

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session (Part-I)
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IX contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Tuesday, February 25, 1997/Phalgun 6, 1918 (Saka)

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130/6(from below)	Prog.Saifuddin Soz	Prof.Saifuddin Soz
247/Last line	'soil'....	'son of the soil'
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, February 25, 1997/Phalgun 6, 1918 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MEMBER SWORN

Shrimati Hedwig Michael Rego (Nominated Anglo-Indian)]

11.03 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House with a deep sense of sorrow of the passing away of one of our esteemed friends, Shri Sushil Bhattacharya.

Shri Sushil Bhattacharya was a member of Seventh Lok Sabha representing the Burdwan Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal during 1980-84.

A prominent trade unionist and social worker, Shri Bhattacharya always endeavoured to focus the problems faced by the working class, He visited Moscow as a delegate of All India Hospital Employees Federation in 1962.

During his parliamentary career, he actively participated in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contributions thereto.

Shri Sushil Bhattacharya passed away on 28 December, 1996 at Calcutta at the age of 75 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure that the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.04 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.05 hrs.

Fertilizer Corporation of India units in Rajasthan

*41. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the

Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Fertilizer Corporation of India at Jodhpur and its units at Sri Mohangarh, Kwas, Nagaur and Hanumangarh etc. in Rajasthan are running into losses for the last 5-6 years;

(b) If so, the action taken by the Government to make these units profitable and viable :

(c) whether some officers of these units are involved in malpractices and prima facie the same has been established against them;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against such officials; and

(e) whether the Government intend to close down these units to avoid recurring losses to the State ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Jodhpur Mining Organisation (JMO) of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) which is located at Jodhpur is engaged in the mining of gypsum in Sri Mohangarh, Kwas and other areas in Rajasthan. Except for a marginal profit during 1991-92, Sri Mohangarh mines have incurred losses till 1995-96. The operations in the Kwas mines have been profitable since 1990-91. The loss making mines located in Hanumangarh and Nagaur were surrendered during the period from 1989 to 1994.

(b) The turnaround strategy to JMO is based on increasing its turnover and improving the operational efficiency.

(c) and (d) A preliminary enquiry has indicated a prima-facie case of procedural lapses in the contracts for the operation of Sri Mohangarh mines of FCI. The FCI management has decided to institute disciplinary proceedings against certain officials. Administrative action in regard to reallocation of the contract work has also been taken.

(e) There is no such proposal at this stage.

[English]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got the answer to my question where the hon. Minister has accepted. . .

[Translation]

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : Please speak in Hindi.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : I have prepared my points in English.

[English]

The hon. Minister has accepted that prior to 1996, there have been losses and for the last eight or nine months there is an improvement. I congratulate the hon. Minister for that. But I would like to bring out a very pertinent point that prior to 1996, there have been huge losses and these losses were as a result of the malpractices and corruption in the high offices. I am sorry to point out that in the second week of July, I wrote a number of letters regarding this irregularity in my Constituency, but no action was taken except ten days back when one officer was posted out from there. There is one officer who has been a Marketing Manager in Delhi for the last twenty years and looking after the same organisation. He has not taken any action against that officer because he is the President of the Officer's Federation.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question now.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Now, I am coming to the question. If no such action is taken, then there will be serious repercussions and I can tell you that there will be another mini urea scandal. Therefore, my question is whether these officers who have been found guilty **prima facis**, indulging in corruption and malpractices, have been suspended or removed from the position from where they cannot influence the conduct of disciplinary proceedings, and whether the Minister is contemplating to handover this inquiry to CBI because the departmental enquiry may not yield good results.

[Translation]

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. member has suggested to hand over this case to CBI but it has not been found to be a fit case to be handed over to CBI. The official found guilty of committing irregularities, has been suspended. Nine mines under Jodhpur Mining Organisation produce gypsum. After a long gap, this year these have earned a huge profit, by January it was to the tune of Rs. 57 lakh. I hope that it will increase further by the end of March, Department has retained the ownership of mines running in profit. Earlier six of these mines were incurring losses and those had been handed over to the state Government during 1991-94. These mines are taken on lease from the State Governments and FCI pays royalty for these mines.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have tried my best to reply to this question.

[English]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : The hon. Minister has said that there is a profit to the tune of Rs. 57 lakh.

MR. SPEAKER : He has answered all the questions and even those which you have not asked also.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : He has accepted that there were losses till March-April, 1996. I want to know that are those losses will March-April, 1996.

Secondly, my area is a very backward and famine-prone area. Is the hon. Minister taking some action

regarding the expansion plan and activities to generate more employment avenues, having already achieved profitable and viable financial position during this financial year ?

[Translation]

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that without taking much time I have given an apt and appropriate reply. I am unable to understand that what more the hon. Member wants to know in this regard.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, the hon. Member is asking about expansion plan and other activities. That must be answered.

[Translation]

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : As You are aware the land from which lime is extracted, is under the jurisdiction of State Government . . . (Interruptions) Dau Dayal ji gypsum and lime in is the same thing it is not found in Kota but in Bikaner. Why you are going in this controversy. Please listen to me . . . (Interruptions)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : He is expert in duping . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : This mine was incurring losses earlier due to excess of staff. Earlier there were 300 employees in it. Now it has 200 employees and 100 post have been kept vacant in view of the inadequate work. Earlier the State Government has not given permission to supply gypsum to cement factories thus this factory was incurring loss. Now the State Government has given permission to supply gypsum to other states and under a World Bank Scheme we have supplied 60 thousand tonnes of gypsum to Uttar Pradesh last year.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, this is not the question. Please tell as to whether there is an expansion plan or not ?

[English]

Is it yes or no ?

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : No.

MR. SPEAKER : That is good. Why are you going that long ?

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that Rajasthan has huge deposits of minerals and gypsum is also found in enormous quantity. The State Government has leased out these mines to Fertilizers Corporation of India with a hope that this PSU would earn huge profit and the whole country would be benefited with its production of fertilizer and other activities. But I am very sorry to say that Fertilizer Corporation of India could not prove its worth on this standard and its Gorakhpur factory and some other factories engaged in producing fertilizer have been lying closed.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : This is not the appropriate place to make speeches, please ask the relevant question.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I am coming to that.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : Gorakhpur and Jaisalmer both are quite fare . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, the hon. Minister should not say like that.

[Translation]

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : I am saying that it is not a relevant question.

MR. SPEAKER : Rawatji, please ask your question.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Jodhpur Mining organisation is engaged in mining gypsum under the fertilizer corporation of India. Hon. Minister himself has admitted that a inquiry was conducted to find out reasons for losses being incurred by it for the last four or five years. I would like to know as to when this inquiry was ordered and what type of inquiry was that. I request the hon. Minister to give clarification on the 'Turn Around' policy mentioned by him. You have admitted that one official was found guilty who have been suspended. In it, this has been written- "FCI Management has taken a decision to initiate disciplinary action against some officers." Whether the guilty person has been suspended or disciplinary action has been started. These two replies are contradictory. I would like to know as to what action is being taken to make the mining operations profitable so that Government may not incur losses in future ?

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not obligation to the State Government. We pay royalty and taxes as per the prevalent rules. We have taken those mines on lease from the state Government. As I have told earlier also that the main reason for this loss was the ban imposed by the State Government on supply of gypsum to the cement factories of states and there were problems in supplying sending gypsum out of the state. Now for the last few years State Government has given permission to sell gypsum to cement factories of the state. Thus these are earning profit. The hon. Member from Ajmer has raised that question in a haste. The hon. Member from Jaisalmer has made some complaints in writing. Departmental inquiry has been conducted into those complaints. The guilty found officer has been suspended. Disciplinary action is going on and action will be taken on the basis of findings of the report of the inquiry.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister why the Hindustan Fertilizers of Durgapur is frequently shut down due to lack of arsenic pipes and other materials ? As a result, the production cost is increasing. Why are the steps not being taken by the Government ?

[Translation]

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : Mr. Speaker, sir, it is totally a different subject. I will reply to it when related question is asked.

Licensing Policy four Sugar Mills

+

*42. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have revised the Licensing Policy for sugar mills;

(b) If so, the major changes introduced in the revised Licensing Policy;

(c) whether the new policy exempts now units from the levy restrictions and allows mills to sell upto 85% of their output in the free market; and

(d) the specific safeguards provided to ensure speedy payments to the cane growers ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) A statement is being placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government have, vide Ministry of Industry, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion Press Note No.1 (1997 series) issued on 10.1.97 revised guidelines for considering applications for industrial licences for sugar industries. A copy of the Press Note is annexed, as annexure.

(c) The licensing policy does not cover questions to exemption from levy.

(d) Does not arise.

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION

PRESS NOTE NO.1
(1197 SERIES)

Subject : Guidelines for considering applications for industrial licenses for sugar factories

The Government of India have reviewed the Guidelines for licensing of new and expansion of existing sugar factories issued vide this Ministry's Press Note No.16 (1991) dated 8.11.91. The existing guidelines need revision in order to take into account the changes in the business scenario following economic liberalization, the need for introducing simplified and transparent procedures and the technological changes that have taken place in the sugar industry over the years. In supersession of the aforesaid

Press Note, Government have now formulated the following revised guidelines :-

- (i) New Sugar factories will continue to be licensed for a minimum economic capacity of 2500 tonnes cane crushed per day (TCD). There will not be any maximum limit on such capacity.
- (ii) Preference in licensing would be given to the proposals involving larger capacity, modern technology and development of integrated complexes producing value added products and co-generation of power.
- (iii) For the consideration of application, a revenue district will be taken as the unit. In case more than one application is received for any unit of operation, other things being equal, priority will be given to the application received earlier.
- (iv) Licences for new sugar factories will be issued subject to the condition that the distance between the proposed new sugar factory and an existing/already licensed sugar factory should be not less than 15 kilometers.
- (v) The basic criterion for grant of licences for new sugar units would be cane availability or the potential for the development of sugarcane or both.
- (vi) Other things being equal, preference in licensing will be given to the proposals from the Growers Cooperation Societies. However, industrial licence issued to such a cooperative cannot be transferred to any other entity.
- (vii) All applications for expansion of the existing factories will be cleared automatically.
- (viii) Applications for grant of industrial licences for the establishment of new sugar factories as well as expansion of existing units should be submitted to the Secretariat for Industrial Assistance (SIA) in the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Industry, New Delhi in Form II, along with the prescribed fee of Rs. 2500/-. The applications received for grant of licences would be referred by SIA to the Department of Food and the concerned State Governments/UTs for their comments. If no comments are received from either Department of Food or the concerned State Governments/UTs within one month after their comments are asked for, it shall be deemed that they have no comments of offer. The Licensing Committee would thereafter consider the application for industrial licence and make appropriate recommendations.

The procedure and guidelines, as given above, are

brought to the notice of the entrepreneurs for their information and guidance

(Ashoke Kumar)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the remunerative price of Rs.72 to Rs.76 per quintal for sugarcane, announced by the Government of Uttar Pradesh is being given by sugar corporation and cooperative factories only. Private sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh are exploiting the farmers and not paying them remunerative prices announced by the government. The hon'ble Governor of the State has sent an ordinance regarding payment of remunerative prices of sugarcane to farmers to the Central Government for approval so that it becomes a statutory right of the State Government. If the Central Government deems it necessary to bring a bill, when a bill would be introduced in this regard ?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make humble submission that original question of the hon Member should be seen. The supplementary question does not relate to it. Though I can reply to it for your information.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Hon. Mr. Minister in (d) part of my original question I have asked as to what specific safeguards provided to ensure speedy payment to sugarcane growers.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the last part of the question it has been asked as to what specific measures have been taken to ensure payment to sugarcane growers. Not only in Uttar Pradesh but I would like to give information pertaining to the whole country.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your interference in this matter. I would like to get reply to my first supplementary question. This question relates to the prices being given to sugarcane growers.

MR. SPEAKER : He is replying to it.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV ; Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I am replying to this question. Legal advise is being taken on the ordinance sent from Uttar Pradesh. The hon. Governor of the state has negotiated with the sugar mill owners of Uttar Pradesh regarding the different rates i.e. Rs. 70, Rs. 72 and Rs. 76 being given to sugercane grawers. Now Rs. 70 and Rs. 72 being given as per the decision taken in negotiation. But this question does not relate to the main question. Now I would like to give information regarding payment to sugarcane growers regarding which the question has been asked.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was that the fixed rate of Rs.72 and Rs. 76 for sugarcane is not being given by private mills. Only the

sugar mills of public sector and co-operative sector are paying that rate. The State Government will have a statutory right if approval is accorded to this ordinance. I would like to know as to when approval will be given on it so that economic exploitation of farmers could be stopped and they could be given remunerative prices for sugarcane.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I have said it earlier also and I am giving information on it but your question does not relate to the main question. The United Front Government will take the required measures for welfare of farmers. By the end of the week a final decision will be taken on this issue. At present it is with the Ministry of Law. As you know very well that we have to adopt that procedure and process meant for it. We will take a decision in the interest of farmers.

In view of the problems being faced by the farmers, negotiations are held to decide the remunerative prices. At present the standing price for sugarcane has been fixed Rs. 70-72. In its judgement, Allahabad High Court has said that the statutory Minimum prices would be decided by the Union Government instead by the State Government. This proposal has been sent to us a few days back. Legal opinion is being sought on it and final decision is likely to be taken by the end of this week.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, every unit of sugar industry has a capacity to generate power upto ten megawatts to fulfil its requirement by using bagasse in high pressure boilers. At present Japan has become an economic power in the world by producing steel.

I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether with a view to ensure large scale production and to serve the interests of farmers and also to encourage industrial development of rural areas, in the coming budget he proposes to give any tax relaxations to such sugar mills as are capable of generating power on their own and setting up induction furnaces in their premises, and also to those industries which can run with power generated by themselves ?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Amar Pal Singh, you are not supposed to read out the question. Please try to put a pointed question.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I would request you again, sir, that the question asked by the hon'ble Member is different from the original one. It has been clearly asked in the original question that whether the Government has made any amendment in the licence policy for sugar mills, if so the details of the now amendments made in the revised licence policy and whether any levy relief has been given to the newly setup units under the new licence policy and whether the sugar mills have been allowed to

sell 85% of their production in the open market ? Inspite of it I do share the feelings of the hon'ble member and I am replying to his question. Firstly, it is certain that the licence policy which we have been following so far, has been revised. Earlier, the procedure to obtain the licence was very complicated. It used to take 5 to 6 years for processing the cases of applicant-be it a case of cooperative sector or any unit or a sugar mill because the procedure itself was so much complicated. Their cases used to be referred to a screening committee for scrutiny. A lot of mental exercise was involved in that process. Many times we required several reports from the State Governments again the again which used to take 5 to 9 years' period. But this time we have simplified the process by taking a high-level decision. Under this simplified process, we are certainly going to give priority to the power generating plants and a mention in this respect has been made in the simplification process. It has been categorically stated in it that priority for licence would be given to the value added projects or plants having heavy capacity or equipped with latest or modern technology.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, I do not think it is necessary for you to explain that long. Please be short. We have the constraint of time.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Member has asked only about those industries which would be generating power on their own.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a class room.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken to protect the interest of the cane growers and how much amount is pending to be paid to the cane growers as an date ?

Does the Government have any plan to divert molasses to produce fuel as an alternative source to petrol?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had paid 95.2 percent of the total arrear due to cane growers during the year 1995-96 and recently payment of 99 percent arrear was made in Uttar Pradesh and the remaining one percent of arrear is under the process of payment. The payment made to the cane growers during the current year 1996-97 was to the tune of Rs. 566 crores and the pending amount of arrear is to the tune of Rs. 398 crores which is being paid. Last year a payment of only 40.9 percent was made by the month of December. This year we have made a payment of 41 percent.

[English]

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Sir, my second supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : You are not entitled to second supplementary. You are entitled to one supplementary only.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHAMRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the data given just now by the Hon'ble Minister in respect of the payment made to the cane growing farmers, there is an increase of only one percent which is very much disappointing. Just now the hon'ble Minister was saying that he is protecting the interests of the farmers. I am unable to understand as to how he proposes to safeguard their interests. The Hon'ble Prime Minister repeatedly talks of the payment of the arrear of the farmers but the irony is that this Government, which claims itself to be the sympathisers of the farmers, wants to earn praise from this House for an increase of only one percent in the payment. I want to know as to what has happened to the announcement made by the Prime Minister ?

MR. SPEAKER : Sir, my second question is that farmers in Uttar Pradesh have launched agitations many times under the leadership of Congress (Interruptions)

[English]

I am not asking the question to you. You are not a Minister you are yet to come to that office.

[Translation]

What can I do if you are not aware of it (Interruptions)

[English]

You have to keep mum. You are not the Minister. You should understand this.

MR. SPEAKER : You should not interrupt.

.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : So I was saying that farmers in Uttar Pradesh have launched agitation many a times under the leadership of congress(Interruptions) They launched agitation in support of their demand that payment of arrears due to them should be made and they should be given remunerative prices for their produce. I want to know the dates on which the ordinance was issued by Uttar Pradesh and received in your office and why so much delay has taken place in giving approval on it ?

Sir, to the best of my knowledge, that ordinance was received more than one month back, whether a period of one month is inadequate for taking a decision thereon and whether that is likely to take some more time and if so,

by which time a final decision is expected to be taken thereon ?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Member is a senior member of this House. He has said that there has been only one percent increase in the payment of arrears of the farmers which reflects the intentions of this Government. Probably he did not listen to me carefully. I said that last year payment of 40.9 percent of arrear was made between December and January and this year a payment of 41 percent arrears have been made. More payment could have been made. But last year there was late crushing and so mills also started functioning late. In U.P. We have succeeded in making payment of 99 percent of arrears we made half of the total payment of Rs. 950 crores only in a period of two months. Never in the past, payment of arrears to the farmers has been made with such a speed.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, still there is an arrears of Rs. 351 crores due to the farmers.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not to the tune of Rs. 351 crores. Second question pertained to the ordinance. Uttar Pradesh is under the President Rule. In case there comes any ordinance from Uttar Pradesh, first it goes to the Home Department. After that it comes to me. We are taking legal advise on that ordinance. That is in the final stage. Once it comes to us from there(Interruptions)

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : My question was that(Interruptions)

[English]

Abolition of Article 356

+

*43. SHRI A.C. JOS :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council was held recently to discuss the issue of abolition/amendment of Article 356 of the Constitution;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in the meeting regarding abolition of the Article;

(c) whether views of the various political parties would be sought before taking a final decision; and

(d) the follow-up action taken by the Government on the deliberations of the meeting ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

One of the items included in the agenda for the first

meeting of the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council, held on January 15, 1997 was "Emergency Provisions". The opinion on the subject was divided. One viewpoint was that article 356 should be deleted from the Constitution of India. The other view point was that this article should be retained but should be suitably amended so as to provide adequate safeguards to prevent its misuse. Considering the difference between the two view points that emerged during the discussions, the members were requested to communicate their views and suggestions in the matter, in writing, so that these could be compiled and placed before the next meeting of the Standing Committee. The matter will be discussed further by the Standing Committee.

2. Keeping in view the composition of the Standing Committee and of the Inter-State Council, it is not considered necessary to obtain the views of various political parties separately on this issue before taking a final decision.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, regarding Article 356, the hon. Minister has stated, in this statement, that there was a difference of opinion in the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council. One set of people wanted this Article 356 to be retained and another set of people wanted this Article 356 to be deleted. Will the hon. Minister be kind enough to tell me which are the States which demanded that this Article 356 should be deleted and which are the States which wanted the Article 356 to be retained in the Constitution ?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Yes, Sir, there was a difference of opinion, of course, as the hon. Member has rightly pointed out. He wants to know about the different States, as represented by their Chief Ministers, in the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council.

The Chief Minister of Orissa, while supporting the retention of the Article, felt that the Supreme Court had laid down certain parameters which are broadly the same.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can just give the names of the States without going into what they have said.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, even that should be avoided.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Why should it be avoided ? As you have rightly pointed out, Sir, I wanted to know which are the States which wanted this Article to be deleted and which are the States which wanted this Article to be retained.

MR. SPEAKER : It is for the Home Minister whether he wants to say it. I do not think that I can give any direction on that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, the Chief Minister of

Assam was of the view that this provision should be deleted from the Constitution. He also said that, in the alternative, this provision should be drastically amended. The Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan was of the view that this Article should be deleted. Now, I am mentioning those States which wanted deletion. The Chief Minister of Assam, Andhra Pradesh and the Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan demanded outright deletion of this Article from the Constitution. The Chief Minister of West Bengal, Orissa and Maharashtra, and the Union Minister of Human Resource Development were not in favour of deletion of this Article. So, this was roughly the way the views were divided.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : What about the other States?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I am now talking about the discussion which took place in the meeting of the Standing Committee, where there are five or six Chief Ministers representing the major political parties of this country—Congress (I), CPI(M), BJP., Shiv Sena, Telugu Desam Party and Assam Gana Parishad. It means the Chief Ministers of all those States which are being administered by these parties have all been made members of this Standing Committee.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : What about Tamil Nadu ?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Tamil Nadu is not in this Committee. The Chief Minister is not in the Standing Committee. But then other Members from Tamil Nadu are there. The other Central Ministers are there. So, I think it is quite a representative cross-section of the opinion reflected in this discussion. And, opinions are divided, as I said earlier.

In conclusion, I just went to say that at the end of the meeting, they were all asked to – after going back to their respective States – think over the matter and send us in writing further, if they wanted to elaborate their views, within a certain time limit. That has come now. The States have responded and they have sent their views. We are going to hold another meeting of the Standing Committee very soon where this whole matter will again be taken up, discussed and processed.

SHRI A.C. JOS : It is reported in the newspapers – the Minister also concurs with it – that the Chief Minister of West Bengal wanted this Article 356 to be retained. In West Bengal, the Chief Minister belongs to CPI(M). The hon. Minister's Party, the CPI, is also part of that Ministry. Whereas the Chief Minister of Kerala, who is also a CPI(M) man and where the CPI is also a coalition partner in the Government wants Article 356 to be deleted. Is there any difference of opinion between the CPI and the CPI(M) in West Bengal as well as Kerala ? Will the Government be pleased to call a meeting of all the major political parties to know their opinions frankly ? When one party is in Government, in Kerala, they take a position that Article 356

[SHRI A.C. JOS]

has to be deleted and in West Bengal, they take a position that it should be retained. In this context, my question is: Will the Government be pleased to call a meeting of all the major political parties to take a final decision regarding Article 356 ?

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : The Chief Minister of West Bengal is more nationally responsible. That is why, he did not oppose this(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : That may be right(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister answer now.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Finally, it shall not become a historical thing.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I am proud of my Chief Minister's stand.

MR. SPEAKER : You are not supposed to intervene now.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I do not know whether all the Chief Ministers, belonging to other political parties, share the same view among themselves. We have not screened that. But he is very much concerned only with the CPI(M).

SHRI A.C. JOS : Naturally.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : We have examined this position and we feel that just now there is no necessity to call a meeting of the different parties because they are adequately represented in the Inter-State Council and the Standing Committee. I only wish to point out that all the parties, which are supporting the United Front, are pledged to carry out the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front. Regarding this Article 356, it says and I quote:

"Article 356 will be amended to reflect the decisions of the Supreme Court and to prevent the misuse of that Article."

This is what the Common Minimum Programme says. So, if any Chief Minister belonging to CPI (M) of any State adheres to this view; I do not think he is doing any wrong.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether certain State Governments have so far suggested the particular amendment to the Constitution and whether those State Governments have made certain specific suggestions for this specific kind of an amendment to Article 356. Will the hon. Minister be kind enough to let us know about this ?

May I also further know by which time the Government and the Standing Committee will be in a position to finalise their position, come to a conclusion and then move the Constitution Amendment Bill ? Let us know that thing also.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I cannot now give a detailed account of what amendments were proposed by every single Chief Minister or State Government. A number of amendments or proposals for amendments were expressed

in this meeting of different kinds – some relying on the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations which also contain a number of suggestions for amending the Article: and some relying on the recent judgments of the Supreme Court. All these have been tabulated. They will all be taken into account and again discussed.

What was the second question ?

SHRI CHITTA BASU : By which time will you be in a position to do it ?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I cannot give an absolutely time-bound assurance. But we have the next meeting of the Standing Committee which should meet within the next couple of months, at the latest. They will be able to finalise this matter. At least a consensus can be reached and I am sure, a consensus will be reached.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the government would take a decision in this respect within three months after holding the next meeting.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Whether three months after holding the meeting ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Yes.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The Government would move a Constitution Amendment Bill or Resolution in accordance with the decisions arrived at in the meeting or the consensus reached therein. A discussion will be held in the House on this issue and if a broad consensus is reached, the House would decide as to how we can proceed further in this regard.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am asking for three months time.

[English]

I am asking about a specific time limit. My question is, after your meeting is held, whether you will be in a position to take a decision within three months.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I do not know what is the specific significance of three months.

SHRI RAM NAIK : It is because we want that the UF Government should go with a time-bound programme in respect of various assurances which are given by them. So, after the meeting which you said would be held within two months, will you take a decision within three months after that meeting is held.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Does it mean that you are giving them three month's life ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : It is not a question of giving them life. That is for you to decide. But at least they should work within that time-frame.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I have no objection to this time frame which is being suggested. I thought this is something else. I thought perhaps he was hoping that within three months or after that this Government would not be there.

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is for your friends to decide.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I am sorry, I was confused. I through, you wanted the United Front Government, before it goes, to leave something behind it.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Sir, it seems that politicians may not agree even in the second meeting that they are proposing to have. So, may i know from the Home Minister if he would consider having an Advisory Committee of constitutional experts who are the best persons to give any view on this ? And they can also suggest what safeguards can there be in case Article 356 is either abolished or amended. What safeguards can be there in case a situation that we are facing in U.P. now arises ? Will they think of having an Advisory Committee of constitutional experts ?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : As far as this question of Article 356 is concerned, I do not feel that at the moment there is any need for an Advisory Committee of constitutional experts. If such a necessity arises, we can discuss that. But I would say one thing. As far as U.P. is concerned where the President's rule is in force, personally I am of the view that we should have an Advisory Committee here at the Centre as generally is the practice. Whenever any State is brought under the President's rule, an Advisory Committee consisting of representative of the different political parties is constituted for acting during the period of the President's rule. Unfortunately, in the case of U.P. such a committee has not yet been constituted as there is some technical and legal hitch. We are trying to overcome that as soon as possible so that an Advisory Committee is set up.

MR. SPEAKER : Now Question Number 44.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, you do not look straight. You look either to left or to right.

MR. SPEAKER : I first look straight before I look this side or that side.

Import of wheat

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*44. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

- (a) the reasons for import of wheat in 1996-97;
- (b) the quantity contracted to be imported, country-wise;
- (c) the rate at which the contracted wheat is being imported vis-a-vis the prices in the domestic and international markets;
- (d) the total expenditure incurred/to be incurred on the import of wheat;
- (e) the total quantity of wheat arrived in the country till date; and

(f) the overall impact on the domestic price structure of wheat after importing the same ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (f) A statement is being placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) In view of the decline in production and consequent lower procurement of wheat during 1996-97 and the increasing trend in the prices of wheat and wheat products in the domestic market, Government decided to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat to augment availability in the country.

(b) Country-wise quantity of wheat contracted for import upto 14.2.1997 is as under :-

	(in lakh MTs)
Australia	13.25
Canada	2.50
Argentina	1.00
Total	16.75

(c) So far, only Australian wheat contracted in December, 1996 at an F.O.B. price of US \$ 148 per MT has arrived in India.

The international prices and the wholesale prices of wheat in India were as under:-

	Prices in the international market per M.T.	Avg. wholesale price in India as on 1.1.97 (in Rs.)
Australia	\$ 199.50 to 205 FOB	Rs. 6100 to Rs. 10660 per M.T.
Canada	\$ 101.00 FOB	
Argentina	\$ 144.00 FOB	

(d) The total expenditure on import of 16.75 lakh tonnes on cost and freight basis at Indian ports works out to about Rs. 1043 crores approximately.

(e) The quantity of wheat arrived at Indian ports as on 20.2.1997 is 4.36 lakh tonnes.

(f) The increased availability of wheat is expected to have a sobering effect in containing the open market prices of wheat.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The statement laid on the table of the House does not contain a complete reply to my question. An attempt has been made to conceal

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : rather than reveal the facts. In the reply, hon'ble Minister has stated that foodgrains have had to be imported due to three reasons. I would like to know from the Government whether it has formulated any long term policy. Whether the Government are aware about the quantity of foodgrain required to be produced; the quantity actually being produced; the estimated production of Rabi crop during 1996-97; the anticipated requirement of foodgrains during the next year; the quantity required for human consumption; the quantity required for the livestock and how much out of it would be misappropriated in the fodder scam. Has the government made any such evaluation ? Secondly, you have cited certain reasons for decline in production. When did you come to know about it ? The new crop comes into the market by March. When did the Government come to know that there has been a shortfall in production ? You have stated that it is being imported. By when will the imported foodgrains arrive in the country ? If it arrives in March – April, what benefits would be there it won't have any balanced impact on the market. Has the government made any estimate about its adverse impact on the revenue position of our country, the loss likely to be incurred by the nation and its impact on the farmers? I have asked about the overall impact on the farmers. Therefore, please state whether any long-term policy has been formulated regarding foodgrains and especially wheat.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Joshi, I think you are asking the same thing again and again. I think it is good enough.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question has been asked specifically with regard to the wheat. Hon'ble Shri Joshi has mentioned that also. The reasons that have been cited that the production has fallen by 31 lakh tonnes in comparison to the last year's production and procurement has fallen by 41 lakh tonnes. In view of this shortfall, imports were made. We wish to curb the prices. The price rise has been unexpected. There were several reasons for it. Some reasons are justified from economic point of view; for example, we wish to increase the minimum support price (MSP) every year and it should be increased. If the farmer does not produce foodgrain, the requirements of the nation would not be met. Food security is our prime responsibility.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Please confine your speech to replying my question. We know all this.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : You have asked about the imports. You have enquired about the farmers.

DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Please tell us about the impact of imports. You are talking about the M.S.P. What are the sources of your import ?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I'll reply all the questions one-by-one.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Please do not tell about the M.S.P. We know all that. Please reply properly.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I'll reply to each and every point. If I leave out anything, you may ask me again. You have asked as to where was the need to resort to imports at such a time. In reply, I have told you that the production was less, and hence the procurement was less, and there had been an unprecedented rise in prices. We want to curb the prices.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Why was there a shortfall in procurement ? Production of foodgrains fell by 31 lakh tonnes whereas the procurement has fallen by 41 lakh tonnes. So why was there a shortfall in procurement?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : As there has been a shortfall in production, that is why procurement was also less, when the yield of the farmer goes down, the procurement will also go down consequently.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please. You cannot go on exchanging words like this. Mr. Minister, please be brief in your answers.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH : The Minister is misleading the House.

MR. SPEAKER : That is not true.

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH : The figures regarding production and procurement are not correct.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are not supposed to give answer to him. You please give answer to Dr. Joshi.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Some people were reading something else into it. If I go into details, I'll clarify everything. The Prime Minister has also spoken on this matter. People have approached High Court. It has been converted into a political matter. People have distorted the facts. There is no middleman and no private company is involved in imports. The imports have taken place on a government to government basis and such a thing has happened for the very first time. It happened at such a time when the farmers had finished sowing their crops. It has not affected the production. I have got the papers wherein it is stated :

[English]

"a plea against free amount of wheat import dismissed."

DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this

is not the way. I have asked a very specific and an important question which relates to the farming community. It is a very specific and simple question. I seek your protection.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Joshi Ji has asked about the likely fallout of import of wheat from the international market and its consequent impact on the domestic prices, Indian wheat or the farmers? I would like to tell you that imported wheat is being provided at Indian port. If you want the relevant figures in Indian currency, I can tell you the figure in Indian currency, otherwise I can also mention the foreign currency figure \$ 148(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Poor farmer or labourer does not understand all this talk about dollars. Please give us the figures in rupees.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : All right I'll give you the figures in rupees. The imported wheat will be available in India @ Rs. 6227 per quintal and(Interruptions) it was a slip of tongue. The rate is Rs. 6227 per tonne and at this rate the imported wheat will be available in India and the average price of Indian wheat including all economic costs comes to Rs. 6500 per tonne.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the rate at which it will be made available in the market.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think you can go on adding questions like that. I will have to go to the next question. Mr. Minister, please conclude your answer. That is not the way. What is this questioning before he gives the answer?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : You have to restrain the Minister and not me, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : But you are also adding more and more questions.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I am not adding questions, Sir,

I am trying to clarify.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the next question.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Let him finish it, Sir. This is a very important question.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the imported wheat is being provided at Indian port at a cheaper rate. It is cheaper by Rs. 332 per tonne and Indian wheat(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All right. That is sufficient.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is totally wrong. The price at port and the market price are never the same. You should add the charges of carrying the grains from port to stock and from stock to the market and then tell us the price. Please do not mislead the House. Secondly, I would like to ask you whether you have got the foodgrains tested before importing it so as to rule out the possibility of presence of such toxins which could harm our crops. You should keep in mind that such an incident had already occurred in 1980 and even now so far as I know, there is a substance by the name of aflatoxin and its presence in the foodgrains denotes that the grain is poisonous and it could cause harm to the crops in the country. Whether the Canadian Wheat Board has refused to issue any such certificate that the quantity of toxins present in the foodgrains stock are less than the prescribed limit and that the toxin element is within the tolerable limit. Whether you have got any such certificate from all the countries from where the wheat has been imported that it fulfils the phyto-sanitary conditions and it you have procured any such certificate regarding the toxin limits, would you lay all these documents on the Table of the House ? Would you assure the House that the imported foodgrains is free from Chemicals and that it does not contain any such poisonous chemical substances which could be harmful for human beings and the crops ?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are not only capable of confusing the Minister, I think, you are capable of confusing the Speaker himself now;

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : That I cannot do, Sir, All along my life nobody has charged me of this.

MR. SPEAKER : My goodness; I cannot follow your question – very fast and long.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The question is very simple, whether phyto-sanitary conditions have been observed or whether the whole amount of wheat imported is free from toxins.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, out of the wheat procured on contract i.e. the imported wheat, about 4,36,000 tonnes of wheat has been received so far. By next month, additional six lakh tonnes of wheat is likely to be received. The feed back reports received so far do not indicate the presence of any poisonous substances or toxins.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Would you lay those certificates on the Table of the House ? I would like to know whether you would table the certificates received from boards and from whichever agency it has been exported alongwith the certificates pertaining to tests carried out.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The wheat being received is as per our specifications. The procedures regarding testing the grains and issuing certificates are being followed ... *(Interruptions)*. There is no remedy for the doubts although there is factually no reason for doubt in this case.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Would you give information to the House or not ? I have not asked whether there is any doubt or not.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT ; I would request Shri Joshi that if he has got any information, he should lay it on the Table of the House so that the nation is benefitted*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : "Wheat quality compromised." Canadian Board has declined and has clearly stated it. I am asking this question in that very context*(Interruptions)*

When wheat was imported earlier in 1980, the crops in Punjab had been destroyed by fungus.

[English]

The country will suffer immensely. If there is toxin in this, people will also suffer immensely. What is the harm if the Minister kindly produced those certificates and presented them to the House ? This is the certificate, the statement of assurance by the Canadian Board; it is not there.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, the Minister just now told us about what the price of imported wheat is going to be. It is going to be closer to Rs. 8 per kilogram approximately and exported at a much lower price. Obviously the country is going to loss about Rs. 400 crore in this transaction. That is pretty clear. The consumer would have to pay through his nose. Very briefly, I would ask the Minister when and by whom was this decision to export taken and what were the factors that made the Government conclude that we were very well able to meet our food needs and therefore could export even if it meant selling at a lower price.

I have asked two very clear questions. He can reply to those two questions.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was decided to import up to 20 lakh tonnes of wheat.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : I am talking about exports.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Sir, after June 25, not even a grain of wheat has been exported by F.C.I.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, he has not answered my questions*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I said, you are responsible for that.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA ; Mr. Speaker, Sir, we seek your protection. The Minister is not giving the reply*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, it is obvious that he has not answered my question.

MR. SPEAKER : The answer will come after Shri Barnala puts his question. Just one more minute.

[Translation]

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the import price is being quoted as Rs. 622 and procurement price would be Rs. 415 or may be lesser than this price.

[English]

How does the Minister justify this ? Also, how would he be able to procure sufficient quantity of foodgrains this time ?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year, the Minimum Support price was Rs. 380 per quintal. This year it has been raised to Rs. 415 per quintal in view of the interests of the farmers*(Interruptions)* This year the procurement price is Rs. 415 per quintal. We have had a substantial yield of wheat and we are expecting a good yield. The Government would definitely take a decision regarding the measures required to be adopted for providing remunerative price of farmers.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, the hon. Member, Dr. Joshi has raised an apprehension that the wheat contains toxic elements and the hon. Minister says that indications are that there is no such toxic element. Why do you not conduct an inquiry ? As it is a serious apprehension that has been raised, I want the Minister to inform this House whether he is prepared to conduct an inquiry into it. The toxic element is dangerous. I would like to know his reaction.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I stated that the issuance or certificate of purity of the grain is one of the specifications laid down for procurement of wheat. I have mentioned earlier that the Government would not accept even a small quantity of wheat if it does not meet our specifications. The wheat is being imported under this condition and India will not import wheat at higher rate.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

IFFCO Investment and Expansion Programme

*45. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI .
SHRI ANIL BASU :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether IFFCO is investing substantial amount in Andhra Pradesh and foreign countries such as Iran, Senegal as a part of its expansion programme;

(b) whether IFFCO is going to spend on the revival of existing plants spread over the country to minimise import of fertilizers for the internal consumption; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) :

(a) Under the prescribed procedure for investment approval, preliminary clearance has been accorded to IFFCO for setting up a fertilizer project consisting of 1350 Tonne per Day (TPD) ammonia and 2200 TPD urea plants at Nellore in Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 1568 crore. The project has a Debt: Equity ratio of 2:1.

IFFCO has studied the pre-feasibility of a urea production facility at Qeshm Island, Iran, in joint venture with Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO) and Qeshm Free Area Authority.

With a view to securing the supply of imported phosphoric acid required for the expansion of its Kandla unit, IFFCO has decided in principle to invest in the proposed expansion project of Industries Chimiques du Senegal, an existing joint venture company in which IFFCO is a partner alongwith Government of India and Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Limited.

(b) and (c) The possibility of participation of IFFCO

in the revival of existing fertilizer plants was explored by the Government, but because of the commitments of IFFCO towards its on going expansion projects and joint ventures for augmenting fertilizer production capacity, no such proposal could materialise.

[Translation]

Supply of Inferior Quality of Foodgrains

*46. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether inferior quality of foodgrains are being supplied by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) through the Public Distribution network in several States;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of complaints received from various States and number of cases detected in this regard;

(d) the action taken by the Government in each case; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such irregularities ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIERS, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) . (a) No Sir, only good quality foodgrains of A&B category, free from insect infestation and Conforming to PFA standards are being supplied by FCI through the Public Distribution network in all the States.

(b) In view of (a) above Questions does not arise.

(c) and (d) Ten complaints were received from various States by the Government about the supply of inferior quality of foodgrains to PDS during 1995-96 and 1996-97. The complaints were properly referred to Food Corporation of India for Investigation and to take immediate remedial measures. Details of complaints received in the Ministry during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as follows:-

Date of Receipt	Subject	Latest Position
1	2	3
11.5.95	Quality of rice being supplied to PDS in Karnataka State – a press note published in the "Indian Express" dated 11.5.95	Remedial action taken by FCI and rice stocks after cleaning were issued to state Government.
22.5.95	Poor quality of wheat supplied under PDS in the Orissa State.	The complaint was investigated by the officer of QCC, Calcutta and was not substantiated
17.8.95	Issue of poor quality of rice through PDS in Delhi.	FCI took remedial measures to supply goods quality foodgrains for PDS in Delhi.
21.9.95	Quality of foodgrains issued from Food Corporation of India to Gujarat.	FCI has taken action to ensure goods quality foodgrains for PDS in Gujarat State.

1	2	3
21.11.95	Complaint about quality of rice supplied to Sikkim for PDS by Food Corporation of India	Action has been taken by FCI to ensure the supply of Fair Average Quality of rice to State Govt.
27.11.95	Complaint from Minister of Food, Tourism & Law, Govt. of Kerala regarding supply of bad quality of rice from FCI to State Government.	Remedial action has been taken by FCI.
12.9.96	Complaint about poor quality of foodgrains in PDS in Almora district U.P.	The Complaint was investigated by an officer of Ministry of Food and it was found false. The quality of foodgrains available in PDS was found conforming to prescribed standards.
26.9.96	Quality of wheat supplied to Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan.	Complaint under investigation with Food Corporation of India.
27.9.96	Complaint received from Shri N.K. Premchandran, MP, Lok Sabha regarding inferior Quality rice being supplied to Kerala.	The matter has been referred to FCI for investigation.
27.9.96	Complaint from Minister of Food, Tourism & Law, Government of Kerala regarding supply of bad quality rice from FCI to State Government.	Remedial action was taken by Food Corporation of India. Only good quality rice with prior consent of State Govt. is issued for PDS.

(e) The following important steps have been taken by Ministry of Food to ensure the supply of good quality foodgrains through PDS:-

- (1) The stocks of foodgrains can be inspected by the State Governments or their representatives prior to issue from FCI depots.
- (2) Sealed samples from the foodgrains issued for PDS are supplied to State Governments, so that these may be displayed in FPS for the benefit of consumers.
- (3) Fair Price Shop owners are required to have a complaint register, so that the consumers may lodge their complaints in these registers. These complaints are looked into by the concerned State Government.
- (4) Surprise checks by the officers of Quality Control Cells of the Ministry of Food and, also, by the officers of State Governments are carried out to check the quality of foodgrains.

[English]

Revised Public Distribution System

*47. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER

AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the targeted revised Public Distribution System launched by the Government recently along with the guidelines issued to the States in this regard;
- (b) the criteria for determining the poor beneficiaries under the scheme;
- (c) the likely percentage rise in the existing food subsidy as a result thereof;
- (d) the estimated poor population likely to benefited by the scheme, State-wise;
- (e) the estimated increase in the supply of different foodgrains and other items for distribution through Public Distribution System, State-wise;
- (f) the manner in which the Government propose of maintain the additional supply of foodgrains for the Public Distribution System, State-wise;
- (g) the reaction of various State Governments to the revised Public Distribution System; and
- (h) the progress made in implementation of the scheme so far, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (h)

The Government have decided to streamline the Public Distribution System with its focus on the poor. The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) will be implemented on the following lines :

- (i) A quantity of 10 kgs. of foodgrains per family, per month will be issued on the basis of number of families Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the State as indicated in Statement-I. This quantity will be issued as Rice or Wheat or combination or both, as may be preferred by the States at prices less than the Central Issue Price (CIP).
- (ii) However, to take care of the population Above the Poverty Line (APL) presently covered under PDS, transitory allocation will be made to the States, over and above their entitlement of subsidised foodgrains as indicated in Statement-II. This allocation will be on the basis of average lifting by States during the last 10 years. The quantity of foodgrains out of this average lifting which is in the excess of the requirement for the population. Below Poverty Line, is proposed to be allocated to States as a transitory allocation, at the Central Issue Prices.
- (iii) While the allocation of 10 kg. per month, per family, for the population Below Poverty Line will be on entitlement basis and will be guaranteed to States by the Centre, the allotment for non-poor will be on the basis of local production in the State and availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool. While deciding the allotment, the special problems of hill States, States with inaccessible areas where regular markets do not function, and highly deficit States, will be kept in mind.
- (iv) In so far as rice is concerned, common varieties of rice will be reserved exclusively for the population. Below Poverty Line which will be issued Common or Fine rice at the same price. Find and superfine varieties of rice will be issued to the population Above Poverty Line.
- (v) The States should fix the price at FPS level at not more than 50 paise/kg. over the Central Issue Price particularly for the population below Poverty Line.
- (vi) States will be free to add to the quantum, coverage and subsidy from their own resources. Government of India's commitment will be :
 - (a) To provide 10 Kg. of foodgrains per family, per month at about half the C.i.P. for the Below Poverty Line families to States;

- (b) The quantity needed for the beneficiaries of Employment Assurance Scheme/Jawahar Rozgar Yojana at the same rate; and
 - (c) The additional quantity indicated for the Above Poverty Line families at full C.I.P. as indicated in para (iii) above.
- (vii) State Governments would be encouraged to undertake procurement of coarse grains for issue to population below poverty Line and the subsidies given by Central Government would be extended to this local procurement of coarse grains. This will be within the overall quantity indicated as entitlement on the basis of population Below Poverty Line.
 - (viii) The State Governments would need to make all arrangements to ensure that the eligible families are identified, cards are given and the Scheme is implemented properly. Under no circumstances would subsidised foodgrains be given, unless these arrangements are made satisfactorily. These arrangements among others will include ;
 - (a) Proper enumeration of the families Below Poverty Line and issue of special cards to them.
 - (b) Administrative, financial and delivery arrangements required to ensure that the allotted foodgrains, indeed, reach the Fair Price Shops and from there to the intended beneficiaries without any diversion.
 - (c) A proper system of monitoring and reporting in the prescribed formats on the working of TPDS together with constitution of Vigilance Committees at the shop, district and state level.
 - (ix) The Central Issue Price will come into force as and when announced by the Department of Food Procurement and Distribution. Issue of foodgrains at subsidised prices, less than the Central Issue Price to the States for the Below Poverty Line population will be effected as soon as a State has completed the arrangements indicated in para (viii) above. With the introduction of the targeted PDS, the existing RPDS will be no longer relevant. However, in the matter of provisions of vans and godowns under the Ministry's Scheme emphasis will be on these areas.
 - (x) The specially subsidised foodgrains will also be issued to all beneficiaries under the EAS/Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, at the rate of 1 kg. per manday on the basis of Guidelines already

issued in this regard by the Department of Rural Employment & Poverty Alleviation.

- (xi) "Food Coupons" should be issued for the beneficiaries under EAS/Jawahar Rozgar Yojana enabling the beneficiaries to obtain foodgrains at the Fair Price Shops by exchanging the Food Stamp Coupons.

Detailed guidelines for the implementation of the TPDS

are being issued to the States/UTs.

The expenditure on account of subsidy to be incurred on the Targeted PDS will depend upon the Central Issue Price fixed by the Government from time to time.

The State Government/UT Administrations have been requested to identify the population below poverty line, issue special cards to them and make necessary arrangements for proper implementation of the Scheme.

Statement-I

Statement showing the requirement of foodgrains at 10 kgs. per family, per month, for all the Households below poverty line in the State

State	No. of Households (1991) (in lakh)	No. of Households (1995) (in lakh)	% BPL as per expert group	No. of BPL Households (in lakh)	Requirement of foodgrains at 0.12T per annum (in 000)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Prd.	13937	147.13	22.19	32.65	391.78
Arunachal Prd.	1.75	1.89	39.35	0.74	8.92
Assam	38.44	46.64	40.86	19.06	228.69
Bihar	140.12	156.30	54.96	85.90	1030.83
Goa	2.35	2.52	14.92	0.38	4.51
Gujrat	74.93	82.41	24.21	19.95	239.42
Haryana	26.15	29.26	25.05	7.33	87.96
Himachal Prd.	9.69	10.42	28.44	2.96	35.56
Jammu & Kashmir	14.03	15.09	25.17	3.90	45.58
Karnataka	81.44	86.70	33.16	23.75	345.00
Kerala	55.13	60.37	26.43	15.35	184.23
Madhya Prd.	117.15	125.44	42.52	53.34	640.05
Maharashtra	153.44	164.00	36.86	60.45	725.40
Manipur	2.97	3.19	33.78	1.08	12.93
Meghalaya	3.27	3.52	32.92	1.16	13.91
Mizoram	1.21	1.30	25.66	0.33	4.00
Nagaland	2.17	2.33	37.92	0.88	10.60
Orissa	59.99	65.52	48.56	31.82	381.80
Punjab	34.25	36.57	11.77	4.30	51.65
Rajasthan	72.90	79.04	27.41	21.66	25.98
Sikkim	0.76	0.02	41.43	0.34	4.08
Tamil Nadu	125.43	130.72	35.03	45.79	549.49
Tripura	5.27	5.66	39.01	2.21	26.50
Uttar Prd.	223.78	233.74	40.85	95.48	1145.77

1	2	3	4	5	6
West Bengal	125.14	130.66	35.66	46.59	559.12
Delhi	18.77	20.18	14.62	2.95	35.40
A&N Islands	0.59	0.64	34.47	0.22	2.65
Chandigarh	1.47	1.58	11.35	0.18	2.15
D&N Haveli	0.26	0.28	50.84	0.14	1.71
Lakshadweep	0.08	0.09	25.04	0.02	0.27
Pondicherry	1.62	1.75	37.40	0.65	7.85
Total	1533.92	1645.76		586.48	7037.78

Statement-II

Statement showing the requirement of Foodgrains for the Households Below poverty line and the transitory additional requirement for the other Households

State	Average annual Lifting of Foodgrains (10 years) (in 000)	Requirement of Foodgrains at 0.12T per annum (in 000)	Additional requirement for other than BPL families
1	2	3	4
Andhra Prd.	2396.40	391.79	2004.62
Arunachal Prd.	85.98	8.92	77.06
Assam	663.57	229.69	434.88
Bihar	527.32	1030.83	
Goa	67.71	4.51	63.20
Gujrat	801.14	239.42	561.72
Haryana	96.59	87.96	8.63
Himachal Prd.	152.29	35.56	116.73
Jammu & Kashmir	312.52	45.58	266.94
Karnataka	900.28	345.00	555.28
Kerala	1776.47	184.23	1592.24
Madhya Prd.	480.59	640.05	
Maharashtra	1489.20	725.40	763.80
Manipur	70.44	12.93	57.51
Meghalaya	143.47	13.91	129.56
Mizoram	100.18	4.00	96.18
Nagaland	133.58	10.60	122.98
Orissa	426.45	381.80	44.95
Punjab	24.36	51.65	

1	2	3	4
Rajasthan	661.66	259.98	401.68
Sikkim	40.95	4.08	36.87
Tamil Nadu	1010.73	549.49	461.24
Tripura	152.51	26.50	126.01
Uttar Prd.	661.41	1145.77	
West Bengal	1453.68	559.12	894.56
Delhi	639.45	35.40	604.05
A&N Islands	12.12	2.65	9.47
Chandigarh	15.81	2.15	13.66
D&N Haveli	1.35	1.71	
Lakshadweep	4.79	0.27	4.52
Pondicherry	5.92	7.85	
Total	15308.82	7037.78	9448.05

Production of Cash Crops

*48. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the crop-wise percentage of production of cash crops of the total agriculture production in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken and incentives given to the farmers through out the country during each of the last three years to increase the production of cash crops; and

(c) the various facilities like inputs etc. proposed to be extended to the farmers during the current financial year and next year to enhance the production of cash crops in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) A statement giving crop-wise, State-wise percentage of output of cash crops comprising oilseeds, sugarcane, fibres and horticulture crops (including condiments & spices and fruits & vegetables) during 1994-95 is at Statement-I. The percentage share of these crops in the total agriculture production in each State is given in Statement-II.

(b) and (c) To increase the production of cash crops,

the Government is implementing various crop specific programmes/schemes. These include :

- (i) Oilseeds Production Programme.
- (ii) Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Areas (launched in 1995-96).
- (iii) Intensive Cotton Development Programme.
- (iv) Special Jute Development Programme.
- (v) Development Programmes pertaining to horticulture including fruits, vegetables, flowers, condiments & spices, and medicinal & aromatic plants.

The incentive under these schemes are provided for making use of required inputs like improved seeds, farm implements, sprinkler irrigation sets, micro-nutrients, distribution of essential nutrient minikits, pest control measures through Integrated Pest Management System and other crop specific requirements. Besides, field demonstrations on farmers holdings and training of the farmers are being organised for efficient transfer of production technology. The above schemes/programmes are likely to continue in the IX Five year plan.

The financial release under cash crop oriented development schemes during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (outlay) are given at Statement-III.

Statement-I*Cropwise percentage of value of output (1994-95) of cash crops.*

State	Oilseeds	Sugarcane	Fibres	Horticulture Crops (Fruits & Vege. and Condiments & Spices)	Total (Col. 2 to 5)	All Crops
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	1.3	0.5	0.0	1.4	4.1	8.5
Arunachal Pradesh	0.0			0.0	0.0	0.1
Assam	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.9	1.1	2.5
Bihar	0.1	0.2	0.1	2.1	2.4	6.0
Goa	0.0	0.0		0.1	0.1	0.1
Gujarat	1.9	0.4	1.1	0.9	4.4	6.5
Haryana	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.1	1.4	4.2
Himachal Pradesh	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5
Jammu & Kashmir	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.7
Karnataka	0.9	1.1	0.4	1.1	3.4	6.3
Kerala	0.7	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.8	2.9
Madhya Pradesh	1.7	0.0	0.2	0.8	2.7	0.4
Maharashtra	0.9	1.5	1.1	1.8	5.3	9.4
Manipur	0.0	0.0		0.1	0.1	0.3
Meghalaya	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Mizoram	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Nagaland	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.1	0.2
Orissa	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.3	3.5
Punjab	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.5	1.5	6.3
Rajasthan	1.4	0.0	0.4	0.6	2.5	6.2
Sikkim	0.0			0.0	0.0	0.1
Tamil Nadu	1.1	0.7	0.2	0.8	2.8	5.2
Tripura	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
Uttar Pradesh	0.7	3.3	0.0	1.7	5.7	15.7
West Bengal	0.2	0.0	0.3	1.1	1.6	5.9
A & N Island	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0
D & N Haveli			0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Delhi	0.0			0.0	0.0	0.0
Daman & Diu				0.0	0.0	0.0
Pondicherry	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Lakshdweep	0.0			0.0	0.0	0.0
ALL INDIA	11.9	8.3	6.0	16.6	42.9	100.0

0.0 indicates negligible percentage.

Statement-II*Value of output for Cash Crops – 1994-95*

States	All Cash Crops Oilseeds, Sugercrops, Fibers & Horticulture crops	All Crops	% of Cash Crops to total crops
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	891061	1868601	47.7
Arunachal Pradesh	9530	20596	46.3
Assam	245507	545850	45.0
Bihar	534930	1315923	40.7
Goa	15869	24873	63.8
Gujarat	956580	1416580	67.5
Haryana	308163	918264	33.6
Himachal Pradesh	23149	103467	22.4
Jammu & Kashmir	48882	162100	30.2
Karnataka	755667	1381731	54.7
Kerala	389430	654924	60.3
Madhya Pradesh	600053	1850447	32.4
Maharashtra	1154605	2056388	56.1
Manipur	24739	56092	44.1
Meghalaya	13897	25494	54.5
Mizoram	6239	18054	34.6
Nagaland	18455	34011	54.3
Orissa	283032	768977	36.8
Punjab	338976	1392235	24.3
Rajasthan	539027	1366960	39.4
Sikkim	4745	11006	43.1
Tamil Nadu	604724	1142219	52.9
Tripura	14693	43830	33.5
Uttar Pradesh	1257064	3455690	36.4
West Bengal	358951	1292761	27.8
A & N Island	6451	8704	74.1
D & N Haveli	803	2862	28.1
Delhi	3781	10384	36.4
Daman & Diu	385	755	51.0
Pondicherry	4234	11169	37.9
Lakshdweep	809	810	99.9
ALL INDIA	9414439	21952765	40.8

Statement-III*Financial Releases under Cash Crop Oriented Development Schemes.*

(Rs. crores).

Schemes	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4
I. Oilseeds Production Programme	87.19	86.00	94.69
II. Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems	—	29.56	25.55
III. Intensive Cotton Development Programme	10.88	9.97	15.00
IV. Special Jute Development Programme	1.66	1.87	4.85
V. Horticulture	165.80	162.46	191.55

Families below Poverty Line

*49. SHRI K.S. RAYADU : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether one million families below poverty line in Orissa are not getting benefits of Targeted Revised Public Distribution System TRPDS as reported in the Economic Times, Dated January 8, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to help them to derive benefits given by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the provisional estimates worked out by the Planning Commission for 1993-94 adopting the methodology of the Expert Group under Late Prof. Lakdawala, the number of persons below poverty line in Orissa is 160.60 lakhs, works to 48.5% of the State's population.

Insurgency in N.E. States

*50. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have entered into agreement with Bangladesh to combat insurgency in the North-Eastern States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the factors responsible for increase in insurgency in the North-Eastern States; and

(c) the extent to which the agreement with

Bangladesh is likely to curb the insurgency in the region?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (c) No formal agreement has been entered into by the Government of India with the Government of Bangladesh to combat insurgency in the North Eastern States. However, institutional arrangements have been put in place with the Government of Bangladesh for dialogue and cooperation on security matters. These include (a) meetings of Home Secretaries of the two countries; (b) establishment of Joint Working Group to examine, indepth, all outstanding issues and to recommend practical measures for resolving them; (c) regular meetings at Director General level between Bangladesh Rifles and Border Security Force.

Certain States in the N.E. have varying degrees of militancy and terrorism. It cannot be said that there is any increase in such activities in the North Eastern States.

The positive attitude of new Bangladesh Government is likely to lead to denial of base and transit facilities to the insurgents in Bangladesh and this is expected to improve the security scenario in the North Eastern States.

Selling of Wheat at lower rates

*51. DR M. JAGANNATH :
SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether inspite of wheat crisis prevailing in Andhra Pradesh, the Food Corporation of India disposed of 5750 tonnes of wheat to the traders at lower rates in the State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to check proper use of the wheat meant for the Public Distribution System in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The open sale prices are fixed by the Government from time to time after taking relevant factors into consideration.

(c) FCI issues foodgrains under Public Distribution System to the State Governments or their nominees. In Andhra Pradesh, A.P. Civil Supply Corporation lifts the stocks from FCI godowns and distributes it to Fair Price Shops. The State Government takes necessary measures for proper use of wheat meant for Public Distribution System.

Wheat Supply to Bogus Firms

*52. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :
SHRI I.D. SWAMI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether a racket involving Rs.200 crore worth of wheat has come to light in the recent past in Haryana;

(b) if so, whether wheat meant for free supply in open market was sold to 30 bogus firms by the Food Corporation of India;

(c) if so, the names of firms to whom the wheat was supplied and officials of FCI involved in the scam;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted in the matter;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken proposed to be taken against those found guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) A case FIR No. 10 dated 16th January, 1997 against Senior Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana and others, under Section 420/109/199/200/120-B IPC, 7/10/55/EC Act and 3(1) (b) of Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, was registered at Police Station, Civil Lines, Rohtak, Haryana. The main allegation in the FIR is that illegal gratification was demanded for allotment of wheat under open sale scheme by agents of Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana. The FIR names the then Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana and two other FCI Officials, apart from the private parties. The aforesaid wheat is reported to have been sold to different parties at exorbitant rates. It is further alleged that 5000 bags of wheat were allotted to a flour mill which was closed for 2/3 years.

In addition, preliminary reports of local officers of Rohtak district have alleged that a few firms have indulged in black marketing of open-sale-wheat.

(d) to (f) Investigations in the case arising from FIR No. 10 are being conducted by the Police. The matter has, however, been taken up with the CBI also for investigation. Final outcome would be known only after completion of investigation.

Two FCI officials and three others have been arrested. Warrant of arrest against the then Senior Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana have been issued. The services of the then Senior Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana have been repatriated to his parent cadre.

Militant Activities

*53. SHRI REVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of RDX and explosive items alongwith arms and ammunition seized from the Kashmiri and other militants in the country during the last three years, upto now, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the arrested militants ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Statements showing the recoveries of RDX, Arms, Ammunition and Explosives during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 are attached at Statement I, II and III.

(b) At the Central level, the following action is taken to curb militancy :

1. Ensuring coordination with State Governments/ Intelligence agencies/Investigating agencies of Central Government or matters relating to exchange of information, sharing of intelligence, planning of strategy and taking coordinated action.
2. Protection of international borders by
 - (a) Fencing and flood lighting in the sensitive areas on international borders.
 - (b) Strengthening the BSF on the borders through supply of night vision devices, hand held sets, binoculars, dragon lights etc. so as to enhance their capabilities.
 - (c) Setting up additional BOPs (Border Out Posts) with a view of reduce inter BOP distance.
3. Deployment of para military forces and providing of assistance of armed forces where necessary in affected areas.
4. Banning of militant 'outfits' where such activities

are spread over more than one State.

of weapons in special circumstances.

5. Providing of financial assistance to affected State Governments over the above the on-going allocation for modernisation of police and supply

(c) Action against arrested militants is taken under the relevant provisions of law, including National Security Act/Public Safety Act.

Statement-I

Statement showing the recoveries of RDX.ARNS. Ammunition & Explosives

1994

S.No.	State	RDX (Kgs.)	Explosive (Kgs.)	Arms	Ammunition
1.	Delhi	—		11	21
2.	J & K	5	1508	1615	74255
3.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—
4.	Haryana	—	—	—	—
5.	Punjab	25-5		186	811
6.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—
7.	MP	—		2	
8.	Maharashtra			4	542
9.	Andhra Pradesh	—		30	143
10.	North East	—		402	2490

Note : State wise break up of explosives recovered during 1994 not available. Total country wide 647 packets/bundles/boxes, 1,56,655 Nos. (pieces) and 2813 Kgs. explosive were recovered

Statement-II

Statement showing the recoveries of RDX.ARNS. Ammunition & Explosives seized

1995

S.No.	State	RDX (Kgs.)	Explosive (Kgs.)	Arms	Ammunition
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Delhi	1	5 Nos 1.3 (Kgs)	118	539
2.	J & K	9	1689	3158	52995
3.	Gujarat	10 (Pkts)	1978 (Nos) 23 (Kgs)	109	2795
4. & 5.	Punjab/Haryana	720	75334 (Nos) 136 (Kgs) 6 (Pkts)	350	7728
6.	Rajasthan	—	6 (Nos)	1154	2547
7.	MP	—	190 (Kgs) 31 (Nos)	248	7625
8.	Maharashtra	—	60 (Boxes) 82 (Kgs) 436 (Nos)	26	557

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Andhra Pradesh	-	169 (Pkts) 3750 (Nos) 586 (Kgs)	953	862
10.	North East	-	271 (Nos)	1881	7576
11.	Tamil Nadu/Kerala	-	97 (Pkts) 25415 (Nos) 10220 (Kgs)	10	359
12.	Orissa	-	204 (Nos) 612 (Kgs) 2 (Pkts)	21	9
13.	Karnataka	-	4709 (Nos) 32 (Boxes) 29.5 (Kgs)	18	64
14.	West Bengal	-	378 (Nos)	497	24874
15.	Bihar	-	631 (Nos)	297	2797
16.	Assam	-	913 (Nos) 5 (Bundles)	238	1641
17.	UP	-	435 (Nos)	5691	10904
18.	Himachal Pradesh	-	2203 (Nos) 150 (Kgs)	-	-

NB : NUMBER connotes detonators, pencil bombs, grenade, timer pencil, release mechanism ETC. whose weights are not known.

PACKETS connotes packets of Gelatine Sticks, safety fuse etc.

Statement-III

Statement showing the recoveries of RDX.ARNS. Ammunition & Explosives seized

1996

S.No.	State	RDX (Kgs.)	Explosive (Kgs.)	Arms	Ammunition
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Delhi	4	-	157	342
2.	J & K	150	3549	9038	192831
3.	Gujarat	2 (Pkts)	1044 (Nos) 36 (Boxes)	298	6248
4.	Punjab/Haryana	99 (Kgs)	99 (Nos) 100 (Boxes)	137	4083
5.	Rajasthan	-	1 (Nos) 5 (Kgs) 68 (Boxes)	109	644
6.	MP	-	130 (Nos)	75	196

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Maharashtra	—	53 (Boxes) 1 (Kgs) 4362 (Nos)	17	1672
8.	Andhra Pradesh	—	769 (Nos) 1.6 (Kgs)	120	1396
9.	North East	—	16 (Nos)	597	2063
10.	Tamil Nadu/Kerala	—	—	64	107
11.	Orissa	—	426 (Boxes) 100 (Kgs) 469 (Nos)	34	118
12.	Karnataka	—	25 (Nos) 1 (Kg)	12	1415
13.	West Bengal	—	182 (Nos) 21 (Bundles)	281	288
14.	Bihar	—	21 (Nos) 8 (Boxes) 100 (Kgs)	188	749
15.	Assam	—	276 (Nos) 1 (Kg)	248	3148
16.	UP	—	277 (Nos) 8 (Boxes)	4406	9394
17.	Himachal Pradesh	—	248 (Nos) 1488 (Kgs)	5	14

N.B. : NUMBER connotes detonators, pencil bombs, grenade, timer pencil, release mechanism etc. whose weights are not available.

PACKETS connotes packets of gelatine sticks, safety fuse etc.

Incidents of Bride Burning

*54. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of deaths due to bride burning in the country during 1996, State-wise/Union-Territory-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to prevent such deaths ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Available information is given in the Statement attached

(b) 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects as per provisions contained in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime, including the crime relating to 'bridge burning', is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Govern-

ment has, from time to time, been writing to the State Governments stressing the need to take preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures in connection with crimes against women. The measures suggested by the Central Government include; inter-alia the appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers, setting up of Women Cell in police stations, wider recruitment of women police officers and gender sensitisation training to police personnel, etc. The Central Government has also been modifying and amending the legislation with a view to making the laws more stringent. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 was amended in 1984 and 1986. The Indian Penal Code, 1860. The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and The Indian Evidence Act, 1872, have been amended to deal effectively not only with dowry death cases but also with cases of cruelty to married women. The media is being used to project the positive role of women in society. Awareness generation camps have also been organised.

Statement*Incidence of Dowry Deaths by burning during 1996
(States & UT-Wise)*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Incidence	Remarks (figures are upto the month of)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	80	November*
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	September
3.	Assam	1	June
4.	Bihar	NA	-
5.	Goa	1	
6.	Gujarat	23	November
7.	Haryana	50	September
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	August
10.	Karnataka	56	December**
11.	Kerala	5	November
12.	Madhya Pradesh	211	November
13.	Maharashtra	116	
14.	Manipur	0	
15.	Meghalaya	0	February
16.	Mizoram	0	
17.	Nagaland	0	
18.	Orissa	6	July
19.	Punjab	29	July
20.	Rajasthan	89	October
21.	Sikkim	0	November
22.	Tamil Nadu	17	November
23.	Tripura	0	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	581	November
25.	West Bengal	17	September
Total		1283	
26.	A & N Islands	0	November
27.	Chandigarh	0	-

1	2	3	4
28.	D & N Haveli	0	
29.	Daman & Diu	NA	-
30.	Delhi	59	
31.	Lakshadweep	0	October
32.	Pondicherry	1	
Total (All-India)		1343	

Source monthly crime statistics.

Note : 1. Figs. are provisional

2. NA Stands for not available.

3. * Figs. excluding October 96 data.

4. ** Figs. excluding November 96 data.

[Translation]

Sugar Export

*55. SHRI D.P. YADAV :
SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA
MEHTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had decided to decanalise be pleased to state ;

(b) if so, the national stock position of sugar, the availability of sugar for Public Distribution System and for open market along with the prevailing domestic price of sugar on the eve of this decision;

(c) the steps being taken to increase the production and control the prices, of sugar in indigenous market;

(d) whether non-payment of remunerative prices to sugarcane growers will adversely affect sugar export policy of the Government ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIERS, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) The Sugar Export Promotion Act was repealed on 15.01.1997 with a view to encourage private initiative in the export of sugar. The sugar season 1996-97, beginning 1.10.1996, started with a carry over stock of 80.78 lakh tonnes. This included a quantity of 13.32 lakh tonnes to levy sugar, enough to meet about 3 months requirement of Public Distribution System (PDS) in the current season. After meeting the internal demand, even on 31.12.1996, sugar stock was of the order of 73.71 lakh tonnes. Export of sugar has been allowed to increase the marketability of free-sale sugar and strengthen the financial viability of sugar manufacturing units, particularly, as in the domestic market, from October, 1996 onwards, the wholesale prices

of freesale sugar reflected a moderate downward trend. This is considered necessary to enable the factories to pay remunerative prices to cane growers and to keep up the production of sugar.

Agriculture Research and Development

*56. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether expenditure on Agriculture Research and Development is very low in India in comparison to the other developing countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any special steps are being taken by the Government to promote the Agriculture Research and Development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The current expenditure on agricultural research in India is not very low. It is about 0.3 percent of agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) as compared to around 0.3 to 0.75 percent in the developing countries. However, a norm of 1% of agricultural GDP is suggested to be the minimum research investment target. Higher allocations to meet the target have not been possible on account of resource constraints.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken steps to increase the Plan outlay for R&D from Rs. 85 crore in IV Five Year Plan to Rs. 1300 crore in VIII Five Year Plan. Further, keeping in view the recommendations of the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture as well as the realistic resource requirements for agricultural R&D, the IX Plan Working Group of DARE/ICAR has recommended to the Planning Commission that the investment in agricultural research should be raised to at least 1 per cent of Agricultural GDP during the IX Five Year Plan.

[English]

Investigation by NHRC

*57. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has investigated the charges of starvation deaths in Orissa;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b)

A Team of officers of the National Human Rights Commission had undertaken a preliminary visit to Orissa on 12-14 December, 1996 for collection of facts about the reported starvation deaths. Government have not received any report from the commission in this regard so far.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Atrocities on Girls

*58. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :
KUMARI UMABHARATI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that NCC girls of Jammu and Kashmir returning to their homes after performing in the Republic Day Celebrations in Delhi, were molested in the running train near Meerut on January 30, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the incident;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the number of persons arrested in this connection; and

(e) the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) According to information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, on 30.1.1997, a group of 25 artistes comprising of 5 men and 20 women from Jammu & Kashmir was going back by Shalimar Express after participating in the Republic Day celebrations. There was an altercation over seating in the compartment between some women artistes and daily passengers who reportedly misbehaved with the artistes. 2 BSF jawans and 1 GRP jawan also sustained injuries during the incident while trying to intervene.

2. A case under sections 147/323/332/353/354/308 IPC and 145 Railways Act has been registered in GRP Meerut. Twelve accused persons have so far been arrested. Three other accused persons have surrendered. Action against two persons named in the FIR was taken under the National Security Act and they have been served externment notices by the District Magistrate.

Naxalite Activities

*59. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons killed in various States due to naxalite attacks during the last six months, State-wise;

(b) whether such incidents have been increasing constantly in naxalite affected States;

(c) If so, the steps taken by the Government to check the same;

(d) whether the Naxalite affected States have urged the Union Government to treat the naxalite menace at the national level;

(e) if so, the response of the Government in this regard;

(f) whether the Government have formulated any action plan for instant implementation by the affected States;

(g) whether the State Governments have also requested the union Government to provide more Central para-military forces to tackle this menace; and

(h) if so, the details of assistance sought by the affected States and the actual provided to them during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS : (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) As per the available reports, during the period July-December, 1996, naxalites were responsible for the following deaths :

Andhra Pradesh	:	105
Bihar	:	156
Madhya Pradesh	:	15
Maharashtra	:	9

(b) Through the number of incidents reported from the various State showed a decline in July-December, 1996 when compared to the previous six-monthly period, the number of deaths in these incidents have registered slight increase.

(c) "Public Order" and "Police" being State subjects, it is for the concerned State Governments to devise various methods and take concrete steps in this regard. At the Central level, action is taken to facilitate coordination of the anti-naxalite operations of different States and to improve flow of information useful for control of naxalite activities among the States. Further help is being provided to the State Governments in terms of financial assistance for modernisation of police, supply of improved weapons, deployment of para-military forces etc. In certain special circumstances, financial assistance has also been given to some of the affected States over and above the on-going allocations for modernisation of police and supply of weapons.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir, Central Government has taken

adequate measures to help the States to fight the menace. These include holding of coordination meetings with the States concerned as well as with the various intelligence and investigating agencies of the Central Government to exchange information, share intelligence, plan strategy and take coordinated action. In certain special circumstances, financial assistance has also been given to some of the affected States over and above the on-going allocations for modernisation of police and supply weapons. Training of police personnel in Anti-Extremist Operations has also been arranged.

(f) Central Government, in consultation with the concerned States has drawn an Action Plan in this regard which includes :

- (i) ensuring security of police stations, particularly those located in Naxalite affected areas;
- (ii) to have a common communication system;
- (iii) set up a Control Room in each State;
- (iv) Joint Patrolling; and
- (v) Launching of Area Domination Programme among the States; and
- (vi) Ministry of Home Affairs have also arranged for training of police personnel in anti-extremist operations.
- (vii) Strengthening of intelligence network in affected areas in concerned States;

(g) and (h) Central para-military forces are made available to the States to assist them in maintaining public order. The level of deployment depend upon the requirement of each State and the overall availability of the Force. As such to indicate the details of force or level of deployment will not be in public interest.

Arrears due of Sugarcane Growers

*60. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

- (a) the present status of the arrears to be paid to the sugarcane growers, State-wise;
- (b) the details of payments outstanding for more than the last two years and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the farmers are currently being paid their dues or the arrears have started accumulating again;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government to ensure that the work of sugarcane crushing goes without hindrance and farmers are paid their dues ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The latest available statewise position of cane price arrears for the current season 1996-97, i.e., as on 31.12.1996 prepared on the basis of the information furnished by sugar mills, is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) As per the information furnished by sugar mills, the cane price arrears due to the farmers as on 15.11.1996 were Rs. 5.99 crores relating to 1993-94 and earlier season.

Accumulation of cane price arrears could be attributed to number of factor such as poor financial position of sugar mills, high cost of production, relating to SMP higher State Advised Cane Prices, inadequate sales realisation, etc. Further, during the progress of the crushing period, when the volume of cane purchased is comparatively higher, the arrears of cane price tend to increase, which gradually get reduced substantially by the end of the season.

(c) and (d) As per the information furnished by sugar mills, the cane price arrears which were 45.58% of the total price payable during the beginning of 1996-97 season, i.e. 30.11.1996, got reduced to 41.32% of the total price payable on 31.12.1996.

(e) The responsibility for ensuing timely payments of cane price dues lies with the State Governments which have the necessary powers and field organisations to enforce such payments. The Central Government, with a view to strengthening the financial viability of sugar manufacturing units, has been pursuing a policy of encouraging stability in sugar prices commensurate with the requirement of maintaining a reasonable level of prices in the domestic market. Buffer stock of one million tonnes, permission for exports, judicious monthly releases of free-sale quota, etc. are some of the measures taken to improve the financial capability of the factories so as to enable them to discharge the payments due to the cane growers and continue with the cane operations.

Statement-I

The Statewise position of cane prices payable, price paid and balance outstanding for cane purchased during 1996-97 season upto as well as arrears of cane price as on 31.12.96

(Figures in lakh Rs)

State	Total price payable for cane purchased during 1996-97 upto 31.12.96	Cane price paid upto 31.12.96	Balance cane price payable, as on 31.12.96	% age of balance price payable over total payable
1	2	3	4	5
Punjab	8596.78	1768.21	6828.57	79.43
Haryana	2997.68	227.57	2770.11	92.41
Rajasthan	64.30	0.00	64.30	100.00
West up	6166.16	4800.59	1365.57	22.15
Central up	6601.74	1564.15	5037.59	76.31
East up	1612.59	1176.01	436.58	27.07
Total up	14380.49	7540.75	6839.74	47.56
Madhya Pradesh	690.39	273.90	416.49	60.33
South Gujarat	8433.60	7764.55	669.05	7.93
Saurashtra	354.80	105.59	249.21	70.24
Total Gujarat	8788.40	7870.14	918.26	10.45
South Maharashtra	17527.42	14401.43	3125.99	17.83
North Maharashtra	4733.58	2653.56	2080.02	43.94
Central Maharashtra	12380.32	8607.29	3773.03	30.48
Total Maharashtra	34641.32	25662.28	8979.04	25.92
North Bihar	1083.14	0.00	1083.14	100.00

1	2	3	4	5
South Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Bihar	1083.14	0.00	1083.14	100.00
Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	6791.35	3439.82	3351.53	49.35
Karnataka	11995.41	6123.95	5871.46	48.95
Tamil Nadu	5153.69	3001.30	2152.39	41.76
Kerala	440.62	282.10	158.52	35.98
Orissa	466.12	317.66	148.46	31.85
West Bengal	49.06	0.00	49.96	100.00
Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	96.44	6.31	90.13	93.46
Goa	310.41	141.43	168.88	54.42
All India	96546.40	56655.42	39890.98	41.32

[Translation]

Welfare of Handicapped persons

398. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations from the State Government of Bihar for the Welfare of handicapped have been pending with the Union Government for the last one year;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALA) : (a) to (c) The State Government of Bihar has recommended certain applications of Non-Governmental Organisations for grant-in-aid to them under various Schemes for the welfare of the handicapped being administered by Ministry of Welfare.

Most of these applications have not been processed as the committed liabilities of the Ministry under these programmes did not warrant undertaking any new proposal. As there has been no enhancement in the Budget allocation of the Ministry of Welfare under different Schemes for welfare of the handicapped, no new applications are likely to be considered during the financial year.

[English]

Food Storage Depots

399. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of

FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct food storage depots in Tamil Nadu particularly at Madurai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) As on 1.1.1997, Food Corporation of India has a total capacity of 7.55 lakh tonnes in Tamil Nadu with utilisation of 35%. Therefore, the existing storage capacity requirement of the State. However, as a long term plan FCI proposes to create additional capacity at the following centres in Tamil Nadu subject to availability of land and finance:-

1. Vilangudi (Madurai) – 25,000 MT
2. Ramanathapuram – 5,000 MT

Godowns and Offices

400. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the locations of Food Corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation Offices and godowns in Maharashtra with total capacity of godowns;

(b) the order of investment made in construction of godowns during the last three years in Maharashtra by these organisations and the capacities added;

(c) the location proposed for construction of godowns in Maharashtra and the investment proposed therefore during the current year;

(d) the actual requirement of storage godowns in Maharashtra at present and for the next five years and steps taken/proposed to meet the same; and

(e) the details of the projects approved/under construction and reasons for slow progress of their implementation, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

PDS Quota to Sikkim

401. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have cut down quota of foodgrains and other items granted to Sikkim under PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) No Sir, Government has not made any cut in the quota of foodgrains to Sikkim. However, the Wheat quota was reduced from 1100 MTs to 600 MTs per month with effect from November, 1996 and by an equal amount, i.e. 500 MTs, the allocation of Rice was increased from 4800 MTs to 5300 MTs per month with effect from November, 1996. As per 1991 Census the population of Sikkim is 4.06 lakhs and the number of households is about 76500. At the current allocation, the per household, per month availability of foodgrains in the State is 77 kgs. which is more than adequate.

[Translation]

Cultivation of Tobacco

402. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allowed tobacco cultivation in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether requisite land has been identified in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to start the cultivation of tobacco in the tribal areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) There is

no restriction for growing tobacco in Gujarat.

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

[English]

Law and Order Situation in Uttar Pradesh

403. SHRI JANG BAHADUR PATEL :

SHRI RAMSAGAR :

SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question Nos.4907 & 4973 dated September 10, 1996 regarding law and order situation in U.P. and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to improve the law and order situation in the State;

(d) the number of cases of robbery, theft, molestation, rapes, murders etc. that have taken place in the State during the last one year; and

(e) the action taken therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.4973 for 10.9.96 does not relate to this Ministry. The reference is perhaps to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4907 for 10.9.96, relates to law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh. Information in regard to both the Question relating to this Ministry is awaited.

(c) to (e) Available information in regard to number of cases under important Heads of crime for the years 1995 and 1996 in the State of Uttar Pradesh is given below:-

	1995	1996
Decoity	1019	885
Theft	10681	9780
Murders	8549	8149
Rape	1800	1631 (upto Nov. 1996)
Kidnapping & Abduction	215	191

The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has been guiding the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations on improving various facets of police functioning including crime control. The law and order and crime situation in Uttar Pradesh is being specifically monitored by the Central Government and advisories are being sent from time to time to the State Government.

Irregularities in Purchase of Seeds, Fertilizers, Pesticides and Plants

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

(a) whether there has been rampant corruption and irregularities in the matter of purchase of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and plants in various States :

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken cognizance of the fact;

(c) the number of cases of irregularities and corruption which came to light and the action taken therein; and

(d) the details of purchase policy followed by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The following cases of frauds and other irregularities in the purchase of fertilisers/administration of Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme have in the recent past come to the notice of the Department of Fertilizers :

- (i) National Fertilizer Ltd.'s deal with M/s. Karsan Ltd. of Turkey for import of Urea;
- (ii) Import of Fertilizers by National Fertilizers Ltd. through M/s. Sai Krishna Impex;
- (iii) Claim of retention price subsidy with the support of fabricated documents etc. by:

- (a) M/s. Punjab Phosphates Pvt. Ltd.;
- (b) M/s. Harsvardhan Chemicals & Minerals Pvt. Ltd.; and
- (c) M/s. Phosphate India Ltd.

The cases at S.No. (i), (ii) & (iii-b) are under investigation with Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI). In the case referred to at S.No. (iii-a), CBI had filed a Charge Sheet in the Court of Law on 30.12.1995/4 against 23 persons including 10 Central Government Officials. The case at S.No. (iii-C) is presently under scrutiny with CBI.

(d) States Governments/UTs do not purchase fertilizers. Therefore, the question of State Govts.UTs having a Purchase policy does not arise. Information regarding purchase policy followed by States/UTs regarding Seeds & Pesticides is being collected from States and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Use of Pressure Horns

405. SHRI JAI PRAKESH (HARDOI) : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a law banning the use of pressure horns in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the said law being flouted blatantly by the buses and trucks;

(c) whether the traffic police is not checking the use of pressure horns and challaning the buses and trucks violating the law;

(d) if not, the number of trucks and buses challaned on this count in the last three years, year-wise and the money collected therefrom; and

(e) the further measures taken by the Government to enforce the law strictly ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The law provides that no motor vehicle shall be fitted with any sound producing device giving unduly harsh, shrill, loud or alarming noise.

(c) and (d) The buses and trucks violating the law are duly challaned. The details are given as under :

Year	Total Trucks Challaned	Cash (in Rs.)	Total Buses challaned	Cash (in Rs.)
1994	51867	3786300	9685	864300
1995	111494	9953600	11110	1020300
1996	172033	14214800	15795	1379500
1997 (upto 31.1.97)	9071	707100	522	47500

(e) Special drives are conducted from time to time to check this menace. The motor vehicle owners are also educated through pamphlets, etc.

Complaints Regarding Public Distribution System

406. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding the pilferage and manipulations in the Public Distribution System network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to redress the complaints ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) No major complaint from State Governments/UT Administrations regarding pilferage and manipulations in the Public Distribution System (PDS) network has been received. However, in a vast operation such as PDS, where commodities worth Rs. 15000 crores are distributed through a network of more than 4.37 lakh Fair Price shops throughout the country to 16 crore families, some

shortcomings here and there cannot be ruled out altogether.

The States are periodically requested to tune up the monitoring system particularly at the Fair Price Shop level.

Incident of Police Firing in Uttrakhand

407. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Judicial Commission constituted to probe into the killing of 15 persons in police firing in Uttarakhand in October, 1994 has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay;

(d) whether some other similar Commissions have also been appointed in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) whether those commission have since submitted their reports;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the time by which the reports of those Commissions are likely to be submitted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Subsidy on Fertilizers

408. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN ; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has recommended the restoration of the earlier practice of distributing fertilizer subsidy directly to the farmers; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No such recommendation has been received from the Government of Kerala.

(b) Does not arise.

Paddy Procurement from Andhra Pradesh

409. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India expected a record paddy procurement from the East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh particularly at the time when they suffered heavy cyclone damage;

(b) if so, whether the FCI has procured 14% higher paddy than that procured during the last year from these districts;

(c) if so, the total procurement made by the FCI from these districts uptill now; and

(d) the total of rice procured by the FCI from all over India and the extent to which it is more in comparison with the previous year ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The price of paddy prevailing in the market in Andhra Pradesh is higher than the Minimum Support price fixed by the Government. As such, no paddy has been procured in any District of Andhra Pradesh so far.

21.63 lakh tonnes of rice has however been procured as levy in Andhra Pradesh upto 21.2.97 in the current 1996-97 Kharif Marketing Season as against 16.58 lakh tonnes procured during the corresponding period of last season.

(c) Procurement of rice under levy in East and West Godavari districts is as under :-

(in lakh tonnes)

Distt.	Quantity of Rice procured during current 1996-97 season	Quantity of Rice procured during corresponding period of last season 1995-96
(As on 20.2.97)		
East Godavari	3.66*	3.54
West Godavari	2.53@	1.64

(* 0.46 lakh tonnes procured under relaxed specifications.

@ 0.44 lakh tonnes procured under relaxed specifications.)

(d) A quantity of 90.98 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured upto 21.2.97 in the current 1996-97 Kharif Marketing Season for Central Pool as against 73.85 lakh tonnes procured during corresponding period last season.

'Encroachment of Forest Area

410. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news item captioned "Assam Forest Exists only on Papers" appearing in Times of India dated January 30, 1997, reporting that on the outskirts of the city of Guwahati at Hengrapari a reserved forest exists only on papers;

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

(c) whether encroachers have settled within the

reserved forest area and earth cutting and stone quarrying are going on merrily in that reserved forest area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to remove those encroachers and check other illegal activities in the said area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not a fact that the Hengrabari R.F. exists only on paper. Forestry activities are going on to improve the area by implementing various schemes.

(c) At present approximately 120 hect. of area are under encroachment, but there is no earth cutting and stone quarrying in the area.

(d) The efforts are going on to evict the encroachers. There were 6 Stone Mahals, out of which 5 were closed during 1992. The sixth Stone Mahal of Hengrabari has been stopped from operation recently under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Export of Rice

411. SHRI RAM NAIK :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some Non Governmental Organisations in Orissa are considering the export of rice from the State at a time when there is acute drought condition prevalent there;

(b) if so, whether Government have permitted this export; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

Wakf Boards

412. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN DWAISI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government has issued directives to the State Governments to draft new set of rules to restructure Wakf Boards in the respective States;

(b) if so, the details of the directives so issued;

(c) whether some State Governments have objected to the same; and

(d) if so, the States that have restructured the Wakf Boards as per the directions of the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) Under sub-section (1) of Section 109 of the Wakf Act, 1995, a State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette make rules to carry out the purpose of the said Act including the manner of section of Members of the Board. Framing and notification of these rules as also other action like establishment and constitution of a Wakf Board under Section 13 and 14 of the Wakf Act, 1995 as also constitution of a Tribunal under Section 83 of the said Act are to be taken by the respective State Governments. The Union government has not issued any directives to the State Governments to draft now set of rules etc. as it does not have powers to do so. However, as the Central Ministry incharge of subject of Wakf is allocated to the Ministry of Welfare, it has been requesting the State Governments from January, 1996, to take the above actions under the Act.

(c) Yes Sir. The Governments of Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Goa and UT Administration of Daman and Diu have expressed their inability to constitute Wakf Boards on the grounds of low Muslim population and/or absence of Wakf properties in their respective States. They have been asked to reconsider the matter.

(d) The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya and West bengal have constituted new Walf Boards under the previsions of the Wakf Act, 1995.

Relief of Levy Sugar

413. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the total relief on the levy sugar given to the Sugar Mills licensed after the September, 1990, year-wise; and

(b) the names of Sugar Mills with their locations that fall under the High Recovery Areas and those falling under other Recovery Areas, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The total relief on the Levy Sugar given to Sugar Mill under Incentive Scheme Licensed after September, 1990 Year-wise; is as under :-

S.No.	Sugar-Year	Total Qty. in Tonnes
1.	1991-92	-
2.	1992-93	-
3.	1993-94	-
4.	1994-95	2742.0
5.	1995-96	2312.7
6.	1996-97 (as on Feb., 1997)	35845.1

(b) Under the Sugar Incentive Scheme, 1993, Country has been classified into two Recovery Areas—High Recovery Area and Other Recovery Area. The Zones falling under these two areas are as follows :-

(i) High Recovery Area: South Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Note :- South Gujarat comprises districts of Surat, Valsad, Dangha and Bharuch in Gujarat State.

(ii) Other Recovery Area : Areas other than those specified at (i) above.

A list showing the names and locations of sugar mills licensed after the September, 1990, to whom relief on levy sugar under the incentive scheme, 1993 was sanctioned is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Statement showing the names and locations of Sugar Mills Licensed after the September, 1990, to whom relief on levy sugar under the incentive scheme, 1993 was sanctioned

Sl. No.	Name and location of the factory	Classification of Recovery Area
1	2	3
1.	M/s S.V. Sugar Mills Ltd; at Waljabad Firka, Distt. Chegalpattu, MGR (T.N.)	O.R.A.
2.	M/s Rana Sugar Ltd; Butter-Sayan, Te. Baba-Bakala, Distt. Amritsar (Punjab)	O.R.A.
3.	M/s Nahar Sugar and Allied Industries, Amlah, Teh: Nabha, Distt. Patiala (Punjab)	O.R.A.
4.	M/s Piccadily Sugar and Allied Industries Ltd; Patran, Teh: Samna, Distt. Patiala (Pb.)	O.R.A.
5.	M/s Shakumbari Sugar and Allied Industries Ltd; At. Todarpur (Rajhas), Distt. Saharanpur (U.P.)	O.R.A.
6.	M/s Dhampur Sugar Mills Ltd; At-Asmoli, Teh: Sambhal, Distt. Moradabad (U.P.)	O.R.A.
7.	M/s Kitply Industries Ltd; At-Rupapur, Dist. Hardoi (U.P.)	O.R.A.
8.	M/s Dwarikesh Sugar Industries Ltd; At-Bundki, Distt. Bijnor (U.P.)	O.R.A.
9.	M/s Prudential Mouli Sugars Ltd; At-Nidra, Village, Teh. Nindra, Mandal, Distt. Chittor (Andhra Pradesh)	O.R.A.

1	2	3
10.	M/s L.H. Sugar Factories Ltd; Pilibhit, Distt. Pilibhit (U.P.)	O.R.A.
11.	M/s Indapur S.S.K. Ltd., Bijawadi Taluk Indapur, Distt. Pune (Maharashtra)	O.R.A.
12.	M/s Sasamusa Sugar Works Pvt. Ltd; Sasamusa, Distt. Gopalganj, (Bihar)	O.R.A.

Note :- H.R.A. indicates High Recovery Area and O.R.A. indicates other Recovery Area.

Disease to Rice Crop

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

(a) whether the Government provided adequate financial assistance to the farmers of Kerala to overcome the loss suffered by them due to the deadly disease affecting the rice cultivation especially in the Kuttanad region; and

(b) if so, the total assistance provided by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The Government of India have not received any memorandum from the Government of Kerala seeking assistance for providing relief to the farmer affected by the Gallfly incidence. However, according to information given by the State Government, the affected farmers are being assisted using the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund which is contributed to by the Government of India to the extent of 75%. The State Government has released Rs 2.00 Crores for this purpose.

[Translation]

Handicapped Persons

415. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the posts reserved for the handicapped persons in the Government services are being filled only by the handicapped persons;

(b) the position regarding reservation of posts for the handicapped persons in the Public Sector;

(c) whether there is any monitoring system to ensure that posts reserved for the handicapped persons are filled by appointed them only;

(d) whether the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation has been set-up;

(e) if not, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(f) the programmes formulated for the rehabilitation of the handicapped persons residing in the rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) In pursuance of the instructions issued by the Deptt. of Personnel and Training and the provisions of Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, only handicapped Persons are required to be appointed against the posts identified for the same.

(b) 1100 jobs in Group C and D posts in Central Government Offices and Public Sector Undertakings have been identified against which handicapped persons are appointed.

(c) Ministry of Welfare has been insisting for half-yearly report on implementation of reservation orders for the employment of the handicapped persons in Group C and D posts from the Ministries/Departments and Public Sector Undertakings indicating the number of posts reserved for handicapped persons and also number of handicapped persons appointed.

(d) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation has been incorporated on 24th January, 1997.

(e) Question does not arise.

(f) The following programmes are being implemented by the Ministry of Welfare for the handicapped persons including the handicapped persons residing in rural areas :

- 1) Assistance of Organisations for the Disabled;
- 2) Assistance of Organisations for the establishment of Special Schools;
- 3) Assistance to the Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitment of aids and appliances;
- 4) Assistance to Organisations for Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons;
- 5) District Rehabilitation Centres.

[English]

National Commission for Backward Classes

416. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of the National Commission for Backward Classes on the identification of OBCs in the seven States and notified the List;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the State-wise list as notified;

(c) the time by which the OBC Lists for other States are expected to be finalised; and

(d) the names of other Social Groups of these States who applied to NCBC for the inclusion of some more communities but applications were rejected ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the enclosed Statement.

(c) As soon as the Commission is reconstituted, the pending requests for castes/sub-castes/communities shall be examined for inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes for each State/UT.

(d) Individuals/Associations organisations from the State of Kerala approached the Commission for inclusion of muslim community in the Central List of Backward Classes for that State. However, the Commission arrived at the decision not to include 5 social groups, namely, Bohra, Cutch Menen Nayat, Turukkan. Dakhni muslims of the muslim community on the basis of findings of an independent study conducted by Anantha Krishna Lyer, International Centre for Anthropological Studies, Palghat and other available sources of information with the commission.

Statement

The Gazette of India

EXTRAORDINARY

PART-I—SECTION-I

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MINISTRY OF WELFARE

RESOLUTION

New Delhi, the 6th December, 1996

No. 12011/44/96-BCC.—The Government of India, vide the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension (Department of Personnel and Training) O.M. No. 36013/22/93-Estt. (SCT), dated the 8th September, 1993, have reserved 27% of vacancies in civil posts and services under the Central Government, to be filled through direct recruitment, in favour of the other Backward Classes (OBCs). In this regard the common list in respect of 25 States/UTs have been notified vide Ministry of Welfare Resolutions No. 12011/68/93-BCC (C) dated the 10th September, 1993, No.12011/9/94-BCC dated the 19th October, 1994 and No. 12011/7/95-BCC dated the 24th May, 1995 and No. 12011/96/94-BCC dated the 9th March, 1996.

2. The National Commission for Backward Classes was set up under the provision of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act. 1993 to entertain, examine and recommend upon the requests for inclusion and complaints of overinclusion and under-inclusion in the Central list of Other Backward Classes.

3. The National Commission for Backward Classes

have now recommended names of castes/communities (including sub-castes/synonyms) for inclusion/amendment in the Central Lists of OBCs in respect of the following States :—

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1. Bihar | 5. Orissa |
| 2. Goa | 6. Uttar Pradesh |
| 3. Gujarat | 7. West Bengal |
| 4. Harayana | |

The Government have accepted the recommendations of the Commission and have decided to notify annexed inclusions/amendments in the central Lists of OBCs in respect of aforesaid States. These inclusion/amendments shall take effect from the date of issue of this Resolution.

M.S. AHMAD, Jt. Secy.

Annexure

Inclusion Amendment in the Central List of other Backward (Classes (OBCs) in respect of following States:-

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| 1. Bihar | 5. Orissa |
| 2. Goa | 6. Uttar Pradesh |
| 3. Gujarat | 7. West Bengal |
| 4. Haryana | |

State : BIHAR : Central List of OBCs

Name of Castes/Communities (including sub-castes/synonyms) in the Central List of OBCs

S.No.	Old entry	New entry
1.	Nil	123 Dangi

State : GOA : Central List of OBCs

Name of Castes/Communities (including sub-castes/synonyms) in the Central List of OBCs

S.No.	Old entry	New entry
1.	Nil	4. Dhobi, Rajak, Madval (including Christian Dhobies)
2.	Nil	5. Nhavi, Nai, Nabhik, Napit, Mahalo.
3.	Nil	6. Koli, Kharvi (including Christian Kharvi)
4.	Nil	7. Nathjogi
5.	Nil	8. Gosavi

State : GUJARAT : Central List of OBCs

Name of Castes/Communities (including sub-castes/synonyms) in the Central List of OBCs

S.No.	Old entry	New entry
1.	73. Valand, Nayi (Hindu) Hajam (Muslim)	73. Valand, Nayi (Hindu), Hajam (Muslim), Khalipha (Muslim), Babar (Hindu).
2.	Nil	80. Pakhali.

State : HARYANA : Central list of OBCs

Name of Castes/Communities (including sub-castes/synonyms) in the Central List of OBCs

S. No.	Old entry	New entry
1.	Nil	61. Nat (other than those who are already included in the list of Scheduled Castes for Haryana).
2.	Nil	62. Raigar (other than those who are already included in the List of Schedule Castes for Haryana).
3.	Nil	63. Bhattu/Chattu.
4.	Nil	64. Badi/Baddon
5.	Nil	65. Rahabari
6.	Nil	26. Gawala, Gowala, Ahir/Yadav.
7.	26. Gawala, Gowala	66. Lodh/Lodha.
8.	Nil	67. Meo.
9.	Nil	68. Gujjar.
10.	30. Jhangra-Brahman or Jangra Brahman or Jangid Brahman, Khati	30. Jhangra-Brahman, Jangra-Brahman or Jangid Brahman, Khati, Ramgarhia.
11.	Nil	69. Saini

State : ORISSA : Central list of OBCs

Name of Castes/Communities (including sub-castes/synonyms) in the Central List of OBCs

S. No.	Old entry	New entry
1	2	3
1.	Nil	176. Saraka/Sarka Tanti
2.	Nil	177. Chasa (This entry of Chasa is meant to conform to entry No. 27 Chasa in Orissa State OBC list)
3.	Nil	178. Patara/Patra.

1	2	3
4.	43. Gola, Golla, Gope, Sadgope, Ahir, Gour, Gouda, Goudo, Mekala, Golla, Punnu Golla, Yadav	43. Gola, Golla, Gope, Sadgope, Aphir, Gour, Gouda, Goudo, Mekala Golla, Punnu Golla, Yadav, Laxminarayan Gola and Goudia Gola.
5.	Nil	179. Kurmi, Kurma Chasa, Kudumi, Kuduma, Kurma, Kurmi Mahto, Kurmi Khetriya, Kurumi, Kudumi Kshyatriya.
		69. Saini

State : UTTAR PRADESH : Central list of OBCs

Name of Castes/Communities (including sub-castes/synonyms) in the Central List of OBCs

S. No.	Old entry	New entry
1	2	3
1.	17. Chikwa (Kassab)	17. Chikwa, Qassab, Chak
2.	37. Bhurji or Bharbhujia, Bharthunuja	37. Bhurji, Bharbhujia, Bharbhunja, Bhooj, Kandua.
3.	47. Rungaz	47. Rangrez, Rangwa.
4.	53. Hajjam (Nai)	53. Hajjam (Nai), Salmani, Nai.

State : WEST BENGAL : Central list of OBCs

Name of Castes/Communities (including sub-castes/synonyms) in the Central List of OBCs

S. No.	Old entry	New entry
1	2	3
1.	Nil	15. Nagar (This does not include immigrant Maithili Brahmins and immigrant Nagars from other States who are Brahmins and Baniyas).
2.	Nil	16. Karani.
3.	Nil	17. Raju.
4.	Nil	18. Kerol/Koiri.
5.	Nil	19. Sarak.
6.	Nil	20. Kosta/Kostha.

[Translation]

Subsidy on Seeds

417. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are providing or propose to provide subsidy on seeds to the farmers to raise the agricultural production;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. In order to raise agricultural production, subsidy is being provided to farmers for use of seeds under various centrally Sponsored Crop Production Schemes.

(b) and (c) The State-wise funds allocated for the distribution of seed under Crop Production Schemes during 1996-97, is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

States	Total
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	832.60
2. Arunachal Pradesh	1.20
3. Assam	33.42
4. Bihar	349.80
5. Goa	0.60
6. Gujarat	255.00
7. Haryana	411.97
8. Himachal Pradesh	65.50
9. Jammu & Kashmir	73.60
10. Karnataka	304.28
11. Kerala	14.50
12. Madhya Pradesh	441.50
13. Maharashtra	668.50
14. Manipur	2.3
15. Maghalaya	1.3
16. Mizoram	0.6
17. Nagaland	3.6
18. Orissa	306.9
19. Punjab	469.40

	1	2
20. Rajasthan		455.40
21. Sikkim		3.50
22. Tamil Nadu		545.06
23. Tripura		10.88
24. Uttar Pradesh		1941.63
25. West Bengal		61.40
26. Pondicherry		5.00

[English]

Sugar Mill

418. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether a letter of intent was issued for setting up a sugar mill at Sonapat district, Haryana in favour of the Haryana State Co-operative Sugar Mills Federation Limited;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has sought further extension of validity beyond 1996;

(c) the present status of the request;

(d) whether the Government had made available funds for setting up this Sugar Mill;

(e) if so, the quantum of funds made available;

(f) whether the State Government has utilised the allocation fully; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. A letter of intent was issued to M/s. The Haryana State Federation of Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd. on 7th December, 1993 for setting up of a new sugar mill at Gohana, Distt. Sonapat in Haryana.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, a request has been received from the Haryana State Federation of Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd. for extension in the validity period of the aforesaid letter of intent for one year i.e. upto 6th December, 1997. In this connection, necessary explanation/clarification has been sought for from the cooperative society.

(d) The Central Government does not provide any loans for setting up of new sugar mills.

(e) to (g) Does not arise.

"Kuriarkutty Project"

419. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have received information sought regarding Kuriyakutty-Karappara Hydel Project, Kerala from the Kerala Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information submitted by Kerala State Electricity Board is under examination.

Production of Polymers

420. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the production of polymers in the country during the last three years, state-wise;

(b) the details of proposals under consideration for the development of polymers for the multiple use state-wise;

(c) the steps taken to identify new areas in public/private sectors where the use of polymers can play a vital role; and

(d) the details of research and development proposals cleared for development of polymers during the last three years. State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (d) Production data of polymers state-wise is not being maintained. However, production of polymers in the country during the last three years was as follows :-

(Figures in MTs)

1993-94	:	886,600
1994-95	:	11,28,500
1995-96	:	12,60,400

In the liberalised industrial licensing policy, entrepreneurs make investment decision on the basis of their own commercial judgment and market opportunities. Such entrepreneurs have their own product/application development priorities and related R&D Centres.

Details of the proposals for development of polymers and the Research and Development proposals cleared for development of polymers are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Allotment of Levy Sugar on basis of Population

421. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation for the allotment of levy sugar on the basis of the projected population of 1996 has been received from the Government of Gujarat;

(b) whether the proposal is being considered by the Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Government of Gujarat in December, 1996 requested for restoration of 10% adhoc increase in levy quota allowed for the month of December, 1996 due to increase in population.

Keeping in view the availability of sugar, the Government have already allowed 10% increase in levy sugar quota for the month of January, 1997 also.

Circulation of Fake Currency

422. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the circulation of fake currency notes is increasing in the country;

(b) is so, the value of fake currency detected by the Reserve Bank of India during the last three years and the total value of fake currency in circulation as on December 31, 1996;

(c) whether the economy of the country has been affected adversely on this account; and

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

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

Setting up Cashew Board

423. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from State Government of Kerala for setting up a Cashew Board for the development of Cashewnut production and cashewnut export in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the present quantity of domestic production of raw cashewnut in Kerala;

(e) whether domestic production of raw cashewnut does not serve the full employment purpose of cashew workers in Kerala;

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to develop the cashew industry in the State; and

(g) the details of new measures likely to be introduced for the welfare of cashew labourers of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The State Government of Kerala submitted memorandum covering several issues including setting up of Cashew Board to promote production of cashew so as to provide employment to labourers engaged in cashew industry.

(c) There is no proposal at present to set up a Cashew Board in the VIII Five Year Plan.

(d) The estimated domestic production of raw cashewnut in Kerala during 1995-96 season is 1.40 lakh MT.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The production of raw cashewnut in Kerala partly meets the requirement of the cashew industry in the State. The requirement is further supplemented by import of raw cashewnuts. Besides, during the VIII Plan, assistance is being provided for area expansion, replanting and supply of quality planting material to increase the domestic production under the Central Scheme on Integrated Development of Cashew in India.

(g) The above measures are likely to continue during the IX Plan which are expected to benefit the cashew labourers of Kerala including cashew industry.

[Translation]

Number of Aided Voluntary Organisations

424. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of voluntary organisations aided by the Union Government;

(b) the criteria fixed for providing such assistance;

(c) the name of the agency conducting audit of such organisations;

(d) the names of organisations which have misutilised the funds; and

(e) the details thereof for the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) : Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sick Sugar Mills

425. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sick sugar mills lying closed in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the farmers had to burn their sugarcane crops due to non receipt of sugarcane by the sugar mills;

(c) if so, the steps taken to avoid the recurrence of such a situation; and

(d) the efforts made to reopen the sick sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Four sugar mills namely, Changdeo, Belapur, Jijamata and Sindkheda remained closed during the 1995-96 sugar season but none of them is registered as sick unit with BIFR.

(b) to (d) During the sugar season 1995-96, Madhya Pradesh has reported burning of sugarcane in an area of 134 hectares but stated that most of the sugarcane burnt was of secondary growth after first harvesting and was uneconomical. It was burnt for making the field ready for the coming kharif season. The districts involved were Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur where no sugar factory exists and the sugarcane is utilised by Gur and Khandsari units. Besides same cases of accidental burning have been reported by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The Maharashtra Government has reportedly paid as grant @ Rs. 5,000 per Hectare in respect of the cane burnt/ remained uncrushed during the season 1995-96.

[English]

Poor Quality Domestic Switches

426. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "ISI draw flak for unstatified performance" appearing in the "Deccan Herald", dated December 26, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the name of the manufacturers on whose products the Consumer Education & Research Centre, Ahmedabad conducted sample tests; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the manufacturers of poor quality domestic switches ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRI-

BUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) : The news-item was with reference to certain tests conducted in the year 1994 by Consumer Education and Research Centre (CERC) Ahmedabad on sample of 16A 24V switches of eight different brands. It was stated in the news-item that all the samples bore ISI Mark and failed to reach international standards. However, it was found by BIS that out of these 8 brands, only two brands were bearing BIS Standard Mark. Even in these cases, only one piece each out of the 5 samples of both these brand names failed endurance test requirements.

The manufacturers whose samples were tested were:

1. Anchor Electronics & Electrical Pvt. Ltd., Bombay.
2. Shalimar Electronics Industries, Thane.
3. Powercone Enterprises, Gandhinagar.
4. Precision Industries, Bombay.
5. Prem Electrical Industries, Gujarat.
6. Sonia Electricals, Delhi.
7. Pointer Industries, Bombay.
8. Manufacturer of brand 'diamond' not identified.

The samples of manufacturers at 1 and 2 above had the BIS Standard Mark.

(d) In order to ensure consistency of BIS certified products, BIS conducts regular surveillance operation under its Scheme of Testing and Inspection.

In the cases of the aforesaid two BIS Licensees, several inspections were carried out and samples tested during the years 1994-96. BIS making was also suspended for some period on account of failure of a few samples. The Bureau has informed that after resumption of marking, their present performance has been found satisfactory. However, surveillance activities on them have been intensified.

Foreigners in Jails

427. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreigners in the jails indicating the number of women and children amongst them; and

(b) the number of foreign mercenaries booked in militancy and in other crimes and offences separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS : (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

“Poaching of Tiger”

428. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any international gang of poachers is active in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh for exporting the poached tigers; and

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to check the poaching ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) No such report has been received by Government of India from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. However, Madhya Pradesh has been declared as 'Tiger State' and a State level 'Tiger Cell' involving officials of the Police and Forest Departments has been constituted to improve the intelligence gathering network and control tiger poaching incidents. The steps taken by the Government are as under :

- i) A "Tiger Crisis Cell" has been set up in the Ministry;
- (ii) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling;
- (iii) Steps have been initiated to set up "Special Strike Force" in the Project Tiger areas;
- (iv) Madhya Pradesh, which has the largest number of tigers in India, has been designated as "Tiger State" to focus attention on the conservation of tiger and its habitat.
- (v) A protocol has been signed with the Government of the Peoples Republic of China to coordinate bilateral efforts to stop illegal activities of poaching of tigers, and to endeavour jointly to combat smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body.
- vi) Steps have been initiated by the Government to establish the "Global Tiger Forum" for strengthening international cooperation to curb poaching of tiger and to coordinate efforts for the conservation of tiger and its habitat throughout the range countries.

Renaming of Cities

429. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cities renamed by the Government during the last one year;

(b) whether the Government of Gujarat have

requested the Union Government of rename the Ahmedabad city as Karnavati; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Approval to rename Madras as Chennai was given by the Central Government during the relevant period. Besides **ex post facto** approval was given during the year for renaming twenty three districts/taluks in Kerala with a view to avoiding the difference in pronunciation in Malayalam and English. Details in this regard are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) A proposal for changing the name of 'Ahmedabad' to 'Karnavati' was received from the State Government of Gujarat in May 1996. The matter has been referred to the new State Government for its views.

Statement

(a) Existing name in English	Changed in name in English
DISTRICTS	
1. Trivandrum	Thiruvananthapuram
2. Quilon	Kollam
3. Alleppey	Alappuzha
4. Trichur	Thrissur
5. Palghat	Palakkad
6. Cannanore	Kannur
TALUKS	
1. Tellicherry	Thalassery
2. Badagara	Vadakara
3. Parur	Paravur
4. Alwaye	Aluva
5. Cochin	Kochi
6. Devicolam	Devikulam
7. Changanacherry	Changanassery
8. Shertallay	Chertala
9. Chierayinkil	Chirayinkeezhu
10. Chowghat	Chavakkad
11. Cranganore	Kodungallur
12. Trichur	Thrissur
13. Palghat	Palakkad
14. Mannarghat	Mannarkad
15. Mannantoddy	Mananthavady
16. Sultan's Battery	Sulthanbathery
17. Cannanore	Kannur

[Translation]

Fishery and Farmers Development Scheme

430. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government are not bearing the fifty per cent expenditure of the total expenditure incurred on all the items of the centrally sponsored Fishery and farmers Development Scheme launched in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) If so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on development of Freshwater Agriculture through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) is being implemented by the States including Madhya Pradesh. Under the scheme, expenditure on all developmental activities such as, construction of new ponds, renovation of ponds and tanks, first year inputs (fish seed, feed, fertilisers, manures, etc.) running water fish culture, areartors, integrated fish farming, fish seed hatcheries, fish feed mills, salary of incremental staff, cost of vehicle training of fish farmers, etc. is shared on 50:50 basis by the Government of India and the State Governments. It is the decision of the Government of India that it should share only the developmental costs. Therefore, it does not meet fifty percent of expenditure on base staff salary, maintenance of vehicle and office contingencies.

Brutal Murder

431. SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the brutal murder of six persons at Bhikund near Meerut in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons there of;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the culprits;

(d) the steps taken to check the recurrence of such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to information available, the incident was essentially a result of ongoing rivalry between two local criminal gangs. Soon after the incident, senior administrative and police officers visited the scene of crime. Additional Provincial Armed Constabulary was deployed and peace committees were formed. Six members of the gang responsible for the murder have so far been arrested

and action under sections 82/93 Cr.P.C. is being taken against the remaining accused.

In order to prevent recurrence of such incidents, 146 villages in the region have been identified as being sensitive where police presence and infrastructure have been strengthened. Numerous meetings have been held with various communities by the district administration. The situation is being closely monitored by the State Government.

"Illegal Occupation of green Land"

*45. SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH :
SHRI SOHAN BEER :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the green land on the road side in Loni area under Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh is being illegally occupied and sold by the land Mafia;

(b) if so, the number of cases in which the occupied land has been got vacated; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check recurrence of such illegal occupation of green land by land mafia in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Employment to Disabled Persons

433. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of steps taken by the Government to provide employment to the disabled persons;

(b) whether any special relaxation is given to them by the Government in the examinations conducted by the Staff Selection Commission;

(c) if so, the number of such persons provided employment during the last three years;

(d) the scheme chalked out by the Government to provide more employment opportunities of the disabled persons; and

(e) the percentage of the disabled youth provided employment/self employment during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (d)

i) In terms of Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, every

appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment such percentage of vacancies not less than three per cent for persons or class of persons with disability of which one per cent each shall be reserved for persons suffering from – (i) blindness or low vision; (ii) hearing impairment; (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy, in the posts identified for each disability. Even before the Act came into force, 3 per cent vacancies have been reserved for physically handicapped, 1 per cent each for the physical, hearing and orthopedically handicapped in Group C & D posts in Central Government and Public Sector Undertaking. Similar reservations have been given by some State Governments. Apart from this, age concession and relaxation in medical standards are also available to handicapped candidates.

- ii) 41 Special Employment Exchanges and 47 Special Cells for the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped in getting gainful employment. Besides, the Normal Employment Exchange also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employments.
- iii) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in employment.
- iv) Self-employment is promoted through the following:-
- Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks and petty shops;
 - Loans from Nationalised Banks at nominal rates of interest under differential Rate of Interest Scheme;
 - Allotment of public telephone booths;
 - Reservation in distribution of petrol pumps, kerosene depots etc.

(c) and (e) No data are available. Following are the handicapped persons on live Register in all the Employment Exchanges and their placements as per the information furnished by Ministry of Labour (DGE & T).

Year	No. of Handicapped persons on live register	Placements
1993	337602	4451
1994	340304	4485
1995	352743	3706

[English]

Edible Oils

434. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- whether country is producing the required quantity of edible oils;
- if so, the total requirement, production and consumption of edible oils during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 till date, State-wise;
- the quantity of edible oils imported during the said period; and
- the percentage population of the country consuming indigeneous edible oils State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No authentic information about the State-wise requirement, production and consumption of edible oils is available. However, the demand and supply fo edible oils estimated on All India basis during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 have been as under :

(In lakh MTs)

Year	Demand*	Supply (from domestic sources)
1994-95	69.89	62.54
1995-96	72.54	65.50
1996-97	75.32	67.00**

* Computed on the basis of economic parameters of the Planning Commission.

** Computed on the basis of Ministry of Agriculture's targeted figure of 230 lakh MTs of oilseeds production.

(c) The quantity of total edible oils imported during the said period have been as under :

Year	Quantity in MTs
1994-95	3,16,772
1995-96	10,92,934
1996-97	8,47,269 (April Oct., 96)

Source : Ministry of Commerce

(d) There is no clear demarcation of the population who are consuming only indigenous edible oils in the country.

Development of Farmers

435. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite the green revolution and implementation of as many as eight five plans, eighty percent of Indian farmers remain as small or marginal farmers;

(b) if so, wether any policy/action plan and scheme have been or are being evolved to reverse this ratio;

(c) if so, the broad features thereof;

(d) the States where such plans schemes are being launched or proposed to be launched; and

(e) the details of benefits provided to the farmers under those schemes during the Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise and State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d) According to the Agricultural Census, 1990-91, small and marginal farmers accounted for 78% of operational holdings and 32% of operated area. A number of centrally sponsored schemes have been implemented under the Eighth Five Year Plans for development of agriculture which benefit all categories of farmers including small and marginal farmers. Selection of beneficiary farmers is done by the State Governments. They are advised through correspondence/meetings/discussions to given priority to small and marginal farmers while selecting the beneficiaries.

(e) A list of Central/Centrally sponsored Schemes under which he assistance is provided to the State Governments for the benefits of the farmers is enclosed as Statement. The farmers benefited from these schemes both directly and indirectly. Hence it is difficult to quantify the benefits provided to the farmers under these Schemes during the Eighth Plan.

Statement

List of Important Schemes under which Assistance is provided to States

S.No.	Name of Schemes
1	2
1.	Integrated Cereal Development programme – Rice.
2.	Integrated Cereal Development programme – Wheat.
3.	Integrated Cereal Development programme – Coarse Cereals

1	2
4.	Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping system
5.	Intensive Cotton Development Programme.
6.	Special Jute Dev. Programme
7.	National Pulses Development Project
8.	Oilseeds Production Programme
9.	Oil Palm Dev. Programme
10.	Accelerated Maize Programme
11.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas
12.	Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilisers
13.	Development of Fertiliser use in Low Consumption & Rainted Areas
14.	National Project on Development and use of Bio-fertilisers
15.	Integrated Seed Dev. Scheme
16.	National Programme for Varietal Development
17.	Streamlining of certified Seeds production of important identified Vegetable Crops
18.	Grants in Aid to State/UTs for Setting/Strengthening of State Bio-Control laboratories under Integrated Pest Management Centres
19.	Grants in Aid to State/UTs for Setting/Strengthening of State Bio-Control laboratories under Implementation of Insecticides Act
20.	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation
21.	Strengthening Agricultural Extension
22.	Exchange of farmers within the Country
23.	Farmers Scientists Interaction
24.	Women in Agriculture
25.	State Land Use Board
26.	Strengthening of State Soil Survey Organisation
27.	Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects
28.	Soil Conservation in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers
29.	Reclamation of Alkali Soils
30.	Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas
31.	Development of Beekeeping

1	2
32.	Development of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants
33.	Use of Plastics in Agriculture
34.	Development or Commercial Floriculture
35.	Development of Mushroom
36.	Integrated Development of tropical, Arid Temperate Zone Fruits
37.	Integrated Development programme of Cashewnut
38.	Development of Root & Tuber Crops
39.	Development of Betelvine
40.	Development of Arecanut
41.	Development of Vegetables
42.	Integrated Development of Cocoa
43.	Integrated Development of Spices
44.	Fishing Harbour Facilities at Minor Ports
45.	Training & Extension
46.	Inland Fisheries Statistics
47.	Central Project Unit of Shrimp & Fish Culture
48.	Brackish Water Fish Farm Development Agencies
49.	Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries
50.	Implementation of Marine Fishing Regulation Act
51.	Fish Farm Development Agencies
52.	Inland Fish Marketing
53.	National Welfare of Fishermen
54.	Investment in Debentures of LDBs
55.	Non Overdue Cover Scheme
56.	Agriculture Credit Stabilisation Fund
57.	Special Scheme for SC/STs
58.	Assistance to Women's Cooperatives
59.	Assistance to Weaker Section Cooperatives
60.	Timely Reporting Scheme
61.	Improvement of Crop Statistics
62.	Establishment of Agency for Reporting of Agricultural Statistics
63.	Crop Estimation Survey on Fruits, Vegetables & Minor Crops/Dignostic Study
64.	Livestock Census
65.	Agricultural Census

Incentives for Raising Urea Output

436 SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY.

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sought a hike in the cut-off point on capacity utilization for fuel reimbursement on capital costs for urea plants from 90% to 120%

(b) if so, whether the Ministry have proposed that urea manufacturers be reimbursed full capital related charges for capacity utilization upto 12% irrespective of the field staff used;

(c) whether the said proposal has been accepted by the Government;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(e) whether the proposals of the Ministry are quite in contrast to the proposals of the Committee of Secretaries and Joint Committee on Fertilizer pricing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) :
(a) to (e) No modification has been made in the system of payment of capital related charges in respect of urea plants achieving high levels of capacity utilization.

[Translation]

"Forestry Clearance"

437. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several projects of South Bihar involving forest land and pertaining to irrigation road constructions, rural engineering, Bihar plateau development, Jawahar Rojgar Yojna, electrification and other several developmental works are lying pending for clearance due to the objections raised by the Department of Forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose of bring some flexibility in the Forests Conservation Act to clear projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN

SOZ) : (a) As on 31.1.97. no proposal of State Government of Bihar pertaining to South Bihar is pending with Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Delays in clearing of projects usually take place at the State Government level and due to submission of incomplete proposals by the State Governments. This matter has been taken up with the State Governments.

[English]

Security to Investigative Personnel

438. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide full security to the investigating authorities and their family members who are investigating different Scandals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Whenever such requests for security from the concerned authorities are received, the State/UTs are informed about the apprehensions regarding security of the concerned personnel and are requested to provide necessary security to them.

Delay in Transportation of Wheat

439. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an inordinate delay on the part of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in transporting wheat from the Northern States to the food deficient States even after some Northern States asked the FCI to reduce their quota of wheat for the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the reasons for such kind of delay and lapse on the part of FCI; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve upon the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No Sir.

The foodgrain movement ex.North has considerably picked up. During 1996, 97.72 lakh tonnes of wheat was moved ex.North compared to 74.86 lakh MTs in 1995 which marks an increase of 30.5%. No State in Northern India has requested for education in their monthly PDS Quota.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) As Railways are the major mode of foodgrain transport, constant liaison has been maintained between the Ministry of Food and Ministry of Railways in order to maximise despatch of wheat to deficit areas thereby increasing the availability of rakes.

Atrocities on Woman

440. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of atrocities committed on women along with their highest/lowest figures for the last two years, State-wise-U.T.-wise;

(b) the steps taken against the culprits in these cases;

(c) whether any programme to curb this menace/ rehabilitate the children of the victims has been formulated;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Available information on the incidence of atrocities committed against women during the last two years – 1995 and 1996 – is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) to (e) The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Action for checking crimes against women is also primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/ Union Territory Administration. However, the Government of India has, from time to time, been writing to the concerned State Governments regarding preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures to be taken in connection with atrocities on women. Apart from implementing a number of development programme like Development of Women and Children in Rural areas (DWACRA) Programme and Female Literacy Programme, the Government of India has been modifying and amending the relevant laws from time to time with a view to making such laws more stringent and punitive in nature.

Statement*Number of cases of Atrocities on women*

Sl. No.	States/UT	During		Remarks Figures are upto the month of
		1995	1996	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9818	8227	November*
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	81	55	September
3.	Assam	1786	823	June
4.	Bihar	3111	NA	
5.	Goa	147	71	
6.	Gujarat	4226	3998	November
7.	Haryana	1993	1851	September
8.	Himachal Pradesh	758	816	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	812	642	August
10.	Karnataka	5761	4922	December**
11.	Kerala	2831	2493	November
12.	Madhya Pradesh	14883	14740	November
13.	Maharashtra	15378	15815	
14.	Manipur	97	92	
15.	Meghalaya	44	2	February
16.	Mizoram	188	68	
17.	Nagaland	14	5	
18.	Orissa	2722	1768	July
19.	Punjab	593	465	July
20.	Rajasthan	9882	9169	October
21.	Sikkim	49	61	November
22.	Tamil Nadu	7818	7980	November
23.	Tripura	255	315	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	15411	14699	November
25.	West Bengal	6384	4988	September
Total (States)		182966	93585	
26.	A & N Islands	24	23	
27.	Chandigarh	78	91	
28.	D & N Haveli	15	17	
29.	Daman & Diu	1	NA	
30.	Delhi	2288	2719	
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	October
32.	Pondicherry	52	45	
(Total (UTs))		2458	2895	
Total (All India)		185416	96480	

Source : Monthly Crime Statistics

Note : 1. Figures are provisional

2. NA stands for Not available.

3. *Excluding October Data.

** Excluding November Data.

Agreement with Israel for Cotton Cultivation

441. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government have signed any agreement with Israel for the expansion of cotton cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the broad-features of the said agreement; and

(c) the time by which the agreement is likely to be effective ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The Government have not signed any agreement with Israel for expansion of cotton cultivation in the country.

[Translation]

Ban on Smoking

442. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any notification to ban smoking in public places was issued in the capital in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up mobile courts for effective implementation of the ban; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi has passed the Delhi Prohibition of Smoking and Non-smokers Health Protection Act, 1996 which was gazetted on 1st January 1997. Under this Act the Government of Delhi has proposed ban on smoking of tobacco in any form at a place of public work or use and also in a public service vehicle.

(c) and (d) Under the Delhi Prohibition of Smoking and Non-smokers Health Protection Act, 1996, there is no provision for mobile courts. However, all officers of the rank of Under Secretary and above have been authorised to eject any person from the place of public work or use who contravenes the provision of this Act.

[English]

Damage to Taj Mahal

443. SHRI SATYAJITSINGH DULIPSINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which damage has been caused to the Taj Mahal by omission from the Mathura Refinery for years together; and

(b) the latest position with regard to shifting of industries from outside the Taj Trapezium for protecting the Taj ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Studies commissioned so far have not established conclusive evidence that the Taj Mahal has been damaged from omissions from the Mathura Refinery.

(b) With regard to shifting of industries outside the Taj Trapezium, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has given a Judgement on 30th December, 1996 directing that the industries which are not in a position to obtain gas connections and also the industries which do not wish to obtain gas connections may approach/apply to the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation (UPSIDC)/Government before February 28, 1997 for allotment of alternative plots in the industrial estates outside the Agra-Mathura Trapezium. Those industries which neither apply for gas connection nor for an alternative industrial plot shall stop functioning with coke/coal in the Agra-Mathura Trapezium with effect from April 30, 1997. Supply of coke/coal to these industries shall be stopped forthwith. The relocating industries shall set up their respective units in the new industrial estates outside the Taj Trapezium. The relocating industries shall not function and operate in the Taj Trapezium beyond December 31, 1997.

Drugs under Drug Price Control

444. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently pruned the list of drugs to be retained in the Drug Price Control Order, 1995;

(b) if so, the names of the drugs taken out of DPCO;

(c) whether further pruning of DPCO is under consideration and details of the exercise alongwith the drugs involved therein; and

(d) the present status of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Price control on drugs is in accordance with the policy laid down in "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1996" and, presently no change in the said policy is envisaged.

Subsidised Fertilizers for Gujarat

445. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of subsidised fertilizers demanded and supplied to Gujarat during the last six months of the current year so far and during 1994-95 and 1995-96; and

(b) the reasons for the short supply, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) : (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under statutory price control for which assessment and allocation is made by the Central Government to States and Union Territory Administrations. Central Government is also providing concession on sale of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP), Single Super Phosphate (SSP) and complex grade fertilizers to farmers. The table below gives the assessed requirement, supplies and consumption of urea in Gujarat during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 :

('000 tonnes)

	Assessed requirement	Supply	Consumption
1994-95	840.00	984.11	985.47
1995-96	1,020.00	1,103.00	970.73
1996-97			
Kharif 1996	620.00	565.12	546.70
Rabi 1996-97	500.00	389.26	358.97
		(Up to 31-1-97)	(Sales up to 31-1-97)

As can be seen from the statement above the supply of urea was adequate to take care of the requirement.

The Table below gives the consumption of DAP, MOP, SSP and complexes in Gujarat during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 :-

('000 tonnes)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 Likely
DAP	311.88	259.81	357.39
MOP	67.62	58.43	56.81
SSP	87.08	59.46	57.54
Complexes	159.12	132.56	164.60

Sick Fertilizer Units

446. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government approached IFFCO to take over some of the sick fertilizer units in the country for increasing the internal fertilizer production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for investing huge amount abroad by IFFCO to produce urea there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) The alternative of take over of the sick fertiliser units by any of the profit making fertiliser undertakings, including IFFCO, was explored by the Government. Because of the prior commitments of IFFCO towards its on-going expansion projects and joint venture for augmenting the fertilizer production capacity, such a proposal could not materialise.

(c) IFFCO has not yet made any investment abroad to produce urea.

Crimes in Delhi

447. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an increase in the number of cases of kidnapping, murder of men, women and children in recent months in Delhi and its adjoining areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof during 1996 and uptill now;

(c) the manner in which the kidnapped persons got released and the amount of ransom paid to the kidnappers;

(d) the details of arrests made so far in this connection; and

(e) the steps taken for the safety of persons living in Delhi and its adjoining areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement.

(e) The steps taken by the Delhi Police to prevent crime in Delhi include, inter-alia, intensification of beat patrolling; posting of armed pickets at strategic points; strengthening of intelligence network; close watch on and frequent raids at the suspected hide-outs of criminals; increased surveillance on history sheeters; coordination meetings with the officials of neighbouring states; and formation of anti-terrorist cell in each police district.

Statement

The details of the persons reported to have been kidnapped/murdered during the relevant period and the persons arrested in this connection, etc. are given below :-

Year	Kidnapping			Murder	
	No. of Persons Kidnapped	No. of Persons recovered**	No. of Persons arrested	No. of Persons murdered	No. of Persons arrested
1996	954	650	497	565	935
1.1.97 to 15.2.97	126	53	1	64	82
1.1.96 to 15.2.96	142	100	75	74	99

** (These persons either returned on their own or were recovered by the police)

The number of cases in which the ransom was demanded was 26 in 1996 and one in 1997 (upto the 15th February, 1997). As per the information available with Delhi Police, ransom was paid only in two cases and this amounted to an aggregate sum of Rs. 55,800/-.

[Translation]

PDS Quota to Rajasthan

448. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received request from Rajasthan to increase the public Distribution system quota of wheat, rice, kerosine, edible oil and sugar for Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The Government of Rajasthan have demanded fixation of monthly wheat quota for Public Distribution System at 1,85,000 MT as against a monthly quota of wheat allotted for January, 1997 at 1,22,000 MT for February, 1997 at 1,27,000 MT and for March, 1997 at 1,30,000 MT. No request has been received for increase in PDS rice quota. Allocation of foodgrains for PDS are made on month to month basis keeping in view relative demand of states, offtake trend, stock position in the Central Pool and seasonal availability etc.

No. request for increase in PDS quota of edible oil (imported palmolein) and levy sugar has been received from Rajasthan. Requests were received from State of Rajasthan also for additional allocation of Kerosene. However, on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it is not possible to meet the full demand of the states. Nevertheless, a 3% increase was given in the allocation of kerosene during the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 over the previous years for the country as a whole. The allocation for the year 1997-98 to the State of Rajasthan has been increased by 15984 MTs over the last year representing a 4.46% increase over the year 1996-97.

Procurement Stock and Distribution of Foodgrains

449. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of which the Government have procured the foodgrains, the quantity purchased, the amount spent on its procurement during the current season and the stock of foodgrain with the Government at present, foodgrain-wise;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains to be sold through Public Distribution System and in open market out of the present stock of foodgrain, foodgrain-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to supply wheat and rice at lower prices to the people through the fair price shops keeping in view the large stock of foodgrains with the Government and lack of storage facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Minimum Support Prices fixed by the Government for procurement of wheat and paddy during current 1996-97 rabi/kharif marketing season are as under :-

	(Rs. per quintal)
Wheat	380
Paddy	
Common	380
Fine	395
Superfine	415

A statement showing for levy rice fixed for 1996-97 Kharif Marketing Season is enclosed.

Quantities of wheat and rice (including paddy in terms of rice) procured during current Rabi/Kharif marketing season 1996-97 and the amount spent thereon is as follows :-

Commodity	Quantity procured (in lakh tonnes)	Amount spent (Cost of grains procurement incidentals including carry over charges)
	As on 18.2.97	(Rs./crores)
Wheat	81.82	4,242
Rice	89.41	6,589
Total	171.23	10,831

As on 1.1.97, 69.00 lakh tonnes of wheat and 129.40 lakh tonnes of rice were available in the Central pool.

(b) Allotment of foodgrains for P.D.S. to all States/UTs are made on a month to month basis based on the demands received from various States/UTs, their relative needs, stocks in the Central Pool, seasonal availability, etc. The total allotment of wheat and rice for PDS/RPDS

for the year 1996-97 and actual offtake (upto Dec. 1996) is as under :-

Commodity	(lakh tonnes)	
	Allotment	Offtake
Wheat	107.09	60.21
Rice	150.94	82.50

FCI has been authorised by the Government to sell 45 lakh tonnes of wheat (reduced from 55 lakh tonnes in view of lower procurement of wheat) and 5 lakh tonnes of rice in open market under domestic open sale scheme during current Financial Year 1996-97. Against these authorisations, the FCI has sold 34.94 lakh tonnes of wheat and 2.35 lakh tonnes of rice upto January, 1997.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Procurement Price of levy Rice (Raw & Parboiled) for 1996-97 (October – September)

State	Common 1996-97		Fine 1996-97		Superfine 1996-97	
	Raw	P.Bld	Raw	P.Bld	Raw	P.Bld
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Andhra Pradesh	676.90	680.60	701.50	704.80	734.40	737.20
2. Assam	637.30	641.50	660.30	644.20	691.00	694.50
3. Haryana/Delhi	671.70	675.50	696.10	699.50	728.70	731.60
4. Karnataka	625.90	630.30	648.50	652.60	678.60	682.30
5. Madhya Pradesh	625.90	630.30	648.50	652.60	678.60	682.30
6. Maharashtra	627.10	631.50	649.70	653.80	679.80	683.40
7. Orissa	654.20	658.30	677.90	681.60	709.60	712.80
8. Punjab	678.30	681.90	702.90	706.30	735.90	738.70
9. Rajasthan	663.30	677.20	687.40	690.90	719.50	722.80
10. UT Chandigarh	659.30	663.80	683.80	687.40	715.80	719.00
11. U.P.	651.40	655.50	675.00	678.70	706.50	709.80
12. West Bengal	623.00	627.50	645.65	649.70	675.50	679.20

In U.P. if the paddy is subject to Market fee @ 4% the levy prices will be as under :

	1996-97	
	Raw	P.Bld
Common	622.70	566.60
Fine	686.80	690.30
Super Fine	718.90	722.00

[English]

Cancellation of Sugar Order by Pakistan

450. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has cancelled the order of tonnes of sugar placed on the state Trading Corporation;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for Pakistan's cancelling the order of Sugar;
- (d) whether the Trading Corporation of Pakistan has used the State Trading Corporation for damages caused to Pakistan by entering into the deal with;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Spoiled Wheat

451. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether lakhs of tonne of wheat has been spoiled and is not fit for human consumption due to the official negligence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the officials responsible for this negligence and the action being taken against them; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. There is no spoiled wheat with Food Corporation of India. However, the stocks of foodgrains which are affected due to natural calamities like cyclone, flood, unprecedented rains etc. during storage in open due to paucity of space, are salvaged and the affected stocks which cannot be retrieved as sound grains, are categorised as damaged grains unfit for human consumption and disposed of through other channels as per procedure.

The stocks of foodgrains are stored by scientific methods in the FCI godowns and subjected to thorough examination by trained Quality Control Officers on fortnightly basis regularly. Periodical dis-infestation treatments is imparted to protect the stored grain from spoilage during storage because of various factors like moisture, insects rodents, micro organism etc.

[English]

Endemic Species

452. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any estimation of regional distribution of endemic species has been made by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the Himalayas and Western Ghats;

(c) whether there is any change in their figures in the last decade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) Survey of flora and fauna of India is continuously being done by Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India. 65% of the total area of the country has been surveyed so far. As per the publications of the Botanical survey of India in 1990 endemic plant species in Himalayas and Western Ghats are 3003 and 1500 respectively. The figures of endemic species of birds and mammals for Himalayas and Western Ghats are 46 and 26 respectively as per the publications of Zoological Survey of India in 1994.

Ban on Lottery

453. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to ban lottery in the entire country;

(b) if so, the states where lottery has been banned so far; and

(c) the steps being taken to ban the same in the remaining States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Allotment of Land to Israel Government

454. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to allot 25 acres of prime land inside the Indian Agricultural Institute (IARI) campus to the Government of Israel for the purpose of setting up a demonstration unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scientists of the Institution has protested against the Government's decision to allot the land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING

THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. IARI has not allotted any land to the Government of Israel. However, it has earmarked a site measuring 17 acres of land for a joint Indo-Israeli project on technology assessment and transfer with technical and equipment support from Israel Government for a period of three years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Settlement of Displaced persons from POK

455. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by the Government for permanent settlement of the families displaced from the Pak Occupied Kashmir;

(b) whether the Government of Jammu & Kashmir has recommended compensation of Rs. 25000/- to each family for their rehabilitation;

(c) if so, the number of families identified alongwith the number of families granted compensation so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) the process of permanent settlement of the families displaced from Pak Occupied Kashmir has since been completed. Although these families have not been paid compensation in lieu of the properties left behind by them in Pak Occupied Kashmir, ex-gratia payment at the following scales were given to all the 31732 families who applied for assistance.

- | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|---|---|
| (i) | Urban families | - | Rs. 3500 per family |
| (ii) | Agricultural families | - | Rs. 1,000 plus (2-3 acres of irrigated or 4-6 acres of un-irrigated land) depending upon the size of each family. |

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government of India have not found it feasible to accede to this recommendation of the State Government as it would have triggered off further demands from other sections of similarly placed people.

Loss of Crop Production

456. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of the wheat dropped by about 3 million tonnes this year and the production of pulses has remained stagnant for a few years;

(b) if so, whether the country is losing Rs. 9,400 crores every year on account of this;

(c) if so, whether 5.76 million hectares suffering either from problems of water logging and or from salinity/alkalinity;

(d) if so, whether the annual crop production loss is estimated at the rate of about Rs. 10,000 per hectare; and

(e) if so, the details of the schemes formulated for reclamation of the land ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The production of wheat during 1995-96 was 62.62 million tonnes i.e. lower by about 3.15 million tonnes over the production of 65.77 million tonnes achieved in 1994-95. On the other hand the production of pulses has been hovering in the range of around 12-14 million tonnes since 1990-91.

(b) No such assessment could possibly be made on account of fall in wheat production in a single year i.e. 1995-96 and stagnant production of pulses for the last few years.

(c) As per National Commission on Agriculture (NCA) report, 1976, the country has got 3.58 million hectares of alkali soil and 5.5 million hectares saline including coastal saline and sandy soils.

(d) The annual crop production loss on account of problems of water logging and salinity/alkalinity is not assessed.

(e) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Reclamation of Alkali Soils is in operation from 7th Five Year Plan. So far, an area of 4.32 lakh hectares has been reclaimed with a cost of Rs. 59.67 crores. Besides, an area of 28000 hectares has been reclaimed at a cost of Rs. 58.94 crores under EEC assisted and World Bank assisted project for Reclamation of Alkali Soils in U.P. and Bihar.

During 9th Plan, the scheme will continue and besides 3 new schemes have been proposed as under viz.

- Reclamation of Saline including Coastal Saline and Sandy areas.
- Protection and development of waterlogged areas for increasing productivity.
- Amelioration of acid soils.

Foodgrains and Sugar to Jammu and Kashmir

457. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of foodgrains and sugar despatched to the state of Jammu and Kashmir and the quantity of various types of foodgrains/sugar lost in transit and the value thereof;

(b) the steps taken for the recovery of the lost foodgrains/sugar and also the manner in which the

disposal of the damaged foodgrains was made;

(c) whether any inquiry has been held into the damaged and missing foodgrains/sugar; and

(d) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Foodgrains and Sugar are despatched to the state of Jammu and Kashmir from various states like Punjab/Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, etc. Consolidated figures of quantities despatched from various places are not available. However, the quantity of foodgrains and sugar which did not reach J&K during 1989-90 to 1993-94 and the value thereof is given below :-

Commodity	Qty. (MTs)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
Wheat	142.50	6.25
Rice	2718.96	173.55
Sugar	290.00	19.68

(b) Out of the value of foodgrains and sugar referred to in reply to part (a) above, an amount of Rs. 87.69 lakhs has been reversed/adjusted against the pending bills of the transporters. Following steps have taken to recover the balance amount against the transporters :-

- (i) Filing of Civil suits against the transporters.
- (ii) Adjustment from the pending bills of the transporters.
- (iii) Lodging of FIR with the Police.
- (iv) Vigorous follow up by the FCI with the state Government of J & K.

There is a set procedure for disposal of damaged foodgrains which is sold to the approved licensed dealers registered with FCI for manufacturing cattle/poultry feed, industrial/manure use.

(c) and (d) Due to eruption of militancy in the valley in the year 1989, unscrupulous elements took advantage of the situation. The entire quantity which did not reach the destination cannot be taken as lost as reconciliation work is a continuing process. As for the damages occurred due to negligence of the staff, appropriate disciplinary action is taken against the erring officials wherever necessary.

Cooperative Functioning of 'Anand'

458. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board had gone into the depth of the co-operative functioning of 'Anand' in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the study has observed that very

Act governing the Dairy Warrants changes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether proportionate distribution of resources has not been made to the respective States by the Ministry and the co-operative at Anand;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) 'Anand' patterns of Cooperatives has been validated by a number of national and international studies.

(b) and (c) "Cooperative Societies" is a State subject and these Cooperatives are governed by the respective state Acts. A need for bringing about modifications in some provisions of the various state Cooperative Acts has been felt and the State Governments have been advised to amend their Acts.

(d) to (f) Disbursements under Operation Flood have been made by the National Dairy Development board on the basis of considerations like potential for dairy development in the states, viability of projects and acceptance of the conditionalities of financing.

Urea Joint Ventures

459. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the \$643 million urea joint venture to be set up in Iran by KRIBHCO and IFFCO in Collaboration with the Qushni Free Area Authority;

(b) the details of buy back arrangement; and

(c) the likely impact of the buy back arrangement on the subsidy borne by the Government of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) IFFCO and KRIBHCO are exploring the possibilities of setting up a 7.26 lakh metric tonne per annum urea project at Qeshm Island, Iran in collaboration with Qeshm Free Area Authority. As per the Draft Pre-Feasibility Report, the estimated cost of the project is US \$ 470 million.

(b) The Indian partners propose to buy back at least 60% of the urea produced at a price to be mutually agreed upon.

(c) At this stage, it is not possible to compute the subsidy implications of the imports to be made from the proposed joint venture. the transfer price for the products covered under such buy back arrangements is generally linked to the international price.

Kaziranga National Park

460. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news regarding foreign donations for Kaziranga National Park amounting to Rs. 3.82 lakh to be used for the betterment of living conditions of captured elephants and some forests guards but misused by forest officials;

(b) if so, whether the Government have tried to unearth the truth of the whole thing;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, the Chief Wildlife Warden of Assam has informed that foreign donation for Kaziranga National Park was not misused as alleged. The donation was received in two instalments and the first instalment of Rs. 1.75 lakhs was utilized for elephant feed, payment of outstanding dues for P.O.L. for antipoaching vehicles and purchase of tyres and tubes for truck used in anti-poaching work. The second instalment of Rs. 2.80 lakhs is being utilized for purpose of boots, jersey etc. for the staff.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Foreign Tours by KRIBHCO officials

461. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure incurred by the KRIBHCO officials on the foreign tours under the India-Oman project;

(b) whether this tour was absolutely; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) In connection with the Oman India Fertilizer Project, KRIBHCO has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 3.52 crore approximately on foreign tours of its officials from March 1993 to December 1996. These foreign tours were essential because of the need for intensive interaction with the joint venture partners, technical consultants, financial advisers and project contractors, who are all located outside India. The meetings of the Joint Management Committee of the project are also generally held outside India.

Closed Sugar Mills

462. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sugar mills in large number are lying closed in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the loss of production capacity as a result of closure of these sugar mills;

(c) whether the Government have taken action to revive these sugar mills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) (a) As on 18.2.1997 during the current sugar season 1996-97, there were three sugar mills lying closed in Uttar Pradesh viz. Anandnagar, Gauribazar and Nandganj.

(b) The loss in terms of annual installed sugar production capacity, as a result of closure of these sugar mills is 0.43 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) Sugar Mills have themselves to prepare schemes for rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the financial institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rates of interest for such rehabilitation/modernisation schemes, subject to fulfilment of the condition laid down.

[English]

Pollution in Ganga

463. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that in spite of all their efforts and extensive publicity through the mass-media and other extension methods the dead bodies, half burnt bodies are still floating in the river (Ganga), small unrecorded industrial units of Kanpur dumping their wastes in the river and city's dirty nallas diverted into it; and

(b) if so, the efforts proposed to be made to keep Ganga completely safe from pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) To minimise the incidents of disposal of dead/half burnt bodies into the Ganga, 28 schemes of electric crematorium have been sanctioned in 25 large towns along the river in U.P., Bihar and West Bengal. However, most of these crematoria have not been fully utilised due to the non-availability of uninterrupted power supply. The concerned State Governments have been told from time to time to ensure uninterrupted power supply to these crematoria. Industrial effluents from a cluster of 175 small tanneries at Jajmau, Kanpur are treated in a common effluent treatment plant before it is sent for irrigation. Nearly 130 million liters per day of municipal sewage is intercepted and diverted from 16 drains for sewage farming at Kanpur. The remaining sewage presently reaching the Ganga from one of the major drains

will be diverted for treatment under the second phase of Ganga Action Plan.

Smuggling of Timber in J & K

464. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) deployed in Jammu and Kashmir are indulging in smuggling of timber from the State and are using official vehicles for this purpose;

(b) whether the Forest Department of the State has sought permission to check the vehicles of CRPF and the Army convoys passing through the check posts;

(c) whether the State Forest Department has seized some timber from a CRPF vehicle sometime back;

(d) whether staff of the State Forest Department have already started checking up the vehicle of CRPF in spite of the latter's unwillingness;

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

(f) the measures proposed to stop smuggling by CRPF personnel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (f) CRPF have reported two incidents where their vehicles carrying timber were intercepted by the Forest Department Officials. These vehicles were released on production of documents. The involvement of CRPF officers in transporting timber in Government vehicles is being inquired into separately.

Although no specific permission is reported to have been sought for checking of CRPF vehicles, the Forest Department Officials are already checking vehicles of all security Forces including CRPF. The Government have no objection to such checking. CRPF has also set up a check post at Udhampur to keep a check on such activities.

Increase in Sugar Price

465. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :
SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :
SHRI MODHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAM DAS PATEL :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the issue price of sugar being sold under the PDs;

(b) the reasons for the increase in price especially when sugar stocks are abounding with high production of sugar in last season;

(c) whether the State Government have been consulted before effecting the price rise;

(d) if not, whether some State Government have represented for maintenance of the earlier price; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the weaker sections of the society are not hit by the price hike in sugar ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) The Government of India have decided to fix the retail issue price of sugar to be distributed through the Public Distribution System at Rs. 10.50 per kg., w.e.f. 10.2.1997 for reducing the element of subsidy in the distribution of sugar through Public Distribution System. The retail issue price is *inter-alia* determined on the basis of the statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane. The increase in the retail issue price was necessitated due to the increases in the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane from sugar season 1994-95 onwards, which is determined after consulting the State Governments. The retail issue price of sugar distributed through Public Distribution System is presently subsidised by the Central Government to ensure the availability of sugar to consumers at an affordable price.

[Translation]

Assistance to Voluntary Organisation

466. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some voluntary organisations in Madhya Pradesh are being provided grants-in-aid by the Central Government for the protection of environment

(b) if so, the names of these organisations indicating the year from which there are being provided grant-in-aid alongwith break up of last three years year-wise;

(c) whether the Government monitor the works executed by them with the funds provided to them under such grants-in-aid; and

(d) if so, the details of the monitoring process ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Smuggling of Bark of Tree

467. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Wanted'. A security

cover for wonder tree in Gulmarg hills appearing in 'Indian Express', dated January 7, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the forest mafia are smuggling the bark of that tree containing anti cancer drug to the Western countries; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to prevent this smuggling due to which the tree is becoming fast extinct ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Chief Wildlife Warden of Jammu & Kashmir has informed that *Taxus bacatta* (also known as *Taxus wallichiana*) is well protected in the Kashmir valley and there are no reports of its smuggling.

(c) *Taxus bacatta* and its parts and products is prohibited for export under the current Import-Export policy, unless it is of cultivated origin. It is also included under Appendix II of the convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which regulates the international trade in the species and its parts and derivatives. The species is not becoming extinct as reported.

Environment Appellate Authority

468. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Environment Appellate Authority has been set up to deal with representations, complaints and appeals against the decisions of competent authorities under the Environment Protection Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has issued an Ordinance on 30.01.1997 to provide for the establishment of a National Environment Appellate Authority. The Authority shall have a former Judge of the Supreme Court or former Chief Justice of a High Court as the Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson and three expert members.

The Authority will hear appeals made by any person aggrieved by an order granting environmental clearance. The Authority shall not be bound by the procedure laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by the principles of natural justice.

The following class of persons shall have the right to appeal :

- any person who is likely to be affected by the grant of environmental clearance;

- any person who owns or has control over the project with respect to which an application has been submitted for environmental clearance;

- any association of persons (whether incorporated or not) likely to be affected by such order and functioning in the field of environment;

- the Central Government, where the environmental clearance is granted by the State Government and the State Government, where the environmental clearance is granted by the Central Government; or

- any local authority within any part of whose local limits is within the neighbourhood, wherein the project is proposed to be located.

Use of Third Degree Methods during Interrogation

469. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Apex Court has ruled that third degree methods adopted by sleuths during interrogation of suspects/criminals is violative of the Fundamental Right; and

(b) if so, the guidelines issued by the Government to State Governments and others in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) "Police" and "Public Order" are included in the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Consequently, the State Governments concerned are primarily responsible for taking action to improve the methods for interrogation. The Government of India have, however, issued guidelines to the State Government from time to time to ensure that the police forces conduct themselves in a humane manner and that alleged cases of police excesses, if any, should be taken serious note of and dealt with promptly and firmly.

Criminal Activities

470. SHRI CHANDRABHUSAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether crimes in NOIDA have increased substantially for the last one year;

(b) the number of cases of robbery at gun, point, solved during the said period

(c) whether the police are able to trace out the culprits involved in robberies the cases where the vehicle numbers were reported;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the crimes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects as per provisions contained in the Constitution of India, the State Governments are primarily responsible for taking appropriate steps for checking crimes in accordance with the existing laws. Area-wise crime data are not maintained at the Central level.

[Translation]

Outstanding Crop Insurance amount

471. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the insurance amount to be paid to the farmers under the Crop Insurance Scheme is outstanding in all the districts of Maharashtra for the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the payments made as insurance claims during the Eight Five Year Plan, year-wise

(d) the details of the outstanding amount; and

(e) the time by which all the outstanding dues are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING). (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) All admissible claims except for Rabi 1995-96 season have been paid. The payment of claims for Rabi 1995-96 season is outstanding on account of some delay in the submission of yield data by the State.

(c) The year-wise amount of claims paid to Maharashtra State during the last four years of the Eighth Five Year Plan are given as under :

Years	Amount (in Rs.)
1992-93	1,30,62,587.84
1993-94	92,32,543.15
1994-95	7,43,17,335.55
1995-96	13,66,50,618.27

(d) The claims amounting to Rs. 39,33,582.19 for Rabi 1995-96 are pending payment.

(e) The claims for Rabi 1995-96 are under process at present and the admissible claims would be paid shortly.

[English]

Creamy Layer Among OBCs

472. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all States have given their suggestions and views on the issue of 'creamy layer' amongst the backward classes with regard to the reservations policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the stand taken by each State Government on the issue; and

(d) the steps being taken to arrive at a decision ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Orange Production

473. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimates of Orange production during the current session in the Orange growing States;

(b) whether in spite of heavy production the prices of oranges are rising considerably; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to alleviate this situation ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The production data for the current season is not available.

(b) No Sir. The prices are fluctuating depending upon the volume of arrivals in the terminals market as can be seen from the statement enclosed showing monthly prices and market arrivals of oranges in two major markets viz. Delhi and Calcutta during the two years of 1995 and 1996.

(c) In order to regulate supplies to the markets to prevent major fluctuations in prices, the Government is implementing schemes for supporting development of infrastructure for post harvest handling and marketing of fruits and vegetables which includes cold storage etc.

Statement

Arrivals and wholesale price data of Oranges

A – Arrivals in Metric tonnes

P – Prices in Rs. per quintals

– – Not available

Sl. No.	Month	Delhi				Calcutta			
		1995		1996		1995		1996	
		A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P
1.	January	11569	1036	12997	761	3850	772	14670	604
2.	February	32488	873	12727	1054	2830	762	3610	826
3.	March	43425	947	25450	838	2710	710	4690	731
4.	April	13340	1403	18103	1370	1520	854	3510	746
5.	May	373	2003	1290	1812	–	–	500	960
6.	October	6471	1236	7642	1443	950	860	–	–
7.	November	21655	973	12776	1256	5650	628	4620	686
8.	December	20909	776	9389	1190	11010	601	6420	772

[Translation]

Crushing of Sugarcane

474. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sugar mills functioning/lying closed this year in Bihar and other states, states-wise;

(b) the loss of capacity due to closed mills, state-wise; and

(c) the amount of crushing undertaken so far and the target fixed therefor for the current season, State-wise.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Statement-I giving state-wise number of factories working/lying closed during the season 1996-97 as per information available upto 18.2.1997 and loss in terms of installed annual sugar production capacity is attached.

(c) No State-wise targets of cane crushing are being fixed. Statement-II showing state-wise quantity of sugarcane crushed upto 31.1.1997 (provisional) for the season 1996-97 is also attached.

Statement-I

Statewise number of sugar mills working/lying closed during the season 1996-97 as per information available upto 18.2.1997 and loss in terms of installed annual sugar production capacity

Sl. No.	States	Number of factories working	Number of factories lying closed	Loss in terms of installed annual sugar production capacity (Lakh Tonnes)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Punjab	20	2	0.52
2.	Haryana	13	–	–
3.	Rajasthan	3	–	–
4.	Uttar Pradesh	115	3	0.43
5.	Madhya Pradesh	7	2	0.09
6.	Gujarat	16	3	0.85
7.	Maharashtra	100	13	3.07
8.	Bihar	19	11	1.09
9.	Assam	2	1	0.05
10.	Orissa	7	1	0.03
11.	West Bengal	2	–	–

1	2	3	4	5
12. Nagaland		—	1	0.06
13. Andhra Pradesh	32		5	0.49
14. Karnataka	27		4	0.81
15. Tamil Nadu	33		2	0.37
16. Pondicherry	2		—	—
17. Kerala	1		2	0.10
18. Goa	1		—	—
All India	400		50	7.96

Statement-II

Statewise quantity of sugarcane crushed upto 31-1-1997 for the season 1996-97 (Provisional)

Sl. No.	States	Cane Crushed
1.	Punjab	22.77
2.	Haryana	24.10
3.	Rajasthan	1.09
4.	Uttar Pradesh	165.63
5.	Madhya Pradesh	4.84
6.	Gujarat	44.28
7.	Maharashtra	172.00
8.	Bihar	18.40
9.	Assam	0.09
10.	Orissa	4.59
11.	West Bengal	0.51
12.	Nagaland	—
13.	Andhra Pradesh	32.56
14.	Karnataka	49.19
15.	Tamil Nadu	28.07
16.	Pondicherry	1.05
17.	Kerala	0.64
18.	Goa	0.91
	All India	570.72

Production of Paddy

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

(a) the names of major paddy production States in the country;

(b) the production of paddy in each State during the

last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the targets fixed for production of paddy during the year 1997-98 in these States ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) A statement giving the names of paddy producing States in the country along-with Statewise production of paddy during the last three years, i.e. 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, is attached .

(c) The targets for production of paddy for the year 1997-98 has not been fixed by the planning Commission so far.

Statement

Statewise estimates of production of Rice (Total) during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96

States	('000 Tonnes)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	9562.0	9276.7	9194.8
Arunachal Pradesh	144.0	105.8	140.0
Assam	3361.1	3309.1	3390.0
Bihar	6100.5	6297.9	8910.9
Goa	137.8	133.0	129.1
Gujarat	838.6	942.1	826.6
Haryana	2037.8	2227.0	1850.0
Himachal Pradesh	101.9	112.2	111.2
Jammu & Kashmir	507.0	584.7	508.5
Karnataka	3182.8	3167.5	3018.7
Kerala	1004.0	975.1	931.9
Madhya Pradesh	3963.1	6483.0	5705.1
Maharashtra	2434.4	2397.1	2562.8
Manipur	343.8	478.3	338.1
Meghalaya	117.8	111.5	118.9
Mizoram	96.7	100.2	101.5
Nagaland	180.0	174.0	185.0
Orissa	6616.3	5353.2	6226.2
Punjab	7642.0	7703.0	6768.0
Rajasthan	143.1	173.2	117.6
Sikkim	20.7	20.7	21.9
Tamil Nadu	6749.8	7562.8	7362.8

1	2	3	4
Tripura	493.2	413.9	465.5
Uttar Pradesh	10210.1	10365.0	10408.1
West Bengal	12110.9	12235.9	11857.0
A & N Island	32.1	30.6	33.0
D & N Haveli	21.9	27.6	24.1
Pondicherry	58.0	58.2	1.8
Delhi	2.9	1.8	2.9
Daman & Diu	1.8	2.9	67.1
ALL INDIA	80293.6	81814.0	79618.1

[English]

Fencing of Indo-Bangladesh Border

476. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work relating to the barbed wire fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh border in West Bengal including the district of Nadia has been resumed;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the gates on barbed wire fencing were set up according to the needs of the people of the area;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be re-set ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Animal Husbandry Schemes

477. SHRI K. PRADHANI :
SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS :

Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) the Centrally sponsored Animal Husbandry Schemes implemented in various states, state-wise.

(b) the total plan outlay, the actual outlay during 1995-96 and estimated outlay during 1996-97, Scheme-wise and state-wise; and

(c) the amount spent on those schemes during the Eight Five Year Plan in each State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has been implementing a total of 11 Centrally Sponsored Schemes to supplement the efforts of all States/UTs for the development of the sector. Separate allocations are not earmarked to the States/UTs under these schemes. Funds are released to the states on sanction of viable proposals submitted by the States.

The scheme-wise plan outlay, actual outlay for 1995-96, estimated out lay for 1996-97 and total amount spent on these schemes in each state during the Eighth Plan are accordingly indicated in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The Plan outlay, the actual outlay during 1995-96, the estimated outlay during 1996-97 under the centrally sponsored schemes of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying and the statewise amount spent under the schemes during the Eight Plan upto 31.3.1996

Sl. No.	Scheme	Plan Outlay	Actual outlay B.E. 1995-96	Estimated outlay (RE) during 1996-97	Sl. No.	States/UTs	Amount spent during 4 years of the Eighth Plan 1992-96 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Extension Forzen Semen Technology and Progeny Testing Programme.	19.75	5.50	5.30	1.	Andhra Pradesh	9.83
					2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.86
					3.	Assam	2.75
2.	National Bull Production Programme.	19.75	5.00	5.00	4.	Bihar	3.25
					5.	Goa	0.53
3.	National Ram/Buck Production Programme.	12.50	2.00	2.50	6.	Gujarat	8.76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Development of Pack Animals.	2.00	0.50	0.55	7.	Haryana	3.17
					8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.51
5.	Integrated Piggery Development	10.00	2.00	2.00	9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6.21
					10.	Karnataka	7.53
6.	National Project on Rinderpest Eradication.	96.13	25.05	29.75	11.	Kerala	11.59
					12.	Madhya Pradesh	7.69
7.	Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases.	40.00	8.00	9.00	13.	Maharashtra	6.94
					14.	Manipur	1.64
8.	Professional Efficiency Development.	5.00	1.00	1.3	15.	Meghalaya	2.02
					16.	Mizoram	3.32
9.	Assistance to States for Feed and Foder Development	19.75	4.15	4.15	17.	Nagaland	0.84
					18.	Orissa	7.22
					19.	Punjab	5.50
10.	Assistance to States for Improvement/Modernisation of Slaughter House.	28.75	9.00	6.80	20.	Rajasthan	3.39
					21.	Sikkim	1.61
11.	Integrated Sample Survey for estimation of production of major livestock Products.	9.50	1.70	2.50	22.	Tamil Nadu	8.46
					23.	Tirpura	1.59
					24.	Uttar Pradesh	16.01
					25.	West Bengal	10.48
					UTs		
					1.	A & N Islands	0.38
					2.	Chandigarh	0.26
					3.	D & N Haveli	0.08
					4.	Daman & Diu	0.02
					5.	Delhi	1.77
					6.	Lakshadweep	0.63
					7.	Pondicherry	0.76

Smuggling of Timber, Ivory ETC.

478. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing incidents of smuggling of timber, ivory wood and other valuable forest wealth in some States;

(b) whether such incidents particularly, that of

timber smuggling are taking place on a large scale in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to curb such incidents and preserve the valuable forest resources of Orissa and Other States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the house.

Grant to NGOs

479. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry are disbursing Rs. 95 crore every year to the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) ;

(b) if so, whether a large number of complaints have been received by the Ministry for misuse and non-receipt of the funds;

(c) whether a fifteen member Committee of Non-officials was constituted to study the functioning of the NGOs;

(d) if so, the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report; and

(e) the action taken go far against the NGOs who have not used the money properly ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The figures various from year to year. A sum of Rs. 68.31 crores, was released during 1995-96

(b) A few complaints have been received for misuse and non-receipt of the funds.

(c) It is under active consideration of the Ministry.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Whenever cases of misuse of funds come to the notice of the Ministry, grant in aid is stopped and the amount not properly utilised is recovered.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects Clearance

480. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of major, medium and small irrigation projects from Bihar and other states lying pending for the forestry clearance;

(b) the latest position of these projects, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be given clearance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) List of irrigation projects pending with

Central Government under forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is enclosed as statement.

(c) As per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 Rules & Guidelines, the proposals will be disposed of by the Central Government within three months if the proposals are found complete in all respects.

Statement

Irrigation projects pending with central government under forest (conservation) Act, 1980 as on 31.01.1997

Name of Proposal	Status
A. Gujarat	
1. Construction of Miyagam Branch Canal of Narmada Project, Dabhoi Chamod Road	Under process
B. Maharashtra	
1. Construction of Bhormal P.T., Nasik Received on 1.1.97	Under process
2. Construction of Galwat P.T., Nasik Received on 1.1.97	Under process
3. Feeder Channel to minor irrigation tank at Tadala, Chandrapur. Received on 1.1.97	Under process
4. Construction of Kelvihar P.T., Nasik Received on 14.1.97	Under process
5. Construction of Pangarlari P.T., Nasik Received on 18.12.96	Under process
6. Construction of Dhurapada P.T., Nasik Received on 18.12.96	Under process
7. Construction of Khadakohal P.T., Nasik Received on 18.12.96	Under process
8. Diversion of forest land for Warna Irrigation Project, Maharashtra	Under process
9. Lonara M.I. Tank, Maharashtra	Under process
10. Dhamangaon M.I. Tank, Maharashtra	Under process
11. Construction of Hetwane M.I. Project, Maharashtra	Under process
C. Rajasthan	
1. Construction of water-tank in Bayana, Bharatpur	Under process

[English]

Imports of Fertilizers

481. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have declared that Indian Agriculture could not afford to rely on large scale fertilizer imports;

(b) if so, whether in 1995-96, country produced 15 million tonnes of urea and imported 3.8 million tonnes, to bridge the demand and supply gap;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued to improve the domestic production of fertilizers in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (d) The policy frame of the fertiliser sector aims at maximising the indigenous production with the constraints of availability of fertiliser raw materials and feedstocks.

In 1995-96, the domestic production of urea was 15,819 million tonnes and the imports amounted to 3.782 million tonnes.

The production plan for the year 1997-98 proposed for the fertiliser industry targets a 12% growth in nitrogen nutrient and 12.4% in phosphate nutrient over the estimated production in 1996-97.

Burmese Refugees

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

(a) whether 12 Burmese refugee students were handed over to the Burmese military authorities by the Indian Government in August 1996;

(b) whether the students were granted refugee status by the UNCHR in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the reasons for handing over these student to the Burmese authorities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) (a) to (c) Facts are being ascertained.

[Translation]

Cases of water and air pollution

483. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the decisions in more than fifty per cent cases regarding water and air pollution have gone against the Pollution Control Board during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any review in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) As per statistical information provided by the Central Pollution Control Boards, out of 6565 cases filed by the State Pollution Control Boards in different courts, 1313 cases have been decided against the Pollution Control Boards and thus only twenty percent cases have gone against the Boards.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Open Sale of Wheat

484. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has sold wheat at concessional rates to some private companies for further sale/exports during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the quantity the rate at which the wheat was sold and the names of the buyer companies ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. FCI sells wheat to all including wholesalers, retailers, Roller Flour Mills, Chakki owners, Co-operatives, Super Bazar, State Civil Supplies Corporations, private buyers etc. at the prices fixed under open market sale scheme.

[English]

Forest Conservation Act, 1980

485. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENTS AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 applies to the State of Nagaland as a whole without deviation or exceptions; and

(b) if not, the extent of deviation in its application and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortage of Urea in Andhra Pradesh

486. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the shortage of fertilizers for Andhra Pradesh has been brought to the notice of the Government recently;

(b) if so, action taken to release more tonnes of urea to the State for the second crop;

(c) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government for giving permission to the Nagarjuna Fertilisers to release 10,000 tonnes of urea to the Coromandel Fertilizers in the state;

(d) whether the State Government has urged the centre that the state was facing acute shortage of fertilisers and needed 50,000 tones of fertiliser for the second crop during January, 1997;

(e) if so, the total shortage of Urea calculated in the state of Andhra Pradesh; and

(f) the extent the Government have instructed to the concerned authorities for releasing more urea for the state of Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (f) Urea is the only fertilizer under price, movement and distribution controls. No shortage of urea has been reported by the State so far during Rabi, 1996-97. The availability of urea against ECA allocation and sales (upto 31.1.1997) has been as under :-

(figures in lakh tonnes)
(upto 31.1.97)

<i>Rabi '96-97</i>		
ECA allocation	Availability	Sales
11.20	8.90	6.91

The availability was adequate to support the sales.

A request for release of 10,000 MTs of urea in favour of M/s Coromandel Fertilizers Ltd. was received from Ministry of Commerce. The offer for release of stock from M/s Nagarjuna Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd., however, has not been accepted by M/s Coromandel Fertilizers Ltd.

[Translation]

Bodyguards to Public Representatives

487. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bodyguards provided to the public representatives and other Government officials in Uttar Pradesh till date;

(b) whether some of them are provided more than one bodyguards provided in addition to one; and

(c) if so, the number thereof and the reasons therefore;

(d) whether Government are considering to withdraw the bodyguards provided in addition to one; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects under Constitution of India. Therefore, the responsibility for providing security to the persons residing within their jurisdiction is that of the concerned State/UT. Since this question relates to the security of persons in U.P., no such information is available with MHA or maintained.

[English]

Central Contribution for Marine Fishermen

488. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the contribution from the Union Government towards the saving-cum-Relief-Scheme for marine fishermen has been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reason thereof;

(c) whether the Government would review the decision and revoke the contribution towards the scheme retrospectively;

(d) whether the Government would consider to extend and benefit of scheme to the inland fishermen and fisherwomen also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply at (a).

(d) and (e) The saving-cum-Relief component of the National Welfare of Fishermen Scheme, which was introduced in 1991-92, is, at present, applicable only to marine fishermen. Modifications can be considered only when the proposals for the IXth five year plan are formulated.

Committee on Freedom Fighters

489. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has announced in October'96 to set up a Committee to go into the difficulties being faced by the freedom fighters in the country;

(b) whether the committee has since been constituted;

(c) if so, the details of the members of the committee alongwith its terms of reference; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) During a programme arranged by the All India Freedom Fighters Organisation (AIFFO); New Delhi on October 6, 1996, the Prime Minister has assured that the demand for constitution of a Committee to look into the problems of freedom fighters would be considered. Accordingly, the demand has been considered and the Government has set up a Special Audit Team (SAT) with two representatives from the All India Freedom Fighters Organisation headed by the Joint Secretary in-charge of Freedom Fighters Division in the Ministry. The Team is entrusted with the task of examining already rejected freedom fighter pension cases where review applications have been received.

[Translation]

Import-Export of Pulses

490. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- whether the Government have made any import-export of pulses during the year 1996;
- if so, when and the quantum thereof;
- whether the Government propose to import-export pulses during the year 1997; and
- if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Qty. in '000 tonnes

Year	Imports	Exports
1995-96	449.5	61.2
1996-97 (upto 11/96)	304.0	29.4

Source : CGCI & S

(c) The import of pulses is freely allowed under Open General Licence where the export is permissible subject to quantitative ceilings fixed by the Ministry of Commerce (DGFT) from time to time in consultation with the Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Civil Supplies.

(d) The Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses have fixed a ceiling of 10,000 tonnes for the export of pulses for the year 1996-97. This will be subject to the views of other Ministries as well.

Oilseeds Production

491 SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- the total production of oilseeds in the country

during the year from 1993 to 1996, oilseeds-wise and year-wise;

- whether the production of oilseeds in the country is sufficient to meet the domestic requirement;
- if not, the reasons therefor;
- whether the Government have formulated any scheme to increase the production of oilseeds during the Ninth Five Year Plan in the country; and
- if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The crop-wise total production of oilseeds in the country during the year from 1993-94 to 1995-96 is enclosed in attached Statement.

(b) and (c) Since the Technology Mission on Oilseeds was launched in 1986, the production of oilseeds has increased from 11.27 million tonnes during 1986-87 to 23.43 million tonnes during 1995-96, which is a major break-through in the production of oilseeds. The availability of edible oils from indigenous sources in the year 1995-96 was 66.70 lakh tonnes as against the demand of 72.70 lakh tonnes as worked out by the Department of Civil Supplies. There is thus a gap of about 6 lakh tonnes of edible oils. This gap still exists on account of demand of edible oils going up on account of high growth of population and rise in the living standards of people.

(d) and (e) Ninth Plan proposals have not yet been finalised, however Centrally Sponsored oilseeds production programme is likely to continue during Ninth Plan.

Statement

All India Estimates of Oilseeds Production

(Lakh tonnes)

CROP	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Groundnut	78.3	80.6	78.1
Castor seed	6.3	8.5	7.8
Sesamum	5.6	5.9	5.5
Nigerseed	2.0	1.9	1.9
Rapeseed-Mustard	53.3	57.6	60.7
Linseed	3.3	3.2	3.1
Safflower	5.2	4.2	4.0
Sunflower	13.5	12.2	13.2
Soyabean	47.5	39.3	49.9
Total Nine Oilseeds	215.0	213.4	224.2

Maulana Azad Educational Foundation

492. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI :
SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the date from which the Government have started to provide funds to Maulana Azad Educational Foundation;

(b) the total amount provided so far by the Government to this foundation;

(c) whether the audit has been done;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of the institutions provided funds so far by the Organisation along with details of funds provided to them ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The Government started to provide funds in Maulana Azad Education Foundation from the financial year 1992-93 then it sanctioned and released a grant-in-aid of Rs. 5 Crore to the foundation.

(b) Rs. 30.01 Crores.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The audit of accounts of Maulana Azad Education Foundation has been carried out by M/s. Faruqui & Company, Chartered Accountants of New Delhi, for the financial years 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96.

According to their reports the Accounts of the Foundation for all the four years give a true and fair view w.r.t. The Balance sheet and the states of affairs of the Institution.

(e) Since its inception the Foundation has provided funds by way of grant-in-aid to 69 Non-Government Organisations all over the country. The amount sanctioned and released upto January, 1997 are Rs. 8,62,94,000/- Rs. 3,01,97,500/- respectively.

[English]

Welfare schemes for Economically Weaker Sections

493. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of welfare schemes started for the economically weaker sections of Bihar along with the amount allocated under these schemes during the last five years.

(b) whether these funds have been utilised properly; and

(c) if so, the number of persons benefited therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

(b) Funds under different schemes are released only on receipt of utilisation certificate in respect of funds released in earlier years.

Statement

Funds allocated to Bihar under various schemes

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	SCA to PSP	3211.19	3175.25	3497.39	1748.70	274.22
2.	Grants to under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution	215.85	427.20	800.00	725.25	725.25
3.	Girls Hostels for ST Girls	68.82	-	-	-	-
4.	Boys Hostels for ST Boys	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Ashram School in TSP Area	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Development of Oil Seeds and Oils	-	17.39	(Discontinued after 1992-93)		
7.	Scheme of Vocational Training in Tribal Area	(started only in 1992-93)		-	44.34	-
8.	Research & Training	Not Available	9.82	12.71	16.63	14.73
9.	Grants in aid to Vol. Organisations	10.80	23.30	31.34	34.99	35.30
10.	Grants in aid to State Tribal Dev. Cooperative Corporation	-	50.00	-	-	50.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11. Educational Complex for ST Girls in low literacy pockets		—	scheme started only in 1993-94	—	4.85	1.82
12. Pre Examination Coaching for Weaker Sections		—	—	—	14.93	15.09
13. No. of ST families benefitted in Bihar under point 11 B of the 20 point programme.		130911	133267	151309	104193	105420

Smuggling of cattle

494. SHRI MOHAMMAD IDRIS ALI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether trespassing of cattle to Bangladesh has increased tremendously through the Indo-Bangladesh border at Lalbagh of the Murshidabad District, Bengal;

(b) whether the B.S.F. is unnecessarily harassing the Indian Citizens at Border with the ulterior motives; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to curb such activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir. The yearwise details of cattle seized in the area by the Border Security Force during the last three years are as follows :-

Year	Number
1995	7183
1996	6430
1997 (Upto 20-2-97)	637

(b) and (c) A close watch is kept on the Border Security Force personnel to ensure that they maintain a high standard of rectitude and integrity. BSF troops have been instructed to maintain cordial relations with the border population without compromising their duty/role.

Milk Production

495. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to seek Central and World Bank assistance for raising the milk production in Uttar Pradesh to bridge the gap between demand and supply of milk in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank assistance is made available in other States as well; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, state-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) (a) and (b) Operation Flood III, which received the financial assistance of the World Bank and the European Economic Community has been under implementation in Uttar Pradesh. Also three projects under the "Integrated Dairy Development Project in Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and backward Areas with a total approved outlay of Rs. 1242.89 lakhs is under implementation in the State.

(c) and (d) World Bank assisted Operation Flood III Scheme has been under implementation in several other states also.

National Forest Policy

496. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Forest Policy of 1988 is being implemented in all the States including Karnataka;

(b) if so, the States implementing the said Policy successfully;

(c) whether there is any proposal to bring a new Forests Bill to implement the Policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Forest Policy, 1988 is under implementation in all the States for the protection and development of forests through various programmes of afforestation and conservation. The Policy objective of people's involvement in the development of degraded forests has been taken up for implementation in 17 states namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) and (d) There is proposal to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927 to give more emphasis to conservation aspects and involvement of the communities in conformity with the National Forest Policy 1988.

Mining Activities in Bellary

497. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that in Bellary District Mining activities have come to a standstill because of the judgement of the Supreme Court in this regard;

(b) if so, the number of acres of the forest areas where mining activities are going on in the District;

(c) the number of persons employed in these mining activities; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to amend the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and give exemption to mining activities in the forest areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Mining is a non-forestry activity and for carrying out mining operations in forest areas prior approval is required under forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Health cover to Wild Life

498. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have noticed a virus affecting tigers in National Parks;

(b) if so, the details thereof the and the steps

taken or proposed to be taken to deal with the problem effectively and strengthen the health cover for the wild life particularly in the National Parks and Sanctuaries; and

(c) the details of Central schemes presently under implementation and provision of funds made thereunder, scheme-wise with State-wise break-up for the current year and the progress achieved thereunder so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The incidence of virus disease in tigers was reported only from the Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) during November and December, 1996 which resulted in the death of two tigresses. Scientists of the wildlife Institute of India (WII) and the Jabalpur Veterinary College diagnosed the disease as Feline – Panleukopaenia, a virus disease of wild felids. The Wildlife Institute of India arranged the vaccine against this disease and all the remaining tigers as well as lions and leopards in the national park were vaccinated. All the animals are now in a healthy condition.

The States have been advised to appoint veterinary officers in the tiger reserves for which central financial assistance is provided. Assistance is also provided to the States and Union Territories for development of veterinary facilities in national parks and sanctuaries and immunisation of cattle. In addition, the wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for immunisation of livestock against communicable diseases within five kilometers of a national park or sanctuary to prevent spread of diseases to the wild animals.

(c) Details are given in statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of the fund released under various centrally sponsored schemes during 1996-97 (upto 20th Feb., 1997)

State	Assistance for Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries	Project Tiger	Eco-Development around protected Areas	Rs. in lakhs
				Project Elephant
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	44.332	16.87	21.715	11.20
Arunachal Pradesh	30.027	26.00	4.493	26.497
Assam	—	37.435	—	—
Bihar	—	76.78	—	—
Goa	10.143	—	—	—
Gujarat	51.168	—	—	—
Haryana	11.04	—	5.00	—
Himachal Pradesh	12.10	—	5.05	—

1	2	3	4	5
Jammu & Kashmir	13.02	—	5.00	—
Karnataka	225.845	45.30	9.88	119.82
Kerala	29.07	22.50	23.32	71.96
Madhya Pradesh	—	101.88	13.45	—
Maharashtra	9.34	30.25	7.08	—
Manipur	23.01	—	5.00	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	2.39
Mizoram	4.60	8.36	—	—
Nagaland	4.31	—	10.00	6.08
Orissá	6.12	28.37	8.50	—
Punjab	—	—	2.50	—
Rajasthan	42.075	120.395	21.61	—
Sikkim	15.29	—	18.16	—
Tamil Nadu	23.90	24.26	3.40	25.75
Tripura	—	—	11.57	—
Uttar Pradesh	85.995	102.705	22.34	81.80
West Bengal	39.31	52.81	38.585	62.76
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.68	—	—	—
Total	652.375	693.915	236.693	395.37

[Translation]

Sugar Mill in Madhya Pradesh

499. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for setting up a sugar mill in Pandaria Block of Bilaspur district in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received letters from the Members of Parliament and the Legislative Assembly for setting up a sugar mill in the said area; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) an industrial licence application has been received through the Ministry of Industry from Sh. Rekh Chand Jain of M/s. Arihant Sales and Services Private Limited for establishment of a new sugar factory of Mungeli/Pandaria District, Bilaspur (Madhya Pradesh).

(c) and (d) Ministry of Food has so far not received any letter from the Members of Parliament and the Legislative Assembly in regard to the above proposal.

[English]

High level Commission for N.E. States

500. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had constituted a high level Commission to study the deficiencies of infrastructural facilities and basic minimum services in the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has submitted its recommendations;

(c) if so, the main recommendations thereof; and

(d) the decisions of the Government on these recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) No. Sir.
 (c) and (d) Question do not arise.

Scrapping of Article 310

501. SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some state Governments have suggested to scrap article 310 of the Constitution;
 (b) if so, the names of the states; and
 (c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) According to available information, no such suggestion has been received.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Development of Tals and Diyaras

502. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the scientists of Sabour Agriculture University, Bihar have sent a project report to Indian Council of Agricultural Research regarding the development of Tals and Diyaras of the State;
 (b) whether similarly a project report for the development of certain Diyaras and Tals of Bachwar, Teghra, Matihani, Balia blocks and Patna district are pending with the Government; and
 (c) if so, the time by which these are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A research project proposal has been received recently for funding support by ICAR.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Agriculture had deputed an expert team to visit Diara and Tal lands of Bihar State in November, 1996. The team submitted the report and the same is under consideration by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. It is likely to take about 4-6 months time.

[English]

National watershed Development project for Rainfed areas

503. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the target fixed for covering the area under National Watershed Development Project for the Rainfed Areas during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are considering to reorient the implementation strategy for the same; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) An area to the extent of approximately 3.5 million ha. is likely to be covered under National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas during the IX Plan. State-wise targets will be decided at the appropriate time.

(b) and (c) The Project will continue to promote *in situ* moisture conservation through reliance on low - cost replicable and farmer-friendly measures with the objective of increase in cropping intensity and productivity. The Project will also continue to propogate farming systems approach. Under this Scheme, there will be greater thrust on adoption of locations-specific technology as per the ecological system in the given agro-climatic zone.

[Translation]

Disappearance of Rice and Wheat allotted by Food Corporation of India

504. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

- (a) whether tonnes of rice and wheat released by the Food Corporation of India to be sold under the Public Distribution System have disappeared;
 (b) if so, the details of cases detected by The Government in this regard, state-wise.
 (c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the matter;
 (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
 (e) the step taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The allocation of rice and wheat to the State Government are made on a month to month basis by the Ministry and the allotted quantity is released to the State Government or their nominees, by Food Corporation of India (FCI). After the stocks are lifted by the State Government or their nominees, its transportation, security and distribution within the state is the sole responsibility of the State Government.

- (b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

"Wood Based Industries"

505. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications seeking approval of the Government for setting up of wood based industries in the forest area received, considered, accepted and rejected during last three years, State-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted for evaluation of such applications;

(c) whether prior approval is also necessary for setting up of industry in the private forest area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) The details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

"Allotment of Land for Arforestation"

506. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 711, dated November 26, 1996 regarding "Allotment of forest land" and state :

(a) whether about 71 bighas of gram sabha land in village Dera Mandi (Mehrauli Block) has been allotted to M/s. Godfrey Phillips India Limited for afforestation in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the said land falls within the boundary lines of the Southern Ridge Area;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to cancel the memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and to hand over the land to the Forest Department for afforestation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Malpractices by Delhi Police

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Caps make Hay While Killers Stalk Roads, Agents Collect Bribes, Seniors Aware, give into Graft" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times', dated December 22, 1996;

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

(c) the positive measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such malpractices by the Delhi Police ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There have been instances where individual Traffic Police personnel were found involved in malpractices but there is no indication that there exists any organised connivance. During 1996 alone, over 6 lakhs trucks were challaned by Delhi Traffic Police which was almost twice the number challaned during 1995. Besides, the Delhi Traffic Police carried out a major anti-corruption drive amongst its own men as a result of which 161 Traffic Policemen face departmental inquiries and other 202 officials were transferred to non-sensitive units.

IV Fluid Purchase

508. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "IV fluid purchase; Former Addl. D-G Chargesheeted" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', dated January 8, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Super Bazar sold IV fluid to Safdarjung Hospital at double the normal rates;

(c) if so, the rates at which the Super Bazar sold the IV fluid to Safdarjung Hospital and the rates prevailing in the market;

(d) the reasons for charging such high rates;

(e) whether there is any proposal to inquire into the matter and to bring to book the officers responsible;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Damaged Goods

509. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the large quantity of damaged goods have accumulated in the Super Bazar awaiting replacement from the suppliers/manufacturers;

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

(c) the procedure adopted in the disposal of damaged goods ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a)

According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi, the value of the damaged stocks as on 31st March, 1996 was Rs. 1,27,454.15.

(b) and (c) The damaged stocks are more in the groceries and toiletries Departments of Super Bazar. In order to avoid its accumulation, the Super Bazar takes regular steps to get these damaged stocks replaced from the suppliers.

Killing of Rhino

510. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Rhino killed in Assam" appearing in the 'Pioneer', dated the 24 September, 1996;

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

(c) whether poaching has come down in Assam;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete steps taken/being taken by the Government to arrest poaching completely ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Chief Wildlife Warden of Assam has informed that during 1996, a total of four rhinos were killed by poachers in the Pabitora Sanctuary in Assam. However, Constant vigil is being maintained through day and night patrolling by wildlife staff, armed Home Guards and Assam Forest Protection Force battalion to control the poaching of rhinos.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As compared to 70 rhino killed by poachers in Assam during 1993 the number in 1996 was only 40.

(e) The steps taken by the Government for protection and Conservation of rhinos are given below :

(i) Rhino is placed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thus getting the highest level of protection against hunting and commercial exploitation.

(ii) India is a party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and abides by the regulations of International trade in endangered species of animals and articles made thereof. Under the provisions of the convention, rhino is placed under Appendix I of CITES which bans international trade in the species, products and derivatives.

(iii) Cooperation of Police, BSF, DRI, Customs, Army and other enforcement agencies is also taken, as and when required, in apprehending the poachers and illegal traders.

(iv) With a view to providing alternative home for Rhinos and also rehabilitating them in their erstwhile habitat programme for 'Rehabilitation of Rhinos' has been started in Dudhwa National Park and Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh.

(v) A network of 5 Wildlife sanctuaries and 4 national parks has been set up for conservation of the species and its habitat. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of these national parks and sanctuaries, on request from the State Governments.

(vi) There is a scheme for payment of rewards to the informers, which among other things, helps in getting intelligence regarding smuggling of wildlife products.

Development of Livestock

511. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any specific request for pilot project to develop livestock as a major means of livelihood for the people for hilly areas including Sikkim, Darjeeling and Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

Shortage of Urea in Andhra Pradesh

512. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage of Urea in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether State Government has been requesting the Union Government since 1995 to supply additional quota of urea to meet its demand;

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

(e) the total supply made during 1996 and likely to be made in 1997; and

(f) the reasons for the short supply of the urea, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) The supply of urea in Andhra Pradesh during Kharif 1996 and Rabi 1996-97 (Up to 31.1.1997) is as under :-

('000 tonnes)

	Assessed requirement	Supply	Consumption
Kharif 1996	953.50	1026.18	991.38
Rabi 1996-37	1020.00	890.32 (up to 31.1.97)	690.78 (Sales up to 31.1.97)

Environmental Clearance

513. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated modalities for delegation of powers to State Governments for according environmental clearance to power projects, and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Modalities for delegation of powers to State Governments for according environmental clearance to power projects are still under finalisation.

Quota of Rice to Kerala

514. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to enhance the quota of rice for Kerala in view of the "Vishu" festival and coming monsoon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No request has been received from the Govt. of Kerala for increasing quota of rice in connection with "Vishu" festival and coming monsoon.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Tin Plates

515. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the tin-plates imported in the country include painted tin-plates as well;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that these painted tin-plates are being used for the production of edible oil containers and these containers are being sold to wholesale and retail traders for packing of the edible oils;

(c) whether the paint gets dissolved in the edible oil thereby destroying its quality;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints from the Members of Parliament and others in this regard

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action being taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (f) Government has received complaints from Shri Sushil Chandra Verma, M.P., the Indian Tin Plates Manufacturers Association and J & K Ex-serviceman Cooperative Societies, Jammu alleging the use of imported coloured tin plates in fabricating tin containers for packing edible oil and vanaspati and the resultant harmful effects of using such tin plates.

A number of steps have been taken by Government to ensure proper quality of tins. The measures initiated are as follows :-

- (i) The use of only new tin containers for packing of vanaspati and other vegetable oil products has been laid down vide this Ministry's order dated 1st November, 1995. These orders have been communicated to agencies like the Health Ministry, field officers of the Directorate of Vanaspati, Vegetable Oils and Fats and representatives of the Oil Industry for Compliance and enforcement. This Ministry again advised the associations representing the Oil Industry and Trade in June, 1996 for strict implementation of the orders and necessary action against the erring/defiant units.
- (ii) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules have been amended by the Health Ministry vide notification dated 4.8.1995 so as to allow the use of only new tin containers for packing of edible oils and fats.
- (iii) The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection Under the Ministry of Rural Development has also be advised to exercise due caution at the grading station to ensure that sub-standard tins are not used for packing edible oils.
- (iv) The Secretaries in-charge of Food and Civil

Supplies of all States/UTs have also been requested for rigorous implementation of the orders to have an effective control on the quality of tinning material.

Production of Foodgrains

516. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimates of production of various foodgrains of Rabi and Kharif crop during 1996-97, State-wise and crop-wise; and

(b) the percentage change over the actual production in 1995-96 ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The estimates of production of foodgrains for the year 1996-97 from the States have not yet become due. However, as per the current assessment, the production of total foodgrains for the country as a whole during 1996-97 is expected to be about 191.18 million tonnes, i.e. 3.3% higher than that of 1995-96. A statement giving crop-wise, season-wise, All-India estimates of production of foodgrains in 1996-97 as compared to 1995-96 is enclosed.

Statement

Crop-wise, Season-wise All-India estimates of production of Foodgrains

(Million tonnes)

CROP	Season	1995-96	1996-97	* Change
		Final	Likely	
1	2	3	4	5
Rice	Kharif	70.10	70.63	0.2
	Rabi/Summer	9.52	9.00	-5.5
	Total	79.62	79.63	0.0
Wheat		62.62	64.50	3.0
Jowar	Kharif	5.86	6.90	19.1
	Rabi	3.69	4.00	8.4
	Total	9.55	10.98	15.0
Bajra		5.39	7.47	38.6
Maize@	Kharif	8.43	8.65	2.6
	Rabi	1.01	1.00	-1.0
	Total	9.44	9.65	2.2
Ragi		2.76	2.62	-5.1
Small millets		0.02	0.82	0.0
Barley		1.65	1.50	-9.1

	1	2	3	4	5
Coarse		Kharif	23.26	26.55	14.1
Cereals		Rabi	6.35	6.50	2.4
		Total	29.61	33.05	11.6
Cereals		Kharif	93.36	97.18	4.1
		Rabi	78.49	80.00	1.9
		Total	171.85	177.18	3.1
Tur			2.36	2.97	25.8
Other Kharif Pulses			2.47	3.03	22.7
Gram			5.02	5.50	9.6
Other RabiPulses			3.34	3.00	-10.2
Total Pulses	Kharif		4.83	6.00	24.2
	Rabi		8.36	8.00	-4.3
	Total		13.19	14.00	6.1
Total Food-grains	Kharif		98.19	103.18	5.1
	Rabi		86.85	88.00	1.3
	Total		185.04	191.18	3.3

[Translation]

Agriculture production

517. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government have prepared any special action plan for bringing the green revolution in agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target of agricultural production fixed for 1997-98, crop-wise and item-wise;

(d) the percentage of increase envisaged in the agricultural production over the production of 1996-97; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve the target ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Targets for agriculture production have yet not been finalised by Planning Commission.

For increasing the production & Productivity of Crops, Government of India is implementing centrally Sponsored Scheme in the Country through State Govts. Under these schemes, incentives are provided for use of quality seeds, improved farm implements, sprinkler sets etc. Besides, for

effective transfer of technology, field demonstrations & training of farmers are being organised. Emphasis is also laid on the use of biopesticides and integrated pest management.

[English]

Fire Academy

518. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Fire Academy has recently been opened at Baroda to check the increasing environment problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to finance such activities in States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the measures proposed by the Government to check environment problems arising out of the rapid urbanisation and industrialisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) As per information made available by the Department of Urban Development, Government of Gujarat, the Baroda Centre of the All India Institute of Local Self-government started the Regional Fire Service School in 1979. This School was granted recognition to train fire personnel for disaster prevention. The Government of Gujarat has made available Rs. 10.00 lakh as a one time grant for this school.

(c) and (d) As per information made available by the Director General Civil Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry operates one Fire Service College, namely, the Fire Service College at Nagpur.

(e) The Government proposes the following to check environmental problems arising out of rapid urbanisation and industrialisation.

1. Environmental appraisal of projects related to urban development and regional planning, preparation of environmental/eco-development plans for sensitive regions for evolving desirable norms and space standards;
2. Deterrent measures to discourage indiscriminate growth of human settlement and polluting industries in vulnerable areas such as hilly regions and coastal stretches;
3. Decentralisation of urbanisation through establishment of secondary cities and towns with requisite infrastructural services and employment opportunities by developing human settlement perspective plan at national and state level;
4. Conservation of heritage sites and buildings, through regulation to ensure that these are not demolished, encroached upon and affected by indiscriminate construction and pollution;
5. Incentives for environmentally clean technologies, recycling and reuse of wastes and conservation of natural resources;
6. Operationalisation of 'polluter pays principle' by introducing effluent tax, resource cess for industry and implementation of standards based on resource consumption and production capacity;
7. Fiscal incentives to small-scale industries for pollution control and for reduction of wastes;
8. While deciding upon sites, priority to compatible industries so that, to the extent possible, wastes from one could be used as raw material for the other and thus the net pollution load is minimised;
9. Location of industries as per environmental guidelines for siting of industry;
10. Collective efforts for installation and operation of common effluent treatment facilities in industrial estates and in areas with a cluster of industries.
11. Dissemination of information for public awareness on environment safety aspects and stringent measures to ensure safety of workers and general population against hazardous substances and processes;
12. Preparation of on-site emergency plans for hazardous installations and off-site emergency plans for districts in which hazardous installations are located;
13. Public liability insurance against loss or injury to life or property;
14. Internalising the environmental safeguards as integral component of the total project cost;
15. Environmental impact assessment from the planning stage and selection of sites for location of industries; and

16. Clearance by Ministry of Environment and Forests of all projects above a certain size and in certain fragile areas.

Import of Substandard Wheat

519. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have recently imported wheat from Canada and Australia;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether the imported wheat is substandard; and
- (d) if so, the action taken against the persons found guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government have decided to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat to augment its domestic availability. In pursuance of the decision, the State Trading Corporation of India have so far contracted for import of 16.75 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia, Canada and Argentina at an estimated total C&F value of approximately us\$ 290 million. A quantity of 4.36 lakh tonnes of wheat has arrived at Indian Ports upto 20.2.97.

Adequate precautions have been taken to ensure that the imported wheat conforms to the parameters prescribed in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and the phytosanitary and quarantine norms laid down by the Govt. of India. As per the terms of the contract, the wheat to be shipped has to undergo pre-shipment quality inspection by the Govt. agencies in Canada and Australia, and by internationally reputed quality surveyors in the case of Argentina. Recently, it has also been decided to depute joint teams of Food Corporation of India (FCI), State Trading Corporation of India (STC) and Quality Experts from the Ministry of Food to Australia, Canada and Argentina for pre-shipment inspection of quality.

- (d) Does not arise.

Support Prices of Ginger and Cardamom

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

- (a) whether the Government have any plans to fix up support price for the ginger and cardamom;
- (b) whether the Government have received any request from any State Government in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The Government is fixing the minimum support prices (MSP) of all major agricultural commodities. The other commodities, mostly horticultural, including Ginger and Cardamom are covered under the Market Intervention scheme (MIS). The MIS operates at the request of the State Governments where a specified quantity is purchased at a mutually agreed price and the losses, if any, are borne equally by the Centre and the State.

(b) No such proposal under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for ginger and cardamom has been received from any State Government.

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

Centre States Relations

521. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring suitable changes in the Centre-States relations in so far as financial matters are involved;

(b) whether the National Development Council considered recently the different aspects of the problem,

- (c) if so, the results thereof; and

- (d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) One of the items considered by the Standing Committee of the Inter-state Council in its meeting held on 15.1.1997 was to review and update the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State financial relations especially the devolution of financial powers from the Central Government to the State Governments. It was decided in the meeting that the State Governments and the members of the Standing Committee would send their views on this subject including the 'Alternate Scheme of Devolution of Share in Central Taxes to States'.

2. In the Approach paper to the Ninth Plan, it has been proposed to allow greater autonomy and freedom to the States in drawing up their plans. It has also been proposed to transfer most of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) to the States alongwith resources. In the meeting of the National Development Council held on 16.1.1997, these proposals were generally endorsed any many Chief Ministers demanded that most of the CSS should be transferred to the States alongwith corresponding resources. An exercise is underway in the Planning Commission to work out the details regarding transfer of CSS in the phased manner.

Infiltration from Bangladesh

522. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA :
SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Border gets blurred as Bangladeshis Swamp Assam' appearing in the Sunday Times, dated December 29, 1996;

(b) if so the assessment made about the condition of this porous 260 KM long border along Bangladesh, comprising Dhubri district, a 'gateway' for Bangladesh into Assam, Tripura; and

(c) the steps being taken to prevent infiltration from Bangladesh into India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The figures of interception of Bangladeshi nationals in Assam sector by the Border Security Force as given below indicate a declining trend of illegal immigration in this sector :-

Year	Number
1992	2689
1993	1281
1994	1059
1995	1246
1996	791

(c) A series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the problem of infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals into India. These measures include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments etc. The matter has also been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh on various occasions. The progress of these measures is reviewed regularly at various levels.

Rehabilitation of Indians from UAE

523. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any rehabilitation programme for

Indians who have returned from UAE has been made recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) According to information made available by Ministry of External Affairs, certain action have been taken to facilitate the UAE returnees to go back to UAE or any other country for immediate employment. These include setting up of special counters in all the Passport Offices in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh etc, to enable these returnees to submit their applications for passports, those who had passports but lost these due to certain reasons and returned on the strength of Emergency Certificates, to issue duplicate passports after verification of their earlier passport details and in case of those who had travelled to UAE without any travel document and travelled back to India on emergency Certificates, to issue fresh passports after police verification. Instructions have also been issued to the Passport Offices to deal with such passport requests of the returnees on expeditious basis.

[Translation]

Creation of separate Chhatisgarh State

524. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Azad Chhatisgarh Fauz has threatened to resort to economic blockade in Raipur, Madhya Pradesh in support of their demand for a separate Chhatisgarh State; and

(b) if so, the approach of the Centre towards the issue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The Government have received representations from the Azad Chhatisgarh Fauz in support of their demand for a separate Chhatisgarh State.

(b) The Government is committed to decentralisation and greater devolution of powers to the States, as a consequence of which the benefits of development are expected to percolate down much faster to hitherto underdeveloped regions of the country from where the demands for statehood are emanating.

[English]

Uttar Pradesh Sugarcane (Regulation of Supply and Purchase) Act, 1953

525. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government have forwarded a proposal to the Union Government for amendment in the Uttar Pradesh Sugarcane (Regulation of Supply and Purchase) Act, 1953 for ensuring uniform implementation of the sugarcane prices as advised by the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Uttar Pradesh Government have proposed to fix remunerative price of cane, by notification.

(c) The proposal is under consideration.

[Translation]

Purchase of Sugarcane

526. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the names of sugar mills purchasing sugarcane at lowest rates and those paying comparatively higher rates;

(b) the reasons for this imbalance;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to abridge this gap;

(d) the number of non-viable sugar mills, state-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken to improve their capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) In the States of U.P., Haryana, Punjab and Bihar, the price of sugarcane to be paid to the farmers is higher than the statutory Minimum Price fixed by the Central Government. In Maharashtra, uniform ex-field advance price is fixed initially by the Government and the same is paid to the farmers. In the case of Gujarat, the advance price so fixed varies from factory to factory. However, at the end of the season, based on the actual working result and other factors, the final cane price is worked out and paid to the farmers by the factories of these two states. In the State of Karnataka, a minimum cane price is fixed linked to a recovery of 8.5% by the State Government through negotiations with the management of the factories as also the cane growers' associations. However, final cane prices

are negotiated by the factories with cane growers depending upon the profitability of the factory, under the aegis of Directorate of Sugar, Government of Karnataka. The sugarcane price announced is adjusted against the ultimate price payable as per provisions of clause 5(A) of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, i.e., the excess realisation is shared by the factories and the cane growers in the ratio of 50 : 50

(d) There were sixteen cases of sick sugar mills registered with BIFR as on 31.1.1997, Statewise names of sugar factories is given below :

1. Bihar
 - (1) Champaran Sugar Co. Ltd.
 - (2) HMP Sugar Ltd.
2. Kerala
 - (3) The Travancore Sugars & Chemicals Ltd.
3. Karnataka
 - (4) Salarjung Sugar Wroks
 - (5) Gangavati Sugars Ltd.
4. Madhya Pradesh
 - (6) Jiwaji Rao Sugar Co. Ltd.
5. Punjab
 - (7) Bhagwanpura Sugar Mills Ltd.
6. Rajasthan
 - (8) Mewar Sugar Mills Ltd.
7. Tamil Nadu
 - (9) Cauvery Sugar & Chemicals Ltd.
8. Uttar Pradesh
 - (10) Lakshmi Sugar Mills.
 - (11) Sherwani Sugar Syndicate Ltd.
 - (12) Swadeshi Mining & Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
 - (13) Ghatampur Sugar Co. Ltd.
 - (14) Uttar Pradesh State Sugar Corporation Ltd.
 - (15) Nandganj Sihori Sugar Co. Ltd.
 - (16) Cawnpore Sugar Works Ltd.

(e) The sugar mills have themselves to prepare schemes for rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the Financial institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at Concessional rate of interest for such rehabilitation/

modernisation schemes, subject to fulfilment of the conditions laid down.

[English]

Insurgency in N. E. region

527. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Insurgency in North-East; Islamic militancy may eclipse all movement" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', dated February 2, 1997; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to bring normalcy in the Region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item refers, inter alia, to assistance extended by some neighbouring countries and the Pak ISI to the North-East insurgent groups. Several steps have been taken to bring normalcy in the Region which include taking up of our security concerns with the neighbouring countries, monitoring, review and streamlining the counter-insurgency operations within the insurgency affected North-Eastern States. An Indo-Bangladesh Joint Working Group has been set up for resolution of security related issues of mutual concern. Similarly, there are arrangements for consultation with Myanmar and Thailand. Information also continues to be shared with Bhutan.

Seizure of RDX and Explosives

528. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have seized explosives, detonators and RDX in Delhi in January, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their originating point;

(c) the quantity of RDX seized in Delhi during 1996;

(d) whether foreign disruptive agencies have set up their centres in Delhi;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to curb their activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, 10 Kgs. RDX, 4 Timer pencils, 10 detonators, 4 switch fuses and one Primer explosive were seized by Delhi Police on the 13th January, 1997 from a private premises in South Delhi; four persons were arrested. The

accused persons allegedly had a plan to cause explosions at various places in Delhi on the occasion of Republic Day, 1997. The originating point could not be ascertained so far inspite of best efforts. In another incident, 4.485 kgs. of RDX, 2 Timer pencils and 2 detonators were seized on the 21st January, 1997 from an area falling within the jurisdiction of Karol Bagh Police Station; three persons were arrested.

(c) During 1996, 12.045 kgs. of RDX was seized in Delhi.

(d) No such organised Centre operating from Delhi has come to the notice of the Delhi Police.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Security of V.I.Ps

529. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Khatre Mein aati Vishisht Logon Ki Suraksha Vyavastha" appearing in 'Rashtriya Sahara', dated February 2, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any remedial steps in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Government has not come across any such news-item in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 02.2.1997 (New Delhi edition).

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Security of Gujarat Border

530. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Border Security Force is entrusted with the task of protection of Border areas adjoining Pakistan in Gujarat;

(b) whether the use of camels by the BSF personnel is an essential element for the Surveillance of the border in Gujarat;

(c) if so, the number of camels at the disposal of the BSF at present in the border area of Gujarat during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to augment the number of camels in the force ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Though the use of camels by the BSF personnel is an essential element for the surveillance of the border in Gujarat, Tractors are also being used for border patrolling in Gujarat.

(c) The number of camels at the disposal of BSF during the last three years was as under :-

Year	Sanctioned	Actually held
1994	210	186
1995	210	176
1996	105*	96

(d) Deficiency of 9 camels in 1996 is being met by purchase of more camels and sufficient funds have been allotted for this purpose.

*16 tractors with trollys were provided to BSF in lieu of 105 camels.

Inland Fishery Marketing Infrastructure

531. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has submitted some projects for approval regarding the strengthening of Inland Fishery Marketing Infrastructure in the State;

(b) if so, the cost of these projects; and

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be accorded approval ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Proposals for establishment of five units of fish marketing at a total cost of Rs. 3.88 crores under the fish marketing scheme were received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh in November, 1996. One unit at a cost of Rs. 74 lakhs has been sanctioned in addition to the two fish marketing units sanctioned to the Government of Madhya Pradesh during 1992-94 at a total cost of Rs. 178 lakhs. In view of the proposals received from the other

States, there is no likelihood of sanctioning additional units to the Government of Madhya Pradesh at present.

Project Tiger

532. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have admitted before a Panel that tigers are dying fast;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for revamping the 'Project Tiger' and for conservation of tiger habitats ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, there have been recent reports of some poaching of tigers to meet the demand of illegal international trade in tiger bones and other parts of its body. The Government is seized of the situation and has taken adequate steps to meet the challenge and is committed to protect the tiger and its habitats.

(c) The steps taken by the Government are as under :

- (i) A 'Tiger Crisis Cell' has been set up in the Ministry.
- (ii) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.
- (iii) Steps have been initiated to set up 'Special Strike Force' in the Project Tiger areas.
- (iv) A protocol has been signed with the Government of Peoples 'Republic of China' to coordinate bilateral efforts to stop illegal activities of poaching of tigers, and to endeavour jointly to combat smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body;
- (v) Steps have been initiated by the Government to establish the "Global Tiger Forum" for strengthening international cooperation to curb poaching of tiger and to coordinate efforts for the conservation of tiger and the habitat throughout the range countries.

Dairy Development

533. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States where schemes for the development of dairy have been launched in Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether any such scheme has been launched in Rajasthan during the said Plan period;

(c) if so, the achievements made under the Scheme(s) during the period;

(d) whether the Government propose to encourage dairy activities on co-operative basis; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this direction in Eighth Plan period and proposed to be taken in Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Government of India launched the Integrated Dairy Development Project meant for Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas during the Eight Five Year Plan period. Projects received from the following States/ Union Territory have been approved and are at various stages of implementation : (1) Andaman & Nicobar Islands (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Arunachal Pradesh (4) Assam (5) Bihar (6) Gujarat (7) Haryana (8) Jammu & Kashmir (9) Madhya Pradesh (10) Maharashtra (11) Manipur (12) Meghalaya (13) Mizoram (14) Nagaland (15) Orissa (16) Sikkim (17) Tamil Nadu (18) Tripura (19) Uttar Pradesh (20) West Bengal.

(b) All the districts of Rajasthan are covered under the Operation Flood Programme.

(c) Progress of key components of OF-III in Rajasthan upto Dec., 1996 is enclosed as statement.

(d) and (e) The Operation Flood programme of dairy development has been entirely on cooperative basis. In the ninth plan period Government proposes to expand the network of cooperatives.

Statement

The progress of Key Components of OF-III in Rajasthan upto December, 1996

No of DCS (Nos.)	5170*
Farmer Members (Nos.)	371401*
Milk processing capacity (TLPD)	1050
Average Milk procurement (TKGPD)	492
Average Milk Marketing (TLPD)	278

*Figures for the Month of September 1996.

TKGPD : Thousand Kg. Per Day.

TLPD : Thousand Litre Per Day.

Allocation for Agriculture Sector

534. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new plans proposals and schemes;

(b) the percentage of outlay granted to the agriculture sector for the Ninth Plan period; and

(c) the total allocation made for each State for this sector this Ninth Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The outlay and the programmes for development of agriculture in the Ninth Plan have not been finalised.

Overcharging By Food Corporation of India

535. SHRI K.S. RAYADU :
SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Monopolies & Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has alleged that Food Corporation of India has been overcharging customers by supplying inferior grains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to set aside money for the public welfare as suggested by MRTPC ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has issued notice to the Food Corporation of consumers by issuing lower group of rice in higher group especially in the State of Kerala.

(b) The MRTPC has highlighted that the lower group stocks were issued in the higher group for which the rates of latter group were charged. It was alleged that the Food Corporation of India has earned an amount of Rs. 418.71 lakhs and customers were overcharged to that extent.

(c) The Food Corporation of India has given a detailed reply to the MRTPC listing therein the procedure being followed in the issue of rice under Public Distribution System (PDS). There is no excess amount received by

the Corporation on account of issue of rice from lower group as higher group or *vice-versa* since the same is adjusted in the amount of subsidy being given by the Government to the Corporation. The FCI has decided to issue the stocks of rice to the PDS only after the receipt of despatch documents by the consignees instead of issuing on the basis of spot findings of the Committee of Officers nominated for the purpose. This would create a little inconvenience to the consumers in places where smaller capacity godowns are located.

Egg Consumption

536. SHRI M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether efforts have been made to popularise benefits of egg consumption in rural areas especially in North Andhra and Orissa to find market for the excess production thereof; and

(b) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (b) Some organisations like National egg coordination committee have been attempting to popularise the benefits of egg consumption in the country through various mass communication medias.

[Translation]

Allocation of Wheat

537. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY
SHRI D.P. YADAV :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state

(a) whether the State Government have demanded for increasing the allocation of wheat under the Public Distribution System keeping in view the current price rise.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some State Governments have requested for increasing the allocation of wheat for PDS.

(b) A statement showing the monthly quota of wheat demanded by some of the State Govts for PDS (including RPDS), and the monthly allocation of wheat made to them during the period Nov. 96 to March, 97 is enclosed.

(c) The allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs for PDS (including PRDS) is made on a month to month basis, taking into consideration, *inter-alia*, the demand received from various States/UTs, their relative needs, off-take trend, stock position in the Central Pool, seasonal availability etc. The allocations so made from the Central Pool are supplemental to the open market availability, and not intended to meet the full demand of any State.

Statement

Demand and allotment during Nov. 96 to March, 97 to the States/UTs regarding allocation of wheat

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Demand per month	Quota		Allotted		
			Nov., 96	Dec., 96	Jan., 97	Feb., 97	March, 97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Delhi	72.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	65.00	65.00
2.	Haryana	35.00	16.56	18.56	18.56	18.56	20.00
3.	Himachal Pradesh	18.00	10.00	10.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
4.	Karnataka	50.00	28.00	28.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
5.	Madhya Pradesh	100.00	44.00	50.00	50.00	60.00	65.00
6.	Maharashtra	120.00	80.00	80.00	90.00	100.00	100.00
7.	Manipur	7.00	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70
8.	Mizoram	2.50	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90
9.	Punjab	17.00	8.00	10.00	12.00	15.00	20.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10. Rajasthan		185.00	118.00	117.00	122.00	127.00	130.00
11. Sikkim		1.10	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
12. Uttar Pradesh		109.20	80.00	90.00	98.30	113.80	103.80
13. West Bengal		120.00	90.00	90.00	105.00	110.00	110.00

Regularisation of Forest Land

538. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent any survey report in regard to the encroached forest land for regularisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) No proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh has been received so far for regularisation of encroachment on forest land.

[English]

Protection of endangered species

539. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) The comparative figures of population of each of the endangered species as per the census figures of the last three censuses;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the collusion of poachers with forest guards and police personnel is threatening the survival of endangered species in the country;

(c) if so, whether the Government have propose to take any strict action/laws to curb such activities to protect the forests and issue guidelines to the State Government to follow; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The comparative figures of last three censuses of major endangered species are given below :

S. No.	Name of Species	Year		
		1984	1989	1993
1.	Tiger	4005	4334	3759
2.	Lowpard	4744	6763	6828
3.	Elephant	18960 (1985)	17635 Min. to 24090 Max.	22796 Min. to 28346 Max.
4.	Rhinos	N.A.	1591	1566 (1995)
5.	Lion	239 (1985)	284 (1990)	304 (1995)

(b) No case of collusion of officials with poachers has been reported.

(c) and (d) A number of steps are being taken to protect endangered species. These include: Providing legal protection against hunting and commercial exploitation under the wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; providing assistance to the States for development of national parks and sanctuaries; implementing special projects for endangered species such as tiger, elephants, rhino etc; controlling poaching and illegal trade of wildlife through interdepartmental co-ordination and providing antipoaching infrastructure in specified areas. Besides, amendment of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Indian Forest Act, 1927 has been taken on hand to make the penal provisions of these Acts more stringent.

Strike Force for Project Tiger

540. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a Mobile Strike Force equipped with wireless sets, guns, motorcycles and jeeps for protecting the endangered tigers in the tiger reserves of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government for the welfare of the staff posted in these tiger reserves ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN

SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A 'Special Strike Force' is proposed to be set up during IX Plan in each of the tiger reserve areas for providing necessary man-power and equipment to combat the problem of tiger poaching and other illegal activities.

(c) A number of states do have staff welfare schemes including the scheme for providing 'Project Allowance' to the staff working in the tiger reserves. Other states have also been advised by the Government of India to initiate and implement such welfare schemes on priority.

Environmental Clearance

541. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given green rating to industries so that foreign investors can associate and provide clean technologies with a proven environment friendly track record;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also sought clean technologies for the control of air pollution;

(c) whether the clearance period for new industrial units has been reduced and project upto Rs. 500 million need not Central clearance; and

(d) The extent to which the Environment Ministry made amendment for quick disposal of the cases requiring environmental clearances ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) While there is no formal system of giving a green rating the Government of India has been emphasising that industry should adopt cleaner technologies to reduce pollution. Following measures have also been taken up which, would, inter-alia induce investors to provide cleaner technologies.

- Stipulation of norms for Air and Water Pollution Control.
- Framing Rules for Management of Hazardous Wastes.
- Scheme of Eco Mark.
- Scheme for Common Effluent Treatment Plants.
- Schemes for setting up of Waste Minimization Circles.
- Internalisation of Cleaner Technologies in the industrial projects through EIA Mechanism.

(c) and (d) The EIA Notification of 27th January, 1994 stipulates that the assessment shall be completed within a period of ninety days from the receipt of the requisite documents and data from the project authorities and a decision conveyed within thirty days thereafter. The

Ministry is regularly monitoring progress in processing applications for environmental clearances.

[Translation]

Custodial Deaths

542. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the then Chairman, National Human Rights Commission has observed that the Police is the major violator of the human rights and no action is being taken against them;

(b) if so, the number of cases of the police excesses which came to the notice of the Government during the last three years;

(c) whether the Human Rights Commission has shown concern on the increasing number of custodial deaths; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The then Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission, while addressing Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Lions Club International in May, 1996 had stated that the biggest culprit in violation of the human rights is the Police.

(b) As per the record of the National Human Rights Commission the number of complaints of police excesses that have been received during the last three years are as follows :-

1993-94	62
1994-95	635
1995-96	1291

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government of India have issued guidelines to the State Governments from time to time to ensure that police behave in human manner and that cases of alleged custodial deaths and police excesses are enquired into and dealt with firmly wherever they occur. Special emphasis is being given on human rights matters in the training curricula of the police personnel at all levels. The 'induction' and 'in service' training programmes also include special inputs to sensitise police about using scientific methods for investigation.

[English]

Families below Poverty Line

543. SHRI AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are sharp differences between the Government and the State Government over the determination of the families living below the poverty line for the eligibility purpose for availing the benefits of the targeted revised PDS scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the differences to extend the benefits of the TRPDS scheme to the persons living below the poverty line ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

SPG Security

544. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the lady VVIPs enjoying SPG protection will continue to get such protection even after marriage;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps propose to be taken to stop avoidable expenditure involved in such unnecessary coverage/ protection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) As per provisions of the SPG Act, as amended, SPG is responsible for providing 'proximate security' to the Prime Minister and the members of his immediate family as also the former Prime Ministers and members of their immediate families for a period of 10 years from the date of demission of their offices. The immediate family members include wife, husband, children and parents. Therefore the lady VIPs enjoying SPG protection will continue to get such protection even after marriage. There is no proposal to make any amendment in the SPG Act at present.

Fertilizer Pricing Policy

545. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have constituted a high-powered Fertilizer Pricing Policy Review Committee to find an alternative mechanism to the existing Retention Pricing Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms of reference of the Committee;

(d) whether the recommendations relating to fertilizer pricing made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee are also to be reviewed by the said Committee.

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A High Power Fertilizer Pricing Policy Review Committee has been constituted on 28.1.97 to review the existing system of subsidization of urea and suggest a rational, broad based, scientific and transparent methodology.

(b) and (c) The composition and terms of reference of the Committee are as follows :

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

- | | | |
|----|--|----------|
| 1. | Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao,
Former Member, Planning
Commission | Chairman |
| 2. | Prof. G.S. Bhalla, | |
| 3. | Sh. P.B. Krishnaswamy
Former Secretary, D/o Fertilizers | Member |
| 4. | Chairman, Bureau of Industrial
Costs and Prices (BICP) (ex-officio) | Member |
| 5. | Sh. O.N. Kapur
Chairman-cum-Managing Director
Project and Development India
Ltd. (PDIL) | Member |
| 6. | Smt. Kanta Ahuja
Economist, Jaipur | Member |
| 7. | Executive Director
Fertilizer industry Coordination
Committee (FICC) (Ex-officio
Secretary) | |

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE

- (i) To review the working of the Retention Price Scheme (RPS) for fertilizers and to make suggestions for correcting the deficiencies of the system, keeping in view the broad objectives of economic reform.
- (ii) To review the adequacy or otherwise of incentives to the industry. Issues relating to reasonableness of return on networth, norms of capacity utilization, depreciation etc.
- (iii) To suggest appropriate capital norms and debt equity ratio in respect of new fertilizer projects.
- (iv) To review the input pricing policy and its impact on the RPS.

(v) To review the system of equated freight and recommend measures to rationalise it, including minimisation of cross country movement to reduce lead.

(vi) To suggest measures to improve the cohesiveness of the policies in respect of the controlled and decontrolled segments of the fertilizer industry, especially the policies impinging on the availability of fertilizers and the relative pricing of controlled and decontrolled fertilizers with a view to achieving an agronomically desirable NPK consumption ratio, while keeping the fertilizer subsidy at a reasonable level.

(vii) Any other item that may be considered appropriate.

(d) and (e) The High Power Committee has been constituted to undertake an indepth study of the issues delineated in its terms of reference.

(f) The Committee is required to submit its recommendations within a period of six months.

Pollution by Mining

546. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :
SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places where the mining work including diamond mining is causing environmental pollution;

(b) the level of pollution at these places separately; and

(c) the efforts being made and the funds being spent to abate the pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The mining work relates in general to coal, zinc, lead copper, iron, bauxite, granite and slate. There are 115 coal mines in the country predominantly located in the States of Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The zinc and lead mines are located in the States of Rajasthan, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. The copper mines are located in the States of Rajasthan and Bihar. The iron ore mines are located in Karnataka, Goa, Bihar and Orissa. The bauxite mines are located in Maharashtra, Bihar and Orissa. Granite mines are located in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. The slate mines are located in Madhya Pradesh. The diamond mine is located at Panna in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The mining activities result in water as well as air pollution the water pollution is caused mainly due to the following factors :

- Discharge of mining water containing suspended coal and rock dust; and
- acid mine drainage water

The mining activities cause air pollution due to emission of dust produced during various mining and allied activities. Opencast mining contributes more dust to the atmosphere than the underground mining.

(c) The steps taken to abate pollution include the following.

- installation of cyclone and wet scrubber at appropriate dust generating location;
- water spray on feeder and haul roads;
- treatment of acid drain discharge wherever necessary.
- The Indian Industry has also been taking proactive steps to manage environmental aspects arising out of mining activities. So far, 8 mines have already been certified to ISO-14001. Two of them are bauxite mines and the remaining 6 are iron ore mines.

As per the impact assessment notification of January, 1994 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, the mining projects (major minerals with leases more than 5 hectares) are required an environmental clearance from the Ministry and while granting such clearance, environmental management plans so as to reflect the cost of pollution abatement and environment protection in the project cost

Zinc Paucity

547. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Zinc paucity may hit wheat crop" appearing in the 'Economic Times', dated February 4, 1997;

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

(c) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation from the Micronutrient Manufacturers Association of India (MMAI); and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Zinc ash/skimming are the raw material for

manufacture of Zinc sulphate which are partly imported. Of late shortage of this raw material has been felt due to this item having been kept under restricted list. This Ministry has taken up the issue with the Ministry of Environment and Forest to restore its inclusion under OGL to facilitate adequate import of the raw material.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

548. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Krishi Vigyan Kendras which are fully functional;

(b) whether majority of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra are not fully functional even several years after their establishment;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the step taken by the Government to make them functional ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) There are 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) out of which 183 were established before the 8th Plan. Seventy eight KVKs have been approved during 8 Plan, which are in various stages of establishment.

A total of 121 KVKs out of 183 (66%) are fully functional having Scientific/Technical Staff, Administrative Building Trainees hostel, Demonstration Units, Instructional Farm and necessary equipments as per the statement enclosed. The remaining 62 are in the process of being equipped.

(c) Huge financial implications, escalation of cost of civil works and constraints of funds are the main reasons.

(d) A comprehensive proposal has been submitted to the Planning Commission for augmenting additional financial resources for strengthening infrastructural facilities for the existig KVKs.

Sr. No.	Location of KVK
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	
1.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Agri; Research Station, Amadalavalsa, Distt. Shrikakulam-532523 (AP)
2.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Nandyal, M.C. Farm P.O. Distt. Kurnool-518 503 (AP)

1	2
3.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P.O. Baraganapalli, Yagantipalle-513 524, Distt. Kurnool (AP)
4.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P.O. Box No 214, Zaheerabad, Distt. Medak-502 220 (A.P.)
5.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, RASS Vansathli, Village Karakanbadi, Distt. Chittoor-517 501 (AP)
6.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gaddipalli-508 201, Distt. Nalgonda (AP)
7.	N.G. Ranga Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vinayshram, Kavur, Distt. Guntur (AP)
8.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, CRIDA, Hyatnagar, Distt. Rangareddy (AP)
9.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kalvacherla, Rajahmundry-533 105 Distt. East Godawari (AP)
10.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jammikunta, Distt. Karimnagar (AP)
Assam	
11.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Napam C/o P.B. No. 51, Tezpur Main Post Office, Sonitpur (Assam)
12.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Assam Agricultural University, Tripura, Gossaigaon-783 360 Distt. Kokarajhar (Assam)
Bihar	
13.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, VPO Basaith, Chandpura, Madhubani-847102 (Bihar)
14.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Agwanpur, Distt. Seharsa-859901 (Bihar)
15.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Munger, P.O. Sankaspur, Distt. Munger-811201 (Bihar)

1	2	1	2
16.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P.O. Vijay Nagar, Banka-813101 (Bihar)	30.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal-132001 (Haryana)
17.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ramkrishna Mission Ashram, P.O. Morabadi, Ranchi-834008 (Bihar)	Himachal Pradesh	
18.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sujani, P.O. Ghorlash, Distt. Deoghar-814152 (Bihar)	31.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, HPKV, Reg. Res. Stn., Dhaula Kuan, Distt. Sirmur-173001 (H.P.)
19.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Holycross V.T.I., Hazaribagh-825301 (Bihar)	32.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, HPKV, Agril. Research Station, Bajaura, Kullu-175125 (H.P.)
20.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P.O. Sokhodeora, Distt. Nawada-805106 (Bihar)	33.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bara, Distt. Hamirpur-177044 (H.P.)
21.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Banvasi Seva Kendra, P.O. Adhaura, Kaimur Plateau, Bhabhua-821116 (Bihar)	Jammu & Kashmir	
Gujarat		34.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Malangpura, Distt. Anantnag
22.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Deesa, Distt. Banaskantha-385535 (Gujarat)	Karnataka	
23.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Regional Hill Millet Research Station, Waghai, Dangs (Gujarat)	35.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hunumanamatti-281135, Distt. Dharwad
24.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Devraj (Sojitra), Distt. Kheda-387240 (Gujarat)	36.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Agril. Research Station, Janawada, Bidar
25.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vill. Randhja, Gandhinagar.383630 (Gujarat)	37.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Regional Research Station, Mudigere-577132 Chickmgalur
26.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P.O. Ambheti Ashram, Via Vapi, Distt. Valsad-396191 (Gujarat)	38.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, K.H. Patil Agril. Science Foundation, Hulkoti-582205 Gadag Taluk, Distt. Dharwar
27.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Samoda, Ganwada, Taluka-Sidhpur, Mehsana-384130 (Gujarat)	Kerala	
28.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mundra, Distt. Kachchh-370421 (Gujarat)	39.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Regional Research Station, Pattambi-679306, Distt. Palghat (Kerala)
Haryana		40.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Regional Research Station, Ambalavayal-673593, Distt. Wynad (Kerala)
29.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sri B.B. Ashram, Rampura, Rewari-123401 (Haryana)	41.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mitrani ketan, Vellanad-673593, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)

1	2	1	2
42.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod-671124 (Kerala)	55.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Village-Ambajogai, Distt. Beed-431517 (MS)
43.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Narakkal, Ernakulam, (Kerala)	56.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kalavade, Karad, Distt. Satara-415110 (MS)
Madhya Pradesh		57.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sharda Nagar, Baramati-413115, Distt. Pune (MS)
44.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Regional Agril. Research, Station, Chandangaon, Chhindwara-480001 (MP)	58.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Babhleshwar, Shrirampur Tal, Distt. Ahmednagar-413736 (MS)
45.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, JNKVV Farm, Jhabua-457661 (MP)	59.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P.B. No. 45, S.P. Road, Distt. Jalna-431203 (MS)
46.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, CIAE Nabibagh, Berasia Road, Bhopal-462018 (MP)	Manipur	
47.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, C/o Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Kasturbagram, Indore-420020 (MP)	60.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, ICAR Complex for NEH Region, Lamphelpet, Imphal-795004 Manipur
Maharashtra		Meghalaya	
48.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Karda, Risod, Akola-444106 (MS)	61.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, ICAR Complex for NEH Region, Sansan Girri, Bobasipara, Tura-794005 West Garo Hills, Meghalaya
49.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Selsura, Distt. Wardha (MS)	Mizoram	
50.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Paithan Road, Aurangabad-431005 (MS)	62.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, C/o Deptt. of Agril., Govt. of Mozoram, Kolasib-796081, Mizoram
51.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Shirgaon, Ratnagiri (MS)	Nagaland	
52.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Agril. Research Station, Dhule-424004 (MS)	63.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, C/o ICAR Complex for NEH Region, Jharanpani, Medziphema-797106 Kohima, Nagaland
53.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, C/o Gokhale Education Society, Koabad Hill-401703 Distt. Thane (MS)	Orissa	
54.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, C/o Satpura Vikas Mandal, Pal, Raver, Jalgaon-425508 (MS)	64.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Regional Research Station, Judia Farm, P.O. Keonjhar-758002 (Orissa)
		65.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P.O. Devog via Singila, Baliapal, Balasore-756026 (Orissa)

1	2	1	2
66.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bhanjanagar, At : Benakunda, P.O. Dihapadhal. Distt. Ganjam-761126 (Orissa)	79.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Fatehpur Sekhawati, Distt. Sikar-332301
67.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, C/o CIFA, Kausalyaganga, Dhauri, Bhubneswar-751002 (Orissa)	80.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Fodder Farm, Village-Beechwal, Distt. Bikaner-334002
68.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Regional Research Station, Semiliguda, Distt. Koraput, (Orissa)	81.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chittarapura Road, Distt Bundi
Pondicherry		82.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Regional Research Station, Tabiji Farm, NH 08, Distt Ajmer-305001
69.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kusumbapet, Pondicherry-605009	83.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sanjay Colony, Distt. Nagpur
Punjab		84.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chomu, Distt. Jaipur
70.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hardochani Road, Old Gurunanak College Building, Distt. Gurudaspur-143521 (Punjab)	85.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, CAZRI, Distt. Jodhpur-342003
71.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Malwal Farm, G.T. Road, Distt. Forozpur-152001 (Punjab)	86.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vidya Bhawan, Badgaon, Udaipur-313001
72.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Near Kheti Bhawan, Dabawali Road, Bhatinda-151001 (Punjab)	87.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Borkhera Farm, Distt. Kota-324001
73.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bahawal, Hoshiarpur-146105 (Punjab)	88.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sardar Shahar Churu-311401
74.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P.B. No. 22, Village : Rauni, Distt. Patiala-147001 (Punjab)	89.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, 9-A, Godam Ki Talai, Post Box No. 16, Distt. Jhalawar-326 001
75.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sultanpur Road, Near New Grain Market, Kaburthala-144601 (Punjab)	90.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kolar Farm, Ambasweiji Gate PO Palri, Distt. Sirohi-307 001
Rajasthan		Tamil Nadu	
76.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Teachers Colony, Gupteshwar Road, Dausa-303303	91.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Katchipuram via, Theni, Madurai-626520
77.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, B-33, Man Nagar, Distt. Jhunjhnu (Raj)	92.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Allikulam, Mundradaipu, P.O. Kariappti, Kamarajar-626102
78.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Borwat Agril. Research Station, Distt. Banaswara-327001		

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93.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kumara Parumal Farm Science Surugama, Trichy-639115	104.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, MAU, P.O. Haldhapur, Distt. Mau-221705
94.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Regional Research Station, Vridhachalam-606001 South Arcot Distt.	105.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra. Basti, Banjaria Farm, P.O. Katya, Distt. Basti-272302
95.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kattupakkam-603203, Changai, MGR Distt.	106.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Regional Research Station, Bharari, P.O. Bhojla, Jhansi-284003
96.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra Sri Awiwashilingam Rural Centre, Vivekanandapuram, Karamadai Block, Coimbatore-641113 Distt.	107.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dairy Farm, Vety, College, Mathura-281001
97.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, UPASI, Glenview, Coonoor-643101 Nilgiri Distt.	108.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dariapur Farm, P.O. Munsiganj, Distt. Rai Bareilly-229405
98.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gandhigram Rural Instt., Gandhigram, Dindigul Anna Distt.	109.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tharion Farm, Fatehpur, Distt. Fatehpur
99.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Talamalai Centre of MYRADA, Talawadi Block, Sathyamangalam Taluk, Periyar-638461 Distt.	110.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ranichauri, Distt. Tehri Garhwal-249199
100.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kilnelli Village, Vembakkam Block, Cheyyar Taluk, Thiruvannamalai, Samabubarayar Distt	111.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kamla Nehru Memorial Trust, Sultanpur-228118
		112.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jai-prabha Gram/Gopalgram, Deen Dayal Research Institute, P.O. Khargu Chandpur, Gandhi Park, Gonda-271001
Tripura		113.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Awagarh, Distt. Etah, (U.P.)
101.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Divyodaya, ICAR Complex for NEH Region, Dibanandapali, Chebri-799207, Khowai, Sub Division, West Tripura	114.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ganiwan, Distt. Banda (U.P.)
		115.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sohna, Distt. Sidharthnagar (U.P.)
Uttar Pradesh		West Bengal	
102.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra Crop Research Station, Behraich	116.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Brackishwater Experimental Fish Farm, P.O. Kakdwip-743347 Distt. South 24-Parganas
103.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ballai, P.O. Sohan, Ballai-277504		

1	2
117.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sri Ramkrishna Ashram, P.O. Nimpith Ashram, South 24-Parganas
118.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kaggari, Distt. Midnapore-721505
119.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P.O. Sonamukhi, Distt. Bankura-722207
120.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vivekanad Nagar, Distt. Purulia-723147
121.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Burdwan, HFC, Distt. Durgapur-713212 (W.B.)

Plastic Waste

549. DR. ASIM BALA :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the harmful effects on the environment due to dumping of the plastic waste;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Government to tighten the norms governing the import of plastic waste;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the steps proposed to be taken to ban the plastic and other such materials and encourage use of environment friendly materials like Jute ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Plastic waste collected in cities is normally dumped till such time it is finally traded for materials recycling. Such plastic waste dumps have no harmful effects on the environment.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Commerce, Director General of Foreign Trade has issued guidelines for import of plastic waste. According to the guidelines, import of plastic wastes/scrap (except PET bottle waste/scrap) shall be permitted only against a licence. The description/

definition of the plastic waste/scrap for this purpose would be :

- (i) Plastic scrap/waste constitute those fractions of plastics generated by various plastic processing operations or those fractions generated in the production process of plastics in a plant which have not been put to any use whatsoever and as such can be termed as virgin or new material which can be recycled into viable commercial products using standard plastic processing techniques but without involving any process of cleaning, whereby effluents are generated.
- (ii) Such virgin/new plastic scrap/waste shall be permitted for import in the following forms i.e. compressed, films in cut condition, cut tape soft waste, flakes, powers and pieces of irregular shape.
- (iii) Any other category of plastic scrap/wastes which are not covered by the description/definition as given in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above shall not ordinarily be permitted.
- (iv) The plastic scrap/wastes conforming to the description indicated paragraphs (i) and (ii) above would be permitted only to the actual users who have the required facility for recycling such scrap/waste and who are duly registered with the competent/ State/ Central authority and also possess clear pollution clearance certificate from the concerned State Pollution Control Board where the unit is located, as well as a capacity assessment certificate.
- (v) Before the clearance of the plastic waste/scrap, all imported consignments of such plastic scrap/waste shall be subjected to scrutiny and testing of samples. Customs authorities shall for this purpose draw a sample and send the same to the nearest laboratory/office of the Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET) with a view to having the same analysed and verified that such imported consignments are in conformity with the description/definition as given in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above.
- (vi) Import licences issued in accordance with this Public Notice shall be subject to actual User condition and any other such condition as may be imposed by the Special Licensing Committee.

(e) No, Sir. However, eco-friendly materials are encouraged for use.

[Translation]

Fertilizer Plants in Foreign Countries

550. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure incurred so far for the setting up of fertilizer plants in foreign countries during the last three years;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the name of the plants where the work has already commenced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) During the last three years, some of the public and cooperative fertilizer undertakings under the administrative control of Department of Fertilizers have considered various project ideas for establishment of joint ventures abroad. Of these, the joint venture nitrogenous fertilizer project promoted by Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. and Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited in Oman in association with Oman Oil Company has made significant progress. The two undertakings have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 9.21 crore till 31.12.1996 in connection with the preparation of a Detailed Feasibility Report and finalisation of various project agreements. The Committed expenditure on this account is Rs. 12.6 crore.

(c) None of these projects has reached the stage of implementation.

[English]

FCI Officers

551. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether some officers of the Food Corporation of India have been booked under the Anti-Corruption Act;

(b) if so, the details of each case; and

(c) the action taken against them so far ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) On the basis of investigation done by the District Police Authorities, Rohtak (Haryana), a case FIR 10 dated 6th January, 1997 against Senior Regional Manager, FCI

Haryana and other under section 420/109/199/200/120-B IPC, 7/10/55 EC Act and 3(1) (b) of prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 was registered at Police Station, Civil Lines, Rohtak, Haryana. The main allegation in the FIR is that wheat meant for open sale was allotted by Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana by taking bribe, to the traders and profiteers. The FIR names the then Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana and two other FCI Officials apart from the private parties. Exact quantity of wheat and amount involved would be known only after the investigation has been completed

(c) Two FCI officials and three others have been arrested. The FCI officials have also been placed under suspension. The services of the then Senior Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana have been repatriated to his parent cadre. Warrant of arrest against the then Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana, has been issued. The matter is under investigation by the State Police Authorities. The matter has, however, been taken up with CBI also for investigation.

[Translation]

System of Carrying Night Soil

552. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the system of carrying night soil on head is still in practice in some regions of the Maharashtra State; and

(b) the steps being taken to abolish this system completely in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Misuse of National Flag

553. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Flag of the country can be used for the commercial purpose and other activities; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken or propose to take any action against the commercial institutions using the National Flag as a 'Logo' ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Thermal Power Stations**

554. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Thermal Power Stations working in Delhi under D.E.S.U. and N.T.P.C. have since resorted to the use of washed coal;

(b) if so, the other Thermal Power Stations in the country to whom the directions have been issued by the Government for using only the washed coal in order to reduce the flyash menace; and

(c) whether the Government propose to issue directions to the concerned agencies for supplying only the washed coal to the Thermal Power Stations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The Central Pollution Control Board has issued directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to the three power plants in Delhi under DESU and NTPC to switch over to use of beneficiated coal and for utilization of ash for making bricks and other building materials.

(b) The Central Pollution Control Board has also issued directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to the following thermal power plants to prepare action plan for switching over to use of beneficiated/blended coal with lower ash content and to work out the ash management plan including utilisation of ash for gainful purposes;

- Durgapur Projects Ltd., Durgapur, I. Distt. Burdwan, West Bengal.
- Talcher Thermal Station, NTPC, Talcher, Distt. Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.
- Obra Thermal Power Station, U.P. State Electricity Board, Distt. Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh.
- Bandel Thermal Power Station, Triveni, Hooghly, West Bengal.
- Bokaro Thermal Power Station (Plant-A), DVS, Bokaro, Distt. Dhanbad, Bihar.
- Patratu Thermal Power Station, Bihar State Electricity Board, Patratu, Bihar.
- Korba Thermal Power Station, Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board (East), Korba, Madhya Pradesh.

- Hardwaganj Thermal Power Station, Kashimpur, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.

- Panki Thermal Power Station, Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board, Panki, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Presently, there is no such proposal in the Ministry of issue directions to the concerned agencies.

Consumer Courts and Fora

555. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Consumer Courts and Fora functioning at present, State-wise;

(b) whether despite the orders of the Supreme Court the consumer grievances redressal forums and courts have not been constituted in all the districts to various states including Delhi;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether in view of the inordinate delay in the disposal of the disputes due to less number of consumer Fora and Courts, the Government propose to open more such Courts and fora; and

(e) if so, the number of Courts and fora proposed to be set up and the time by which they are likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) As per the information received from the States/UTs, at present 31 State Commissions and 506 District Fora (excluding J & K) set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are functioning in the Country. In addition, one State Commission and two Divisional Fora set up under the Jammu & Kashmir Consumer Protection Act, 1987 are functioning in Jammu and Kashmir. State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides for setting up of Additional District Forum subject to the volume of work load. However, the responsibility of setting up of consumer courts rests with the State Governments/UT Administrations.

Statement

State/UT	Number of District Fora
Andhra Pradesh	23
Arunachal Pradesh	12
Assam	23
Bihar	55
Goa	2
Gujarat	20
Haryana	16
Himachal Pradesh	12
Jammu & Kashmir	2
Karnataka	20
Kerala	14
Madhya Pradesh	45
Maharashtra	31
Manipur	8
Meghalaya	7
Mizoram	3
Nagaland	7
Orissa	31
Punjab	13
Rajasthan	32
Sikkim	4
Tamil Nadu	24
Tripura	3
Uttar Pradesh	72
West Bengal	19
Andaman & Nicobar	2
Chandigarh	.
D & N Haveli	1
Daman & Diu	2
Delhi	2
Lakshadweep	1
Pondicherry	1
Total	508

Farm Exports

556. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the potential of the Andhra Pradesh remains grossly underutilised despite its being the second largest producer of fruits, vegetables and flowers in the country with about 11 lakh hectares under horticultural crops and a total production of 83.35 lakh tonnes.

(b) if so, whether the State's total export have risen from Rs. 1,724 crore in 1992-93 to Rs. 3,477 crore in 1994-95 and Rs. 5,172 crore this year and yet it is still only 5 per cent of the national export figure of Rs. 1,06,353 crore;

(c) if so, the main reasons for the same; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Andhra Pradesh has potential for horticulture development which is now being tapped gradually through investments from State and Central Governments.

(b) and (c) Statewise export figures of horticulture crops are not maintained. However, the exports of these crops is showing an average increase of over 25% annually for the country which is likely to improve further

(d) The Government is promoting a number of schemes in the State with the objective of improving production and quality of horticulture crops so that surplus could be generated for exports. Support is also being provided for developing infrastructure for post harvest handling and exports of these crops. In addition, fiscal incentive in form of relief on import duty, subsidy on freight, brand promotion etc. are also being extended.

Fencing of Border

557. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the scheme for fencing of the International Border with Pakistan in Jammu was finalised;

(b) the amount incurred on the scheme for its execution and the reasons for delay in executing the same, if any;

(c) the time schedule for completing the task alongwith the latest estimates of the expenditure; and

(d) the latest position of fencing the border in other areas, Statewise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Scheme for fencing/flood lighting of International Border in Jammu Sector was sanctioned on 28th March, 1995.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 17.72 crores was incurred but the work had to be stopped in July, 1995 due to heavy firing from Pakistan side.

(c) The matter regarding re-starting fencing work of International Border in Jammu sector is under active consideration of the Government but no time schedule has been finalised.

(d) On the Indo-Pak border, fencing/flood lighting has been taken up in Punjab and Rajasthan and the position is as under :

PUNJAB : In Punjab fencing/flood lighting work of 451 Kms./465 Kms. was started in May, 1988 and completed in November, 1993. The entire border except certain gaps which could not be taken up due to being riverine/low lying area, was fenced/flood lit.

RAJASTHAN : Out of total border of 1035 Kms. fencing/flood lighting has been completed in 720 Kms./739 Kms. Further fencing/flood lighting in 312.60 Kms. has also been sanctioned. It will be completed by 31st December, 1999 in three phases. The balance border with shifting sand dunes is also being fenced with a special type of fencing.

Shrimp Farming

558. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether restrictions have been imposed on shrimp farming along the coastal belt; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment delivered on 11.12.96 has imposed certain restrictions on shrimp farming along the coastal belt. The judgment inter alia states that :

(i) The Central Government shall constitute an authority under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and shall confer on the said authority all the powers necessary to protect the ecologically fragile coastal areas, sea shore, water front and other coastal areas and specially to deal with the situation created by the shrimp culture industry in the coastal States, Union Territories. The authority so constituted by the Central Government shall

implement 'the Precautionary Principle' and 'the Polluter Pays Principle'.

(ii) No shrimp culture pond can be constructed or set up within the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) except farms- practising traditional and improved traditional types of technologies in the coastal low lying areas. This shall be applicable to all seas, bays, estuaries, creeks, rivers and backwaters.

(iii) All aquaculture industries/shrimp culture industries/shrimp culture ponds operating/set up in the coastal regulation zone as defined under the CRZ Notification shall be demolished and removed from the said area before March 31, 1997.

(iv) No aquaculture industry/shrimp culture industry/shrimp culture ponds shall be constructed/set up within 1000 meter of Chilka Lake and Pulicat Lake (including Bird Sancturaries, namely, Yudurapattu and Nelapattu).

(v) Agricultural lands, salt pan lands, mangroves, wet lands, forest lands, land for village common purposes and land meant for public purposes, shall not be used/converted for construction of shrimp culture ponds

(vi) Aquaculture industry/shrimp culture industry/shrimp culture ponds other than traditional and improved traditional may be set up/constructed outside the Coastal Regulation Zone with prior approval of the 'authority'.

(vii) The authority, in consultation with expert bodies like National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Central Pollution Control Board, respective State Pollution Control Boards shall frame scheme/schemes for reversing the damage caused to the ecology and environment by pollutions in the coastal States/Union Territories.

Fishing Potential on Gujarat Coastal Areas

559. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI B.K. GADHVI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to update the techno-feasibility studies on potential landing sites for fish on the coast of Gujarat;

(b) if so, when the study was done;

(c) the names of potential fish landing sites that have been studied in the Gujarat State; and

(d) details of the economic potential of each such site ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d) The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery (CICEF), Bangalore had initially conducted studies during 1978-81 for identification of suitable sites for preparation of Master Plan for the development of fishing harbours and fish landing centres on the Indian Coast, including the coast of Gujarat. In August, 1996, the CICEF in collaboration with

the State Government of Gujarat, have again carried out pre-investment studies on probable fishing harbours and landing sites and short listed the following sites for carrying out detailed techno-economic studies including model studies, wherever necessary. As per pre-investment studies, the data on economic potential of the proposed fishing harbours and fish landing centres is summarised as follows :

Sites proposed for inclusion in the Master Plan	District	Number of vessels in operation	Annual landings (1994-95) (tonnes)	Value of landings (Rupees in lakhs)	Fishermen population	Active Fishermen	Fishing villages covered
<i>I. Fishery Harbours</i>							
1. Rupen	Jamnagar	1031	15700	1848.83	10000	7000	N.A.
2. Mangrol Bara	Junagadh	234	1631	192.07	1631	495	1
3. Dholai	Valsad	1500	5996	706.09	11996	4265	7
4. Umbergaon	Valsad	1000	10980	1293.00	16683	7441	9
<i>II. Fish Landing Centres</i>							
1. Madhavpur	Junagadh	450	1909	224.80	1792	595	1
2. Sutrapada	Junagadh	287	1553	182.88	2994	497	1
3. Dhamlej	Junagadh	450	1627	191.60	2080	643	1

Identification of Border Problem

560. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level official's Conference of the Union Government and Government of West Bengal was held recently during 1997 in Calcutta to discuss the problems arising out of the border fencing of the border districts of West Bengal and construction of the border roads;

(b) if so, the problems identified thereat; and

(c) the steps taken to resolve the problems discussed in the conference ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Problems in respect of land acquisition under Act I and problems of payment of final compensation of land acquired under Act II were identified and discussed.

(c) Action plan for finalising land acquisition under specific time frame has been worked out and the concerned authorities have been instructed to adhere to it.

Sea Turtles

561. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the nesting of a variety of sea turtles in Orissa coast is being disturbed by the projects of Defence Research and Development Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has established an Interim Test Range, at Chandipur in Bhadrak District of Orissa. The project has been cleared under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the following conditions/safeguards to ensure safety of sea turtles :

(i) No felling of trees will be done inside the

proposed area of diversion for any purpose other than survey and demarcation after obtaining prior permission of the local DFO.

(ii) No operation will be undertaken which will likely to disturb the migration and mass nesting of sea turtles i.e. between January to March every year.

(iii) The user agency will not, in any manner, cause disturbance to the Mangrove Ecosystem and wildlife habitat.

(iv) The islands where from diversion of land has been proposed will remain closed to outsiders excepting defence and forest personnels.

(v) The lights on the Outer-wheeler Islands during the period i.e. between January to March will have to be camouflaged in such a manner that it is not seen from Gahirmatha side, so as to present any disturbance to young turtle.

If these safeguards are properly followed the effect on the sea turtles will be minimal.

Subsidy on Sugar

562. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of subsidy given to FCI each month for the distribution of sugar;

(b) whether a large amount of subsidy is to be paid by the Government to FCI;

(c) whether the Government plan to clear the dues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) Subsidy is paid to FCI as per the claims which are not monthwise.

Subsidy Paid to FCI Date	Amount Released (in crores)
19.12.95	Rs. 100 cr.
20.3.96	Rs. 80.73 cr.
21.6.96	Rs. 155.62 cr.
21.6.96	Rs. 258.67 cr.
2.1.97	Rs. 81.46 cr.
18.2.97	Rs. 148.00 cr.
	Rs. 824.48 cr.

Surrender of Militants

563. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of militants who surrendered before the Indian forces;

(b) whether there is any scheme for their rehabilitation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being obtained from States/UTs and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Programmes for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes

564. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether special programmes have been planned in the Ninth Plan to mitigate the problems of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the society; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) **Scheduled Castes Development** :

No new programmes have been proposed in the Ninth Plan in respect of Scheduled Castes Development. However, the on-going programmes are being continued and will be strengthened. Wherever necessary, the schemes will be suitably re-structured.

Scheduled Tribes Development :

A special scheme has been proposed during the Ninth Plan for Socio-Economic Development of primitive Tribal Groups, numbering 7 tribes, in the country. The focus of this scheme will be both basic infrastructure development and for educational and economic development. Medical intervention is also an important aspect of the scheme. During 1997-98, an outlay of Rs. 2.00/- crores has been proposed. This new scheme is proposed to be introduced in addition to the on-going schemes.

Minorities Development :

No special programme has been planned for the weaker sections amongst minorities during the Ninth Plan period except for the on-going scheme of Pre-Examination Coaching Scheme for Weaker Sections based on economic criteria. While an amount of Rs. 18.20 crores has been proposed for the Ninth Plan, during 1997-98 a sum of Rs.

2.50 crore has been proposed for the scheme. Besides the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), an apex Corporation, has been established in 1994 to promote economic and developmental activities for backward sections amongst minorities. An outlay of Rs. 175.00 crore has been proposed for the Ninth Plan, Rs. 40.00 crore has been proposed for 1997-98.

Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995

565. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 does not cover several disabilities that exist in India and which require attention of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the N.G.Os. dealing with the disabled in the country have submitted a memorandum to Government for implementation of the Act into to;

(d) if not, the grievances of the Non-Governmental Organisations in this regard; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (e) Representations have been received from Organisations representing different areas of disability, suggesting certain amendments in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995

The suggestions include incorporating more measures welfare, as well as for inclusion of additional disabilities. As the Act has been brought on the Statute Book only recently, it is premature to consider any amendments to its existing provisions at this stage.

[Translation]

Price of Urea

566. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :
SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the price of urea; and

(b) if so, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND

DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has become necessary to reduce the imbalance in the application of NPK nutrients.

[English]

Open Market Sale of Wheat

567. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the traders of Delhi to whom the FCI had allotted wheat for free-sale in the open market and for atta during April to December, 1996 indicating the quantity and rate of wheat allotted to them;

(b) the details of the irregularities noticed in the allotment of wheat for free sale and sale of atta; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the traders found involved in the irregularities ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Non-Forest Activities in Forest Areas

568. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the consequences of the interim order issued by the Supreme Court recently directing the State Government to stop all non-forest activities including mining in forest areas—leading to closure of a number of small scale industrial units and mines etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) The matter is sub-judice as it is still being heard in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Exclusion of Income Tax Payers From P.D.S.

569. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has announced the new

PDS Scheme;

- (b) if so, the details of the scheme;
- (c) whether the people living above poverty line including income tax payers are being totally excluded from the purview of the new PDS;
- (d) if so, whether any State has opposed this scheme;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to streamline the Public Distribution System (PDS) with focus on the poor. Details of the scheme are as under :

(i) All families living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) shall be provided with 10 kgs. of foodgrains per month per family at about half the Central Issue Price.

(ii) Identification of population below poverty line shall be taken up by State Government/UT Administrations on the basis of provisional estimates of below poverty line population worked out by the Planning Commission for 1993-94 adopting the methodology of the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Late Prof. Lakdawala.

(iii) The average lifting of foodgrains for the last 10 years by the States is proposed to be confined for the benefit of the population Above the Poverty Line, at present getting the benefit of the P.D.S. The quantity of foodgrains and of this average lifting which is in excess of the requirement for the population Below Poverty Line is proposed to be allocated to States as a transitory allocation at the Central Issue Price.

(iv) The State Governments/UT Administrations will have to ensure fool-proof identification of poor, delivery of foodgrains to Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for distribution to the poor in a transparent and accurate manner.

(v) Specially subsidised foodgrains will be issued also to all beneficiaries under the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)/Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) at the rate of one kg. per man day.

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

[Translation]

Use of Hindi

570. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to

state :

(a) whether the modern gadgets such as computer, telex, teleprinting etc. installed in the Ministry in Roman Script are being converted into bilingual ones;

(b) if so, the manner in which these bilingual gadgets would be put into use by the Ministry;

(c) the manner in which the use of Hindi will be promoted;

(d) whether the Ministry has given exemption for use of Hindi to their offices located in Region 'A' where work has to be done cent percent in Hindi; and

(e) if so, the reasons for giving such an exemption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The mother board of various computers, electronic typewriters etc. are supplied with bilingual keys. Several software packages, both bilingual and in Hindi exclusively, are also available, thus increasing working in Hindi.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

[English]

Smuggling of Arms, Explosives and Narcotics

571. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidence of trafficking in arms, explosives and narcotics along the Pakistani borders and Western Coast have increased recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to deal with the problem and strengthen the vigilance on the western coast during the last one year;

(d) whether the problem has been discussed with the neighbouring countries; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The smuggling of arms and narcotics has shown a decreasing trend across the Indo-Pak border whereas smuggling of explosives has increased as in 1996, 111 kgs. of RDX was seized compared to 30 kgs. in 1995. On Western Coast also, though one boat with some arms was seized but there are no reports of increasing trend.

(c) Following steps have been taken to strengthen the Indo-Pak border and western coast :

(i) Additional Bns have been sanctioned under expansion plan to reduce the gaps between the BOPs.

(ii) Patrolling/Nakas have been increase/intensified.

(iii) Border patrolling have been intensified by providing jeeps and motor cycles.

(iv) Mounted patrolling on horse, camels and tractors is being done.

(v) OP Towers have been erected.

(vi) Binoculars, goggles, twin telescopes, PNV binoculars and hand held search lights have been provided for enhanced vigilance on the border.

(vii) Border fencing and flood lighting has been done/ Being done.

(viii) Boats/Motor Boats have been provided for patrolling riverine/creek area.

(ix) Border roads/tracks are being constructed/ developed for vehicular patrolling.

(x) Coastal security has been/is being strengthened by Ministry of Defence.

(d) and (e) The issues regarding smuggling of arms, explosives and narcotics are being taken up at diplomatic level by Ministry of External Affairs and are discussed during various bilateral meetings convened by Ministry of Finance, Narcotics Control Bureau and Border Security Force.

[Translation]

Press Mud and Spent Wash

572. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the 'press mud and spent wash' of the sugar mills can be used for producing gas with a little technical change which in turn can be used for the generation of electricity;

(b) if so, whether this technique has been used by any sugar mill; and

(c) if so, the results achieved there-from ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the information available from the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) and the All India Distillers' Association (AIDA), the Press Mud and Spent Wash can be used for generating bio-gas which can

be utilized for producing steam/electricity. According to MNES, they had sponsored R & D projects for setting up of pilot plants for producing bio-gas from Press Mud at M/s Ugar Sugar Works Ltd. Ugarkhurd, Distt. Belgaum (Karnataka) and M/s Vasantdada Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Distt. Sangli (Maharashtra).

As regards use of Spent Wash, according to AIDA, a large number of distilleries are engaged in the production of bio-gas by anaerobic digestion of this distillery waste. The bio-gas in turn is used for domestic purposes and as a fuel in boilers for generation of steam/electricity.

[English]

Administrative Set-up of BSF in West Bengal

573. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to streamline the present administrative set-up of the Border Security Force on the Indo-Bangladesh border in West Bengal to prevent large-scale smuggling of different types of Indian goods across the border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Border Security Force has been entrusted with the responsibility of Indo-Bangladesh Border Management including West Bengal. The performance of the Force is reviewed from time to time and necessary measures are taken to streamline its functioning. These measures include augmentation of man power, setting up of border out-posts, intensive patrolling, night vigil and Nakas etc

Kerala State Scheduled Tribes Land Amendment Bill, 1996

574. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to New-item captioned "VHP appeals to President to return Kerala Bill" appearing in the "Hindu", dated February 1, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present position in regard to Kerala State Scheduled Tribes Land Amendment Bill, 1996 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The Governor of Kerala has reserved the Kerala

Scheduled Tribes (Restriction on Transfer of Lands and Restoration of Alienated Lands) Amendment Bill, 1996 for the consideration and assent of the President. The Bill has been examined in consultation with concerned Ministries, who have sought clarifications on the Bill from the Government of Kerala. The State Government have furnished their clarifications only in the last week. Presently, the Kerala Scheduled Tribes (Restriction on transfer of Lands and Restoration of Alienated Lands) Amendment Bill, 1996, is being examined by the concerned central Ministries in the light of clarifications furnished by the State Government of Kerala.

[Translation]

Incidents of Extremists

575. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of incidents of terrorist and caste conflicts occurred in Assam, Andhra Pradesh and in the North-Eastern states during the last one year;

(b) the number of persons forced to migrate from the states;

(c) the number of police stations blown up by the extremists, State-wise;

(d) the number of civilian/security forces personnel killed in those incidents, State-wise;

(e) the details of compensation/assistance provided to the dependants of the officials killed in the said incidents; and

(f) the effective steps taken by the Government to control the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected.

[English]

Functioning of FCI

576. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to revamp the functioning of the Food Corporation of India with a view to make the Public Distribution System in the country more effective and efficient;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) With a view to making the functioning, including PDS of Food Corporation of India more effective and efficient, FCI has recently set up 8 more sub-regional offices. For the present there is no further proposal under consideration of Government to revamp the functioning of FCI.

Task Force for Project Tiger

577. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a special task force for the Project Tiger in the country;

(b) if so, the main objectives of the constitution of such task force;

(c) the extent to which the Central Government propose to bear the expenditure of such task force; and

(d) the details of the programme in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has proposed to set up a 'Special Strike Force' during IX Plan in the tiger reserve areas in order to provide necessary manpower and equipment to combat the problem of tiger poaching and other illegal activities in these areas.

(c) and (d) The Central Government proposes to bear 100% expenditure on salaries and allowances of the personnel of this force for first five years; thereafter the expenditure would be shared on 50 : 50 basis between the Central and State Governments concerned. The expenditure on equipment will entirely be borne by the Central Government.

Floods/Cyclone in Andhra Pradesh

578. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received full report in regard to the damage caused by floods/cyclone in Andhra Pradesh during October-November 1996;

(b) if so, the details of damages and the assistance

recommended by the Central team which visited the affected area;

(c) the details of assistance sought by the State Government and amount sanctioned by the Union Government to compensate the affected persons of the State till date;

(d) whether the full sanctioned amount has been released;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the full assistance is likely to be released to State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to the reports received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, cyclones, heavy rains and floods during October and November, 1996 affected a population of 1.71 crores, claimed 1412 human lives and damaged 7.46 lakh houses and crops in an area of 15.49 lakh ha. in the State. The State Government had submitted two memoranda seeking additional assistance of Rs. 2693.00 crores from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for relief and rehabilitation measures in the affected areas. Central teams visited the affected areas and after considering these reports the National Calamity Relief Committee approved an assistance of Rs. 142.00 crores from the NFCR, which was released to the State Government on 1st January, 1997. This was in addition to Rs. 93.14 crores released as Central share of Calamity Relief Fund during 1996-97 and Rs. 63.00 crores sanctioned for rehabilitation in the coconut and cashewnut sector.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Public Distribution System

579. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether functioning of the Public Distribution System in rural areas and its effectiveness have touched rock bottom in most of the States except southern part of the country;

(b) whether only 5.2% of the house-holds of Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are drawing from the PDS while it is 82% and 78% in Tamil Nadu and Kerala respectively;

(c) if so, whether food security for the poor has remained ineffective despite the high level of foodgrains production and large stocks lying with the FCI;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures contemplated by the Government to make Public Distribution System effective ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. Central Government makes available certain essential commodities to States and UTs, whereas the operational responsibility of implementing the PDS including distribution in rural and urban areas is of the State Governments/UT Administrations. There is considerable variation in the reach of PDS among different States in the rural areas.

PDS is universal in nature. The strengthening and streamlining of the operations under PDS is a continuous process. Matters relating to improving the PDS are emphasised and discussed with State Governments/UT Administrations in various fora like regional meetings, conferences, etc. Central Government also monitors the progress in various States/UTs through periodical reports on selected items.

Government of India has now taken a decision to streamline the PDS with focus on the poor, under which 10 kgs. of foodgrains per month per family at about half the Central Issue Price (CIP) will be provided to all families living below poverty line. State Governments/UT Administrations have been asked to ensure necessary arrangements for fool-proof identification of poor, delivery of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for distribution in a transparent and accurate manner.

State Governments/UT Administrations have also been directed to implement the system of monitoring and reporting on the working of PDS together with constitution of Vigilance Committees at Fair Price Shops, District and State levels.

[Translation]

Additions to OBCs List

580. SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the department of Social Welfare of the Gujarat Government has sent proposals to the Centre regarding enlargement of common list of Other Backward Classes in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received during the said period till date with year-wise break-up;

(c) the number of proposals out of them accepted, rejected and pending so far year-wise; and

(d) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be considered ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal for inclusion of castes/sub-castes/communities in the Central list of Backward Classes was forwarded in 1995-96 by the Social Welfare Department of Gujarat Government, This proposal has a list of 63 castes as per the statement enclosed.

(c) The Government of India has already Notified Pakhali Caste for inclusion in the Central list for OBCs in respect of the State of Gujarat, on December 11, 1995. Other cases will be taken up when requests are received from individuals/associations/organisations as required under Section 9(1) of National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.

(d) As soon as the requests are received for inclusion in the Central list of Backward Classes in respect of the State of Gujarat from the individuals/associations/organisations, the pending proposals will be taken up for necessary action.

Statement

Statement showing list of Castes/Sub-Castes/Communities proposed by the Govt. of Gujarat for inclusion in the Central list of Backward Classes.

Sl. No.	Caste/Class/Group
1	2
1.	Arab
2.	Bhand
3.	Burud
4.	Chakrawadya Dasar
5.	Chaudhari (where they are not S.T.)
6.	Chamtha
7.	Dakaleru
8.	Depalu
9.	Ghantia
10.	Ghancha
11.	Galkada
12.	Gavli
13.	Hati
14.	Tachak

1	2
15.	Kalhodia
16.	Kotwal
17.	Kumbhar (Biyar, Kadra Patel, Lathiya, Potmakar, Prajapati, Variya, Varia)
18.	Kharak
19.	Khavas
20.	Karadiya-Nadoda, Bhathi Rajput
21.	Khasiya
22.	Mistri Gujar, Mistri Rathod, Mistri Suthar
23.	Munda
24.	Madhaviya
25.	Mali
26.	Malya
27.	Palwadia
28.	Padhariya
29.	Pakhall
30.	Sangreda
31.	Shingday or Shingadya
32.	Sochi
33.	Sumra
34.	Sagar
35.	Sathwara
36.	Thakur (Non-Rajput)
37.	Timali
38.	Tarak
39.	Vajir
40.	Yadav
41.	Kabari, Baria Motabhai, Chosla, Janapada (where they are not S.T.)
42.	Luhariya
43.	Ghanchi
44.	Teli, Modh Ghanchi
45.	Hingera (Hindu)
46.	Jilaya
47.	Taria-Tai
48.	Koli-Malhar, Koli Mahadev or Dongar Koli (where they are not S.T.)

1	2
49.	Miana, Miyana (Hindu)
50.	Mansari (Muslim)
51.	Charalia, Charmta, Luni, Kushar, Tank, Muchhal, Kadiya, Kumbhar (where they are not S.T.)
52.	Padat, Ravar, Rawalia
53.	Sandhi (Hindu)
54.	Palanwadia
55.	Jogi Vadi
56.	Vale (Hindu)
57.	Vanjara, Charan Banjara, Mathura Banjara, Maru Banjara, Bhagore Banjara, Kangasiya Banjara, Bamaniya Banjara, Ladiniya/Banjara, Gavaria or Gawalia, Rohidas Banjara
58.	Vaghri-Gamicho, Vedva Churalia, Jakhudia (where they are not S.T.)
59.	Wadwa Waghari
60.	Gadhari
61.	Ganudi
62.	Bhat
63.	Jachak

Closure of Industrial Units in Delhi

581. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any meeting was organised under his chairmanship with the representatives of Delhi Government in November, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether he had accorded approval for the constitution of a high level committee to suggest the steps to be taken to protect the interests of the workers employed in the industrial units which are likely to be shut down in compliance to the verdict given by the Supreme Court;

(d) if so, whether this committee has since been constituted;

(e) if so, the details about the chairman and the members of this committee;

(f) the details of recommendations/suggestions made by this committee so far; and

(g) the action being taken by the Government over them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (g) The requisite information is given in the attached statement.

Statement

The Union Home Minister held a high level meeting on 22.11.96 to review the measures being taken for relocation of specified industries consequent upon the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. It was in the said meeting decided, inter alia, to constitute an informal core group of senior officers under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to recommend a suitable action plan for ensuring that interest of workers was safeguarded.

2. The recommendations of the Core Group were reviewed in a subsequent meeting held on 26.11.96 as a result of which a statement on the issues involved was made on behalf of the Ministry of Labour in both the Houses of Parliament on 28.11.96 and an application was filed on behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs on 29.11.96 in the Supreme Court of India. The Apex Court passed order on 4.12.96, the main features of which are as under :

(a) The industrial units which fail to relocate and simply close down their operations will pay six years' wages to their workmen as compensation as against one year's wages ordered earlier. This would be in addition to the compensation payable under Industrial Disputes Act;

(b) The industries which fail to re-locate and simply close down will be entitled to land use of the existing premises at par with what has been ordered in respect of industries which re-locate (that is, in both cases the owners can retain maximum of 32% of the land for their use). As per the earlier judgment, the industries which simply close down were entitled to 100% of the land;

(c) In case of closure, the workmen availing of any residential facility provided to them by the industrial units would continue to be extended the same facility for a period of 1 years or till such time owner pays a compensation of Rs. 20,000/- to the workman; and

(d) The industries which re-locate will allow their workmen to continue the occupation of the present residential accommodation till such time as alternative accommodation is provided to them at the re-located site.

[English]

Coastal Zone Management Plan

582. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce any modification in the Coastal Zone Management Plan as requested by the Government of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) An Expert Committee has been constituted to examine the representation of Government of Kerala regarding implementation of provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification. The Ministry would take a decision upon receipt of the report of the Expert Committee.

[Translation]

Sale of Agricultural Inputs

583. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a central cell to check the sale of substandard agricultural inputs to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Standard specifications for various fertilisers to regulate quality have been specified under Fertiliser Control Orders '85, (FCO '85) issued under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (ECA '55). Fertilisers conforming to prescribed standards are only allowed to be sold to the farmers. Enforcement of the FCO '85 has been entrusted to State Governments. Fertiliser Inspectors have been appointed by Central and State Governments to draw samples of fertilisers and get analysed in the fertiliser quality control laboratories set up by Central and State Governments. State Governments are empowered to take legal action against offenders as per provisions of the FCO '85/ECA '55.

As regards seeds, the Seeds Act, 1966 and Seed (Control) Order, 1983 are having sufficient provisions to check the supply of substandard seeds to the farmers. Implementation of Seeds Act and Seed (Control) Order, 1983 is vested with the State Governments and UTs for which Seed Inspectors are notified by the State Governments.

For monitoring the quality of pesticides, the Central Government prescribes various parameters while granting registration under the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the rules framed thereunder. The States/UTs have notified four important functionaries viz. Licencing Officer, Appellate Authority, Insecticides Analysis and Insecticides Inspectors for implementing the various provisions of the Act. The notified Insecticides Inspectors draw samples from the manufacturing units and distribution/sale points and get them analysed in the Pesticides Testing Laboratories by the notified Insecticides Analysts.

National Minorities Finance Corporation

584. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allotted to National Minorities Finance Corporation (NMFC) by the Government till date.

(b) the details of the amount given to each State by the NMFC;

(c) the State-wise details of the amount distributed out of this by the Minorities Corporation of the respective States;

(d) whether Government are aware that the loan procedure of the Corporation for the selection of beneficiaries has given pay to corruption; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent the same ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Out of the Rs. 500 Crores authorised Equity Share Capital of the Corporation, of which 25% and 75% comprises of the Share Capital contribution by the Centre and States respectively. The following amount has been subscribed by the Central and the State Governments :

	(Rs. in crores)
I. Govt. of India	107.00
II. Govt. of Uttar Pradesh	7.00
Govt. of Bihar	5.00
Govt. of Andhra Pradesh	1.00
Govt. of Karnataka	1.00
Govt. of Kerala	1.00
Govt. of Himachal Pradesh	0.06
	15.06

Rs. 18.00 crore of Central Government share out of Rs. 125.00 crore for VIII Plan, is being released shortly.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) The selection of beneficiaries is done by the respective State Channelising Agencies through the district administration. The cases relating to any irregularity in beneficiary identification is looked into by the State Channelising Agency. So far no specific information evincing the fact that there has been irregularities on account of procedural inadequacy has been brought to the knowledge of the Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

The state-wise details of amount given to States by the Corporation and State-wise details of amount distributed by the Minority Corporation of States/ State Channelising Agencies.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Allocation made by National Minorities dev. and Fin. Corpn.	Amount disbursed by State Minority Corpns./ Channelising Agencies
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	151.14	135.15
2.	Assam	75.29	—
3.	Bihar	1017.45	—
4.	Chandigarh	20.40	—
5.	Gujarat	604.40	—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	26.91	—
7.	Haryana	190.08	93.45
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	508.08	112.84
9.	Kerala	962.05	449.69
10.	Karnataka	724.09	277.09
11.	Meghalaya	5.82	—
12.	Maharashtra	950.83	582.95
13.	Manipur	65.04	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	695.87	136.30

1	2	3	4
15.	Mizoram	47.00	7.86
16.	Punjab	796.92	313.88
17.	Tamil Nadu	620.75	464.00
18.	Tripura	10.90	2563.43
19.	Uttar Pradesh	5127.62	—
20.	West Bengal	931.77	—
Total		13532.41	5136.44

[English]

Restrictions on Import of Foodgrains

585. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry had decided to resist any move by the Government to commit the country for removing the quantitative restrictions on the import of foodgrains at World Trade negotiations;

(b) whether being a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), India is under obligation to convert all quantitative restrictions on imports into tariffs;

(c) if so, the manner in which it is proposed to oppose WTO pressure;

(d) whether the impact of PEPSI experience on agriculture and employment has also been studied; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURNAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) entered into force on a provisional basis in January, 1948 as the only multi-lateral instrument laying down agreed rules for international trade. India was a founding member of the GATT with formal membership dating from 1948. After successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multi-lateral Trade Negotiations in December, 1993 the WTO came into being w.e.f. 1st January, 1995 and India is an original member of the WTO.

One of the basic disciplines incorporated in GATT 1947 and carried forward to GATT 1994 pertains to quantitative restrictions (QRs). Article XI of GATT prohibits use of QRs since the basic philosophy of GATT is that import is to be controlled through tariffs only. There are, however, a number of exceptions to the stipulations against

QRs provided for in Article XI. Article XVIII B covers developing countries. Article XVIII B is designed to take into account the interests of members whose economies can only support low standards of living and are in the early stages of development. A member taking recourse to Article XVIII B is required to have periodic consultations with the Committee on BOP Restrictions.

India, in recent years, has had consultations with the Committee on BOP Restrictions in 1994 (simplified consultations) and in 1995 (full consultations). During the 1995 consultations India had been asked to present a firm time-table for the phasing out of restrictions as the general feeling was that due to the improved foreign exchange position, India can no longer take recourse to BOP cover.

India has recently notified all the QRs maintained by it to the WTO Secretariat in fulfilment of its earlier obligations. The lifting of QRs has been cited in the 8th Plan document also and is in consonance with and in keeping with our own objectives of liberalisation keeping the likely impact on the domestic industry as well as on the agriculture sector. The whole issue is under examination.

(c) Since India is maintaining QRs for BOP purposes, the consultations in this regard with WTO are likely to be held shortly.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

Clearance to Holiday Resort

586. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a Holiday resort is being constructed at Morkal in the Nagarahole National Park in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the clearance has been obtained from the Central Government for its construction;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) No such proposal has been received so far in this Ministry for environment clearance.

Smuggling of Girls to Jedah

587. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have seen reports regarding 'sale' of wives, through touts or otherwise, in Murshidabad district for being taken to Jedah;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Facts are being ascertained. The matter has been taken up with the State Government.

[Translation]

Purchase of Sugarcane

588. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for the purchase of Sugarcane by the Mills in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Jaunpur and Bhadohi districts;

(b) the quantity of cane purchased upto January, 1997 through various purchasing centres as against the targets fixed therefor;

(c) the reasons for low purchasing of cane as compared to the prescribed targets; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target prescribed for the purchase of cane and the facilities being provided to the farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Ban on Use of Pesticides

589. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether banned toxic pesticides like ENDOSULFAN is freely available in India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this pesticide is being marketed in India under as many as 48 brand names;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to ban its use ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The use of Endosulfan is not banned in India and therefore, it is freely available.

(c) and (d) Since there is no ban on use of Endosulfan, therefore, it is freely marketed in India under different brand names.

(e) Reviewing the use of pesticides is a continuous process. The Government had constituted an Export Committee in 1989 to review the use of 14 pesticides including Endosulfan. After review it was decided to continue its use.

Sealing of Assam Border

590. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to seal the international border adjoining Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the progress made so far in erection of the barbed wire fencing on the border of Assam facing Bangladesh; and

(e) the time by which the barbed wire fencing is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) A project to construct border roads and fence along sensitive stretches of Indo-Bangladesh border has been taken up with a view to preventing infiltration of foreign nationals and to curb trans-border crimes. This includes construction of 192 kms. of roads and 158 kms. of fence in the Indo-Bangladesh border adjoining Assam.

2. 116.59 kms. of border roads and 125.54 kms. of fence has been constructed upto 31.12.96. The work is likely to be completed by the end of 1998.

Depletion of Mandarin Oranges

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

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that Mandarin Oranges in Sikkim and Darjiling hills are under depletion owing to a disease;

(b) whether the ICAR Unit located in Sikkim has done any research on this disease;

(c) whether the Government have received any

request for rejuvenation of depleted orange orchards of Sikkim;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has suggested a package of practices for rejuvenating declined mandar in orchards to minimise the incidence.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, Government of India is providing assistance for rejuvenation of old orchards which includes citrus under the scheme on integrated development of temperate, tropical and arid zone fruits. So far, Rs. 44.17 lakh has been released during VIIIth Plan to Sikkim under the Scheme.

Floriculture Centre in Andhra Pradesh

592. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to sanction a model floriculture centre at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction;

(c) the number of sanctions issued for foreign collaboration for floriculture during 1996-97; and

(d) the time by which model floriculture centre is likely to be sanctioned in Hyderabad ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) The Government of India has sanctioned a model floriculture centre for Andhra Pradesh in March, 1996 and also released Rs. 40 lakhs out of a total cost of Rs. 52.50 lakhs for the centre. Location of the centre in the state is to be decided by the State Government.

(c) Eighteen (18) sanctions for foreign collaborations for floriculture have been issued during the period from 1st April, 1996 to 15th February 1997.

Illegal Funds from Foreign Countries

593. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of specific cases where flow of illegal funds from the foreign countries to certain organisation has taken place during the last three years;

(b) if so, the action taken against the recipients; and

(c) the preventive measures taken by the Government to check the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) There have been instances where organisation, which are required to obtain registration/prior permission under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 before accepting any foreign contribution, have obtained such contribution without such registration/prior permission. Appropriate action under the law is taken against such organisations.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions to all Banks in the country to ensure that foreign contribution is not credited to the account of any organisation unless it has obtained registration/prior permission under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976.

Artificial Pearls

594. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the locations for production of artificial pearls in India;

(b) the quantity of artificial pearls produced in the country during the last three years;

(c) the quantity of artificial pearls imported during the last three years; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government to promote production of the artificial pearls ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The locations for experimental production of artificial pearls in India are :

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Gujarat | – Sikka and Okha, |
| Kerala | – Calicut, Kochi and Vizhinjam, |
| Tamil Nadu | – Tuticorin, Mandapam Camp and Chennai, |
| Andhra Pradesh | – Kakinada, Visakhapatnam, |
| Lakshadweep | Group of Islands, |

Andaman and Nicobar Islands,

Orissa Kausalyagang.

(b) The quantity of artificial pearls produced experimentally with success during the last three years is approximately 5 kg.

(c) According to information provided by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, the artificial pearls worth Rs. 6925.39 lakhs were imported during the period 1992-93 to 1994-95.

(d) The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) have transferred the technology and knowhow for pearl culture through demonstration, training, education and extension, education programmes to the State Departments of Fisheries, Public Sector Undertaking and Private entrepreneurs.

Expansion of Aquaculture

595. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government for the supply of quality seed, food, other inputs as erection of adequate infrastructure for storage, transportation, marketing and credit etc. for the expansion of aquaculture in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : The Government provide first year inputs such as seed, feed, fertilisers, manures, etc. to the beneficiaries for taking up freshwater and brackishwater aquaculture under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) and brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAs). These agencies provide a package of technical, financial and extension support to farmers for fish/prawn farming. The Central Government also provides assistance to State Governments for setting up of infrastructural facilities such as, cold storages, ice plants, transportation, etc. for fish marketing.

Refugees from Bangladesh

596. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of refugees from Bangladesh living in different parts of the country for three years together;

(b) the agreement reached with Bangladesh following the recent visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister/Foreign Minister to New Delhi with regard to deportation of Chakma and other refugees from Bangladesh; and

(c) The progress made so far in implementation of the agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Nearly fifty thousand refugees from Bangladesh are being maintained in Tripura since 1986.

(b) and (c) A high level delegation of Bangladesh is expected to visit Tripura soon to persuade these refugees to return to their country.

Stock of Wheat

597. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

SHRI SUKHLAL KUSHWAHA :

SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the stock position of wheat at the end of July and October each year from 1994 to 1996 and at the end of December, 1996;

(b) the issue price of wheat per quintal in the said years; and

(c) the market price of wheat from July to December, 1995 and in the same period in 1996, month-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Stock position of wheat during 1994 to 1996 is as under :

(in lakh tonnes)

1994		1995		1996		
As on	As on	As on	As on	As on	As on	As on
1.8.94	1.11.94	1.8.95	1.11.95	1.8.96	1.11.96	1.1.97
169.7	149.8	185.6	159.3	129.5	95.4	69.0

Figures are provisional.

(b) The Central Issue Price of wheat has been Rs. 402/- per quintal for PDS effective from 1.2.1994, which is still in force.

(c) A statement giving the requisite information is enclosed.

State

Whole sale prices of

		WHEAT							
		03/07	10/07	17/07	24/07	31/07	07/08	14/08	21/08
Delhi	1996	495	512	505	525	535	535	535	562
	1995	400	410	412	405	413	415	430	430
Hisar	1996	400	402	402	460	460	450	460	480
	1995		361	361	361	361	380	380	400
Karnal	1996	450	440	440	585	480	480	480	500
	1995		360	370	370	370	370	380	380
Amritsar	1996	440	475	475	475	475	475	475	475
	1995	370	370	360	360	360	360	360	350
Ludhiana	1996	435	436	436	439	439	439	439	439
	1995	362	362	360	366	366	360	360	350
Kanpur	1996		525	510	510	520	520	525	535
	1995	385	385						
Lucknow	1996		460	480	480	500	500	500	500
	1995	375	375						
Ahmedabad	1996	720	650	650	650	650	650	750	750
	1995	540	540	560	530	575	545	550	550
Bhopal	1996	550	525	525	550	550	550	550	550
	1995	400	400	420	420	380	430	420	430
Bombay	1996		625	625	625	625	625	615	711
	1995		611	611	611	611	611	611	611
Nagpur	1996		580	580	580	580	675	675	675
	1995		480	370	480		480	500	500
Jaipur	1996	510		510	520	520	520	520	520
	1995	360	360	360	370	385	400	400	400
Patna	1996	625					600	600	600
	1995				450	440		440	
Bhubaneshwar	1996								
	1995								
Agartala	1996		705	705	811	811	811	811	811
	1995							660	
Calcutta	1996								
	1995								
Hyderabad	1996	680	690	690	690	690	670	710	650
	1995								
Bangalore	1996				940	850	850	850	850
	1995	650	620	640	620	640	620	640	640
Trivandrum	1996								
	1995								
Madras	1996		803	803	823	823	833	843	843
	1995	641		652	652	641		652	652

Whole sale prices of

		WHEAT							
		13/10	23/10	30/10	06/11	13/11	20/11	27/11	04/12
Delhi	1996	625	625	625	620	620	670	710	730
	1995	415	415	415	415	430	430	435	440
Hisar	1996	590	590	520	520	520	540	500	650
	1995	380	380	380	375	375	377	377	377
Karnal	1996	520	520	610	600	615	630	630	695
	1995	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
Amritsar	1996				600		625		610
	1995	400	400	400	400	408	404	419	420
Ludhiana	1996				575		580		610
	1995	400	400	400	400	415	415	413	415
Kanpur	1996	600	600	600	610	670	610	650	
	1995				420		425		432
Lucknow	1996	570	570	570	580	655	640	610	
	1995				410		400		430
Ahmedabad	1996						840		
	1995	580	580	580	580	590	600	600	590
Bhopal	1996	550	550	600	600	625	700	800	800
	1995	410	410	410	420	430	435	410	410
Bombay	1996			711	711	711	711	711	711
	1995	611	611	611	611	611	611	625	625
Nagpur	1996			725	725	725	725	815	815
	1995	575	575	540	520	530	530	500	500
Jaipur	1996	550	550	550	550	600	570	690	670
	1995	400	400	425	425	425	425	425	425
Patna	1996	725	725	775	785	750	750	750	750
	1995								
Bhubaneswar	1996								
	1995								
Agartala	1996			800	800		800	800	880
	1995						680		
Calcutta	1996								
	1995								
Hyderabad	1996			800	980	780	780	780	850
	1995	650	650	650	650	640	670	670	670
Bangalore	1996					1000	900	1000	1000
	1995	660	660	660		720	720	700	
Trivandrum	1996								
	1995								
Madras	1996	924	924	995	995				1005
	1995	702	702	702	702	702			732

Source : Ministry of Civil Supplies.

wheat during 1995 and 1996

(Rs. per quintal)

WHEAT								
11/12	18/12	25/12	01/01	08/01	15/01	22/01	29/01	05/02
660	645	670	665	600	635	615	655	625
442	430	425	420	430	450	443	443	425
650		610	610	610	600	600	580	580
377	377	380	425	387	387	388	388	388
705	625	650	650	650	615	615	615	615
400	400	400	387	425	425	430	430	430
	690			700	650	690	690	690
420	420	420	420	420	406	414	414	417
	640			640	625	600	600	600
415	415	415	415	415	411	405	405	405
675	825	680	680	675	675	720	720	710
432	432	440	432	440	445			445
625	670	625	625	625	635	645	645	660
430	430	425	430	450	415			410
	900			900	900	750	750	
590	625	600	630	650	650	660	660	660
775	700		750	750	770	775	650	715
	465	450	450	450	450	485	485	440
711		711	711	711	741	1051	1051	1051
625	625	625						
815		825	825	875	875	838	838	838
530				585	560			530
	690	700		675	675			680
425	415	415	415		415	425	425	450
750	750							800
575								550
	865	1000		872	872	872	872	890
850	850	795	795	1000	795	795	980	980
670	670	680	680	700	675	670	670	
1140	920	1050	990	890	990	1120	1140	
700	720	720	720	700	700			750
1000		924	1066	1106			1207	
742	742		742	742	753	783	783	763

[Translation]

Impact of Fertilizers on Agricultural Production

598. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research has conducted any study regarding adverse affect of the chemical fertilizers on agriculture production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ICAR has suggested any remedial measures in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to constitute an advisory body for the conservation of soil, underground water and environment; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) ICAR is conducting location specific fertilizer experiments to workout package of practices for optimum and balanced use of plant nutrients. Adoption of these practices do not have any adverse effect on crop performance and soil health.

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

(e) and (f) The advise in this regard is being provided by State Agricultural Universities to State Departments of Agriculture.

[English]

Swarna Mussorie Paddy

599. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the basis for determing 67-68 per cent rice recovery from paddy in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the names of States from where Swarna Mussorie Paddy is being procured at a superior quality paddy support price;

(c) whether this paddy is likely to be procured under the superior quality in Madhya Pradesh also; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The Government of India has fixed the out turn ratio of 67% for milling of paddy into raw rice and 68% for parboiled rice applicable to all groups of paddy in all States including the State of Madhya Pradesh uniformly from the Kharif Marketing Season 1995-96 on the basis of trial milling experiments conducted in various States and recommendation of Export Committee appointed for the purpose.

(b) to (d) The procurement of paddy/rice under Minimum Support Price (MSP) is made in accordance with the Group/classification of paddy rice based on the length/breadth ratio since Marketing season 1979-80, as per the recommendation of the Balasubramaniam Committee. Accordingly, paddy/rice varieties are classified in superfine, fine and common group.

The 'Swarna Mussorie' variety has been classified by Government of India for the State of Madhya Pradesh as 'COMMON' and, for the State of Orissa as 'FINE', based on the length/breadth ratio and is paid for accordingly. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh is paying Rs. 15/- per quintal as bonus over and above the price fixed for common group of paddy. The procurement agencies including FCI have been instructed to procure the paddy/rice strictly in accordance with the single grade specification of paddy/rice issued by the Government of India for the Kharif Marketing season 1996-97 for Central Pool under the MSP.

Smuggling of Arms

600. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rajasthan is a safe and favourite stop over for drug traffickers and terrorists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the mafia operating in several districts of Rajasthan are closely linked with the terrorists and drug smugglers across the border in Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to curb such activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) As per reports available, no organised Mafia has been noticed in Rajasthan. Following steps have, however, been taken to curb activities of *individual traffickers* operating in border areas of Rajasthan :

(i) Patrolling/Nakas by BSF and State Police have been increased/intensified.

- (ii) OP towers by BSF have been erected.
 - (iii) Binoculars, Goggles, Twin, telescopes, PNV binoculars and hand held search lights have been provided to Patrolling parties for enhanced vigilance on the border.
 - (iv) Jeeps, tractors and camels have been provided for intensified patrolling on the border.
 - (v) Border fencing and flood lighting has been done/ is being done at a fast pace.
 - (vi) Border road/tracks are being constructed/developed for vehicular patrolling.
 - (vii) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil along the border areas.
 - (viii) Training is being imparted to officers to improve effectiveness.
 - (ix) Reward schemes for informers and enforcement officers are being implemented.
 - (x) Quarterly coordination meetings are being held which are attended by all enforcement agencies involved in curbing drug trafficking, under a bilateral agreement with Pakistan periodic meetings are taking place at Secretary and D.G. Level.
- In addition, contact points have been designated by the two countries for direct operation communication.

Research Contract with USA

601. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Wild Life Institute of India, Dehradun has signed a research contract with the United States Department of Agriculture;
- (b) if so, the date of its signing and the details of the contract;
- (c) the rationale behind signing this contract and the likely benefits to be accrued therefrom to India;
- (d) whether the Government have examined the impact of such contract to the extent of its affecting India's invaluable bio-diversity being patented and used in the United States; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Director, Wild Life Institute of India (WII) Dehradun, had signed an agreement with the

United States Department of Agriculture on 24th November 1995. The agreement contained 17 clauses of general provisions applicable to Foreign Agricultural Research Grants. The signing of agreement was required to indicate the acceptance of a grant of Rs. 96,90,000 to WII for the research project entitled, "Management of Forests in India for Biological Diversity and Forest Productivity—an Eco-system Perspective". The main objective of the project is to evaluate the impacts of forestry practices and the use of forest products by people, the methods of harvesting and collection on forest diversity and documentation of conservation problems.

(d) and (e) The United States Department of Agriculture have conveyed that the kind of product expected out of this Project, guides and planning documents, would not be subject to licences or patents and, therefore, Patent and Licence Rights Clause does not apply to the agreement.

Official Secret Act, 1923

602. DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI RAM SAGAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission has made a recommendation to the effect that the citizens should have a right to information and the work of the Government should not be shrouded in mystery and the Official Secrets Act;
- (b) whether British rules, the framers of the Act have already amended this Act in 1989 making way for a more open Government;
- (c) whether Government of India also propose to amend the Official Secrets Act;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Supreme Court had taken any view on the writ petition filed against the Union Government challenging among other things Section 5 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923; and
- (f) if not, the action taken by the Government to expedite the matter in the Supreme Court ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The Fifth Pay Commission have recommended the passing of a Right to information Act with built-in safeguards to ensure the privacy of national interests as also the privacy of the individual citizen.

(b) The Official Secrets Act of U.K. has been

amended in 1989 restricting its scope.

(c) and (d) A Working Group has been set up by the Government to examine the possibility of introducing a legislation on Right to Information at the levels of Central and State Government as well as consideration of amendment to various relevant legislations including the Official Secrets Act.

(e) and (f) In the Supreme Court a writ petition has been filed by one Dr. George Mathew challenging among other things Section 5 of the Official Secrets Act. The writ petition is pending in the Supreme Court.

Illegal Mining of Limestone

603. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court had imposed a ban on the illegal mining of limestone in the foothills of Mussoorie;

(b) if so, whether illegal mining of limestone in the foothills of Mussoorie along the Sone river is still continuing unabatedly; and

(c) if so, the action the Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

[Translation]

PDS Quota to Uttar Pradesh

604. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether wheat, rice, sugar, edible oil and kerosene, are not being supplied in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh as per the demand;

(b) if so, the reasons for not meeting the demand of these areas;

(c) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh have requested to increase the quota of these items; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The allocation of Public Distribution System

(PDS) items are made for the State as a whole and distribution amongst various regions/districts, including rural areas, is done by the State Government itself and the Central Government have no role to play in it.

(c) and (d) The Government of Uttar Pradesh have not demanded any increase in the monthly PDS quota of rice and edible oil (imported palmolein). Demand for fixation of monthly wheat quota at 1,09,205 MT as against 1,03,800 MT allotted for March, 1997 has been received. The allocation of foodgrains are made on month to month basis taking into consideration *interalia* the demand received from various states/UTs, their relative needs, offtake trend, stock position in the Central Pool, seasonal availability etc.

Request received from Government of Uttar Pradesh for increase in the monthly levy sugar quota of the State could not be acceded to, despite improvement in the level of production during 1994-95 and 1995-96 sugar seasons, because availability of levy sugar in the country has yet to attain stability.

Requests were received from State of Uttar Pradesh for additional allocation of Kerosene. However, on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it is not possible to meet the demand in full. Nevertheless, a 3% increase was given in the allocation for the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 over the previous years for the country as a whole. The allocation to the State of Uttar Pradesh for 1997-98 has been increased by 50,015 MTs over the last year representing a 4.4% increase over 1996-97.

[English]

Illicit Liquor Trade

605. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Wining and Dining under Watchful Eyes of Police" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated December, 12, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard to the involvement of the police personnel in this thriving illegal liquor trade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The Government have seen the news item in question which appeared in the "Hindustan Times" in its issue of December 26, 1996. It has been alleged in the report that the illicit trade in liquor is being carried out at some places in Delhi (Majnu ka tila and Yamuna Pusta) with the

connivance of police personnel.

(c) The Delhi Police conduct raids as and when reports of illicit trade in liquor are received. During the years 1996 and 1997 (upto 31st January, 1997), 43 cases were registered and 44 persons were arrested from Majnu Ka tila. Similarly, 58 cases were registered and 60 persons were arrested from Yamuna Pusta during the same period. If any police official is found to be involved in such illicit trade, appropriate action against him is taken. During 1996, departmental inquiry was initiated against three police personnel alleged to be involved in such illicit trade.

Observation Homes

606. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of inmates of the two observation Homes in Delhi escaped recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of the inmates escaped from the observation homes in 1995 and 1996;

(d) whether any inquiry into the circumstances leading to their fleeing from the homes has been conducted by the Government

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes.

(b) (i) On 6.1.97, 19 inmates escaped from Observation Home for Boys-I, Delhi Gate, out of these, 11 were brought back into the Home.

(ii) On 26.1.97, 88 inmates escaped from Observation Home for Boys-II, Magazine Road, out of these 54 inmates have been brought back into the Home.

(c)	1995	1996
DHB-I	4	24
DHB-II	100	5

(d) Magistral inquiry was ordered by the Govt. of Delhi in the 1st case and a Departmental inquiry was ordered in the 11nd case.

(e) In both the cases of escape in the year 1997 the inquiries revealed a prima-facie negligence on the part

of the security staff. The reports have suggested various measures to upgrade security in these Homes.

(f) One official from observation Home for Boys-I Delhi Gate and 5 officials from Observation Home for Boys-II, Magazine Road were placed under suspension. Various steps have been taken to upgrade the security in these Institutions.

Pollution in Cities

607. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the precise permissible limits of various air pollutants such as carbon monoxide, suspended particulate matters, particulate lead, sulphuric acid etc. in metropolitan cities of the country;

(b) the extent to which these pollutants exceed the permissible limits,

(c) the precise permissible limit of the noise pollution in these cities and the extent to which it exceeds the permissible limits;

(d) the extent to which the climate change is responsible for causing the cardiac disorder;

(e) the extent to which the recommendation made in the Agenda 21 at Rio Summit have so far been implemented in the country in this regard;

(f) the ill effects of exceeding limits of the pollutants and noise pollution on human health; and

(g) the details of cooperation sought/received from the foreign/international agency to deal with the problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The National Ambient Air Quality Standards for various air pollutants such as carbon monoxide, suspended particulate matter, particulate lead etc. is given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) Monitoring of air quality levels in ten metropolitan cities indicate that the levels of suspended particulate matter (SPM) encountered in Delhi, Calcutta and Mumbai exceed the prescribed limit but the levels of sulphur-dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are within the permissible limits.

(c) The ambient quality standards in respect of noise level is given in Statement-II. The noise pollution studies

in major towns/cities in India indicate that noise levels generally exceed the standards in commercial, residential and silence zones during day time.

(d) Available studies do not indicate any clear cause and effect relationship between climate change and probable health effects including cardiac disorder.

(e) The recommendation made in this regard in the Agenda 21 at the Rio Summit are being implemented in the country. As an outcome of Agenda 21 framework, a Convention on Climate Change has come into effect to address the issues on pollution.

(f) The link between occurrence of health ailments and pollution has not been conclusively established.

Studies indicate that health effects such as respiratory disorder, cardiac vascular and neuro-behavioral effects, impairment of liver and kidney functions are associated with a number of factors such as cigarette smoking, increase in concentration of pollutants and allergens in the atmosphere, poor socio-economic conditions and heredity

(g) Cooperation has been received from various bilateral and multi-lateral agencies/countries, such as World Bank, World Health Organisation, Denmark, Germany, Norway and Japan for pollution control and prevention programmes. The country has entered into several Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement with various countries in which control of pollution is an important component.

Statement-I

National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	Time-Weighted Average	Concentration*** in Ambient Air		
		Industrial Area	Residential, Rural & Other Areas	Sensitive Area
Sulphur Dioxide (SO ₂)	Annual Average*	80	60	15
	24 Hours**	120	80	30
Oxides of Nitrogen as NO ₂	Annual Average*	80	60	15
	24 Hours**	120	80	30
Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM)	Annual Average*	360	140	70
	24 Hours**	500	200	100
Respirable Particulate Matter (Size less than 10µm)	Annual Average*	120	60	50
	24 Hours**	150	100	75
Lead	Annual Average*	1.0	0.75	0.50
	24 Hours**	1.5	1.00	0.75
Carbon Monoxide	8 Hours**	5.0	2.0	1.0
	1 Hour	10.0	4.0	2.0

Note :

* Annual Arithmetic mean of minimum 104 measurements in a year taken twice a week 24 hourly at uniform interval.

** 24 hourly/8 hourly values shall be met 98% of the time in a year .2% of the time, it may exceed but not on two consecutive days.

*** All values are in microgrammes per cubic metre except for carbon monoxide, which is in milligrammes per cubic metre.

Statement-II*Ambient Air Quality Standards in
Respect of Noise*

Category	Limits in dB (A) Leq	
	Daytime	Night Time
Industrial Area	75	70
Commercial Area	65	55
Residential Area	55	45
Silence Zone	50	40

Note : 1 Day time is reckoned in between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m.

2. Night Time is reckoned in between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

3. Silence Zone is defined as areas upto 100 metres around such premises as hospitals, educational institutions and Courts. The silence zones are to be declared by the Competent Authority.

4. Mixed categories of areas should be declared as one of the four above-mentioned categories by the competent authority and the corresponding standards shall apply.

**Atta Allotted to Super Bazar and
Kendriya Bhandar**

608. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of wheat allotted to Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar between June, 1996 to January, 1997 and the quantity of Atta sold by them, month-wise;

(b) whether the Supper Bazar sold less quantity of Atta @ Rs. 64/- per bag of 10 kg. between 7-27 December, 1996 than the Kendriya Bhandar; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) A statement indicating the allotment of wheat made by Food Corporation of India to Super Bazar, Delhi and Kendriya Bhandar, Delhi to be sold as Atta and the quantity of Atta sold by these two organisations between June, 1996 and January, 1997 is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) During the period 7-27 December, 1996 the Super Bazar has sold 1,11,510 number of 10 kg. bags (i.e. 1115.10 MTs) of Atta whereas the Kendriya Bhandar has sold 1,38,683 number of bags (i.e. 1386.83 MTs) during the corresponding period.

Super Bazar has since been requested to increase the sale of Atta by engaging more mills for conversion of wheat into Atta.

Statement

Statement indicating the allotment of Wheat made by FCI to Super Bazar, Delhi and Kendriya Bhandar to be sold as Atta and the quantity sold during June, '96 to January '97

(in MTs.)

Name of the month	Allotment of Wheat made		Quantity of Atta sold	
	Super Bazar	Kendriya Bhandar	Super Bazar	Kendriya Bhandar
June '96	NIL	NIL	NIL	329.99
July '96	200	NIL	180	311.45
Aug '96	1000	1000	900	421.30
Sept '96	500	400	450	625.54
Oct '96	1000	1200	900	440.90
Nov '96	1000	2000	900	797.52
Dec '96	2000 3000(Addl.)	5000	2655	1991.76
Jan '97	5000	5000	2988	3697.00

N.B : During June '96 and July '96, Kendriya Bhandar was selling Atta after procuring Wheat from open market.

Indian Council of Veterinary Reserch

609. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Indian Council of Veterinary Research; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Government have received proposals from Members of Parliament, Chief Minister of National Capital Territory of Delhi and others for setting up of Indian Council of Veterinary Research.

(b) The proposal is under active consideration of the

Government.

[*Translation*]

Wholesale and Retail Prices of Essential Commodities

610. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the difference between the present wholesale and retail prices per kilogram of essential commodities in the metropolitan cities;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued in regard to maximum difference permissible between wholesale and retail prices of the essential commodities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the method by which the Government monitor the prices of essential commodities particularly retail prices so as to safeguard interests of the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) A Statement showing the wholesale and retail prices of selected essential items as on 5.2.1997 at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras is given in the Statement.

(b) and (c) There are no guidelines in regard to maximum difference permissible between wholesale and retail prices.

(d) Based on the data received from the State Governments, the Central Government monitors on a daily basis the retail prices of 12 essential commodities at selected centres in the country and takes appropriate measures to safeguard the interests of the consumers.

Statement

Wholesale and Retail Prices of Selected Essential Commodities in the Metropolitan Cities as on 5.2.1997.

(Rs. per kg.)

	Delhi		Bombay		Calcutta		Madras	
	Wholesale	Retail	Wholesale	Retail	Wholesale	Retail	Wholesale	Retail
Rice	7.50	12.00	8.75	10.00	7.80	8.00	8.64	11.00
Wheat	6.25	8.00	10.51	12.50	N.R.	N.R.	12.07	13.00
Gram	12.50	16.50	16.51	20.00	13.80	16.00	14.76	17.00
Tur	17.00	28.00	30.00	34.00	20.00	28.00	25.89	30.00
Sugar	11.60	14.50	12.40	14.00	12.60	14.00	12.53	13.00
Groundnut Oil	38.00	50.00	34.00	42.00	44.00	54.00	32.44	39.00
Mustard Oil	32.00	38.00	42.00	44.00	33.00	36.00	N.R.	N.R.
Vanaspati	37.66	38.00	36.00	44.00	39.33	45.00	33.78	41.00

Prices are originally reported per quintal and have been converted to Rs. per kg.

Source : Civil Supplies Department.

Son of Soil Welfare Scheme

611. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 'Soil' Welfare scheme has been

launched in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) Information is being

collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Soyabean Processing Industry

612. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Soyabean processing industry is facing a serious crisis;

(b) whether the demand of Indian soyabean oil-cake is decreasing in the international market; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The production of Soyabean during 1995-96 was 49.9 lakh tonnes against the target of 43.0 lakh tonnes while during 1996-97 it is likely to be 51.1 lakh tonnes against the target of 50.0 lakh tonnes. Therefore, production is more than its target during last two years. However, due to excess processing capacity the processing industry is facing shortage of soyabean for processing.

(b) and (c) Based on the information published by Solvent Extractors Association, export of soyabean meal over the year is as follows :

Year	Export in lakh tonnes
1991-92	13.17
1992-93	21.78
1993-94	21.90
1994-95	15.60
1995-96	25.60 (Provisional)

It is apparent that the export of soyabean meal has been increasing during last five years except during 1994-95 when it declined because of the poor crop of soyabean in the country due to unfavourable weather conditions.

[English]

Atrocities on Dalits

613. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India are aware that atrocities on dalits are going up all over the country during

this year;

(b) if so, the total number of cases registered in this connection in various States for the same;

(c) whether the Government of India will issue directions to State Governments in take immediate action in such cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SING RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 provides for stringent penalties for various kinds of atrocities committed on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by persons belonging to other communities. Rules notified under the Act in 1995 provide a systematic framework and procedures for various measures to deal with atrocities. Central Assistance released to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to support measures undertaken by them for effective implementation of the Act has been enhanced from Rs. 9.75 crores in 1994-95 to Rs. 15.37 crores in 1995-96. These measures include, inter-alia, strengthening of the administrative and enforcement machinery and setting up of Special Courts. The position is reviewed from time to time with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, recently during the conference of State Ministers and Secretaries concerned with SC and ST Welfare held in February, 1996.

Fake Passports and Visas

614. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Greek shipwreck tragedy has brought into light a racket operating in fake passports and visas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of foreign nationals apprehended in Delhi during the last one year in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Waste Disposal by Hospitals

615. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been made by the

Government into the problem of waste disposal by the hospitals;

(b) if so, the findings and remedial measures suggested in the regard;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for disposal, recycling, replacing and resale of the imperishable hospital waste;

(d) whether any aid has been sought by the State of Kerala or any other States from the Central Government for introducing scientific methods of the waste disposal;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount allocated to each State to introduce safe methods of disposal of the hospital wastes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Government have notified the draft Bio-Medical Wastes (Management and Bandling) Rules, 1995 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 soliciting suggestions from the public.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Question does not arise.

Freedom Fighters Pension

616. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of freedom fighters applications for the grant of pension pending with the Government as on date, state-wise; and

(b) the time by which all the pending applications are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) All timely applications for grant of Freedom Fighters pension have been considered at least once and appropriate decisions communicated to the applicants. Aggrieved with the decision of the Government regarding rejection of claims, the applicants keep on sending review petitions/representations. If the applicants furnish some additional acceptable documentary evidance along with such review petitions/representations such cases are reconsidered. However, as on 10.2.1997, only 52 fresh applications received recently from the following States/ Union territory Administration were pending with the Government for disposal :

Andhra Pradesh	12
Haryana	1
Jammu & Kashmir	6
Karnataka	3
Maharashtra	4
Madhya Pradesh	2
Rajasthan	2
Uttar Pradesh	21
Delhi	1
Total	<u>52</u>

While every possible effort is made to communicate the decision to the applicants on their claims in the shortest possible time, receipt and disposal of claims for pension being a continuous process, no definite time-frame can be laid down for disposal of claims for pension.

Recommendations of Law Commission

617. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Law Commission in its report has interalia suggested incorporation of new Section in Cr. P. C. for providing funds to compensate and rehabilitate victims or their dependents, creation of independent prosecuting agency, separate investigating agency to facilitate the expeditious investigation and trials;

(b) whether the said recommendations have been accepted; and

(c) the further action being taken or proposed to be taken in the matter and the time by which ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is receiving attention of the Government.

Loan and Subsidy to Super Bazar

618. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loan and subsidy received by the Super Bazar in each of the last three years;

(b) the purpose therefor and the manner in which the subsidy and loans were utilised;

(c) the reasons for poor performance of the Super Bazar; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the affairs of the Super Bazar ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The details of loan and subsidy provided to Super Bazar, Delhi during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi, financial assistance received during 1993-94 has been fully utilised by them. Out of release of Rs. 12 lakhs made during 1994-95, only an amount of Rs. 8.67 lakhs have been utilised by them while the assistance released during 1995-96 is yet to be utilised by the Super Bazar, Delhi.

(c) and (d) The Super Bazar, Delhi is an autonomous co-operative society having its own Board of Directors to manage its affairs. The sales of the Super Bazar, Delhi has been steadily going up during the last five years and it is in profit.

Statement

Purpose	(Rs. in lakhs)		
	Loan	Subsidy	Total
1993-94			
Renovation of 26 branches	2.00	3.20	5.20
Installation of two Generator sets	4.50	0.80	5.30
Purchase of Delivery Van	1.50	-	1.50
	8.00	4.00	12.00
1994-95			
For computerisation of Accounts/other areas	4.00	2.50	6.5
Renovation/modification	4.00	1.50	5.50
	8.00	4.00	12.00
1995-96			
For opening of 10 branches	2.50	2.00	4.50
Renovation/modification of 10 branches	4.00	1.00	5.00
Computerisation/installation of cash Registrex Machines	9.50	5.00	14.50
	16.00	8.00	24.00

Demand and Supply of Essential Commodities

619. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the gap between demand and supply of essential commodities like edible oil, wheat, rice and sugar in the country; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to fill up this gap ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) There is no gap between demand and supply of commodities like rice and sugar in the country. There was a decline in wheat production during 1996-97 to the tune of about 3 million tonnes. The gap between demand and supply of edible oils for 1996-97 is estimated around 9 lakh tonnes.

(b) In order to meet the decline in the production of wheat, action has been initiated to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat. To meet the requirements of edible oil, imports are allowed under Open General Licence and through State Trading Corporation for distribution through the Public Distribution System.

[Translation]

Investment in Fertilizer Industry

620. SHRI SOHANBEER : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any long term policy in order to make the Fertilizer Industry profitable and favourable for investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Industrialists are not interested in making investment in the fertilizer industry because of the wrong policy of the Government; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to the change their policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) A High Powered Fertilizer Pricing Policy Review Committee have been constituted on 28.1.97 to review the existing system of subsidization of urea and suggest a rational, broad based, scientific and transparent methodology. The Committee is required to submit its report within 6 months. The terms of reference of the Committee include review of the adequacy or otherwise of incentives to the fertilizer industry and issues relating to reasonableness of

return on network, norms of capacity utilization, depreciation, etc.

(c) Considering the constraints of the availability of fertilizer raw materials and feedstocks, the rate of investment in the fertilizer sector is not unsatisfactory. There has been a significant effort of capacity addition over the last few years and a number of investment initiatives is on the anvil.

(d) The issue of amelioration of the investment climate for the fertilizer industry has been referred to the High Powered Fertilizer Pricing Policy Review Committee.

[English]

Border Area Development Project

621. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to allocate more funds for the border roads and border area development projects for the district of Nadia and other districts of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Lump-sum grants are given annually to the State Government by the Planning Commission. The schemes undertaken in the various border blocks are decided by a Screening Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the concerned State.

[Translation]

Declaration of Himachal as Tribal Region

622. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any demand to declare Himachal Pradesh as the Tribal Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No Sir, there is no demand to declare Himachal Pradesh as the Tribal Region.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Funds to Orissa for Drought

623. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not yet provided the additional financial assistance to Orissa to mitigate the acute drought conditions there;

(b) whether the Central Government have also not taken any decision with regard to the State Government's demand of Rs. 371 crore to launch intensive work in the brought hit areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) amounting to Rs. 36.76 crores for 1996-97 has already been released to the Government of Orissa. The State Government have submitted a Memorandum seeking additional assistance of Rs. 577.70 crores from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of drought conditions, including Rs. 371.00 crores for Employment Generation Programmes. On the basis of the report of a Central Team which visited the State to assess the situation, the National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) considered the request of the State Government for additional assistance. The NCRC has sought certain clarifications from the State Government about the requirements of additional Employment Generation in the drought affected areas. In the meantime, an amount of Rs. 13.00 crores has been released to the State Government from the NFCR, in addition to Rs. 106.34 crores as the second instalment of funds under the Employment Generation Programmes.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Rice Procurement in Andhara Pradesh

624. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has been able to procure its target of rice, raw rice and boiled rice from the Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the total rice of the three different qualities procured by the Food Corporation of India so far;

(c) if so, whether it has been reported that despite the FCI agents, the farmers have been directly selling paddy to millers;

(d) if so, whether the FCI had opened a number of additional purchase centres in the East and West of Godavari but have not been able to reach out to the villages; and

(e) if so, the main reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The procurement of paddy under price support scheme is voluntary in nature for the farmers. Similarly, the collection of rice under levy scheme also depends on the purchase of paddy made by the millers. Hence, no targets as such are fixed for procurement of rice in any States including Andhra Pradesh.

Variety-wise rice procured by FCI for Central Pool in Andhra Pradesh in the current marketing season (upto 31.1.1997) is as under :

(in lakh tonnes)

	Common	Fine	Superfine	Total
Raw Rice	0.23	13.54	1.03	14.80
Boiled Rice	0.01	2.01	0.64	2.66*
Total :	0.24	15.55	1.67	17.46

(*—includes 0.80 lakh tonnes procured under relaxed specifications.)

(c) to (e) The prevailing market price of paddy in Andhra Pradesh is higher than the MSP of paddy fixed by the Government. The farmers therefor find it more profitable to sell paddy in open market than to FCI and State Government at minimum support price.

Number of purchase centres and their locations are determined in consultation with State Government. FCI opened following centres in the current Kharif Season in East and West Godavari Districts in Andhra Pradesh :

Distt.	No. of Centres Opened		
	Existing Centres	Additional Centres	Total
East Godavari	6	25	31
West Godavari	7	30	37

TADA Cases

625. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of live TADA cases, as on December 31, 1996 State-wise;

(b) the number of TADA Courts set up to try these cases as on December 31, 1996, State-wise;

(c) the number of accused in those cases as on

December 31, 1996, State-wise:

(d) the number of those released on bail as on December 31, 1996;

(e) the number of those under detention as on 31.12.1996;

(f) the date of last review made in respect of TADA cases, State-wise; and

(g) the date of last review made by the Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) A statement-I is enclosed.

(d) As per available information 20037 persons have been released on bail.

(e) As per available information 1737 persons are under detention as per statement-II.

(f) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the table of the House.

(g) The last review under taken by the Central Government was on 27.8.96.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of live cases [Part (a)]	No. of TADA Courts [Part (b)]	No. of accused in live cases [Part (c)]
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh@	294	61	1845
2.	Arunachal Pradesh+	14	12	57
3.	Assam%	2107	1	9886
4.	Bihar\$	4	35	91
5.	Gujarat\$	77	18	912
6.	Goa+	1	1	3
7.	Haryana&	103	12	219
8.	Himachal Pradesh%	1	3	8
9.	Jammu & Kashmir*	5154	2	6837
10.	Karnataka#	19	20	224
11.	Manipur\$	579	4	2251
12.	Madhya Pradesh+	28	10	453
13.	Maharashtra	238	8	1146

1	2	3	4	5
14. Meghalaya+		8	1	20
15. Punjab%		1393	18	2634
16. Rajasthan%		52	1	198
17. Tamil Nadu%		20	5	282
18. Uttar Pradesh#		54	15	119
19. West Bengal%		1	1	8
20. Chandigarh Admn.+		7	2	17
21. NCT Delhi+		404	3	518
Total		10558	233	27728
*Jan. 96	@Jun.96	\$Oct. 96		
+Sep. 96	%Oct. 96	#Nov. 96		
&Dec. 96				

Statement-II

S.No.	Name of State/UTs	No. of TADA detenues (in Jail)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	71
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	1
3.	Assam+	59
4.	Bihar*	21
5.	Goa*	Nil
6.	Gujarat*	188
7.	Haryana+	16
8.	Himachal Pradesh*	Nil
9.	Jammu & Kashmir*	482
10.	Karnataka+	54
11.	Madhya Pradesh+	11
12.	Manipur+	11
13.	Maharashtra*	272
14.	Meghalaya*	Nil
15.	Punjab*	211
16.	Rajasthan*	65
17.	Tamil Nadu+	55
18.	Uttar Pradesh*	57
19.	West Bengal*	6

1	2	3
20.	Chandigarh Admn.*	3
21.	NCT Delhi+	154
Total		1737
Apr. 96	+Nov. 96	

[Translation]

Coconut Development Board

626. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the works started and the achievements made there-under by the Coconut Development Board during the years 1993 to 1996;

(b) the assistance being given by the Government to provide irrigation facilities to the coconut growers;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating any scheme with a view to boost the production of coconut in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The major programmes implemented by the Coconut Development Board and the achievements made thereunder during 1993 to 1996 are given below :

(1) Production and distribution of quality planting material

(i) Established Demonstration-cum-Seed Production Farms in Kerala (40 ha.) and Andhra Pradesh (40 ha.).

(ii) Coconut nurseries attached to Demonstration-cum-Seed Production Farms produced 7 lakh seedlings.

(iii) 15 lakh TXD hybrid seedlings produced and distributed.

(iv) Procured and supplied 28 lakh quality seedlings to States and other agencies especially in non-traditional areas.

(2) Area Expansion

Covered nearly an area of 39500 ha. under fresh coconut planting in all coconut growing States/UTs.

(3) Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement

Covered an area of 1.04 lakh ha. under integrated farming for cutting and removal of disease affected/senile

palms, replanting with quality seedlings, adoption of fertiliser and plant protection measures and multispecies cropping system.

(4) Integrated control of leaf eating caterpillar

Multiplied and liberated 23 million parasites through biological laboratories in Orissa and Karnataka for control of serious pest viz., leaf eating caterpillar.

(5) Technology development centre

The research studies sponsored by the Board has resulted in developing technologies for coconut products like coconut cream, coconut water vinegar, skim milk powder, tender coconut water. These technologies are being commercialised. 172 copra dryers installed, 20 cooperative societies were given financial assistance for developing infrastructure facilities like copra yards, godowns, kilns etc. 40 units of Elaneer Pandals were assisted in Kerala for popularising consumption of tender coconut water.

(6) Publicity and Extension activities

The major thrust was given on popularising the use of coconut oil by dispelling the misconception that coconut oil consumption is harmful, creating awareness on various coconut products and by-products, scientific method of coconut cultivation, especially in non-traditional areas. As a result of the campaign the consumption of coconut oil for edible purpose increased by 200% during the last 3-4 years.

(7) A new office complex has been completed for housing the Headquarters of the Board functioning at Kochi, Kerala.

The Coconut Development Board has spent Rs. 52.73 crores for carrying out the above mentioned developmental activities during 1992-93 to 1995-96.

(b) For installation of drip irrigation system, Government of India is providing subsidy @ 90% of the cost of drip system or Rs. 25,000/- per ha. to SC and ST farmers, small and marginal farmers and women farmers in the current year. For other farmers the subsidy provided is @ 70% of the cost of drip system or Rs. 25,000/- per ha.

(c) and (d) The programmes being implemented by the Coconut Development Board during VIII Plan for increasing production and productivity of coconut in the country are :

- (i) Expansion of area under coconut.
- (ii) Production and distribution of quality planting material.
- (iii) Integrated farming in coconut holdings for

productivity improvement.

(iv) Integrated control of leaf eating caterpillar.

These programmes are likely to continue during the 9th Plan.

[English]

Indo-Israel Agreement

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

(a) whether the Government have entered into joint collaboration with Isreal for the development of agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details of the joint collaboration set up between both the countries ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) An Agreement was signed between India and Israel on 24.12.93 for cooperation in the field of Agriculture. The areas of cooperation include water and soil management, arid and semi-arid crop production, fruit and vegetable production, plant and animal sciences, veterinary science, farm mechanisation technology and agricultural research etc.

In addition, a Memorandum of Intent was signed between India and Israel on 30th December, 1996 for establishing a demonstration farm unit at the Indain Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, with the aim of developing viable technological packages and technology transfer for the small farmers and private sector.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Review by the Government of the working of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(1)(i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General therein.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1364/97]

(3) A copy the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 908(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1996 under sub-section (3) of section 73 of the person with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1365/97]

Economic Survey-1995-96

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 'Economic Survey-1995-96' (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1366/97]

Statement explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the State Farms Corporation of India, New Delhi

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the annual report and Audited Accounts of the State Farms Corporation of India, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1367/97]

(2) A copy of the Fertiliser Control (Amendment)

Order, 1997 (Hindi and English versions), published in Notification No. S.O. 57(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 1997 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1368/97]

Review by the Govt. of the Working of the Karnataka Meat and Poultry Marketing Corpn. Ltd., Bangalore for the year 1995-96 and Annual Report and Audited Accounts etc.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUBANS PRASAD SINGH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following paper (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Meat and Poultry Marketing Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Meat and Poultry Marketing Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1369/97]

Notification of the Border Security Force Sub-Inspector General Duty (Group C Posts) Recruitment Rules, 1994 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 141 of the Border Security Force Act, 1968 :

(i) The Border Security Force Sub-Inspector General Duty (Group 'C' Posts) Recruitment Rules, 1994 published in Notification No.

G.S.R. 25 in Gazette of India Dated the 3rd February, 1995.

- (ii) The Border Security Force Sub-Inspector General Duty (Group 'C' Posts) Amendment Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 192 in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1996.
- (iii) The Border Security Force (Printing Press Group 'C' Posts) Recruitment Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 270 in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 1996.
- (iv) The Border Security Force (Seniority, Promotion and Superannuation of Officers) (Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 269 in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 1996.
- (v) The Border Security Force (Seniority, Promotion and Superannuation of Officers) (Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 347 in Gazette of India dated the 24th August, 1996.
- (2) Four statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1370/97]

12.01 hrs.

[English]

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tenth Report

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, I Beg to present the Tenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Sir, there is no provision for introducing the Women Reservation Bill in this 10th report.

{English}

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, I support her.

12.1½ hrs.

[English]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Fifty-third, Fifty-fourth and Fifty-fifth Reports

PROF. I.G. SANADI (Dharwad-South) : Sir, I, beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following reports of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development :

1. Fifty-third Report on the functioning of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur;
2. Fifty-fourth Report on the functioning of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore; and
3. Fifty-fifth Report on the functioning of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore.

12.1¼ hrs.

[English]

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

Committee on Estimates

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1988".

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1988".

The motion was adopted.

12.02 hrs.

[English]

Committee on Public Accounts

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by Sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1988."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by Sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1988."

The motion was adopted.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1998 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha".

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1998 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha".

The motion was adopted.

12.04 hrs.

[English]

Committee on Public Undertakings

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY (Peddapalli) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by Sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on Public Undertaking for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1988."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by Sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1988."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1998 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha".

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1998 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha".

The motion was adopted.

12.5½ hrs.

[English]

**Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes
and Scheduled Tribes**

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by Sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1988."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by Sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1988."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K. PRADHANI : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1998 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha".

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1998 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha".

The motion was adopted.

12.07 hrs.

[English]

Rehabilitation Council of India

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of Sections 3(3)(h) and 4(1) of the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves, to serve as Members of the Rehabilitation Council of India, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Sections 3(3)(h) and 4(1) of the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves, to serve as Members of the Rehabilitation Council of India, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, before the Bofors issue is taken up, I would like to raise a very important and urgent matter. Thousands of textile workers of National Textiles Corporation and of IDPL, from all over the country have come to Delhi. They are demanding revival and modernisation of the National Textiles Corporation. Two months ago, there was a meeting with the Hon'ble Prime Minister. He has also agreed for the revival of the National Textiles Corporation and there was an agreement. Shri Venkat Swamy who was the former Textiles Minister is also present here. He took the initiative and there was an agreement among the Government, the Unions and the Management, for the revival and modernisation of the National Textiles Corporation. There were some conditions, but till now nothing has been done. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, the package of the earlier Government pertaining to the NTC should be implemented by the Prime Minister. There is a clear-cut

decision about how to revive it. Why does the present Government delay the implementation? There are three textile mills in my Constituency itself. The Prime Minister must implement the package of the earlier Government. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think, you have made your point. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the workers are in Delhi; they are not taking their salaries for the last few months. . . .(Interruptions) I request the hon. Prime Minister to respond to this. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, you know about the NTC mills, You were the Labour Minister and you know about it. The Prime Minister must implement the package of the earlier Government. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, you were the Labour Minister and you also took some initiatives in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): An announcement was made in this House in respect of NTC (Interruptions) Hon'ble Prime Minister is sitting here... (Interruptions) NTC Unions from all over the country had reached here to stage a demonstration.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You also took initiative to save the National Textile Corporation. Prime Minister is here. We request the Prime Minister to respond to this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): In Bihar ten thousand youth sitting on *Dharna* in support of their demand, were beaten mercilessly and put behind the bar. They were beaten with cane and rifle butts. On the one hand the Government says. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am speaking about NTC. You may kindly raise this issue later.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have not issued any order to fulfil their demands(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Prime Minister is here. He may say whether the Government will implement

the package agreement which is there between the Government and the management.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : They were lathi charged on the order of the collector and S.P. Those youth have been raising their demands for the last twenty years. There is no body to listen their voice but there are so many to suppress their voice. This is a serious matter(Interruptions) They were lathi charged(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You may speak after me. I am speaking about NTC. . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an amount of Rs. 50 crores was sanctioned for modernisation of NTC Mills but so far no action has been taken thereon. We want a statement in this regard from the Government. There are NTC Mills in Rajasthan where workers are being retrenched. No modernisation work is being undertaken.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : The Prime Minister is here. Let the Prime Minister respond to this matter(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : Sir, I want to raise an important matter about Kerala. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Do you want answer or not?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Mehta, please sit down. We are on that point. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : As you said, I am quite aware of the issue. Mr. Venkat Swamy is very much present here. When he was the Textiles Minister, I was the Labour Minister. I know of the unanimous agreement of all the trade Union leaders. I do not know about the progress of that agreement. I will enquire from the Textile Ministry and let all the Members know about it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am asking Mr. Venkat Swamy who knows the subject.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY (Peddapalli) : A Cabinet decision was taken one month back on this issue but the

Government is not implementing it. The Government is not taking it up. I had taken up the issue with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Textiles and the Secretary concerned. They do not have guts to implement it. They have got a plain mind.

MR. SPEAKER : Pappu Yadavji, you may please sit down. You have made your submission and that has been recorded. This is your Government, not mine, you may please take it from the Government. Dr. Girija Vyas.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have already spoken. It has been recorded. You cannot speak twice on the same subject.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Let the Prime Minister answer.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot expect the Prime Minister to answer all these kinds of things.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Textile Minister is not present here. Whenever he comes, a proper statement will be made on this subject. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, no; nothing more.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Minister has agreed. I have now called Dr. Girija Vyas.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have told the Minister. you may pursue it. I have told Shri Paswanji. Now it is enough. You may please sit down.

(Interruptions)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly ask the Prime Minister to remain here.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do not worry about that. You make your own statement.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) saw the Prime Minister leaving. We do not know what transpired in the Chamber. Yesterday, when we wanted to raise the Bofors issue, you did say that the Prime Minister will be here for this important issue and we will raise the issue. What happens now?

MR. SPEAKER : On Friday, I promised about it. Yesterday, the Prime Minister requested me to postpone it because he was to go to Orissa. The Prime Minister is very keen. He had come here. He was here for some time.

He is going to receive the President of Turkmenistan. He has an official duty to perform. As soon as he is free, he will be back.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Does it mean or does it not mean that Bofors will be raised today ?

MR. SPEAKER : Bofors will be discussed today. We will start just now. I just wanted to give a hearing to the women M.Ps.

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards a commitment. You had given an assurance to the woman inside and outside the House and even during the IPU meeting that an important Bill is being brought forward in this Parliament for providing reservation to the women and we were expecting that there would be some provision in the 10th BAC Report to introduce this Bill but after going through the BAC report we doubt the intentions of the Government and BAC members in this regard. I, through you, want to know as to what would be the fate of the women Reservation Bill? We want assurance from you in this regard and appeal that, at least, in the next BAC report this item must be included in the agenda. Today, women from all over the world are looking for this bill. Not only women, but men are also looking towards it.

MR. SPEAKER : This question can be answered by the Government right now. Mr. Jena, Do you have something to say in this regard?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, it is a unanimous request from *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, we have had enough now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, the situation in Kerala is very serious. . . (Interruptions) It concerns the lives of about 80 lakh rubber growers in the State (Interruptions) The price of rubber which was Rs. 60 earlier is only Rs. 42 now (Interruptions) The entire cargo of the country is being supplied from my constituency Idukki and about 3,000 tonnes of cargo is being smuggled (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jos, please listen to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If the matter is so serious, why are you raising it during the Zero Hour where you would not get a response from the Government? You cannot demand a response from the Government. Why do you not give a notice for a Calling Attention Motion? Give a notice for a Calling Attention Motion. That would serve your purpose better.

Yes, Mr. Jaswant Singhji.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I would give notice for a Calling Attention Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : That is the right way.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir before that you should direct the Government to intervene . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What more really the Chair can give you than suggesting to you to give a notice for a Calling Attention Motion? You bring the Calling Attention Motion, I would admit it. What also do you require

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, thank you for your support.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards an issue which was discussed in this House earlier also during the last session and a consensus had also emerged on it in the House. The employees of Regional Rural Banks are continuously agitating. The members of Parliament had shown unanimity in favour of their demands. Today they are again here demanding that the agreement which was reached upon in respect of regional rural banks and banking industries as per the sixth pay commission should be implemented in the regional rural banks also. I, through you, urge upon the government to give its kind consideration to this issue and adopt a liberal attitude. Rural banks in our neighbouring country, Bangladesh, are functioning very

well. Regional Rural Banks in our country can also function successfully provided they get Government's cooperation. The Government should extend its cooperation to these rural banks....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him make his submission. Why are you disturbing him? He is doing it very well. So effectively he is presenting his case and your case as well.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the members of all parties had expressed the same views on this issue. A Standing Committee have also submitted its report in this regard, but inspite of all these facts the Government are not implementing the agreement. I would request you to kindly direct the Government to take action in this regard.

Just now an hon'ble member Shri Rajesh Ranjan has raised a point pertaining to finance less education policy in Bihar. In the last session also when I had raised this issue, you had directed the Government to respond to my point. This matter has been taken up by the Human Right Commission also. Mr. Speaker, Sir, situation is very worst in Bihar, thousands of teaching staff, numbering nearly two and a half lakh, and non-teaching staff are faced with difficulties in schools and colleges. Twice they have been lathi charged. Yesterday, also they were treated mercilessly and roughly. You had given instructions to the Union Government to look into the matter. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is present here. Whether he is not aware of the situation? The Members belonging to other states had expressed their dismay over such developments and asked with surprise whether such incidents can take place? You, yourself, had expressed surprise over such incidents.

MR. SPEAKER : Nitishji, you had asked for only one minute, now, you have spoken for five minutes.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, you may direct the Government again to comply with your instructions. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, I would like to raise a very serious situation being faced by the people of Orissa, in the absence of adequate Central assistance the drought situation is deteriorating further. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we extend our support to the issue raised by Shri Nitish Kumar, in respect of regional rural banks. The manifesto of all the

partys support the setting-up of Indian Rural Bank. It speaks in favour of the justified and proper demand of the regional rural banks. It also talks of the reorganisation of regional rural banks. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have promised that I will take it up with the Government. What also can I do?

. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : We extend our support to him.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will personally bring this matter to the notice of the Government. I have promised it to Shri Nitish Kumar.

. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Panigrahi, yesterday the Prime Minister had gone to Orissa.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : That was in a different context.

MR. SPEAKER : I know it was in a different context. But I believe that he is going to make a statement in the afternoon. You can ask questions at that time.

SHRI SHRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, as you know, Orissa is facing a serious drought situation. It is a national calamity.

MR. SPEAKER : We had agreed yesterday that immediately after the Question Hour we would take up the Bofors issue.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I will stick to one minute. This is a national calamity of unprecedented dimension and it requires substantial Central assistance for providing short term and long term relief measures. It is true that both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture have visited the State and they have all sympathy for the people of Orissa. But having sympathy alone does not anything unless that sympathy and the assurance given in the course of their visit are not reflected in real action. The Government of Orissa demanded about Rs. 577.78 crores under different heads. Do you know what is the amount provided so far? We have been provided a meager sum of Rs. 4 crore only. Sir, during his visit to Kalahandi and Bolangir, the Prime Minister assured that Rs. 58 crore will be provided to the State of Orissa but not a single pie out of that has been released. Are they

ridiculing the sufferings of the people of Orissa? It is a backward State. Now that the summer is approaching, the scarcity of drinking water will pose a serious threat. . . . (Interruptions) The money is not available. Even the Governor, in his address to the Assembly, has expressed concern over the indifferent attitude of the Government of India towards the State of Orissa. Now, there is discontentment over this issue all over the State of Orissa. A substantial assistance should immediately rush to Orissa. This is what I would like to appeal to you. You know how bad the situation is in Orissa. You may kindly direct the Government to do the needful.

MR. SPEAKER : We are already half-an-hour behind the schedule because we wanted to take up the Bofors issue immediately after the Question Hour. My request on this issue is. . . .

. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you a chance tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : I want to raise the matter of train robbery which took place in my constituency. No such incident of train robbery has ever taken place there since independence. We do not get chance to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you a chance tomorrow.

[English]

I do not know how do you want to run the House? You can run it the way you want. I will not run the House. There is a limit.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Do you want to punish us? We don't get chance. Why are we not given opportunity to speak? Why? Everytime it is said that either tomorrow or day after tomorrow we will be given a chance to speak. Why is it so?

MR. SPEAKER : O.K. speak, whatever you want to speak, and run this House.

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir you may check the records and ascertain yourself as to how many times you have given me any opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you interfering like that?

(Interruptions)

12.30 hrs.

[English]

RE: BOFORS 155 MM HOWITZER
GUN DEAL

MR. SPEAKER : On the issue of the motion being tabled by Mr. Jaswant Singh, I request all of you to limit to two speakers. Besides the Mover, there will be two Members each from the Congress party and the BJP and one Member each from the smaller parties.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : Sir, there is a premium on the smaller parties in the House because one can form a Government with the smaller parties.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a democracy.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : What is all this long discussion?

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know, that is what the hon. Member wanted.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : I will just explain.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it started with the Zero Hour. We are taken by surprise with the idea that there is already a motion in the name of our great Jaswant.

MR. SPEAKER : That is why I am restricting the speakers, but everybody wants to speak.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : What is the motion?

MR. SPEAKER : Today, it is the question of admissibility which will be discussed. Whether the notice given under Rule 184 is admissible or not has to be decided. I am only allowing two Members.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I am not on the motion proper.

MR. SPEAKER : No, it is the admissibility only.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I am only on the rationale, the reason that has persuaded me—I do apologise for the state of my throat, I shall make endeavours to be as clear as possible—to submit for your consideration a motion under Rule 184, and what I had suggested as the content of that motion. If you permit me, I can read it out. That being not in accordance with the rules, I can give the substance of it.

What I have suggested is that under Rule 184 of this

House, a Committee of both the Houses be constituted to go into all aspects of the Bofors gun deal in the light of the documents since received from the Swiss authorities and to consider the Government's response thereto. I must as far as possible, explain to you that this is not a debate on the merits or demerits of my submission. It is only a submission about why it should be under Rule 184 and why I feel there is need for constituting a Committee.

I think it is appropriate at this stage for me to mention that it was 16th April 1987, if I recollect right, when the Swedish Redio first divulged the facts about the procurement of this weapon system by India. I recollect very well that even then when I raised this issue, I had no concept, I had no idea whatsoever that ten years down the line, near about ten years now from 1987 to 1997, I would still be in Parliament; or even more poignantly and tellingly that ten years down the line we would still be discussing Bofors. I think that fact is both a fact of sadness and a fact that carries within it a great many lessons for all of us.

I would be remiss at this stage if I did not place on record my personal sense of appreciation that the fact that we have access today to certain information is, principally not because of what the successive Governments have done but essentially we owe it to one intrepid lady journalist working in Switzerland, Ms. Chitra Subramanian, We owe it to some remarkable journalism demonstrated by *the Hindu* and Mr. N. Ram, and in that period by *the Indian Express*, and also by Mr. Arun Shourie. I would be remiss if I did not place on record that we have access to the documents that we have today because of the then team of investigations appointed by the then Prime Minister comprising Arun Jetley, Madhavan and Bhure Lal. Because of what they did, the country has today access to the documents that we have.

Here it is necessary for me to share a caution with the entire House. This is a caution that I share on the basis of my experience of this entire issue of Bofors.

Every attempt at prematurely burying Bofors results in this issue resurrecting itself and shooting in our face. By premature burial, I mean, when we attempt to evade the issue before it is fully and finally resolved. That also is the reason why I am persuaded to move a Motion under Rule 184. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Do we take your certificate about the quality of Bofors?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Absolutely, I will answer that question.

The question today is not about the quality of the

weapons system. The question never was about the quality of the weapons system. But if you permit me to respond to it, I will answer this query also. The question is really about the illegalities and irregularities attendant upon the obtaining of this weapons system. We would be deflected from the central purpose of this inquiry, if we got into the maze and the complications of the quality of one weapon system against another. Therefore, I submit in all humility that it is time that we addressed ourselves fully, resolutely and decisively. If we finally want to get rid of this curse that has afflicted our system, because the damage that Bofors has caused to us is incalculable. Let me share with you why has this damage been incalculable.

Personally, the very first thing that I am saying, in a very real sense, is that the fair name of India did get sullied from that period onwards and until we resolve it that blot on us shall remain. I say this with true sorrow. The travdics of Bofors whether directly or indirectly have taken the lives of two Prime Ministers, one of Sweden and one of India. In the prime of the Indian Prime Minister's creative life, somehow through a chain of circumstances—robbed him of his contribution. I was his political adversary. I remain his political adversary. But his loss is certainly a loss to the contribution that he would have made. He was in the pink of his life. The creative years were ahead of him.

12.38 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I also feel that the elections of 1989 became a single-issue election and the Party that had won 400 plus seats earlier lost because of this. It was a very heavy price India had to pay. We have all paid this price. Even more important is that it was on account of Bofors that from 1987 onwards, decision-making processes, particularly about obtaining of complex weapons system was virtually paralysed in the Ministry of Defence, and it has taken ten years for the Ministry of Defence to place its first major order since 1987. From 1987 Bofors 155 mm Howitzer to the recent placement of a supply of Sukhoi aircraft has taken ten years. This has caused us paralysis for ten continuous years.

We perverted on account of Bofors systems, because of Bofors system got perverted, also institutions, persons, the Joint Parliamentary Committee, Parliament itself, the Ministry of Defence, the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Central Bureau of Investigation, the then Prime Minister, the Prime Minister's Office, all these institutions were got dragged into the dragnet of Bofors.

I also want to place on record that it was on account of Bofors that a person who I think was truly amongst the most capable Defence Ministers that the Independent India has had, he had to lose his job. It was on account

of Bofors yet again that a distinguished Member of the Congress party, a man of gentility, and a man otherwise of great discretion and learning, lost his job as the Minister of External Affairs.

Then our Service Officers, the Chief of Staff, and some retired Generals who have been dragged into this controversy of Bofors, is part of that price that we are paying and we are continuing to pay. I do submit to this Assembly and to this Government, now ten or eleven years down the line, please recognise that enough is enough. We cannot simply close this chapter. I truly wish we could close the chapter. The Leader of the Congress Party has suggested, in a Sotto voice that we close the chapter. If we could, we could have closed the chapter many years earlier, provided certain things had been done. That is why, I submit, let us learn from the mistake that we have committed. When the discussion does takes place, it shall be my endeavour to say as to what are the things that we must not do. On the top of the list, I have written here, when the discussion is finally conceded, it shall be my endeavour to say what we must not do. I do not think the debate is any longer about denigrating anybody. No purpose will be served by denigrating them. That price has already been paid. But the consequences of the actions that were taken, or actions not taken, still visit upon us. To those we shall have to attend. If we do not attend to them, then, we simply will not be able to rid ourselves of this haunting ghost of Bofors.

Secondly, Sir, I would like to submit that whatever we do today, we should neither diminish India nor devalue Parliament. This Parliament is certainly not a Chamber of inquisition, but the Parliament is also the only Chamber that can provide a check and provide a balance upon the Executive. I agree, Sir, that in obtaining all these documents, whether this Government or the previous Governments, had given commitments to the Government of Switzerland. Those commitments are international commitments. Those commitments have to be upheld because it is the obligation of India to uphold them. It is because of this, Sir, that whereas we must be meticulous in our adhevence to the commitments that had been given, we have to, simultaneously, assert the role, relevance the and continuing the effectiveness of the Legislature. It is this balance that has to be found, and for finding this balance I have suggested a course. I appeal to the Government and to all of you that whatever we do, there must not even be an appearance of delay. Now, in attempting to reach at the truth, there are to be no evasions, no delays and no prevarication. Therefore, I have suggested a discussion under Rule 184 and the constitution of a Committee. You might say that the Parliament cannot be provided with documents and papers that have come from Swtizerland. That is only one part

{Shri Jaswant Singh}

of the totality of what Bofors Papers are. Therefore, we must understand what we mean by "all the papers". If there are certain papers which cannot be made available because the Government is claiming privilege about those papers, that is only the beginning of it. All papers about Bofors which are in the possession of the Government, the Ministry of Defence and which were not shared either with the Parliament or with the then JPC Must, now, be made available to the Parliament. When the Audit Bureau of Sweden shared information with the then Government of India, they withheld some information from us. If that information is available with the Government, it must be made available to us also.

If it is not available with the Government, it must then be obtained from Sweden.

There is information available with the media. Indeed, *The Hindu* have publicly asserted that in their possession is a document relating to particular lawyer, 'a trustee lawyer' and that they are ready to share the details about that lawyer provided the Government or the investigative agencies ask them for that. We must do so. Whatever we do, it must be coordinated, effective and an efficient action.

I am astonished at the publicity that the investigative agencies are seeking, on a daily basis, about this case. This is not at all necessary. No investigative agency in the world presents itself in front of Television cameras and offers boxes seized and then suggest as if it is some kind of a great achievement. It is no achievement by the investigative agency. I am sorry. The investigative agencies are supposed to investigate quietly, outside the glare of publicity. That is the index of their efficiency, not the time that they are able to obtain on a State captive media.

Sir, I submit, and it is my advice to the hon. Prime Minister, I really wish he were here, not to give assurances to the Parliament. I would like to share three assurances given separately by three different Prime Ministers. The first, in whose time this entire controversy arose shared with the House saying, "Do not tell us, who are the actual guilty party just point the direction in which we should look and we will do the rest." I do not need to narrate the entire chain of events that followed after that Another Prime Minister followed and he informed the whole of the country, "I will reveal the names in 14 days times."

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : You were also partners of that Government.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Yes, we were supporters of the Government, without doubt.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You must say that you were

not with that Party.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : What my friend, Shri Rajesh Pilot is suggesting is a classical situation of guilt through association. If guilt through association is the thesis that you are propounding, then I think, you should really reflect upon the association that you are presently maintaining . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Shri Jaswant Singhji, if you recollect the speeches of the team in 1989 elections, whether this side or that side, there was only one voice in Rajasthan or in every part of the country, 'names are in our pocket, within fourteen days we will declare them.' Please accept the guilt because you are sharing that, not we. We have said it and we still maintain that the truth must come out. It is the policy of our party that the truth must be told to the nation and I would go one step further—people who are not with us—and I would say that if anybody is involved of any nature, nation must know. The nation must know the truth as to who is involved. We are totally on that line.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Unlike in the case of Parliamentary Committee, When they alone were present and the entire Opposition boycotted it and the truth was out at that time also, I think, he will corroborate it . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Deputy-speaker Sir, I think, this is . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please, let him continue.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, if they were not there at that time in the Parliament, they should check up the record and it is explicit why we had to boycott . . . (Interruptions) We do not regret that we were not associated with that kind of a finding and they are not yet shameful about it... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please take your seats.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, he is a dear friend and old friend, I welcome what my friend Shri Rajesh Pilot has said. It was not my intention when making my submission; it is not my intention now to engage in competitive accusation, 'I did this. You did this.' I think, the issue has gone well beyond that. If we do not, even now, recognise that this issue has really caused us such an immense harm and it has gone beyond competitive trading of charges, 'You traded against me. I traded against you.'; there is a collectivity of the House, which is now being tested. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar) : It is better late than never. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I know, better indeed.

I have cited two Prime Ministers and their assurances to this House. Sir, therefore, the third Prime Minister in this very Parliament and in a context, which is not a happy context, which came to be called against certain hon. Members of the then Parliament, when the House remonstrated and said, 'We do not know. We are not informed. How will we be kept informed?' assured the House, 'I will personally deal with Bofors and monitor the Bofors on a day to day basis and I will keep you informed'... (Interruptions) Why do I say this? It is only to submit to the present hon. Prime Minister in all seriousness—I submit it recognising the great load that he carries—do not give any personal assurance to the Parliament on how you will deal with the case. That again is the reason why, Sir, I am drawing the responsibility of this Parliament into it.

Now, there is a suggestion that I share with the Government—please now at last no dissimulation, no pretext, no cover-up and no other incidents of the July 22, 23, 1993 variety. Do I have to point out that incident? I think, it was on July 22, 1993 that seven names were publicly announced in Switzerland. Should I repeat those names? They are Svenska; AE Services; Jubilee Finance; three Hinduja brothers; Shri Win Chaddha; an Italian tradesman or freebooter or whatever by the name of Quattrocchi. After all this is known—this is July middle of 1993—till date no Government has made a serious effort to get Shri Win Chaddha back; no Government has made any effort whatsoever even to query informally the three Hinduja brothers. And of course, not only was no effort made to restrain this Italian gentleman. There are suggestions. I do not know. The Government has to explain. There are suggestions that there was connivance in permitting this Quattrocchi to leave India. Now, that is why I say that this will no longer work. This is not an answer. I am astonished. All of them—this Italian gentleman, Quattrocchi, Mr. Win Chaddha, the Hinduja—despite the papers that have appeared, despite what the Swiss Courts have said, have said, 'We have nothing to do with it'. All of them are sare because they knew India's system. Every other country in the world is able to extradite people that they want to extradite.

We alone continue to fail. There stayed a man in Hong Kong needed for havala case and he escaped, we failed with Dawood Ibrahim. We were never able to extradite him. When Singapore comes across a financial scandal of major proportions, they are able to extradite from Germany a man that they want within three months. We are not able to extradite. I think the Government has to answer this.

Either there existed a connection between Snamprogetti and Bofors and if there existed no connection, then what was the payment made for? Was there any connection between Italy and Sweden that Sweden should quietly pay money to Italy? What is this? Either Bofors was fooled to pay Quattrocchi seven-and-a-half million dollars. For what? For doing nothing or Bofors are such fools that they disturbed all their existing arrangements to pay Quattrocchi seven-and-a-half million dollars, almost at the penultimate stage of the entire proceedings. Or, on the other hand, Quattrocchi was such a hoodie, such a wizard that he not only fooled all of us but he fooled Bofors, Switzerland, Sweden and everyone and took seven-and-a-half million dollars quietly and in comfort flew away to Kuala Lumpur. (Interruptions) Whatever may be the reason, that fact remains. This is a fact. He has received the money. He has received the payment.

Therefore, I suggest that along with all these, please take expeditious action to get, to obtain the details of the remaining accounts. We all of us know that there are certain accounts which are still under appeal in Switzerland and those must also be obtained quickly.

Then, my next recommendation is that we must explore all legal and diplomatic avenues for obtaining information, assistance, cooperation and extradition—whether from Sweden or Switzerland or Malaysia or United Arab Emirates. But we must act with much greater dispatch. That is why, I have submitted a Motiom under Rule 184 because I believe that it must be a Motion of the House that should establish a Committee.

Why am I suggesting a Committee? I am not suggesting a Committee to waste further time. This will not be a Committee of Inquiry. This will be Committee that will ensure, as the child of Parliament, that the executive, that the Government continues to conduct itself in the monitoring of the Bofors case with despatch, with honesty and with a single mindedness, that I think this issue merits today, so that we can finally push it aside. Why do I recommend a Committee? It is because the Parliament cannot discuss this issue on a day-to-day basis. If there is a small Committee that can continue to oversee, assist, cooperate with, work along with the Government to see that that Committee will be the ears and eyes of the Parliament informing the Parliament as to what will happen, what is true. That Committee will obviate all difficulties relating to the privilege about papers that the Government is presently seeking.

One more reason is, if you do not constitute such a Committee, I have an apprehension in my mind that tomorrow someone will go in a Public Interest Litigation and the Courts will say, 'Parliament, you are doing nothing'.

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

Through Public Interest Litigation, we, the courts will now monitor the further progress of this issue as well' as it has happend in the case of Indian Bank. It is just today or yesterday, the Apex Court has ruled in the case of Indian Bank, as has happened in the case of Chandraswami, as has happend in the case of the havala matter and many other matters.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : You are giving a hint to the Court.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I am not giving any hint to the Court. I am giving a direct suggestion to the Parliament. It is not a hint to the Court. I am appealing to the Parliament. The Parliament has sufficient ability and sufficient powers. This Committee is not a Committee of Inquiry. It will act as a distillate of the Parliament to ensure that the Government continues to remian on the straight and the narrow, that the Government continues to act with despatch.

13.00 hrs.

I appeal, therefore for this Committee—which as I said has to be constituted—really to study, to scrutinise, to recommend and to ensure implementation through the cooperation of all.

I feel now that there does exist, if not total unanimity, a certain basic unanimity, in the House as far as this Bofors matter is concerned. All of us want to finally get at the truth. All of us want finally to be rid of the curse of Bofors and there is no way that we can reconcile both the aspects, the Government simultaneously claiming privilege about the papers and we, as representatives in this House wanting that we with our rights and responsibilities of Parliament must continue to perform to provide checks and balances in this Parliament. The only way out is the Constitution of such a Committee and the only way that such a Committee can be formed is through the Motion that I have moved under Rule 184, I appeal to all of you that if the substance of what I am saying is acceptable to you we can re-define the Motion, we can lay down the purpose of the Committee. But let us now, please, take a decision because the taking of such a decision itself will, I think, be a singular example. It will send all the right message that need to be sent across, not simply the investigative agencies, not simply the judicial structure of the Republic; it will also send some constructive message also to the body politic of the country.

Sir, the entire House wants the facts. Finally, therefore, let us get at the truth and let us get at that truth for justice. That is why I have moved this Motion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is a very important issue. Before calling another hon. Member, I want to seek the consensus of the House. Would you like to continue the discussion or adjourn for Lunch?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No lunch need be there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right; agreed. There will be no lunch. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Is there no lunch?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : There should be a lunch.

AN HON. MEMBER : There will be lunch.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We want to fully participate in the debate. What happens is, if you do not give a lunch hour we may be absent when something important is being discussed. We can come back and then discuss.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : So, you want a lunch hour.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We come back and discuss.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : When I stand up I will not make a debate like Shri Jaswant Singh.

MR. DEPTY-SPEAKER : You can start after lunch.

The House stands adjourned for Lunch till 2 P.M.

13.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Seven
Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

[English]

Shri Neil Aloysius O'Brien (Nominated Anglo-Indian)

14.08 hrs.

RE: BOFORS 155 MM HOWITZER GUN
DEAL—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev to speak now.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing about the admissibility of an issue or a Motion by my good friend Shri Jaswant Singh. He has almost given a long speech, more or less a debate. I will not go to that extent.

MR. SPEAKER : Very good.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : It is the first time in my life—we are in Parliament from 1980 till today—that I have not seen him taking a glass of water while speaking. Probably he is pleading a weak case. He says his throat is bad. By the time he continued, his voice became as soft as he could even sing. But that is not the question. You have raised many issues. I will not go into the details of them. But one of the issues that you have said is surprising me.

He said that one Prime Minister died for this Bofors issue. That means, he has given the verdict of the Jain Commission, which they are trying to give for the last few months. I do not know how he came to that conclusion. I have never heard so. He has again said that he had no access to the papers when the JPC, which went into Bofors issue, was examining it as some of the papers, which were given by the company, were not divulged by the Government before the Committee. He was in the Government for thirteen days and it is well known that he has got the photocopies, as the officials say that they were not doing anything but only taking photocopies. During that period, your Defence Minister must have got those papers. You could have tabled it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Who was the Defence Minister?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Shri Pramod Mahajan was the Defence Minister.

Anyway, anything that has happened regarding the Bofors, we are at the receiving end. Rightly said, it has cost us the 1989 elections, it has cost us the image of the Congress Party. That issue was there. Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee is not here. He himself said that they had boycotted, whenever they saw that nothing had come out as per their allegations. That is how they function.

(*Interruptions*). I have not interrupted you. You eminent

leader is taking down the points. Our point is that we, the Congress Party have taken a decision that we went truth and truth must come before this House. It is the function of this Government, whom we are supporting, to come out with the truth. In whatever manner you give them scope to discuss, decide or form a committee, it is your onus and to agree or not to agree to it is the onus of the Prime Minister. But we demand today very forcefully, thus far no further, and categorically that do not malign us for a thing which is not at all true. Give us the names and lay the papers before the House.

I have been told that in the other House it has been said that it can be given in the Chamber of the Speaker and others. If that is so, give it to us. Why is this drama going on? The luggage is being brought in hand, as is shown by television.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIAN) : It was not said so in the other House that the papers would be shown in the Chamber of the Speaker or the Chairman. It is not correct.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Very good. I think the telephone calls which come to us are not known to you unfortunately. You do not know what your leaders are telling.

Anyway, we do not want to go into that. We know that this is the state of the Government. So, we do not want to go into that. We want that the papers be shown. But Shri Jaswant Singh has tried to say that Government after Government has gone. I was also in the Defence Ministry for some time. The same gentleman, the Prime Minister who made a commitment to the foreign country that he would not divulge this information, himself took out his diary in Patna and said that he would give the names within 14 days. Shri V.P. Singh, when Shri Jaswant Singh used to support him, himself gave a written undertaking to the Government of Sweden or Switzerland that they would not lay anything in public, that is, in Parliament. Again, they are encashing these against Congress, saying that the Congress has done this or the Congress has not done this.

Now, today he has come forward with some theory which we have not heard of. I was telling some senior Members that neither JPC nor any other committee but only a high-powered committee will go into details of all these things which have come. We would like to know from the Government, from the Law Minister whether they have got all the papers. Is this the last so-called JPC or after some time something else will come and again Shri Jaswant Singh and others will say that

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

they want another committee? Unfortunately or ironically, every time when the election is knocking at the door, these papers are being brought from outside and this issue is whipped up.

What is this? Maybe, the election is not very far and that is why again there is an attempt to malign the Congress Party. (*Interruptions*) Do not be afraid. You are a cadre based party. You can do it.

Sir, you have allowed this matter to be raised here and we are grateful to you for that. Shri Jaswant Singh has made a long speech. I do not want to answer to each one of his points. My objection is, do not try to malign us directly or indirectly without knowing fully well as to who are the recipients of this benefit, who are the guilty persons and who are the corrupt persons. We, the Congress Party, are very much willing to know it. You bring out the facts in whatever fashion you want. But our experience was that the earlier JPC was boycotted by the Opposition people at that time and nothing had come out of it. If you have another JPC or a High-powered Committee, what would come out of it? The Parliament is full of Committees and we, as Chairmen, do not get accommodation to hold our meetings. It is very difficult to get accommodation. So, do not burden us more.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am holding meetings in my room.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : So, what will happen? The only request we shall make to the Government and the hon. Law Minister who is going to reply is, for God's sake, tell your investigating agency not to leak out the names and then say that you cannot get the names. Do not leak out the names. Please spell them out in Parliament and give complete names. I want to remind you of an English proverb which says : "One ounce of Fact is worth one pound of theory". What Ms. Chitra Subramanian and other have written in the Press, he encouraged it and I do not want to go into those details now. But since you do not share the actual information with the House, the newspapers are writing about it. How long will they go on writing about the infighting in the Congress Party and other things? So, this is the effect of it. They pick up this and start writing in the newspapers. Today, one of your Ministers will reply in this House. At that time, please tell us that these are the persons who are guilty and after that we shall take our course of action. If you do not give the names, please tell others not to throw out these names in Parliament or elsewhere without knowing the facts.

Sir, as I said, 10 years is a long period of time. Shri Jaswant Singh very rightly said that it had affected the decision making capacity of the Army. It is true. Nobody wants to take decision because he is here. I remember

one thing. One of the officers who appeared before the Committee, that General told me one day when I was the Minister of State for Defence that we should not buy anything without middlemen because maintenance is a problem. He said that if we buy straightway, maintenance would be a problem. So, I said : "why do you not give it to me in writing?" He said : "No, I will not give it". After-sale service is necessary for any equipment and Shri Jaswant Singh knows it very well. I think he was in the Infantry Division of the Army.

Sir, the situation as it is today, I do not want to comment anything on what we have been hearing and reading in *The Indian Express* and other papers. But we shall make a humble appeal to you. We want a decision today or tomorrow or whenever this subject matters comes up for discussion and the Government must come out with specific information.

I am not going various other things now. Shri Jaswant Singh has mentioned about the assurance given by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao that he would follow it up day-to-day. He might not have followed it up day-to-day, but unless he had followed it up week-to-week, this would not have come today. Let him not think that it has come just like that. There was pursuance from our Government because we assured the Parliament. We want to see that the whole nation also knows the truth. So, let them not say that the Congress has not done anything. Though the needle of suspicion is towards us, we have done more than you deserve.

But you now have to come to a decision as all the papers are available with you and the full-fledged investigations are going on. So, let us know what ultimately happened to the funds of the Government. We are not averse to any type of decision or any type of discussion. We are free. We accept the decision of the hon. Speaker.

With these words, I only wish recovery for Mr. Jaswant Singh's bad throat. Thank you very much.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe we are discussing the admissibility of the motion.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes. I have made it very clear in the beginning itself.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : But, Sir, the canvas is quite wide. My friend, Shri Jaswant Singh has brought in many things. I am not questioning that. But the issue today is whether we could discuss this matter and such other motions under Rule 184. Let us be very clear that everybody, I believe, even Shri Sontosh Mohan Deve—he has openly said so—wants full discussion. We all want the fullest discussion. That is why, we have been agitating inside the House and outside the House also. You know that all the Opposition Members had even resigned from

the House on this very issue. Shri Jaswant Singh complained that although there was an undertaking to reveal within 15 days what it was, yet nothing has been told. Well that 13-days wonder did not do anything either. What happened? This is not the way. On certain issues we are only concerned with blaming each other. This is one of the issues where we should try to find out the truth. You see this country has suffered grievously because of several acts of corruption and series of acts of corruption. Nobody today including my hon. friends from the Congress side dispute it. Earlier there was an attempt to say that there were no middlemen; there was no money involved; and there was nothing. But ultimately it was accepted that there was some payment made. But who had received the money? That was the question. Therefore, the investigation had to be made. The procedure had to be followed. It does not depend only on our own country. It had to depend on the orders of other country's Court. Therefore, it has taken time. But whether it was relentlessly pursued or not or there was any attempt to slow it down, there are different views and different perceptions about it. Of course, the Prime Minister of the country stood up here when we had pressed him and said, 'I assure that I shall come back to this House after day-to-day monitoring and I shall myself report to you'. But unfortunately, no report came. Whether he was doing something behind the curtain, I do not know. We do not know it as we are not told. But the position today is that all the names, apparently, have not been given. Some names have come out in the Press. We know what we had been suspecting. Those names have been divulged. I take it that those are correct names because there has been no denial. But nobody has said that this is just the list of persons who received the money. Therefore, still investigation has to be made. Now after a good deal of proceedings, the Swiss Court has allowed the first instalment of papers. We do not know whether they were carrying luggage as he said or carrying a box or not. These days the TV is very much obliging everybody in this country from politicians to bureaucrats. The photographs are coming. Therefore, now we are told—subject to correction that there are still other installments of papers to come. We are also being told—subject to correction again because I am not in possession of the facts—that there is an interdiction or there is an order or undertaking given by this Government that there will be no disclosure of names. Therefore, the papers should not be used except for actual investigation. So, there will no disclosure. Now these are the matters which have to be found out. I have been informed that there is going to be a meeting tomorrow of the leaders, Sir, in your room maybe, or in some other place. I am yet to get a formal intimation.

Tomorrow, it will be discussed whether, in view of those undertakings given to the Swiss Court and the Swiss Court's definite order, they should not be divulged. The

Swiss Government's request has come saying that they should not be divulged. These are the matters which have to be discussed and decided across the table. I am not justifying anything. My Party's and my stand is that the names should be divulged, they should be disclosed. But the point is, how to get those names.

My submission is very simple. Yes, we certainly acknowledge the great role played by Ms. Chitra Subramanyam, Shri N. Ram and others in the disclosure of this. An attempt has been made to find out what is called the truth in this matter. I do not know whether there was a drama or not, but there was a good justification. I think for the boycott of earlier JPC, and the country also gave its judgment or verdict on that. That boycott was justified. I still feel that this is a matter on which all sections of the House are wanting the disclosure of the names. Therefore, our objective should be how to get the names. This is the purpose of this debate. Now, whether there should be a committee or not, I feel that there are important matters which will have to be taken into consideration. So firstly, I am not against a committee. If a committee comes into a sort of position and if that committee cannot function either because of the orders of the Swiss Court or the undertakings given much earlier by this Government or recently by this Government, whether they can be ignored or should be ignored or not, these are matters which will have to be considered. It is absolutely necessary that the names should be disclosed and we insist on the disclosure of the names. But the question is how it should be done. After all, a sovereign country has given certain undertaking to another sovereign country, and we just cannot ignore them. But those are the materials which should come. I do not know whether the Law Ministry is giving it now or not.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : You are neither this side nor that side. You said that when you come to power, you will disclose and, today, you are saying that you cannot disclose. The onus should lie on you or on the Government.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I do not know why Shri Pilot is putting something on me. The point is very clear. Firstly, I would like to know from the Government whether there is any hindrance in the disclosure of whatever names are there, and secondly how long it will take to go on with these investigations. I began my submission by saying that I want the names to be disclosed. I have said more than once that I want the names to be disclosed. But the question is : How? What is the procedure, and what is supporting what?

I have said that this is a matter which should be addressed in a manner that all parties should try and see that the truth comes out. What is the procedure to do that? If it disturbs Shri Rajesh Pilot's equanimity, I cannot help

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

it. I am only saying how to do it. Let us do it in a responsible manner so that we do not get into another problem. That is what I am saying. What is the wrong in it, I do not understand. Therefore, how to achieve what we all want, with or without the Congress Party. I take it that after a good deal of lessons which they have learnt, they are sincere now.

On some of the matters, I do not approve of this Government. Why should the Ministers not come out and make a *suo motu* statement? I have been saying, when they were in power, that until some of these issues are raised in Parliament, the Government does not respond. Please do not follow such procedures. You are getting rid of some of this. Do not follow everything which they have done; they are in trouble, as you know; do not get into that. Sometimes, there are some matters, on which you yourself should come and make a statement because it is agitating the people.

Sir, for admission, if we take two hours or three hours or four hours to see whether it is admissible or not and in what form it will be admitted, then when the discussion will start, I do not know what others things are under his sleeve.

This is not the way we can function. Let the Government come out with a statement and tell us what they are thinking, what is their information, how much they can divulge, and if they cannot divulge, they should tell us why they cannot divulge it.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar) : While it can be divulged to the Press, why can it not be divulged to the House?

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar to speak. Be very very brief, please. I think Shri Somnath Chatterjee has pointed out very rightly that we cannot spend two hours to discuss whether it should be admitted or not.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to speak.

Sir it is a matter of great importance that for the last ten years, this sovereign country is not in a position to solve one matter. The matter has gone before the court, the JPC and the CBI. Though so many things have been done and so many exercises have been undertaken, yet today we are discussing whether we should refer this back to a Committee of Parliament or not under the provision or Rule 184. My only suggestion is that truth should prevail and truth should come out. Let the people of this country know what has actually happened since the year 1986.

Today, the Congress people are insisting on it and we should all support them. There is nothing wrong in that. Why should we go into the controversy. The entire exercise was started at that time against some people. But today those very people are saying that truth should prevail and all the documents should come before the House. We should go into the merits of the case. I think in the interest of justice and in the interest of truth, we should form such a Committee. Therefore, whatever Motion Shri Jaswant Singh has moved, I fully support. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much. Very good. You have put it very nicely. Now, Shri George Fernandes to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it would have been better if the Government had issued a statement already in this regard because without that statement it is difficult for us to understand as to which way we are heading. I have been told that, probably, the Minister of Law has already given a statement, according to which each document cannot be placed before the House.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Earlier, a statement was given you may first get it verified, then speak further.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : No, let me complete my submissions. In case he has given any such statement, first it should have come to this House for that could have given a direction to our debate. And the advocates, sitting over here, must have told us as to why law cannot be a hinderance in placing the true information available with the Government before the House? We feel happy to see that today Congress Party is in the search of truth. And because of this fact we believe that they were having no faith in the respect of the JPC submitted by their chairman Shri B. Shankaranand for if that report contained any truth, there should be no need for you to look out for a new truth, rather you people should hold that report in your hand and say that this is the truth. It is because of this fact we believe that these people have got no faith in that report. There have occurred such incidents when one of our Prime Ministers takes out his diary from his pocket and reads it to let us know that he will divulge the truth within 15 days and by doing so he has even become the Prime Minister.

We would not have got a chance to discuss this matter if he had not been Prime Minister. We are here discussing this matter because our officials had gone to Switzerland courts, where this matter was taken up again. The matter was swept under the carpet earlier. It is a serious matter

and should not be taken lightly. I know that very big persons were involved therein. It is not a proper way to escape as to any person, party or Government say that why this report was not submitted within 15 days. I would like to spell out the reasons for it. Firstly, our officials were not familiar with the procedure of court in that country. Not only once or twice but six appeals were made in lower courts and supreme court of Switzerland. Who are the people involved in this case? Whether those people did not have any name, face or any identity. A minister was implicated in this matter in 1992. Why one Minister visited Davos and handed over an unsigned document, which bore no name, address or date, to the Foreign Minister of that country. Perhaps he is still the Foreign Minister of that country. Along with that document a letter from the Ministry of External Affairs signed by an official was also handed over by our External Affairs Minister on behalf of the then Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier also efforts were made to save the culprits. On whose behalf Shri Madhav Singh Solanki, had gone abroad. Our Minister of External Affairs visit other country and acts like a postman, while standing in a corner handed over same documents to the Minister of another country. These type of things have wasted time.

Not only that, but Switzerland was prevented to take up this case in court on the plea that the matter was pending with Delhi High Court. Later on Delhi High Court stayed action on it but after sometimes it was taken up by the Supreme Court; It seems that people have forgotten the facts regarding this case. I would like to say that this matter cannot be swept under the carpet in this way. If someone thinks so, I would like to show him the earlier report and papers of this case. The facts about it will come to light one day. Hon. Minister, please reveal the information available with you, on this matter. Which documents can be laid on the Table of the House I do not know anything about it because I have not discussed this matter. Hon. Minister, please tell as to how many documents have been submitted and out of it how many can be laid on the Table of the House. I request the hon. Minister of Law not to follows the policies of previous Government of Shri Narasimha Rao which tried its best to hide facts in this regard, as an unsigned document was sent for the Government of that country on behalf of former Prime Minister. I have apprehensions in this regard because when this Government was formed, Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda had given assurance to Narasimha Raoji that he would continue and follow the policies of former Government which tried to hide the facts regarding Bofors. We cannot forget it. I would like to say that there is no need to constitute another committee to mislead the House and trouble us.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at first I welcome the changed attitude of Congress Party. Now it is in position to know the truth through this is the same party which used to tell that these allegations are baseless and there is no middleman in this case. Now public of this country has come to know about the culprits and workers of this party has started thinking that facts should be accepted. Now they have raised the issue regarding St. Kitts forgery case, so that the entire world would know that persons who are blaming congress party for Bofors case, themselves are also guilty. I welcome their changed attitude.

The story of looting the wealth of this country and taking booty abroad is an old practice. Mahmood Gajnavi and Nadirshah had also looted the wealth of this country Later on East India Company looted the wealth of this country. Britishers left this country long ago but now again the wealth of this country is being looted and sent out. I am sure that certain people, they may be leaders, bureaucrats or traders, have looted more wealth than East India Company and sent it out.

It is being said that our country has a huge debt. We can repay this debt easily if the wealth looted and sent out from the country is brought back to the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the clumsy efforts made for arresting the middlemen in Bofors case, I blame this Government that it has tried to hide the facts in the same way as was done by the previous Government. The reason for it is that this Government has been formed by the support of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope that the whole House will support my demand that the wealth looted from this country and sent out should be brought back. Knowing the names of culprits is not enough but the wealth should be recovered I would also like know the relations of the Italian citizen with ruling party whose name is being mentioned in this case time and again. The whole country wants to know this. Name of Win Chadha is being mentioned since beginning of this case. He was in Delhi itself and often seen frequenting in corridors of power in arrogant manner. I would like to know as to with whose support he was doing so and why he was not arrested? How he had been able to go abroad?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, It would have been better if any instrument to reveal the inner thoughts of a person is invented. Then we could know the feelings of workers of Congress Party. I think that these people also doubt kickback in Bofors case. I demand that the persons involved in Dharam Teja scam to the scam of failure of our arms in China forests and Haridas Mundra, to all other people involved in scams took place up to now should be

[Shri Iliyas Azmi]

exposed who have looted the wealth of this country. It is the utmost need of the hour that the wealth looted and sent out of the country, should be brought back here. I would be happy if this issue is included in election manifesto of the forthcoming elections.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you Azmiji. There is no need to speak much on this issue because this discussion is for admissibility of a particular motion.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have never taken more than the allotted time. Not even today I want to do so. As per your orders I am concluding my speech now and take my seat.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I know the purpose of this discussion. It is just to discuss on the admissibility of a particular motion. Therefore, there is no scope of debate now.

I want to convey to this House that a general impression has gained ground that the present Government is not serious enough to speak out, to dig out the truth about the Bofors affairs because of political interests. I think, it should be the duty of the Government to dispel this impression. And, they can dispel this impression if they are serious enough to pursue with the case in a manner which they deem best. The thing is that the truth is to be brought out.

Sir, I am really very much grateful to Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev that he welcomed the move for bringing out the truth. I do not want to repeat all those things which he was speaking or his party was speaking. What about Shri Shankaranand's Report? I think he was very much jocularly called *Boforanand* and you should not forget that chapter also.

Therefore, I want the Government to take certain action to see that attempts are made seriously to dispel the impression that the present Government is interested not to bring out the truth for political interests.

Sir, another point, I want to raise is about some clarification from the Government. From some sources it is being argued that there have been certain conditionalities which have been agreed upon and these conditionalities are standing in the way of making the Bofors papers public.

If that is so I think the conditionalities, if there are any, should be made public. Because with that is connected the sovereignty of the country. How can the Government take a position that these papers will not be made public? It seems that either the earlier Government or this Government did agree to these conditionalities. That assumes a new dimension in this whole problem. Neither

this Government nor the earlier Government had a right to have accepted that kind of a conditionality which has not been approved—even now it has not been approved—by this House. That is a new dimension of the problem. Therefore the hon. Minister should explain properly whether there is any conditionality as such.

In this case I only want to quote two lines from the Swiss authorities. I quote the opinion given by Mr. Michael Andre Fels, the Swiss Justice Ministry official who has handled the case for the Swiss Federal Police. He stated "according to Swiss appraisal of the material we have handed over, it contains ample evidence that bribes were paid in connection with the Howitzer deal". Bribe is a criminal offence here in India. Therefore they have said there has been criminality, it is a criminal offence and the Swiss authorities are convinced of that. That is why they have handed over the papers to the Government of India. Now it becomes the duty of the Government of India to try them for the criminal offence I am not in favour of having a Committee set up here. I want the matter to be referred to the judiciary again. The Chief Justice of India may be appointed to have a committee for this. It is not a question of laughing away things. It is the Vivian Bose Commission which really dealt in depth with the question of Mundra scandal and many heads rolled. Why shall we not believe the judiciary in this case also? Judiciary, I think, has not gone to the extent that the Parliament cannot have any faith in it in cases of scams and scandals.

The last thing is, even General Sundarji made certain comments to the Hindi BBC. I think it would not be in the fitness of things to ignore the statements made by the former General of the Indian Army. In Swiss papers somebody's name has also appeared. I think we should not ignore this name. Some names have come and on the basis of those names the Government should make the Bofors papers public, so that they become the people's property, they can go into them and form their own opinion on the basis of the papers themselves. I want an Inquiry Committee set up under the Commission of Inquiry Act.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the motion moved by Shri Jaswant Singh should be admitted because in 1989 the government was changed on the issue of Bofors. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev has mightily stated that even the Members of that party, who had been removed from the Government, also want to know fact in this regard. At that time I was also Member of that party. We came into power because of that. We won the election on Bofors issue. Now why our leaders hesitate in bringing out the facts before people. Why we have been elected to the Parliament if all such matters were to be handed over to judiciary. The entire country wants to know about the

persons who have received the pay off and the persons who paid this amount and the persons who acted as middlemen in this deal. I feel that ideas envisaged in democratic system will remain unfulfilled if middlemen, persons who received kickbacks are protected and all such cases are handed over to judiciary. This issue should be debated under Rule 184 and voting should be conducted. So that people can know about the Members who are in its favour and also those who are against. I doubt the intentions of the Government in this regard. This Government will try to hide the names of the culprits because it has formed government with the support of congress party and I think that support of this government would be withdrawn in that case.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that this issue should be debated under Rule 184 so that people would be able to know clearly about the persons who received kickbacks and also about the Members in its favour and against. The Members of National Front party would be considered guilty if the Government tries to sweep facts in Bofors Scandal under the carpet because National Front has struggled hard to oust Congress Party from power. I feel that the motion moved by Shri Jaswant Singh should be admitted and debated. . . . *(Interruptions)*

{English}

MR. SPEAKER : I think, this is enough.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, you took the decision. This is not fair. You suggested it.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : You took the decision.

MR. SPEAKER : I know, it was my decision. I am at your disposal, if you want to go on discussing. Let me tell you, from 1987 to 1992, we spent 48 hours and seven minutes on discussing the Bofors issue on the floor of this House.

. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Today, it is hardly two hours.

MR. SPEAKER : The JPC has taken 140.25 hours on discussing this issue. There is a limit for discussing an issue. Here, it is only on admissibility. The debate has not started.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : It has started.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : The debate has actually started.

MR. SPEAKER : I have no objection. You go on discussing it.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir,

it would have been better and appropriate if Shri Jaswant Singh had moved a motion under rule 193, I think, it is not an issue to discuss and decide under rule 184. That is our opinion; and as far as my party is concerned, our stand is that the Government should reveal the whole truth before the House and before the people.

I would like to say just a word about our investigating agencies. As far back as in 1993, our investigating agency, the CBI had got ample records regarding the accounts in the banks and who operated them. They have got ample records. It is quite obvious that US \$ 7.3 million have been given as kickbacks. At that time, Mr. Quattrocchi moved the Swiss court not to reveal the names. He left the country. How could that happen?

If you go through the whole history of the Bofors issue, I am sorry to say that the CBI, which is bound to act without fear or favour, without being influenced by anybody, did not act as the country expected it to act. Even now the Supreme Court has to intervene so that the scams are investigated properly and culprits booked.

We in India are very hesitant to book the VVIPs. Look around the world. Korea, a small country, sends its Premier to jail for a small act of corruption. The Korean Premier is charged. The Italian Prime Minister is in jail on a very minor corruption charge. Here in India when our VVIPs are asked to stand in a Court, it seems the heavens would fall. Unless we are able to convict the culprits who loot the people, who loot the exchequer, who loot the public money, our future will be very gloomy.

So, the Investigating agencies, as they are bound, have to act without fear or favour and without being influenced by anybody.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, we are today discussing about the admissibility of the discussion under Rule 184. At this juncture, I do not want to take much time. I am supporting the views which have been expressed by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. Now, the ball is in the court of the Government. The Government has to come out with a firm statement. After receiving the first set of documents from the foreign country, what is the next course of action which the Government is going to take? The Government should come out with a firm statement regarding this matter. Then only can we have an effective discussion. This matter is pending for the last one decade. So many turmoils have taken place in this House also. We remember that so many Members belonging to the Left Parties resigned their Membership and some of them even lost their pensions. So many examples are before us. So, it is a very grave issue.

Almost the whole unanimously agrees that the truth

[Shri N.K. Premchandran]

must come out. We have to reveal the truth. The real culprit should be booked. For that purpose an effective step has to be taken. This issue has come out in the international media also. The entire world is looking towards this country as to what would be our next course of action after the receipt of first set of documents. We are also waiting for second set of documents. At this juncture it is clear from the documents as well as from the Press Conference of the CBI that the kingpin of the issue is Mr. Ottavio Quattrocchi. His name has been spelt out very clearly. What is his role in this issue? How did he come into the picture as far as this issue is concerned? I feel that if his role is made clear, the entire truth will come out. So, in order to get a clear picture, the real culprit should be booked, and for that, effective step should be taken. Whatever information is available with the Government should be brought to the House and to the people of this country.

As has been mentioned just now, there are so many scams and scandals involving VVIPs in our country. They should have a finality. There should be a finality to the allegation of corruption. So many investigating agencies, Joint Parliamentary Committees and Inquiry Commissions are being appointed. Crores of rupees have been spent on these investigations and the entire corruption allegation is going down. According to my knowledge, in one or two cases the guilty have been convicted. Every allegation of corruption should have a finality. To come to that finality, I appeal to the Government of India to take firm action.

With these words I Conclude. Thank you.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, beyond the scope of the material that has to be debated regarding the admissibility, we have discussed much more. But I will not point out all these things. I would like to say that Congress Party has withstood all the humiliation, all the insinuations, all the accusations and all the charges which have been levelled since 1989 without having any foundation established by the law and without having any substance substantiated by the investigating agencies. Yet we withstood all this. Sincerely, When we come to Parliament, we talk of something else. We talk about the technical merit, about the Constitutional merit and the legalistic merit. When we go out we make use of those materials for our own political convenience against those whom we want to make a target. Right from the beginning, as regards Bofors issue, it was the Indian National Congress and the then Prime Minister who were the main targets of the Left and the Right parties who are sitting here.

15.00 hrs.

We used to do all these things and we made our journey stop when we found that our leader is no more

alive and the leader was not only not alive but his body was not found and was destroyed into pieces. Yet, we continued to withstand this insult because we are accountable to the nation and we are answerable to the Parliament. And what was the stand in respect of the time? I do not like to accuse any individual. It will not help us today.

I am thankful to Shri Somnath Chatterjee for his objective analysis of this motion of discussion today and I am also thankful to many Members. But I, with a heavy heart, like to say to Mr. Jaswant Singh and Mr. George Fernandes to please stop making targets when they talk in Parliament. We have all appreciation for the media. I am found of the role played by the media in exposing many scams in this country and underhand activities of many parties in this country. I am thankful to the media including that of the role played by Mrs. Chitra Subramanian sitting there. It is not the question of accusing the media. Media is one of the basic components of Indian democracy which help us to guide the destiny of not only this Parliament but also of the nation. Let us not bring the media into controversy. They are doing their job and we are thankful to them.

Mr. Jaswant Singh has started saying that this particular incident of Bofors made the image of India abroad so horrifying and so sad. It is true. When the image of India is exposed in the deal of corruption, we get more sad. But history will decide whether the Bofors deal spoiled the image of India or the incident of 6th December, 1992 had spoiled the image of India or the great betrayal in India in 1962 when China attacked India and India tried to defend when many remained vocal and many remained quiet or the deal which was done secretly in 1977 with the Defence Minister of Israel, Mr. Moshe Dayan on his secret visit to Delhi followed by support of Camp David Agreement spoiled the image of India. History will judge these things. I am not the competent commentator of these incidents. But let us not target one political party for one issue and one thing.

Sir, we are very clear in our understanding today and the matter relating to Joint Parliamentary Committee had been referred. I wish to remind that on 3rd August, 1987, in this very House, when JPC was discussed, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee came out with a separate proposal and Mr. Dinesh Goswami came out with another proposal in which they wanted a different person as Chairman. Mr. Somnath Chatterjee wanted Mr. Dandavate and the other side wanted somebody else. Mr. Dinesh Goswami wanted seven Members from the Opposition and eight Members from the Congress and so any other compositions were there. Finally, when the House's ultimate decision was not accepted, they boycotted. This is the fact of the matter.

There is no question of accusation. Today for instance, if on the issue of Ayodhya Incident demolition of the mosque—a JPC is demanded and the demand comes from Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee and that he should be made the chairman and the majority Members of the BJP should be included in it, will the Government concede to that point? No, Merit is known. Parliament does not function in that order. When the Government leads the House and the Leader of the House leads the House, that is not the order. So, I am going into the controversy that while that JPC was boycotted and some other JPC is formed, what will be the role of others and so on.

Sir, I will be brief only on three points. Let us not mislead the nation. Let us not mislead the House by misquoting or off-quoting or wrong quoting things. What was the stand of our Government? On 28th April, our Government led by our late lamented leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi said this and it is the same tune today.

"I do not know what procedure the Swedish Government has to go through in their enquiry. It is only a matter of few days since we have asked them for the enquiry. We must give them a chance to give us an answer and a response. I have said so on the floor of this House that the minute we have any information, we will take the hardest possible action and you will see that action. It will not be hidden, it will not be concealed. It will be there for you to see, it will be there for the country to see."

Of course, our country will see today. But he will not see because he is no more with us. Subsequently, on the 3rd August, in the same House, Mr. K.C. Pant replied like this.

"Immediately on the receipt of the report of the Swedish Audit Bureau, it was discussed with the leaders of Opposition. Further, the Government decided to request the hon. Speaker of this House as well as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha to set up a JPC. The Swedish Government was addressed on 17th June, 1987 through the Swedish Embassy. We are confirmed of the position of the National Audit Bureau Report which will be taken up again."

This was on the controversy of the JPC. So, our stand was this on that day and Narasimha Rao Government also did not hide anything or did not do anything to suppress the facts. Meanwhile, V.P. Singh's Government came. What was Mr. V.P. Singh's long debate in the Lok Sabha? I will quote the concluding part today which the Government will bear in mind. A historic statement was made on 29th December, 1989 by the then Prime Minister, Shri V.P. Singh, in whose by-election in Allahabad, I heard that very interesting slogan.

As a young man, I was charmed with this slogan:

[Translation]

"V.P. Singh ka ek sawal—kamishan khaya koun dalal.

[English]

And that 'sawal' evoked young voters. Shri V.P. Singh got a mandate. The same slogan that 'dalal' will be caught within 14 days, brought them back to that chair. And I quote what Shri V.P. Singh said from that chair on 29th December:

"I would like to reiterate the resolve of this Government to enforce the law, recover the amounts paid and ascertain the identity of the recipients. There is no compromise on this. For, if no action is taken on default of such a contract condition, parties to future contracts would not be deterred from violating such conditions in the future. We have instructed the investigative agencies to pursue their inquiries and investigations as per law. At the Government level, the review of the whole case is under-way and very soon the matter is going to be taken up, with the foreign Governments through diplomatic channels and with the Swiss authorities in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between India and Switzerland prevailing with the Government on that day in Switzerland and Government of India headed by Shri V.P. Singh."

That Memorandum of Understanding will be the main cardinal point to get the documents from the Swiss Court and to place them for the investigation. And finally, he said:

"I would like to assure the House that this matter will be pursued to its logical conclusion keeping the Parliament and the people informed of progress."

I think, the commitment made between the V.P. Singh Government and the Swiss Government, based on the Memorandum of Understanding, did not involve the Congress Party, the BJP or Shri Chandra Shekhar or any other party as to what should be written in the Memorandum of Understanding. It is not enough. It was the commitment that Shri V.P. Singh—the then Government—made to the nation and the Parliament that based on the Memorandum of Understanding, whatever logical conclusion comes, that will be pursued.

I now request the Government that please, therefore, do not fight shy or do not feel ill about these things. What Shri L.K. Advani quoted outside about Congress Party's method is wrong. The Congress Party did not take the decision about issue-based support to blackmail the Government on the issue of Bofors. We would like to make

[Shri P.R. Dasmunsi]

it absolutely clear. The issue of Bofors has no link about our relations with the Government. Our commitment to secularism and certain other compulsions made us support you against them. And that commitment shall continue. But in this matter, a logical and must be found by the Government. If you feel that it should be found by the CBI, let it be by the CBI, If you feel referring it to the Judiciary, let it be done so. If you feel it to be done by an appropriate committee, it is your job. And till that job is not done, please do not leak out piecemeal information to malign any family, any individual or any party. That will not be tolerated. Please do not make politics out of that. Make it solid.

If you want to place any document before the Parliament, it must be an authenticated document as a whole and not for a selective purpose. You advise your investigating agency that if they selectively choose some information and give it out, it is unfortunate. I am ashamed that a man in the highest office defending the border of the nation—before the CBI interrogates—goes to the BBC just to contradict what he said before the JPC. If his statement is so important, the House should be taken into confidence.

I plead that please do not leave Congress support or equation with you on the issue of Bofors. We are interested in knowing the truth. The Congress is making its journey. The Congress knows how to manage its own house. Let us not be educated by you. But I would like to tell you that if you feel that there is something, you come out with guts and tell the truth to the entire nation through your investigating agency.

There is only one more submission. Do not delay in bringing out the truth in such a manner that months and years continue to roll in the garb of your committees, leaking out selective information and just pinpointing a target and undertaking raids. That will not be excused.

With these words, I submit to the Government, through you, that let the Government come out with the factual documents and position. And if the Government feels that there is something yet to come, you go or please send your authority to bring other things also. We are not afraid of it. We are not here to defend anybody. We are to defend the truth in the interest of the nation and nothing more.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Sir, I think, I am called upon to basically meet the question whether this motion is admissible. I will request the House to refer to Rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of Lok Sabha.

I would quote Rule 186 sub-rule (viii). It says and I

quote :

"In order that a motion may be admissible it shall satisfy the following conditions, namely :

(viii) it shall not relate to any matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdiction in any part of india;"

Sir, basically, in my opinion, today the issue revolves on these aspects of the matter. For that purpose, I must mention here that a regular case No. RC/1(a)/90-ACU(4) was registered on 22nd January, 1990 under section 120(B) read with section 5(ii); section 5(i) sub-section (c) and (d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 read with sections 409, 420 and 417 IPC.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Minister, would you kindly yield for a minute?

Sir, it would be totally misleading on the question of *sub-judice*—forgive me for my voice—which the hon. Minister is asserting. It is in case of criminal cases; it is when charges are framed in civil cases; it is when issues are framed. In the matter of Bofors, whatever case proper he might cite, no charges have been framed, no issues have been framed. So the Government cannot take the protection of *sub-judice* in this case.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, let us first hear the hon. Minister. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Please listen to me.

This case is pending in the court. A special Judge is supervising the conduct of the investigation of this case. Now, the matter does not end here. These documents were received from the Swiss authorities pursuant to a letter rogatory which we had sent to the Swiss authorities. Now, when this letter rogatory was sent, certain undertakings were given to the Swiss authorities. Prior to that there was a Memorandum of Understanding between the two States.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Between the two countries.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : When I say States, I mean between the two sovereign countries. In these undertakings the Government was helped by an eminent lawyer, Shri Arun Jaitly. When the Swiss authorities finally agreed to give us a set of documents, these documents have come under an express condition that they shall not be revealed; they shall not be used for any purpose other than the investigation that is going on in the court. Now, if we agree to the formation of any committee which would have an access to these documents or if we agree to place these documents on the Table of the House then, what would be the consequence?

The first consequence of it would be that the documents have come to the court in India; the court has entrusted these documents to the CBI for further investigation. That means that we would have to inform the court in India. Secondly, we have given an undertaking to the Swiss authorities. The third aspect is that the Swiss authorities are yet to give us further documents regarding this investigation. One more aspect that needs to be seen is that this is not the only case we are pursuing. There are many more investigations which are going on and there are solemn undertakings between the two sovereign countries. If today we violate the undertaking given to the Swiss authorities, with what face could we go again to them and ask for further documents?

Everyone will see that seven long years were needed to obtain this set of documents. How many more years should we wait? Every Member has expressed concern that this matter is being dragged on and on. Names are being taken; certain fair names are being tarnished. If this is the concern of every Member, then, would the Members not agree with us that we must abide by the solemn undertakings given to a foreign authority of a country and see to it that the entire investigation is completed as early as possible : Documents will be given before the court alongwith chargesheets. Then, all the documents will be there for everybody to see and to know as to what they contain and what they does not contain.

We are not at all interested, in any way, in tarnishing anybody's name. We do not want to hide anything. It is our concern that every aspect of this entire thing must be revealed to the country, but it should be at the opportune time.

Please allow us to complete the investigation. Please see that the undertaking which we have given to the foreign authority of that country is obeyed and only then we shall come before the House. Therefore, it is very clear that if we go purely by the aspect of the law, in this case the rules do not permit now admitting this particular motion moved by hon. Shri Jaswant Singh. It does not permit us to reveal the documents here. The Prime Minister had stated here that, if need be, he would request the leaders of different political parties to meet in your Chamber, or in the Chamber of the Chairman, where conditionalities could be explained to you, not that the documents could be shown to you. Nobody has said that the documents would be shown because we cannot show them to you. These conditionalities could be explained to you. The constraints under which the Government is working could be explained to you so that you can understand the aspects which bind us or the problems that we are faced with and thereafter, we could come to proper conclusion.

Under these circumstances, I express the Government's

helplessness in agreeing to this request and I vehemently oppose the admissibility of the motion moved by Shri Jaswant Singh.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : If only conditionalities are to be explained, they could as well be explained in the House itself. What is there ?

SHRI A.C. JOS : The Law Minister has explained his position but the point is that the names are leaked out to the newspapers. The names are appearing in the newspapers. How the names have leaked out to the newspapers? This also should be explained.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down Mr. Jos. No more argument please. It has been argued enough. You should now leave the matter to the Speaker. You cannot go on talking.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I raised it yesterday also. I am not going to deliver a speech. My only point is, if only the conditionalities are to be explained before the Leaders, let the whole House know about the conditionalities. No secrecy will be broken. There will not be any violation of understanding with the foreign country. Let the entire House be seized of what the conditionalities are. We will be defending their position only. This is my only request to the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know whether you heard Mr. Somnath Chatterjee attentively or not.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Yes, I did but despite that I would like to mention this. He has also mentioned about tomorrow's meeting.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I was going to say about it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I have heard both him and the Minister. The Government's position is, nothing else but only the conditionalities will be explained. If that be so, the entire House can be seized of that. We can say that for this reason the Parliament decide that we do not want the document now. We can do that. That is the only request that I am making.

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point. I would like to make a slight correction.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Let the Law Minister reply.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : In that event, why should CBI disclose the names? Is there no restriction on the CBI? It cannot be discussed here but the CBI can leak out the names. Is the CBI above Parliament?

MR. SPEAKER : Has the CBI disclosed the names? I would like to know it officially.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : We are always at the receiving end
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : There was a lot of kite flying going on. The newspapers were publishing so many things. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to him. I have put a very pointed question and he is answering that with all responsibility.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Therefore, CBI thought it proper to inform the country that these were the entire set of names which they have received.

SHRI SHARD PAWAR : Who are they?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : They are before everybody.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Why don't you confirm them here and also the conditionalities?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : The hon. Member wants the conditionalities. I will read it:

"The document transmitted and the information contained therein may be used for investigatory purposes or as evidence only in the interest of prosecution regarding an ordinary criminal offence. Any other use of this document and the information contained therein is subject to explicit and previous authorisation of the federal office for police matter."

Therefore, anticipating that such a question would be raised here, we requested the Swiss authorities whether they would allow us to disclose these papers. We have received last night a fax message from them saying that they cannot agree to this proposal of placing these documents on the Table of the House. What more can be said?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The total purpose of transparency is defeated by this.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : When CBI has disclosed the names to media, why do the Government not disclose all the names known to them to this House? We want to know all the names.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : That very statement can be laid on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I want to make a slight correction. A little while ago I announced that we spent 48 hours discussing this matter on the floor of this House from 1987 to 1992. But on rechecking I find that it was 60 hours and not 48 hours.

I reserve my ruling on this issue.

15.21 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to grant citizenship rights to Refugees of minority community migrated from Pakistan to border districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer during 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak war**

[English]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, during 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak war, some of the refugees of minority community migrated from Pakistan to the border districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer.

15.22 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *In the Chair*]

They were kept in refugee camps and provided financial help, grants and loans by the State Government for their rehabilitation. They were also given land for cultivation. However, due to non-grant of citizenship rights, the allotment of land was cancelled to certain refugees.

During 1966, such refugees were given citizenship rights. However, due to acute famine in desert districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer, some of these refugees migrated to adjoining districts in search of livelihood. As a result, they could not get citizenship rights. These poor illiterate people were unaware of rules and regulations governing grant of citizenship right. Hence, they could not get the same.

These people are running from pillar to post for the last over 16 years to get citizenship but could not succeed in their efforts so far.

It is reliably learnt that some of these refugees are being deported without being given a fair chance to represent their cases as per Citizenship Act, 1956.

I would, therefore, request you to intervene in the matter and give a fair chance to such people to represent their cases as per Citizenship Act, 1956 before they are deported.

- (ii) **Need for strict enforcement of provisions of SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act particularly in Gujarat State**

[Translation]

SHRI N.J. RATHWA (Chhota Udaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Central Government have enacted SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, with a view to prevent atrocities on tribals. But it has been found that this Act is not being enforced strictly by administrative/police officers

and as a result of it this Act has become ineffective.

SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is not being enforced strictly in Gujarat state. Thus, the incidents of atrocities on tribal women/men are increasing continuously.

The Central Government is urged upon to direct the State Governments, especially the Gujarat government to strictly enforce the SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and immediate legal action should be taken under the provisions of this Act against the person found prima facie guilty of committing atrocities on tribals.

I would also like to make a demand that the administrative/police officers found to be lacking in taking action against the guilty persons, should be suspended/dismitted from the service with immediate effect. Only then all the concerned officers will enforce this SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act enacted by the Central Government.

(iii) Need to take steps to protect the interests of Indian Consultants in Joint Venture Public Enterprises

[English]

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar) : It is reported that foreign consultants with little acumen and experience in India are being hired to locate Indians for suitable top positions in Joint Sector Enterprises when Indian Consultants with far better credentials, experience and facilities are available. It is happening even in those joint sector enterprises where Indian compaines have majority equity participation.

Hexacom India Limited is a joint venture company with two-thirds equity being held by TCIL, a Central PSU and Shyam Telecom Ltd., a private sector unit and the remaining one third by a Canadian Telecom multinational. The company has been awarded licence for Mobile Cellular Services in Rajasthan. They asked for Indian top level consultants to quote for placement service; but it is understood that they are awarding the job to a foreign head hunting organisation at a fee reported to be of the order of eight to ten times per placement, as compared to that quoted by one of the topmost Indian Consultants. The plea is that the foreign joint venture partner has all along been used to working with the foreign head hunting firm. It is not just a case of giving preference foreign consultant over Indian consultants, but adding to the project cost also.

I urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps to ensure that the interest of Indian Consultants are protected in Joint Sector Enterprises and Joint Sector Compaines.

(iv) Need to declare existing connecting roads falling on long coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu as National Highway

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (Chengalpatu) : The existing National Highway from Calcutta to Madras (Chennai) is very much congested due to heavy traffic on this National Highway, particularly due to transportation of manufactured goods, foodgrains and raw materials. The plight of this Highway is aggravated due to cyclone and heavy rains during the season. They severely hinder the movement of goods on the Highway. It is, therefore urgently felt, necessary to take over the existing roads connecting Hyderabad, the capital of Andhra Pradesh, and other important towns of Kurnool, Cuddapah, Tirupati, Arakkonam, Kancheepuram, Vandavasi, Dindivanam and Villupuram and declare it as National Highway. This route will serve as second connecting road to Calcutta and other adjoining State capitals including Maharashtra. Since the National Highway is falling on the long coastal area of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, heavy rains and cyclone occurring a almost every year in the coastal region not only damage the roads including the Highways but also flood the small rivers at many crossings of Highways which render the traffic out of gear for several weeks.

Sir, a second route as suggested above up to Hyderabad would definitely go a long way in quick movement of goods by road, apart from easing the congestion in the existing National Highway. The necessity of having a second route has been there for more than two decades now.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Surface Transport to take immediate action for taking over and declaring the existing connecting roads between Hyderabad and the towns of Kurnool, Cuddapah, Tirupati, Arakkonam, Kancheepuram, Vandavasi, Dindivanam and Villupuram, as National Highway.

(v) Need to defuse strike of the employees of ONGC demanding construction of office building and staff quarters at Rajamundry, Andhra Pradesh

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA (Kakinada) : There is exploration of Oil and Gas in Krishna-Godavari Basin of Andhra Pradesh. However, Gas Supply from there to industries has been hit as ONGC strike continues in that region. The demands of the employees include establishing regional office of ONGC at Rajahmundry and construction of office building complex and staff quarters in the area.

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has already allotted five acres of land at Rajahmundry for construction of the Regional Office. The ONGC has also been given

[Shri T. Gopal Krishna]

land in Narsapur for construction of Staff Quarters. But it seems there is no progress in this regard. The delay in execution of the above two demands resulted in strike of staff working there. I, therefore, request the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas to take steps for immediate negotiations with the employees of the ONGC working in Andhra Pradesh for acceding to their demands at an early date.

15.32 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall take up the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Time allotted for it is nine hours. The balance time at the disposal is five hours and twenty-nine minutes. Sharimati Geeta Mukherjee.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Thank you Sir for calling me. I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on Rashtrapathi's Address. The Address has listed some achievements, internal and external within seven months of the tenure of the United Front Government.

For example, among the internal achievements, some of the most important are holding peaceful elections in Kashmir, and imparting a measure of dynamism to the Inter-State Council and related measures which would help in giving more powers and share of resources to the States. Both were long overdue.

Externally, Treaty with Bangladesh for sharing of Ganga waters, considerable improvement in our relations with our neighbours, including People's Republic of China are some such positive examples.

We know there are several pending internal issues which require urgent attention and vigorous action like for example steep rise in the prices of essential commodities which need to be tackled urgently.

Similarly, the matter of reopening the numerous closed industries and rehabilitation of the sick public sector units are issues which have to be urgently tackled. All these affect the vast masses.

Of course, we, the Left Parties, understand that there are serious problems and several economic compulsions which follow from the past realities created by the earlier regime. We also understand that the Common Minimum Programme cannot be fully implemented in a matter of months.

But we feel that the electorates which brought about this important political change in our country through the last General Election, which installed the United Front Government have certain expectations from it and are carefully watching the direction the United Front Government follow. When the Left Parties criticise certain measures or policy directions of the Government, we hope that our non-Left friends in the United Front will understand that this is an expression of our concern about some of these urgent issues in the interest of the common people and not in any partisan interest of ours.

Hon. Rashtrapatiji's Address contained many important subjects. Speakers of different political parties are dealing with those subjects. The second speaker from CPI will also deal with some of those subjects, but in my speech, today, I want to concentrate on one issue only, that is, on the constitution Eighty-First (Amendment) Bill 1996 providing one-third reservation of seats for women in Lok Sabha and in Legislative Assemblies. I hope my colleagues will not mind to that.

Of course, in Rashtrapatiji's Address, there are only two places where this Bill has been mentioned. One is in the list of pending Bills and the other reference is in Paragraph 29. Here, I would like to quote that paragraph:

"We are also keen to promote gender equality and removal of discrimination against women. As you know, the Government has already introduced a Bill for Reservation of Seats for Women in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies to ensure their better participation in policy making."

But is there any commitment to pass the Bill in this Session itself? There is no such commitment.

As far as the description of the Bill is concerned, there also the word 'one-third' is missing before the word 'reservation'. Because of this, I believe, not only myself but all the women and men MPs, who want this Bill to be passed, will feel disheartened. Moreover, the women of our country who are eagerly waiting for the passage of this historic Bill will not only be deeply disheartened but may seriously doubt the pious wish expressed in the sentence and I quote:

"We are also keen to promote gender equality and removal of discrimination against women."

I implore the Government to take note of it and to answer the questions which I am going to ask now. Is the Government stepping back from its promise made in its Common Minimum Programme? I would like to remind the Government and would once again like to quote from its Common Minimum Programme:

"That one-third of the elected representatives in

Parliament and State Legislatures will be reserved for Women."

Have you forgotten the promise made by all the major political parties? I have the manifestoes of all the major political parties wherein they have promised the same. I will not take the time by reading all of them, but I just would like to draw your attention to the fact that I went through all the manifestoes and found that some kind of a promise has been made in them.

Therefore, I am asking them whether they are stepping back from their Common Minimum Programme. At the moment, this Government is committed to the Common Minimum Programme. I hope, the Government will not forget that. I would like to know why this hesitation is there to implement it. What is the fear?

Some Members are saying that unless the reservation is given to OBC women also within this reservation quota for women, they will not let the Bill be passed.

Sir, I am surprised. With all sympathy for my OBC sisters, may I ask those gentlemen, who are speaking like that, why could they not bring earlier a Private Member's Bill or even a Resolution for providing reservation for OBCs if they are so concerned? Moreover, is it not a fact that among the one-third reserved seats for women, there are bound to be a number of seats which will be OBC dominated? If so, why do they not put up some OBC women candidates there and thereby allowing the OBC women to have a mileage? Further, the Joint Committee has recommended to the Government to consider the question of OBC reservation as and when they think fit. If such a constitutional amendment is brought and the Parliament in its wisdom would pass that Bill, then automatically OBC women will come within the purview of one-third reservation as is the case today with SC and ST women. Then, why do you hold up this Bill on such an excuse?

Some Members of Parliament are asking wherefrom so many able women will come who are fit to be Members of Legislative Assemblies and Lok Sabha? May I say with all humility that this is an assessment of women from the point of view of our patriarchal society or the personal views of some hi-men. Excuse me.

Think back to 1952—the first general elections. The percentage of women elected to the First Lok Sabha was only 4.4. Are we to believe that among the stalwart freedom fighters of our country there was such a dearth of capable women that they could not put up more candidates and get them in Parliament? Has the situation changed substantially since then? In 1996 the percentage was 7.2. The highest percentage ever reached in Lok Sabha was

8.1 per cent in 1985. Who can deny that over the past fifty years of Independence, despite many difficulties and denial of equal opportunities, our women have made a mark in new and varied fields of life? Many of them have distinguished themselves as teachers, as doctors, as engineers, as officers in different disciplines and most important as social and political workers. Lakhs of common women have participated in the struggle of all sections of our people for winning their own sectoral demands, for improving the quality of life of their families and society, for defending our national unity and for widening the content of our democracy. What better political education can there be for potential candidates to decision-making bodies at all levels?

Another question raised is, if one-third seats are given to women, there will be dearth of able MPs and MLAs and the standard of performance of the legislative bodies would go down. I would respectfully suggest that the hon. Speaker might consider taking an opinion poll of those who are watching the live TV broadcast of Parliament Sessions. It would be interesting to see what the voters think about the standard of performance of the present House where 92.8 per cent are men MPs and only 7.2 per cent are women.

I take the liberty of quoting here the opening paragraph of a document presented by our Government to the participants of the Inter-Parliamentary Specialised Conference held here in Delhi this month.

In fact, it is a statement by no less a person than Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation. He wrote:

"Woman is the companion of man gifted with equal mental capacities. She has the right to participate in the minutest details of the activities of man and she has the same right of freedom of liberty as he. By sheer force of a vicious custom, even the most ignorant and worthless men have been enjoying a superiority over women which they do not deserve and ought not to have."

If I have quoted Gandhiji the intention is not to insult any male colleague here but do draw the attention to what he calls the "vicious custom" i.e. that mental attitude of the patriarchal society which gives rise to such a question as referred to earlier. Shall we not try, we men and women together, to fight that vicious custom?

I think the main hurdle in the way of the passage of this Bill is the fear of some men that they will be deprived of their seats and consequently their leadership. It is true that some men MPs will be deprived of their seats for some time as the 7.2 per cent seats held by women now will increase to 33 per cent. But in any case, the seats reserved

[Shri Geeta Mukherjee]

for women would rotate and moreover the reservation is supposed to be reviewed after 15 years according to the Joint Committee's recommendation. For capable long-standing established political leaders, there should be no problem in contesting and winning from another constituency nearby. In any case, none of us have come to the politics with the idea that we shall be life-long occupants of our seats as MPs and MLAs.

The necessity of giving reservation has arisen from the fact that despite being 50 per cent of the voters, the representation of women in the decision-making bodies remained insignificant. Has it not also deprived the whole society by not utilizing the talents of women in the highest decision-making fora? Does it not impoverish our democracy to considerable extent?

I again implore my male colleagues here to establish real partnership between men and women in the highest decision-making fora in order to hit out unitedly against the age old discrimination against women and thereby let us help in the establishment of a joint leadership of men and women which can enrich our democracy and advance our society.

We, the women of India, remember with special gratitude the men social reformers who fought valiantly for the improvement of the lot of women in the face of social ostracism and ridicule. Who can forget Raja Rammohan Roy, Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Rabindra Nath Tagore, Subramania Bharati, Jyotiba Phule and so many other illustrious men who will go down in history as some of the greatest benefactors to our society?

My dear male colleagues of this House, please consider the impact.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Why do you not address the whole House?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : All right, men and women of the whole House, please consider the impact. I know that women are all for it. That is why I addressed like that.

Please consider the impact we can make if in this very Session, we can pass this Bill. If we can do that, it will go down in the history of Indian Parliament as one of the most distinguished Sessions and a memorable contribution in our country's progress towards a fuller and more universal democracy and also advanced society.

So, I implore that we should all join in creating that glory by lending everybody's support and voting for the Bill. Please remember that the women who are 50 per cent of the voters will be watching with anxiety and eagerness what we do about this Bill in this Session and will remember

you with respect and gratitude if this bill gets passed in this very Session.

Therefore, let all of us march together towards that fuller democracy where men and women can together build the nation. So, let this Bill be passed in this very Session !

15.50 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Fire at Baripada, Orissa

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Sir, with your kind permission I would like to make the following statement about my visit yesterday to the Orissa State.

I would like to inform the hon. Members about my visit along with Shri Sharad Pawar, the Leader of Congress (I), Shri Karia Munda of the BJP, Shri Biju Patnaik, Shri Anchal Das, Shri Sriballav Panigrahi, Shri Srikant Jena, Kumari Sushila Tiriya, all MPs from various parties. We paid a visit to Baripada yesterday February 24, 1997 the site of the ghastly tragedy by fire which broke out on February 23, 1997.

The facts about the incident are as follows:

About 10,000 devotees had assembled at Madhuban in the Baripada Municipality of Mayurbhanj District, for a religious gathering which began on February 21, 1997 and was to conclude on February 23. On February 23, 1997 a devastating fire suddenly broke out at the site at 3.15 in the afternoon. It has been informed by the State Government that the fire brigade was immediately pressed into service, and while the women's camp site could be protected, the fire spread through the men's camp site and 149 persons died on the spot. Another 175 persons were injured and were admitted to the local hospital and to nursing homes. Of the injured persons, 28 have succumbed to their injuries.

Immediately after the accident, the local administration deployed 43 doctors to attend to the injured. Local voluntary organisations, businessmen and political workers also joined the rescue efforts. A team of medical experts and para-medical staff from the Medical College, Cuttack, has also reached Baripada.

The process of identification of the deceased is on and their relatives and acquaintances are coming for identification.

I would like to inform the hon. Members that the Central Government is going to release rupees 50,000 to the families of the deceased and to those persons who have been disabled permanently. For others who have been injured, the Central Government would provide Rs. 25,000.

The State Government has also announced financial relief of rupees 25,000 to the next of kin of the deceased and rupees 10,000 to each of those injured.

I have also requested the Chief Minister to make efforts to have the deceased identified precisely so that the assistance being given reaches the right persons. Given the difficult situation, the local authorities and the State Government are making the best possible efforts to deal with it.

I have been informed that the State Government has instituted an inquiry into the accident to be conducted by the Divisional Commissioner of the Central Revenue Division, Cuttack to ascertain the sequence of events leading to it and to determine whether prompt steps were taken to control the fire and provide medical care to the victims.

I am sure I speak on behalf of all the hon. Members in expressing deep grief at this sad event, and in expressing condolences to the families of those who have died, and wish for the recovery of the injured.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Prime Minister, your visit has definitely created a sort of confidence in the minds of the local people. It was a great relief to them. My only request is that whatever financial assistance the Government of India is going to give, has to be released as early as possible.

During the last visit of the hon. Prime Minister to that State at the time of drought, Rs. 50 crore relief had been announced. But the concerned Ministry has not released that money to that State. That is why, it should not happen at this juncture.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : The amount has been released not as a special assistance. As I promised, Rs. 50 crore has been released. But they want special assistance. *(Interruptions)*. I will reply tomorrow about what they have released. We have released this amount today itself and I have passed the orders to place the amount at the disposal of the Chief Secretary of the Orissa Government. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, only Rs. 13 crore has been released by the Government of India. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Panigrahi, as you know, after

making a statement we do not have the convention of any clarification. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA (Puri) : We are a very poor State as it is and on top of that, we are very badly ravaged by natural calamities. That is why, we do not doubt the hon. Prime Minister's intention, but at the cutting edge level his promises are not being fulfilled.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the hon. Prime Minister has said that he has already released Rs. 50 crore.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot allow you. After making a statement, there is a convention in this House that there is no clarification sought. I cannot allow you.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) : The hon. Prime Minister should provide maximum funds, especially for providing drinking water. From March onwards we are not going to have a drop of water in Bolangir, Kalahandi, Koraput, Mayaurbhanj and other parts of the State. So, my humble request to the Prime Minister is that he should provide maximum funds to the State as far as drinking water problem is concerned. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that a copy of the statement made by hon. Prime Minister should be circulated among Members atleast.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Copy of the statement has been circulated.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : I do not know as to when it was circulated.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think that it has been circulated.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : We should atleast be informed about the statement made in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The copy of the statement will be given to you but you cannot seek any classification on it.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : At first, I would like to make a submission that amount of compensation is quite meagre and it should be increased.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : All these points will be dealt in detail in Prime Minister's speech on Presidential Address.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Secondly, I would like to know about Lapses in management of this crisis which have not been mentioned at all.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I am prepared to give all the details.

15.58 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—Contd.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Motion moved by Shri Sharad Yadav.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not forget that Bill.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Before I go into other important issues, I wish to categorically state that I strongly support Comrade Geeta Mukherjee's proposal. I hope that some way will be found out as to how to take up this Bill and to pass it. I had suggested that we should pass it without discussion and I stick to it. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOMNATH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : The Bolpur seat will become a woman's seat.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If Bolpur seat becomes a woman's seat and if I am still in the reckoning, I will go to Silchar.

15.59 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the Chair*]

Sir, the last year's President's Address was product of what I call the constitutional absurdity, lacking in political and moral authority. We are happy that this year hon. Rashtrapatiji has been able to read out a speech prepared by a legitimate Government. That is why, the speech reflects the urges and aspirations of the people of this country and addresses some of the basic problems facing the country and the people.

16.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, the United Front is not just a combination of political parties born out of political expediency it is the result of a clearest mandate of the people of this country who have, in no uncertain manner, given their mandate against the forces of communalism and sectarianism. Consciously, I believe, that the people of this country did not vote for a single party. But they have made their choice and expressed it in no uncertain manner, in unmistakable form that they have opted for a secular and democratic administration in this country and they want a

Government to be guided by transparency, probity and accountability.

Sir, the coalition government has come to rule this country. I believe that the people of this country realise that one-party rule has not been able to solve the problems of this country when most of the 50 years since our political independence we have had one-party rule. But, Sir, what we find and what is matter of great importance is that 75 per cent of the voters, three out of four voters in this country, in the last election gave their verdict against communalisation of politics. Sir, their mandate is clear and loud. The people's choice for secular, democratic and liberal administration has to be respected and that is why some of the political parties, 13 or 14, have come together to carry out the mandate of the people. It is not a matter to be scoffed at. We have to have a Government in the Centre. We have to provide an administration which will look into the problems of the people, and try to solve them. Therefore, this United Front, which has been born out of the people's choice and the people's mandate, has a very important duty to perform.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are told by the major Opposition Party in this country that Government lacks legitimacy because on its own it is not the majority party, that it is supported from outside by the Congress Party which has been ousted from power, and it is supported by the United Front parties not all of whom have joined the Government. Sir, as I said, the clearest decision of people of this country is that the communal forces have to be halted. This country cannot be allowed to be overrun by those who want to divide the country once again, by those who divide the people on the basis of religion, those who have desecrated a place of worship, those who have violated the Supreme Court order and those who have brought into all seeds of discord in the body politic. Sir, as we have to get rid of the economic corruption from our body polity, from our political life, we have also to get rid of this virus of communalism and separatism, from our national life and that is the great obligation which has been imposed on this United Front and it would have been letting the people down ignoring the people's mandate if these political parties who are now in the United Front had not come together to provide an administration which will cater to the needs of the people.

Everybody will realise this that it cannot be a bed of roses for the Government, it cannot be a smooth sailing affair, but they have risen to the occasion and the Common Minimum Programme has been constituted and framed. I believe that even the Congress party has accepted it, which is nothing but, according to me, a testament of hopes, urges and aspirations of the people of this country. It is a charter of comprehensive development of this country

and which all parties together, which is a sort of post-electoral alliance, framed. Considering the future of this country, considering the duty of us who are in Parliament, in political life, in public life to try sincerely to remove tears from every eye in this country, they have joined and formulated the United Front, its charter, its programmes and its formulation. I feel that it is the bounden duty of all of us in the Parliament, or even outside, to see that the Government is allowed to do its duty to fulfil the expectations of the people, as indicated in the United Front's Common Minimum Programme.

We have always said and I am happy that the Prime Minister has emphasised on that from time to time, namely, our primary objective is towards the common people, the poor people, how to remove poverty from this country, how to take recourse to the poverty alleviation programmes, how to see that not a single person in this country remains unfed or not fully fed, how to try to provide a shelter on their heads, how to provide that they should have treatment when they are ill or sick. These are the basic minimum rights of any civilised society and it is our bounden duty to fulfil them, specially when a long time has elapsed. Five decades is not a small period. As a nation, we cannot absolve ourselves of the shame that still in our country, there are people below the poverty line, without decent standard of living, there are people who are unable to go to schools or places of learning, there are people in this country who do not get pure drinking water and there are people who die without medical treatment. Therefore, are we not here in this House obliged to see that these minimum facilities are made available?

Sometimes, probably, we are more concerned in finding out what divides us than what unite us and what are the divisions amongst the people. But there are certain areas and objectives which, according to me and my party also, should be the bounden duty of everybody in this country to see to. There should not be disparity from people to people.

Let them enjoy the minimum rights which the Constitution makers have provided for the citizens of this country. Let not the Directives Principles of the State Policy be mere narration of such rights and goals only in papers. Let Fundamental Rights of citizens of this country be not paper rights only. Therefore, how will we achieve it unless we are able to concentrate on this, able to put our heads together, able to put our energies together?

It is a developing country. We have tremendous resources. Our biggest resource is human resource. But unfortunately, are not able to fully realise these resources. We find that our young boys and girls and brilliant academicians are waiting for opportunities to serve the country, and they are going out of this country because

here, they are not respected, they are not having job opportunities. They are contributing to other countries' development and progress and we are not able to retain them here, in our own country.

This is the position. But we cannot lose hope. We cannot throw up our hands. We cannot say : 'thus far, no further and we cannot do it.' The history will not pardon us. Those who have decided to participate in political and public activity cannot, but redeem our pledge. Otherwise, the future generations will never exonerate us.

Sir, I know the limitations of the United Front. I know the problems which will be there when so many parties are working together. I know that this country has complex problems, problems of unbalanced development, problems of lack of development, problems of lack of infrastructure and problems of inherent weakness of our economic set up also. We have to depend on other countries. We have to borrow money from other countries. We cannot provide the wherewithal with our own resources. We are not even able to provide water to our farmers who are toiling everyday and producing our biggest asset, namely food.

These are the problem and we have to tackle them. But in the present context, how do we do it? Merely nibbling at each other and merely criticising will not do, and there again I appeal to all sections of the House that there are some basic aspects, some basic issues which should not be allowed to be compromised. There cannot be a let up in that.

Sir, nobody I believe, wants an election now. The Bharatiya Janata Party may be having its dreams. But with their performance in Gujarat and Rajasthan and with some negative votes here and there, they may think that they would be able to come on top of the world. But what have we seen in Delhi? Even the other day, the ballot boxes were seen on the streets under their administration. What is happening in the State of Maharashtra? In Maharashtra, people like Dr. Datta Samant are killed on the streets. How are the elections being held there and what is the percentage of voting there? I found that not more than 50 per cent of the people had voted. How are they dealing with their political opponents in Maharashtra? These issues are there. But at the moment, I do not wish to have a confrontation.

Sir, the duties towards the common people and the poor people will have to be discharged and in this context, I must congratulate the hon. Prime Minister and the Government. I know that they would be facing the problem of providing subsidy to over Rs. 8,000 crore. But you cannot play with the future of the people below the poverty line. We have been insisting, rather pressing hard for it, because that is one of the commitments made in the United

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Front's Common Minimum Programme that we must provide, at a cheaper rate, at half the rate to the people below the poverty line, at least the rice and wheat. I must congratulate the Government on this issue that the hon. Prime Minister has made that announcement yesterday and this would provide great relief to them. Let us have this satisfaction at least that those who need the most have been provided with this opportunity of survival.

Sir, I shall request the Government, particularly the Prime Minister who is here, that it has to be seen that there is a proper implementation of this programme. All risks should be avoided. It is the duty of every citizen to see that this is properly implemented and those who indulge in black marketing with these foodgrains—let us follow Jawaharlal Nehru's wishes—should be hanged from the nearest lamp post. I do not mind that, because you cannot play with the lives of the people. The people of the country will be paying the subsidy, but this is a subsidy which has to be borne by this country. It cannot be helped.

Therefore, I hope there will be the proper implementation. The West Bengal Government is hoping to introduce it comprehensively within a month. It has already done the process. Similarly, I am sure the other Governments will also sincerely try to do it. Let us not play with the lives of the poor people when the entire country is making the sacrifice very legitimately.

Sir, there are many other programmes which this Government has taken up. The provisions have been made. I find a very wholesome change in the approach. I must thank the Prime Minister when he rushes to places where the people have suffered because of fire, because of natural tragedy and natural calamity. This is what is expected from a pro-people Government and pro-people administration. It shows the concern of the Government for those who are afflicted in our country. I quite appreciate the concern that is expressed by my friends from Orissa. Yes, when you are saying this, please see that it reaches the needy. The Prime Minister has made a commitment on the floor of the House. It should reach the proper people, reach quickly and should not be wasted.

Sir, I also wish to thank this Government and congratulate the Government for another milestone which it has achieved, namely, entering into Indo-Bangladesh Water Treaty. It has changed the entire atmosphere in the sub-continent. It has brought about a real change of attitude and feeling between the two countries. Sir, nothing can be more important than our closest and friendly relations with Bangladesh. I know the BJP will not be happy. They are not happy. They are trying to find out some loopholes with or without the support of some of Mr. Sharad Pawar's

lieutenants. I do not know how many groups you have. But, at least, some individuals seem to be not satisfied.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : There is no question about it.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY (Kurnool) : You are also not free from it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this has opened a new vista of relations and economic activities between the peoples of these two countries who have suffered because of the partition and other problems between them. Our Chief Minister has played a role in this Treaty which has been admitted.

The Treaty with Nepal is also commendable. I must congratulate the Government for the very firm role and attitude which they displayed during the CTBT discussions and agreements. These are very positive points. Let us go on in these matters with or without BJP and try to serve the people.

Sir, the other aspects on which I wish to make a reference is the improvement in the relations between the Centre and the States. We have been saying and we have been crying hoarse as a matter of fact that the time has come for restructuring the relations between the Centre and the States. After all, it is a federal structure for facility of administration. If we find that certain division of powers has not helped in the equal development of this country, in the balanced development of this country and if it has not helped either in the establishment of true federal structure of the Government in this country or for providing the wherewithal to the people of all areas in an ample measure as they deserve, something was basically wrong. Long before this *Manmohanomics* came in, the West Bengal Legislature passed a resolution asking for scrapping of the licensing system so far as industry was concerned because it was felt that the licensing procedure was being misutilised at Delhi. We are not getting even licences for setting up the industries in different areas. Today, I do not grudge Mr. Sharad Pawar's Maharashtra. I appreciate that. But are the people of North-East India, people of Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal and Assam not entitled to it? Are they not entitled to the benefits of industrial development?

Orissa, with all the mineral resources, is crying 'give us water, give us some development grant'. Kalahandi seems to be the poorest district in this country; people are dying out of hunger. They are crying for a little drinking water and a little water for their cultivation. Why should it be? What is the per capita income of some people in some parts of this country? Why is it half in some States? This is how, we have created areas of discord. We have encouraged people to take up arms against others because

they feel alienated from the mainstream. This has not helped the country's development. So many ethnic groups, so many pressure groups, are all trying to have their own say in the matter. Why? They ask for separate States or separate districts or separate administration because they feel that unless they shout, unless they make their presence felt and unless they create problems, nobody is going to look into it. It was not for one State or one group of people that this restructuring has been asked for.

What is happening in the National Development Council? Shri Sharad Pawar has been attending it. I have come to know from other that in every meeting of the National Development Council, all the Chief Ministers, at least secretly or privately, ask for more money. All of them do not have the courage to say that in the presence of the Prime Minister. They will come and ask the Left Front Chief Minister : "Why do you not talk for us also?" They are not to be blamed because they want money for the development of their States. I am sure, Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala would agree with me, that every Chief Minister has been facing this problem. I am sure that our esteemed Prime Minister also faced this problem earlier as the Chief Minister of Karnataka. Therefore, some restructuring was necessary. The Constitution contemplated the setting up of an Inter-Council. It was in limbo; nobody bothered about it. The National Development Council hardly holds one or two meetings in a year and, sometimes, even not that. The State Governments are getting more and more alienated from the planning process. There was no discussion on the Approach Plan; there was no discussion on the Draft Plan worth the name. In one day, all the State Chief Ministers will come and make their speeches and go away. It was supposed to be a discussion on planning.

Therefore, these are welcome signs. I am sure, this will benefit all the States, whichever party may rule that State. But here, the Centre has to take the lead. On the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations, there are certain things which we have supported and on certain things we have reservations. But there are certain basic issues which have been dealt with by the Sarkaria Commission. I am glad that proper attention is now being paid, and a Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council has been constituted which will look into all these problems and try to sort them out.

As we said, our great advantage is that there is a basic unity amongst diversity in this country. Let us not only emphasise on what are the diversities, but we should also not forget what is the basic unity of this country. Unless this basic unity is kept in front of us, we shall lose our way and we shall be more concerned with matters of division or with matters of discord.

I also congratulate the Government for the way they

have conducted the elections in Jammu and Kashmir and in Punjab. Whatever Government was formed, it is welcome. It is for the people of that State to decide and we respect the people's verdict. But the point is that they have been allowed and they have been able to exercise their franchise. That is the most important thing. It is for the different political parties to make themselves acceptable to the people. But the point is that the people's wishes must be respected; they must be given full opportunity. I have my good wishes to the Governments of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

They should prosper. Their problems should be solved. It has to be a cooperative effort not only between the Centre and those States but all over the country to solve their problems.

When I talk of problems, they are still galore. There is no doubt about that. We are concerned about the price rise. Unfortunately, it is still there. People are feeling the pressure of it.

There is the problem of, what you call, the sick undertakings in this country. Many people are still not getting employment. Even today, in the morning, the question of NTC mills came up. These mills are there is so many of the States. They are lying closed or they are almost getting closed. The wages of the employees are not being paid. Therefore, these are matters which have to be dealt with immediately.

There is the question of self-reliance in our industry. It has to be looked into. My colleague Shri Syed Masudal Hossain will deal with the other problems. I am not getting into them.

So far as the serious problems of terrorism and ethnic struggle in Tripura are concerned, these are matters on which action has to be taken immediately. I know this Government has taken some steps. The Home Minister has been there. On these matters, as I said just now, action has to be taken very quickly.

I would also like to request the hon. Prime Minister the while replying to this debate, he should give us fuller information about the Poverty Alleviation Programme and how he wishes to give a thrust to the projects for supply of drinking water to the people.

The other aspect which also took quite a long time in this House today quite some time back is regarding the issue of corruption. Obviously this is a matter on which there can be compromise at any level, at any point, whoever may be involved. We have expressed our sincere thanks to the courts also. Because of the Judiciary, we have been able to pursue with the investigation of the JMM bribery case, the *Havala* case, the St. Kitts inquiry and so many other scams. But our duty does not end there

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or our obligation does not end there. It is one of the primary duties of this Government to assure the people of this country that all these inquiries and investigations will be pursued most vigorously and that those who are guilty, however highly placed he or she may be, should not be allowed to go scot-free. Nobody tainted with any scam or anybody guilty of any offence, economic offence primarily, should be allowed to enjoy the benefits of any weakness or any lackadaisical attitude on the part of the Government or the investigating agencies.

Sir, I need not go into the details about Bofors. So far as Bofors is concerned, we have discussed the matter. This is also one of the cases where it is high time that the people of this country are given the full details, subject to the rules, regulations and whatever provisions are there.

The people of this country, as I said, are waiting to receive a just and humane treatment. They do not claim much. The ordinary common people of this country are satisfied with little. Therefore, our justification is that these very minimum demands of the people of this country are met.

There is still raging unemployment in this country. We have to solve this problem on a war footing. The young boys and girls, educated, skilled or even unskilled people want to have a decent standard of life.

They want to earn their livelihood on their own and look after their families. It is our duty to see that they are able to do their job and earn their livelihood.

I know there are certain contentious issues. My Party has also said specially on some of the economic issues. There are still areas of confrontation, areas of disagreement. I request the Government and the Ministers here to please hasten slowly. Please do not do anything which will create a situation that you are out to destabilise what is India, what is our objective. After a long deliberations, certain areas have been cited upon or have been identified in the industry, in the economy where we must have our full control in the country as a whole. Let us not, in a sense of trying to follow what others would like us to do, give up some of our commitments. This is a matter which is of very great importance and I want that those issues are discussed. Let the Steering Committee of the United Front, which is given a very important task, look into it. They are not amenable to us but the Government is responsible to this House. Therefore, the Government must see that there is larger amount of acceptability in areas of agreement so that this Government with all the problems in the country, tries to fulfil its objectives laid down in the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government.

Sir, it is said and if I may quote:

"This is a transition period which will be guided by the need to strengthen the principles of democracy, secularism, federalism and social justice. In the building of this new India of equality, justice and fraternity, we seek the fullest participation of all citizens. The hallmark of the United Front Government's approach will be the greater and greater involvement of our people in all its endeavours."

This should be the *mantra* of this Government. So long as you do not deviate from this commitment given to the people of this country, I am sure, they will have the confidence of this House.

I support the President's Address and I sincerely hope that the Government will take all measures to implement the very important commitments in a time-bound manner, that have been made to the people of this country so that the people of this country can get what they fully deserve.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

Today the whole country is passing through an extraordinary situation. We are celebrating the golden jubilee year of our independence and a mention of this has been made in the President's Address. During the period of last fifty years our country has made progresses in many fields and at the same time have faced several challenges. These challenges came from inside the country and also from outside. In spite of all this, the country have emerged victorious every time by showing and proving the whole world that democracy in India is impregnable and no one can weaken it. It was only through the democracy that we have succeeded in giving so many good things to the country.

We have set the target of socialism and we have been discussing it in the House for the last fifty years. Now we are moving ahead with this idea. A new economic wave has invaded the whole world and India too have accepted it. Today we have entered into the field of economic liberalisation. The economic liberalisation has yielded good results to the country during the last 4-5 years. But alongwith the economic liberalisation we have noticed one more thing and that is the lower strata of our society which needs some more attention. We have to work hard to protect and serve their interest.

Sir, when we look back at the last achievements of lost 50 years, we find that there, has been improvement in the various fields—whether it is in the field of education, communication, irrigations or in the matter of building-up

huge and powerfull Army—we have achieved a lot. But at the same if we go in deep, we will also find that all our dreams have not come true. We cannot claim that all our dreams have matterialised. If we make compension, we cannot claim that the number of illiterates has gone down. We have failed to provide adequate and proper medical facilities in every nook and corner of the country. The problem of unemployment is still a big problem before the country as our youth are sitting jobless. The whole country is unanimous over the issue of prevailing corruption in the country. This is a much talked issue and we are required to take some firm steps to remove this evil. There is a question of regional imbalance before us which was just referred to by Shri Somnathji in his speech. Whether it is the state of Orissa or a part of Bihar or Rajasthan or Uttar Pradesh or any part of North-East—regional imbalance is existing. All these problems require our immediate attention and hard labour.

Sir, there is an important point pertaining to our security measures—Be it a matter of internal security or external security—which is directly linked with our economy—we are ready to guard our borders at any cost but when questions are raised about our border security, they create an atmosphere of tension and divert our attention from the very important domestic issues which hinderes our development process and affects the climate of investment. This is not in the interest of the country at all. A mention which has been made in the President's Address for taking steps to improve our relations with our neighbouring countries is to be welcomed. I also welcome the steps taken to solve the dispute over sharing of Ganga water with Bangladesh.

The country and the whole world recently witnessed democratic elections in our neighbouring country Pakistan. This time the people of Pakistan have given a clear majority to Shri Nawaj Sharief and it is hoped that it would be his best endeavour to improve the relationship between the two countries. Because of Nawaj Sharief's initiative an atmosphere of confidence is building-up between the two countries. He has said that he is ready to hold dialogue with India and the Government of India have also welcomed this step. Kashmir issue may take some time some but, there are other issues like bilateral trade, transport etc. which require immediate initiatives from both side to build-up a good relationship between the two countries. Since the initiative taken by Shri Sharief has been welcomed by our Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs, I would say that in order to create confidence between the two countries we will have to take some steps time and again. I do agree that important issues will take some time to resolve but, we have to make some way out for resolving the smaller issues which, in turn, would build-up an atmosphere of belief and faith.

I have received a letter which was addressed to some editor. There are a few Indians languishing in Pakistani Jails for the last many years. 13 Guajrati fishermen had gone to Dubai on visa. They had been working in fishery sector since many years. One day their launch had crossed over to Irani territory. They were caught by the Irani Police and give six month's imprisonment. After the imprisonment period was over they were left at the Pakistani border by the Irani Police. Again, they were arrested by the Pakistani Police for want of visa and again imprisoned for 6-7 months. They have been put-up in Karachi Jail for the last two and a half years. It has been mentioned in the letter that apart from these 13 fishermen, there are other 50 Indians who have also been languishing in Pakistani jails for the last three to four years. Neither any case is booked trial against them nor they are given any opportunity to speak in their favour. They have repeatedly written to the Indian High Commission but to no avail. In all, there are more than 200 Indians who are in different Pakistani jails for the last three years. This issue should be taken-up by the Ministry of External Affairs with their Pakistani Counterpart. All out efforts should be made to bring there people back to their country. They belong to Gujrat. I am sure, this step will give a good signal for future talks.

It would be encouraging if our relations with China also improve alongwith improvement of our relations with Pakistan. We can learn a lot from each other in economic and social field and if we make sincere efforts we can gain a lot. Today, China are moving ahead with a dream of becoming super-power in the field of economy.

We welcome their this efforts and at the same time we also welcome their proposal for having good relations with their neighbours, and not having any tension at our borders and making all contributions in this direction.

Efforts have been made to build-up good relationship with the South Asian nations. We are having good relations with these countries. We are having the same issues with them which we were having over the last few years. Over the last few years, we have made large scale improvement in the field of economy. The result is before everyone. It seems to me that more and more good relations we have with these countries, we will get more and more good commercial results.

Sir, when I was listening the President's Address, I heard him saying at one place that—

"The Armed Forces remain in a state of constant preparedness to safeguard our territorial integrity. Strengthening the defence of the nation is among the foremost priorities of the Government on which there can be compromise. The Government is concious of the urgent need for modernising the Armed Forces.

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

and is committed to provide all the inputs which may be needed for fulfilling this objective."

In today's scenario we are having good relations with our neighbouring countries which is a welcome step. For this, I also feel happy but in view of the past experiences, we have to make our armed forces more strong. It is, therefore, I feel happy and I welcome the mention made in the Address in respect of providing more funds to our armed forces for their modernization. I am well aware of the situation prevailing in the Indian armed forces. I don't want to speak more on this score. There are certain problems before the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Naval Force are faced with certain serious problems, I want to place the picture of Indian Navy before the Government. If the Government are committed to provide necessary funds and resources for modernization of Indian Army, I also endorse this decision.

Our total coastal area measures more than 17 thousand km. Our annual targeted transaction from ports and other means of sea transport comes to Rs. 80 thousand crores. I have placed this figure before you just to make you realise the importance of our ocean in the field of economy. We have invested one lakh and fifty thousand crores of Rupees over the last many years on our all sea ports—be it Mumbai Port, Chennai Port, Kandla or Mumbai High. We have made such a huge investment on our parts, therefore, it becomes the responsibility of our Naval Force to take care of them in the interest of the security of our country. But, the condition of our Naval Force is becoming worst day by day and if we don't attend this problem in time, the whole country will have to pay price for this negligence.

Many Hon'ble Members must have read today in the newspapers that two months ago a function was held in Mumbai wherein aircraft like INS Vikrant carrier were grounded. This requires replacement by a new aircraft carrier. There is no preparation for this. INS Vikrant is 40 years old. Our neighbouring countries, particularly China, are having many such aircraft carriers which may pose question our long term security measures. We are having tankers but they are not in a good condition. We have INS Deepak tanker which has been de-commissioned. INS Sakti is likely to be decommissioned this year itself and other tankers, which are 12 years old, are not in a preety good condition. After this, there are submarines. This also include two decommissioned submarines. Remaining submarines are also more than 10 years old. The original force strength of our submarines was 20 which has now come down to 17 and by the end of this year it is likely to come down to merely 6. The number has reduced from 20 to 6 which is not in the interest of the security of our

country at all. It is in view of these facts, much more investment is required in this field. The Government should make more allocations under this head.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the Budget was presented in this House last year, increased provisions were made for Naval Force which was also approved. And in the proposals which came after two months, Navy were given no amount. The people of this country might have to pay the price for this shortage of fund with the Indian Navy. I have illustrated a very fine example of Navy before the House. But our Amed Forces and Air Force are in much more bad condition. We must have good relations with our neighbouring countries. But, at the same we must have a strong army, which requires our immediate attention.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, apart from the external condition we have also discussed about the internal condition. Just now Shri Chatterjee has said that this is a secular Government which was formed with our support. I fully agree with him. It would not be in the interest of the nation to encourage and promote the communal forces in the country. When we talk of bringing a change in our economic field, when we talk of paying our attention towards development and when we talk of creating a congenial environment for attracting investment, we must present ourselves or undivided and there cannot be any difference of opinion in this respect. For this, we must fight back the forces which want to disintegrate us and our society. This is our national duty and we, therefore, welcome the Government formed on this basis.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : That force is sitting over here.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : That is what requires our attention. As Shri Naikji said such forces are becoming powerfull. We have to think over it as to how they are becoming stronger? Instead of communal forces, secular forces should be powerful. We have formed the Government to strengthen the secular forces but in case we act otherwise in public, I feel disheartened. I want to give a very small example. Recently elections to Panchayat were held in Orissa. Some of the secular forces these joined hands and fought the elections together but now, they fought the elections against one another. Even then I did not raise any objections. But later we saw that secular party or Congress party came to power in 15 districts but in the remaining 15 or 16 districts power went either into the hands of Bhartiya Janta Party or Janta Dal. I think this is not correct. If we are not fully united, we cannot fight back the communal forces; we cannot make them weak rather, they will grow stronger and the price of this mistake will have to be paid by the tribals and downtrodden people. It is in this context, this issue requires our immediate attention.

I give another very small example. By-elections were held in Nagore constituency of Rajasthan. We were defeated by a margin of 1100 votes there and the seat was bagged by the Bhartiya Janta Party. Why we lost the seat? Just because of the division in the votes of secular forces. Secular forces did not fight the election unitedly. Today, we have gathered here to strengthen the secular forces and for this reason we have formed the Government but here is the time to see as to what steps we take outside and who is going ultimately to be benefitted from these steps? This is the high time to think over it. Only this much, I want to say. . . (Interruptions) This is not a party issue, rather it is a national issue. It is not in the interest of the country to encourage and promote the communal forces. Whatever is in the interest of the country, I am bound to speak on that. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If anybody would like to ask any question, they may do so but no commentary is allowed please.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : We welcome the statement made by the Prime Minister regarding P.D.S. on behalf of the Government of India. People throughout the country are facing certain critical issues today. Inflation is also one of these issues. A new policy has been adopted for supplying essential commodities to the people living below the poverty line and thus the Government of India has under taken a heavy financial responsibility. We welcome it but at the same time we also cannot ignore the working class and middle class people who are living above the poverty line. The inflation rate has been rising for past few months. The Consumer Price Index rose by 8.7 percent in Novermeber, 1996 and if one goes into detail, one would come to know that the price index shows that the prices went up by 53 percent in case of vegetables; by 38 percent in case of grain yielding products; by 30 percent for fruits; by 20 percent in coal mining sector; by 19 percent in Mineral Oils; by 17 percent in cereals; by 13.8 percent in pulses and 11.8 percent in electricity. Its cumulative impact was that the inflation increased further. The Government is helping the people living below the poverty line however the hardworking Middle class and working class people living above the poverty line will have to suffer. So we'll have to pay attention to this aspect.

17.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : If the prices rise, more people will be brought under the poverty line.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : That is not correct.

[Translation]

We are facing a very important issue—the issue of procurement of wheat and today itself, a point was raised in the Parliament that the procurement of wheat was not handled properly. The Food Minister gave a reply to this question in the House. Now what was the position with regard to wheat last year. In this House as well as outside the House, it was being said that there is no space to store procured wheat in Punjab, Haryana, North U.P. and sveral other states. Hence the Government also took on the responsibility of getting the buildings vacated and making them available for storage of wheat. Yesterday also, the newspapers carried the reports in this regard alongwith the data which makes it amply clear that we had a stock of more than 16 million tonnes, whereas this year we have got a stock of two million tonnes and that is why we had to import the wheat. All right if required, we have to resort to imports. However for the last few years, so far as the position of foodgrains is concerned, the farmers of our country have worked hard to discharged their responsibility towards the nation and we had freed the country rom the vicious circle of foodgrain imports. Now again we are thinking in terms of importing wheat and when we are taking steps in this direction, I feel that we will have to pay more attention towards this aspect. Secondly, despite having such a large stock of wheat, still we are facing this situation. I feel that there must be some kind of management problem and we'll have to address this management problem as well and the Government should pay utmost attention towards it. So far as the agricultural policy is concerned, I would like to say that certain inputs are required for increasing agricultural production. Fertilizer is major input and in the last 15 days, certain measures have been taken regarding urea. I think these might to be reconsidered. Today we talk about the interests of the small farmers in the agricultural sector. We talk about increasing productivity but when the prices of inputs, such as fertilizers and pesticides go up, it undermines the development of agricultural sector. I am hopeful that Government would think about a way out in this regard. Now-a-days we have been witnessing a major trend throughout the world and especially amongst the developing nations and a sort of competition has started amongst the nations as to how the atmosphere of the country can be improved further in order to attract more investment, how the financial assets of the world can be brought into the country and how more investment can be attracted in core sector. In China, the issue of liberalisation was first raised in the country in 1978 under the leadership of Late Shri Deng. They have taken certain steps in this regard since 1978. Some free zones were created, as a result of which the investment has

[Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee]

grown in the past few years from 20 billion dollars to 40 billion dollars. We can see the country changing completely. We have set a goal to attract an investment of 10 billion dollars in the country every year, but this investment won't come on its own and we will have to take several steps in this regard. We'll have to pay fullest attention in order to create confidence in the investors we'll have to ensure consistency in policy and so long as the consistency is not there, we won't be able to do anything, we will have to reach an agreement regarding the implementation of policies and we'll have to take strict measures only then confidence would be created in the investors worldwide and they could come to India for making investment. Hence there is a need to put in more efforts here to improve the atmosphere for investment. I can understand that the present Government is face to face with certain crucial issues. There could be certain problems also. Everyone has his own ideology, this is the situation the Government is facing today. The Government is functioning on the basis of Minimum common agreed programme but when we take the issue of investment, there is a need to adopt an altogether different policy.

Many a times, I read in the newspapers that Shri Somnathji has gone to Singapore and has been successful in convincing the industrialists there to make investment in West Bengal after negotiations and I am very pleased at such times. I feel that there is a need to attract investment throughout the country by adopting this very approach. The present Government has taken certain steps but similar efforts are required to be made in all the states as are being made by Shri Somnathji in Singapore. I am hopeful that all the political parties will pay attention towards it so that people of our country are benefited.

A lot needs to be done in agricultural sector. 50 years have elapsed since Independence, even then our position is not very sound in certain areas. I wanted to collect certain figures in this regard. When we throw a glance at the field of science & Technology and try to compare the position of India vis-a-vis the developed nations, we find that there are 50 scientists or technologists per thousand persons in developed nations wherein India the number of scientists is only 3 per thousand. In the field of Adult Literacy, there is 92 percent literacy in the developed nations whereas there is 50 percent literacy in our nation. Similar is the case in the data pertaining to average year of schooling. In developed nations, the average is 7 percent whereas in our country, the average is a mere 2 percent. In the matter of access to sanitation facilities, this facility is available to 76 percent people in the developed countries whereas in our country, it is available for only 15 percent people. In the case of IMR level per thousand, the figure is 30 in developed nations as against 90 in our country.

In the case of labour force engaged in agricultural sector, the figure stands at 17 percent people in developed nations as against 62 percent in our country. All the countries throughout the world having majority people engaged in the agricultural sector are always afflicted by poverty. In all such countries where people have stepped outside the confines of agricultural sector to seek out employment opportunities outside, the situation has improved.

17.07 hrs.

[COL. RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

The labour force engaged in Industrial sector in developed nations stands at 29 percent whereas it is 11 percent in our country. 54 percent people are engaged in services sector in developed nations as against 27 percent people in our country. When we take look at this comparative data, we find that still a lot need to be done.

So far as education is concerned, even after 50 years of Independence, a lot needs to be done in the field of literacy. The situation which emerges after looking at the data pertaining to the sixth education survey reveals that a number of steps are required to be taken in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The situation prevalent in these states is not favourable to the national interests and situation is even worse especially in the case of girls education.

If we glance at the figures pertaining to girls education throughout the nation, the situation that emerges jolts us out of our complacency. The drop-out position is so bad that if 100 girls are admitted in class I in rural areas, only 60 girls manage to reach class V and 40 girls drop out. If 100 girls are admitted in class I, only 18 girls are left by the time they reach standard VIII. The figure further drops down to 9 by class X and ultimately only one girl manages to get promoted to class XII.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, out of 100 girls admitted in primary classes, only one girl manages to reach class XII and the 99 girls who drop out of studies probably belong to poor families. Government is spending such a huge amount of money on educating the poorer section and that very section continues to remain deprived of education. That very section is dropping out of schools which is not a good indication. The entire country suffers as a result thereof. Hence my submission is that we should pay utmost attention towards minimising the drop-out rate, leaving aside all other issues.

Mahatma Jyoti Ba Phule, a known revolutionary in the field of education had said once in Marathi—

"Vidya bina mati geli,
mati bina neeti geli,
neeti bina gati geli,

gati bina vitta geli,
vitta bina shudra kasale,
itke anathya ekha aviadhyene gele."

It Means—

[English]

"Perception is lost without education
Without perception discernment is lost
Without discernment there is no progress
Without progress there is poverty
Poverty makes the depressed more miserable
All this misfortune is only for want of education."

[Translation]

He said these words 100 years ago hence we will have to strive to change the present situation. We will have to pay more attention towards Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and provide maximum support to these states in order to ensure the education of children. I have often noticed that our Prime Minister and our Finance Minister hold talks with the industrialists. They talk about liberalisation but if we are keen on developing the industrial sector on one hand and show reluctance towards development of human resources on the other hand, we will be making a very big mistake. The rich people are interested in taking maximum advantage of liberalisation. However we will also have to take on the social responsibility of educating the backward class people who are still deprived of education. We will have to give up those tendency of leaving every responsibility to the Government. Instead the rich class of the country should be entrusted with this responsibility. Providing education should no longer be seen as the responsibility of the Government alone, rather everyone should be involved in this responsibility.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the position with regard to infrastructure is deteriorating day by day. The position of transport in Delhi is very much in your knowledge. Take the Agra-Mumbai road for instance. How many vehicle can play on this road and how many are actually playing. The condition of roads is very bad in the country and that is why accident rate is rising. It a port, such as the Mumbai port, at times ships remain stranded even for 15-16 days resulting in losses to the entire country. Hence we will have to pay attention to this core sector and modernise the ports.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as telecommunications are concerned, although a number of new measures have been taken in this field but even then by 2000 A.D., against increased demand of 31 million telephone lines in the country, we will be able to provide only 19 million lines at the maximum in next five years. So long as we do not

consolidate our position in the field of communication, the development process cannot proceed further. Besides there is a need to do a lot of work in the power sector. Our past experiences in the field of power have not been very good. The requirement of power was 48,000 megawatt during 1992-1997 and our target was 30,000 megawatt whereas actual power generation was 18,000 megawatt. How can we go on like this. The power generation is so less. A Rakesh Mohan Committee was constituted in this regard and this committee had said :

[English]

"If the investment of this order is not facilitated and utilised optimally over the next year, the power sector will fail to support the economy just when it is poised for a rapid growth."

[Translation]

We will have to pay utmost attention to power sector in order to strengthen the economy of the country. We are facing the resource crunch. In next ten years, the anticipated requirement of power in India would be around one lakh megawatt. Government of India requires Rupees four lakh crores in order to meet this demand of one lakh megawatt. Besides its distribution system...*(Interruptions)* The entire amount is required for generation of power. However besides generation, again this much amount would also be required for system improvement. This much amount would also be required for transmission and distribution. We will also have to consider as to how such a big amount can be arranged. We have no other alternative except bringing it under private sector. Coal is also required. Presently 215 million tonnes of Coal is at the disposal of the power sector. Additional 500 million tonnes of coal would be required in order to achieve the targets set for power sector in the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plan.

Massive investment will have to be made in mining sector. Simultaneously, a huge investment will have to be made in transportation of coal in view of condition of Railways today. Then only, the requirement of basic raw material, coal could be met. Otherwise, the country may face acute shortage of power in coming three-four years. More attention is required to be paid towards the power sector.

Now-a-days State Electricity Boards are passing through a critical phase. I was appointed the chairman of a committee constituted by National Development Council to study the requirement of power production in the coming 25 years. It was a high power committee. Shri Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister of Assam, Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Manmohan Singh, the Minister of Power and the Vice-Chairman of Planning Commission, Shri Pranav Mukherjee

[Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee]

were the members of this Committee. They held several meetings, in a year and prepared a blue print of power for the whole country. Besides, we also paid attention towards the short-comings in the present system of power generation. We found that transportation and distribution loss is a big problem faced by Electricity Boards of the Country. In the Five Year Plan, it was decided to confine the transportation and distribution loss upto one percent only. You will be surprized to know that 800 Megawatt power can be saved by reducing T and D losses. At present, this loss amounts to be more than 22 percent of total distribution. In some states it is 36 percent. I do not want to mention the name of a state where this loss is 42 percent...[*Interruptions*]. Secondly, the figures regarding pilferage of power, after generation of 100 Megawatt power, are also starting...[*Interruptions*]. There is a big state where only 16 Megawatts of power out of 100 Megawatts power generated reach the people. The remaining quantum of power is lost in pilferage and it results in T & D losses. This is an authoritative statement given by that Government ...[*Interruptions*]...I feel that some stringent steps should be taken to deal with the problem of transmission and distribution losses. We will have to distance ourselves from politics, and then only the country can be saved from this crisis.

I have also tried to collect figures regarding financial position of various Electricity Boards of the country. The position in the last year is like this. The loss incurred by Rajasthan Electricity Board was to the tune of Rs. 421 crore, Gujarat 550 crore, Madhya Pradesh 390 crore, Andhra Pradesh 828 crore, Orissa 136 crore, Punjab 427 crore, Uttar Pradesh 980 crore, Kerala 160 crore, Haryana 450 crore, Bihar 300 crore, Assam 270 crore. Thus the total losses incurred by all the Electricity Boards of the country during the last year amounts to be Rs. 4650 crore. Maharashtra is an exception which has not incurred any loss...[*Interruptions*].

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Has Maharashtra Electricity Board not incurred any loss?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : No, it has earned a profit of Rs. 320 crore [*Interruptions*]. West Bengal has incurred a loss of Rs. 70 crore.

As Shri Ram Naik has also mentioned no payment is made against the power in the Central Sector. On the whole, the outstanding amount against states for one year, as on 31st July 1990, stood Rs. 9263 crore. It will not be in the interest of the country if this matter is viewed from political angle. At present, almost all political parties have governments in one or more states. One party has formed Government in Rajasthan, the Congress is in power

in Madhya Pradesh, Marxists in West Bengal and Janata Dal in Bihar. Similarly, and other parties have also formed a Governments in other States. Political hurdles should not be created if someone is ready to make investment in the power sector or core sector and the concerned Project fulfil requirement of that state. Can any consensus be arrived at on this issue? I feel that a meeting of leaders of all political parties and Chief Ministers of States should be convened by the hon. Prime Minister.

We had cleared the Enron Project worth Rs. 2000 crore when I was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Later on, it was made a political issue during election. After formation of a new government in the state, the Enron Project was cancelled. But, this project was cleared again after six months. This matter was taken to High Court. The Council for the Maharashtra Government, Shri Ram Jethmalani, who is an M.P. and who has been Minister of Law was asked by the court to cite the reasons for cancellation of the project and if that project was not viable, why did he create such an atmosphere? Shri Ram Jethmalani replied that the elections campaign was on in the state and since they had no other issue, they had made it an election issue. Later on, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra had to submit an affidavit stating therein that the project was viable. I am happy to say that bold decision was taken to clear that project. It is a laudable step of that Government. I do not want to criticize him, but I feel that such basic projects should not be made political issues as the whole country has to suffer losses for the delay of two to three years in such projects. It results in cost escalation and reduction in the quantum of power generation. Further, it affects the development. I feel that in the present situation and on the occasion of Golden Jubilee celebration of Independence of the country we should seek consensus on such developmental projects and keep them away from politics. It will be in the interest of the country if unnecessary hurdles are not created by the politicians, opposition parties and others in such projects when investment on large scale is made in the core sector.

After going through the whole Presidential Address, I feel that it is a serious crisis and efforts have been made to come out of it. It is peculiar situation where no political party has a majority but even then, political parties having different ideologies have formed a Government collectively. We have to accept this situation and discharge our responsibility by keeping on supporting this Government. In case we adopt a new course, it will create instability in the country and it will have adverse affect on the economy which will send wrong signal to the world. We can get success only if collective decisions are taken to speed up the process of development and I am confident that we can do that. We should pay attention towards it. In this way we will be able to shoulder our responsibility and fulfil the aspirations of our countrymen.

With these words, while supporting the Resoultion, I conclude.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I don't know as to how much time is still left. But, it would have been better had a balance been maintained. So for only one member of Bhartiya Janata Party has spoken, whereas many members have spoken from other parties. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : The members who were to speak on behalf of your party were not present here.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : No, we were here. Anyway, I move on I rise to oppose the motion of thanks on President's Address. The main reason of my opposition is that the President's Address does not clearly spell-out the policies of the Government. It is beyond my imagination as to why there are so many errors in this Address. Probably, it would be the first ever incident in the history of Parliament when a sentence in the President's Address has been struck off. However, I am not going into that. You have struck it off, that is another thing. However, I have objection to the sentence preceding the sentence which has been struck off. It says, "Whether we move forward boldly and realistically or remain stuck in the traditional modes of thinking, is going to ultimately determine our place in the world." I fail to understand this criticism of our traditional mode of thinking. Is this comment aimed at our tradition or conventions of previous governments? If you were to strike off the next sentence, you should have deleted this sentence also as this sentence is linked with the next sentence. It is beyond my imagination that such a big mistake may occur in the President's Address. It is strange that we abuse our own traditions and criticise them. I don't think there has been any government which alienated itself from our tradition. Moreover, they have not done any miracles or wonders which were not associated with our tradition. I have my strong reservation over this sentence and I want this sentence to be removed from the Address.

This is the first time in the history of the last fifty years that a party having lowest ever number of members have come to power at the centre. Many parties are supporting you either by joining your Government or from outside. However, this Government is running with outside support. Once the support is withdrawn, the Government is bound to fall. Perhaps the tradition of this Government is to seek support from outside. They want outside support to run this Government to seek loan from abroad for implementing their economic policy, to seek foreign capital investment and to deal with many other works. I think there has been outside pressure on all these things as well as on the President's Address. And because of this pressure, they have landed in a position from where they are unable to

take any decision, make any policy or launch any programme. In the last session, three Bills were the topic of discussion and it was hoped that these bills, namely; Lok Pal Bill, Women Reservation Bill and Electoral Reforms Bill would be presented and passed by the House but none of these three was introduced and ultimately the session came to an end. It was not because of opposition from outside but because of lack of consensus among the people sitting in the Government. This Government which is replete with inner dissensions is unable to take any clear decision even on a particular issue. Shri Somnathji is not available here. He was speaking in support of this Government. This much support does not come even from Shri Indrajit Gupta who is also a minister. I do not know, for what reasons, he was speaking so enthusiastically in favour of this Government. The congress has decided to extend their issue based support to this Government. It was not mentioned by the leader of the Congress, who spoken just before me, as to what are their future plans. What do they intend to do? It is no use to discuss about the issue based support. There is only one issue before the this Government and that is to stop Bhartiya Janata Party from coming to power. They have no other policy. Whether people get drinking water or not, whether they get electricity or not; whether the poor get justice or not, whether people get wheat or not—these all issues hardly matter to this Government.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : You have also got only one policy and that is to bring down this Government.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : It is the duty of the opposition in a democracy.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulbarga) : If you promise to remian in opposition for a period of five years, we will part with the Government.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : We accept your condition. You get the elections held. We will run the Government for a full term of five years. I want to say that you people should not move ahead with your eyes closed. This Government and the Congress both are moving with closed eyes. However, I have nothing to say on this. You have said that after coming to power, you got the elections conducted in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. This is a good step. But what was the result? In Kashmir, Bhartiya Janta Party, which is termed as communal by you again and again, got more number of seats than the Congress and this happend for the first time in the history of Kashmir. I don't know whether you are aware of this fact or not. Likewise, the alliance of Bhartiya Janata Party and Akali Dal won maximum number of seats in Punjab. There we got a thumping majority which no party has ever got in the history of Punjab.

[Shri Krishan Lal Sharma]

Do you not accept this fact? I want to make one more submission. If you go through the history, you will find that three elections have been held in Punjab. One of these elections was postponed at the last moment. In another elections, the Congress came to power. At that time Akali Dal had not taken part in the election. It would have been better, if the Hon'ble Prime Minister had stayed here for sometime to listen to me. But, he is leaving early. Anyway, our message will reach him. It was the first election in Punjab which took place free of fear and tension. In the first two elections, many incidents of terrorism had taken place there but this time people stood unitedly and took part in the election without any fear. Now you may say that the communal forces have won the elections in Punjab and the so called secular forces have been rejected by the people. Even a single candidate of Janata Dal could not win a seat. Only one seat was bagged by the communist party. The Congress have won the lowest number of seats. This has happend there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : What is your opinion about Anandpur Saheb Resoution? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No interruptions, please.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : After this, elections were held in Chhindwara. We had never won this seat earlier, but this time, we won it. We never got the Nagaur seat but this time, we got it. We got majority in Delhi Cantt. elections. Recently Corporation's elections were held in Mumbai. In Maharashtra, Congress candidates had won in 7 corporations out of 9 corporations earlier but this time, the situation has changed completely. The Congress has won only in two corporations. The result of the MCD polls will also come before you soon and you will see Bhartiya Janata Party winning the elections with thumping majority. Now, if you think that people of the country have rejected the communal forces, then these results show that you are those communal forces. People of the country are rejecting you and these elections have proved this fact. It would be better if you learn a lesson from these elections I would like to say one more thing about the situation created in the country in 1996-97 so far. Today, the country is faced with the problems of instability, law and order, poverty, unemployment, price-rise electricity and drinking water. These problems were highlighted by our Sharad Babu also. In view of all these points, it seems that we have not got such a weak and inefficient Government at the centre in the last fifty years.

I want to make one more submission. Shri Rajesh Pilot is not present here right now. He said that the BJP, while

entering into an alliance with the Akali Dal in Punjab, had not taken into consideration the Anandpur Saheb Resolution. None of us sitting here, can say that we are against the Anandpur Saheb Resolution. I feel that it is not good to give such kind of wrong statements. The Accord which was signed between Rajeev Gandhi and Longowal was endorsed by all. It has been mentioned in clause 8(2) of that Resolution. The Akalis have clarified that more powers should be given to states as per clause 8(2) of the above Resolution. It does not pose any danger to the unity and integrity of the nation. On the basis of this clarification, the issue was referred to the Sarkaria Commission under Rajiv Gandhi-Longowal Accord.

We talk of giving more powers to the States. The recommendations made by the Sarkaria Commission should be implemented. Besides, more financial and political powers are also required to be given to the states. I can assert that this view has been endorsed by Parliament itself. Even then, if you talk like this, I would say that you are trying again to create distrubing atmosphere which is very unfortunate.

Now, I would like to draw your attention towards certain errors in the President's Address. It has been mentioned in para 50 on page 15 of the President's Address that the Lokpal Bill, 1996, the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, 1995 and the Constitution (81st amendment) Bill, 1996 providing for reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies of the states are pending before you. It has been further mentioned in the same para that your Government intends to bring these Bills before Parliament in the current session. The contents of the President's Address is prepared by the Government neither the Lok Pal Bill nor the Bill on Electroal Reforms nor women Reservation Bill, find any mention in the contents. These Bill are missing from the contents. You should not think that people are foolish. The President's Address is an account of Government policies. But it is beyond my imagination that the Government can talk like this. We want that the Women Reservation Bill must be introduced in this session itself. If the Government fails to bring in the Bill. it will like going back from their promise made to the people. Rest of the parties and at least, my party support this Bill wholeheartedly. We want you to take a decision in this regard. Nothing has mentioned in the Address about the Fifth Pay Commission. Further, there is no mention about the migrants of Kashmir and Punjab, their problems and measures adopted for their rehabilitation. Today, Kashmiri migrants are running from pillar to post. Nobody is there to listen to their problems. Nobody is there to raise their problems. Likewise if the migrants of Punjab who have been staying in Delhi for the last 15-20 years, are asked to go back to Punjab, it would not be proper. The responsibility of their resettlement should be shouldered by

the Government. They should be assured that they would not be sent back, who will be responsible for the difficulties which they may face, after being sent back forcibly to their states? The responsibility of their safety lies on the Government. Those who are willing to stay here should be rehabilitated here only. The President's Address doesn't mention anything in this respect also.

As far as Public Distribution system is concerned, a separate statement had to be given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in this regard in this House. It could have been elaboratedly mentioned in the President's Address itself. I would not say that there is no mention about it in the President's Address. What I want to say is that there is need of some improvements. But it seems to me that there was a pressure from some quarters and as a result, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had to make a statement in the House before presentation of the budget. In my opinion, serious deliberations were not held on this important matter. It appears as if have moved ahead without making any serious deliberations on the subject and now one by one the things are coming to our notice. I have my reservations on this score. Para 41 of the Address mentions that we are ready to hold dialogue with Pakistan. However, the Hon'ble Prime Minister denied that he had ever said anything about minor adjustments. He has also not said that he would be guided by the resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament in respect of Kashmir. It should have been said by the Prime Minister, otherwise what is the importance of our Parliament? You cannot indulge in contempt of our Parliament like this. The Parliament has passed a resolution unanimously to the effect that the whole of Kashmir is an intergral part of India and we are not prepared to give away even an inch of our land to anyone. The Resolution has been passed by the Parliament. It is not a question of my party only. Rather, it has been passed by the entire Parliament. We are not going to tolerate it any more. There is no mention of it in the Address.

Sir, my other friends will also speak on Jammu & Kashmir. However, we have forgotten an incident regarding the abduction of four foreign tourists. We have no information in respect of their whereabouts. A popular Government has also installed there three four months ago. But till date we have no information about those four foreign tourists. Should still we claim that there is peace in the state, and everything is going on smoothly there? I would like to warn you that as to now everything in the valley is not going well and if we fail to take the things seriously new untoward incidents can take place there anytime.

Therefore, while presenting these facts before this Government and everyone, I would say that the situation in Kashmir requires our immediate and full attention.

Sir, what is the economic position of our country today? In this respect, I would say that the year 1996-97 has been a disasterous one. During this period our economy has worsened. This year our National income will witness only an increase of five per cent as against 7 per cent during the previous year. Thus, it has come down. Our industrial growth is likely to witness a mere six per cent increase, whereas it was 12 per cent last year. This year, our export has gone up only by five per cent as against the last year, whereas our export during the last year had gone up by 24 per cent as against the preceding year. It means, it has come down to five per cent from 24 per cent i.e. a reduction of 19 per cent. Only the prices have gone up and nothing else. Inflation rate which was 4.7 per cent last year has now increased upto 7.8 per cent.

Sir, so far the functioning of the Government is concerned, I would like to point out that in his speech he has spoken at length regarding welfare of poor and has assured that the Government is going to make some substantial provisions for the poor. It has reminded me the slogan of 'Poverty Alleviation' raised in 1971. Perhaps it is being raised again. But no one is here to tell as to how many persons are living below the poverty line.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : May I please request the Treasury Benches not to have a running conversation among themselves?

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : In Context of inflation I would like to cite one instance once it so happend that a control room was informed that water level in the river was rising and was going to cross the danger point whereupon the control room advised to raise the danger mark itself. In the same way our Government is lowering the poverty line. Is it the way to solve such problems. No scheme has been formulated for upliftment of the poor and containing price rise.

Sir, there is an another very piquant incident but how should I narrate it. Now a days rate of wheat, sugar and milk is Rs. 13 per kg. and perhaps it is because this Government has been formed with alliance of 13 political parties . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : The Government formed by your party also remained in power for 13 days only. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Therefore I am saying that this Government is obsessed with the number 13. This Government has been formed by 13 political parties and every thing, including the mineral water bottle is being sold

[Shri Krishan Lal Sharma]

at a cost of Rs. 13. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KIRPAL YADAV (Patna) : There are 14 parties at present

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : If 14 parties have joined the government these all things will cost Rs. 14 now. But in the present situation. . . .(Interruptions) Nitishji you can say your points later on but now I would like to know about the debt position of the country. The amount of debt is increasing under the regime of this Government. I am not sure as to whether common man and our economy will be able to bear the burden of this debt. I would like to submit a comparative statement in this regard. In 1990-91 internal debt was to the tune of one lakh 54 thousand crore which has increased upto 3 lakh 31 thousand crore in 1996-97. In 1990-91 other internal debt including other liabilities was to the tune of 1 lakh 29 thousand crore and total debt was to the tune of 2 lakh 81 crore. It means that in 1990-91 external debt was 1 lakh 63 thousand crore, which has increased to 3 lakh 60 thousand crore at present. You can very well imagine the present position, in view of the fact that in 1990-91 the total debt amounts to be 4 lakh 46 thousand crore which has become 9 lakh 72 thousand crore at present. Almost all the resources are being spent for making payment of interest accruing on this debt. This poor country is getting loan to the tune of 80 thousand crore annually and at present the loan amount has increased by 5 thousand crore. I demand that the Government should issue a White Paper on economy, especially regarding the progress of the country. Debt burden on this country is increasing day by day whereas employment opportunities are not being generated. At present our debt is increasing at a rate of Rs. 200 crore daily and 1500 crore in a week. In view of the rate at which this Government is resorting to borrowing, it is a burden on the country.

This Government is going to complete a period of nine months. It is quite a long time. God alone knows whether after these nine months it will deliver any good or turnout to be a fiasco. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silcher) : It is not a parliamentary language.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : I was saying that during this period this Government could neither create coordination among its own party Member nor with party supporting it. This Government has been a failure on almost all fronts. It could not talk internal as well external matters. Inflation, corruption, non-availability of essential

goods and stravation have increased during the regime of this Government. You can find out the reasons for failure of this Government an all fronts. Where is the Common Minimum Programme. No one is ready to speak about it. No time-bound programme has been formulated by this Government. Atleast some time-bound Programme should be taken up. New scheme for PDS has been formulated. Whether it is going to benefit 32 crore people and will they be able to get wheat on subsidized rates. Whether the stock of foodgrains is in sufficient quantity or it will be imported and you lack funds required for it. How these poor persons will be identified and issued ration cards for providing ration at low rates. By when it is going to be implemented or it is just a slogan for the budget. My own experience in this field is that.

[English]

PDS has proved to be a total failure.

[Translation]

As a result of it centre as well as state, both are shifting their responsibility on each other. So far no poor person had been benefited by it, neither any poor person going to get any benefit from it in future. The Government should reveal its policy on this account, especially about the concrete programmes formulated for alleviation of poverty. This country cannot make any progress untill such questions are not solved positively.

Now I would like to take up another subject. The Article 356 of the constitution and criteria for appointment of Governor were being discussed here in the morning. Sarkaria Commission and Supreme Court have given their opinion on appointment of Governor. Now a days a political leader who is defeated in election by the candidate of the rival party is appointed as Governor of a state ruled by the rival party. This clearly indicates that the Governor would not let that Government function smoothly. Out of political rivalry, Shri Krishna Pal Singh who was defeated by B.J.P. in elections had been transferred from Madhya Pradesh to Gujarat. Romeshji, was defeated by B.J.P. candidate in Delhi. He had been sent to Uttar Pradesh. What is the condition of U.P. today. What the hon. Governor is doing there. Is he concerned over the increasing incidents of violence murders and miscreants' rule prevailing in Uttar Pradesh Rajbhavan has become a place of luxury. He is not accountable to anyone. How administration will function if Governors are appointed in this manner. It should be debated and the Government should adopt a clear cut and suitable policy regarding appointment of Governors.

At Present Ministry of Home Affairs is facing the challenge of law and order situation prevailing in the country and lack of co-ordination in the Ministry. Now a

days secretary to Ministry of Home Affairs and Minister of Home Affairs are making contradictory Statement. The Minister of Home Affairs has said that an atmosphere of chaos, anarchy and destruction is prevalent in U.P.

[English]

The U.P. is heading toward this direction.

[Translation]

Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs is saying that there is no need to provide security cover to anyone in U.P. There is no threat to anybody's life. Recently Shri Brahmdev Diwedi was murdered in U.P. inspite of the security cover provided to him. There is no coordination among the P.M.O., Ministry of Home Affairs Home Ministry and Secretary of Home Affairs. Several such problems are before the country. In view of it I would like to know as to whether this situation will be improved or not ?

I would also like to raise a serious issue. In the Presidential Address during the Vajpayee Government the issue of ban on cow-slaughtering was raised, and it created hue and cry in this House as it was an unfortunate decision. I charge this Government as well as its alliance parties

betraying the constitution of India due to their policy of appeasement. It is not correct. I would like to cite an example in this regard.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir it is 6 O'clock now.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : Let him complete his speech today itself.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : I will need some more time, therefore I would like to continue it tommorrow.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. The hon. Member from Outer Delhi is on his legs. He has spoken for 33 minutes.

The House now stands adjourned till 11 a.m. tommorrow.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Wednesday, February 26, 1997/
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