at a loss. It is no use taking over such mills. So, without any loss of time, the textile industry should be nationalised, so that both good units and bad units belong to the Government and we can break even. Then we can follow a policy whereby we can provide employment to the workers. Now, when we think of this industry, we should not think only of the Management. The workers are also components of this industry. Now, after the protracted strike in Bombay of the textile workers, the position now has come to such a stage when the textile workers are being completely humiliated in the mills. Their bargaining power has been lost. They have been completely exploited. Therefore, when we think of improving the poor conditions in the textile industry, we shall also have to think about the conditions

of the workers in the textile industry also.

One more point which has been mentioned by the President is about the judicial system. It has been stated that speedier justice has to be ensured. Now, speedier justice cannot be ensured merely by making amendments to the procedural laws. What is wrong in the judicial system, according to me, is the poor salaries which are given to the Judges from top to bottom. I find, as an advocate who has practised all these years in the courts, that as far as the lower courts are concerned, their salaries are even less than the peons in the banks. Therefore, nobody is attracted towards these posts. Good lawyers do not take to the post of judges and you get—with all respect to the judges—inefficient judges to man these posts. That is the main reason for the slow justice which is going on these days. Therefore, the main thing which we shall have to concentrate on is the service conditions of all the judges from top to bottom so that good lawyers are attracted to these posts and that there is encouragement to take up the posts of judges and to administer justice.

While appointing them a screening also should have been done. I am not talking of screening from the political point of view, but screening from the point of view of integrity. If you want to avoid corruption in this temple of justice, then it is necessary to appoint people after screening and after finding out their honesty, their integrity, and their past career.

A mention has been made to the free education for girls. It is a very laudable object and we should all welcome this. As far as Maharashtra State is concerned, perhaps, you know that free education for girls is already in force there. So, when we are thinking of introducing free education, then further substantial financial aid will have to be given to the States which have already introduced this scheme.

Now, as far as the year of the Youth is concerned, we are glad to note that we have begun this year of youth in our country by electing the youngest Prime

Minister in this country and putting the reins in the hands of the youths as far as our nation is concerned. So, we have begun, well and I am sure we will formulate schemes for this year in such a way that youths will be encouraged in different walks of life and that they will be able to participate in all the national activities of progress and development.

With these words, I support this Motion of Thanks.

15.59 hrs.

DISCUSSION ON THE STATEMENT
RE : TRAGIC LOSS OF HUMAN
AND ANIMAL LIFE AT BHOPAL
AS A RESULT OF LEAKAGE OF
POISONOUS GAS FROM STORAGE
TANKS OF THE UNION CARBIDE
FACTORY THERE

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Mr. Chairman, I rise to initiate discussion under Rule 193 on the grim tragedy at Bhopal in which due to the impact of poisonous gas that was leaked out hundreds and hundreds of citizens died and more than that a number of citizens were crippled for all their life-time. Sir, when I learnt for the first time of the tragedy at Bhopal, where it was known that forty tonnes of deadly methyl isocyanate had actually leaked out and a large number of people died, permit me to say, that on a miniature scale it appeared to me the re-enactment of the experiment in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, when the atom bombs were dropped on these Island and a large number of people died and a number of them crippled.

16. hrs.

Sir, while we discuss this grim tragedy, I would like various aspects of this particular problem like the safety aspect, the technological aspects, the licensing policy regarding allowing such plants to be located in particular regions and areas and also the safety hazards and also the procedures to be followed by

certain institutions like the Director of Industrial Safety to be deeply gone into so that we can arrive at a correct assessment of the situation.

With all my respect for the hon. Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals I must say candidly that the statement that he has placed before the House is a scanty, cursory statement which gives no assessment of the entire colossal problem. It makes no reference to the hazards that were created, it makes no reference to the technological problems and difficulties that were encountered and above all, it does not make any reference to the bureaucratic bungling at every stage as far as this grim tragedy is concerned, and therefore, it will be my purpose to analyse all these aspects and put forward my analysis before the House, through you of course, Sir, so that the Minister while intervening in the debate or while replying to debate, will be able to bring out Government's analysis of the problems that I am posing before the House.

I would like to ask certain questions regarding the manner in which the tragedy at Bhopal occurred. On the fateful night of 2nd December 1984, spilling over into the next year, we found that there were certain leakages of poisonous gas. Originally it was estimated that more 3000 people died. The estimate may differ, but that shows the colossal tragedy that has been enacted. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the scientific reasons for this colossal tragedy, what were the technological inadequacies and what were the inadequacies of safety operations, and in the light of that he will have to re-analyse the problem and assess the situation.

Methyl isocyanate stored in liquid form under high pressure actually requires and actually maintains high pressure. It can get converted into gas at a temperature of 39.1°C. On that winter night, I do not think the temperature of the system was more than 12-14°C. If liquid is to be converted into gas, the temperature has to be raised to 39.1°C and it is my contention, unless the Minister denies with his explanation, that due to the internal constraints in the system the amount of heat that was developed was considerably high.

For instance, it is reliably learnt that as far as the entire system is concerned, due to certain technological failures water was allowed to leak into the system. Water reacted with MIC, i.e., Methyl Isocyanate, and as a result of this chemical reaction between these two entities, exothermic changes took place and the entire temperature of the system rose from 12 to 14°C to 100°C. 100°C would mean the boiling point of water and at that high temperature at 100°C pressure rose, considerable amount of heat was developed and as a result of that the entire bursting of the system took place and that resulted in a tragedy. That was enough to burst the safety valve connecting the tank and the chemical scrubber. Sir, I would like to raise certain technological questions and I am raising those questions not merely to deal with the problems of Bhopal but in order that any future tragedy, the Bhopal type, should be avoided and prevented. I am deliberately raising those questions. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, why it is that the gas was not neutralised by the chemical scrubber or was not burnt in the flare tower before being released causing grave damage to human life. Probably if the gas had been properly utilised for certain purpose or allowed to neutralised by the chemical scrubber or burnt in the flare tower, the entire tragedy could have been avoided.

What is the reason why this particular precaution could not be taken up? Sir, I have with me a chart and diagram of the entire system and I find that the flare tower could not be used because the length of the pipe was corroded and that could not be replaced at all. Since the pipe was corroded completely, it could not work adequately and it was not properly replaced in time and as a result in the flare tower, you will find that this particular neutralisation did not take place.

16.06 hrs.

[Shrimati Basavarajewari *in the Chair*]

This is one of the inferences that a number of research scientists have drawn and I would like to know whether that

inference is correct. How is it that the personnel operating the plant did not expect the rise in the temperature? Anyone who is conversant with the simple knowledge of chemistry and who is conversant with the technological operations in this particular system should be able to know that if water is allowed to leak into the system and is allowed to mix up with the liquid MIC, it is very possible that the exo-thermic changes would take place, tremendous heat would be developed and under the stresses and strains of the increased, enhanced pressures and temperature, the entire system would collapse. Why was this not taken note of? Was the plant showing signs of fatigue and was it overlooked?

There is, Madam Chairman, an institution which has to take note of safety operations. For every State, if I mistake not, there is a Directorate of Industrial Safety. I am not sure whether at the Central level also, there is an organisation called the Directorate of Industrial Safety. But I definitely remember that at the State level, such organisation does exist and one of the responsibilities entrusted to the Directorate of Industrial Safety is, periodically they have to undertake inspection of these systems. They have to investigate the technology and try to find out whether there are any aberrations or whether there are any lacunae that are left out, whether there are any factors which are responsible for the lack of safety to the entire system under certain stresses and strains. Was that done or not?

While the trouble in the plant started at 10.30 p.m., I would like to know from the Minister whether it is a fact that the siren signal was not given till 2.15 a.m., the next day. Some papers have reported that the first signal was given at 1 a.m. Some of the persons who visited that plant said, after talking to the citizens affected, that the signal was given only at 2.15 a.m. Madam Chairman, here, I would like to point out to you that as far as this siren is concerned, there are two systems of sirens. One siren is that which goes in a continuous manner. That is supposed to be the siren giving warning about any accident

to the surrounding population in that particular area. And the second siren which is on the public address system internally, is only meant for the internal staff that is employed in that particular plant. I am told—and I have gone through a number of documents and I have gone through a number of press reports—which clearly indicate—that in the beginning, the general siren was given for the entire city and the environmental region. Then, it stopped and then the public address system actually given a siren only for the employees of that particular plant and no further signals or warnings were given so far as the citizens were concerned. This was a gross failure.

About the impact of gas, it reveals certain aspects in regard to which I would like to know in detail from the hon. Minister. Those of you who know the location of Bhopal know that there is an Upper Lake in Bhopal. Fortunately, that acted as a shield to protect, to some extent, the residents of New Bhopal city from the exposure to the lethal gas. Thanks to nature's beauty and surroundings because of this lake, it acted as a shield to protect a large population in that particular area of New Bhopal.

I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that some of the research scientists after visiting the site of the accident had actually discovered, by inspecting the vegetation and trees in the vicinity of that plant, near the Carbide plant, that the leaves of the trees were affected and there was a change of colour. I would like to make a particular reference to an inference drawn by Prof. Dave, Dean of the School of Environmental Science, J.N.U., who has concluded that the change in colour for the vegetation is due to phosgene and not MIC. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the facts and whether any scientific investigations and researches have been conducted in this regard. It is not only the question of tragedy of Bhopal but we want to prevent such tragedies in the future also. Therefore, that particular aspect has got to be looked into.

I would also like to know from the hon. Minister what has been the long-term impact and influence on the surrounding

situation, whether the environmental effects are going to last for a long time and permanently leave certain sections of the population completely crippled.

I would also like to make, very briefly, a reference to the lapses on the part of the Government and lapses on the part of the management. When I refer to these lapses, I do not refer to the lapses in a spirit of fault-finding. If I refer to the bunglings and failures both of the management and also of the Government, I am only pointing them out to the House so that future tragedies can be avoided. The Union Government had completely concurred with the Task Force advice that this poisonous gas being extremely hazardous should not be stored but immediately utilised. Why was there a failure to do this? The Task Force had no illusions about this aspect and the Task Force set up by the Government had clearly stated that this poisonous gas should be fully utilised and in case there was an outlet, it should be neutralised. Why is it that this particular safety aspect was not kept in mind?

Unlike the practice in USA where also there is a Union Carbide plant and they have taken the precautions to see that the tank where the liquid gas and the final gas manufactured is kept completely underground in order to minimise the damage that can be done, I want to point out to you that, unfortunately, in the case of Bhopal plant a considerable portion of the tank was above ground. That was one of the reasons why this tremendous damage was done to the environment and to the citizens who had inhabited the surrounding localities of the plant.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENRA PATIL): Sir, if the hon. Member yields, I would like to submit one thing because that will facilitate the discussion also.

The hon. Member is trying to give reasons, according to information that he got from the press and through the scientists, for the causes of this tragedy and leakage of the MIC gas. But I may submit

that all these matters that he has mentioned just now - are being inquired into by the Commission of Inquiry appointed by the State Government. One of the terms of reference is :

"The events and circumstances leading to the accident which occurred on the intervening night of 2nd and 3rd December in the pesticide plant of Union Carbide including the causes leading to the leakage of poisonous toxic gases and the large number of deaths and illness of residents of the surrounding area and the citizens of Bhopal."

"The adequacy or otherwise of safety measures and their proper implementation including the issue of negligence or culpability of the authorities of the factory and/or of the inspecting agencies, whether statutory or otherwise..... Recommendations in regard to measures for prevention of similar accidents in industries of this nature..."

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has recently appointed two technical experts to aid this Commission of Inquiry. This Commission of Inquiry is going into the issues of gas leakage, whether the MIC was stored properly or not and whether the tank was properly located or not.

When this matter is before the Commission of Inquiry and is *sub-judice*, I do not know whether any purpose would be served by discussing the details here.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I am rather surprised that this issue is raised at this particular point of time. To be frank with you, I have in fact expected that somebody would rise on a point of order and would say that since the Inquiry Commission is appointed according to the statement that has been made by the hon. Minister, at least the hon. Minister can concede to me this much.

I have carefully gone through every letter and comma of the statement made by the hon. Minister. I know this statement.

I am quoting the precedent in the past. You are coming to this House for the first time and, therefore, I would like to remind you of the precedents in the past in the House. You have also the precedents in your House over which you presided and you may confirm that on a number of occasions, even on matters in which Inquiry Commissions had been appointed, they have discussed in the past such matters. The only ruling of the Speaker was that without casting any aspersions on the Inquiry Commission, you can discuss and debate the problem in this House. The hon. Speaker even said once that even the information that is given on the floor of the House by hon. Members can be some source of information to the Commission of Inquiry. Therefore, discussion on this matter cannot be barred even if the Inquiry Commission has been appointed. I know full well that you have referred to the Inquiry Commission. That is why I am carefully dealing with the matter without casting any aspersions on the Inquiry Commission. I only want to contribute my own share because due to our parliamentary activities, we have no time to appear before the Commission. Therefore, I am also talking to the Inquiry Commission through you and through the hon. Minister. That is why I am trying to place before the House whatever information I have. I agree with the hon. Minister that without prejudice to the findings of the Commission, the Government has got the full authority to share the information that it has with the House. I am not violating the Rules of Procedure in any way. Nor do I allege that the hon. Minister would be violating the Rules of Procedure while replying. Therefore, let me continue my submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not make aspersions on the Inquiry. You can continue. The hon. Minister has already referred to the terms of reference of the Inquiry Commission. The terms of reference include the safety measures and other things. You have given lot of information on these matters. Therefore, you can try to conclude as early as possible.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I anticipated your comments. I accept your

advice not to cast aspersions. I have not so far cast any aspersions. I would not cast aspersions against anybody, not even the Union Carbide. That has never been the style of my functioning in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you out short discussion, it would be more helpful.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I will be extremely brief. Only my length of brevity will be slightly long !

MR. CHAIRMAN : I hope you will be always brief.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Is it a fact that the maintenance of gas tanks, pressure gauges and safety valves was all unsatisfactory ? I would like to know this. If the matter is *sub judice*, the hon. Minister can go through the proceedings of the Lok Sabha for the last 15 years. These questions relating the problems which are pending before the Inquiry Commission have been asked in this House. If you would like to share the information with the House, you can share it. Otherwise, since the entire matter is pending, you can give your reply in one sentence.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All these things have been covered by the Inquiry Commission. Therefore, it is a matter of repetition.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The Speaker of this House in his wisdom and knowing full well that a Commission of Inquiry has been appointed has given the ruling to have this discussion under Rule 193. I hope the objection that the hon. Minister has raised here was anticipated already by the Speaker, I actually concede to him a lot of Parliamentary knowledge about the procedure and functioning of Commissions and since he in his wisdom has allowed this discussion, I may be allowed to make my submission. Of course, I will try to be very brief.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I did not object to the discussion. What I have submitted is that a Commission of Inquiry has been appointed precisely to go into

these matters, why this tragedy has occurred, how the MIC evaporated into the atmosphere, what was the defect, whether adequate safety measures were undertaken by the undertaking or not; all these matters are covered under the terms of reference, and the Commission is going into all these matters. They are being assisted by technicians, by scientists, and we are expecting a report from the Commission within the next two or three months. If you want to discuss all these things, if you want to impart your knowledge, I have absolutely no objection. You are at liberty to do.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have no desire to exhibit my knowledge. I have come here as a people's representative to safeguard their rights and the situation in different parts of the country. Of course, I can go to a University and exhibit my knowledge. This is not the forum for it. I have neither the desire nor the arrogance to do it here. In fact, I am a very humble man who is not very knowledgeable. I am only trying to put forward whatever knowledge I have acquired by talking to various scientists.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister only wanted to tell you that all these things have already been included in the terms of reference of the Inquiry Commission. Please continue and try to finish as early as possible.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I will continue. Unnecessarily, extraneous issues should not be brought in. If the hon. Minister's contention is correct, then, I think, the Speaker was wrong in allowing the discussion to take place. The Speaker knows that an Inquiry Commission has been appointed, and in spite of that he assured us in the Business Advisory Committee and also repeated that assurance on the floor of the House that he was allowing a full-fledged discussion. You check up the proceedings of the Lok Sabha. He has said that there would be a full-fledged discussion on the Bhopal tragedy. Therefore, I will continue.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : You can go ahead. I have absolutely no objection.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The poisonous gas was allowed to escape. But let us not allow the discussion to escape consideration of the House. That is all I want to say.

I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that, even when he appears before the Commission or sends his officers to the Commission, I think, some of the points which we raise here might help him. That is why I am raising these questions here. Otherwise, I could have written an article on this.

One of the questions is that the pressure was raised tremendously. As far as the temperature is concerned, it went up to 100°C, and as far as pressure is concerned, that is, pound per square inch, it was developed to the extent of 55 pounds p.s.i. If that was the pressure developed, I would like to tell the House that the sudden increase in pressure and temperature could not have been without the knowledge of some of the technicians involved in that particular plant. Therefore, this question should be discussed with the technologists and also with the technical staff involved there : how is it that, when the temperature rose from 12°—14° to 100°C and when certain technological changes were taking place in the system, it never came to their knowledge, how is it that they did not anticipate these ? This aspect also has to be gone into.

One of the recommendations of the Task Force which was appointed by the Government was to ensure that the refrigeration system worked very well. How did this tragedy occur ? Because the temperature went up from 12°—14°C to 100°C. There is a built-in device in the system to prevent this rise in temperature; there is, therefore, the refrigeration system. Unfortunately, when the tragedy occurred, the refrigeration system was out of order, it was completely shut down, it was not commissioned. If only the refrigeration system had operated effectively, in that case the temperature would not have been allowed to rise, the pressure would not have been allowed to rise, the gas leakage would not have taken place, and the entire tragedy could have been averted. When small

leakages started in the entire system, they should have known ? Any competent technologist can take cognizance of the fact even when a very small amount of leakage takes place. There are gauges, very sensitive gauges. I have been a student of Science and Technology and I can assure you that whenever any leakage of gas takes place in a very big way, at the beginning itself gauges are able to record the leakage. Even a small leakage that has taken place ought to have been noted. I do not know why it was not done.

Now, I come to a very relevant aspect. Here you need not to refer to any Commission, here you need not refer to any evidence. It is a question that I am posing to the Government and for that an Inquiry Commission is not relevant. The task force appointed by the Government had already recommended to them where should be the location of this particular plant and their recommendations were two-fold. The task force had told the government that such a plant had safety hazards, leakage hazards and a lot of potential damage to the environment and it was necessary that either the location of such a plant as at Bhopal should be off-shore Island or in the alternative it should be on the sea-shore which is the least inhabited by human beings. These were the two aspects that were recommended. In spite of that I would like to know from the hon. Minister why in 1975 a clear licence and clearance were given to this plant. As far as the aspect of licence is concerned, it has nothing to do with the investigations. It has only to do something with the Government and therefore whatever the information is available, the hon. Minister should tell the House why in spite of the clear recommendations of the task force, the licence was issued to them.

Finally, I would like to pose certain questions to the Government. We do not depend on the Inquiry Commission as a necessary requirement. Why is it that even prior to the appointment of the Commission, Government on its own—with its own Department in cooperation with the representatives of the management did not arrive at an independent assessment of the entire situation, of the technological deficiencies, chemical changes that

have taken place and also the destruction that was caused? Why is it that no analysis of the causes was already formulated by the Government before even the appointment of the Inquiry Commission? Why is it that no correct estimate of the likely damage to the environment could be assessed? As far as this aspect is concerned, it is not to be referred to the Inquiry Commission. It has its own team of scientists, it has its own team of scientific experts and in collaboration with such a team of experts they could have worked out the estimates as to what is likely to be the distance of the effect on the environment. This has nothing to do with the Commission.

Thirdly, in all the statements that had been made so far by the Government and the statement that is made by the hon. Minister in this House, there is no indication of the future policy that will be pursued regarding the location of such hazardous project and also the licensing policy, the technological aspect, the scope and jurisdiction of the Directorate of Public Safety, Industrial Safety so that such hazardous condition can be avoided.

In the end, I may assure the hon. Minister that as far as this tragedy is concerned, we do not treat the tragedy as one of which we can take the political advantage because of the grim realities of the situation. We are only concerned with as the representatives of the people that one miniature of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has been enacted in Bhopal. We do not want Bhopal to be re-enacted in different parts of the country. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister that if he feels that certain aspects will embarrass his position vis-a-vis the Inquiry Commission, he may choose to be silent. But as far as other aspects are concerned, some of the aspects of licensing policy, some of the aspects of future technological developments are concerned, some of the aspects about the restrictions that you have placed on the multinationals whom you have allowed in this country are concerned, I would like to know whether you will impose certain policy and guidelines for the future so that there is no tragedy as had happened in Bhopal. I hope the hon.

Minister will give an assurance on these aspects that have been raised by me during the discussion. Thank you.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao) : Mr. Chairman, one cannot minimise or qualify in any manner the tremendous proportions, the ghastly proportions of the Bhopal tragedy. It has been the greatest, the most enormous, the most horrifying industrial disaster anywhere any time in the history of the world. Without going into the details of what happened and without transgressing the jurisdiction of the Commission of Inquiry.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : With your permission, I would take one minute to pose a few questions to the hon. Minister. I hope, my friend, Shri. Faleiro also would not mind.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Madam, I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that there are complaints that the medical records of the victims, the various injuries that were caused, were not maintained, and as a result, doctors were not able to get full information. This is the complaint of many doctors. Then, the medical treatment was not adequate. The research activity has also not been adequately stepped up.

Then, I would give one concrete instance about the financial assistance. The victims who had lost everything and were injured had no means of income. You will be surprised to know that the financial assistance that was given to some of the effected people was in the form of crossed cheques. They say : "What can we do with the crossed cheques, because we do not have any bank account." Then, food-grains assistance was given to the extent of 12 kg. per unit. They had no money, so the assistance was given in terms of wheat. With this wheat, when they went to the grinding mill, the owner of the grinding mill asked for grinding charges, and those affected persons said : "We have lost everything and, therefore, we cannot pay you

even the grinding charges. Out of 12 kg. of wheat, take two kg. as our contribution in lieu of grinding charges, and the rest, that is, 10 kg. we will carry back to home." That is the tragedy.

I hope, the hon. Minister will look into all these problems and see that those who have know grinding charges to pay, will be given some help in some form.

I am thankful to Shri Faleiro as also to you, Madam for having allowed me to raise these questions.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Madam, as I was submitting, this has been the greatest disaster in the history of industrial world and the questions which have been raised by the previous speaker with regard to compensation, and as to what is being done for the victims of the disaster, are questions which must be looked into with utmost sympathy by the Government. It is not merely the Government, but the main culprit for this disaster, the Union Carbide, that must pay full compensation to those affected, to the families of the deceased, to those who have been affected now and those who are likely to be effected, because the effect of the MIC gas will be felt not merely now, or in the near future, but it will be felt in the long run also. All these people must be taken care of, and provision must be made, not merely for those who have been affected now, but for those who are likely to be affected in the future.

If is good, and the House must commend the manner in which the Prime Minister, if I am not mistaken, on that black Monday, the 4th December, abandoned his election campaign and immediately flew to Bhopal for an on-the-spot study along with the Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers.

We must commend the way in which the Government of Madhya Pradesh arrested the big boss of Union Carbide, Warren Anderson. By arresting him, a warning has been given to these multinationals that they will not be allowed to go scotfree, if they participate in death

and destruction of our people in this country.

AN HON. MEMBER : For how many hours was he arrested ?

SHRI EDUARDO FALBIRO : You know that arresting is in the power of the Government, but keeping the arrested person in custody is in the power of the court. But we shall not enter into that argument. The point I would like to make here without prejudice is that he was released on bail. I will be one with you in saying that it was very unfortunate that the Court had fixed a comparatively low bail, something amounting to hardly two thousand dollars. That was unfortunate. As I am submitting without going into what the Commission of Inquiry will do, there are some lessons that we can immediately draw, so that those thousands of innocent lives, those thousands of people who died shall not have died in vain.

The point that arises is the manner in which the multi-national corporations generally, and particularly in the field of pesticides industry operate in this country. I will just quote, Madam Chairman, what a report of the World Health Organisation has got to say on this. The WHO Report says, "Every minute of the day, on the average some one is poisoned by the pesticides in the third world, i.e. upto 500 thousand people every year, and death due to pesticides occurs about every one hour and forty five minutes, totalling at least 5,000 persons every year." The WHO report continues, "The Third World has emerged as a large market for pesticides and hazardous chemicals banned or phased out in the western countries. Formulation plants are mushrooming across Asia, mostly dealing in deadly items." India is producing BHC and DDT. I would like to know from the hon. Minister and this has not come within the purview of the Inquiry Commission, as to what is happening to the production of DDT in this country. Who is producing it? What safeguards are taken against the production of this very dangerous pesticide? Both DDT and BHC are banned or heavily restricted in the United States. And the report continues that approximately 30 per cent of

the United States' pesticides exports in 1976 were of products whose use was banned in the United States. It is not only the United States, but the European countries, the members of the European Economic Community of the Common Market, these countries where these pesticides and these drugs, are banned, they export the very same pesticides and drugs to Third World countries. These drugs are exported to countries like India and Malaysia, thereby causing so much death and destruction of human life and property.

Now, it is interesting to note that the Union Carbide which owns the Bhopal Plant has a similar plant in West Virginia. Though the plant is similar, when it comes to safeguards against any accident, the West Virginia Plant has certain safeguards which do not exist in the Bhopal Plant and this is one of the major reasons why this ghastly disaster took place. Madam Chairman, speaking to the Wall Street Journal, a Carbide spokesman has said that some types of safety related equipment used in this industry were not in place at the Indian plant. The Carbide spokesman said that the Company's West Virginia Plant uses a computerised early warning system to detect the build up of temperature or pressure in tanks that can make the liquid chemical turn into a gas. Such a system has not been installed in the Indian plant. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is correct and whether generally it is a fact that whilst we are obtaining transfer of technology from the Western countries, this infrastructural technology, this basic technology, this technology that goes to safeguard the plant against health hazards is not imported, either because we do not care to import this technology or because the transferring country is not prepared to give us this technology. Will the Minister in this context, give us an assurance that in future whenever there is transfer of industrial technology, the infrastructural technology dealing with safeguards against health hazards also be compulsorily imported and transferred to this country? Madam Chairman, this is not an isolated incident in the Bhopal plant.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please try to conclude.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : I have just started. I would like to point out that the Bhopal incident in December 1984 was not first incident in that plant. There were six incidents earlier, and six of them had taken place in different places in the plant, and at least in one of them people had died. I would like to know from the Government whether inspections of plant and machinery were carried out after each of these incidents, faults were found in the working of the plant, whether the plant management was told to rectify these mistakes and whether, inspite of repeated warnings and adequate alert in these plants, the plant management failed to rectify them. In that case, I would like to know what was the responsibility apportioned to this management which failed to carry out the directives in the case of earlier accidents.

These things had happened in Bhopal. What happened in Bhopal now was an extreme situation, but such things have been happening in other parts of the country. We must admit here that due to lack of political and public consciousness of the dangers involved in such plants—danger to health etc., dangers due to lack of public consciousness about environmental problems, many of the safety measures which are required to be maintained in these plants are not observed. Is the Government aware that very often the bureaucrats, the people dealing with the licensing procedures are won over in some manner or the other; inducements are offered to bureaucrats and people above so that these safeguards are not complied with strictly ?

I will not be surprised if, in the case of Union Carbide, trips had been given by that firm to people to see the West Virginia plant—with all expenses found. More often, something more substantial is given; and as a result, these environmental safeguards are not complied with. What is the Government going to do, to see that they adhere more rigidly to the requirements to guard against environmental pollution, and danger to the health of the people ?

I will conclude by asking two questions : in view of what has happened in Bhopal, in view of the fact that the Government has shown the political will to tackle this issue on a war footing, what specific steps have Government taken to ensure greater coordination between the Ministries of Agriculture, Industry and Environment ? How is greater coordination going to be ensured ? What are the specific tasks to be performed by this coordination, and what is the time-frame within which all these reforms contemplated by the Government—which the Minister has mentioned in his statement—are going to take place ?

Secondly, the point has been raised here about the industrial location policy. The Bhopal plant has shown the dangers inherent in having this type of activity in a heavily populated locality. This plant was located near the railway station of Bhopal, in a densely populated area. Is it not a fact that in July 1984, i.e. six months back, an industrial location policy was framed by the then Minister for Environment of the Government of India, but the Ministry of Industry did not agree to it ? What is the position at present ? Is the Government going to announce this industrial location policy ? Has the Government finalized the industrial location policy in consultation with the Ministry of Industry ? In the industrial licensing policy, there is no specific provision which permits cancellation of an industrial licence for non-compliance with such safety requirements. If, for instance, environmental control measures are not complied with in a particular plant, there is no manner in which the industrial licence can be cancelled. Has the Government applied its mind to this point so that industrial licensing policy contemplates a provision for cancellation of industrial licences in cases such as Bhopal and other environmental accidents ? What is the time-limit and time-frame given to the State Governments so that they rationalise their factory enforcement machinery in order to strengthen environmental control measures as disclosed by him in his statement ? I would like the Minister to impress upon not only the departments of the Government of India but also the State Governments that

this type of environmental disaster—not only of Bhopal which I hope will never happen again either in this country or anywhere else in the world but also in other places—should not take place and the giant Corporations and the multinational is will not have henceforth any free hand that they have had so far. Will the Government and the Minister take the House into confidence and satisfy us as to what he intends to do within the established and limited time-frame ?

SHRI ERASU AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool) : I want to know the interim relief that has been given to the victims ? I also want to know the type of legal aid that is being given to them for the purpose of filing a suit against the Corporation for the recovery of compensation ? I also want to know whether the State Government or the Central Government are taking any steps to have a negotiated settlement out of court with regard to compensation due to the victims. What are the preventive steps or is there any attempt to have preventive steps for the purpose of preventing poisonous industries which emits poisons which may not cause immediate death but which are certainly causing slow death to most of the citizens ? Are there any schemes for that ?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : The Union Carbide India Limited has perpetrated genocide in Bhopal. I demand that the properties of the Union Carbide India Limited be immediately confiscated. I shall not repeat what has been said earlier by others. But I am sorry, I expected a very strong indictment of the Union Carbide by the Minister because of the genocide. The accident which had taken place is colossal, but earlier warnings were not heeded to. I want to draw the attention of the Union Carbide to their in house Magazine 'Hexagan' dated September-December 1980. Inside the cover, there is a cartoon. It says, "What steps would you take if MIC Lethal gas leaks out in the plant ?" This is being asked from the safety personnel of that company. It says, "Long one." That means the only step that they would take is a long step to run away. Here is a copy of that.

In the Vidhan Sabha of Madhya Pradesh, after minor accidents in 1982, several legislators including Shri Mahendra Karana, CPI had raised a question about the location. The reply of the then, Congress (I) Labour Minister, Mr. Tara Singh is : "Rs. 25 crores had been invested in that factory. It is not a piece of stone which I can pick up and place, at some other place." It is not only that, it is posing a big danger to Bhopal or there is such possibility.

Despite repeated minor incidents, of a very serious nature this was the attitude taken in the year 1982. So, I would like to point out that this genocide is a result of long standing crimes which have been perpetrated in that factory. I demand that the factory be forfeited, all its property be confiscated, including its research and RD Centre.

Now, I would like to point out that you have stated that 1,400 death have been registered. As I said, the other day, I had been to Bhopal on the 16th. I spent the whole day with the people there. This is a serious matter. They stated that all the people had fled away. They are now coming back. They told me that at least there were 5,000 deaths.

And about the relief that has been given, up to now I found that the Railway employees who are rather much more organised than any or those *jhuggi-jhonpri* people, even among them there were deaths of 41 employees and of 69 family members that is a total of 110 cases have been registered up to now, that is by 16th. Only 57 cases have got some compensation which is being offered by the Madhya Pradesh Government. So my point here is that it is all very inadequate and your figures are really not taking into account the fact that many people ran away and they are coming back now.

Now, a big problem is, at the moment the certificates that have been issued by the hospitals are no more mentioning that the deaths are due to the gas leakage, they are giving other ailments, like tuberculosis stomach ache or some others. There is a

grave danger, because they will not be in a position to claim any compensation on the basis of those certificates unless the death is due to the gas poisoning. So, that is a grave situation.

I met a number of people. And I asked them how they were feeling. They said, I am talking about the Railway porters. For example I will mention in Hindi :

[Translation]

"There is severe burning sensation in the chest. We cannot take anything even after four days, one feels nausea. We are unable to walk or to see."

[English]

All the organs are affected. That was the very serious impression from all sections, not only from these porters. I had been to the Railway colony, I had been to the other affected areas. There the women are not able to see properly. They say that they cannot even make *beedis* because they are not able to see properly. Those who thought that they were completely cured earlier are being affected by newer and newer diseases.

Now, lot of discussion is going on about the people who have been affected by the gas poisoning especially, the poor people. I saw a woman who was pregnant during that gas tragedy. After a few days she gave birth to a child which was still-born all blue in colour. That blue colour would not have come but for the gas poisoning.

Now, a very serious problem is what is really going to happen to those who have been exposed to that hazard. They are not dead, but they will be living crosses. What I say, I really shudder if that is the situation that is going to develop. What will happen after some time? As you very well know, Nagasaki and Hiroshima are being talked about, not without any reason, the reason is that this very lethal gas poisoning will create a similar situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
I very much like to address you more than anybody else, because you will feel the pain of the people much more, I believe.

AN HON. MEMBER : Why ?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
Being a woman, naturally ! Without any aspersions on my male colleagues, they will feel equally, I hope.

I felt most distressed about its after effects. I asked the people there as to how they were feeling. They said :

[*Translation*]

Lot of medicines are available but they are not producing any effect.

[*English*]

They were getting lot of medicines, but those medicines were not producing any effect. This was their feeling. And this is the real state of affairs.

The Union Carbide has said that there is no cyanide poisoning. But there are competent authorities who are saying that it is there. I would request the Minister that the *post-mortem* reports of the victims be published. There was an Army man who died in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here itself. In his *post-mortem* report, I have heard, cyanide poisoning has been found. In any case, this long-standing controversy that is going on will come in the way, as I believe, no indepth medical investigation has been done and no amount of pills will give them any relief. Therefore, I particularly draw the attention of the Minister towards this aspect.

About the question of warning, I would like to mention that day when this gas leaked it was 11 a.m. The Minister, in his statement, has said that the Government mobilised all vans, etc. What I have come to know is this. When this gas leakage started, there was no warning for a long time. Then there was just a siren. Siren goes on off and on in a factory. Neither from the side of Union Carbide nor from

the side of Madhya Pradesh Government was there a public address system at any point of time, as to what the people were supposed to do throughout the night and what they had to do. In fact, the first public address by the Madhya Pradesh Government was in the morning at 6 a.m. saying that now the gas had gone away and that all of them could go home. Then what happened and why so many deaths ? When the gas started coming from the station side towards the other locality, what happened was that people did not know what had happened. They started running towards the factory side. That running meant inhalation of tremendous amount of that poisonous gas, which caused so many deaths. Had there been any public address system in the beginning telling the people to do this and do that, then these people would not have run towards that factory. Not only in the matter of so many deaths but also in the matter of victims or its serious after effects, this failure to work at a proper time and manner was a very serious thing. I am really sorry to read in the hon. Minister's statement that the State Government authorities took immediate action to mobilise transport and medical personnel. This is not a fact.

Since, Madam, you will ask me to conclude quickly but since I had been there and people told me repeatedly to take their voice to Parliament, I feel duty bound to say these things.

About this question of particular effect on women and their progeny, they have particularly asked me to demand that this should be very seriously gone into. I request that this be done.

17 hrs.

Now, about the question of Union Carbide's behaviour, I have already shown you the cartoon. But that apart, I would like to ask certain things. I have read that Union Carbide is thinking of opening another factory over there to give employment to the people. Now people of Bhopal are really afraid at the name of the word 'multinational'. They say : nothing doing, Government must confiscate this property.

Not only that, they say Government should take money from them for erecting its own plant of a different nature which can be helpful in production without producing that kind of poisonous gas. They say this due to the situation that a very large number of population has really become physically ineffective. If you see them, you will find that they just cannot carry themselves. Lot of them are daily-waged labourers. They do not expect that in future they will be able to do that very hard labour. So, what is most important for the Government is to find a way to open a factory of the kind or to open industries of the kind which can give them light labour if you really want to save them. No heavy labour can be undergone by the afflicted people for a long time. I do not know whether this has been gone into.

Everybody is asking one thing as to what was happening in that Research and Development Wing. This question has arisen very pertinently because everybody has said that there was no question of so much MIC being stored when there were no safety arrangements for so much MIC. If that is so, I would like to know whether that R & D Centre was being used by this multinational company for some other testing of poisonous gas and using the population of Bhopal as guinea-pigs for preparing their own imperialist bosses for a chemical warfare on some other country like ours or on our own country? These are the questions which are afflicting the minds of the people of Bhopal whom, I am afraid, this statement hardly consoles.

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM (Kanker) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bhopal gas tragedy has been the greatest accident of this century in our country in which hundreds of people have lost their lives. Union Carbide is a multinational company and, as you know, all the multinational companies have the same attitude—double standard for working in developed countries and developing countries. As a result of that double standard, such a major tragedy has taken place in Bhopal. This factory was established in 1969. If we look at its administration for the last two years, it appears that

Union Carbide wanted to run the factory with the minimum number of workmen. During the last two years this company had reduced the strength of important personnel; for instance where 11 operators were required the work was being got done through only 6 operators; where for maintenance work four persons were required, they were getting the work done through two persons, and the whole plant was being operated with the help of only 642, whereas there should have been 850 persons. In this way you will find that they had reduced the staff in almost all important departments on maintenance side and technical side, which shows that though the Plant was important one yet the management of Union Carbide did not operate it with the seriousness it deserved.

As hon. Member, Shri Eduardo Faleiro, had said that if one visited the plant at West Virginia and then visited the Plant at Bhopal, one would find a lot of difference in their maintenance and safety measures. It is the result of the carelessness prevalent there that hundreds of people have lost their lives and such a big accident has taken place.

I would like to point out here that the Trade Unions working there and particularly the Trade Unions affiliated with INTUC and *Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh*, had submitted their suggestions regarding safety measures before the management a number of times. But the result of this suggestion was that two employees, who were connected with INTUC were dismissed and one employee connected with *Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh* was also dismissed by framing false charges against them. It was not in their own interest but in the interest of safety measures that they had made the suggestions but the Management dismissed them by framing false charges against them. It has been the attitude of the Management and Administrators there to curb the trade unions. They used wrong methods to suppress them and dismissed the employees and terminated their services. The Management of Union Carbide used such tactics and it clearly shows that no attention was paid to the safety of the Plant and that of the employees.

There has been a talk of compensation here. I can say on behalf of Madhya Pradesh Government that the Chief Minister provided whatever prompt relief was possible in this major accident. Efforts were made to provide substantial relief by the Government and the Administration. Unfortunately, the accident took place at midnight. Had it happened during the day, to many lives might not have been lost. As the accident occurred at midnight, there was heavy loss of life and property. But arrangements for facilities such as medical, rehabilitation camps etc. were made by the Madhya Pradesh Government. Voluntary organisations also contributed in this regard and we are all grateful to them for their role. Our Prime Minister postponed his election programme and visited Bhopal on the 4th instant to make on the spot study of the situation. So, it can be said that everything possible was done by the Madhya Pradesh Government. Maybe there were some shortcomings but it was due to the fact that hundreds and thousands of people were affected. Sufficient medical aid for all of them was not available there and many hospitals were also not there. But even then all efforts were made. Temporary hospitals were set up in tents. Arrangements for rehabilitation were also made. In this way we can say that, keeping the circumstances in view the steps taken by the Administration deserve commendation.

I would like to draw the attention of Hon. Minister to one thing. The Railway staff deployed there, particularly the Station Superintendent, Shri Harish Dhurve saved the lives of thousands of people by sacrificing his own life and stopped many trains from reaching there. I would like to submit that some special relief should be provided for these families, either by the Madhya Pradesh Government or by the Ministry of Railways.

In the end, I would like to know some facts from the hon. Minister. As Mr. Faleiro has said, I also feel that recommendation made by the Department of Environment regarding policy on Industries allocation is quite appreciable. This

policy has been submitted to the Government of India and the Ministry of Industry by the Department of Environment. I would like that after this accident, that Policy should be given serious consideration and after consideration, our efforts should be that all the industries proposed to be set up, whether it is connected with Gas or any other industry, it should not be set up near residential areas. This should be kept in mind by the Government.

All of us know that the equipments given to the developing countries by all these multinational companies are outdated. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of such plants whose equipments have become outdated in western countries and are being used by multinational companies in this country. Have such companies taken any special steps for safety ?

Our Environment Experts have pointed out that we have three Acts in our country (1) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974, (2) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, (3) Insecticides Act, 1968 and after this accident there has arisen a necessity to make a number of amendments in these Acts, because there is no provision for punishment in all these Acts. I would like to request the hon. Minister to consult the Ministry of Law and make a provision for awarding punishment in these Acts so that existing laws in our country relating to Environment are properly enforced. Will the Minister take some steps in this regard ?

[English]

SHRI C.P. THAKUR (Patna) : Madam, Chairman, I feel privileged to speak on this very issue, but at the same time I would say that I never thought that I will start my talk on a very tragic issue like this and more so on the medical one on which I have been lecturing for the last 20 years.

All of you agree that the year 1984 was a year of crises for us and the nation had to face many sad events. We had not

yet recovered fully from the cruel assassination of our Beloved Prime Minister, when we had to face one of the greatest tragedies of this kind. Now, we must commend our Prime Minister, who rushed to that spot did everything for the victims and put the State Government on full alert for any remedial measures. But, certainly, as pointed out by many Members an indepth study and analysis of this tragedy will help us to chalk out a fool-proof preventive programme so that similar episode is not repeated in the future.

Now, all of you will agree that India is leading towards industrialisation. In this process of growth and industrialisation you have to deal with deadly poisons and chemicals. You cannot do away with that. But at the same time you have to be very cautious about formulating preventive devices.

Now a word about pesticides. They are a group of compounds which include insecticide, rodenticide, fungicides, herbicides and fumigants. Now, the medical aspect of this problem can arise either due to acute exposure as happened in Bhopal or due to chronic exposure. Now its acute exposure can cause severe eye irritation, conjunctivities leading to blindness. It may also cause skin irritation. The main effect, however, is on lungs. It causes damage to the vessels of the lungs causing death due to pulmonary oedema or chronic lung problem later. These exposures might cause lung cancer, (Carcinogenic), gene-disorders (Genemutation) and abnormality in unborn children (teratogenic). There is a chronic effect of pesticides that every day we are taking—pesticides in food, fruits, and vegetables. They are contaminated with pesticides.

Once we were studying the causes of poisoning in the Patna Medical College Hospital, and the House will be surprised to know that the commonest cause of poisoning was poisoning due to pesticides. Regarding the chemical aspect of it, this methyl isocyanate is produced by phosgene, a gas which itself is a poisonous gas, which reacts with methyl and the phosgene is produced by reacting carbon monoxide with toxic chlorine. The industry therefore

has to deal with many toxic and harmful agents. So, we have to be very careful about the formulation of the preventive programme of this industry.

A word about prevention. For such an industry two kinds of prevention should be thought of. One is prevention against recurrence of such accidents and secondly, in the medical parlance, there is a talk of disaster planning. Disaster planning is on how you can cope with the tragedy of high magnitude as has happened in Bhopal.

Regarding prevention of such tragedies, I may point out a few things for the House to consider. As pointed out by some of the hon. Members, it is alleged in the press—not in the national press, but in the international press—that most of the multinationals dump their outmoded technology in the developing countries and they also obstruct the developing countries in getting the latest technology. In that way, it harms the country in two ways—firstly, it does not allow the country to be uptodate, and secondly, working with the obsolete technology, the chances of accidents are more.

Regarding the geographical location of the industry or any such dangerous industry for that matter, there have been a lot of recommendations made by many ecological committees. They should be taken into account.

Safety Engineering is not there in most of the developing countries. So, safety Engineering should be provided in the curriculum of the colleges. The Safety Department of the industry is always a small and uncared for Department of the industry. The people think that they are not in the general run; they are neglected. So, that should be given importance. The safety procedure should be mostly handled by the Science and Technology wing of the Government of India and there should be a periodical check of those industries.

Further, the credibility of any multinational company should not be judged on its financial standing alone, but it should be judged by its performance on safety front.

Regarding the multinationals one of the leading journals in America, Wall Street journal, said about the Union Carbide :

"It is an unwieldy giant run amuck, playing often into mindless new ventures."

There are reports that the Union Carbide has not taken due care in safety procedures in other developing countries like Indonesia. So, this also should be taken into account.

Advanced concepts like computerised multi-tier accident prevention signalling system must be provided in accident prone industries including in this industry.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals should also think of gearing up the Research and Development Wing to get the alternatives to pesticides. The UNESCO has suggested certain alternatives to the pesticides. After all, these pesticides are used only for high yielding varieties of crops and these crops are grown only by big farmers. So, for the overall increase of the agricultural output, you should take care of the marginal farmers and also help them. Then, the alternatives to the pesticides should be thought of and there should be a Research Department to think about the alternatives to such deadly pesticides.

Now, there is a Commission of Inquiry, no doubt. I do not want to dilate on it. I do not want to take the time of the House. But I would like to mention certain points which should be taken note of by the Commission :

- (a) whether the safety standards in India are identical to those in U.S.A.;
- (b) what caused the whole liquid to change into gas; and
- (c) what was the offending agent—phosgene or MIC

There was a controversy in the newspapers as to what was the offending agent.

A medical record of the persons who died should be maintained so that parameters like age, sex, economic conditions etc., making them more prone to lethal effects could be known. All the people in Bhopal exposed to the gas should be watched for 15 to 20 years for the development of any cancer, birth defects and neurological disorders etc. It should be done at the cost of the company. The ill effects of atomic explosion at Hiroshima and Nagasaki are still monitored.

A parliamentary Committee should be formed to study and suggest a comprehensive measures including legal ones as we see that we are still not sure what legal steps should be taken. So, comprehensive steps should be suggested to meet such a catastrophe.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Madam Chairman, I would like to suggest that tomorrow we should dispense with Lunch Hour, if the House has no objection. (*Interruptions*). You can have your lunch but the House will continue to sit because some more discussion may take place as most of the Members of Parliament would like to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I hope the House has agreed.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : I hope our young Minister will treat us with Lunch in that case. That would be in the fitness of things.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : You are welcome for both Lunch and Dinner.

17.22 hours.

SHRI R.P. DAS (Krishnagar) : Madam Chairman, at the very beginning, I am sorry to point out that the hon. Minister has not mentioned anywhere about the role of the U.S. multi-rational, Union Carbide, in his statement. Madam, you know this multi-national company should be held responsible for this chemical disaster and chemical holocaust.

Madam, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has rightly said that this company has committed a genocide on the people of Bhopal—on those who were living in the city of Bhopal, around the factory, Union Carbide plant. As far as we could gather, at least 90 per cent of the poor have been killed due to this holocaust. Madam, this multi-national, Union Carbide could not take the necessary safety measures. Due to failure of safety measures, near about 2500 people have so far been killed. At the same time, about 10,000 to 20,000 people have been affected by this disaster of the leakage of the MIC gas.

It was found during the investigation that this plant was manufacturing and storing phosgene gas also, along with MIC gas. The phosgene gas is banned for being stored in a plant. Since the First World War there is an international regulation by which the phosgene gas has been banned for storage. But phosgene gas was found stored in this plant. This shows that the management of this plant did not comply with the regulation that was imposed for the storage of such a deadly gas.

As a matter of fact, the Union Carbide had never abided by the rules and regulation imposed by the Government. The Government also could not muster courage to inquire into whether such rules and regulations were ever being implemented by the management of this plant. Therefore, we are of the opinion that this disaster is due to the inaction of the Government and also due to the failure of the safety system of the Union Carbide.

So far as the safety side is concerned, the Union Carbide, this multinational of the USA, has other pesticide plants in other parts of the world. It has a plant in Virginia itself, in USA, and that is the most sophisticated and upto-date plant. The safety measures have been made upto-date there. It is computerised also. But the safety-system of the Bhopal plant was neither sophisticated nor computerised. On the other hand, it has been gathered that this plant at Bhopal is second-hand plant. Most probably, it was outdated in USA. This plant was proposed to be set up in Canada. But Canada refused to

import the plant from USA because of its lack of proper safety system and it was not upto the standard that was desired in Canada. But that plant, a second-hand plant, could be easily exported to India and ultimately this plant was set up at Bhopal. Since this plant was not having sophisticated equipment, it should not have been allowed to manufacture MIC or phosphorous gas. The system was not at all up to date. It was neither sophisticated nor in any way modern. So, its licence for the production should have been withheld at the very outset. But that was not done because the Union Carbide or the big multi-nationals always could put some sort of pressure upon the under-developed countries, particularly countries like India and ultimately India was ready to accept such a plant without the modern system. This out-of-date system was responsible for this chemical disaster which killed thousands of people.

As far as the statement of the hon. Minister that about 1,70,000 persons are getting some sort of medical assistance from them the hospitals and dispensaries set up in Bhopal temporarily is concerned, I have to say that when lakhs of people are receiving treatment from these hospitals and dispensaries, you can very well imagine the magnitude of the disaster and the nature of medical aid being given by these hospitals and dispensaries.

This magnitude of disaster proves that the Government as well as working people should take proper care before such plants by multi-nationals are set up in our country. At the same time, the Government should take care about the other hazardous plants, particularly the chemical plants which, more or less, are responsible for pollution of water and air. They pollute the atmosphere in such a manner that some times lots of people fall a prey to the industrial waste discharged from these chemical factories. This particular Union Carbide has caused such a great tragedy at Bhopal, the magnitude of which can be compared to the disaster of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. This fact has already been pointed out by some of our Members. No other incident or occurrence of such a magnitude took

place anywhere else in the industrial world at any time.

As far back as 1975, Shri M.N. Bach, Administrative Officer of the Bhopal Municipal Corporation passed an Order and he asked the Government and also the management of the factory to shift the factory outside the boundary of the city. But that could not be carried out. On the other hand, the Administrative Officer was immediately transferred to some other place, and some of the people living around the factory were shifted outside the city boundary. Some time later, the people again somehow or the other started living in huts and shanties around the factory. This area was particularly affected by the disaster. Most of the people who fell victim to this disaster were the people living in those shanties; some people who were living in Jayaprakash Narayan Nagar were also affected; those who were living in or near the railway colony were also affected. This disaster is such that it will have its repercussions for a longer time. It may have a very adverse effect on the people, and this adverse effect might make the people permanently maimed and disabled. In his statement the Minister has stated :

“Persons affected by the gas suffered eye irritation, cough, breathlessness, nausea and choking sensation, etc.”

But by now it has been found that the victims are suffering from such other diseases as nervous breakdown; the brains of some of these victims have already been affected; we find that people are also suffering from trouble in the urinary system; their hearts also have been affected. So, it is not simply confined to skin irritation or breathlessness. It has done more harm or greater damage to other important organs of the human body. Therefore, Government have to take suitable steps so that such hazards can be averted and also necessary medical aid should be given to those who have been affected by the gas disaster.

Lastly, I would like to ask one or two

questions regarding setting up of Research and Development unit in the Union Carbide (India) Ltd. The Union Carbide (India) Ltd., over the last two or three years, has been, on economic grounds, retrenching or retiring some people. On other hand, the Research and Development Unit being upgraded with high-salaried persons; some Ph.D.s, some M.Sc.s, have been recruited for R & D Unit and it involved much more expenditure than what it incurred on account of the plant itself. Not only that, it was also found during investigation that an agreement has been reached between the Union Carbide (India) Ltd. and the Union Carbide in the USA that the data that will be found out in the R & D Unit of India will be passed on to the USA at a cost of three lakh U.S. dollars. This is a huge amount, no doubt, and this amount was spent on research and development work in a unit under the direct management of Union Carbide (India) Ltd. The research was mainly confined to the area of tropical pests and the research and development would cover the grey area between peaceful application and biological warfare. I would like to know from hon. Minister whether he would confirm the research work is being undertaken by this Unit and whether any data regarding the biological warfare system is being worked out in this unit.

As regards relief measures and compensation, the hon. Minister has stated that some relief measures have been taken by the State Government and the Union Government also and the relief is being provided to the victims of the gas tragedy. Some hon. Members have already pointed out that 12 Kgs. of wheat have been given to the victims, particularly to those who could not go for their duties. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that a group of victims and their relatives sat on 'dharna' before the residence of the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh protesting against the inadequate supply of relief. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether adequate relief would be provided to the victims particularly those who are not able to work for some time and also adequate compensation would be given to those injured in this tragedy.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH (Shahdol) :
Madam Chairman, the whole House and the country is plunged in grief due to Bhopal MIC Gas Tragedy. We all share this sorrow. I would like to draw attention to two or three things. Mr. Dandavate pointed out that there was shortage of doctors and sufficient medicines were also not being supplied. In fact, according to my information, initially the doctors in Bhopal did not know the medicines and the treatment to be given to persons affected by MIC Gas. But a team of specialists went there from Delhi and suggested proper medicines and then these were given. It was also reported that keeping in view the large inflow of patients in hospitals, it became clear that doctors would have to be drafted from other places also. Action in this connection had been initiated during the night itself. Teams of doctors from other places also reached Bhopal in the forenoon of 3rd December. Patients were treated in 12 temporary dispensaries set up for the purpose and also in 21 hospitals and dispensaries of Bhopal. 700 doctors including 200 doctors from outside attended to the patients. I want to submit that Madhya Pradesh Government did provide assistance and the family of each deceased has been given a grant of Rs. 10,000/- and those who are in serious condition, they have been given Rs. 2000/- and ordinary patients under observation have been given Rs. 1000/- each. I would like to submit that if possible, more amount may be given.

I would like to submit another point. As Shri Netam has also said it was midnight and as the factory is situated in a thickly populated locality, the people did not know in which direction to escape from the gas. According to figures of graveyard as on 8.1.1985, 1408 persons had been buried, but what is the number of those who left Bhopal for other places and died there? I would request the hon. Minister to direct the Madhya Pradesh Government to conduct a survey to ascertain the number of patients who died outside Bhopal and what is being done in their case?

As far as legal aid is concerned, Justice Bhagwati visited the place. The Minister

of State for Law, Shri Bhardwaj also went there and according to my information it was announced on 7.12.84 that the gas-affected people would be given free legal aid under this scheme by relaxing the eligibility criteria. Some figures have also been given regarding the number of families surveyed so far. It has been stated that till now particulars of 1½ thousand families have been compiled and survey in respect of 60 thousand persons have been completed. The breakup of women, men and children has also been given in it. According to it, the 11,000 families covered by the survey consisted of 15,365 women, 21,760 men and 23,109 children. My submission is that no doubt the finding of this survey are with you, but a survey in respect of cases admitted in far-off hospitals should also be conducted, since people took whatever conveyance was available that fateful night to escape.

I do not agree with the view that sufficient medicines were not available, because seven camps were opened by the Madhya Pradesh Government. In fact three camps had to be closed as a result of decrease in the inflow of patients. Four camps are still working. I would submit that it is not a matter concerning a particular party. In this hour of great distress, it becomes our moral responsibility to help all the affected families wherever they may be. If there is need for their rehabilitation, we have to consider how it is to be done.

I am grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister that he cut short his Gujarat tour and went to Bhopal on 4th instant and visited the patients in hospitals and gave Rs. 40 lakhs from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. He further sanctioned a sum of Rs. 55 lakhs. Thus, sufficient funds have been provided. The decision of Madhya Pradesh Government to provide legal aid and to meet the whole expenditure on legal proceedings, whether the case is filed in India or in America, is commendable.

I would only like to submit that figures from other places may also be collected as it has been done in the case of cremation grounds of Bhopal. I also want to mention that the Railway Station is very near the place of accident. On that fateful night,

Shri Harish Dhurve, Supat of the Railway Station asked his whole staff to go away. But as many important trains passed through Bhopal during the night, he stayed there and sent messages to all the places and halted the trains. He sacrificed his life discharging his duty and he was found dead with telephone in his hand. I, therefore, appeal to the Ministry of Railways to see that his family gets proper compensation. Just now an opposition member said that why the Madhya Pradesh Government or the Central Government did not take up the question of claiming compensation. This matter has been taken up. The Law Secretary and Attorney General of Madhya Pradesh have gone to U.S.A. to take legal advice as to whether the case should be filed there or in India. Whatever compensation is settled, that should be distributed equally according to rules.

With these words I resume my seat

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Madam Chairman, it is a matter of great regret that on the fateful night of this incident in Bhopal, the Capital of Madhya Pradesh, the Collector and S.P. were not there at their houses. They ran away for fear of their lives. When water started trickling down the eyes of the people and they felt pain in their chest, they rang up the Collector and the S.P. The telephone bell kept ringing but there was nobody to pick-up the telephone. This showed that officials of the State Government ran away for fear of their lives.

This issue had been raised in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly earlier also. Workers of the Factory were killed on five occasions earlier also due to leakage of gas. In this connection, the labour Minister of the State had replied that all precautions had been taken to ensure that there was no such leakage in future. But what did the State Labour Ministry, Environment Department, and the Directorate do? The State Government did not render assistance to the extent it should have provided. In 1975, the Municipal Commissioner of Bhopal had said that this company should be shifted from there

because it was situated in the midst of the town and there could be an accident any time due to leakage of gas. The only result was that he was transferred from there. This clearly shows that the Government of Madhya Pradesh never seriously considered the question of shifting the Factory out of the town.

Just now an hon. member said in the House that sufficient arrangements had been made there. I would like to ask if sufficient arrangements had been made then why this accident took place. The number of people killed there has not been determined. Many people are getting treatment in hospitals and dispensaries outside Bhopal. Therefore, I request that with the help of census...

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : I would like to say that those admitted outside Bhopal should also be covered by the survey.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I would, therefore, like to say that the number of those killed is far in excess of the figure given by you. Many people are getting treatment in the hospitals in the neighbouring towns of Bhopal and their number has not been accounted for. That is why I am suggesting that if you check up with the Census then only the actual number of those killed can be ascertained. If Census figures of 1981 are compared with the population of Bhopal, we can find the correct figures.

Efforts are being made to retain the Factory there. Some of the State Ministers have stated in the State Assembly that they were prepared to relicence it. I would plead for immediate shifting of this Factory from there and it should be enquired as to how the licence to establish this factory in a populated area was issued. When Municipal Commissioner and other officers had recommended that this should be shifted from there, why it was allowed to be run there? It should be looked into as to whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh is responsible for it or not. An Enquiry Commission has been set up to look into this incident.

It should be informed about the leakage of gas on six earlier occasions also. The extent of responsibility of the Union Carbide as well as the State Government should be fully investigated. The matter of relicensing the Factory and the indifferent attitude of the State Government should also be examined.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : Madam Chairman, several Members have participated in the discussion. In my statement which I had made the other day, I had said that this was the worst tragedy that occurred not only in Bhopal, not only in our country but also in the entire world.

It is not an exaggeration if I say that although in this unit some minor accidents had taken place in the past, nobody had anticipated that an accident of this dimension was going to occur. So far as Union Carbide is concerned, they started their activities in our country since 1967. First they started their activities in Trombay; then from Trombay they shifted their activities to Bhopal, and they made an application for a Letter of Intent for manufacturing MIC, and out of MIC the pesticide Called carboryl. A Letter of Intent was given in 1972, and in 1975 the Letter of Intent was converted into a licence. Since 1980, they have been manufacturing MIC, and also out of MIC they are manufacturing Carboryl and other pesticides.

At this stage, I want to inform the august House that there is an impression in the minds of a few Members that these multi-nationals are manufacturing such hazardous chemicals only in developing countries. It is not so. Even in developed countries, hazardous...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : They have done equal injustice to all countries.

18 hrs.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : They have done equal injustice not only to all countries but also the countries from

where they emanate their activities. So, I was impressing upon the member that these hazardous chemicals or pesticides are not only being manufactured in developing countries but they are also being manufactured in developed countries. So far as the manufacture of MIC and out of MIC, carboryl is concerned, it is being manufactured in America.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Since the time for this discussion is over, may I, with the permission of the House, extend the time by half an hour more ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, the time for this discussion has been extended by half an hour more.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : So, the MIC which they are manufacturing, they are supplying it to other countries including the developed countries like France, etc. Prof. Dandavate, while initiating the discussion, gave his version about the cases for this tragedy; he gave some details how the siren did not work for some time, how pressure was raised in the tank, how the temperature went upto 100 degrees, how the chemical reaction took place and all that. I do not want to give my reaction to all that the hon. member has said.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You can give chemical reaction.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I do not want to give any reaction at all because the commission of inquiry which has been constituted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh is going into all these matters, whether safety measures were properly taken, whether they were adequate, why there was leakage of gas which evaporated into the atmosphere, how the MIC liquid formed in the tank and how it became gas and how it escaped. So, all these matters are being enquired into by the commission of inquiry. One member wanted to know whether there was any time programme for this commission of inquiry to submit its report. I want to inform the House that while constituting this commission

of inquiry, it has been laid down in the Government Order itself that the commission shall complete the inquiry and shall submit its report by 15th March, 1985 to the State Government; that means in another two months the inquiry report is going to be available; and after getting that report and in the light of that report, whatever further action is necessary at the State level, at the Central level, will be taken.

Prof. Dandavate mentioned that the task force has said that such hazardous chemical units or hazardous industries should not be located in urban areas. I do not know what task force he is mentioning, but this industry was established in 1975; and at the time of converting the letter of intent into licence, CSIR was consulted, DGTD was consulted and the State Government was also consulted with regard to the location. After completing all these formalities, the letter of intent was given. With regard to location policy, I must say that there was no specific Central Government location policy in the year 1975 when the licence was given to this undertaking. The stipulation banning location of industrial units within the standard urban area or location near large metropolitan cities was enforced only from February 1978, in pursuance of the industrial policy formulated in December 1977. So, this location policy was formulated in December 1977 and it was enforced in February 1978 but the licence was given to this party in 1975.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : That was a pity.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Recently, in June 1984, the Department of Industrial Development issued new sitting guidelines for 18 categories of industries. Now it is extended to 20 categories of industries. This was issued in consultation with the Department of Environment and these guidelines incorporated specific approval for sitting by the concerned State authorities and approval of the State Pollution Board for the affluent treatment or pollution treatment facilities to be set up by the company.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE

Hon. Minister, if you are yielding, for a second, do I take it that in so far as the task force is concerned there was no advice that this plant should be located either on a sea-shore where the human habitation is the lowest or it should be off the sea shore also? Was there no recommendation like that?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : What I wanted to know from the hon. Member is about the task force, because we do not know about the task force, or the instructions issued to it. When was it constituted? We do not know anything about the task force in the absence of more details of it. I am mentioning that till December 1977 there was no specific industrial location policy. It was only in December 1977 that such a policy decision was taken and it was enforced in 1978. If the hon. Member gives me details about the task force which had been constituted, when it was constituted, when they issued the guidelines that these industries should be located only on the sea coast, I will be in a position to verify and furnish information to him. If he just mentions that a task force—because, there are many task forces which have been constituted at different levels—it becomes difficult for me to find out and verify.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : All right, I will do that research.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Madam, about the medical facilities, hon. Member Mr. Dandavate feels that the medical facilities are not adequate. I may mention here that several hundreds of persons were rushed to hospitals. Doctors were rushed, not only from that State, but several (two hundred to three hundred) doctors went from Delhi which included experts. Experts from other places also went there. Even now thousands of people are getting treatment in different hospitals and the Government of Madhya Pradesh has made elaborate arrangements for giving treatment to the people suffering, and they have been spending lot of money on providing medical relief. If there is any shortfall in any area, the hon. Member can point

out to me and I will pass on that information and I will request the Madhya Pradesh Government to take adequate steps to ensure that adequate relief and medical facilities are provided to the people affected.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The affected people, in Hamidiya Hospital were not able to get the records or certificates. They were not available to the doctors. That is the complaint.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I will certainly verify this. I will find out from the officers of the Madhya Pradesh Government and I will issue necessary instructions to see that if there are any such lapses those loopholes should be plugged as early as possible.

Some hon. Members mentioned about the cheques which are given. When cheques were given. I asked the State Government officers and found that the cheques were immediately operated. A representative of the bank accompanied the officer who dispersed the *ex-gratia* amount and as soon as the cheque is given to victim or to the relatives, they are encashable then and there itself because the officer of the bank accompanies the officer who issues the cheques. That arrangement has been made. If there is any lapse, I will ask the officers concerned to certainly look into this matter.

Some Members wanted to know the amount of relief that is provided to victims. So far as relief in cash is concerned, it is Rs. 10,000 per dead, Rs. 2000 for seriously injured and upto Rs. 1000 for minor injury. On this account, so far they have spent more than Rs. 1 crore. And the total number of beneficiaries is 14497 persons. So far as cash relief to the members of the family of the dead is concerned, it is still continuing. Wherever such cases are there, they are approaching the authorities and hrs they are getting the cash relief. This is an *ex-gratia* payment. The question of legal compensation is being separately dealt with by the Ministry of law.

Relief in kind is being given every month to 1.1 lakh families. The scale is : wheat 9 kg. per unit per month and rice

3 kg per unit per month; edible oil 500 millilitres per unit per month, sugar 500 grams per unit per month and milk 200 millilitres twice a day for children and lactated mothers. This is being given by the State Government in kind not only to everyone in the affected areas but also to slum-dwellers in non-affected areas. They are covering two-thirds of the town population by giving this relief. There is a relief committee constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister for supervising the activities of providing relief to these victims. So far, more than Rs. 5 crores have been spent on providing relief in kind.

Mr. Falerio wanted to know the name of the company which is producing DDT and whether DDT is still being used in our country. DDT at present is being used primarily for malaria eradication programme. An expert committee in the Ministry of Agriculture is reviewing the question of phasing out some pesticides including DDT. DDT is being manufactured since fifties by HIL., which is a public sector undertaking, for malaria eradication programme mainly.

Hon. Member Mr. Ayyapu Reddy wanted to know about the compensation. As I have already said in my statement, a Cell has been constituted in the Law Ministry to examine this question and the hon. Members are aware of the fact that the Attorney General is already in United States and he is expected within a day or two. On his return, a final decision would be taken with regard to the compensation and with regard to suing the company. But I have got a note which has been prepared and given to me by the Law Ministry. I will read only one para so that hon. Members will know what is that which is being examined and what is the thinking of the Law Ministry with regard to this matter of claiming compensation :

“While the Government is considering various options available to it for obtaining adequate compensation for damage to itself as well as to the victims of the gas tragedy, one of the options is to file a suit

for damages. It is the tentative view of the Ministry of Law and Justice that Union Carbide Corporation can be sued in a *parens patriae* action by the Union of India as guardians and protectors of interests of its citizens. Group action by individuals also might proceed separately without prejudicing the *parens patriae* action by the Union of India."

This is the latest thinking of the Law Ministry. However, a final decision will be taken on return of the Attorney General from the United States and I hope a decision will be taken very shortly and necessary action to claim the damages or to sue the company would be taken as early as possible...*(Interruptions)*.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : An agreement with them with regard to the compensation may also be negotiated instead going to the court which may take so much time.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Shri Ayyapu Reddy wanted to know whether Government is prepared for a settlement out of court. I can only say at this stage that so far as the compensation question is concerned, it is a legal question which is being examined by the Law Ministry. We will go according to the advice that we receive from the Law Ministry. The question whether a settlement is possible out of the court, I think, is a hypothetical question. I do not think we have received any such offer so far from the company. Therefore, it is difficult for me to say anything with regard to this suggestion that has been made by the hon. Member Shri Reddy. But I can only assure him that so far as the legal matter is concerned, so far as the question of suing the company and claiming compensation are concerned, we would go strictly by the advice of the Law Ministry which we receive from time to time.

Then, Mrs. Geeta Mukherjee wanted to know whether the factory and its properties are going to be confiscated. She suggested vehemently that all the property

of the Union Carbide should be confiscated. I can only inform the hon. Member that we have already received a request from the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. He has made two suggestions: One suggestion is that the licence which has been given to the Union Carbide should be cancelled and the other suggestion is that the entire property that belongs to the Union Carbide in Bhopal should be taken over by the Government of India. These two suggestions are being examined and we will take a decision after the examination is completed. I quoted this because even the Chief Minister is of the opinion that Union Carbide should not be allowed either to continue or to have any other activity in his State, particularly in Bhopal. That is why he has made these suggestions and these suggestions are receiving our attention.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Confiscation is not just taken over. Are you thinking about compensation ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Suing the company for claiming the damages, I think, will run into several times than what the property is worth now. So, that is not such an important matter.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : That in any case they have to give.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : As I said, this is the worst tragedy that has occurred. It has opened the eyes of the State Government, the eyes of the Central Government, it has opened the eyes of the countries where they have such units, who are also thinking of having adequate measures.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It has closed the eyes of many.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : That is unfortunate. I have accepted that. After this accident, Government have taken several steps. I would like to explain in brief the important steps that have been taken.

Government have decided to set up a

Special Cell to make a detailed study of the practices in vogue in developed countries, for dealing with hazardous substances, and the institutional control in force, to ensure safety of men and environment. Based on these studies, it will be possible to make a detailed review of the existing systems and practices and identify the gaps in the prevailing legislative and institutional arrangements in our country. It has become necessary, because there is a feeling that the safety steps taken in developed countries are more fool-proof than the safety steps taken in the developing countries. Therefore, this Committee will go into that question. They are going to find out what are the safety steps taken in the developed countries. After getting the report, whatever further action is felt necessary will be taken.

With regard to the health of the people, how it is going to be affected, the long-term effect on the health of the people, because of gas or hazardous chemicals, Government is considering the setting up of a National Scientific and Medical Committee to study all the aspects arising out of the accident and to give an authoritative opinion about the likely after-effects and the appropriate steps that need to be taken on the medical and scientific aspects.

The Department of Environment is also taking steps. It has taken action to evolve steps for avoiding industrial accidents of this type in future, from the pollution control angle. In January 1985 the Central Pollution Control Board has constituted a Committee, with representatives of the Pollution Control Boards of five States. I will mention only the important terms of reference: to define hazardous chemicals precisely, to list the varieties of hazardous chemicals that are used as raw materials, intermediates and also final products, to identify those industries which are to be recognized as hazardous industries, to prepare a State-wise inventory of those units and also to cull out from that total inventory all those units which are located in crowded areas, then to examine the existing safety procedures and safety drills, along with

the contingency plans of those located in crowded areas, in case of such untoward happenings, as happened in the case of Bhopal.

The Ministry of Labour is also taking the necessary steps. As hon. Members are aware, although the licence was given by the Central Government, this is an industry which is located in a State, in Bhopal. So, the jurisdiction over this industry lies with the State Government, so far as the health and safety conditions of the labour are concerned. It is for the State Government to see that in the Factories Act sufficient provisions have been made for the safety and health of the workers and that they are enforced properly. The Ministry of Labour is considering amendments to the existing rules and regulations for the improvement of safety and health of the workers. The Director-General, Factory Advice Service and the Labour Institutes have been asked to make a detailed review of the provisions relating to the control and prevention of accidents and also occupational hazards in the context of the Bhopal accident. From the Labour Ministry the State Government have been asked to take special steps for augmenting the strength of the enforcement machinery to undertake joint inspection with the technical experts to see whether all the rules and regulations for the safety under the Factory Act, Acts on items like insecticides, boilers etc. are being properly implemented.

Then there is an impression that air and water and vegetables may not be free from contamination. The State Government had the city water supply tested on 3rd December itself and the report indicated that it was not contaminated. The tests were carried out regularly and intensify during operations when MIC was being neutralised. The tests of air and water samples were taken by a team of six scientists sent from the Department of Environment on 5th and 6th December and the fact of these being free from toxic chemicals was announced to the public. The Plant Protection Adviser to the Government of India had samples of plant foliage, including vegetables and food from the affected areas analysed with the help of

the local chemists at Bhopal and it was found that neither MIC nor hydrogen-cyanate were present in these. Accordingly the public were informed and they were asked to take sufficient precautions.

Lastly, I come to the point about the casualties because different sections have come forward with different versions saying that casualty is not less than 5,000 or is not less than 10,000 and some have even claimed that it is not less than 20,000. I have made very clear in my statement that according to the information the State Government has been able to collect so far, it is only 1,408. I have also made it clear that this is not the final figure.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Mr. Minister, I hope Centre and State have the same criteria about death.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : There is no question about criteria. I am explaining the position. The source of this information is hospital mortuaries, cremation grounds and burial grounds. The casualty may be even more. So, whatever figure they have collected, they have notified this 1,408 in all their police stations, in all their municipal wards in Bhopal and they have publicised in the local papers that these lists are available in the wards and the police stations. People can go and verify. And if they feel that the list is not complete and more casualties are there, they can come forward. They have sought cooperation from the public and different institutions in this regard. In addition to that, the State Government has engaged the Tata Institute of Social Sciences along with a few other institutions of social work to do a house-to-house survey for assessing the casualties, details of those affected, consequent effect on the household on account of death or disablement, assistance, medical treatment received, rehabilitation required, damage to property and other related matters. This is a comprehensive survey that the Tata Institute of Social Sciences has undertaken and I understand that the report is going to be ready by the end of this month. In the light of the report, whatever further action is called for, the Government of Madhya Pradesh is prepared to take.

So, in brief I have explained the steps taken by the State Government and steps taken by the Central Government. I can only assure the hon. Member, although this is the worst tragedy, Government of India or the State Government is not under-estimating this tragedy.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Before you conclude, one question was left out. I had said it is customary for the Directorate of Industrial Safety to periodically undertake inspection of plants. Regarding industrial safety, I would like to know whether it was done in the case of this plant.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I do not know. Under the Factories Act, factory inspectors are there and DG is there. They make periodical inspections. I do not have that information ready with me. If the hon. Member is very particular about that information, I will collect it and pass on to him.

SHRI R.P. DAS : The Minister said that the State Government...

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I have not finished. I am about to conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has not finished. He is about to conclude. Let him conclude.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Madam, I wanted to impress upon the hon. Members and through the Members the entire nation, that this is the worst tragedy which has opened the eyes of everybody. So, it is our duty and the duty of every authority to see that proper and necessary and effective steps are taken in order to avoid recurrence of such tragic accidents not only in our country, but in other countries also. Towards that end we have already initiated certain steps and we are very serious about it, we are not under-estimating this tragedy, we will take up this matter as a challenge and whatever adequate steps have to be taken in order to avoid such tragedies in future, the Government is willing to take or consider.

SHRI R.P. DAS : Regarding the relief, the Minister said that the State Government is introducing distribution of a ration of 9 kg wheat and 3 kg rice per unit. But in the Statement it is said that...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nine plus three—it comes to 12 kgs.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : It comes to 12 kg.

SHRI R.P. DAS : Twelve kg per unit family. He has said in his statement that 12 kg per unit will be given. But if it is per unit family, it is very meagre and very inadequate because you know per family means at least five persons. Five persons require at least 60 to 70 kg of ration every month. But he has said that only 12 kg ration of foodgrains will be given per family unit. If it is family unit, then it is meagre, and inadequate and they should be immediately distributed at least 60 to 70 kg per month per family.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I want to clarify that 12 kg per family unit means 12 kg per adult person per month.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijaywada) : The hon. Minister told a number of times that this is the worst tragedy, known in the living memory, of its kind in our country. Will the Government in all seriousness consider a point of view that instead of allowing so much huge quantity of MIC to be kept in a storage tank, there may be a change in the manufacturing process so that it can be a continuous process of preparation of one tonne of MIC per hour, not allowing so much of huge quantity to be kept in the storage tank? Will the Government consider that point of view in all seriousness?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let other Members also ask the questions. Then he will give a reply.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Let him reply to him.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, at his convenience.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I can only tell the hon. Member that the Union Carbide was manufacturing MIC and from MIC they were manufacturing carboryl. So there were two processes. The hon. Member feels that instead of having two processes, why not have only one process.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : No, no. Not that way. Instead of allowing the MIC to be kept in that storage tank, 100 tonnes or 90 tonnes in huge quantity as a surplus, the manufacturing process can be changed so that it can be a continuous process.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : That is what I am saying. Instead of having MIC and then converting MIC into carboryl, he suggested that it should be a continuous process. Then the question of storing MIC does not arise. But I can only tell the hon. Member that this factory is completely closed. My impression is that the State Government is not prepared to allow any more these activities to be resumed. On the other hand, they do not want the activities of Union Carbide even if they want to have their activities diversified, even in the name of Carbide. They do not want their existence in Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, this question does not arise.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
My point is :

(a) whether what was happening in the Research and Development Wing of Union Carbide has been referred to the Commission of Inquiry;

(b) Nowadays those hospitals are giving a certificate not mentioning that the death is due to gas poisoning. That will cause, later on, trouble while claiming compensation. I have raised this point already in my speech; and

(c) whether the Government is thinking

of taking the gas affected people in the light work Industry.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : So far as Research and Development Centre is concerned, I understand that this undertaking has got a Research and Development Centre at Bhopal. But in that Centre, they are carrying on the research activities including testing of pesticides and insecticides on pests/insects under tropical conditions. No collaboration with foreign company is allowed. So far as the terms of reference are concerned they do not include the R & D activities.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Madam Chairman, what about the other two things. The hospitals in Madhya Pradesh are not issuing a certificate stating that the death is due to gas poisoning.

DR. SARADISH ROY (Bolapur) : Madam Chairman, I want to know how many persons and animals have been invalidated due to this gas leakage. This is No.1.

Secondly, how has it affected animal life and vegetation life.

Thirdly, are the Air Pollution and Water Pollution Departments are active to prevent such incidents of gas pollution? If not, what are you doing for that?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : So far as the effect of this gas on animals and others is concerned, that information is being collected by Tata Institute of Social Sciences. They are collecting all that information.

DR. SARADISH ROY : They said, so many animals died. Give us the figure.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : The hon. Member wants to know the figure of animals died. I will collect and pass on the information.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to re-assemble tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18.38 hrs.

[The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday January 22, 1985/ Magha 2, 1906 (Saka)].