

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. II contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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CORRECTIONS TO LOK SABHA DEBATES**(English Version)**

Tuesday, June 2, 1998/Jyaishta 12, 1920 (Saka).

Col./Line	For	Read
88/31	(d) and (c)	(d) and (e)
94/8	PROF.P.O. KURIEN	PROF. P.J.KURIEN
97 & 98/11	Add 43.610 after line 10 under column No.2	
99/10	THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (DR.A.K.PATEL)	THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR.A.K.PATEL)
129/28	(a) and (c)	(a) to (c)
181/8(from below)	955	995
187 & 188/9	301.60	381.60
187 & 188/22	18.00	18.20
218/24 219/2 & 7	Delete @	
263/11(from below)	37.85	37.82
271 & 272/1	Aut.97	Aug.97
319/7	1009	1109
352/32	SHRI BASHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA'	SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA'
408/8(from below)	SHRI INDERJIT GUPTA	SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA

CONTENTS

[Twelfth Series, Vol. II, Second Session, 1998/1920 (Saka)]

No. 5, Tuesday, June 2, 1998/ Jyaishta 12, 1920 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Questions Nos. 81-84	1-27
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 85-101	28-60
Unstarred Question Nos. 873-1109	50-319
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	319-340
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA	
AND	
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA - <i>Laid</i>	340
ELECTION TO COMMITTEES	340-344
RE BUDGETARY HIKE IN PETROL PRICES	344-351
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
(i) Need to clear the proposal of Madhya Pradesh Government to provide owner's patta to ploughers of forest land in Vananchal region of M.P. Shri Gauri Shankar Chaturbhuj Bisen	351-352
(ii) Need to exclude forest land in Uttaranchal in U.P. from the purview of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 in the interest of general public Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'	352-355
(iii) Need to provide more funds to Rajasthan Government for upliftment of Scheduled Tribes, especially the Bheel and Meena communities Shri Bheru Lal Meena	355-359
(iv) Need for early implementation of National Education Policy Shri Janardan Prasad Mishra	360
(v) Need to allocate more funds for modernisation of canals in Chambal Region Shri Ram Narain Meena	360-361
(vi) Need to release funds from Prime Minister's Relief Fund to the people affected by severe fire incident in Chayal Parliamentary Constituency, U.P. Shri Shalendra Kumar	361-362
(vii) Need to fulfil the assurance given by the Naval authorities regarding employment opportunities to those who sold out their land to the Naval Air Station at Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu Shri C. Gopal	362
(viii) Need to deploy Road Protection Force for guarding trucks passing through Nagaland against armed tribal insurgents of Nagaland and Manipur Kumari Kim Gangte	362-363

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(ix) Need for electrification of rural areas in Muzaffarpur and Vaishali districts of Bihar Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	363
(x) Need to have a new direct railway line from Bangalore to Chitradurga Shri C.P.M. Giriappa	363-364
RESOLUTION RE : APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE	374-375
RESOLUTION RE : RECOMMENDATION TO RAJYA SABHA TO ASSOCIATE THEIR MEMBERS WITH PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE	375
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Blast on a bridge between Gosaigaon Chautara Block Section of New Coochbehar-New Bongaigaon section of Northeast Frontier Railways Alipurduar division Shri Nitish Kumar	376
DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193	
Incidents of suicide committed by farmers in various part of the country due to non-payment of remunerative prices for their agricultural produce - <i>Contd.</i>	
Shri Nadendra Bhaskara Rao	381-384
Shri Digvijay Singh	384-387
Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra	387-392
Shri S. Sudhakar Reddy	393-396
Shri K. Yerrannaidu	396-399
Prof. Jogendra Kawade	399-401
Shri Vaiko	401-405
Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar	405-407
RE: BUDGETARY HIKE IN UREA PRICES	407-410
PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS - INTRODUCED	
(i) Private Investigators Bill By Shri Amar Pal Singh	411
(ii) High Court At Allahabad (Establishment of A Permanent Bench At Meerut) Bill By Shri Amar Pal Singh	411
(iii) National Population Policy Bill By Shri Amar Pal Singh	411
(iv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, (Amendment of articles 302 and 304) By Shri Amar Pal Singh	412
(v) Population Control Bill By Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy	412

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(vi) Compulsory Voting Bill By Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy	412
(vii) Provision of Employment Bill By Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy	413
(viii) Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill (Substitution of new section for section 3, etc.) By Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy	413
(ix) Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill (Insertion of new section 3C) By Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'	413
(x) House of the people (Administration) Bill By Shri G.M. Banatwalla	414
(xi) Declaration of Assets by Ministers, Members of Parliament and Civil Servants Bill By Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'	414
(xii) Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) (Withdrawal of Legal Proceedings) Bill By Shri G.M. Banatwalla	414
(xiii) Reservation (Services and Higher Education) Bill By Shri G.M. Banatwalla	415
(xiv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, (Amendment of articles 15, etc.) By Shri G.M. Banatwalla	415
(xv) Population Control Bill By Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'	416
(xvi) Unemployment Allowance Bill By Shri R. Sambasiva Rao	416
(xvii) Tobacco Growers (Benefit) Bill By Shri R. Sambasiva Rao	416
(xviii) Chill Growers (Benefit) Bill By Shri R. Sambasiva Rao	417
(xix) Cotton Growers (Benefit) Bill By Shri R. Sambasiva Rao	417
(xx) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Insertion of new article 51B) By Shri Mohan Singh	417
(xxi) Constitution (Amendment) bill (Amendment of article 174) By Shri Mohan Singh	418

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, June 2 1998/Jyaishta 12, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 81 - Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Yesterday the Finance Minister announced that the price of Petrol will increase by rupee one per litre but today we have seen that the price of Petrol has increased by Rs. 4/- per litre. In this way he has misguided the House and the entire country. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA (Kesarganj) : No one has right to misguided the House in this manner. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (Katihar) : Hon'ble Minister should give clarification in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : No-no, it is not so.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. This is Question Hour. After the Question Hour, you can raise it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you after Question Hour. You can raise whatever points you want to after the Question Hour. I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, there is also the Zero Hour. You can raise the point in the Zero Hour. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : This is a serious matter. It affects all the people. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you during Zero Hour. There is a procedure. Please understand it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Kindly allow us in the Zero Hour. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. You are a senior Member. I will allow you.

Now, we take up Q.No. 81 - Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde.

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Life Convicts

*81. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of life-convicts in different States released on application from the convict after serving 14 years in Jail during the last three years and those who were released earlier than 14 years in jails;

(b) whether there are any guidelines under articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution for release of such convicts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) 'Prisons' is a State subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Specific information in regard to life-convicts as sought in part (a) of the question is not maintained by the Central Government.

Under section 433 Cr.PC, the appropriate Government is competent to commute a sentence of death, for any other punishment provided by the Indian Penal Code. Section 433A Cr. PC, however, provides that notwithstanding anything contained in section 432, where a sentence of imprisonment for life is imposed on conviction of a person for an offence for which death is one of the punishments provided by laws or where a sentence of death imposed on a person has been commuted under section 433 into one of imprisonment for life, such person shall not be released from prison unless he had served at least fourteen years of imprisonment. Section 433A Cr. PC is thus applicable not to all life convicts but only to those convicted of capital offences. There is no such restriction on powers of remission or commutation so far as other life convicts are concerned. Provisions of section 433A Cr.PC do not seem to be violative of fundamental rights of life-convicts so far as articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India are concerned.

It may also be mentioned that section 433A Cr. PC does not, in any way, affect the constitutional power of reprieve, remission, etc. vested in the President and the Governor of a State under articles 72 and 161 of the Constitution of India respectively.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though 'Prisons' is a state subject, Prison Act itself is 110 years old. The Chairman of Human Rights Commission and the former Chief Justice of Supreme Court, Justice Krishna Iyerji has drawn attention towards this aspect many a times but in spite of that, till date government has not taken any step in this direction. In Bihar jails, we find that three persons are kept against the capacity of only one person.

I would like to ask as to how it is being termed as a state subject? Discretionary powers are given to the Governors and President but Chief Ministers of the states also involve themselves in the matter of political murders. There are some incidents of murders in which criminals do not complete even 10 years of their imprisonment. There are cases of life-imprisonment in which criminals are released even before seven or eight years. Even after the decision and directions of the Supreme Court, such instances are being witnessed where some prisoners were released on parole and that period lasted for 10 years and after they were set free, whereas this period is not to be combined with actual period of imprisonment.

[English]

Though Parole time is not calculated in the actual period of imprisonment, yet they have been released.

[Translation]

Whether the government will think in this direction that there should be a uniform law for the entire country whether it is for 15 years or 10 years. Only after this period, the cases of those undergoing life-imprisonment should be considered for release.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the Question with regard to the condition of jails is concerned, I do agree with the hon'ble Member that there is a lot of scope for their improvement. Today their condition is very grave and deplorable. However, the question relates to a specific context and I feel that in this regard, Hon'ble Member has some misunderstanding that those who were awarded life imprisonment

[English]

for offences where the maximum punishment is life imprisonment,

[Translation]

there they can be released only when the period of 14 years is completed. However, in cases where such a crime has been committed for which capital punishment or a punishment lesser than the death sentence can be awarded or the Court has sentenced the convict to life imprisonment instead of passing a death sentence, it is essential to make a provision that the convict is not set free before completion of 14 years. Similarly, if someone is awarded capital punishment and after commuting, he is awarded life imprisonment even then he cannot be awarded less than 14 years of imprisonment. Therefore, this perception that in such cases Articles 14, 19 or 21 is violated is not correct. However, it is true that the subject 'Prisons' is in state list, and we cannot enact laws in this regard. In this connection, central government has been consulting Home Ministers from time to time and issuing necessary direction regarding condition of jails. The more serious question is that if there is a room for 1000 people, 4000 people are put there. There are persons who are kept under trials for 5 years. Central Government has always been expressing its concern over such various aspects. We cannot make any legislation in this regard. There are certain directions from Supreme Court which are followed. Overall, I share your concern.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has said that they are not released before 14 years and there is a classification regarding cold blooded murder, simple murder, murder by lunatic and murder by a normal person with criminal intension. My contention was that the governments should conduct an inquiry into the cases where criminals charged with cold blooded murder are released due to political influence. I would like to ask whether such thing has happened? I would like to say only this thing. Government has said one good thing that it was worrying about undertrials. Justice Venkata Chellaiji visited the entire country and asked the Chief Ministers of different states about possible improvements. Chief Ministers of four states stated that improvement was required in their condition. Committee has also submitted its report which is with you. If the states desire that law should be made on the basis of national consensus, then such a law should be made so that it becomes a national document and all can follow that. As you have said, keeping undertrials in jails is a matter of concern, I would like to state for your information that in Andhra Pradesh during 1995-96 deaths of 55 under-trials and during 1996-97, 98 such cases were reported. In Bihar during 1996-97, 92 cases were reported. After this, I come to Maharashtra. In Maharashtra during 1995-96, there were 33 constodial deaths which increased to 200 in 1996-97.

MR. SPEAKER : You ask supplementary Question.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Since the Home Minister has expressed his concern, that is why I am giving information to him. Maximum number of persons have died in Maharashtra. In the year 1995-96, 75 deaths were reported in Bihar but in 1996-97, 200 under-trial died in Maharashtra. It is a matter of concern. There are 1115 jails in the country. Justice Venkat Chaliah Committee has given its report in this connection which is with the government. Government is worried about it but there is no use of simply showing concern. It is necessary to take action on it.

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL : These statistics pertain to the time when your government was in power.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : I am telling him for his information. . . . (Interruptions) Please do not be under any illusion again. I am talking about 1996-97. In 1996 our government was not in power . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You ask supplementary question.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Whether government would seek opinion of the Chief Ministers and Jailors of all states by calling them to Delhi and whether it will take any step to prevent under-trial deaths, to give them some facilities and to separate lunatic department? At present all women and children are staying in one barrack. They should be kept separately. Sometimes they are kept in the prison for 5-10-15 years by branding them as lunatic. No psychiatrist visits them for their treatment. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You ask your supplementary question.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am giving some information to Hon'ble Minister. I would like to know from government that whether by convening meeting of all Chief Ministers and Jailors of country and after having discussion with them on this subject, will it prepare a new manual?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after receiving letter from Justice Venkatachellaiah, letters were written on behalf of Central Government to all Chief Ministers in this connection. Former Home Minister is present here. I can only say that it was suggested to the that if they agreed, a new Prison Act could be enacted at Central Level. It is necessary to obtain their consent on this issue because it is a state subject. We cannot do anything without their consent. At present, I can only say that the response was not satisfactory.

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very important issue. Prisoners undergoing life imprisonment in the jails of various states of our country cannot approach the Centre. In many jails, their condition is pitiable. They do not get any probation, they are not given any facility nor any concern is shown for their future. Will the Hon'ble

Home Minister state that whether the government of India propose to form any committee at Central level to improve prisoners their present condition and future of who are serving life imprisonment. The Committee should give its report after studying the conditions of prisoners so that it can be implemented in all states.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : At present Human Rights Commission informs the Central Government from time to time on this subject. It has also informed about the condition of prisons. I do not want that by constituting some committee this matter is consigned to cold storage. Instead, on the basis of suggestions given by Human Rights Commission we have been sounding State governments, their Chief Ministers, and we are hopeful that there will be some improvement in this direction.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Home Minister's contention that Prisons Act is under the jurisdiction of the states is absolutely correct. The jurisdiction of evasion and giving remission in punishment is given to state governments under Section 443-A of Penal Law but in that Section of the term 'life imprisonment' has not been defined in I.P.C. From time to time Supreme Court has defined this in its judgment. In of its judgment; it was defined that 'life imprisonment' means entire life but afterwards it defined that life imprisonment means 14 years. Some states interpreted it as actual imprisonment for 14 years and some other states defined it as 14 years with provision for remission. Different states defined it separately on the basis of different criteria.

I would like to tell the Hon'ble Home Minister that in 1974, some changes were made in Cr. P.C. and with regard to capital punishment, Human Rights Commission has been insisting time and again that all countries of the world have stopped this practice. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Home Minister that keeping in view the amendments made in 1974 in this House in the Cr. P.C. of 1885, whether the government is ready to deliberate over making specific provision regarding redefining 'life imprisonment' in Cr. P.C. and giving remission in the sentence?

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I can only say it is a suggestion for action.

[Translation]

There is no need to interpret original definition again because I feel that it is very clear. The issue of death sentence has been debated for a long time. I would like to inform this House that though prison is not a Central subject, even then the Central government is worried over this issue and since 1987, it has given Central assistance of Rs. 100 crore to states for the improvement of jails.

[Translation]

National Family Welfare Programme

*82. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have lowered the targets of National Family Welfare Programme in some States during 1997-98 as compared to the earlier years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the States failed to achieve their targets under this programme; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to determine again the targets on the basis of the achievements made during the current year?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) The target based approach was followed upto March 1996. Thereafter the approach of determining targets was modified after extensive consultation with the States. The new target free approach was endorsed at the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare in January, 1997 where all State Governments are represented. It was recommended at the Conference that the target free strategy be continued. As a result of this approach, after initial decline in outcomes, performance has picked up during 1997-98. Hence there is no proposal to give up the target free approach which has lead to improved outcomes.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a new member in this House. I am fully confident of getting your protection. The hon'ble Minister has simply read the answer prepared by the team of officers concerned; he did not apply his mind on the subject. Sir, it is such a serious question that large increase in population has become a major problem of the country. However, National Programme for family welfare implemented by the Government of India is projecting this problem in a very light manner. At the initiation of this programme, Rs. 120 was paid as an incentive to every patient for sterilization but now the amount of incentive has been reduced to Rs. 40/-. Conditions are even worse in Adivasi areas. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been elected from Jhabua constituency of Ratlam, where adivasis are in a large number. Condition there is such that a patient has to walk for 40-50 km to reach the hospital and has to go back again on foot after being operated upon. In such a situation, if operation fails

or some other complication develops, then the individual has no option but to face a certain death. Government has said that target based policy has been abolished and target free policy has been initiated. They have said that it is the discretion of an individual to go for sterilization or not. I would like to know whether such a policy will be successful, in the country? According to the 1991 census, India's population stood at 80 crores.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is an important question. You have to put the supplementary in a proper manner.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the growth rate was 2 per cent at that time. Now, in 1998, the population has increased manifold. Therefore, the House should take the situation seriously. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to what has been the outcome and performance of the newly followed target-free approach scheme and whether there has been progress in achieving the objectives or whether the scheme is giving the desired results?

[English]

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, for sterilisation and IUD insertions, the compensation is as follows. Under a scheme called 'Compensation Scheme for Sterilisation and IUD Insertions', the Government pays Rs. 200 for tubectomy, Rs. 180 for vasectomy and Rs. 16 for IUD insertion.

Before, 1996-97, from out of the amount paid to the States, for tubectomy and vasectomy, Rs. 100 was to be paid to the acceptors. From 1996-97, it has been decided to give discretion to the State Governments to fix the actual amount to be paid to the acceptors. This modification was made in accordance with the recommendations of the National Development Council's Committee on Population. An amount of Rs. 16 is given to the States per IUD insertion. (Interruptions) The assistance given to the States is to be apportioned among the various items. (Interruptions)

Sir, he was talking about the low payment of the amount. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand the question and then give the reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He was asking about the low payment of incentive.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : I am giving you the details of the amount given by the Government.. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : The question was whether the incentive would be increased or not. He has not replied to that.

MR. SPEAKER : He has given the reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Sir, he is a new Member. He seeks your protection.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is also a new Minister. He has given the reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to know some details through you but the Hon'ble Minister is evading my question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask your second supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : He is not able to answer my question properly. I have been elected from an area where Adivasis are in majority. Government fulfills its target of family planning cases from adivasi areas. I want to know the amount of Budget allocated by the Government for health services and how this amount is being divided between urban and rural areas. As per my information, 6 per cent of the Budget amount is spent in rural areas and the rest is spent in urban areas, despite the fact that Government is achieving its target from villages. I would also like to know whether the amount of incentive for sterilization will be raised to Rs. 120 per person as has been the case previously?

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not ask a long question.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : My submission is whether the Government will increase the cash incentive being given to Adivasis so that they may have proper treatment? Otherwise, in such a situation, people living there do not have any other option but to face a certain death.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister can give a good reply now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will give you the figures. The amount that is given by the Government to the beneficiaries as on date is like this. The Government of India pays Rs. 200 for Tubectomy; Rs. 180 for Vasectomy; and Rs. 16 for IUD insertion. These amounts are paid through the State Governments.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member wants to know whether the Government is going to increase that incentive to the tribal areas.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, this suggestion will be examined.

DR. RAVI MALLU : Sir, the family welfare programme is very important because of the population explosion. As per the reply given by the hon. Minister, upto 1996 the programme was operating under the target oriented scheme. Now, they have removed the targets due to which there is a lot of laxity, starting from the national level to the divisional level. If the targets are fixed, there would be continuous persuasion from the Directorate level to the health supervisor level to achieve the targets. As the targets have been removed now, I am sure, there will not be desired achievement in the Family Welfare Programme. I request the hon. Minister to review the target-oriented programmes.

MR. SPEAKER : You need not request the hon. Minister, you please ask the question.

DR. RAVI MALLU : May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to consider about reintroducing the target-oriented programmes?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, I have already stated that there is no proposal to give up the target free approach scheme which has led us to the improved outcome.

Targets are based on the perception of high officials at National, State and District levels rather than people's need.

Focus is only on numbers and once the targets are fixed the quality of service becomes unimportant.

Field workers tended to resort to over-reporting to somehow show achievement of targets.

Therefore, the approach of determining targets was given up after extensive consultation with the State Governments and the States were asked to implement the Family Welfare Programme on the basis of target free approach in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, the Union Territory of Chandigarh and 18 districts in other 14 States during 1995-96. The experience was subsequently discussed with the State Governments and the approach of

abolishing the contraceptive targets was subsequently extended to cover the whole country with effect from 1.4.1998.

The Fourth Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare held in October 1995, placed on record its appreciation of the efforts made by all the State Governments to implement the Family Welfare Programme on the basis of the Target Free Approach (TFA) with effect from 1996-97.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, you can lay this on the Table of the House.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : All right.

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an alarming growth in population growth and this problem has gone out of proportions. It is going to be the real explosion threatening the prosperity and well-being of the country. We are going to surpass even China in another five years. It is because the Chinese have taken very effective measures to tackle the problem of population growth. The hon. Minister, in his statement, has mentioned that after consulting the State Governments, they have given up the concept of targets.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister which are the States which have fulfilled the targets and which have failed to fulfil the targets. I would also like to know from him the effective measures which the Government is proposing to take to tackle this problem. Will the hon. Minister enlighten us on these points?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : With regard to population control, Tamil Nadu stands in the first place.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No, Kerala stands in the first place.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, what the hon. Minister is stating is not correct.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : I stand corrected. It is Kerala which stands in the first place and Tamil Nadu comes only next to Kerala.

SHRI VAIKO : But what incentives have they got? Do you propose to give any incentives for those States? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please address the Chair and not the Members.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Other outstanding schemes are now being allowed to be carried out in Kerala as well as in Tamil Nadu whereas other States which have

been lagging behind like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are not even completing their projects. Subsequently, they have been asked for their reports and we are processing them. Certainly, the States like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are well in advance and are taking advantage. Like that, we are offering them incentives.

SHRI VAIKO : What about special incentives to be given for those States?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : No special incentives are given to them but they are allowed to carry out the projects.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Berhampur) (Orissa) : When the target-free approach was endorsed, it was suggested to provide for the concept of reproductive health services, that is, the comprehensive maternal and child health services. Even in this concept of reproductive health services, child survival, the delivery should take prominence. But the big 'M' i.e. Mother which means the interest, care and right of the mother along with free choice of family planning methods are missing. These would be predominant if the target-free approach is to be a successful one. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the concept of reproductive health services has been taken up infrastructure-wise to include would-be mothers, adolescent girls, prenatal conditions and postnatal conditions of mothers alongwith family planning methods. To what extent have these been done by the Government as well as by the NGOs? Secondly, to what extent have the family planning methods been adopted by women vis-a-vis men?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, the need-based reproductive and child health programme has been introduced since September, 1997. In our serious approach, mothers have been given enough priority . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Sir, he may answer me afterwards, if he does not have to reply now.

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked this question in the 10th Lok Sabha also. At that time the Hon'ble Prime Minister had assured the House that the matter would be discussed in all party meeting and decision taken therein would be implemented. I would like to ask my question to the Hon'ble Minister in two parts. Firstly, will the Hon'ble Prime Minister call such an all party

meeting as this matter is very serious and sensitive? The number of Bhartiya Janata Party are also increasing on the lines of increase in the country's population you need not worry. . . . (Interruptions)

Sadly what incentives and disincentives are going to be implemented by the Government to control the population growth? Thirdly, has the Government any plan to impose a restriction on contesting that election for a person having more than two children as has been done in Rajasthan.

(English)

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : We will examine the suggestions given by the hon. Members.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

**Amount Provided and spent on
Prevention of Aids**

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*83. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Crores are spent on AIDS awareness, not a penny on victims" appeared in Indian Express dated May 5, 1998;

(b) if so whether the number of AIDS patients has been increasing continuously in the country despite the huge amount spent on AIDS awareness without any results;

(c) whether the amount spent for AIDS awareness was higher than the treatment of victims on account of inadequate facilities in the hospitals;

(d) if so, the details of total fund provided and spent by the Government on the prevention of AIDS during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(e) the details of AIDS control measures and facilities for treatment of AIDS victims available at present in the country, State-wise; and

(f) further steps taken by the Government to control the spread of this disease, create general awareness and provide adequate facilities for treatment of victims in the hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. On the other hand because of the importance given to AIDS awareness, there has been no alarming rise of AIDS cases in the country. The total reported cases of AIDS as on April, 1998 was 5209 as against 3458 in April, 1997.

(c) The thrust of the National Programme for AIDS Prevention and Control lies, in creating awareness and bringing about behaviour change, in order to prevent the further spread of disease, and empower people to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS. This is particularly important, since there is no immunisation or cure of the disease till date. Significant amount of expenditure has therefore, to be incurred on preventive measures, which are of overriding importance. Where victims of AIDS suffer from Opportunistic Infections, necessary facilities exist in the Hospitals. In order to equip the clinicians to manage cases, over 2,200 doctors have received specialised training. Some selected doctors from some of the hospitals in the country have been sent for training abroad so that they are aware of the latest systems and practices adopted there to enable them to extend up-to-date professional services.

(d) A detail is given in Annexure-I.

(e) Clinical management of HIV AIDS case is based on proper and timely diagnosis of infection and management thereof supported by counselling for prevention of transmission of infection to other people. Since there is no cure for AIDS, only palliative care and management of opportunistic infections is being provided in hospitals.

(f) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, a comprehensive Programme is currently under implementation, as a central sponsored scheme through out the country. The strategies of the programme consist of (i) creation of awareness amongst high risk behaviour group and general public about HIV/AIDS; (ii) control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases; (iii) Blood Safety and rational use of blood; (iv) strengthening and surveillance, diagnosis and clinical management of HIV/AIDS cases. As AIDS patients are treated for Opportunistic Infections, there is no distinction between treatment of AIDS patients and other patients. State-wise details are given in Annexure-II.

Annexure-I

National Aids Control Programme

Utilisation of Funds

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
		Grants released	Expr. reported	Grants released	Expr. reported	Grants released	Expr. reported
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	432.00	293.93	425.00	434.30	425.00	86.59
2	Arunachal Pradesh	65.81	65.26	80.00	63.72	25.00	13.84
3	Assam	92.70	78.03	100.00	101.38	100.00	103.60
4	Bihar	0.00	11.65	25.00	26.97	50.00	1.21
5	Goa	0.00	31.16	25.00	29.84	50.00	1.52
6	Gujarat	131.26	154.79	300.00	63.36	250.00	56.48
7	Haryana	0.00	42.70	130.00	66.19	75.00	75.00
8	Himachal Pradesh	156.75	96.63	115.00	200.88	225.00	55.33
9	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	5.00*	25.00	6.00*	25.00	7.50*
10	Karnataka	120.00	193.73	350.00	160.61	175.00	150.00*
11	Kerala	172.62	185.49	225.00	136.68	100.00	80.00*
12	Madhya Pradesh	137.00	157.59	425.00	268.18	150.00	182.00
13	Maharashtra	300.00	359.32	900.00	682.36	950.00	274.94
14	Manipur	113.58	54.75	200.00	121.87	150.00	14.31
15	Meghalaya	18.00	27.06	35.00	15.51	25.00	17.63
16	Mizoram	74.00	93.63	150.00	126.98	100.00	21.66
17	Nagaland	107.00	128.95	190.00	175.06	155.00	125.98
18	Orissa	0.00	31.82	50.00	12.53	75.00	25.00*
19	Punjab	80.00	98.08	225.00	51.30	75.00	59.45
20	Rajasthan	90.00	70.30	375.00	222.14	225.00	234.00
21	Sikkim	25.00	20.29	50.00	23.11	50.00	11.11
22	Tamil Nadu	650.00	679.73	1700.00	1304.51	2000.00	1216.39
23	Tripura	38.00	39.30	50.00	56.04	50.00	40.00*
24	Uttar Pradesh	00.00	204.31	450.00	310.98	495.00	219.63
25	West Bengal	288.82	224.50	600.00	252.47	100.00	32.51
26	Pondicherry	65.04	11.57	7.00	26.92	25.00	109.13
27	A & N Islands	50.59	14.09	45.91	33.52	0.00	9.31

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
28	Chandigarh	51.70	31.72	46.93	29.10	31.09	3.12
29	D & N Haveli	42.00	21.05	17.00	54.42	28.00	3.07
30	Daman & Diu	43.05	37.24	19.00	13.10	16.00	2.57
31	Delhi	164.00	94.09	400.00	24.22	24.22	10.25
32	Lakshadweep	53.54	4.37	16.71	6.00*	15.42	5.00*
Total		3552.46	3561.93	7752.55	5100.25	6239.73	3248.13

*Figures Provisional.

Annexure-II

Table Showing State-wise Distribution of HIV Testing Facilities and Nodal Institutions where Treatment Facilities are Available

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Zonal Blood Testing Centre	No. of Surv. Centres	Principal Institutions where treatment is available
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	12	11	Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad.
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	Govt. Hospital, Itanagar.
3	Assam	3	3	Govt. Medical College, Guwahati.
4	Bihar	9	10	P.W. Medical College, Patna
5	Goa	2	1	Medical College, Goa
6	Gujarat	6	5	BJ Medical College, Ahmedabad
7	Haryana	4	1	PGIMSR, Rohtak
8	Himachal Pradesh	2	1	IG Medical College, Shimla
9	Jammu & Kashmir	3	3	Sher-E-Kashmir Instt. of Medical Sciences, Sri Nagar
10	Karnataka	10	7	Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore
11	Kerala	5	6	Govt. Medical College, Trivandrum
12	Madhya Pradesh	10	8	M.G. Medical College, Bhopal
13	Maharashtra	17	19	JJ Group of Hospitals, Bombay
14	Manipur	1	1	Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal
15	Meghalaya	1	1	Distt. Hospital, Shillong
16	Mizoram	1	1	Govt. Hospital, Aizwal
17	Nagaland	3	2	Govt. Hospital, Kohima
18	Orissa	4	4	SCB Medical College, Cuttack
19	Punjab	3	3	Govt. Medical College, Amritsar

1	2	3	4	5
20	Rajasthan	6	6	Sawal Mansingh Medical College, Jaipur
21	Sikkim	1	1	Govt. Hospital, Gangtok
22	Tamil Nadu	13	9	Madras Medical College, Madras
23	Tripura	1	1	Govt. Hospital, Agartala
24	Uttar Pradesh	13	10	KG Medical College, Lucknow
25	West Bengal	10	7	Calcutta Medical College, Calcutta
26	Andaman & Nicobar	1	1	G.B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair
27	Chandigarh	1	1	PGI, Chandigarh
28	Dadra & N. Haveli	-		Distt. Hospital, Silvassa
29	Daman & Diu	-		Distt. Hospital, Daman
30	Delhi	10	4	AIIMS, New Delhi
31	Lakshadweep	1	1	Govt. Hospital, Kavarati
32	Pondicherry	-	2	Govt. Gen. Hosp. Pondicherry
Total		154	131	

SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Sir, in 1993, 3,458 cases of AIDS were reported. And in April, 1998, they reported 5,209 cases. Within one year, there is an increase of 1,751 cases. It is a serious matter.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the national AIDS control project for five years, that is, from 1992 to 1997 was funded through a loan from the World Bank. What is its present status? Have any steps been taken to negotiate a further loan? If so, what is the result?

Secondly, is it true that a separate post of Project Director, National Programme for AIDS Prevention and Control was created in 1992 and since then, has he been burdened with a lot of other work thus leading to neglect of the programme for control of AIDS?

Is it true that most of the posts in the National AIDS Control Organisation are lying vacant?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, we are going to negotiate a further loan of \$ 200 million which has to come from the World Bank. We have the Project Director. The expansion programme is being examined.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, Mr. Minister. The question is whether the Government is going to take any steps for control of the AIDS.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : We are very much doing it.

MR. SPEAKER : What steps is the Government going to take?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : We have organised the societies, at the State level. We have State-level societies for prevention and control of AIDS. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : We are decentralising the programme to the State level. If the message goes to the common people from the top leaders, that will be a very great achievement.

The thrust of the National Programme for AIDS Prevention and Control lies in creating awareness and bringing about behavioural change in order to prevent the further spread of disease and empower people to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS. This is particularly important since there is no immunisation or cure of the disease till date. A significant amount of expenditure has, therefore, to be incurred on preventive measures which are of overriding importance. Where victims of AIDS suffer from opportunistic infections, necessary facilities exist in the hospitals.

In order to equip the clinicians to manage such cases, over 2,300 doctors have received specialised training. Some selected doctors from some of the hospitals in the country have been sent for training abroad so that they

are aware of the latest systems and practices adopted there and it would enable them to update their professional services.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please understand the question.

Shri Naik, please put your second supplementary.

SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Sir, with the rising number of AIDS victims, what steps the Government proposes to take in order to spread an awareness programme in the rural areas.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Naik, you have to put a pointed supplementary, not a lengthy supplementary.

SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Sir, I have put a pointed supplementary only. I would like to know, with the rising number of AIDS victims, what steps does the Government propose to take in order to spread an awareness programme in the rural areas?

MR. SPEAKER : He has already answered that question.

SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of AIDS cases in the State of Goa.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, this is a very specific question with regard to the State of Goa. How many AIDS victims are there in the State of Goa?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, we have the total number of cases. We do not have the State-wise break-up.

MR. SPEAKER : How many AIDS cases have been detected in the State of Goa?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, we do not have the State-wise break-up. But we will provide it to him.

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Sir, I think, the hon. Minister has not understood our question at all. I asked a very specific question. The question is whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned, "Cross spent on spreading AIDS awareness, not a penny on victims". As per the reply of the Minister it has been stated that Rs. 175 crore has been spent in a period of three years towards awareness programmes. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has spent any specific amount or whether they have reserved any amount for the AIDS victims.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : We have noted the news item. In order to provide relief and treatment to the victims,

we have selected doctors and they are being sent abroad for training.

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : My specific question is whether any amount has been demarcated for treatment of AIDS patients and for rehabilitation of their families.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, if the hon. Member wishes to know the actual amount that is being spent on treatment etc., the information would be furnished to him.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister the basis on which grants have been allocated in the given statement of state-wise grants released and expenditure reported? Is it based on the size of the state or the number of AIDS cases reported from the states? Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may notice that Kerala with five Zonal Board Testing Centres has been allocated Rs. 172 lakh where as Delhi with 10 centres have been allocated only Rs. 164 lakh as grant. I would like to know the basis of this discrimination - is it based on the number of cases or the size of the state?

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Union Territories have reported more cases of AIDS.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second submission is, will the Minister be pleased to give the break-up of the amounts spent on preventive measures and for providing facilities in the hospitals for the treatment of AIDS patients?

[English]

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : The amounts of grant are based on the number of AIDS patients and prevalence of the disease. It is not based on the size of the State.

Review of Labour Law

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*84 SHRI RAMTAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the various aspects of labour problems in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to appoint a Review Commission to look into the labour laws keeping in view the impact of liberalisation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (c) A number of labour laws have been enacted from time to time to address various aspects of labour problems which assumed importance and attracted pointed attention at a particular point of time. These encompass a vast span of subjects which include Freedom of Association and Trade Unions Rights, conditions of work, Minimum wages, Social security, Labour relations, migrant workers, employment of children, etc. While many of these issues are of continued nature, some of these may have ceased to be of importance.

The process of liberalisation and structural adjustment was set in motion in 1991. This was followed by changes in the fiscal policies, trade policies, foreign and investment policies, etc. The changes in the economic and trade policies have not been followed with suitable and appropriate modifications in labour laws. Accordingly, it is felt that there is need to review comprehensively the labour laws so as to ensure both consistency of labour laws with the general changes taking place in the economic policy and also to provide for greater welfare of the working class. In this context, the Government is considering to set up a high powered body on Labour to go into this entire question, details of which are being worked out.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the labourers in our country are facing several problems and a number of laws have been enacted to solve their problems. However, the officials responsible for enforcing the laws are unable to enforce them properly. The labourers are still not getting the due minimum wages. Whether it is the question of availing leave or medical facility or any other benefits, these are being denied to them. This tendency is widespread both in the Government and the private factories. It becomes all the more agonising when the large scale Government establishments such as H.E.C.L. and SAIL in Bihar employ supply labourers who are retired after 25-30 years of service and still are not given any benefits. If the Government establishments treat workers in such a manner, the private factory-owners will definitely exploit them. Hence my question is as to what action is proposed to be taken by the Government to provide the labourers their due and prevent their exploitation?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Member has expressed his concern about the minimum wages. The Central Government have given very

clear directives regarding the minimum wages. However, the enforcement of the same has to be ensured by the various State Governments. Central Government and the Union Ministry have given the directives and suggested Rs. 35 as the minimum wages, however the State Government enforced it fixing the wages at lower and at places even upper levels than the suggested rate. At places, the figures definitely cause concern. I have got information pertaining to all the states. If Hon'ble Member wishes to have any information regarding any particular state; it will be furnished to him. The directives given by the Union Government clearly peg the minimum wages at thirty five rupees. Some States have doled out even more, for example, the Government of Haryana has taken a notable step by linking it with the Dearness Allowance, whereas some states were not being able to ensure grant of even the minimum wages. A conference was recently held in the western region wherein the delegates of those states had raised this point and admitted to it. They also expressed concern over it.

The second area of concern pertains to the contract labour. As you have stated regarding the contract labourers, definitely they should not be employed in work of regular nature. Such directives have also been issued. If the Hon'ble Member has any specific question in his mind in this regard, he may put it and I shall try my best to answer it.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : It is a matter of regret that the minimum wages have been pegged at Rs.35 by the Union Government whereas Bihar has fixed Rs. 40 as the minimum wages. This is the anomaly. The Union Government should have given more whereas it is giving less. You may get an enquiry conducted in this regard in the H.E.C.L. and S.A.I.L. factories located at Ranchi and also in the private factories.

MR. SPEAKER : Please put your question.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : I am going to put my question. Hon'ble Minister of Labour proposes to set up a high level Committee and it is evident in his reply. By when this committee is proposed to be set up so as to solve the problems of labourers?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : The minimum wages in Bihar are Rs. 27.30 and maximum wages are Rs. 39.70. The establishments under the control of Union Government pay Rs. 39.51 as minimum wages and Rs. 71.04 as maximum wages. As regards amendment in the labour laws, the Ministry shares the hon'ble member's concern and discussions are being held in this regard. There is every likelihood of making an announcement in this regard very shortly, rather in the current year itself.

PROF. RITA VERMA : No one else would have the time to speak today.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, amendment should be made in the labour laws. Section 20 of the Contract Labour Abolition and Regulation Act is violated very often. It provides for payment of same wages for same work to the contract labour as is paid to the regular worker. However the Central Government undertakings and establishments are not implementing that Section. A number of sections under this Act are flouted. We would like to know as to whether the Government has any such proposal through which an amendment can be made in the Contract Labour Abolition and Regulation Act? The amendment should be of such nature that it is not violated and in case of violation, stringent measures are taken against the offenders and a provision of strict punishment may be made. Whether the Government have any such proposal or are likely to introduce it?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : The concern expressed by Shri Acharia in his query regarding the Contract Labour, has a very wide scope. Definitely, a contract labourer is not expected to handle the work of a regular labourer. However such a practice is resorted to in the lure of earning high profits and thus different wages are paid to the labourers doing work. Such a practice has not been accepted in principle and I agree with the suggestion put forth by the Hon'ble Member regarding making an amendment in such laws, implementing them properly, updating them and preventing the exploitation of the labourers. Keeping this end in mind, whatever amendment are required, will be made.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, the attitude of this Government towards the comprehensive Bill for the welfare of agricultural labourers which was being discussed during the previous Government's time. Is this Government agreeable to have that Bill passed or not?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has put her question and her concern expressed therein is quite genuine because a number of laws have been enacted for the labour force. But of all the laws enacted in our country, more than half have been formulated for the organised sector. Hence it is expected that similar laws should be enacted for labour working in unorganised sector. Last time, a committee comprising of Ministers was set up which upheld that consultations are required to be made regarding the agricultural labourers working in unorganised sector and a law should be enacted

In this regard. It has been our intention to ensure the welfare of the labour force. I agree that a provision should be made for the benefit of labour employed in the unorganised sector so that they may get proper minimum wages. Discussions are continuing with the labour unions in this regard and the Government agrees with the need to introduce such a law soon.

SHRI TARACHAND SAHU : Sir, I represent the area where the Bhilai Steel Plant, the biggest such plant in Asia is located. The condition of labour force in my area is pitiable. The large scale public sector units such as HSCIL and DRP are not able to pay the wages and no money is being paid in the Provident Fund Accounts of the labourers either. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to whether the Government is aware of it? If not, what steps does the Government propose to take in this regard?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Sir, the issue of payment of wages in an enterprise or undertaking is related to the Ministry of Industry. As for the provident fund issue, it is correct that money should be deposited in the Provident Fund Account and if any undertaking defaults in this regard, action will be taken against it.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say to the Hon'ble Minister that the sooner a commission is set up to review the present labour laws, the better it would be. Apart from this, there are several such standing orders which are followed in several enterprises. For example, there is a standing order in the BCCL, wherein under the section 28, any labourer can be dismissed at any time without assigning any reason. It is apparent that in such an event, people will go to court, suits will be filed and the precious time and money of the Government will be wasted. Hence I suggest that a commission should be set up to review it so that such anomalies, anti labour laws and standing orders may be removed.

Similarly, contract labourers are being subjected to exploitation and injustice in the public sector undertakings right under your control. These labourers have been working for 25-30 years I would like to ask Hon'ble Minister as to by when a commission will be set up in this regard. I am aware that Hon'ble Minister is very kind and is a soft hearted poet. Hence you should appoint people of similar thinking and ideology in this commission who may submit a time bound report. Whether the Hon'ble Minister will give an assurance to the House in this regard?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Sir, the point raised by Mrs. Rita Verma is definitely a matter of concern for all of us. The Government intends to make amendments in the labour laws which are not relevant. As for the issue

of standing orders on the basis of which the labourers are being exploited, I would like to submit that the standing orders are not above the law. However, if labour laws are being overlooked and standing orders are followed instead and such a thing comes to the notice of the Government, action will be taken. Apart from this, the suggestion of constituting a commission has a wider ambit. It is in the interest of the labour force that labourers are may not exploited and this suggestion is under consideration in the Ministry.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee has made certain recommendations and has given suggestions in this regard. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister as to what are the recommendations made by the Committee regarding abolishing the contract labour system. What steps does the Government propose to take to protect the labourers? Whether the Government intend to take any action to abolish the contract labour system or not? If it is going to take any action, the time by which it is likely to take and if not, the reasons therefor?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : The concern expressed regarding problems relating to contract labour system is genuine and this issue is under the consideration of the Government. An announcement is likely to be made in this regard very shortly.

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minimum Wages Act is being violated in Madhya Pradesh. Along with the contract labourers, the daily wagers working in the Government Departments are also drawing less amount than the stipulated minimum wages. I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister as to whether the Government is aware of it? If so, what action does the Government propose to take in this regard?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Sir, the minimum wages stipulated in Madhya Pradesh is Rs. 26.46 and maximum is Rs. 55.19. Hon'ble Member has spoken of the violation of Minimum Wages Act in Madhya Pradesh. I do not have the information as to how much dearness allowance should be added to Rs. 26.46 but over all the minimum wages should not be less than Rs. 35.

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will you look into it?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : It will be looked into and if the wages are found to be less than the required minimum wages, the State Government will be asked to rectify it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Militancy in J & K

85. **SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN :**
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent massacre by the militants in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed by the militants in the State of Jammu and Kashmir since the beginning of 1998;

(c) whether the Government have found any evidence of the involvement of any of our neighbouring countries in encouraging the militancy in J & K; and

(d) if so, the efforts made by the Government to bring normalcy in J & K?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Group of armed militants killed 26 persons in the night of April 17/18, 1998 at Parankot and Dhakikot villages in Udhampur district.

(b) The number of persons killed by militants in 1998 (upto 30.4.98) is as below :

Civilian	Security Force
248	62

(c) It is a well known fact that Pakistan is sponsoring, aiding and abetting militancy in J & K. Interrogation reports of a number of militants arrested by Security Forces and diaries/documents etc. recovered from them have confirmed this fact.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to tackle militancy in J & K include sustained anti-terrorist operations by the Police and the Security Forces, including intensive patrolling on the border/LOC and hinterland, establishing pickets in vulnerable areas, strengthening of State Police, strengthening of the intelligence network and coordination of security arrangements among various agencies. Development needs of the State are also receiving urgent attention and the State Government is facilitated in its various efforts to restore normalcy.

Mahajan Committee on Sugar Industry

*86. **SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :**
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to decontrol and discontinue the sugar supply through Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Mahajan Committee constituted to review the sugar policy has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the committee; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the advantages of implimenting such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) to (e) The Mahajan Committee constituted to review the Sugar Policy, has submitted its report on 15.4.1998. The Committee has made the following major recommendations :-

- (i) Reservation of sugarcane areas for mills should be on a permanent basis. Permission to lift cane from another reserved area should be given only after the requirement of the linked mill are fully met. Any decision to de-reserve an area earlier allotted to a sugar mill should only be carried out after giving an opportunity to the mill to show-cause against such action.
- (ii) Continuance of the industrial licensing provisions. They have recommended that the concept of minimum economic size should be dropped. They have also suggested that the minimum distance between two sugar mills should be restored to the previous level of 25 kms.
- (iii) Complete de-control of sugar. As an alternative, they have suggested that this may be phased out over a period of 2 years. It has further been suggested that the statutory levy percentage be reduced to 20% from the beginning of the next sugar season, and that it be retained at that level for 2 years. After the expiry of those two years, the levy provision be abolished. Supply of sugar through the PDS be discontinued after implementation of de-control. Sugarcane prices be determined by a sugarcane Pricing Board, consisting of an economist of repute as Chairman, and with members from the various concerned Ministries/Departments, one representative each from the National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories and Indian Sugar Mills Association, and two representatives of cane growers (one from tropical and another from sub-tropical region). If Government wishes

to continue PDS, the sugar be obtained at market prices from the mills. In the interim period of two years, the statutory levy price be based on a cane price determined by the Statutory Sugarcane Pricing Board. The additional cost of purchase of sugar in this manner be met by increasing the excise duty. After complete discontinuance of PDS, the current level of subsidy of sugar be added to the subsidy on foodgrains under the PDS.

(iv) Distribution control under Sugar Control Order be continued after the de-control of prices.

The recommendations of the committee are under examination in Government.

Wheat Scam In FCI

*87. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a multi-crore wheat scam has been detected in the Food Corporation of India during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted an inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) to (e) In January, 1997, some reports appeared in the press alleging that FCI officials were flouting the norms of Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS) and the Wheat was being sold to fictitious firms which caused shortage of wheat in the market which resulted in rise in prices of wheat. Taking cognizance of the press reports. The Hon'ble High Court of Punjab & Haryana *Suo-moto* initiated a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) proceedings (Number 915 of 1997). After detailed hearing in the matter, the Hon'ble High Court ordered on 25.7.97 that the Deputy Commissioners of Punjab & Haryana will look into the circumstances under which wheat under OMSS (Domestic) happened to be siphoned out of the State. The conclusions arrived at by the Deputy Commissioners in the report were to be examined by the CBI to pursue further course of action. In pursuance of the Hon'ble High Court's orders, the CBI has registered 13 cases so far in this regard.

Death in Police Custody

*88. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether instances of deaths in police custody are on the increase in the country and the National Human Rights Commission has expressed its anxiety over the matter;

(b) if so, the details of the deaths in police custody during the last one year till date, month-wise/State-wise/Union territory-wise; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) According to the National Human Rights Commission, there is an increase in the number of deaths in police custody. As per their records, there were 193 custodial deaths in 1997-98 as against 188 custodial deaths in 1996-97 and 136 custodial deaths in 1995-96. A statement giving the break-up, State-wise/Union Territory-wise, for the year 1997-98 is enclosed.

2. Custodial deaths should have no place in a civilised society governed by the Rule of Law. The Central Government has been emphasizing on the State Governments the need to take stringent action against officials responsible for custodial deaths. Greater attention to development of proper work culture, training and orientation of the police force consistent with basic human values would be useful. Scientific aids to investigations need to be encouraged. The Central Government has been sending advisories to the State Governments in this regard, as 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State/Union Territory	01.04.1997 to 31.03.1998
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	02
3.	Assam	14
4.	Bihar	09
5.	Goa	-
6.	Gujarat	09
7.	Haryana	03
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-

1	2	3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	02
10.	Karnataka	06
11.	Kerala	06
12.	Madhya Pradesh	18
13.	Maharashtra	19
14.	Manipur	01
15.	Meghalaya	02
16.	Mizoram	-
17.	Nagaland	01
18.	Orissa	04
19.	Punjab	11
20.	Rajasthan	12
21.	Sikkim	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	11
23.	Tripura	03
24.	Uttar Pradesh	16
25.	West Bengal	10
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	-
27.	Chandigarh	-
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-
29.	Daman & Diu	-
30.	Delhi	12
31.	Lakshadweep	-
32.	Pondicherry	01
Total		183

International Prices of Oil

*89. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

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

(a) whether international prices of oil has come down considerably recently;

(b) if so, the average prices during each of the last three years and month-wise for 1998; and

(c) the financial benefit expected to be made on reduction in import bill of the crude oil and other petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) During the period from November'97 to March'98, the prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market declined. However, the declining trend

changed towards end March, 1998 and oil prices rose in April, 98.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) Prices of oil in the international market are highly volatile and are subject to wide fluctuations and any movement in the international prices is bound to have an impact on our import cost. It is, therefore, difficult to predict the savings expected in future imports.

Statement

Published prices of Crude Oil & Petroleum Products for the Year 1995-1997

SOURCE : PLATT'S

Year	Dubai \$/Bbl	Brent Dated \$/Bbl	Oman \$/Bbl	BASIS ARAB GULF			
				Naphtha (\$/MT)	Kero (\$/MT)	HSD (\$/MT)	HSFO 180 (\$/MT)
1995	16.089	17.017	16.321	150.11	169.01	149.84	90.00
1996	18.556	20.668	19.096	172.17	213.85	190.64	101.17
1997	18.131	19.093	18.538	187.55	185.35	168.60	94.59

Monthly Published prices of crude oil & Petroleum products for the period January'98 to 19th May'98

SOURCE : PLATT'S

Month	Dubai \$/Bbl	Brent Dated \$/Bbl	Oman \$/Bbl	BASIS ARAB GULF			
				Naphtha (\$/MT)	Kero (\$/MT)	HSD (\$/MT)	HSFO 180 (\$/MT)
Jan'98	13.411	15.115	13.612	144.51	132.05	119.85	57.660
Feb'98	12.319	13.953	12.578	131.45	122.77	117.22	50.638
Mar'98	11.476	13.056	11.746	128.04	111.66	107.10	60.443
Apr'98	12.230	13.431	12.405	138.97	129.23	121.20	70.463
May'98	12.917	14.318	12.851	142.67	129.33	117.56	70.091

Use of Sub-Standard Medicines/Drugs in CGHS Dispensaries

*90. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that in some of the Government Hospitals and CGHS Dispensaries, medicines and dressing material supplied is of sub-standard quality;

(b) if so, whether the Government have appointed any expert committee to have surprise checks relating to

quality of medicines and dressing materials supplied to Government Hospitals and CGHS dispensaries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) Government Hospitals and CGHS Dispensaries are supplied Medicines and Dressing Material by the Medical Store Depot (MSD) of the Government. The Depot supplies the items with a Certificate that they are pre-tested and are of Standard Quality. When MSD is

unable to supply the items, the Hospitals/CGHS invite quotations or make purchases in respect of Dressing Material from Kendriya Bhandar/Super Bazar, and the supplies are subjected to inspection. If any complaint is received, analytical tests are conducted through recognised Laboratories, and appropriate action is taken as warranted.

CGHS has a Standing Committee for checking the quality of supplies vis-a-vis approved samples.

Ban on Use of Artificial Colour in Food

*91. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether DAV Research Society for Health has demanded complete ban on the use of artificial colour in food items;

(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 HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) DAV Research Society for Health, a Registered Society at Delhi had asked for a ban to be imposed on the use of Artificial Colours in all food items on the ground that these are harmful to human health.

(c) The PFA Rules 1955, permit only those artificial colours which have been accepted as safe by FAO/WHO. Moreover, use of these colours is permitted, only in specified articles of food within prescribed limits.

Prices of Petrol

*92. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

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

(a) whether the prices of petrol in India are higher than the other developing countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to bring down the prices of petrol;

(d) the estimated production and consumption of petrol in the country during the last three years; and

(e) the total quantity of petrol imported during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) to (c) The price of Petrol (MS) in India and some of the neighbouring countries are given below :

Price of Petrol (MS) in the Neighbouring Countries

(As in April, 98)

Countries	Currency	Price per Litre in Local Currency	Prices in Indian (Rs.) Per Litre
Bangladesh	Taka	21.00	18.37
Sri Lanka	Rupee	50.00	32.23
Thailand	Baht	11.77	12.22
S. Korea	Won	1047.00	31.41
Japan	Yen	94.00	29.11
Phillipines	Peso	11.61	12.13
Malaysia	Ringitt	1.10	11.85
Indonesia	Rupiah	700.00	3.78
India-Delhi	Rupee	22.84	22.84

The price of Petrol in the country is fixed in such a manner to cross subsidise certain other petroleum products. Price of Petrol is required to be kept high so long such cross-subsidisation continues to be a part of the pricing system.

(d) The production and consumption of Petrol (MS) in the country during the last three years were as follows :

Year	Production (MMT)	Consumption (MMT)
1995-96	4.458	4.679
1996-97	4.706	4.955
1997-98 (Prov.)	4.861	5.153

(e) The total quantities of petrol (MS) imported during the last three years were as follows :

Year	MMT
1995-96	0.435
1996-97	0.449
1997-98 (Prov.)	0.358

[Translation]

Disparity in Supply of Items

*93. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI C.D. GAMIT :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the per unit quantity of sugar and Kerosene fixed under PDS;

(b) whether there is difference between the quantity of Sugar and Kerosene supplied to the consumers in rural and urban areas particularly in Uttar Pradesh under PDS;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government to streamline the public distribution system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) to (c) Under the Public Distribution system, by and large, the States/UTs including Uttar Pradesh State are being supplied levy sugar calculated on a uniform norm of 425 gms per capita per month. This is currently being given as per 1991 Census population and accordingly, the levy sugar quota of all States/UTs. per month works out to 3.69 lakhs tonnes which is effective from 1.1.1996. In addition to above, the Government also releases about one lakh tonnes per annum as festival quota which is allocated to States/UTs in proportion of their monthly levy quota during the month(s) of their choice. The Central Government has no role in distribution of sugar within the State/UT and this is solely done by the State Governments/UT Administrations.

The Central Government makes bulk allocation of Kerosene to the States/UTs. Its retail distribution to the different areas within the State/UT is the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government has been advising the States/UTs to streamline the distribution of Kerosene in order to prevent its diversion and to ensure its distribution to the ready people. A very high increase has been given in the allocation of Kerosene in 1998-99 to those States having per capita availability of Kerosene much lower than the national average. An increase of 18.01% has been made in the allocation of Kerosene for Uttar Pradesh for the year 1998-99. This increase amounts to an additional quantity of 2,12,261 MTs.

Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported that the distribution of Sugar is being done at the rate of 1 kg. per unit in urban areas and 330 gms per unit in rural areas and Kerosene at the rate of 5 litre per ration card per month (LPG holders), 10 Lt. per ration card per month (General category) in urban areas, 5 Lt. per ration card per month in rural areas in plain, 10 Lt. per ration card per month in urban areas and depending on availability of Kerosene 5 to 10 Lt. per month per ration card in rural areas of the hill districts.

(d) and (e) The Public Distribution System (PDS) has been streamlined to make it more effective particularly for the population below poverty line and a new targeted PDS has been introduced throughout the country with effect from 1.6.1997. Copy of the Targeted PDS scheme has already been laid on the table of the House on 24th February, 1997. However, streamlining of PDS is a continuous process and Government does this from time to time to meet changing requirements.

[English]

Increase in TB Cases

*94. SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKARA REDDY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tuberculosis (TB) cases reported in various health centres in the country have crossed 25 lakhs and the programmes for eradication of TB cases proved unsuccessful despite spending of huge amount on it;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have set up an expert committee to look into the progress in implementing the programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which the said committee is likely to submit the report; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) The trend of TB cases in the country reported under the Programme over last several years has been more or less static. Since the implementation of National TB Control Programme, over the years the death rate from TB has come down from estimated 80 per lakh in 1970 to around 53 per lakh at

present. Incidence of serious forms of childhood TB is on the decline, and extensive exudative lesions are less frequently seen.

(c) to (e) The Government has not set up any expert committee to look into the progress in the implementation of the Programme.

(f) Under the National TB Programme 466 Districts Tuberculosis Centres (DTCs) have been established which provide free diagnostic and treatment facilities to the community. To reduce the period of treatment, short course chemotherapy has been introduced in 292 DTCs. The entire requirement of anti-TB Drugs for the DTCs is being met by the Central Government.

Under the National TB Control Programme, the treatment completion rates remained between 30 to 40%. To achieve a cure rate of 85%, the revised implementation strategy was introduced in 20 pilot sites covering population of about 20 million. Now with the World Bank Assistance, this revised strategy will be implemented in 102 Districts of the Country over the next three years. Further, 203 Short Course Chemotherapy Districts are proposed to be strengthened as a transitional step for adoption of revised strategy.

Dual Citizenship

*95. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL :
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian settled abroad have been granted double citizenship in many countries;

(b) if so, the details of the countries who grant dual citizenship;

(c) whether the Government have any plans to adopt the same policy of granting dual citizenship; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Such details are not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) An Inter-Ministerial Committee is examining this issue.

Prices of Essential Commodities

*96. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a sharp increase in the prices of essential commodities such as wheat, rice, sugar, bread, milk, edible oils and various spices during 1997 and the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the percentage of increase during the last three years till date, item-wise; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check price-rise of these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) and (b) A statement showing the percentage variation to wholesale price index of essential commodities like wheat, rice, sugar, bread, mild, edible oils and spices for last three years (upto 9.5.1998) is attached. The main reasons for the rise in price of certain essential commodities are the increased demand due to increase in population, nearly stagnant and lower production of certain commodities, existing gap in demand and supply of selected items like pulses, vegetable oils etc., rise in the cost of their inputs and lower imports due to higher prices in international market.

(c) The Government has accorded the highest priority to the control of prices of essential commodities. Apart from certain long term measures to increase the production of essential goods, imports under Open General Licence (OGL) of items which are in short supply like edible oils and pulses are being permitted in order to augment the total availability of these items. Government has decided to import 1.5 million tonnes of wheat through State Trading Corporation to augment its availability. Some of the essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, imported palmolein and kerosene are also supplied through the Public Distribution System and Cooperative Stores at below market prices. Stringent actions are being taken against hoarders and black marketeers and others indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act etc. by the State/ UT Governments.

Statement

Annual percentage variation in wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities during 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 (upto 9.5.98).

Commodity	1995	1996	1997	1998
	1	3	4	5
Rice	4.5	13.0	1.7	0.4
Wheat	-1.6	33.3	-3.4	-6.3

1	2	3	4	5
Sugar	2.1	8.2	13.0	0.5
Bread	10.4	29.1	14.2	0.6
Milk	0.6	1.3	12.0	2.9
Vanaspati	-0.3	-3.0	-0.9	0.3
Mustard Oil	6.8	-7.9	-1.7	12.8
Groundnut Oil	17.7	-3.0	2.7	5.7
Black-pepper	10.4	18.3	119.3	-4.9
Chillies (dry)	51.9	-16.9	-9.8	16.4
Turmeric	15.2	88.0	40.8	11.3

Privatisation of Oil Fields

*97. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

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

(a) the number of oil fields in the country privatised so far and the policy of the Government with regard to operation of oil fields;

(b) whether there is any proposal to privatise some more oil fields;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the oil fields selected for the purpose;

(d) whether private sector companies have shown interest in exploration of oil from these fields;

(e) if so, whether any agreement has been signed by the Government with these companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) Production sharing contracts have been signed with private companies for development of 13 small sized discovered fields and with Joint Venture consortiums for development of 5 medium sized discovered fields so far. The policy on private participation in discovered fields is under review.

(b) to (d) Based on bids received from Private Companies/consortiums, 12 more fields have been approved for award subject to finalisation of Production Sharing Contracts. Details are given below :-

Fields	Name of Company/Consortium
Small sized fields	
1. Karjisan	Selan Exploration Technology Ltd. India.
2. Modhera	Interlink Petroleum Ltd. India.
3. North Balol	Gujarat State Petrochemical Corporation (GSPC) India, Hindustan Oil Exploration Company (HOEC) India.
4. Kanawara	-do-
5. Allora	-do-
6. Unawa	-do-
7. North Kathana	-do-
8. Dholasan	-do-
9. Sangapur	Hydrocarbon Resources Development Company (P) Ltd. India.
10. Ognaj	Selan Exploration Technology Ltd. India.
11. Amguri	The Assam Co. Ltd. India. Joshi Technologies Inc. USA.
Medium Sized Field	
12. Ratna & R-Series Oil	Essar Oil Ltd. India. Premier Oil Pacific U.K.

(e) to (f) The Contracts for these 12 fields have not been finalised.

[Translation]

L.P.G. Agencies in Rural Areas

*98. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for allotment of L.P.G. agencies in all villages having population of ten thousand to meet the demand of rural areas;

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether it has been decided to launch programme to bring awareness regarding the use of innovative methods and efficient equipment for conservation of petroleum products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of public to the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to extend LPG Marketing in rural areas, while formulating the LPG Plan 1996-98. It was decided to set up new LPG distributorships in the following areas also :

- (i) Wherever feasible, all towns with a population of 5,000 and above, including villages within 15 Kms. radius, to make a viable distributorship.
- (ii) Wherever feasible, all villages with a population of 10,000 and above, including the villages within 15 Kms. radius, to make a viable distributorship.

Accordingly, a total of 1702 distributorships have been included in the approved LPG Marketing Plan for 1996-98. Of these, 401 are for rural areas only.

Applications for above distributorships are being advertised currently and selections are to be made by the Dealer Selection Boards on the basis of interview of eligible candidates, who will be responsible to set up distributorships, within specified period.

(c) and (d) Oil Industry is conducting several programmes including oil conservation week every year to create awareness among the masses about oil conservation. Under this programme the following activities are conducted to bring awareness in the use of innovative methods and efficient equipments for conservation of petroleum products.

1. Seminars in Schools/Colleges
2. Seminars with consumer Associations
3. Painting/Debate/Essay Competitions in School/Colleges
4. Wide Spread Messages Through TV/Radio
5. Display of Banners/Hoardings
6. Distributions of Safety/Conservation Literature/Leaflets, Etc.
7. Participation in Kisan Melas and setting up Demonstration Centres in Rural Areas.

Customers/public have appreciated the efforts of the industry in organising various conservation activities in order to promote/propagate awareness and need for conservation of petroleum products.

Price/Import of Edible Oils

*99. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there has been considerable rise in the prices of edible oils in the country during the last three years, till date;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and percentage of hike in various edible oils, separately during the said period;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check the prices and blackmarketing of edible oils;
- (d) whether the Government had imported edible oils during the said period to normalise their supply; and
- (e) if so, the impact or import on the prices of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) to (c) and (e) The prices of edible oils in 1996 and 1997 have been markedly depressed as compared to those in 1995. However, recently, in April and May, 1998, these prices have risen sharply. The ruling prices in the period January-May for the years 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 are given in the enclosed statements - I, II and III.

The recent hike in prices is on account of the following significant factors :-

- (i) A moderate drop in domestic oilseed production in current oil year.
- (ii) Marked hardening of international oil prices, mainly on account of financial instability and civil unrest in Indonesia, a major supplier or international edible oil.
- (iii) Hardening of the Dollar value against the rupee.

Under the EXIM Policy, import of edible oils has been on OGL since April, 1994. The import duty on edible oils has been progressively reduced from 65% in 1994 to the current level of 25%. availing of this 'Import Window', required quantities of edible oils have been imported from time to time to supplement domestic availability.

(d) Yes Sir.

Statement-I

Price Comparison/Variations of Major Edible oils during (January, 1995 – May, 1995) to (January, 1996 to May, 1996)

(Rs. per quintal)

Year 1995	G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil	Year 1996	G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil	% increase/decrease		
								G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil
January	3795	3480	3580	January	3609	2883	3571	(-)4.9	(-)17.16	No change
February	4030	3515	3600	February	3626	2705	3349	(-)10.0	(-)23.04	(-)6.97
March	4100	3390	3450	March	3626	2689	3244	(-)11.56	(-)20.67	(-)5.97
April	4135	3340	3250	April	3864	3010	3000	(-)6.55	(-)9.88	(-)7.69
May	4060	3205	3150	May	3805	2890	3167	(-)6.28	(-)9.80	No change

Statement-II

Price Comparison in Major Edible oils during (January, 1995 – May, 1995) to (January, 1997 to May, 1997)

(Rs. per quintal)

Year 1995	G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil	Year 1997	G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil	% Variation		
								G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil
January	3795	3480	3580	January	3451	2965	3337	(-)9.0	(-)14.8	(-)6.78
February	4030	3515	3600	February	3411	2813	3257	(-)15.34	(-)19.98	(-)9.52
March	4100	3390	3450	March	3433	2791	3020	(-)16.27	(-)17.67	(-)12.46
April	4135	3340	3250	April	3630	2900	3046	(-)12.21	(-)13.17	(-)6.28
May	4060	3205	3150	May	3593	2819	3056	(-)11.5	(-)12.04	(-)2.98

Statement-III

Price Comparison of Major Edible oils during (January, 1995 – May, 1995) to (January, 1998 to May, 1998)

(Rs./quintal)

Year 1995	G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil	Year 1998	G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil	% increase/decrease		
								G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil
January	3795	3480	3580	January	3614	3053	2887	(-)4.77	(-)12.27	(-)19.36
February	4030	3515	3600	February	3671	3183	2932	(-)8.9	(-)9.4	(-)22.9
March	4100	3390	3450	March	3730	3387	3104	(-)9.0	(-)0.0	(-)10.0
April	4135	3340	3250	April	4340	3618	3680	(+)4.96	(+)8.32	(+)13.2
May	4060	3205	3150	May	4170	3870	3760	(+)2.7	(+)20.74	(+)19.34

*[English]***Review of Fertiliser Units**

*100. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of public sector undertakings in Chemicals and Fertilizer Sector during the last three years till March 1998;

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

(c) whether most of the PSUs are sick and incurring heavy losses;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the expenditure made to revive those sick units and the results achieved so far;

(f) whether the Government propose to deinvest/dismantle some of the PSUs;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the action taken/propose to be taken in respect of sick, fertilizer units?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) :

I. Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals :

(a) to (d) Yes Sir, The performance of 8 Public Sector Undertakings in the Chemicals Sector is reviewed by the Department from time to time and their Net Profit/Loss in the last three years upto Marh, 1998 as follows :

(Rs./Crore)				
S. No.	Name of PSUs	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (Prov.)
1	2	3	4	5
01.	Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL)	(+)603.69	(+)510.20	(+)243.69
02.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL)	(+)54.30	(+)09.59	(+)00.16
03.	Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL)	(-)117.01	(-)153.28	(-)157.39
04.	Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL)	(-)20.94	(-)32.25	(-)23.50

1	2	3	4	5
05.	Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL)	(-)03.59	(+)00.15	(-)00.56
06.	Bengal Immunity Limited (BIL)	(-)05.60	(-)09.17	(-)08.81
07.	Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceutical Limited (SSPL)	(-)04.09	(-)04.93	(-)05.07
08.	Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL)	(+)06.03	(+)06.45	(-)01.50

As indicated above, of these 8 PSUs, 5 incurred losses in 1995-96, 4 incurred losses in 1996-97, and 5 incurred losses in 1997-98.

(e) IDPL, BCPL, BIL and SSPL were declared sick in accordance with the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. An amount of Rs. 270.47 Crore has been incurred towards implementation of the revival packages approved for these sick companies by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL) has made consistent progress towards revival in accordance with the revival plan approved by the BIFR. HAL was declared sick by the BIFR on 31.03.1997 and the revival package for this PSU is under consideration of BIFR in accordance with the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act (SICA), 1985. However, pending finalisation of the revival package, an amount of Rs. 14.54 crore has been incurred to improve the performance of HAL.

(f) and (g) The revival or otherwise of the sick PSUs registered with the BIFR will depend upon the decisions of the BIFR, a quasijudicial authority set up under the SICA, 1985. The Disinvestment Commission has recently submitted its report to the Government regarding disinvestment in some profit making public sector undertakings including IPCL.

II. Department of Fertilizers :

(a) to (d) The performance of the public sector undertakings of the Fertilizer sector is reviewed from time to time. The net profits/losses made by these undertakings in the last 3 years till March 1998 are as follows :

(Rs./Crore)				
S. No.	Name of PSUs	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (Prov.)
1	2	3	4	5
01.	National Fertilizers Limited (NFL)	54.06	11.20	191.86

1	2	3	4	5
02.	Fertiliser and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT)	76.76	61.78	50.25
03.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF)	74.33	76.88	174.39
04.	Paradeep Phosphate Ltd. (PPL)	02.22	(-)60.63	(-)110.29
05.	Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL)	21.07	12.10	(-)60.77
06.	Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Limited (PPCL)	(-)00.65	(-)08.28	(-)14.78
07.	Fertilizer Corporation of India, (FCI)	(-)471.31	(-)538.02	(-)696.59
08.	Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited; (HFC)	(-)474.41	(-)532.64	(-)580.70
09.	Projects & Development India Limited (PDIL)	22.52	31.81	06.90

Three of the Public Sector Undertakings of the Fertilizer Sector, namely, HFC, FCI & PDIL were declared sick in the year 1992 by the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985.

(e) to (h) Under the rehabilitation scheme of PDIL, which was approved by the BIFR on 01.07.1997, support from National Renewal Fund amounting to Rs. 13.93 crore has been provided for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme to facilitate rationalisation of PDIL's surplus manpower. Reliefs/concessions have also been accorded by way of conversion of non-plan loan into cumulative preference shares and write off of accumulated/penal interest, interest holiday and repayment moratorium in respect of Government of India loans. During 1997-98, PDIL has also been extended budgetary support of Rs. 6 crore towards plan schemes and contribution to research and development. These measures have contributed to the recovery of PDIL.

The rehabilitation schemes of HFC and FCI are yet to be finalised for submission to the BIFR. However, the Government has decided to revamp the Namrup Units of HFC.

Within the constraints of budgetary resources, Government has been providing support to the sick fertilizer PSUs

to enable them to meet their working capital requirements and critical capital expenditure. During the last three years, the budgetary support extended to these undertakings has been as follows :-

(Rs./Crore)			
Name of PSUs	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
HFC	108.60	152.34	184.34
FCI	217.60	316.00	318.15
PDIL	4.50	5.10	6.00

The revival or otherwise of HFC and FCI will depend on the decision of the BIFR, a quasi-judicial authority set up under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985. The Government has also received the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission in regard to disinvestment of Government equity in MFL, PPCL, NFL and FACT and a decision in principle has been taken in regard to disinvestment of 50% of the equity of MFL in favour of a strategic partner.

Talks With ISSAC Muviah

*101. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the former Government had initiated talks with the ISSAC Muviah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to continue the process; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Shortage of Urea

873. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of urea in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the State Government has been continuously requesting the Union Government to supply additional quota of urea since 1990;

(d) If so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the total supply of urea made since 1996 and likely to be made in 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) There have been no reports of shortages of urea in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) to (e) The enclosed statement gives the availability of urea in the State of Uttar Pradesh against their demand since 1990. The availability has always been more than the demand. However, localised shortages reported by the State in any of the seasons were taken care of by rushing supplies from alternative sources including imports.

For Kharif'98, the assessed requirement of urea for U.P. is about 22 lakh metric tonnes. The supply would be made accordingly.

Statement

Demand and availability of Urea in Uttar Pradesh

(Figures in Lakh Mts.)

Year	Demand/Consumption	Availability
1	2	3
1990-91	33.49	40.61
1991-92	33.42	39.49

Statement

S.No.	No. of cases investigated by CBI under the Official Secret Act (OSA)	No. of cases in which Prosecution was launched	No. of cases in which Prosecution resulted in conviction	No. of cases in which trial is still pending	Remarks
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
1975					
1	RC-3/75-FS-I	—	—	—	Case was closed.
2	RC-4/75-FS-I	—	—	—	Case was closed.
1976 to 1980					
NIL					
1981					
1	RC-2(S)/81-SIU-I	RC-2(S)/81-SIU-I	—	RC-2(S)/81-SIU-I	The case is pending ^{ti}

1	2	3
1992-93	35.63	40.15
1993-94	37.91	44.38
1994-95	39.51	44.2
1995-96	42.63	48.95
1996-97	44.43	49.08
1997-98	46.74	56.42

Official Secrets Act

874. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases investigated by CBI under the Official Secret Act pertaining to the affairs of the Union Government from 1975-76 to 1990-91, year-wise; and

(b) the number of cases in which prosecution was launched and the number of cases in which prosecution resulted in conviction of the accused persons and the number of cases in which trial is still pending, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) During the period from 1975 to 1991, a total of 19 cases were registered in CBI under the Official Secrets Act and investigated. Year-wise break up of cases registered is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Out of the above 19 cases, prosecution was launched in 8 cases out of which one case resulted in part conviction. The remaining 7 cases are still under trial in various courts.

I	II	III	IV	V	VI
2	RC-3(S)/81-SIU-II	RC-3(S)/81-SIU-II	—	RC-3(S)/81-SIU-II	The case is pending trial.
1982					
1	RC-3(S)/82-SIU-III	—	—	—	Suitable administrative action against accused recommended including moving them from sensitive post.
2	RC-2(S)/82-SIU-III	RC-2(S)/82-SIU-III	RC-2(S)/82-SIU-III	—	The case has ended in part conviction and one accused was convicted U/s 5(2) r/w 5(4) of OSA
1983 to 1984					
NIL					
1985					
1	RC-6(S)/85/ACU-V	—	—	—	After investigation, no case under OSA was made out.
2	RC 64/85-BOMBAY	—	—	—	The case was referred to deptt. recommending suitable action as deemed fit.
1986					
1	RC-6(S)/86-ACU-I	RC-6(S)/86-ACU(I)	—	RC-6(S)/86-ACU-I	The case is pending trial.
2	RC-7/86-ACU(II)	—	—	—	No prosecution was launched due to lack of evidence.
3	RC-4/86-ACU-III	—	—	—	The case was closed.
1987					
1	RC-4(S)/87-SIU-I	RC-4(S)/87-SIU-I	—	RC-4(S)/87/SIU-I	The case is pending trial
2	RC-1(S)/87-SIU-I	RC-1(S)/88/SIU-I	—	RC-1(S)/88/SIU-I	The case is pending trial
3	RC 1/87-SIU(III)	—	—	—	The case was initially registered at P.S. Gandhi Nagar Bellary which was subsequently transferred to Corps of Detective (COD) Bangalore. On account of certain shortcomings in the investigation conducted by COD, the case was entrusted to CBI for further investigation. Since the Charge Sheet was already filed before trial court at Bellary, CBI moved the Court for grant of permission for further enquiry. The application remained pending for considerable period and ultimately was rejected by CJM, Bellary. A CrI. Revision filed in High Court Karnataka was also rejected. A SLP was filed on 14.07.92. The same has been rejected on 23.03.98 on ground of delay. A Revision petition has been filed in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India which is pending decision.

I	II	III	IV	V	VI
1988					
1	RC-9(S)/88/SIU-I	RC-9(S)/88/SIU-I	—	RC-9(S)/88/SIU-I	The case is pending trial
1989					
1	RC-7(S)/89/SIU-III	—	—	—	Case was closed
2	RC 4(S)/89-SCB/Bombay	—	—	—	The case was closed for want of sufficient evidence
1990					
NIL					
1991					
1	RC-4(S)/91/SIU-II	RC-4(S)/91/SIU-II	*	RC-4(S)/91/SIU-II	The case is pending trial
2	RC-13(A)/91-DAD	—	—	—	Regular Departmental Action (RDA) for major penalty has been recommended against accused persons RDA is pending

Forging Visas

875. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a racket in forging papers for visas has been unearthed in New Delhi during March, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the modus operandi of the culprits; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. On a complaint received by Delhi Police, three persons were arrested for their allegedly having forged visas in favour of the complainant and one of his acquaintances. Delhi Police have accordingly registered a case of cheating and forgery against the accused persons. The investigations conducted have revealed that the accused used to get printed visa stickers from Chennai which were then pasted on the passports.

Indian Sugar Mills Association

876. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Sugar Mills Association have sought that Mahajan Committees' recommendation to decontrol of sugar prices should be accompanied with

imposition of 20% custom duty and 20% countervailing duty on import of sugar;

(b) if so, the details of Memorandum received by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto particularly 0% duty on imported sugar as compared to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) No Sir. However, in a joint representation dated 24.4.98 from Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) and National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd. (NFCSF), a request has been made for imposition of 10% Custom Duty and 10% Countervailing duty.

(c) With effect from 28.4.98. Government has imposed a Basic Custom Duty of 5% and a countervailing duty of Rs. 850/- per tonne on sugar imports.

Autonomous State Demand Committee

877. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any memorandum was submitted by Autonomous State Demand Committee (ASDC) and Karbi Students Association (KSA) to the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Assam;

(b) if so, the details of such memorandum; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main demand is for creation of an Autonomous State in Assam comprising of the two Autonomous Hill Districts of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills.

(c) Governments of India is not in favour of the demand for creation of autonomous State in Assam.

Problems faced by the Indians Abroad

878. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian working abroad, State-wise and Country-wise;

(b) whether any study has been conducted by the Government on the various problems faced by the Indians abroad;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Eradication of Polio

879. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for eradication of polio in the Country;

(b) if so, the arrangements made to achieve target for eradication of polio in rural and urban area of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The Government is aiming at eradication of Polio by the year 2000 A.D.

(b) and (c) 1. High coverage in the routine immunisation programmes;

2. Since 1995, the Pulse Polio Immunisation Campaign is being held every year on two specific dates for administering Oral Polio vaccine to all children in the country below five years of age.

3. The Programme has been further strengthened by the launching of a Surveillance Project for detecting all cases

of Polio and taking timely action for controlling the transmission of Polio Virus.

[Translation]

Village Health Workers Scheme

880. SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the village health worker scheme was launched by the Government in 1977-78;

(b) if so, the amount of honorarium or salary paid to the village health workers at village level so far; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to made the village Health worker scheme more effective at village level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Later on, the scheme came to be known as the Village Health Guide Scheme.

(b) Rs. 50 per month is being paid, by way of honorarium, to the Village Health Guides.

(c) The Government has constituted a Committee of experts to assess the usefulness of the Scheme and to suggest such further modifications or improvements to make the scheme more responsive.

[English]

Oil Exploration

881. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the result of Oil exploration made in different parts of South India, during the last three years state-wise;

(b) the details of feasibility of getting Oil and Natural Gas in Cauvery basin;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to set up Southern Gas Grid; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Details of the oil exploration carried out in Southern States of India during the last three years i.e. 1995-98 and results thereof are indicated below :-

	Andhra Pradesh	Tamil Nadu	Pondicherry
Seismic data acquired (GLK)			
2D	2871	1265	151
3D	3673	4602	-
Exploratory wells drilled (No.)			
	74	67	01
Accretion of Oil+Oil Equivalent gas			
Inplace (MMT)	13.5	21.59	-
Ultimate reserves (MMT)	8.42	7.0	-

(b) The exploratory efforts in Cauvery Basin have resulted in discovery of 17 oil and 9 gas finds with establishment of 97.92 MMTOE of in-place and 16.46 MMTOE of recoverable, reserves in the basin. Currently 15 oil and gas fields are under production.

(c) and (d) The Government have approved in principle the concept of a Southern Gas Grid to transport gas from the Western Offshore fields, supplemented by imported natural gas/LNG.

Guidelines for Treatment of Patients in Private & Government Hospitals

882. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Many private hospitals refuse critical patients" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated January 14, 1998;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that majority of the private hospitals refused critical patients on the plea of non-availability of beds in their hospitals;

(c) if so, whether the Government have provided exemption from custom duty for importing equipment and subsidised land to these hospitals; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to provide adequate medical facilities to the critical patients/poor patients in private hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court, instructions have been issued by the Central Government

to all State Governments/Central Government Hospitals and by the Government of NCT of Delhi to all Hospitals including private Hospitals in National Capital, not to deny admission to victims of road accidents brought to their Hospitals, and to provide them necessary treatment irrespective of it being a medico-legal case or not.

(c) and (d) Some States have given land and other facilities at concessional rates and prescribed free treatment for poor patients in lieu thereof. Similarly Custom Duty exemption had been extended to certain Hospitals and Diagnostic Centres, who were expected to provide free indoor/outdoor treatment to the poor. The State Governments are required to check whether these conditions are being met by private Hospitals/Nursing Homes. The general experience has been that the requirement of free treatment is being met only partially at places.

[Translation]

LPG Connections

883. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some gas agencies have committed irregularities in the allotment of cooking gas connections;

(b) if so, the details of such agencies in each State; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken against those agencies by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) According to PUS Oil Companies, some cases of irregularities in allotment of cooking gas connection have been reported during 1997-98.

(b) The details of established complaints relating to forced sale of hot plate, out of turn unauthorised release of connections reported in the country during the year 1997-98 are as under :-

1997-98

77

(c) Appropriate penal action was taken against the erring distributors under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines, which included warning letters, fines and suspension.

Border Wing in Gujarat

884. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Gujarat for creation of Third Battalion of Border Wing of Home Guard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Two additional battallions of Border Wing Home Guards were sanctioned for Gujarat in November, 1997. No request for sanctioning an additional battalion for the State is under consideration of the Central Government.

[English]

Oil Refinery in Andhra Pradesh

885. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in a major diversification move, the ONGC propose to set up an oil refinery in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the place where the refinery is likely to be set up;

(c) the total cost of expenditure to be involved therein; and

(d) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) ONGC is carrying out a feasibility study to set up a mini-refinery in Krishna-Godavari Basin in Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of approximately Rs. 30 Crores. No final decision has been taken on this project so far by ONGC.

Drilling of Krishna-Godavari Basin

886. SHRI. R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has modified its drilling in Krishna-Godavari basin;

(b) if so, the estimated amount to be required for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which the drilling of Krishna-Godavari basin is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Drilling in the basin is a

continuous process which changes depending upon locations identified on the basis of data acquisition/processing and interpretation.

The estimated amount earmarked by ONGC on drilling in Krishna-Godavari basin, both onshore and offshore, during 1998-99 is Rs. 169.04 crores. No firm time frame can be indicated.

[Translation]

Central Grant to Indian Red Cross Society of Madhya Pradesh

887. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Red Cross Society of Rajnandgaon in Madhya Pradesh had demanded Rs. 60,00,000/- under Artificial Limbs/Appliances Assistance programme but the Social Welfare Department, Madhya Pradesh had sent a recommendation for Rs. 45,26,000/- to the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details of assistance released so far;

(c) the time by which the balance assistance is likely to be released;

(d) whether any letter/memoranda from Members of Parliament has been received in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As per the policy prevailing during 1996-97, in Ministry of Welfare, a maximum amount of Rs. 6.00 lakh could be provided to any implementing agency on meeting the procedural requirement. Accordingly, a sum of Rs. 6.00 lakh was given to Indian Red Cross Society Rajnandgaon, MP during 1996-97.

(c) The nature of financial assistance provided under ADIP Scheme is non-recurring. Funds are provided for a particular financial year. The society has been advised that in case, it is interested in additional grants, it should forward necessary documents viz. list of beneficiaries, Utilisation certificate and audited accounts for the financial assistance provided during 1996-97, alongwith a fresh proposal for the current financial year. The request will be considered further on receipt of these necessary documents.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) and (f) Ministry of Welfare has received representation from Shri Moti Lal Vora, MP of dated 19.3.1998 and 23.3.1998 addressed to Secretary, Ministry of Welfare and Minister of State for Welfare respectively. The reply in this regard has been sent to the Member of Parliament on 15.4.1998 and 5.5.1998 respectively.

[English]

Cases of Medical Negligence

888. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of medical negligence brought before the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission during 1997 till-date. State-wise; and

(b) the amount of compensation awarded in each case during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) As per the information furnished by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, the State-wise number of cases of medical negligence filed in the Commission from 1.1.1997 to 28.5.1998 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Since, none of these cases has been disposed off by the Commission, the question of payment of compensation does not arise.

Statement

Number of Medical cases filed in the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission from 1-1-1997 to 28-5-1998

State/UT	Number of Cases
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	4
Arunachal Pradesh	0
Assam	0
Bihar	4
Goa	2
Gujarat	10
Haryana	5
Himachal Pradesh	0

1	2
Jammu & Kashmir	0
Karnataka	9
Kerala	8
Madhya Pradesh	0
Maharashtra	17
Manipur	0
Meghalaya	0
Mizoram	0
Nagaland	0
Orissa	0
Punjab	7
Rajasthan	3
Sikkim	0
Tamil Nadu	20
Tripura	0
Uttar Pradesh	14
West Bengal	6
Andaman & Nicobar	0
Chandigarh	4
D & N Haveli	0
Daman & Diu	0
Delhi	32
Lakshadweep	0
Pondicherry	1
Total	148

LPG Bottling Plant

889. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for setting up new LPG bottling plants in country particular in Kerala;

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

(c) the existing LPG bottling plants in the country till date State-wise and company-wise alongwith the bottling capacities of each plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details of new bottling plants planned in the State of Kerala are as under :

Location	Oil Co.	Capacity (TMTPA)
Cochin	BPC	22
Quilon	HPC	22
Kottayam	IOC	38

Under the IX Plan it is proposed to construct 113 new bottling plants all over the country including Kerala which will result in additional capacity of 3106 TMTPA. At present there are 97 LPG bottling plants operating in the Country with a total bottling capacity of 3685 TMTPA.

Joint Report by World Cancer Research Fund and American Institute for Cancer Research

890. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the joint report by World Cancer Research Fund and American Institute for Cancer Research;

(b) whether the main recommendation of the joint report is based on diet including vegetables and fruits, pulses and minimally processed starchy staple foods;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to start healthful vegetarian diet for patients in hospitals and give diet relative information as was the ancient practice in Ayurvedic system and popularies, plant food to prevent disease occurring due to flesharian diet and deleterious effect of fast foods being promoted by MNCs specially;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the report cover suggestions for consumption of food items (of both plant & animal origin), which are expected to prevent cancers of various sites. The report suggests a pre-mominantly plant based diet rich in a varieties of vegetables and fruits, pulses & minimally processed starchy staple foods. The report does not suggest complete avoidance of non-vegetarian food.

(c) to (e) Hospitals Plans to provide specific diets according to the requirements of admitted patients of different diseases. Outdoor patients are also given dietary advice & restriction as required for management of their diseases.

[Translation]

Import of Fertilizer

891. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the justification for the import of fertilizers since 1994, till date;

(b) if so, the total loss suffered by the country;

(c) whether there is any proposal to cancel the contracts of imports;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any responsibility for this loss has been fixed; -

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) Amongst fertilizers, imports are made of urea, Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP). Urea and DAP are imported to bridge the gap between the demand and indigenous availability while MOP is imported entirely as there are no known reserves of Potash in the country. The imports urea, which is the only controlled fertilizer, are made on Government account. Imports of DAP and MOP have been de-canalsed with effect from September '92 and June '93 respectively and are made on trade account.

(b) The imports of ureas are made through the designated canalising agencies. Except for the deal of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) for purchase of urea from M/s. Karsan Limited, Ankara in which entire payment (Rs. 133 crores) was released in advance and there was no urea supply made against it, there has been no reported loss suffered by any other canalising agency in imports of urea.

(c) to (g) NFL has cancelled the contract with M/s. Karsan Ltd. and has filed Arbitration proceedings for recovery of advance payments made. Since the deal was made in contravention of the established procedures, the then Managing Director and 7 other employees of NFL were placed under suspension. Later investigation by CBI established that the deal was fraudulent and, consequently,

CBI has filed charge-sheet against all those concerned which include the then Managing Director and former Executive Director (Marketing) of NFL.

Courts for Bhopal Gas Tragedy Victims

892. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of courts established so far out of the courts proposed to be set up for the Bhopal Gas Tragedy;

(b) the number of courts out of them actually functioning and the number of wards in which courts have not been established so far;

(c) the way in which the cases of compensation will be dealt with where courts have not been established in the wards alongwith the number of cases of compensation are still pending;

(d) whether previous cases of these wards have been settled; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A. K.PATEL) : (a) to (e) of the 56 courts proposed to be established; all are functioning although in some cases one Deputy Commissioner is holding charge of more than one court. Of the 6.19 lakh claim cases registered, 6.14 lakh cases have been disposed of till 30.4.98. The disposed cases cover all the 56 wards.

[English]

Right to Job

893. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to make Right to Job as a Fundamental Right;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) The Central Government do not propose to include "Right to Job" as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution, mainly on account of resource constraints.

Durgapur Fertilizer Plant

894. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wages of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation of India, Durgapur is likely to be revised like other public sector Fertilizer Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any revival package is likely to be announce during current session; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR A.K.PATEL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) is a sick public sector Enterprise (PSE) which includes Durgapur Unit. HFC has been referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and under the Government guidelines, it has to await final verdict of BIFR on its revival before it is able to undertake the wage revision. The wage revision has not been possible for workers also as HFC does not have enough internal generation of funds to meet additional liability on this account.

(c) No specific timeframe is possible at this stage with regard to finalisation of rehabilitation scheme for HFC for submission to the BIFR.

(d) Does not arise.

Damaged Foodgrains

895. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrains got damaged in godowns and other places during each of the last three years, till March 1998.

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise indicating the cost of the perished foodgrains; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the officials responsible for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) The following quantity of foodgrains held by Food Corporation of India has been transferred from "sound" to "damaged foodgrains" account due to natural calamities during the last three years;

year	Qty. in Metric tonnes	Value Rs. in Lakhs
1994-95	19,127	722.18
1995-96	32,719	1601.21
1996-97 (provisional).	55,678	2435.51

(b) As per Statement enclosed.

(c) Due care is taken for proper storage and preservation of foodgrains. Some damage to foodgrains occur due to natural causes such as unseasonal rains, floods, cyclone etc. either during storage or in transit. Some damages may also occur due to storage of foodgrains under cover and plinth (CAP) where there is possibility of covers being blown due to high velocity wind which can not be avoided. Following steps are taken to preserve foodgrains stocks during storage, both in covered and CAP complexes:

- (i) periodic maintenance of the godowns to avoid rain water leakages, flooding etc.
- (ii) Use of monofilament nets, cover tops, nylon ropes etc. to protect the Low Density Poly Ethylene (LDPE) covers used in the CAP storage to cover each stack.
- (iii) Periodic turnover of stocks, timely segregation, salvaging/drying of affected stocks and retrieving the sound grains. However, if any damage occur due to human failure/negligence, strict disciplinary action is taken against the erring official(s).

Statement

Statewise Qty. Transferred from "Sound to Damage" and Value thereof

S. No.	Name of State	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97(Prov.)	
		QTY in MTs	VALUE Rs. Lacs	QTY in MTs	VALUE Rs. Lacs	QTY in MTs	VALUE Rs. Lacs
1.	Punjab	9111	400.58	6004	300.67	5558	257.26
2.	Haryana	0006	0.24	0274	12.38	12525	604.07
3.	Rajasthan	0136	3.70	1893	69.39	22472	880.20
4.	U.P.	0507	14.54	1735	87.87	00998	043.39
5.	Delhi	0956	24.69	2543	92.18	01410	054.60
6.	J & K	0232	05.85	0002	00.12	-	-
7.	W.B.	1473	52.94	10745	634.84	01639	092.55
8.	Bihar	0400	13.61	0431	17.23	0275	011.04
9.	Orissa	0121	04.28	0084	03.72	0098	003.72
10.	Assam	1069	43.70	0952	53.60	0807	046.53
11.	N.E.E.	0113	05.03	0207	11.98	0147	008.85
12.	Gujarat	1006	25.74	3216	116.34	5807	221.06
13.	Maharashtra	0999	30.92	1114	046.59	0715	031.51
14.	M.P.	0535	20.37	0245	011.45	1897	109.48
15.	A.P.	0336	10.43	1969	074.38	0254	14.02
16.	Kerala	0073	02.85	0169	009.13	0238	12.32
17.	Karnataka	0294	12.38	0498	027.05	0546	28.21
18.	Tamil Nadu	1760	50.33	0638	032.29	0292	16.70
TOTAL		19,127	722.18	32719	1601.21	55678	2435.51

Safe Limit of Chemical in Ground Water

896. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether WHO have a sounded alarm bell to India about arsenic contamination in ground water;

(b) if so, the details of those districts where ground waters is not meeting the safe limit of the chemical set by WHO; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide safe drinking water to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) WHO have drawn attention to the problems arising out of presence of Arsenic in Drinking Water Supplies in India and Bangladesh;

(b) The names of the Districts where Ground Water Quality is not meeting the Safe Limit of the Chemicals set by the WHO are (i) Murshidabad; (ii) Malda; (iii) Nadia; (iv) North 24 parganas; (v) South 24 Parganas; (vi) Howrah; (vii) Hugli; and (viii) Burdhan.

(c) The State Government in collaboration with and financial support from Government of India has sanctioned a First Phase Action Plan at a cost of Rs. 858.33 lakhs whereunder replacement of Arsenic affected spot sources and big dia tubewells have already been completed, and four Water Supply Schemes have been fully commissioned. For Malda District, a surface water based piped water Supply-Scheme has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs.8848 lakhs. Other works undertaken include:

- (i) Installation of Arsenic removal plants.
- (ii) Construction of sanitary protected ring wells.
- (iii) Trial boring cum handpump fitted production wells.
- (iv) Replacement of Arsenic affected spot sources.

Approval for a Surface Water based Piped Water Supply Scheme for Arsenic affected areas of South 24 Parganas District at an estimated cost of Rs. 232.84 crore has been accorded.

The All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health in Calcutta, of the Ministry of health & Family welfare has undertaken Epidemiological Study in Arsenic affected areas under the sponsorship of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. This Institute carried out Ministry of Rural Development sponsored R&D Study for development of field model for Arsenic removal. The Institute also carried out Trainers Workshop, and field training for water quality analysis in respect of Arsenic contamination during 1997.

Storage Problem In FCI Godowns

897. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :
SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether imported wheat has created problems for storage and its distribution for F.C.I.:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for import when we have buffer stock of grains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to untimely rains during the sowing season, the Ministry of Agriculture had initially estimated that production of wheat during the current Rabi Season was likely to be 64.51 million tonnes as against 69.27 million tonnes last year. Government, therefore, decided to import upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1998-99 to augment its availability in the country for keeping prices under control.

[Translation]

Demand For Darjeeling State

898. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not including the demand of Darjeeling for creation of a separate State under the announcement of reconstituting of new States;

(b) whether a prominent leader of Darjeeling has raised the Darjeeling issue in the international court, at Heg;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Darjeeling would be given the status of a new State?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) The Government is, for the present, committed to giving full Statehood to Delhi and also creating Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chhattisgarh as new States.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no proposal to grant Statehood to Darjeeling at present.

Industrial Training Institute

899. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether machines worth crore of rupees provided to the Industrial Training Institute, Uttar Pradesh under the World Bank project are lying unused;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not utilising the machines property;

(c) whether the infrastructural facilities are provided to the said Institute;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to provide infrastructure to the institute.?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) No Sir. As reported by the Directorate of Employment & Training, Uttar Pradesh, machines and equipment procured under the world Bank assisted vocational Industrial Training Institutes in U.P.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Infrastructural facilities such as provision of buildings & staff have been provided to the ITIs covered under the project. A total of 82 nos. of civil works have been appointed under the Vocational Training Project. The necessary equipment to run the various courses is also available.

(e) Question does not arise.

[English]

Adulteration of Synthetic Tea In CTC Tea

900. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that synthetic tea is being mixed in CTC loose tea in Jalpaiguri, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons for such adulteration; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to restrict such adulteration in CTC loose tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) No such adulteration has been reported to the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Closure of Sugar Mills

901. SHRI ADITYANATH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to close down the Ghughli and Pipraich sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any assessment of affected cane growers has been made in the state; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) The Ghughli and Pipraich units belong to the U.P. State Sugar Corporation Ltd. a Government of Uttar Pradesh undertaking. According to the information received from the U.P. State Sugar Corporation Ltd., there is no proposal to close down these sugar mills.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Liberation of Scavengers

902. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have implemented a scheme titled "Central Scheme for Liberation of Scavengers".

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the number of the scavengers in Bihar benefited so far under this scheme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Welfare is implementing the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents since March, 1992. The Scheme comprises of three components, viz..

(i) Time bound programme for identification of scavengers and their dependents and their aptitude for alternative trade through a survey.

(ii) Training in identified trades for scavengers and their dependents at the nearest local Training Institutions/Centres of various departments of State Government, Central Government and other semi-Government and non-Government organisation.

(iii) Rehabilitation of scavengers in various, trades and occupations by providing subsidy, margin money loan and bank loan.

(c) As reported by the State Government the following number of scavengers have benefitted in the State of Bihar during the past three years:

Year	No. of Scavengers
1995-96	98
1996-97	204
1997-98	73

**Participation of Indian Oil Corporation
in Power Sector**

903. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- whether Indian Oil Corporation has any proposal to enter in power generation sector;
- if so, the details thereof;
- the total capacity of the power plants to be set up by the Indian Oil Corporation; and
- the amount likely to be spent on these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) IOC proposes to develop four residue based Power Projects close to its refineries at four locations i.e. Panipat (Haryana), Savli (Gujarat), Kosikalan (UP) and Haldia (WB) Also a 120 MW project has been planned to be set up at Bhatinda (Punjab) in joint venture with PSEB. Details of capacity and likely cost of these projects are as under.

Project location	Capacity (MW)	Project Cost (Rs.crores)
Panipat	301	1528
Savli	500	1670
Kosikalan	110	418
Haldia	500	2500
Bhatinda	120	368

Reservation to Backward Classes

904. SHRI BHASKAR RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- whether the Government have decided to provide reservation for backward classes in educational institutions;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) A proposal to provide reservation to other backward Classes in educational institutions is under consideration.

[English]

Separate Ministry For North-Eastern States

905. SHRI K. A. SANGTAM :
SHRI K.S. RAO :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- whether the Government propose to have a separate Ministry for North-Eastern States; and
- if so, the objectives and the likely composition thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) There is a separate Division dealing with the North Eastern affairs in the Ministry of Home Affairs. The problems of the North Eastern State receive special attention in the Home Ministry.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies

906. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
SHRI R.S.GAVAI :
SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMCHANDRAN :

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

- the number of L.P.G. agencies allotted in each State till date;
- the number out of those agencies allotted to SC/ST, handicapped, freedom fighters and ex-servicemen separately State-wise;
- the details of advertisements published to allot LPG agencies in each State during the last three years;
- the number of applications pending for approval, State-wise; and
- the number of new agencies proposed to be allotted during the current year alongwith their locations, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) As on 1.4.1998, 5324

LPG distributorship were operating all over the country. Details of LPG distributorships allotted to SC/ST, Physically Handicapped, Freedom Fighters and Defence Personnel are indicated below:

SC	638
ST	273
Physically Handicapped	420
Defence Personnel/Ex-servicemen	309
Freedom Fighters	161

(c) and (d) During the last three years (i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98) Oil Companies have advertised/readvertised 2359 LPG distributorships all over the country. Large number of applications have been received against these advertisements. However, all these vacancies have been and are being readvertised from April-May, 1998. Selections for these vacancies against the applications received are to commence shortly.

(e) 1702 new LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98 for setting up LPG distributorships all over the country.

Strength of Indian Police Service

907. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the sanctioned strength of Indian Police Service cadre officers as on 31st December, 1996, cadre-wise/ State-wise;

(b) the number of those officers who are on deputation to the Union Government on subordinate or attached officer of the Home Affairs or Para Military Forces as on 31st December, 1996, cadre-wise; and

(c) whether the Government maintain in proportion to cadre strength a balance among various States while preparing deputation reserves?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) :

Cadre-wise/ State-wise	Sanctioned strength of Indian Police Service Cadre officers as on 31.12.96	No. of those officers who are on deputation to the Union Government of subordinate or attached officer of the Home Affairs or Para Military Forces as on 31.12.96, cadrewise
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	183	6
Arunachal Pradesh- Goa	162	15

	1	2	3
Mizoram-Union Territories			
Assam-Meghalaya	136	18	
Bihar	250	17	
Gujarat	133	5	
Haryana	109	6	
Himachal Pradesh	72	6	
Jammu & Kashmir	94	1	
Karnataka	147	8	
Kerala	121	8	
Madhya Pradesh	278	16	
Maharashtra	205	10	
Manipur-Tripura	105	27	
Nagaland	49	-	
Orissa	151	6	
Punjab	144	3	
Rajasthan	146	6	
Sikkim	21	3	
Tamil Nadu	189	10	
Uttar Pradesh	395	32	
West Bengal	254	20	
	3344	223	

(c) Government is making every effort to maintain a balance among various States in proportion to their cadre strength while drawing upon the deputation reserve but it has not always been found feasible to maintain the same due to various reasons such as administrative requirements of the States, availability of suitable and willing officers for Central deputation.

[English]

Gas Power Projects

908. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it has been decided to install Gas Power Project in Gujarat from imported gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantity of gas to be imported and electricity to be generated from it; and

(c) the time by which the plant is likely to be stated functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) There is no decision to import gas specifically for establishing gas based power project in Gujarat. It has been decided to encourage import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to meet natural gas demands from various Sectors including the Power Sector.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Death Due to Infection

909. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of deaths occurred in Uttar Pradesh due to intake of spurious liquor, cholera and gastro-enteritis in the month of April, 1998;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to issue any directive to the State Government to prevent such deaths in future;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government are contemplating to provide some ex-gratia amount to the families of such victims;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) As per available information, in Uttar Pradesh 22 deaths occurred due to intake of spurious liquor during April, 1998. No deaths due to Cholera and Gastroenteritis have been reported, as per information made available.

(b) and (c) The Union Government have advised all State Governments to undertake the following precautionary measures :

- Meetings to be organised with related Government Departments to ensure regular chlorination and monitoring of quality of drinking water, timely repair of water and sewage pipelines, and regular garbage disposal.

- District Officers to be asked to hold similar meetings, and to constitute a Task Force of Medical Doctors, Drinking Water Supply authorities, representatives of Local Bodies etc., for coordinated action, and to ensure immediate response to an outbreak. Cooperation of Panchayati Raj elected Members, be sought for creating awareness, and for early report for cases.

- Stepping up health education activities in the community, for promoting safe hygienic practices, including washing of hands, keeping food items covered, and eating freshly cooked food, as far as possible. The public should be encouraged to store drinking water in narrow mouth containers only, and also to boil the water for drinking.

- Enforcement of Municipal bylaws restricting road side vendors from selling fruit juices, cut fruits, etc.

- Alerting health facilities, particularly Primary Health Care Centres, to report any sudden increase of clustering of cases of diarrhoea, jaundice or fever. Co-operation of private practitioners be obtained for reporting of cases.

- Ensuring the availability of ORS Packets, in all health facilities.

- If an outbreak occurs, a copy of the investigation and action taken report, is to be forwarded to NICD, so that, information about the outbreak is monitored, and the surrounding States are also forewarned.

(d) to (f) Since Health is a State subject, payment of ex-gratia amount to families of such victims, falls under the jurisdiction of the concerned State Government/UT Administration.

[English]

Ravva Oilfields

910. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI YERRANNAIDU :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to a news-item captioned "Private firms strike it rich at ONGC expense" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated April 15, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have ordered an enquiry into the estimation of the recoverable reserves from the Ravva oilfields and Tapti gas fields which have turned out to be much higher than the figure used to value these ONGC discovered fields at the time they were handed over to two private sector consortia;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the enquiry conducted into the matter; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken on the enquiry report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is true that after drilling of additional wells in Ravva oil field operator is expecting higher reserves as against those estimated by ONGC. In case of Tapti field also the operator expects higher reserves as against those estimated by ONGC, which is yet to be confirmed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Ceramic Complex in Rajasthan

911. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there is considerable scope for development of Ceramic Industry in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to allocate Natural Gas to Rajasthan for the development of a Ceramic Complex?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) While there is scope for development of Ceramic Industries in Rajasthan, no further allocation of gas in Rajasthan is envisaged at this stage as the allocations already made exceed the present and projected viability of gas.

Kerosene Oil Quota

912. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :
SHRI A. SIDDARAJU :
SHRI P. SANKARAN :

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

(a) the requirement of Kerosene oil in each State particularly for PDS in Karnataka;

(b) the quota fixed for each State during 1997-98;

(c) whether the Government have received representations for enhancement of quota from different states;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The State-wise allocation of Kerosene for the year 1998-99 is given in Statement-I. The allocation for the State of Karnataka for the year 1998-99 is 528301 MTs.

(b) The quota fixed for each State/UT during 1997-98 is given in Statement-II.

(c) to (e) Allocation of Kerosene is made to States/UTs on historical basis of past supplies and consumption and additional allocation out of increased incremental quantity permitted in a year, on the basis of a formula, giving higher increase to those States having lower per capita availability, so as to reduce inter-State disparity over the years. Requests are received from State Governments from time to time for additional allocation of Kerosene. However, on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it has not been possible to meet the full demand of the States. Nevertheless, a 3% increase was given in the allocation from 1993-94 onwards till 1997-98 over the previous years for the country as a whole. It has been decided to give an overall increase of 8.5% during the year 1998-99 over the previous year, giving a one time high increase to five States having much lower per capita availability compared to most of the States, and normal increase to the other States.

Statement-I

The Statewise Allocation of SKO for the Year 1998-99

(FIGS. IN MT.)

States/UTs	SKO Allocation
1	2
Orissa	316597
Bihar	863745
Madhya Pradesh	661812
Rajasthan	440060
Uttar Pradesh	1391123

1	2
Andhra Pradesh	675066
Kerala	300006
Haryana	170563
Karnataka	528301
Himachal Pradesh	60737
Tripura	32386
Nagaland	14207
Meghalaya	20847
Mizoram	8102
Arunachal Pradesh	10240
J & Kashmir	91433
West Bengal	808013
Assam	271235
Manipur	22670
Tamil Nadu	716830
Punjab	342376
Lakshadweep	919
Pondicherry	15342
Sikkim	7885
Maharashtra	1576298
Gujarat	831600
D.N. Haveli	3237
Goa	28257
A & Nicobar	7155
Delhi	248325
Diu/Daman	3064

Statement-II

*The Statewise Allocation of SKO for
the Year 1997-98*

(FIGS. IN MT.)

States/UTs	SKO Allocation
1	2
Orissa	239501

1	2
Bihar	679329
Madhya Pradesh	532741
Rajasthan	361736
Uttar Pradesh	1178862
Andhra Pradesh	650785
Kerala	289540
Haryana	164653
Karnataka	513054
Himachal Pradesh	58984
Tripura	31451
Nagaland	13797
Meghalaya	20245
Mizoram	7868
Arunachal Pradesh	9948
J & Kashmir	88828
West Bengal	785065
Assam	263760
Manipur	22064
Tamilnadu	698837
Punjab	337118
Lakshadweep	906
Pondicherry	15329
Sikkim	7794
Maharashtra	1558397
Gujarat	822339
D.N. Haveli	3202
GOA	27954
A & Nicobar	7080
Delhi	245768
Diu/Daman	3033
Chandigarh	21562

[Translation]

Petrol/Diesel Pumps

913. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

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

(a) the number of diesel/petrol pumps functioning in each State particularly in Bhagalpur, Bihar;

(b) whether the Government propose to allot new diesel/petrol pumps during the current year State-wise; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and the criteria adopted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) As on 1.4.1998 there were 16943 retail outlets in operation all over the country. The statewise details are given in statement-I So far as district Bhagalpur of Bihar is concerned as on 1.4.1998, 25 retail outlets were in operation.

(b) & (c) Based on Oil industry's viability norms called "Volume Distance Norms" a total of 435 new retail outlets have been included in the RO Marketing Plan 1996-98 for all over the country. The statewise details are given in statement-II

Statement-I*Number of Retail Outlets as on 01.04.1998*

Sl.No.	State	Total
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1289
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13
3.	Assam	367
4.	Bihar	1119
5.	Goa	66
6.	Gujarat	1077
7.	Haryana	568
8.	Himachal Pradesh	91
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	125
10.	Karnataka	1010
11.	Kerala	747

1	2	3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1016
13.	Maharashtra	1649
14.	Manipur	31
15.	Meghalaya	58
16.	Mizoram	14
17.	Nagaland	30
18.	Orissa	355
19.	Punjab	1029
20.	Rajasthan	995
21.	Sikkim	13
22.	Tamil Nadu	1514
23.	Tripura	32
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2286
25.	West Bengal	1069
26.	Bhutan	08

UNION TERRITORY

1.	Andaman & Car Nicobar	03
2.	Chandigarh	39
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	04
4.	Delhi	290
5.	Daman & Diu	06
6.	Lakshadweep	00
7.	Pondichery	30
TOTAL		16943

Statement-II*Marketing Plan 96-98**Statewise Statement*

Sl.No.	State	Total
1	2	3
1.	Haryana	07
2.	Himachal Pradesh	02
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	03

1	2	3
4.	Punjab	15
5.	Rajasthan	29
6	Uttar Pradesh	87
7	Arunachal Pradesh	01
8	Assam	04
9	Bihar	39
10	Meghalaya	02
11	Mizoram	02
12	Orissa	17
13	Sikkim	01
14	West Bengal	53
15	Daman & Diu	01
16	Gujarat	07
17	Madhya Pradesh	42
18	Maharashtra	34
19	Andaman & Nicobar	04
20	Andhra Pradesh	49
21	Karnataka	22
22	Kerala	07
23	Tamil Nadu	07
Total		435

Urea Scam

914. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for out of court settlement from Karsan, the Turkish firm involved in fertiliser supply scam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government or National Fertilizer Limited on the proposal received from Turkish firm Karson Limited upto April 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) to (c) The implications of a proposal for out of court

settlement received from the counsel of M/s Karsan Limited are being studied. The earlier proposals made on behalf of M/s Karsan Limited have been rejected.

Leakage of Gases in Mandla District

915 SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Narmada Vally region in Madhya Pradesh was hit by a disastrous earthquake on May 22, 1997 and the land of the area developed major cracks :

(b) if so, whether gases leaked out from cracks in some places of Mandla district were tested :

(c) if so, the locations thereof and nature of gases leaked :

(d) whether the Government have any plan to exploit the gases emanating from those cracks: and

(e) if so, the details thereof, and the mode of its exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As reported by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, gas leaked from some cracks in Kileghat in Mandala town and Kondra village in Was Tehsil. Accordingly, an investigation was carried out by ONGC team Geoscientists on the alleged gas show from Narmada river bed in Mandala district. The gas show was of biogenic origin and has no relevance from the point of view of hydrocarbon exploration.

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

[English]

National Consumer Co-operative Federation

916. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Consumer Cooperative Federation is making purchases of electrical items from persons who are neither manufacturer nor authorised dealers/distributor.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to discontinue the purchase from the unauthorised dealers :

(c) the details of the comparative chart indicating the rates and sources from where electrical items were purchased and the rates at which sold during each of the last three years and :

(d) the steps taken to improve the working of NCCF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) The NCCF has informed that they purchase electrical items from manufacturers/distributor/dealers as far as possible. However, in some cases where the manufacturers/distributors/dealers do not supply such items on credit basis, purchases are made from the suppliers registered with the NCCF, who supplies electrical items on mutual agreed terms/deferred payment basis.

(c) The comparative chart indicating the rates and sources from where electrical items were purchased and the rates at which sold during each of the last three years is not available. However, the list of suppliers of electrical goods registered at Head Office/Delhi Branch of the NCCF is enclosed.

(d) The NCCF has taken a number of steps such as introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), closure of some of uneconomical branches and introduction of new lines of business etc. to improve the working of the NCCF.

Statement

List of the Registered Suppliers for purchase of Electrical Goods for onward supply to the Government Departments through N.C.C.F.

S.No.	Name of the Supplier	Status
1	2	3
(A) HEAD OFFICE		
1.	M/s. Beekay Enterprises, New Delhi	Manufacturer
(B) DELHI BRANCH		
1.	M/s. Technico Regd.	Manufacturer
2.	M/s. Recordex Office System	Manufacturer
3.	M/s. Shivalik Enterprises	Manufacturer
4.	M/s. Shiva Electricals	Dealer
5.	M/s. Vijay Stationery Mart	Supplier
6.	M/s. Glorious Marketing	Supplier
7.	M/s. Chadda Stationers	Supplier
8.	M/s. Crescent Typewriter Co.	Supplier

1	2	3
9.	M/s. Badri Vishal Trading Co.	Supplier
10.	M/s. R.K. Enterprises	Supplier
11.	M/s. Jai Brothers	Supplier
12.	M/s. Melody Home	Supplier
13.	M/s. S.P. Uppal & Co.	Supplier
14.	M/s. Santosh Sales Agency	Supplier
15.	M/s. R.K. Traders	Supplier
16.	M/s. Kay Eee Enterprises	Supplier
17.	M/s. Nath & Co.	Supplier
18.	M/s. Taneja Enterprises	Supplier
19.	M/s. Sinha Sales Corporation	Supplier
20.	M/s. G.N.D. Marketing	Supplier
21.	M/s. Pridarshini Enterprises	Supplier
22.	M/s. U.K. Trade Links	Supplier

Assistance for Eradication of Malaria

917. SHRI S. S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to states :

(a) whether the Government provided any Central Assistance to the Municipal Corporation of each State for eradication of malaria;

(b) if so, the funds provided during each of the last three years, corporation-wise;

(c) whether some corporations have shown poor performance on this account; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Assistance in the form of the insecticides/larvicides and anti-malarial drugs, provided to the Municipal Corporations of the States, and the cost of the material during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Increase in the incidence of Malaria in the Corporations of the three Metropolitan Cities of Calcutta, New Bombay and Chennai during the last three years have been noticed. The rise in the incidence of Malaria is attributable to change in the transmission dynamics of the vectors associated with rapid urbanisation, large scale and extensive construction activities, inadequate water management system, unplanned settlements and transmigration of labour etc.

Statement

S.No.	State/UT	Corporation	1995-96	1996-97 (Rs. in Lakhs)	1997-98
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	33.02	41.53	30.34
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawara	4.75	3.15	2.35
3.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	5.89	7.77	5.06
4.	Gujarat	Baroda	4.27	3.07	3.11
5.	Gujarat	Gandhinagar	5.30	3.60	2.53
6.	Karnataka	Bangalore	24.09	41.53	29.40
7.	Karnataka	Bellary	4.03	6.92	5.31
8.	Punjab	Amritsar	1.41	2.44	1.40
9.	Punjab	Jalandhar	1.53	2.27	1.40
10.	Punjab	Ludhiana	2.07	1.20	0.8
11.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	6.06	2.83	1.5
12.	Tamilnadu	Chennai	13.72	23.32	17.1
13.	Uttar Pradesh (Total supply made to State Govt.)		105.5	51.45	42.8
14.	West Bengal	Calcutta	36.11	37.15	16.11
15.	Delhi	MCD	18.34	19.99	7.63
	Delhi	NDMC	11.77	9.55	3.97
16.	Madhya Pradesh (Total supply made to State Govt.)		25.40	26.62	18.65

**Supply of AIDS Control Kits to
Voluntary Organisation**

918. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether AIDS Control Kits to voluntary organisations are being supplied by the Government; and

(b) if so, the details of criteria fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) There are no AIDS Control Kits. Test Kits for testing of blood for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) are not supplied to Voluntary Organisations under National AIDS Control Programme.

Control of Population

919. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the strategy adopted by the Government to control the explosion of population in the country;

(b) whether any special programme to control populations has been evolved by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The Family Welfare Programme is voluntary in nature. The Strategy adopted is to promote use of contraception through motivation of eligible couples and provision of Family Planning Services through the whole network of Sub-centres, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres, Post Partum Centres, Etc.

(b) to (d) The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, being implemented in all States/UTs in the IX Plan, provides a package of Supplies and Services on a

District-based differential approach. All the Districts in the country have been categorised into Category A, B and C on the basis of Crude Birth Rate and the Female Literacy Rate. While basic facilities are proposed to be strengthened in the Weaker Districts, upgrading of facilities are proposed for relatively Advance Districts. The RCH Programme has been launched in October, 1997. Detailed Guidelines have been prepared and circulated to all States/UTs for District based sub-projects in 17 States for strengthening Institutional Capacities for delivering services have also been sanctioned for implementation.

Self Sufficiency in Petroleum Products

920. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether a conference of Petroleum Geophysists and Oil Industry representatives was held in Chennai on January 19, 1998 to identify and evolve appropriate strategies on oil exploration and exploitation, to make India self reliant in respect of Oil and other Petroleum Products;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof indicating the strategies evolved;

(c) whether any Action Plan is contemplated to make the country self sufficient in respect of Petroleum Products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The 2nd Conference and Exposition on Petroleum Geophysics was held at Chennai from January 19-21, 1998. The theme of the Conference was "Roads to future-Challenges and opportunities in Petroleum Geophysics".

Formulation of oil exploration & exploitation strategies to make the country self sufficient in respect of Petroleum Production was beyond the scope of this conference.

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

AIDS Related Projects Funded by National AIDS Control Organisation

921. SHRI M. RAJIAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National AIDS Control organisation has been funding various projects related to the AIDS;

(b) if so, the details of the projects that have been funded during each of the last three years along with the amount sanctioned and the details of the organisation engaged therein, and

(c) the major achievements made under these project in controlling the AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Jain Commission Report

922. PROF. P. J. KURIEN :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jain Commission has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the recommendations made by the Jain Commission;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government is examining the report of the Jain Commission. The Report and the Memorandum of Action Taken thereon will be tabled in the Budget/ Monsoon Session of the Parliament.

Utilization of Welfare Fund

923. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has utilized the National Handicapped Welfare Fund sanctioned by the Union Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the achievements made so far during the said period;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No funds were sanctioned to the Govt. of Karnataka from National Handicapped Welfare Fund, during the last three years. The Fund is now named, National Fund for People with Disabilities.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Number of Unemployed Persons

924. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :
DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Reforms blamed for growing joblessness" appearing in Delhi Economic Times dated February 25, 1998 :

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that inspite of liberalised economic policies of the Government the unemployment has been constantly, increasing:

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the employment opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment.

[English]

Terrorist Activities

925. SHRI N. N. KRISHNA DAS :
SHRI AJIT JOGI :
SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :
DR. Y. S. RAJASEKERA REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of incident of terrorist activities, crimes including murders, abduction, robberies and molestation during each of the last three years, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number of citizens/terrorists and security personnel killed and loss of property incurred therein;

(c) the present state of affairs in each of the affected States;

(d) the details of assistance provided by the Union Government to various States, State/Union Territory-wise;

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to check recurrence of such incidences;

(f) whether some persons have been displaced due to these incidents;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the union Government propose to have direct negotiation with so-called terrorist/militant organisations; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) The information is being obtained from States/Union Territories and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) There has been an overall improvement in militancy related situation in Jammu and Kashmir. In North Eastern States, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura continue to be affected by insurgency in various degrees. Law and Order situation in other States is, by and large, peaceful.

(d) A statement indicating the funds released to various State Government, under the Scheme for modernisation of State Police Forces, during the period 1993-94 to 1997-98, is enclosed.

(e) '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 antiterrorist/anti-social element operations of different States and to improve flow of information useful for control of their 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 and the on-going allocation for modernisation of Police and supply of weapons.

(f) and (g) As per information available with the Central Government, about 4800 Kashmiri Pandit families have migrated from the Valley to the Jammu region and some other places in the country.

(h) and (i) Government of India has repeatedly offered to hold talks with various militant groups within the four corners of the Constitution and has even offered to amend the Constitution if so required.

Statement

Schemes for modernisation of State Police Forces - Funds Released to various State Governments during the period 1993-94 to 1997-98.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State	Funds released during					Grand Total
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	230.510	104.780	309.560	709.560	1209.500	2563.970
Arunachal Pradesh	92.540	92.540	92.540	92.540	96.270	466.430
Assam	47.710	190.860	95.430	195.430	47.715	577.145
Bihar	284.010	116.560	308.120	333.120	783.120	1824.930
Goa		29.480	29.480	79.480	Nil	182.050
Gujarat	123.220	Nil	190.180	150.180	150.180	613.760
Haryana	35.950	35.860	71.710	35.855	71.710	251.085
Himachal Pradesh	81.300	40.690	40.690	40.690	20.345	223.715
J & K	78.100	121.540	81.540	119.770	81.540	482.490
Karnataka	184.160	150.800	150.800	350.800	200.800	1037.360
Kerala	113.990	153.990	113.990	113.990	113.990	609.950
Madhya Pradesh	309.210	287.180	237.820	478.820	387.820	1700.850
Maharashtra	167.270	125.640	251.290	251.290	Nil	795.490
Manipur	34.630	69.260	34.630	176.630	217.315	532.465
Meghalaya	12.970	51.880	25.940	59.880	51.880	202.550
Mizoram	87.780	87.780	87.780	87.780	87.780	438.900
Nagaland	34.640	76.860	76.860	220.030	238.430	646.820
Orissa	132.930	144.610	104.610	200.000	164.610	746.760
Punjab	38.090	84.650	84.650	84.650	284.650	576.690
Rajasthan	105.020	224.920	77.460	154.920	154.920	717.240
Sikkim	34.440	25.830	16.870	8.610	43.015	128.765
Tamil Nadu	259.950	196.750	296.750	598.375	296.750	1648.575
Tripura	46.530	93.060	46.530	146.530	246.530	579.180
Uttar Pradesh	240.000	279.710	Nil	536.300	626.300	1682.310
West Bengal	181.440	214.770	174.770	274.770	174.770	1020.520
Total	3000.000	3000.000	3000.000	5500.000	5750.000	20250.000

[Translation]

Sale of Urea

926. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have passed an order to postpone the sale of Urea by its producers and importers;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the expected saving in the subsidy due to ten per cent increase in the price of Urea recently ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (DR. A. K. PATEL) : (a) No sir,

- (b) Question does not arise.
- (c) There is no increase in Price of Urea recently. It was last increased in February, 1997.

[English]

Functioning of Foreign Intelligence Agencies in Kerala

927. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

- (a) whether any Foreign Intelligence Agencies are functioning in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details regarding the countries involved in anti-national activities including extremist activities; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Government has information that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has established links with certain elements and organisation based in Kerala. Government is aware of ISI designs to carry out espionage, is taking all necessary steps to combat and frustrate such objectives by gearing up the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and carrying out action by the concerned Central and State Agencies.

Deteriorated Law and Order Situation in Delhi

928. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

- (a) Whether the law and order situation in Delhi has been deteriorated during the past few months and the

cases of murders, kidnapping and looting have increased manifold;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Delhi Police have totally failed to put a check on such crimes;
- (d) if so, the details of crimes registered during the last three months, and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide safe life to citizens?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) While the over-all law and order situation in the capital continues to be under control, the number of reported cases of murder, kidnapping and looting (robbery) during February-April, 1998 compare with those in the corresponding period of last year in the following manner :

	1.2.97 to 30.4.97	1.2.98-30.4.98
Murder	155	156
Kidnapping	276	233
Looting (robbery)	188	138

(e) The steps taken by Delhi Police to prevent occurrence of crimes in the National Capital of Territory of Delhi include intensification of foot patrolling as well as motor cycle patrolling; a closer surveillance on known bad character; and verification of the antecedents of the servants etc.

Fee and Other Charges by various Hospitals

929. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fee and other charges required to be paid by patients in institutions like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and PGI, Chandigarh have been increased;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the reported desertion of Government Hospitals in Gujarat by patients including the TB patients without permission and against medical advice; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto, by way of the steps taken to revert or reduce the fees and charges for patients in Government Hospitals and to ensure due treatment for the patients.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) AIIMS, New Delhi, PGI, Chandigarh and JIPMER, Pondicherry have increased the Hospital Charges. However, there is provision for exemption of Hospital Charges for the genuine indigent patients in AIIMS, New Delhi and PGI, Chandigarh. JIPMER, Pondicherry provides free treatment to all patients whose income is below Rs. 2,500/- per month.

(c) Information is being collected from the State Government.

(d) The Government is committed to provide better medical facilities to the general public. The Central Government has also set up a National Illness Assistance Fund and formulated guidelines to provide financial assistance for medical treatment of patients, living below poverty line and suffering from major life threatening diseases. All States/UTs have similarly been advised to set up Illness Assistance Fund. It has also been decided that grant-in-aid from Central Government would be released to each of these State/UTs where Funds are set up on the lines advised to them.

[Translation]

Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya Scheme

930. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have finalised the Scheme of Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) The details of the scheme of Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya are being firmed up for obtaining the necessary Governmental clearances.

[English]

Investment By U.N.P.F.

931. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the United Nations Population Fund has offered to invest in a comprehensive population programme including reproductive health;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the priorities set by the National Programme would support the integrated population and development projects at district levels in the States; and

(d) if so, the names of the States likely to be benefitted under this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is expected to provide an assistance to the tune of US \$100 million to India during its County Programme Cycle-V (1997-2001) for projects/programmes in the areas of Reproductive Health, Population and Development Strategies, and Advocacy.

(c) and (d) Integrated Population and Development (IPD) Projects are proposed to be taken up in selected districts of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

Appointment of Chemists

932. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :
SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI :

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has issued any directives to O.N.G.C. Dehradun for the appointment of Chemists on the reserved posts on the basis of writ petition (Civil) No. 860, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether O.N.G.C. has implemented the directives of the Supreme Court;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay in this regard and the time by which these reserved posts are likely to be filled up by O.N.G.C. Dehradun ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) In connection with writ petition (Civil) No. 860/96, the Supreme Court had issued directives on 22.9.1997 to ONGC Ltd. to consider the suitability of the petitioners for appointment on two available vacancies of Chemists and if they are found suitable, they may be given appointment against these vacancies and that ONGC Ltd. shall give relaxation in the matter of age to the petitioners for the purpose of such consideration.

(c) to (e) Necessary action for compliance of directives of the Supreme Court is being taken by ONGC Ltd.

Directory of Qualified Homoeopathic Doctors

933. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring out a directory of competent and qualified Homoeopathic doctors in the country so as to protect the people from the trap of incompetent and take doctors of Homoeopathic;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this directory is likely to be prepared; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) The Central Government, as per the provisions of Homoeopathic Central Council Act, 1973 has already constituted a Central Council of Homoeopathy inter-alia, for the maintenance of a Central Register of Homoeopathy. As per Section 21 of the said Act, the Central Register of Homoeopathy in its Part I contains the names of all persons who are enrolled on any State Register of Homoeopathy and possess any of the recognised Medical Qualifications and in its Part II contains the names of all persons other than those included in Part I who are for the time being enrolled on any State Register of Homoeopathy. As per the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 Central Register of Homoeopathy is required to be revised from time to time, by the Central Council of Homoeopathy, and the same is published in the Gazette of India.

[English]

Advisory Committee

934. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy about the formation of Home Minister's Advisory Committees, for Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the composition of the committees; and

(d) the number of times the committees have met from 1.1.1996 till 31.3.1998?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K.ADVANI) : (a) to (c) The Home Minister's Advisory

Committees have been constituted for all the Union territories without legislature to serve as a forum for consultation in regard to general questions of policy, legislative proposals, etc. pertaining to the Union territories concerned. The composition of these committees is given in the attached statement.

(d) It has not been possible to convene a meeting of any of these committees after these were reconstituted in November, 1996.

Statement

(A) Andaman & Nicobar Islands :

The Advisory Committee shall consist of the following Members:

- (i) The Lt. Governor, A & N Islands.
- (ii) Member of the Lok Sabha representing the UT
- (iii) Five Members from the Zilla Parishad, (excluding the Member of Lok Sabha), to be elected by all the Members of Zilla Parishad
- (iv) Chairman, Municipal Council, Port Blair
- (v) Two Members to be nominated by the Home Minister on the recommendations of the L.G., A&N Islands, to represent the Nicobar Group of Islands, one of these to be a woman Member.
- (vi) One woman Member to be nominated by the Home Minister on the recommendation of the L.G., A&N Islands from among the Zilla Parishad Members, if there is no woman in (iii) above
- (vii) Secretary to the Island Development Authority, as the permanent invitee.

(B) Lakshadweep:

The Advisory Committee shall consist of the following members:

- (i) The Administrator, Lakshadweep
- (ii) Member of the Lok Sabha representing the UT
- (iii) Five Members from the District Panchayat (excluding the Member of Lok Sabha) to be elected by all the members of the dist. Panchayat
- (iv) One Woman member to be nominated by the Home Minister on the recommendation of the Administrator from among the members of District Panchayat if there is no woman member in (iii) above.

- (v) Secretary to the Island Development Authority as the permanent invitee.

(C) Daman and Diu:

The Advisory Committee shall consist of the following Members:

- (i) The Administrator, Daman & Diu.
- (ii) Member of the Lok Sabha representing the UT.
- (iii) Five Members from the District Panchayat (excluding the Member of Lok Sabha) to be elected by all the Members of the District Panchayats.
- (iv) President of the Municipal Council, Daman.
- (v) President of the Municipal Council, Diu.
- (vi) One Member from SC/ST to be nominated by the Home Minister on the recommendation of the Administrator, Daman & Diu from among the Members of Distt. Panchayats, if there is no such member in (iii) above.
- (vii) One woman Member to be nominated by the Home Minister on the recommendation of the Administrator, Daman & Diu from among the Distt. Panchayat Members, if there is no such woman in (iii) above.

(D) Dadra & Nagar Haveli

The Advisory Committee shall consist of the following members.

- (i) The Administrator, Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
- (ii) Member of the Lok Sabha representing the UT.
- (iii) Five Members from the District Panchayat (excluding the Member of Lok Sabha), to be elected by all the members of the District Panchayats.
- (iv) One Member from SC/ST to be nominated by the Home Minister on the recommendation of the Administrator, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, from among the members of Distt. Panchayat, if there is no such member in (iii) above.
- (v) One woman Member to be nominated by the Home Minister on the recommendation of the Administrator, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, from among the Distt. Panchayat members if there is no such member in (iii) above.

(E) Chandigarh:

The Advisory Committee shall consist of the following Members :

- (i) The Administrator, Chandigarh.
- (ii) Member of the Lok Sabha representing the UT.
- (iii) Five Members from the Zilla Parishad, (excluding the Member of Lok Sabha) to be elected by all the Members of the Zilla Parishad.
- (iv) Chairman of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation.
- (v) One Member from SC/ST to be nominated by the Home Minister on the recommendation of the Administrator, Chandigarh from among the Zilla Parishad Members if there is no such Member in (iii) above.
- (v) One woman Member to be nominated by the Home Minister on the recommendation of the Administrator, Chandigarh from among the Distt. Panchayat Members, if there is no such Member in (iii) above.

Oil Drilling

935. DR. ASIM BALA :
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH :

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

- (a) whether exploratory drilling in the Bay of Bengal basin by ONGC is going on;
- (b) if so, the details of oil drilling therefrom;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to revive the oil drilling by ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) All the 7 exploratory wells drilled in Bengal offshore 5, by ONGC and 2 by MNCs. have proved to be dry. In view of discouraging results and the low prospectivity of the area. ONGC has discontinued drilling activity in Bengal offshore for the time being.

Infiltration

936. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR 'BIJOY' :
SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMADAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of infiltrators have entered India during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plans to repatriate them to their country of origin;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government have arrested a number of Bangladeshis residing in Bihar; and

(f) if so, the measures taken to tackle the problem in this State?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K.ADVANI) : (a) and (b) There have been reports that nationals of some of the neighbouring countries managed to enter illegally into the territory of India. These include people from Bangladesh, Myanmar, Tibet, Sri Lanka etc. It is difficult to arrive at an estimate of the number of such illegal infiltrators because they enter India surreptitiously and mix with the local population due to their ethnic, linguistic similarities.

(c) and (d) Detection and deportation of illegal infiltrators in this country is a continuous process. There are standing instructions to all the State, Governments and Union Territory Administrators to deport illegal migrants as and when detected. The State Government and UT Administrations are being periodically reminded in this regard.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Import of Gas

937. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have any proposal to import Gas from Burma through pipeline;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Govt. do not have any proposal. GAIL has signed a "Principles of Agreement" with Brown & Root International Inc., USA in March, 1996 to examine techno-economics of having a gas pipeline from Myanmar and other countries in the region to carry gas to India.

(c) It is not possible to indicate any firm time frame.

[English]

Team of Officers visiting Tamil Nadu

938. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK:
SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had recently deputed a team of officers to visit Tamil Nadu to study the Law and Order situation;

(b) if so, the details of the report submitted by the team of officers;

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K.ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The report while taking note of the ground level situation has carefully emphasised on certain remedial measures such as relentless drive against fundamentalist and terrorist elements, optimum use of intelligence machinery, a definite Action Plan against the potential trouble makers, pursuing of confidence of building measures more vigorously etc. Follow-up actions on these lines have been initiated by the State Government.

Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council

939. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council has submitted any Memorandum to the Prime Minister during his visit to Tripura in October, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K.ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main demands raised in the Memorandum are:

(i) Introduction of Inner Line Permit in Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council.

(ii) More funds for (a) Rural Communications. (b) Rural Employment. (c) Panchayat. (d) Education, and (e) Infrastructural Development.

(iii) Granting more Autonomy to Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council.

(c) With respect to Introduction of Inner Line Permit. Government of India is not in favour of the same. As regards demands (ii) (a) to (e) these issues are primarily the concern of the State Government to whom the proposals have been forwarded. As regards granting more autonomy to Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council, the matter is being examined in consultation with the State Government.

Migrant Workers (Orissa)

940. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons from Orissa working as migrant workers in the other States and abroad;
- (b) the year in which they left their birth place; and
- (c) the steps taken to ensure their safety and also to save them from exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) State-wise information regarding migrating population is not available from Census, 1991. However, it is estimated that around 3% of the total out migrants from the State of Orissa fall within the definition of inter state migrant workman under the relevant Act namely, the Inter-State migrant workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. During the years 1995, 1996 and 1997, 3685, 3441 and 3511 workers respectively from Orissa were granted emigration clearance for working abroad.

Fertilizer Nutrients	1997-98		1996-97	%Achievment	% increase
	Target	Actual	Actual	of target	over last year
Nitrogen	96.10	100.86	85.99	104.9	17.3
Phosphate	28.60	29.76	25.56	104.1	16.4

Christians of Scheduled Castes Origin

942. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Christians of Scheduled Caste origin have been demanding the Rights of Scheduled Castes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

- (c) The proposal is still under the consideration of the Government.

(b) Migration being a continuing and repetitive process, no information in this regard is available.

(c) In addition to other labour laws which are applicable both to the local and migrant labour, the Inter state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 is specifically meant to safeguard the interests of migrant workmen. The State Government of Orissa also sends officials to repatriate the migrant workers with payment of their legal dues, to the recipient States in case of complaints. Recipient States are also requested from time to time to ensure-safety of such workers.

Decline in Fertilizers Production

941. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of fertilisers has declined as compared to the fixed target during the last one year:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K.PATEL) : (a) to (c) As shown in the table below, the production of fertilizer nutrients during 1997-98 recorded a substantial increase over the production in the preceding year. The targets fixed for the year were also exceeded.

[Translation]

Funds to the Tribals in Madhya Pradesh

943. SHRI LARANG SAI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds given by the Government to the Tribal of Madhya Pradesh, area-wise from 1994-1997;

(b) whether funds have been misutilised in the name of those tribals; and

(c) if not, the market price of the cycles given to Korva tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI

MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Under the schemes in operation, the funds are released to the state Govt./NGOs. The details of funds released to the Government of Madhya Pradesh as well as the NGOs of Madhya Pradesh during 1994-97 is given in the Statement.

(b) The Government is not aware of misutilisation of funds.

(c) The funds released to the State Government is for the Specific purposes contained in the schemes which do not include providing of Cycles to Tribals.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	SCA to TSP	7535.72	9579.66	7695.71
2	275(1)Article	1687.50	1687.50	1687.50
3	Girls Hostels for STs	115.83	-	-
4	Boys Hostels for STs	16.90	-	-
5	Ashram Schools for STs	-	99.45	-
6	Educational Complex	1.98	1.50	1.20
7	Vocational Training Centres	-	44.34	-
8	Grant in aid to STDCCs	124.00	57.00	-
9	Assistance to Tribal Research Institutes	13.09	22.21	22.02

[English]

Beggars in Delhi

944. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to remove the beggars from Delhi coming from outside Delhi;

(b) if so, the detailed thereof alongwith the number of such beggars removed from Delhi;

(c) whether the Government have framed any scheme for the rehabilitation of these beggars;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI

MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes Sir. Under the provisions of the Bombay Prevention of begging Act, 1959 as extended to the NCT of Delhi, it is the responsibility of Government of NCT of Delhi to remove the beggars from Delhi.

(b) Under the provisions of the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 as extended to the NCT of Delhi, raids are carried out by the Government of NCT. Delhi at various places with the help of the police. Last year 6313 beggars were thus taken up. Efforts to repatriate them to their native States have not been so far successful.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Government of Delhi provides free lodging, boarding, medical facility, counselling and vocational training in different trades to the beggars so that after their release from the Certified Institutions of Delhi Admn. they can earn their livelihood themselves.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Worship (Special Provision) Act, 1991

945. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested and the number of persons prosecuted under the places of Worship (Special Provision) Act, 1991. State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to ensure the safety of the shrines?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Available information in regard to the number of persons arrested and prosecuted under the places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 in various States/Union Territories upto 31st March, 1997 is furnished below:

Sl. No.	Name of State	No of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecuted
(i)	Madhya pradesh	5	5
(ii)	Uttar Pradesh	46	46

Information from the States of Bihar, Meghalaya and Orissa has not been received. Other States/Union Territories have furnished 'Nil' information.

All the places of worship, throughout the country, except exempted otherwise by the Act, are covered by the provisions of the places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. the Central Government has been advising, from time to time, the State Governments to take necessary steps to ensure the safety of places of worship within their respective jurisdiction and to maintain peace and communal harmony. 'Public Order' and 'Police' are state

subjects as per Entries 1 and 2 of List-II – State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The basis responsibility for the maintenance of law and order including the safety of places of worship, therefore, rests with the State Governments.

Irregularities in Recruitments in Central Warehousing Corporation

946. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding irregularities made in recruitments in Central Warehousing Corporation during the last one year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether an enquiry has been conducted in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof: and
- (e) the action taken by the Government against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complaints mainly pertain to alleged impropriety in recent selections, leakage of question papers demand of illegal gratification, irregularity in interviews and also against filling up certain posts by direct recruitment.

(c) to (e) Complaints about recruitment have been examined by the Corporation and it has been found that the appointments were made in accordance with staff Regulations. No substance has been found in complaints about the alleged demand of illegal gratification also.

The complaints relating to leakage or question papers and irregularity in interviews for the post of Dy. Manager (Accounts) are still under investigation by the Corporation and suitable action will be taken on completion of the investigation.

Enquiry Against Petrol Pumps

947. SHRIMATI OMVATI DEVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received complaints that all the petrol pump owners in Darbhanga in Bihar do not furnish any receipts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard and propose to take action against them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No complaint has been received regarding non-issuance of receipts on purchase of goods at petrol pumps in Darbhanga in Bihar.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Inclusion of Various Tribes in the List of Scheduled Tribes

948. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government represented the Union Government to include different tribes in the list of scheduled tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Panika tribe of Madhya Pradesh covered under Scheduled Tribe before 1972 is still continued to be in the category of Scheduled Tribe;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the districts where this Tribe is not covered under the list of Scheduled Tribe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 691 proposals have been received to include various communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

(c) Yes Sir. Panika Tribe is listed as Scheduled Tribe in the Chhatarpur, Datla, Panna, Rewa, Satna, Shahdol, Sidhi and Tikamgarh districts.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Panika Tribe is not covered in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Madhya Pradesh in Districts other than those mentioned in (c) above.

Exploitation of Labourer

949. SHRI MAHENDRAJEET SINGH MALVIYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision to observe 1st May the 'Labour Day' in industrial units;

(b) if so, whether there is any provision to take action against those units which violate the rules;

(c) whether "Banswada Sintex Ltd." in Banswada (Rajasthan) had observed "Labour Day" on 1.5.98;

(d) if not, the action taken against the management of this unit; and

(e) the steps taken to get them free from exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) 1st May is generally celebrated as "Labour Day" by the workers in Industrial Units. However no administrative instructions have been issued by Govt. of India for observing 1st May as "Labour Day". But certain State Governments e.g. Government of West Bengal do observe 1st May as "Labour Day" officially and public holiday is declared on that day.

(b) There is no provision/rule to take action against the units not observing 1st May as "Labour Day" in Central Sphere.

(c) to (e) The State Government of Rajasthan have been requested to furnish the information.

[English]

Assam Accord

950. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement the Assam Accord signed in 1985;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the number of provisions of the Accord implemented so far alongwith the provisions yet to be implemented; and

(d) the concrete steps being taken to implement all the provisions of the Assam Accord?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) The Government is fully committed to implement the Assam Accord. Action has been taken to implement all the provisions of the Assam Accord. However, certain provisions of the Accord are of continuing nature e.g. speedy all round economic development of Assam; measures to prevent infiltrators crossing/attempting to cross the border etc. and therefore it is not possible to specify any time frame by which all the provisions could be implemented.

Representatives of Government of India, representatives of Government of Assam and representatives of All Assam Students' Union review implementation of provisions of Assam Accord from time to time. The last such review took place on 6.4.98.

Child Prostitution

951. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI :
SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the girl child are brought from poverty ridden areas luring them for job;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check child prostitution; and

(c) the steps taken to make the people aware of the nefarious tactics of such racketeers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Supply of Inferior Foodgrains by FCI

952. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether inferior quality of foodgrains have been supplied by Food Corporation of India through Public Distribution System in many States during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of complaints received/cases identified from various States during the said period;

(d) whether any committee/vigilance squad has been constituted for monitoring the quality of foodgrains;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Two complaints from Civil Supplies Department, Governments of Manipur and Mizoram were received by FCI. However, after verification, it was confirmed that no poor quality foodgrains were issued for PDS.

(d) to (f) There are Quality Control and Vigilance Divisions in FCI which keep a watch on the quality of foodgrains. Besides, a Quality Control Cell is also functioning in the Department of Food & Civil Supplies which makes surprise checks on quality of foodgrains and also monitors the quality at the time of procurement, storage and distribution. In case any shortcoming is noticed in the quality of the foodgrains, remedial measures are taken with FCI or concerned State Government.

[English]

Prepaid Taxi and TSR Scheme

953. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prepaid scheme for Taxis and TSR in New Delhi Railway Station has become a source of harassment for the passengers coming from outside;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken against the erring officials of the Police?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) The prepaid scheme for Taxis and TSRs at New Delhi Railway Station is an option available to help the passengers coming from outside in hiring Taxis/TSRs without having to negotiate/bargain with the drivers. The Traffic Unit of Delhi Police keeps a close watch on the Police personnel posted at the prepaid booths. Action is taken against the staff on duty if they are found guilty of causing harassment to the public.

[Translation]

Fluoride Water in Rajasthan

954. SHRI DOWARKA PARSHAD BAIRWA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons affected by the fluoride water in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government have introduced a scheme to provide fluoride free water to the people;

(c) if so the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent any report to the Union Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(f) whether the Government had sent any Central Expert Team to assess the situation there;

(g) if so, whether the Government have received any report from the said team;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Rural Water Supply and provision of safe drinking water to the people is a State subject. As per the Survey conducted by the Government of Rajasthan, over 0.16 lakh habitations in the State may be affected by excess Fluoride in drinking water.

(b) to (f) The State Government has been implementing a number of Schemes to provide safe drinking water. The Schemes are planned and implemented by the State Government for which the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment provides funds. After 1/4/98, the States have been given full powers to deal with water quality issues, including excess Fluoride.

[English]

Shukla Commission

955. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly announced development package for the NE States supersedes the earlier package based on Shukla Commission's recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether under the new package, it is proposed to open trade and commerce channels between the NE States and the neighbouring countries; and

(d) whether the Government would give top priority to open up trade and commerce channels between Meghalaya and Bangladesh at many points?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No new development package has been announced for N.E. States recently.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

(d) Yes Sir, There are already trade links between Meghalaya and Bangladesh.

Misuse of ISI Mark

956. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints that some firms are using ISI Mark on their products without acquiring licence from the Bureau of Indian Standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against such firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Complaints against misuse of ISI Mark are received in the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) from time to time. In the year 1997-98, 30 such complaints were registered as per details given in attached Statement-I

(c) The BIS has set up an Enforcement Directorate which is responsible for collection of information relation to misuse of BIS Standard Mark and to take legal action against erring manufacturers in accordance with the provisions of the BIS Act, 1986. Nodal Officers for the purpose of enforcement of the provisions of the BIS Act, 1986 have been nominated in each branch office of the BIS.

BIS conducts awareness programmes for traders and consumers from time to time. It also carries out market surveys with a view to Check fraudulent use of the ISI Mark.

A Standing Committee on Enforcement drawing, among others members from Consumer Organizations provides guidance to the Bureau regarding enforcement and prevention of misuse of ISI Mark.

In order to collect evidence and check the misuse of Standard Mark, raids/search and seizures are carried out by the Bureau. 24 such raids were conducted during the year 1997-98 as per details given in Statement-II.

Statement-I**Statewise details of Complaints Registered for misuse of BIS Standard Mark (1997-98)**

Sl.No.	Name of the Party	State
1	2	3
1.	Kanhoria Tubes Pvt. Ltd., Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3
2.	Varoon Coloures, Saharanpur	Uttar Pradesh
3.	Swarnima DII Industries Ltd., Dadri	Uttar Pradesh
4.	Mittu Prastics Products Pvt. Ltd. Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
5.	Rishabh Plastics, Meerut	Uttar Pradesh
6.	Paras Tubes, Meerut	Uttar Pradesh
7.	Formoet Industries (I) Ltd., Saharanpur	Uttar Pradesh
8.	Ajit Singh/Gupta Enterprises, Delhi	Delhi
9.	Ashok Kumar, 28/15M, Indra Gali No.4 Babarpur	Delhi
10.	Premises 110/7, Firni Road, Mundka	Delhi
11.	Silicon Paints, Delhi	Delhi
12.	Swastik Cushions Pvt. Ltd. Village Motiala	Delhi
13.	Laxmi Products (India), Nangli	Delhi
14.	Jagdamba Vijay Carborandum, Than	Gujarat
15.	Shree Chempast (India) Ltd., Chhatral	Gujarat
16.	Noval Fire Protection, Valsad	Gujarat
17.	Silver Profilea Pvt. Ltd., Mehsana	Gujarat
18.	Parry Mechanical Works., Ludhiana	Punjab
19.	Sarbjit Machine Tools., Batala	Punjab
20.	Maruti Cement Pvt. Ltd., Sikar	Rajasthan
21.	Pragati Cement Pvt. Ltd. Juntha	Rajasthan
22.	P.G. Cement, Distt. Pali	Rajasthan
23.	Hindon Cement Pvt. Ltd. Bharatpur	Rajasthan
24.	Shree Krishna Cement., Ransi	Haryana
25.	Science Enterprises Killikolloor	Kerala
26.	Eastern Fire Protection Engineers, Guwahati	Assam
27.	Super Traders, Calcutta	West Bengal
28.	Delta Rope Industries, Calcutta	West Bengal
29.	Howrah Cottage Industries, Calcutta	West Bengal
30.	Flastron Steel Pvt. Ltd., Bhandup	Maharashtra

Statement-II*Statewise Distribution of Raids Conducted by BIS in 97-98*

Party	Product	State
19.4.97 Kanoharia Tubes Pvt. Ltd. Ghaziabad.	M.S. Tubes	Uttar Pradesh
11.11.97 Varoon Colours, Saharanpur	Cement Paints	Uttar Pradesh
12.2.98 Foremost Industries, Saharanpur	Skim Milk Powder	Uttar Pradesh
20.1.98 Rishabh Plastics, Meerut	UPVC Pipes	Uttar Pradesh
20.1.98 Paras Tubes, Meerut	UPVC Pipes	Uttar Pradesh
4.7.97 Premises of Indra Gali No.4, Shadhara	LPG Stoves	Delhi
9.7.97 Gaurav Agencies, 8, Shyam Indl. Estate, Loni.	Floor Polish Cement Paints	Delhi
9.7.97 Premises of 100/7, Firni Road, Mundka, Delhi.	Floor Wax Polish, Cement Paint.	Delhi
9.7.97 Silicon paints, Delhi	Cement paint	Delhi
23.2.98 Swastik Cushions Ltd., Delhi	Latex Rubber Foam Product	Delhi
23.2.98 Luxmi Products, Delhi	Latex Rubber Foam Product	Delhi
15.7.97 Perry Machinery Stores, Bikaner	Sewing Machine	Rajasthan
5.11.97 P.G. Cements, Distt-Pali.	Cement	Rajasthan
14.8.97 K.G. Trading Co., Ludhiana	Sewing Machine	Punjab
14.8.97 Perry Mechanical Works, Ludhiana.	Sewing Machine	Punjab
16.9.97 Shree Chempast (India) Ltd., Chhatral, Gujarat.	Monocrotophos	Gujarat
26.5.97 Welding Rods Pvt. Ltd., Surat	Welding Electrodes	Gujarat
21.1.98 Novel Fire Protection, Valsad	Fire Extinguisher	Gujarat
17.2.98 Silver Profiles Ltd., Mehsana	HDPE Pipes	Gujarat
5.11.97/ 6.11.97 Traders of MS Tubes (7 Traders)	MS Tubes	Punjab/Haryana
6.8.97 Bakre Drums & Barrels Pvt. Ltd., Daman.	Drums, large fixed ends.	UT of DDNH
20.1.98 Uniplas India Ltd., Daman	UPVC Pipes	UT of DDNH
11.11.97 Plastron Steel Pvt. Ltd., Bhandup.	Filter candles	Maharashtra
16.9.97 Jayaswala Neco Ltd, Nagpur	CI Pipes	Maharashtra

Atrocities on SCs/STs

957. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE :
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in regard to atrocities committed on Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes men/women during the last three years;

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

(c) the number of persons arrested and punished out of persons committed such crimes;

(d) the number of cases filed in courts;

(e) the States having higher percentage of such incidents; and

(f) the number of cases settled by the courts during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Available information in regard to cases of atrocities committed on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Information is available in regard to crimes reported under the Protection of Civil Rights Act and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and the same is given below :-

Year	The Protection of Civil Rights Act		The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act	
	No. of Persons		No. of Persons	
	Arrested	Convicted	Arrested	Convicted
1995	7747	2579	33716	3393
1996	3404	1443	32152	5514

(d) Available information in regard to number of cases filed in courts is given below :-

Year	The Protection of Civil Rights Act	The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act	
		Arrested	Convicted
1995	12773	32777	
1996	11296	39869	

(e) The names of States having higher percentage of such crimes the last three years are mentioned below :-

Year	Crimes against Scheduled Castes	Crimes against Scheduled Tribes	
	1	2	3
1995	Uttar Pradesh	Rajasthan	
	Rajasthan	Madhya Pradesh	
	Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	
1996	Uttar Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	
	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	
	Madhya Pradesh	Gujarat	
	Tamil Nadu	Maharashtra	
1997	Uttar Pradesh	Rajasthan	
	Rajasthan	Madhya Pradesh	
	Madhya Pradesh	Gujarat	
	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	

(f) The number of cases settled during 1995 and 1996 is given below :-

Year	The Prevention of Civil Rights Act		The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act	
	Convicted	Acquitted	Convicted	Acquitted
	1995	971	1763	1604
1996	599	1904	2075	5440

Statement

Incidence of Crimes Committed against SCs & STs

NAME OF STATE/UT	Scheduled Castes			Scheduled Tribes		
	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	1764	1629	1880	165	252	236
2. Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	2	5	0
3. Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Bihar	747	810	710	232	190	158
5. Goa	4	1	2	0	0	0
6. Gujarat	1724	1764	1831	486	369	384

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. Haryana	82	63	93	0	1	5
8. Himachal Pradesh	82	66	61	5	3	1
9. Jammu & Kashmir	25	17	8	8	6	11
10. Karnataka	1171	1089	1227	96	180	78
11. Kerala	696	640	755	185	122	139
12. Madhya Pradesh	3979	4075	4269	1690	1466	1400
13. Maharashtra	1622	1352	831	505	337	189
14. Manipur	1	0	0	2	0	0
15. Meghalaya	2	0	0	2	1	13
16. Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Orissa	329	486	485	143	179	169
19. Punjab	8	12	11	4	1	0
20. Rajasthan	5197	6623	5624	1784	1393	1445
21. Sikkim	33	14	18	40	46	31
22. Tamil Nadu	1293	1812	1403	40	85	227
23. Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
24. Uttar Pradesh	14205	10963	8500	105	336	86
25. West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (States)	32964	31416	27708	5494	4972	4572
Union Territories :						
26. A&N Island	0	0	0	0	0	2
27. Chandigarh	0	0	1	0	0	0
28. D&N Haveli	0	0	0	3	1	1
29. Daman & Diu	2	0	0	1	0	0
30. Delhi	6	11	19	0	0	0
31. Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
32. Pondicherry	24	13	23	0	0	0
Total (UTs)	32	24	43	4	1	3
Total (All India)	32996	31440	27751	5498	4973	4575

Affect on Areas Farmers Due to Ban on Gutka

958. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about eight lakh families in Karnataka are depending solely on areca farming;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that stocks worth Rs. 2000 crores have piled up in Karnataka due to ban on gutka; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to protect the interest of areca farmers of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Gutka has not been banned.

(c) Question does not arise.

Population Growth

959. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the States where the targetted population growth has been achieved;

(b) the states where no achievements have been observed so far and pricing behind the target or giving no importance in this regard;

(c) whether the Government are considering to launch any incentive scheme under this programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The long-term Demographic Goal for the Country as laid down in the National Health Policy (1983), is to achieve Annual Natural Growth Rate of 1.2% by 2000 A.D. The States/UTs registering a natural growth of population below 1.2% as per sample Registration System 1996 are i) Tamil Nadu, ii) Kerala, iii) Goa, iv) Pondicherry and v) Tripura.

(b) According to the findings of the Sample Registration System 1996, Annual Natural Growth Rate of Population has declined to 1.85% in 1996 from 1.93% in 1995. This is a substantially large decline in the Annual Growth Rate of Population in one year. Such substantial decline has been found in all major states except Bihar.

(c) and (d) Any Scheme involving meaningfully large Incentives will require large resources, because of the size of the country. Government has not so far approved any Incentive Scheme.

German Project in Karnataka

960. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any German Project for improving facilities in Hospitals in Karnataka has been cleared;

(b) if so, the details of Hospitals to be taken up under the proposed project; and

(c) the amount released or proposed to be released during 1988-89 for Karnataka under the said project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 26 Hospitals are proposed to be taken up under the Project, which includes 12 Hospitals in Bellary District and 14 Hospitals in Raichur and Koppal Districts.

(c) Rs. 40 crores have been earmarked for implementation of Programmes under this Project, during the year 1998-99.

[Translation]

Health Services in Rural Areas

961. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM :
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide proper health services in the entire country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to develop infrastructural facilities in view of providing adequate health care in the rural areas during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

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

(e) the problem identified and programmes proposed to be implemented to achieve the said objectives. State-wise; and

(f) the manner in which the Government propose to complete this programme in view of all such constraints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A Network of health facilities comprising 136339 Sub-Centres, 220.10 Primary Health Centres and 2622 Community Health Centres (as on 30.6.1997) have been set up throughout the Country under the Minimum Needs Programme. In addition, there are 2823 Hospitals and 21632 Dispensaries established under the Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy. Besides the Government of India has also implementing National Health Programmes related to Malaria, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, Blindness, Iodine Deficiency disorders, Reproductive Health Cadre, Cancer, etc.

(c) and (d) Creating Establishing Infrastructure facilities for providing health care in Rural Areas in the responsibility of the State Governments.

(e) and (f) Paucity of fund is the main constraint in establishing health infrastructure as per norms. Therefore funds are being obtained from external agencies, wherever possible.

[English]

Exclusion of Income Tax Payers from PDS

962. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to exclude Income Tax payers from the purview of Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the time by which this decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Functioning of Police

963. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to change the functioning of Police;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (c) As "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, it is essentially for the State Governments to bring about changes in the functioning of their respective Police forces. Within the Constitutional limitations, however, the Central Government has been writing to the States emphasis in the need to bring about such changes. The stress laid by the Central Government has been on modification of the existing recruitment and training practices in the States and modernisation of their intelligence, weaponry and communication systems in order to keep pace with times. Apart from advisories, the Central Government has been providing financial assistance to the States through its Scheme of Modernisation of State Police Forces as well as by releasing funds on the basis of recommendations of the Finance Commission. Improvement in the Police functioning is a continuous process and the Central Government is committed to ensure that the

State Government get all assistance to improve the policing in the country.

Adequate Power to National Commission for SC/ST

964. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government empowered the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to ensure Dalits of their rights and social justice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a memorandum has been issued assigning the duties of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by the Department of Personnel;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Section 2 Clause 5 Sub-Clause (a) of the Constitution (65th Amendment) Act empowers the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution or under any other law. For this purpose under Section 2 clause 8 of the Act the Commission has all the powers of a Civil Court trying a Suit.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Freedom Fighters of Telengana

965. SHRI M. RAJIAH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee under the Chairmanship of Ch. Rajeshwara Rao appointed to recommend the names of the Freedom Fighters of Telengana Region, has submitted its report;

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

(c) the time by which the pension to those recommended freedom fighters is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) The Government had constituted the Hyderabad Special Screening Committee in 1983 to scrutinise claims relating to the Hyderabad Liberation Movement. The Screening Committee was reconstituted from time to time and the latest Committee was headed by Shri Ch. Rajeshwara Rao. Based on this recommendations of the various Committees so far pension has been sanctioned in 7,000 cases. The last recommendations of the Committee have been received on 31.5.98. and, therefore, it is not possible to give district-wise break up at present.

2. A writ petition making certain allegations has been filed in the Hon'ble Court of Andhra Pradesh in which the court have passed interim directions to the Govt. of India not to implement the recommendations of the Committee from the date of order till further orders. Cases not covered by the interim directions of the High Court are under process and all efforts are being made to finalise them expeditiously.

Lubricating Oils

966. SHRI TASLIMUDDIN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the use of poor quality lubricating oil causing premature machine failure resulting tremendous losses to the transport and farm sectors;

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to curb the production and usage of such lubricants;

(c) whether the private oil companies are using re-refined oils in their finished products;

(d) if so, whether this information is mentioned on their packaging; and

(e) if not, the action proposed to be taken against them and to make comprehensive policy to encourage the collection and re-refining of used lubricating oil using technologies that render it suitable for reuse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) It is possible that the use of poor quality Lubricating Oils may be one of the causes of machine failure in the transport and farm sectors.

(b) With a view to checking the marketing of spurious/sub-standard lubricating Oils and Greases in the country, the Central Government have promulgated the Lubricating Oils and Greases (Processing, Supply & Distribution Regulation) Order, 1987, which provides that no person could carry on the business of a processor

except under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a valid license to be granted under this Order. This Order also prohibits carrying on this business of processing, manufacturing, blending, compounding, packaging, refining, selling or transportation of any lubricating Oil or Grease, which has been adulterated.

(c) to (e) The use of re-refined Oils conforming to the prescribed BIS specification is permitted for manufacturing Lubricating Oils. Used Oils, when properly re-refined and suitable additives are incorporated to meet the required performance levels will not cause premature machine failures.

Presently, the information regarding use of re-refined oils in their finished products is not mentioned on the packaging of the products of private oil companies, as it is not mandatory.

Reservation to SCs/STs

967. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had made any recommendations in its recent report that the SC/ST quota be extended to all appointments in the armed forces, the judiciary, scientific establishments and private enterprises.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in discharge of its duties as in the Section 2 Clause (5) Sub-Clause (d) of the Constitution (65th Amendment) Act, 1990 has presented its Annual Report recently. As per Section 8 of the Act, the Reports alongwith the Action Taken Report are to be laid on the Table of the House. Hence till the Report is laid on the Table of the House reaction of the Government cannot be expressed.

Issue of Family Cards

968. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :
SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued instructions to the States to issue special cards to the families living below poverty line for selling articles under the PDS at Subsidised rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the contents of families covered with the scheme, State-wise and the expenditure involved therein;

(d) whether complaints have been received that the foodgrains are being supplied to undeserving persons;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Guidelines issued on 17th February, 1997 for the implementation of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), envisages that special cards be issued by States/UTs to the families identified as living below poverty line (BPL). In case of already newly made cards. A suitable endorsement can be made by an appropriate stamp in respect of the cards of the population below Poverty Line.

(c) State-wise details of families below poverty line as estimated by Planning Commission which are to be covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System are given in the attached Statement. Expenditure on issue of ration cards etc. are borne by the State Governments/UT Administrations and this expenditure is not monitored by the Government of India.

(d) to (f) No such complaints have been received. Guidelines for implementation of TPDS clearly advise the States to make foolproof arrangements for delivery of Foodgrains from Food Corporation of India godowns to the Fair Price Shops and distribution of Foodgrains to the BPL families in a transparent and accountable manner. State Governments have also been advised to constitute Vigilance Committees at Fair Price Shops at Taluk, District and State levels to supplement the administrative review on the working of PDS.

Statement

State-wise number of below Poverty Line Households estimated to be covered under TPDS Scheme

State/UTs	No. of BPL Households (In lakhs)
1	2
1 Andhra Pradesh	36.27
2 Arunachal Pradesh	0.77

	1	2
3 Assam		19.06
4 Bihar		85.90
5 Goa		0.38
6 Gujarat		19.95
7 Haryana		7.33
8 Himachal Pradesh		4.26
9 Jammu & Kashmir		6.17
10 Karnataka		28.75
11 Kerala		15.35
12 Madhya Pradesh		53.34
13 Maharashtra		60.45
14 Manipur		1.30
15 Meghalaya		1.44
16 Mizoram		0.53
17 Nagaland		0.95
18 Orissa		31.82
19 Punjab		4.30
20 Rajasthan		21.66
21 Sikkim		0.34
22 Tamil Nadu		45.79
23 Tripura		2.31
24 Uttar Pradesh		95.48
25 West Bengal		46.59
26 Delhi		2.96
27 Andaman & Nicobar		0.22
28 Chandigarh		0.18
29 Dadra & Nagar H.		0.14
30 Lakshdweep		0.02
31 Pondicherry		0.65
Total		594.66

Additional Examination Centres

969. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request for opening of additional examination centres for All India Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Entrance Examinations in Kerala;

(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 HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Last year, the CBSE had received a request for creation of additional centres at Kochi and Kozhikode in Kerala to avoid hardship to candidates from Northern Kerala who have to travel long distance for appearing for the ALL India Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Entrance Examination.

(c) All India Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Entrance examination is being conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education as per the directives of the Supreme Court of India. This Examination is conducted in all the State Capitals only, except in the case of Maharashtra where the examination is conducted at Nagpur, in addition to Mumbai. Addition of new Centres at places namely Kochi and Kozhikode in Kerala was considered by the Central Board of Secondary Examination. Since the Centres are fixed in capital cities only, the request could not be acceded to by the CBSE.

Oil and Gas Exploration

970. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI K.S. RAO :

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

(a) the names of private investors participating in the exploration of oil and gas in the country;

(b) the blocks/areas both onshore and offshore where these private sector companies are exploring oil and natural gas;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow these private investors to sell the gas in the open market tapped from any find in the block to be allocated them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Production sharing contracts have been signed for exploration of Oil

& Gas in nine exploration blocks so far as per details given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) In seven out of nine exploration blocks private investors have the right to sell natural gas in open market in India. In remaining two blocks private investors did not evince any interest in acquiring such rights.

Statement

Exploration Bidding

Details of Contracts signed

Sl. No.	Block Name & Area (Sq.K.m.)	Consortium with whom contract signed
1.	KG-OS-90/1 4964 Sq. Km. (Offshore)	i) Hardy Oil & Gas; UK ii) Hindustan Oil Exploration Co., India iii) Niko Resources; Canada. vi) Nagarjuna Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd., India
2.	GN-ON-90/3 29200 Sq. Km. (On Shore)	i) HOEC, India ii) Mafattal Industries, India
3.	CY-OS-90/ 181 Sq. Km. (Offshore)	i) Vaalco Energy Inc., USA ii) HOEC, India iii) Tata Petrodyne Ltd., India iv) ONGC
4.	RJ-ON-90/1 11108 Sq. Km (Onshore)	i) Shell India Production Development B.V., Netherlands
5.	BB-OS/5 9095 Sq. Km. (Offshore)	i) Essar Oil Ltd., India
6.	CY-OS/2 5010 Sq. Km. (Offshore)	i) Vaalco Energy Inc., USA ii) HOEC India iii) Tata Petrodyne Ltd., India
7.	RJ-ON-90/4 16600 Sq. Km. (Onshore)	i) Essar Oil Ltd., India ii) Polish Oil & Gas Co., Poland
8.	RJ-ON-90/5 16,030 Sq. Km (Onshore)	i) Essar Oil Ltd., India ii) Polish Oil & Gas Co., Poland
9.	CB-OS/1 3290 Sq.Km. (Offshore)	i) Vaalco Energy Inc., USA ii) HOEC India iii) Tata Petrodyne Ltd., India iv) ONGC

**National Minorities Financial
Development Corporation**

971. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the National Minorities Financial Development Corporation was established;

(b) the total amount of equity capital envisaged for the Corporation on its establishment;

(c) the present equity capital of the Corporation;

(d) the steps taken to secure the full envisaged equity;

(e) the names of the minorities identified to receive assistance from the Corporation;

(f) the agencies through which the assistance is provided, State-wise/Union Territory-wise;

(g) the names of States/UTs in which these agencies are yet to be identified; and

(h) the total number of members of each minority and the total amount of assistance provided to them during 1996-97 and 1997-98, State-wise and minority-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation was established on 30th September, 1994.

(b) The total authorised share capital envisaged was Rs. 500 crores.

(c) The paid-up equity capital of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) as on date is Rs. 145.76 crores.

(d) Initially letter was written by the Prime Minister to all the Chief Ministers inviting contribution to the equity of Corporation. Subsequently, the matter has been followed up at the level of Welfare Minister and Chairman, NMDFC. However, State Governments have been able to contribute Rs. 20.76 crores till date.

Central Government has also decided to raise its equity contribution in paid up Capital of the Corporation from the existing 25% to 60% on pro-rata basis taking into consideration the contributions made by the State Governments.

(e) The Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians and Zorastrians (Parseis) have been notified as minorities.

(f) The Term loan and margin money loan schemes are implemented through the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) nominated by the respective State Governments. The newly introduced micro-credit scheme is implemented through selected non-Governmental organisations. The list of State Channelising Agencies is given in attached Statement-I.

(g) The States of Arunachal Pradesh and Goa have not yet identified their State Channelising Agencies.

(h) Year-wise information is not maintained. However, State-wise consolidated information of utilisation of funds with break-up of minority communities is given in attached Statement-II.

Statement-I

List of Channelising Agencies

- 1 ANDHRA PRADESH
Andhra Pradesh State Minorities Financial Corporation 4-1, 825 B, Laxi Estate J.N. Road
HYDERABAD - 500001
- 2 ASSAM
Assam Minorities Development and Finance Corporation R.G.B. Road, Dispur
GUWAHATI - 781006
- 3 BIHAR
Bihar State Minorities Financial Corporation
34, Harding road
PATNA - 800001
- 4 HIMACHAL PRADESH
H.P. Minorities Finance and Development Corporation
Kaushal Niwas Stokes Palace
SHIMLA - 2
- 5 J & K
J & K Women Development Corporation
29A/D, Gandhi Nagar
JAMMU TAVI
J & K SC/ST & BC Development Corpn. Romesh
Market, Shastri Nagar
JAMMU - 180004
6. KERALA
Kerala State Backward Classes Development Corporation T.C. No.: 16/351, Cotton Hills
THIRUVANTHAPURAM - 695014

- Kerala State Women Development Corporation**
K.V. Towers, Morappalam Pattom
THIRUVANTHAPURAM - 695004
- Kerala State Cooperative Federation for Fisheries Development Ltd. Matsya Bhawan, Kuravankonam**
P.B. No.821
THIRUVANTHAPURAM - 695003
- 7 KARNATAKA**
Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation
Vishveswaraya Centre 12th Floor, Main Tower
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedi
BANGALORE - 560001
- 8 MAHARASHTRA**
Mahatma Phule Backward Classes Development Corporation Gulmohar Cross Road No. 9 J.V.P.D. Scheme, Juhu
BOMBAY - 400049
- 9 MIZORAM**
Zoram Industrial Development Corporation Upper Khatla, Aizawl
MIZORAM - 796001
Mizoram Cooperative Apex Bank Near Vanapa Hall, Aizawl
MIZORAM - 769001
- 10 MADHYA PRADESH**
M.P. Backward Classes & Minorities Finance and Development Corpn. 6, Zone 1, Maharana Pratap Nagar
BHOPAL - 462011
- 11 MANIPUR**
Manipur Tribal Development Corpn. Lamphelpat
IMPHAL - 795004
- 12 MEGHALAYA**
Government of Meghalaya Social Welfare Department
SHILLONG
- 13 PUNJAB**
Punjab State Backward Classes Land Development & Finance Corpn. SCO No. 60-61, Sector 17-A
CHANDIGARH - 160017
- 14 TAMIL NADU**
Tamil Nadu Backward Classes and Minorities Economic Development Corporation 907, Anna Salai, Vth Floor P.O. Box - 2785
MADRAS - 600002
- 15 UTTAR PRADESH**
U.P. Minorities Financial Development Corporation
748, 7th Floor, Jawahar Bhawan Ashok Marg
LUCKNOW - 226001
- 16 TRIPURA**
Tripura SCs, Backward Classes and Minorities Cooperative Development Corporation Supari Bagan, Krishna Nagar P.O. Lake Chowmani, West Tripura
AGARTALA - 799001
- 17 RAJASTHAN**
Rajasthan SC/ST Finance & Development Cooperative Corporation Nehru Sahkar Bhavan
JAIPUR
- 18 HARYANA**
Haryana Backward Classes & Economically Weaker Section Kalyan Nigam Ltd.
SCO No.813-14, Sector 22-A
CHANDIGARH
- 19 GUJARAT**
Gujarat Backward Classes Development Corporation Block No. 11, 2nd Floor Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan
GANDHINAGAR - 382010
- 20 WEST BENGAL**
West Bengal Minorities Development and Finance Corpn. Bhabani Bhavan (IInd Floor, West) Alipur
CALCUTTA - 700027
- 21 NAGALAND**
Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. IDC House, P.C. NO. 5 Dimapur - 797112
NAGALAND
- 22 ORISSA**
Orissa State SCs/STs Finance and Development Corporation 14, Luis Road
BHUBANESWAR
- 23 SIKKIM**
Sikkim ST/SC/OBC Development Corpn. Bhanu Path
GANGTOK
- UNION TERRITORIES**
- 24 Chandigarh Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation Town Hall Building, 3rd Floor Sector 17-C, Near D.C. Office**
CHANDIGARH

- 25 Dadra & Nagar Haveli
Daman & Diu SC/ST Finance and
Development Corporation Ltd.
D.I.C. Office, Dadra & Nagar Haveli
Post - Slivassa, Via - Vapi (Wirty)
PIN 396230
- 26 Pondicherry Corporation for
the Development of Women
No. 10, Ilango - 5
PONDICHERRY - 11
- 27 The Andaman & Nicobar Islands Integrated Devt,
Corpn. Ltd. (ANIIDCO) New Marine Dry Dock/
Workshop Complex Post Box No. 180
PORT BLAIR - 744101
- 28 Lakshdweep Development Corpn. Ltd. 40/5598, IInd
Floor Near Padma Junction M.G. Road, Ernakulam
COCHIN - 682035
- 29 Delhi Financial Corporation Saraswati Bhawan
E-Block, Connaught Place
NEW DELHI - 110001

STATEMENT-II

*State-wise & Community-wise Break-up of Beneficiaries Assisted
(As on Date 28-5-98)*

(Rupees in lakhs)

State/SCA	Amount Utilised	Bene.	Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Bhuddists	Parsis
Haryana	97.00	385	136	10	239	0	0
Tamilnadu	33.24	172	101	71	0	0	0
Bihar	61.40	81	72	2	2	5	0
Gujarat	696.37	1006	989	7	0	0	0
A.P.	205.39	1655	1604	43	8	0	0
U.P.	4781.84	8560	7879	168	462	51	0
H.P.	11.37	34	30	0	4	0	0
J&K	35.34	58	45	1	12	0	0
Kerala	717.56	1691	1222	489	0	0	0
Karnataka	238.65	2111	2003	108	0	0	0
Maharashtra	562.30	850	832	15	2	0	1
M.P.	500.37	2238	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	66.35	373	0	372	0	0	0
Punjab	354.69	797	18	10	769	0	0
West Bengal	474.24	687	676	10	0	1	0
Total	8836.11	20698	15607	1286	1498	57	1

Blood Transfusion

972. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of steps taken to make the blood transfusion less risky i.e. spreading of AIDS and other diseases; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to have a mandatory check on the functioning of various blood banks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The Drugs and Cosmetics Act/Rule provide mandatory testing of Blood for Blood Transfusion.

Diseases like HIV, Hepatitis B, Surface Antigen (HbSag), Syphilis and Malaria. Under the National AIDS Control Programme presently under implementation, all the public sector Blood Banks have been modernised, by providing cash and commodity assistance. For testing of Blood for HIV, the Blood Banks are linked with 154 Zonal Blood Testing Centres where they can get their Blood Samples tested.

(b) All the Blood Banks in the country require License under Drugs and Cosmetics Act/Rules. This is being monitored by Drugs Controller General (India) and State Drug Administration Department through inspection of Blood Banks for issue/renewal of Licenses.

[Translation]

Modernisation on Hospitals in U.P.

973. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of hospitals modernised and expanded in Uttar Pradesh during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the name of hospitals in Uttar Pradesh proposed to be modernised and expanded during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether any new hospitals/dispensaries have been set up or proposed to be set up in Uttar Pradesh with the assistance of the World Bank; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) 'Health' being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the Government of Uttar Pradesh to modernise and expand the Hospitals under their administrative control.

(c) and (d) No Hospital or Dispensary has been set up in Uttar Pradesh with World Bank Assistance. A Project Proposal received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh under the State Health System Development Project has been posed to the World Bank for assistance. Such State Projects are developed through detailed discussions with the World Bank. It is, therefore, not possible to comment on the final dimensions and Components of the Project at this juncture.

[English]

Suppliers of Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar

974. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the common suppliers of Super Bazar and the Kendriya Bhandar are charging different rates of supply of their products;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of such suppliers and the items supplied by them indicating their rates; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar Delhi and the Kendriya Bhandar, Delhi; they obtain their supplies of branded products from the manufacturers or their authorised distributors at rates applicable to the bulk purchasers. In respect of certain other items which these organizations procure through their approved suppliers, both these organizations take undertakings/affidavit from their approved suppliers to the effect that rates offered by them are the lowest and that the approved supplier shall not offer lesser price to any organization without giving the benefit of reduction to them. There is no system to verify as to whether these suppliers are the common suppliers or not.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Decreasing of Female against Males

975. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of females against males is decreasing in the country as per the census conducted recently;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to balance it?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The number of females per thousand males in India has decreased from 934 in 1981 to 927 in the 1991 Census.

(b) The State-wise details of number of females per thousand males as per 1981 and 1991 Censuses are given in the enclosed Statement which shows that out of 32 States and Union Territories only in the case of 19, the number of females against males has decreased during 1981-91. The decrease in the number of females vis-a-vis males during 1981-91 may be due to :

- i) Strong son preference; and
 ii) Misuse of the pre-natal diagnostic test.

(c) The Government of India has taken a number of steps to improve the health status of women. Primary Health Centres and Sub-Centres have been expanded through-out the country. In order to reduce the maternal, infant and child mortality rates, the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) Scheme was launched during the year 1992-93. Immunization Programme has been universalized in a phased manner. Infanticide is a crime under the Indian Penal Code. The persons found involved in such acts are proceeded against under the law. The Central Government has also enacted the pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 to curb the misuse of Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques for determination of the sex of the foetus leading to female foeticide. Besides, various programmes of action and advocacy are being implemented by the Government in the country for the welfare and development of women and the girl child. Attempts are also being made to project a positive image of the girl child so as to bring about changes in societal attitudes towards them. The Government has also initiated a media campaign to generate awareness on various issues relating to the girl child. A National Plan of Action for the SAARC Decade (1991-2000 A.D.) for the girl child focussing on survival, protection and development of the girl child has been formulated. A special set of interventions for adolescent girls has been institutionalised through the Integrated Child Development Services Structure. The Balika Samridhi Yojna, a scheme to raise the status of the girl child has been Launched on 2.10.97 by Government of India. Under the Scheme a Grant of Rs. 500/- is given to mothers on the birth of a girl child, in families below the poverty level, as a gift from Government to supplement her nutrition.

Statement

Sex Ratio (Number of females per 1000 males) for India and States as per the 1981 and 1991 Censuses

India/State/Union Territory	1981	1991
1	2	3
India	934	927
States		
1. Andhra Pradesh	975	972
2. Arunachal Pradesh	862	859
3. Assam	910*	923
4. Bihar	946	911

	1	2	3
5. Goa		975	967
6. Gujarat		942	934
7. Haryana		870	865
8. Himachal Pradesh		973	976
9. Jammu & Kashmir		892	923=
10. Karnataka		963	960
11. Kerala		1032	1036
12. Madhya Pradesh		941	931
13. Maharashtra		937	934
14. Manipur		971	958
15. Meghalaya		954	955
16. Mizoram		919	921
17. NAGALAND		863	886
18. Orissa		981	971
19. Punjab		879	882
20. Rajasthan		919	910
21. Sikkim		835	878
22. Tamil Nadu		977	974
23. Tripura		946	945
24. Uttar Pradesh		885	879
25. West Bengal		911	917
Union Territories			
1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands		760	818
2. Chandigarh		769	790
3. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		974	952
4. Daman & Diu		1062	969
5. Delhi		808	827
6. Lakshadweep		975	943
7. Pondicherry		985	979

* Based on population figures worked out by interpolation as 1981 census was not held in the State of Assam due to disturbed conditions.

= Based on projected population as 1991 census was not held in the State of Jammu & Kashmir due to disturbed conditions.

[English]

Medical Facilities to Pensioners and their Family Members

976. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state .

(a) whether the pensioners/and their families are not provided the same medical facilities as are provided to serving Central Government Employees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to extend the same medical facilities to Pensioners and their family members as are available to Central Government Employees; and

(c) the comparative chart showing the Medical facilities available to serving employees and that of available to the Pensioners windows and their family members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) The Pensioners & their Families residing in areas covered by CGHS Dispensaries are being provided the same medical facilities that are provided to serving Central Government employees. For the Pensioners residing in areas not covered by CGHS, the Government have issued orders for payment of medical allowance of Rs. 100/- per month for their day to day treatment. They have also been permitted to register themselves with the nearest CGHS Dispensary on payment of prescribed subscription, so that they may avail of Hospitalisation/ Indoor Treatment through CGHS and claim medical expenditure, therefor.

Proposals of Certain Communities from Autonomous Hill Districts

977. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has bought opinion of the Autonomous Councils of Assam in regard to scheduling of certain communities residing in the Autonomous Hill Districts of Karbi Anglong and North Cochar Hills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether such opinion shall be sought before considering any proposal to amend the Schedule Tribe order act in respect of Assam also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Autonomous State Demand Committee, Karbi Students' Association, Dimasa Students' Union, Karbi Nimso Chingthur Asong and Dimasa Women Society in their memorandum dated 12 May, 1998 have requested the Government that they should hold discussion with Kabri Anglong Autonomous Council, North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council and MLAs & MPs of the Hill areas of Assam on the issue of Scheduling of certain communities in the list Scheduled Tribes of Assam.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The proposal has been forwarded to the Government of Assam for their comments.

Rise in AIDS cases in Andhra Pradesh

978. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether AIDS cases in Andhra Pradesh is rising;

(b) whether 7,686 cases were found in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years;

(c) whether the study conducted by Medical Centre and Research Foundation revealed that the number of HIV carriers was increasing due to lack of awareness of safe sex;

(d) whether the incidence was more in Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam, East and Godavari Districts and part of Orissa;

(e) whether any concrete measures and steps are being taken by the Union Government to help and assess the State Government for checking AIDS cases in North Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The number of AIDS cases reported in Andhra Pradesh is 52 and sero positive are 4252.

(c) Government is not aware about any such Study but, Evaluation Study done by the State AIDS Cell reveal that 57% of the general public are aware of AIDS. 80% of the Commercial Sex Workers; 87% among the Truck Drivers and 85% among the Blood Donors are aware of AIDS.

(d) The incidence of AIDS cases in East Godavari is 2; in Srikakulam 1, and no cases of AIDS have been reported from West Godavari and Visakhapatnam.

(e) and (f) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, a comprehensive programme is currently under implementation as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme throughout the Country, the Strategies of the Programme consist of (i) strengthening Programme Management capabilities at Central & State level; (ii) Creation of Awareness amongst high risk behaviour groups and general public about HIV/AIDS; (iii) Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases; (iv) Ensure Blood Safety and Rational use of Blood; (v) Strengthen the Surveillance and Diagnosis. and (vi) Clinical Management of HIV/AIDS Cases.

Increase in TB Cases

979 SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that India is one of the country which will not meet the WHO deadline of 2000 AD for the universal implementation of DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course) lauded as a sura-fire method to cure TB with 85 to 90 percent cure rate;

(b) if so, whether there are 14 million TB cases in India and one dies with this disease every minute;

(c) whether it is a fact that while AIDS is a behaviour related disease, with its risk factors identified and prevention made possible through behavioural changes TB, spares no one, as it is spread through air; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the National Health Security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that in AIDS and T.B., the risk factors are identified and prevention is possible. But T.B. is more contagious because it spreads through air borne transmission.

A revised T.B. control strategy to achieve a cure rate of atleast 85% has been introduced in the country, which should lead to reduction in the pool of infection.

[Translation]

IFFCO Fertilizer Plant

980. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the "IFFCO" fertilizer plant at Gandhidham-Kandla in Gujarat has commenced production according to its increased capacity;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether all the persons have been provided employment whose lands were acquired at the time of establishment of the plant;

(d) if so the details thereof; and

(e) the details of representation received by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) to (e) IFFCO's Kandla Phase II Project for an incremental capacity of 2.11 lakh tonnes of phosphate nutrient per annum is scheduled to be completed in October, 1999. The land for establishment of the plant was leased to IFFCO by the Kandla Port Trust. As such, the question of providing employment to land losers does not arise. No representations have been received by the Government in this regard.

Bhopal Gas Tragedy's Death Cases

981. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cases of deaths in Bhopal Gas Tragedy filed in the courts;

(b) the number of cases out of them disposed of till now, alongwith the number of cases still pending in the courts;

(c) the total number of death cases rejected and nothing has been paid as compensation to the applicants; and

(d) the total number of death cases in which compensation has been granted and the average amount paid to each of these applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) 15,310 death claim cases were filed during 1985 to 1989.

(b) and (c) As of 30.4.1998, the position is as follows :

Disposed	15,222
Pending	88
Rejected	3,750

(d) Our of 11,472 cases in which compensation has been granted, 5097 cases were found to be Death cases, in which the following amount of compensation has been awarded :-

(i) Compensation awarded more than Rs. 3 lakh	19
(ii) Compensation awarded more than Rs. 2 lakh	76
(iii) Compensation awarded more than Rs. 1 lakh	5002
	5097

The remaining 6,375 cases were not proved as Death cases and the award was given under 01-Personal Injury.

(Source: Office of the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims, Bhopal).

[English]

Sugar Mills

982. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sugar mills in the country, State-wise;

(b) the location and annual turnover thereof;

(c) the number out of them are set up on co-operative basis;

(d) whether the Government have proposal to set up co-operative sugar mills during 1998-99; and

(e) if so, the States where these co-operative sugar mills are proposed to be set up, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) A statement showing State-wise number of installed sugar mills in the Country is attached.

(b) Information in this regard is being collected.

(c) As on 31.3.98, 258 installed sugar mills were in the cooperative sector.

(d) and (e) Central Government does not set up sugar mills in any part of the Country. It, however, grants letters of inter/Industrial Licences for setting up of new sugar mills.

During the sugar year 1997-98 (October - September), as on 31.3.98, 4 letters of intent have been issued by the

Ministry of Industry for setting up of new sugar mills in Cooperative Sector in the Country, the details of which are as under :-

Sl. No.	State	Proposed location	Date of issue of letter of intent
1.	Gujarat	At & Teh. Vansada, Distt. Valsad.	21.10.1997
2.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Narainpura, Teh. Ragogarh, Distt. Guna.	5.12.1997
		2. At & Teh. Kurud, Distt. Raipur	5.12.1997
3.	Bihar	Chorma, Pakridayal, Distt. East Champaran.	30.12.1997

Statement

Statement showing State-wise number of installed Sugar Mills in the country (As on 31.3.1998)

Sl.No.	State	No. of installed sugar Mills
1.	Punjab	22
2.	Haryana	13
3.	Rajasthan	3
4.	Uttar Pradesh	122
5.	Madhya Pradesh	9
6.	Gujarat	20
7.	Maharashtra	120
8.	Bihar	28
9.	Assam	3
10.	Orissa	8
11.	West Bengal	2
12.	Nagaland	1
13.	Andhra Pradesh	41
14.	Karnataka	32
15.	Tamil Nadu	35
16.	Pondicherry	2
17.	Kerala	2
18.	Goa	1
Total :		484

Article 356

983. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to invoke article 356 of the constitution against State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pending Cases of Provident Fund

984. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pending cases of Provident Fund in various tribunals in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the process?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) At present here is only one Employees' Provident Fund Appellate Tribunal set up at Delhi with effect from 1.7.1997. The information showing number of cases (State-wise) pending before the Tribunal is given in the attached Statement. In order to expedite the process of disposal of the cases, the Tribunal in addition to regular hearings is also organising camp hearings in different parts of the country.

Statement

As on 30.4.1998

Sl. No.	State/Region	Number of Pending cases in the PF Tribunal
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29
2.	Bihar	15
3.	Delhi	03
4.	Gujarat	30
5.	Haryana	04
6.	Karnataka	02
7.	Kerala	40

1	2	3
8.	Madhya Pradesh	06
9.	Maharashtra	12
10.	N.E. Region	00
11.	Orissa	06
12.	Punjab	30
13.	Rajasthan	20
14.	Tamil Nadu	60
15.	Uttar Pradesh	11
16.	West Bengal	01
Total		269

[Translation]

Production/Consumption of Sugar

985. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the production/consumption of sugar in the country during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) whether there is a domestic shortage of sugar at present;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the sugar production to meet the requirement for PDS in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) The production/consumption of sugar in the country during the last three sugar seasons and the current sugar season 1997-98 is as under :-

Sugar Season (Oct. -Sept.)	Production	Internal Consumption (In lakh tonnes)
1994-95	146.43	119.74*
1995-96	164.29	131.72*
1996-97	129.05	137.92
1997-98 (upto 30.4.98)	121.45	79.76

*Excluding sugar imported by private parties under O.G.L.

(b) and (c) The production of sugar in the 1997-98 season is somewhat less than the requirement in that period. However, with the carry-over stocks available at the start of the season, the aggregate availability of sugar in the sugar season is adequate.

(d) The various short term and long term steps taken by the Government to boost the sugar production in the country are as under :-

- (i) Early crushing incentive, by way or partial exemption from statutory levy, for the production in the period 1.10.97 to 15.11.97.
- (ii) Late crushing incentive, by way of partial exemption from statutory levy, for the production in the period 2.5.98 to 31.7.98.
- (iii) Providing low-interest short term loans from the sugar Development fund for purchase of inputs for improved cultivation of sugarcane.
- (iv) Providing low-interest loans from the Sugar Development Fund for projects relating to cane development and modernisation/expansion of existing sugar mills.
- (v) Graded exemption from statutory levy for setting up of new capacity for production of sugar.
- (vi) Providing of buffer subsidy from the Sugar Development Fund to sugar mills during period in which the stocks are abnormally high.

More Distilleries in U.P.

986. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister for CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more distilleries in view of the availability of mollasses in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the places where these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS. (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Militant Activities

987. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to curb militant activities along the Indo-Myanmar borders;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also discussed the matter at official level with that country in recent months;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to curb militant activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) Reports indicate that there are camps in Myanmar which are being used by North Eastern insurgent groups for safe havens, sanctuary and training purposes. In order to sort out the outstanding issues on the Indo-Myanmar border, a Memorandum of Understanding (MCU) on cooperation between civilian border authorities of India and Myanmar was signed on 21 January, 1994. At the recent Home Secretary level bilateral talks, both sides stressed on the continued need for taking actions against insurgents and other negative elements operating from their soil against the other. Both sides reiterated that they do not allow their territories to be used for the activities against each other. They Myanmar side has agreed to intensify the existing contacts and communication links at the local level to facilitate action against insurgents, arms traffickers and other negative elements.

Purulia Arms Drop Case

988. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Inter Pol Task Force has undertaken the case of Purulia Arms drop of December, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Inter Pol will allow Indian Investigators (CBI) to go to different countries including Taiwan for investigation of the case;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Inter Pol will provide all practical Assistance to the Indian Investigators; and

(f) if so, the extent to which the assistance is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Analytical Criminal Intelligence Unit of Interpol headquarters has instituted a study of the Purulia Arms Dropping Case Code named 'Project Purulia'. Task Force of the 'Project Purulia' are

rendering assistance in furnishing required information to CBI on accused persons and coordinating with other countries.

(c) and (d) According to law of a particular country, the competent authority of that country will decide whether assistance is to be rendered or not. Interpol cannot compel a country to render assistance. The requested country can permit visits of CBI officers for helping them in investigation. If required they can call the CBI officers from India for assisting them in the matter.

(e) and (f) The assistance to be rendered by Interpol to investigators is limited to the extent of passing on some information. Interpol's information only facilitates investigators of CBI by sending Letter Rogatory etc.

Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Treatment

989. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to popularise Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Treatment in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details of strategy proposed to be adopted for the purpose in each State during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement-I is attached.

(c) A working Group was set up by the Planning Commission to prepare proposals for the Development and Promotion of the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy for the 9th Five Year Plan period. The Working Group identified areas of intervention, such as standards of education, standardisation of drugs and quality control, enhancing the availability of raw materials, research and development, involvement in the National Health Care Delivery. The 5th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare held on 8th to 10th January, 1997 and the 1st Conference of the Ministers of Health dealing with Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy held on 18.2.1997 adopted certain resolutions around these thrust areas for implementation. The Department's Plan proposals for the 9th Five Year Plan have been prepared keeping in view these resolutions. A copy of the resolutions adopted is enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

Re : Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Treatment

(b) During the 8th Five Year Plan period Government set up an independent new Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy in March, 1995 for the development and promotion of these systems including Yoga and Naturopathy in the country. Some centrally sponsored schemes were implemented during the 8th Five Year Plan. They are as follows :-

1. Providing financial assistance for improving and strengthening of the undergraduate colleges of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy,
2. Financial assistance for upgradation of departments in Homoeopathy colleges for Post Graduate Training,
3. Financial assistance for upgrading the Departments in Post Graduate Training and research in Indian Systems of Medicine,
4. Central scheme for development and cultivation of medicinal plants was continued,
5. Financial assistance for reorientation training for teachers, practitioners, researchers to update their knowledge,
6. Strengthening the establishment of premier institutes in the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy, such as, the National Institute of Ayurveda, National Institute of Homoeopathy at Calcutta, national Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore, National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, Rashtriya Ayurved Vidyapeeth, Delhi, Institute of Post Graduate Training and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar,
7. Research in Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy was supported through various Central Councils for Research in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Homoeopathy, Yoga and Naturopathy, and
8. Continuation of Pharmacopoeia Committees of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy to develop Pharmacopoeial standards for drugs of the respective systems and standardisation of drugs/and testing of drugs through the Pharmacopoeial Laboratory of Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy Pharmacopoeial Laboratory at Ghaziabad.

Statement-II**Resolution adopted in Fifth Conference of Central Council of Health & Family Welfare****WORKING GROUP V****Indian Systems of Medicines and Homoeopathy**

The Vth Working Group of the Central Council for Health & Family Welfare Held on 8th to 10th January, 1996 concerning Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy under the Chairmanship of Shri Partha De, Minister of Health & Family Welfare, West Bengal and Co-Chairmanship of Dr. Harshwardhan, Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of NCT, Delhi made the following recommendations for adoption as resolutions for CCH&FW.

A. Issues Relating to Education and Training in Indian systems of Medicines & Homoeopathy

1. Minimum standards formulated by Central Council of Medicine and Central Council of Homoeopathy require rationalisation and thereafter strict enforcement in all the teaching institutions in the country.
2. To check the mushroom growth of sub-standard ISM & H Colleges, the CCIM and CCH Acts need to be amended. Guidelines, with penalties for non-compliance need to be issued for the period from the stage of an application for setting up a college to the stage of recognition and qualification. Project Report for new college should be approved by GOI in addition to the prior approval of the CCIM/CCH and the University concerned.
3. Admission tests/Entrance tests for Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy and Yoga Colleges should be conducted separately. This will help in selecting candidates with an interest on these systems. State Governments who are admitting students on the merit basis may continue the existing procedure.
4. Minimum qualifications for admission to Ayurveda/Unani/Siddha/Homoeopathy Colleges for the Graduate courses should be 10+2 with Science (Biology Group). Other provisions should be deleted. Provisions to teach Sanskrit for Ayurveda, Urdu or Persian or Hindi for Unani and Tamil for Siddha may be incorporated in the main course of 4.5 years.
5. Existing Graduate and Post Graduate Colleges of ISM & H may be strengthened by allocating more resources to meet the standards of CCIM and CCH.

6. Reorientation training programmes for in-service/semi-Govt. Teachers, Physicians and Private Practitioners should be organised in a big way by State and Central Govt. For Teachers it should be made essential to undergo reorientation training periodically.
7. State/Central Government should open separate degree level Colleges in Pharmacy and Nursing, Diploma in Pharmacy should also be started. Affiliation with Pharmacy Council of India and Nursing Council of India should also be sought otherwise some alternative arrangement should be made for registration.
8. National Institutes like National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, National Institute of Homoeopathy, Calcutta, Institute of Postgraduate Training and Research, Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar, Faculty of Ayurveda, Banaras Hindu University, Faculty of Unani, Aligarh Muslim University and Hamdard Faculty of Unani be strengthened as apex teaching institutions in the country. The National Institutes of Unani Medicines at Bangalore, National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, should be strengthened. National Institute of Siddha, Chennai and National Institute of Yoga, Delhi should be established in 9th Plan.
9. Teaching cadres for teachers of ISM & H be separated from the general cadre of the Physicians of ISM & H in the State Governments.
10. Pay scales/promotional avenues of teachers for ISM & H colleges should be on the UGC pattern to attract talented persons.

B. Research and Development in Indian Systems of Medicines & Homoeopathy

1. There is a need to restructure and reorganise the Central Research Councils i.e. CCRAS, CCRUM & CCRH by amalgamating the smaller units to form larger institutes at least one in each State with adequate staff and resources.
2. R&D is urgently required on national health and family welfare programmes by the Research Councils.
3. Universities, public and private sector research organisations need to be associated in R&D through extra-mural projects from Research Councils/Department of ISM & H.

4. Some of the areas of research may be :-
- a. Drug proving (including clinical verifications and Pharmacological basis of therapeutic uses).
 - b. Drugs standardisation/pharmacopoeial standards
 - c. Research relating to various National health programmes
 - d. Work on those diseases for which modern therapy have no cure
 - e. Preventive and curative role of ISM & H in various epidemics
 - f. Research work relating to promotive health and preventive and social medicines.
 - g. Literary research/translation and publication of rare books especially in ISM
 - h. Research work on folk/tribal community oriented medicinal plants etc.
 - i. Agronomy/Agro techniques of medicinal plants
 - j. Pharmacognosy/phyto-chemistry of medicinal plants
 - k. Research on maintenance of good physical and mental health carsonality development etc.

C. Issues Relating to standardisation of Drugs and Quality Control

1. There is need to evolve pharmacopoeial standards for ISM & H. Public Sector Research Institutions should be associated in this work on project basis. Efforts be made to complete this work within the 9th Plan period.
2. Pharmacopoeial Laboratory for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy Pharmacopoeial Laboratory at Ghaziabad should be strengthened by providing adequate funds.
3. State Governments should develop their own drug testing laboratories.
4. To maintain quality control of manufacturing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathic drugs, State Govts should appoint more Drug Inspectors having qualifications and training in these systems of medicines.

5. The Drug Control Cell in the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy should be strengthened.
6. Need to formulate a National Policy on ISM & H drugs.
7. The Departments may consider introducing a scheme on the pattern of "Agmark". "AYUSH" may be considered for this purpose. Only Those products which are manufactured in accordance with the standards laid down and prescribed in the official pharmacopoeias and formularies be granted permission to use "AYUSH". Existing staff for the Govt. of India, Deptt. of ISM and State Govt should be given power to make inspections for ensuring minimum standards of ISM & H Drugs.

D. Increasing Availability of raw materials of Plant, Mineral, Metal, Marine and Animal Origin Use in ISM & H Drugs by :

- a. Formulation of a National Policy on raw material used in ISM & H products.
- b. Development of agro-techniques of various plants used in ISM & H products.
- c. Increasing supply of marine and animal products, minerals and metals.
- d. Establishment of medicinal plants gardens in various agro-climatic zones.
- e. Establishment of "Vanaspati Vans" of bigger areas of a few hundred acres in denuded forests and other areas.
- f. Setting up of germ plasm banks of the medicinal plants use medicines.
- g. Publicity and propagation about the uses of medicinal plants and cultivation techniques to the common masses and farmers.

All State Government as well as Central Government Departments are requested to formulate schemes to implement the above programmes by allocation of more resources for the purposes.

E. Effective use of IS&H systems for 'Health for all and for better Health care through various promotional Programmes of ISM & H

The Indian concepts of health promotion like dincharaya (daily routine), rirucharaya (seasonal behaviour), dietary practices, yoga practices, concepts of

Sadvrita (good code of conduct), and the concepts of *Hifzane-Sehat* need to be propagated in the masses for health promotion and prevention of diseases.

All State Governments and Central Governments should utilise services of ISM & H practitioners for the propagation of these concepts by formulating proper schemes/programmes for the purpose.

F. National Programmes & Curative Medicine

- (i) With a view to utilising the wealth of knowledge of ISM & H and the six lakh practitioners of these systems, it is necessary to earmark an ISM & H. component in all National Health and F.W. Programmes. These funds be utilised for R&D and the execution of these programmes through ISM & H personnel.
- (ii) Though a net work of private and Government dispensaries exist in the rural and semi-urban areas of the country, there is a shortage of referral hospitals.

State/Central Government should established block level and district level referral hospitals for Indian System of Medicine & Homoeopathy. Similarly/referral hospitals at State and National level should also be established. This gap needs to be filled up in the successive five year plans, put the beginning in big way should be started from 9th plan itself.

NGOs/private sector having credibility in establishing the hospitals of Indian System of Medicine & Homoeopathy should also be supported to establish specialized hospitals in these Systems. State Government and Central Govt. should keep track while oranting financial assistance to the potential NGOs. This gap needs to be filled up in the successive five year plans starting from the 9th Plan. NGOs/Private Sector be associated in this task.

- (iii) There was concern expressed about the fact that Allopathic Doctors are reluctant to serve in rural PHCs. Consequently, the areas covered by the PHC concerned is bereft of health services. It was proposed, as an experimental measure that ISM & H doctors be posted in such PHCs alongwith paramedical staff and adequate resources for procurement of medicines. If successful, it could be adopted as a standard practice.
- (iv) Presently there are 242 Allopathic and 74 CGHS Dispensaries/Units of ISM & H. There is

a need to open ISM & H component in the remaining 168 CGHS Dispensaries. A separate budget provision should be earmarked for ISM & H component in CGHS.

- (v) ISM & H dispensaries should be opened in Railways/P&T Departments. Similarly, specialised clinic should be opened in Army/Air Force Hospitals.

G. Intellectual Property Right (IPR) Cell of ISM & M

- (i) Some plant products like Haldi powder, Derivatives of Neem and Brahmi are being patented in United State. The work of supplying for patents is highly technical. Scientists working in the field of ISM & H are not conversant with procedures. Therefore, a "Patent cell" be established in the Department which could take care of the country's heritage in this regard.
- (ii) Interest has been evinced by various foreign countries regarding education, drugs material and techniques of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Yoga, Homoeopathy and Naturopathy etc. There is a need to prompts international exchanges programmes, increase the export of ISM & H drugs & other materials.

H. Funds for Development of ISM&M

- (i) Need for ensuring adequate flow of funds for the ISM & H sector by the Central Government and by the State Governments. The Planning Commission should also allocate adequate resources for meeting the above social commitments.

I. Involvement of NGs & The Private Sector

In view of financial involvement and to increase the flow of funds and utilise expertise available in NGOs/Private Sector, their association in all the programmes of the Department of ISM & H shall be encouraged, particularly in the fields of R&D, extension services in preventive and promotive health in the field of curative medicine by encouraging this sector to set up private hospitals, teaching institutions, cultivations of medicinal plants etc. in accordance with the presented rules/regulations.

J. Publicity for Indian system of Medicine & Homoeopathy

1. The Council stresses the need for making use of mass media for increasing public awareness about the treatment etc. available under Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy and resolves that Central Government as well as

State Governments shall have separate budget provision for publicity of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy and steps shall be taken to :

Prepare short films, documentaries, slogans and spots on various treatments available under Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy for televising over Doordarshan.

Prepare films on Yoga as a system to develop the individual which would be separately distributed to various primary health centres, schools etc.

2. Various Research Councils under the Central Government shall prepare pamphlets, booklets.... and documentaries to highlight the research work done by them in their respective fields.
3. Special efforts shall be made to popularise the good dietary habits and in the ante-natal and post-natal periods and safe and simple methods or protect new-born children from various ailments.
4. Seminars, Workshops and Health Melas especially in rural areas, shall be organised.
5. Publish success stories of Indian System of Medicine & Homoeopathy.
6. Pamphlets be prepared in local languages for local distribution.

K. Yoga & Naturopathy

Keeping in view the global recognition of the science of yoga and drugless therapy of naturopathy, the Central Council of Health & Family Welfare recommends that the Department of ISM & H should examine the feasibility of amending the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 so as to bring the practice of yoga and naturopathy under the purview of this Act.

1970 so as to bring the practice of yoga and naturopathy under the purview of this Act.

L. Separate Budget and Organisational Set up of ISM & H.

All the State Government/UTs should allocate separate budget for the development of ISM & H. In those State where there is no separate Department of ISM & H, should establish the Directorates of ISM & H and fill up the necessary posts with technical personal.

Chairman
Working Group on
ISM & H

CO-Chairman
Working Group on
ISM & H

Resolutions Adopted in the Conference of State Health Ministers of ISM & M

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN ISM & H

(Working Group I)

Recommendations on Action Plan to implement the CCH & FW Resolutions dated 8-10 January, 1997, relating Education in Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

A. Resolutions of Action Plan relating Education and Training in Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

1. Relating Minimum Standards of Education

- (i) Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) & Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH) should organise required meetings, workshops of various sub-committees of the Councils in order to rationalise minimum standards for UG and PG education which could be implemented throughout the country. CCIM and CCH should complete this activity within a period of three months.
 - (ii) CCIM and CCH should draw guidelines/plan of Action for enforcing these minimum standards in a phased manner of newer and older colleges. This should include the infrastructure required for completion while admitting the students for first professional, second professional and third professional so that at the end of final year, the minimum standards are achieved in a college.
 - (iii) After getting the recommendations from the CCIM and CCH regarding standards, the Government of India will notify within a period of 2 months.
 - (iv) State Governments will draw up phased Plan of Action to achieve the minimum standards in all government/non-government Colleges within the period of 9th Plan. The phased manner development will be equally applicable to Government/Semi-Governments or private Bodies which will be submitting the progress Report of the development of standard every year to the State Governments, CCIM/CCH & Government of India.
- #### 2. Mushroom growth of sub-standard of ISM & H Colleges.
- (i) CCIM and CCH will submit a draft amendment in their Act to check the sub-standard mushroom growth of colleges on the pattern of MCI. These amendments should include heavy penalties for non-compliance to persons & institutions.

- (ii) To open a new college or to extend permission to admit students in the existing colleges, for prior permission of state Government, concerned universities and CCIM/CCH should be made essential. provision to withdraw the permission to admit students in ISM & H college should also be incorporated in the amendments of CCIM and CCH Acts.
- (iii) Government of India will notify the amendment within a month after getting it from the CCIM/CCH.
- (iv) Government of India, State Governments, Universities, Boards, CCIM/CCH, all should work in coordination and ensure that only those new colleges are allowed to run which fulfil the requirement of minimum standards.
- (v) Proper Guidelines should be formed for opening new colleges clarifying the requirements while admitting students in 1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year and 4th year. The second batch of students should not be allowed till the requirement of earlier year is completed. CCIM/CCH should formulate the guidelines within three-months. Till the new guidelines are notified by Government of India, no new college should be allowed to admit students.
- 3. Separate admission test for Ayurveda, Unani Siddha & Homoeopathy Colleges.**
- (i) Admission test/Entrance Test for Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy, Yoga and Naturopathy colleges should be conducted separately. This will help in selecting candidates with an interest in the systems. State Governments who are admitting students on merit-basis may continue the existing procedure. Both these alternatives should be implemented for admission in ISM & H colleges from the coming academic year.
- (ii) To provide opportunities for post-graduate studies for the candidates throughout the country, a Joint Entrance Test for admitting students in National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, Faculty of Ayurveda, BHU, IPGTR at GAU Jamnagar, should be conducted from the coming academic year.
- 4. Allocation of more resources for UG and PG colleges.**
- (i) State Governments should allocate separate resources for UG and PG colleges of ISM & H in their respective States.
- (ii) The UG and PG institutions should generate their resources by evolving a suitable fee structure, hospital charges by improving the facilities to the patients, procuring research projects on different issues. This will improve the infrastructure as well as standard of teaching and training in the institution.
- (iii) Central Government should formulate a proper scheme to support certain UG and PG institutions which could be brought to a certain level of standards decided by CCIM/CCH. Provisions for PG trainees from the states where there is no PG College of ISM & H should also be made in the PG Scheme.
- 5. Reorientation training to Teachers, Physicians and Private Practitioners, Researchers and para-medical persons.**
- (i) Reorientation training programmes for in-service/ Govt. semi-Governments teachers, Research Physicians and private practitioners should be organised in a big way by state and Central Government. For teacher it should be made essential to undergo reorientation training periodically.
- (ii) State Governments should also allocate some funds for these training programmes.
- (iii) State Government/Societies, running teaching institutions should grant leaves/TA, etc. for their staff while undergoing the training. Permissions/leave etc. should be granted without much delay.
- (iv) The good teaching institutions having required infrastructure and teaching faculty should be identified where regular training programmes could be imparted. Some selective good institutions for training should formulate the modules of training and explicit course contents, guidelines for the training programmes. The Schedule of training period etc. should be circulated well-in-time to all the teaching institutions. Directors of ISM & H and professional associations to get the suitable candidates for this purpose.
- (v) Department of ISM & H should also approach the Department of Family Welfare and other funding agencies to get funds for imparting training in mother and Child Health and Family Welfare Programmes for ISM & H doctors.
- (vi) Directors, Deputy Directors, Managers, Hospital Superintendents and Principals of ISM & H

colleges should be given management training of suitable duration to improve their managerial skills. The State Governments will spare their Officers with TA/DA and the Government of India will incorporate this scheme in the re-orientation training programme decided by the Department of ISM & H.

- (vii) CCIM/CCH should make it mandatory that every teacher below the rank of Reader must reorient himself/herself once in 5 years. This should be recorded as a plus point in their Confidential Records.

6. Opening of Pharmacy and Nursing Colleges of ISM & H.

- (i) State Government/Central Government should open separate degree level colleges of pharmacy and Nursing, Diploma in Pharmacy, etc., affiliation with Pharmacy Council of India in Nursing Council of India should also be sought, otherwise some alternative arrangement should be made.
- (ii) Department of ISM, GOI has started some action in this regard to formulate the syllabi and course contents for these courses.

7. Development of National Institutes of ISM & H.

National Institutes like National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, National Institute of Homoeopathy, Calcutta, Institutes of Postgraduate Training and Research, Gujarat Ayurveda University, Jamnagar, Faculty of Ayurveda, Banaras Hindu University, Faculty of Unani, Aligarh Muslim University and Hamdard Faculty of Unani be strengthened as spex teaching institutions in the country. The National institute of Unani Medicines at Bangalore, National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, should be strengthened. National Institutes of Siddha, Chennai and National Institute of Yoga, Delhi Should be established in 9th Plan.

8. Teachers of ISM & H Colleges

Teaching cadres for teachers of ISM & H be separated from the general cadre of the Physicians of ISM & H in the state Governments.

All State Governments/Colleges running bodies should formulate a separate teaching cadre for teachers with requisite qualifications. The post-graduate qualification in the concerned subject/allied subjects should only be allowed as teacher which will have long-term effect to improve the standard of teaching.

9. Pay-scales/promotional avenues of teachers for ISM & H

Pay-scales/promotional avenues of teachers for ISM & H colleges should be on the UGC pattern to attract talented persons.

State Governments/Private bodies running the UG and PG colleges should revise the pay-scales and promotion avenues of the teachers on the pattern of UGC. Teaching should be non-practicing (with NPA).

10. Arrangements of Seats for those colleges and UTs where there are no teaching institutions of ISM & H.

- (i) There are States like - Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh etc. and UTs like - Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Daman & Diu, etc. where there is no provision of ISM & H Institutions. North-East States as well as J&K have strong beliefs in Indian medicines and traditional folk medicines. Therefore, these State Governments should allocated some funds and make arrangements to sponsor the students for undergoing various training courses in other states where the facility is available.
- (ii) State Governments should earmark seats in their better colleges for those State where there is no ISM & H colleges.

11. Inclusion of the Fundamental concepts of Ayurved, Unani Siddha, Yoga and Naturopathy components in various graduate level courses of each other systems/therapies.

There are number of similarities in the Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha systems of Medicines, and therapies of Yoga and Naturopathy. There is need to incorporate the fundamentals of these systems in the degree courses contents of other Indian Systems of Medicines. After having the knowledge about these Indian Systems of Medicines, there is a scope that a practitioner of Ayurveda may prescribe or adopt some of the popular and potential therapies of Unani, Siddha, Yoga & Naturopathy also and *vice-versa*. CCIM may consider this issue while deciding the course contents.

WORKING GROUP II

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN ISM & H

1. Resolved that there is need to consolidate and strengthen the Central Research Councils i.e. CCRAS, CCRUM & CCRH, Keeping in view the availability and

the requirement of the individual projects, adequate staff and resources, that this may be implemented before 31.12.1997.

2. Resolved that the Central Research Councils may take up research studies on National Health and Family Welfare Programmes urgently.
3. Resolved that Universities, Public and Private Research organisations at National and International level who have requisite infrastructural facilities, be associated in R & D through time bound extra-mural projects from Research Councils/Departments of ISM & H.
4. Resolved that research may be carried out in the following important areas :
 - a. Drug proving (Including clinical verifications and Pharmacological basis of therapeutic uses).
 - b. Drugs safety, standardisation/pharmacopoeial standards.
 - c. Research relating to various National Health Programmes.
 - d. Work on those diseases for which modern therapy have no cure.
 - e. Preventive and curative role of ISM & H in various epidemics.
 - f. Research work relating to promotive health and preventive and social medicines.
 - g. Literary research/transition and publication of rare books especially in ISM.
 - h. Research work on folk/tribal community oriented medicinal plants as well as non medicinal plants as of today.
 - i. Agronomy/Agro techniques of medicinal plants etc.
 - j. Pharmacognosy/phytochemistry of medicinal plants.
 - k. Research on maintenance of good physical and mental health/personality development.
5. Resolved that in order to carry out the research on scientific lines and to have uniformity, the research guidelines of WHO for evaluating the safety and efficacy of herbal medicines may be followed.
6. There should be a directory of Institutes engaged in research in Government, non-Government and private sectors with their specialities, field of interest and

achievements to developed a harmony among these Institutes.

7. There should be annual research awards for outstanding contribution in all the fields of ISM & H.

WORKING GROUP III

DRUG STANDARDIZATION AND AVAILABILITY OF RAW MATERIAL

A. Recommendation of Drug Standardization and availability of Raw Material

1. Resolution of CCH

There is need to evolve pharmacopoeial standards for ISM & H. Public sector research institutions should be associated in this work on project basis. Efforts be made to complete this work within the 9th Plan period.

RECOMMENDATIONS :

Resolved that the Group II] is of opinion that there is need to evolve pharmacopoeial standards for ISM & H - single and compound drugs in addition to strengthening the existing PLIM and Homoeopathic pharmacopoeial Laboratory. Government should take the assistance of other Government research organisations/laboratories in private and public sector as also the appropriate University Departments and Departments in the affiliated Institutions (colleges) involving the Postgraduate guides and P.G. students for working standards for the drugs. Further, the ISM & H Pharmacopoeia Committees should process the data so produced taking assistance of PLIM and HPL. Having taken this decision, the necessary amendments be made in the Drugs & Cosmetics Act accordingly.

I. Pharmacopoeial Work :

ACTIONS

- (i) Deptt. of ISM & H, Ministry of Health & F.W. for Identification of scientific Institutions.
- (ii) Survey units of CCRAS, CCRUM, CCRH for supply of authentic raw drug samples.
- (iii) IMPCL, Mohan (U.P.) for supply of standard compound formulations of ISM.

2. Resolution of CCH

Pharmacopoeial, Laboratory for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy Pharmacopoeial Laboratory, Ghaziabad should be strengthened by providing adequate funds.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Group recommends that the PLIM and HPL at Ghaziabad be adequately strengthened by providing

infrastructure consisting of buildings, equipment and adequate additional staff besides the filling up of present vacancies.

Action : Deptt. of ISM & H, Ministry of Health & F.W.

3. Resolution of CCH :

'State Govt. should develop their own drug testing laboratories.

RECOMMENDATION

The Group recommends that the State Governments should take steps to develop their own separate ISM & H Regional Drug Testing Laboratories providing adequate funds and technical staff.

Development of state drugs testing laboratories.

All the State Govt. Should develop their own testing laboratories for ISM & H drugs on the pattern of existing PLIM and HPL.

Action : State Govt.

4. Resolution of CCH

To maintain quality control of ISM & H drugs, State Govts, should appoint more Drug inspectors having qualifications and training in these systems of medicines.

RECOMMENDATION

The Group recommends that the steps should be taken in all major States to establish separate Drug Control Department having a Drug Controller, Deputy Drug Controller and other necessary administrative staff and headquarters having atleast one Drug Inspector with proper background of the system and who will work under the Asstt. Drug Controller appointed on Zonal basis. In smaller States Deputy and Asstt Drug Controllers an requisite number of Drug Inspectors may be appointed and attached with the existing Drug Controllers in the States.

- (3) Protocol for Research & Development work.
- (4) Rational Policy in consumer interest.
- (5) Source of availability of raw material i.e. herbs, minerals, metals, marine and animal products.
- (6) Import & Export of raw drugs.
- (7) New inventions/New ISM & H drugs, provisions to include new drugs under ISM & H.
- (8) Intellectual property right/patent.

Action : Deptt, Of ISM & H, Ministry of Health F.W.

7. Resolution of CCH

'The Departments may consider introducing a scheme on the pattern of Agmark. 'Ayush' may be considered for this purpose. Only those products which are manufactured in accordance with the standards laid down and prescribed in the official pharmacopoeias and formularies be granted permission to Use "Ayush". Existing staff for the Govt. Of India, Deptt. Of ISM & H and State Govt. should be given power to make inspections for ensuring minimum standards of ISM & H.

RECOMMENDATION

The Group recommends that with a view to display the source of standard of a drug marketed, the name of authentic source of the standard of the drug. the name of the Pharmacopoeia/Formulary in abbreviation ought to be mentioned after the name of the drug/formulation as :-

Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia	= A.P.
Ayurvedic Formulary of India	= A.F.I.
Siddha Pharmacopoeia	= S.P.
Siddha Formulary of India	= S.F.I.
Unani Pharmacopoeia	= U.P.
Unani Formulary of India	= U.F.I.
Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia	= H.P.I.
Homoeopathic Formulary of India	= H.F.I.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHT/PATENT CELL OF ISM & H.

Resolution of CCH

Some plant products like Haldi powder, derivatives of Neem and Brahmi are being patented in United States. The work of applying for patents is highly technical. Scientists working in the field of ISM & H are not conversant with the procedures. Therefore, a "patent cell" be established in the Department which could take care of the country's heritage in this regard.

RECOMMENDATION

The Group recommends to the Government to establish a PATENT CELL under the Department of ISM & H within a period of three months which should be entrusted with the work of establishing the heritage of several of the ISM drugs. In the meantime the Government should take immediate steps without any further loss of time and challenge the originality of the therapeutic properties of the drugs invogue in India for thousands of years and now being exploited by the patenting countries.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES FOR IN-
CREASING AVAILABILITY OF RAW MATERIAL
USED IN ISM & H**

- (1) The Conference resolves to recommend that the Central Government/State Governments shall take immediate steps for :
 - (i) Listing of Medicinal Plants/animals & other substances used in ISM & H and their distribution mapping;
 - (ii) Survey and collection of medicinal substances, five and dry, their Germ Plasm, Folklore;
 - (iii) In-situ conservation through protection from exploitation, through cultivation, propagation and introduction in natural habitats.
 - (iv) Ex-situ conservation through preservation of Germ plasm & propagation in other viable agroclimatic areas;
 - (v) Introduction of exotic genera & species for medicinal purposes;
 - (vi) Creation of conservation Reserves and cultivation Centres in collaboration with Forest Department/Universities/Scientific organisations;
 - (vii) Cooperative farming, Making suitable cheap and fertile waste land available for the purpose, in suitable agroclimatic zones by state Govts.
 - (viii) Creation of National data base and a Germ plasm centre of ISM & H drug substances;
 - (ix) In service training for personnel engaged in programme for implementation of National Policy on Medicinal substances;
 - (x) Creation of a Central Arboreum;
 - (xi) Monitoring, evaluation & Implementation of the Policy.
2. The Conference resolves to recommend that the Central Govt. as well as the State Govts. Shall take immediate steps to evolve proper agrotechniques for propagation of medicinal plants and Tissue culture techniques for mass propagation. State Govts. will help in making available fertile land/waste land for cultivation purposes for cooperative farming and cultivation centre and scientific organisations for the purpose.
3. The Conference resolves to recommend that the Central Govt./State Govts. shall take immediate steps

for rearing of animals used for preparation of drugs used in ISM & H.

4. The conference resolves to recommend that the Central Govt. as well as the State Govts. shall take immediate steps for setting up of Medicinal Plants Gardens as well as Vanaspati Vans.
5. Realistic date on availability of medic^l plant and their quantity be made available and^d with in 3 months .
6. Herbal cultivation be started urgently.
7. Help of NGOs and private agencies be also sought.

WORKING GROUP IV

**INFORMATION, EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION,
BUDGETING AND ORGANISATION OF ISM & H**

Working Group of Information, Education & Communication, Budgeting and Organisation of ISM & H under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Kamla Verma Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Haryana and under the Co-Chairmanship of Dr. Chaltonken Armo, Minister of State for Health, Manipur made the following recommendations for adoption as Resolutions.

1. The Conference of Ministers of ISM & H resolves to recommend to the Central Govt. to have a separate Advisor for ISM & H in the Planning Commission.
2. The Conference of Ministers expressed its concern about the meager funds made available by Planning Commission to the Deptt. ISM & H for the year 1997-98. The Conference therefore resolves to recommend to the Planning Commission to make additional resources available to the Deptt. of ISM & H at the Revised Estimates stage for the year 97-98 and for the remaining period of 9th Plan and that additional resources shall also be made available by the Planning Commission to the State Govts. as well during the 9th Plan.
3. The Conference resolves that the State Govts. out of their total budget allocation for the Health Sector, shall separately earmark budget for the development of ISM & H Homeopathy.
4. The conference resolves that the Central Govt. as well as the State Govts. shall set aside adequate funds for IEC of the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.
5. The Conference resolves to recommend that the Central Govt. in the Deptt. of ISM & H as well as State Govts. shall set up separate cells for providing information, education and communication (IEC) for

preparing material organising workshops/seminars on ISM & H during the year 1997-98.

6. The Conference resolves to recommend that the Deptt. of ISM & H Homoeopathy in the Central Govt. shall take up the matter with Min. of Information & Broadcasting/DC, Doordarshan for free air time, at least for 15 minutes, twice a week, on National Network for telecasting short films, documentaries, docu-dramas spots for IEC purposes pertaining to ISM & Homoeopathy.
7. The Conference resolves to recommend that the State Govts. shall promote and propagate ISM & Homoeopathy in close coordination with the Ministries/ Deptts. of Forests, Tourism and Agriculture.
8. The conference resolves to recommend that the various Research Councils of ISM & Homoeopathy as well as CCIM and CCH under the Central Govt. shall prepare informative pamphlets, booklets on their respective systems for distribution to various States and immediate effect.
9. The Conference resolves to recommend that each of the Research Councils of ISM & Homoeopathy under the Centre Govt. shall also prepare two films/ documentaries in the next financial year highlighting the success stories of their respective systems to be distributed to State Govts. for using as publicity material.
10. The Conference resolves to recommend that the Central Govt. in the Deptt. of ISM & H shall immediately take up the matter with the concerned authorities for making the teaching of Yoga, Naturopathy as well as other Indian Health Traditions compulsory in all Schools.
11. The Conference resolves to recommend that the Central Govt. shall prepare a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for IEC for Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy.
12. The Conference resolves to recommend that the State Govts. shall hold at least 2 Health Melas in a year especially in rural areas highlighting the strengths of ISM & H.
13. The Conference resolves to recommend that the State Govts. shall prepare in the local language pamphlets etc. for free distribution.
14. The Conference resolves to recommend that in those States where separate Directorate of ISM & H has not been set up action shall be taken up to set up the same at the earliest and that as per the acceptability

of a particular system in the respective State each State shall have separate Director for such a system.

WORKING V

INVOLVEMENT OF ISM & H PRACTITIONERS IN NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES

Recommendations on Involvement of ISM & M Practitioners in National Health Programmes

The working Group unanimously makes the following Resolutions :

1. There are about six lakhs Practitioners of ISM & H at grass root level mostly in rural areas where they command respect among the population. A majority of them are institutionally qualified and trained and they have some modern knowledge of the diseases, their prevention, etc. Their services can be utilised in executing various National health Programme by giving them a short term training and by making them acquainted with the National Health Programmes.

For various activities under Family Welfare Programme, a six day package course is being made available in various District Training Units, Similarly, for Malaria, Filariasis, Kala Azar, Encephalitis, Cataract, TB, Dengue, Yellow Fever, etc, a short term training course for a week is available at District Malaria Offices.

By providing a combined package of these two programmes, the ISM & H Practitioners can be trained in educating the public about these diseases, their prevention and diagnosis by clinical examination and by blood smear examination etc. wherever necessary. Doubtful and positive cases may be referred to proper referral Centres. They can also supervise the spray squads for controlling vector in identified areas. They can also be trained in IUCD insertion and in the use of other contraceptive devices. They can well be utilised in various Immunisation programmes.

Wherever necessary, if separate trainings are felt required for such, programmes for ISM & H doctors, the services and District Hospitals, HICD, New Delhi, NIN Hyderabad, AIH, Calcutta, NIHFW, New Delhi etc. can also be utilised.

It is also recommended that Government of India may consider use of :

- a. Ayush 64/HE4 as presumptive treatment in NMEP.
- b. Cineraria in preventions of Cataract.
- c. Use of scientifically evaluated medicines found effective in Siddha, Homeopathy and Ayurveda in AIDS Control Programme.

- d. In case the effective drugs for prevention and treatment of diseases and measures for promoting Health, are not available under ISM & H, the standard drug regimens under the national programmes be allowed to be used by the practitioners of ISM & H. If there are legal hurdles, the legislation be suitably amended.

PM's Tour to North-East

990. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Prime Minister offered to hold talks with North East Insurgents not only within the parameters of the Constitution of India, but also to accommodate their demands by way of bringing amendments in the Constitution during his North-East tour in April this year; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) The Prime Minister had, during his visit to Assam in April, extended an invitation to insurgent groups to come forward and hold talks to bring about peace in the region. The Prime Minister in his Press Statement at Guwahati on 15th April, 1998 had stated : "To all those who have strayed from the paths of togetherness, whether in Assam or other States of the North-East, I extend an invitation. come forward; let us discuss, my Government is committed to holding talks, to a restoration of peace; let us do so within the four corners of our Constitution". The Prime Minister also stated that if necessary the Constitution could also be amended to find the solution to the problem.

Decline in Sugar Productions

991. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a sharp dip in the world sugar prices and competition from importers could hit sugar output in future;

(b) whether the Indian traders were taking advantage of a crash in world sugar prices and importing sugar in a large quantity;

(c) if so, whether this could have long term implication on production;

(d) if the whether in view of this, the Government have decided not to allow sugar imports; and

(e) the total sugar imported so far and the steps the Government propose to take that import of sugar does not affect sugar production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (e) World sugar prices have shown a declining trend in the last three months.

In order to monitor the import of sugar, with effect from September, 1997 Government has introduced a system of compulsory registration of import contracts with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority a organisation under the Ministry of Commerce. The monthly figures of registration of contracts gives an indication of the likely imports in future. In the period 1.4.97. to 28.2.98. a quantity of 2.71 lakh tonnes of sugar has been imported into the country.

In order to protect domestic sugar producers from any possible threat as a result of the declining international sugar prices, with effect from 28.4.98. Government has imposed a basic customs duty of 5% and a countervailing duty of Rs. 850 per tonne of imported sugar.

Against a monthly consumption of approximately 12 lakh tonnes of sugar in the country, the imported sugar has supplemented the domestic availability.

Visits by Union Ministers Abroad

992. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Union Ministers visited abroad from August to November 1997;

(b) the purpose of each visit and its duration;

(c) the number of persons accompanied them and the expenditure incurred on each visit; and

(d) the details of achievements from these visits?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Grant to Ailmco

993. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production and sale of Ailmco has been affected due to stopping of grant of Ailmco under the 'Adip' scheme;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether an assurance was given to resume the grant by the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which an assurance is likely to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Under the scheme of assistance to disabled persons for purchase/fitting of aids/appliances (ADIP) needy disabled persons are assisted in procuring durable sophisticated and scientifically manufactured modern 'Standard' aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation. The scheme is implemented through centres run by companies registered under the Companies Act, Registered Societies, Trusts or any other institution recognised by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. ALIMCO has also been receiving assistance under the ADIP Scheme.

(c) to (e) During 1997-98 a sum of Rs. 110 lacks was released to ALIMCO under ADIP Scheme.

Loans to Backward Classes

994. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the beneficiaries getting loan from the Backward Class Finance Commission during the last three years State-wise; and

(b) the details of amount granted for the welfare of backward class during Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) None, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

[English]

Assistance from W.H.O.

995. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state that the amount of assistance received from W.H.O. for various health programmes during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : W.H.O. Assistance for various health

programmes is provided on Biennium basis i.e. once in two years. Such assistance is received in the form of Country Budget and Extra Country Budgetary Support.

Details of such assistance allocated by W.H.O. during the last 2 Biennium are given below :-

	Biennium 1994-95	Biennium 1996-97
	(Calendar Years)	
1. Regular Country Budget	US \$ 14,785,300	US \$ 12,776,000
2. Extra Country Budget	US \$ 12,237,929	US \$ 12,795,800
3. Total	US \$ 27,023,229	US \$ 25,571,800

[Translation]

Muslims in Government Services

996. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of Muslims in Government services was 39 percent before independence and it has come down to two percent only;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether socially and educationally backward classes of Muslims are adequately represented in the Government services; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to ensure adequate representation of this backward classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The policy of the Govt. in regard to recruitment of minorities in Central Govt. Services, in general, strictly conforms to the provisions of the Constitution. The recruitment rules are framed in such a way that recruitment and selection is based on merit providing equality of opportunity so that no discrimination is made against any section of the population. Since recruitments are not made on the basis of community or religion, no data relating to recruitment religion-wise is maintained.

(c) and (d) Reservation of 27 per cent of posts under the Central Government is available for people belonging to Other Backward Classes.

[English]

Casual Approach of Delhi Police

997. SHRI V.V.RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Police has been criticised by a Delhi Court for their casual approach in handling heinous offences which had enabled the real culprits to go scotfree; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) There have been some instances where the courts commented adversely upon the manner in which investigations were conducted by the Police officials. In all such cases, Delhi Police take appropriate action against the erring Police officials, if any.

Setting Up of National Labour Commission

998. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Trade Union Organisations and employer's organisations have demanded the setting up of a new National Labour Commission;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken to set up the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Labour Laws have been enacted over a period of time to address a number of issues which assume importance and attracted pointed attention at a particular point of time. While many of these issues are of continued nature, some of these might have ceased to be of importance, hence the need for review of labour policies, programmes and laws flowing from them. This question has also been discussed in the Tripartite Meeting of the Standing Labour Committee and Indian Labour Conference and the Govt. has agreed, in principle, to have these reviewed by setting up a high powered body so as to ensure consistency of labour laws with the general changes taking place in the economy as also to provide for greater welfare of the working class.

Gas Based Thermal Power Project

999. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Rajasthan State Electricity Board installed 3 MW Gas based Thermal Power Project at Ramgarh for utilization of Gas reserves formed in Jaisalmer under phase-I at a cost of Rs. 19 crore;

(b) . if so, whether Gas based Thermal Power Plant in now under closure;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save this Power Project from closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) RSEB has installed a 3 MW gas based Thermal Power Station at Ramgarh under phase-I at a cost of Rs. 12.71 crore.

(b) and (c) The Plant is under closure as it is difficult to use the gas with high carbon content in the gas turbine.

(d) ONGC and GAIL have been advised to examine this issue in consultation with RSEB.

[Translation]

Misbehaviour with Women by Police

1000.DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any case of misbehavior with women by Delhi Polices have come to the notice of the Government during 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some women security personnel working in other institutions are also among the affected women; and

(d) if so, the action taken against the police officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) Delhi Police have reported that two cases of misbehavior with women by their personnel came to their notice during 1998 (upto 15.5.98). In one case, a Constable allegedly tried to molest a lady in Kalkaji area and in the other, a Constable misbehaved with a lady in Anupam Cinema. Criminal cases have been registered in both these cases. However, according to Delhi Police, no instance of misbehavior with a female security personal working in other institutions came to their notice during the relevant period.

**Allocation of Essential Commodities
to States**

1001. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
 SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
 SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI :
 SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADODA MANDLIK :
 SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
 SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
 SHRI SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
 SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
 SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE :
 SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
 SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of Wheat, Rice, Sugar, Edible Oils and Kerosene supplied to each State/Union territory against their demands during each of the last three years till date, item-wise;

(b) whether requests for enhancing the quota of the said items have been received from the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the comparative enhancement made in these items with the previous year, State-wise;

(e) whether the monthly quota of the said items in case of States has been reduced during 1997;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the quantity of Wheat and Rice released to the States/Union Territories under Targeted Public Distribution System during 1997-98, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d) The Statewise quantum of allocation and lifting of Wheat, Rice, Sugar, Edible Oil and Kerosene during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are shown in the enclosed Statements I, II and III. A Statement IV indicating the requests received from States/UTs for additional allocation of foodgrains is enclosed.

The Monthly quota of Wheat and Rice of such State/UT since June, 97 has been fixed under TPDS so as to provide 10 Kg. of foodgrains per household per month to below poverty line (BPL) families. The above Poverty Line (APL) quota to States/UTs is the difference between the

last 10 years average lifting of foodgrains and the BPL quota. However, considering the demands received from various States/UTs for additional allocation, additional allocations of foodgrains were made at economic cost from June, 97 to November, 97 and at above Poverty Line rates from December, 97 onwards: A Statement-V showing the additional allocations of Wheat and Rice made to various States for June'97 onwards is enclosed.

The allocation of levy Sugar is made on the basis of uniform norm of 425 gms. per capita as per 1991 population and not on the basis of demand of States/UTs. The Quantity of Sugar accruing to the Central Government in the levy account, under the current levy sugar formula, is short of the requirements for the PDS. In these circumstances, it has not been found possible to enhance the allocation of Sugar under the PDS for State Government/UTs by linking it to a more recent population figure.

Allocation of Kerosene is made on the basis of past demand, off-take trend and relative need. An attempt is being made to bring those states where the per capita availability of Kerosene is less than the national average to the national average level. Requests are received from the State Governments for additional allocation of kerosene from time to time. 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.

Presently edible oil is allocated to States/UTs for the restricted period of festival months of August-November every year. Demand from the State/UTs for allocation during these months for the year 1998-99 is given in the enclosed Statement-VI.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The monthly quota of sugar, kerosene, edible oil has not been reduced. However, in case of foodgrains the monthly quota of wheat and rice of each State/UT since June, 97 has been fixed under TPDS so as to provide 10 kg. of foodgrains per household per month to below poverty line (BPL) families. The above poverty line quota to States/UTs is the difference between the last 10 years average lifting of foodgrains and the BPL quota. As average lifting of foodgrains in many States/UTs was less than the allocation, it resulted in some decrease in their monthly quotas of foodgrains under TPDS in June, 97 as compared to previous year's allocation.

(g) Two statements-VII and VIII showing the quotas of Rice and Wheat allotted to various States/UTs under TPDS during June'97 to March'98 are enclosed.

Statement-I

(Figures in 000 Tonnes)

States/UTs	Wheat		Rice		Sugar		Ed. Oils		Kerosene	
	Alloc.	Lift.	Alloc.	Lift.	Alloc.	Lift.	Alloc.	Lift.	Alloc.	Lift.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh	192.00	102.70	2620.00	2159.31	321.37		66.60	39.79	615.48	613.41
Arunachal Pradesh	7.20	5.20	102.70	90.60	4.14		—	—	9.60	9.54
Assam	360.00	351.90	568.00	436.30	120.34		1.20	0.68	254.28	257.15
Bihar	705.60	227.20	301.60	23.50	426.81		0.20	—	606.96	606.48
Goa	42.40	21.40	78.00	44.80	6.30		4.00	3.13	27.36	27.95
Gujarat	835.50	424.90	409.00	208.60	206.15		49.00	46.08	808.28	810.44
Haryana	209.48	62.50	53.56	8.40	81.54		0.20	0.26	156.48	157.42
Himachal Pradesh	144.00	98.20	131.00	45.20	24.73		1.50	1.18	42.24	42.68
Jammu & Kashmir	360.00	116.00	528.00	249.20	35.20		0.70	0.39	86.05	90.28
Karnataka	360.00	219.50	1443.12	942.90	225.59		11.00	6.63	476.91	486.40
Kerala	585.00	557.30	1800.00	1170.50	148.40		—	0.20	283.77	290.55
Madhya Pradesh	583.92	136.70	580.16	204.20	321.77		2.50	—	476.75	483.86
Maharashtra	1100.00	610.60	858.00	359.50	383.87		30.00	15.14	1527.60	1521.22
Manipur	32.40	31.80	120.00	33.00	9.37		0.90	0.30	21.24	22.17
Meghalaya	28.00	27.70	172.00	164.20	8.64		0.20	0.01	16.08	16.10
Mizoram	24.00	23.40	94.00	93.63	3.69		1.30	0.40	6.36	6.41
Nagaland	18.00	20.00	72.50	70.80	5.86		4.10	2.99	10.68	11.56
Orissa	420.00	238.60	790.00	365.80	157.69		12.00	3.50	211.44	211.32
Punjab	155.00	7.60	16.65	1.80	100.98		—	—	328.92	329.87
Rajasthan	1453.92	459.30	52.00	9.10	217.13		0.40	—	327.36	324.23
Sikkim	12.30	10.10	57.60	43.80	2.11		0.84	0.63	8.28	8.00
Tamil Nadu	310.00	162.40	1590.00	1587.92	281.95		8.00	5.08	675.24	675.11
Tripura	21.60	9.60	194.40	148.60	13.32		0.70	0.04	23.16	22.96
Uttar Pradesh	1185.60	225.90	549.60	209.50	677.82		—	—	1087.48	1082.79
West Bengal	1098.60	842.20	856.00	457.10	333.33		17.00	14.92	756.00	759.68
Andaman & Nicobar	9.00	—	30.00	—	3.28		0.17	0.06	4.68	4.61
Chandigarh	21.60	0.90	3.60	1.10	4.97		0.10	—	36.98	19.64
Dadra & Nagar H.	2.75	0.50	6.00	1.20	0.65		0.64	0.42	3.12	3.12
Daman & Diu	2.15	—	6.70	1.00	0.49		0.89	0.46	3.00	2.71
Delhi	840.00	153.30	240.00	26.40	130.36		3.30	2.68	240.95	241.99
Lakshdweep	0.50	—	6.30	4.70	0.94		0.29	0.24	0.04	0.16
Pondicherry	9.00	—	24.00	1.90	4.46		4.30	3.05	15.00	14.41
Total	11129.72	5147.40	14434.49	9164.56	4263.25		221.99	148.25	9146.57	9154.25

Lifting of Levy Sugar is assumed to be 100%.

Statement-II

(Figures in 000 Tonnes)

States/UTs	Wheat		Rice		Sugar		Ed. Oils		Kerosene	
	Alloc.	Lift.	Alloc.	Lift.	Alloc.	Lift.	Alloc.	Lift.	Alloc.	Lift.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh	180.00	126.80	2490.00	1946.70	354.69		49.00	44.48	639.36	643.18
Arunachal Pradesh	7.20	5.50	109.20	100.70	4.67		-	-	11.04	11.23
Assam	355.50	301.80	648.70	520.80	121.71		1.00	0.34	258.66	250.94
Bihar	697.80	438.70	389.60	37.60	464.12		0.70	-	852.96	652.18
Goa	37.20	32.60	90.00	59.50	6.14		3.20	2.68	27.82	27.91
Gujarat	690.90	824.30	376.00	276.40	213.76		40.00	43.35	826.02	830.26
Haryana	208.16	130.20	52.00	21.50	86.17		-	-	160.28	160.85
Himachal Pradesh	140.00	119.20	122.80	86.50	26.49		1.40	0.91	58.30	55.90
Jammu & Kashmir	360.00	149.00	528.00	353.70	46.70		0.70	0.43	89.52	88.75
Karnataka	356.00	286.70	1453.12	1110.00	240.00		10.00	11.39	503.18	501.48
Kerala	572.50	544.00	1847.00	1530.80	151.63		2.00	0.97	284.76	287.61
Madhya Pradesh	605.62	431.10	613.68	302.80	353.50		-	-	518.19	512.14
Maharashtra	1010.00	849.80	858.00	553.70	407.35		34.00	33.39	1510.19	1544.76
Manipur	32.40	31.30	120.00	58.90	10.36		2.10	1.90	22.48	21.73
Meghalaya	29.50	26.60	190.00	181.90	9.65		0.70	0.23	20.07	20.06
Mizoram	23.50	21.10	92.05	88.60	3.96		1.40	0.45	7.98	7.69
Nagaland	8.60	8.70	81.20	89.40	7.04		2.80	1.94	13.74	13.77
Orissa	451.00	419.70	1012.00	585.10	170.11		7.00	3.18	233.45	232.95
Punjab	121.00	61.94	18.00	2.00	109.96		-	-	335.95	335.50
Rajasthan	1358.37	1141.30	59.00	16.60	235.79		0.35	-	352.34	349.40
Sikkim	10.70	11.20	60.10	81.10	2.19		0.77	0.74	7.80	8.15
Tamilnadu	287.20	217.10	1903.50	1865.90	298.58		7.00	6.44	693.13	689.14
Tripura	21.60	14.70	194.40	150.00	15.02		0.70	0.10	30.84	28.83
Uttar Pradesh	1140.40	893.60	532.20	356.80	743.45		-	-	1140.13	1145.82
West Bengal	1071.00	904.80	790.00	517.10	364.73		18.50	19.27	767.08	766.79
Andaman & Nicobar	9.00	7.28	30.00	2.47	3.53		0.23	0.08	5.02	4.94
Chandigarh	21.60	7.91	3.60	2.20	4.96		-	-	21.38	19.63
Dadra & Nagar H.	3.00	2.20	6.00	4.11	0.76		0.56	0.54	3.14	3.08
Daman & Diu	2.40	1.13	7.20	3.43	0.51		0.91	0.49	3.02	2.74
Delhi	700.00	676.90	240.00	113.60	149.70		3.60	2.95	243.66	241.92
Lakshdweep	0.50	0.22	6.30	6.60	1.02		0.28	0.19	0.90	0.34
Pondicherry	8.34	2.85	20.90	14.90	6.83		4.00	3.45	15.16	14.47
Total	10520.79	8390.22	14944.55	11021.41	4614.39		192.88	179.88	9497.72	9484.19

Lifting of Levy Sugar is assumed to be 100%.

Statement-III

(Figures in 000 Tonnes)

States/UTs	Wheat		Rice		Sugar		Ed. Oils		Kerosene	
	Alloc.	Lift.	Alloc.	Lift.	Alloc.	Lift.	Alloc.	Lift.	Alloc.	Lift.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh	183.00	125.29	2309.00	2000.07	348.82		28.00	11.92	655.95	620.14
Arunachal Pradesh	7.11	5.76	107.85	89.31	4.57		-	-	11.06	11.21
Assam	323.08	193.94	590.86	438.31	116.41		-	-	265.32	270.67
Bihar	788.40	513.74	489.80	156.31	447.36		0.30	0.60	683.86	680.58
Goa	32.20	27.10	76.80	51.95	6.26		3.50	1.37	28.04	28.29
Gujarat	741.65	519.31	308.00	178.75	215.94		20.00	-	849.39	854.59
Haryana	178.56	98.44	5.00	4.10	88.21		-	-	165.61	165.83
Himachal Pradesh	131.00	115.66	135.00	90.07	26.24		1.40	0.60	59.97	59.52
Jammu & Kashmir	290.60	167.74	430.75	296.56	44.62		0.40	0.02	95.42	99.13
Karnataka	260.00	248.84	1024.52	833.94	235.02		10.00	4.89	516.71	516.03
Kerala	389.04	370.93	1827.40	1607.38	136.16		-	-	290.86	288.34
Madhya Pradesh	584.90	308.91	463.60	297.27	346.00		-	-	540.52	541.31
Maharashtra	1251.80	987.43	678.40	562.37	411.81		30.00	25.01	1554.27	1559.14
Manipur	25.68	27.61	101.40	45.19	9.98		0.80	0.80	22.40	22.12
Meghalaya	25.54	28.70	199.30	152.89	9.45		-	-	20.80	20.75
Mizoram	16.94	17.70	106.18	95.05	3.84		0.80	0.15	8.17	8.04
Nagaland	28.73	29.24	108.97	92.22	6.86		1.60	1.04	14.06	13.98
Orissa	299.00	207.19	715.40	550.84	164.38		7.30	4.29	242.37	242.32
Punjab	91.30	14.18	12.60	1.82	107.57		-	-	338.25	335.92
Rajasthan	901.37	451.44	56.86	4.17	230.71		-	-	367.25	367.12
Sikkim	5.68	5.32	77.38	52.05	2.14		0.88	0.56	8.05	8.02
Tamilnadu	244.60	124.48	1359.71	1261.92	291.79		4.00	3.95	701.99	689.44
Tripura	17.96	14.49	167.33	153.49	14.81		-	-	31.64	31.71
Uttar Pradesh	1214.82	867.20	521.69	320.98	722.64		1.70	0.01	1189.08	1187.14
West Bengal	1193.20	927.66	536.90	315.98	356.90		20.00	3.22	787.96	788.68
Andaman & Nicobar	9.00	0.10	30.00	0.20	5.41		0.11	-	6.65	6.62
Chandigarh	17.58	5.27	2.94	2.08	4.10		-	-	21.62	18.40
Dadra & Nagar H.	1.98	1.26	4.95	2.78	0.73		0.32	0.30	3.25	3.22
Daman & Diu	1.50	0.69	4.38	3.34	0.45		0.52	0.48	3.01	2.86
Delhi	881.47	532.02	174.30	100.34	147.34		2.12	1.40	246.02	242.90
Lakshdweep	0.50	0.85	8.70	3.11	1.00		0.40	0.20	0.88	0.70
Pondicherry	4.82	-	20.14	-	5.28		2.00	1.68	15.38	14.62
Total	9924.01	6938.49	12655.91	9784.84	4510.80		136.15	62.49	9756.61	9699.34

Lifting of Levy Sugar is assumed to be 100%.

Statement-IV

Statement showing demands for additional allocations from various State/UTs

Sl. No.	Name of State	Details of Request
1	2	3
1.	Assam	Addl. 20,000 MT of Rice for flood relief with validity for lifting upto 31st Oct, 1997.
2.	Bihar	Issue of un-utilised portion of June quota for flood relief.
3.	Delhi	Additional allocation of 24,600 MT Rice and 7110 MT Wheat from June, 97 to maintain May, 97 allocation.
4.	Goa	Additional allotment of 2500 MT Rice and also 1000 MT Wheat.
5.	Gujarat	Additional quantity of Rice and Wheat.
6.	Haryana	Request for allotment of 200 MT Wheat for Govt. Department.
	-do-	Addl. requirement of Rice & Wheat,
7.	J & K	Addl. allocation of 1,88,000 MT food grains annually.
	-do-	Addl. requirement of Rice & Wheat quota.
8.	Karnataka	Request for 1,20,000 MT of foodgrains per month.
9.	Kerala	Restoration of allotment of foodgrain at pre-TPDS level.
	-do-	Revised quota of Rice/Wheat for BPL/APL.
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Additional allocation of 5000 MT Wheat for earthquake relief.
11.	Manipur	Addl. 1840 MT Rice and 2590 MT of Wheat per month at CIP rates.
12.	Maharashtra	Enhancement of Wheat and Rice quota from August, 97.
	-do-	-do-
13.	Mizoram	Restoration of previous allotment of 8000 MT of Rice and 2000 tonnes Wheat.
14.	Orissa	Allotment of Rice for flood/cyclones etc.
	~	Addl. 20,000 MT of Rice per month for five months from June - October as drought relief.
	"	Enhancement of Wheat quota from 30,000 MT to 50,000 MT.
15.	Sikkim	Restoration of May, 97 quota of 5300 MT Rice & 1100 MT of Wheat.
16.	Tripura	Enhancement of monthly allocation of foodgrains under TPDS to 28,400 MT

1	2	3
	Tripura	Requirement of addl. allocation of 5000 tonnes Rice for special Nutrition Programme.
	-do-	Allocation of 500 MT of Rice for 1997-98.
17.	Tamil Nadu	Maintaining the allocation of May, 97 level of 1,65,000 MT Rice and 22,300 MT Wheat i.e. an addl. 31,000 MT Rice & 22,300 MT of Wheat per month.
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Special allotment of Wheat for Kumbh Mela.
19.	West Bengal	There should be no reduction in allocation of foodgrains from the level of May, 97. Additional 5000 MT foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) for July, Aug, September. 97.
20.	Lakshadweep	Allocation of 6300 MT Rice and 500 MT Wheat to maintain May, 97 allocation.
21.	Pondicherry	Allocation of 1000 MTs Wheat for festival (Onam).
	-do-	Allotment of 500 MTs Wheat to meet the public requirement.
	-do-	Addl. allocation of 1500 MTs. Rice for September and thereafter 600 MTs. Rice and 300 MTs Wheat from Sept. 1997.
	-do-	Addl. quota for floods.
22.	U.P.	Addl. Requirement of 30,000 MT Wheat for Jan & Feb. 98.
	-do-	Addl. Requirement of 40,000 MT Wheat for Feb, March, 98
	-do-	Addl. Requirement of 10,000 MT Wheat for February, 98.
23.	Nagaland	Addl. requirement of 2,000 MT for January and 5,000 MT for February, 98.
	-do-	Addl. Requirement of 3500 MT Wheat for February, 98.
24.	Delhi	Addl. requirement of 5,000 MT Wheat for February, 98.
25.	West Bengal	Addl. requirement of 10,000 MT Rice and 20,000 MT Wheat for February March and April, 98.
26.	Madhya Pd.	Enhancement of Wheat quota.
27.	Rajasthan	Addl. Requirement of 20000 MT Wheat for February, March, 98.
28.	Haryana	Addl. Requirement of 20000 MT Wheat for January, February & March, 98.
29.	Maharashtra	Addl. Requirement of 50,000 MT Wheat.
	-do-	-do-
30.	-do-	Addl. Requirement of 50,000 MT Wheat for April onwards.
31.	Orissa	Addl. Requirement of 500 MT Rice per month from April, 98 onwards.
	-do-	Addl. Requirement of 50,000 MT Wheat and Rice each from April, 98 onwards.

Statement-**Statement showing Additional Allocation of Rice & Wheat made to various States/UTs**

S. States/UTs No.	RICE												
	June 1997	July 1997	Aug. 1997	Sep. 1997	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1998	April 1998	May 1998	June 1998
1. Andhra Pradesh													
2. Arunachal Pd.	1.802	1.802	1.802	1.802	1.802	1.802	2.540	2.540	2.540	2.540	2.540	2.540	2.540
3. Assam	8.488	28.488	8.488	8.488	8.488	8.488	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	35.000
4. Bihar													
5. Delhi		0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	5.000						
6. Goa			6.000	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500
7. Gujarat			12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000	10.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
8. Haryana													
9. Himachal Pradesh		2.000	7.000	7.000	7.000	7.000	7.000	7.000	7.000	7.000	7.000	7.000	7.000
10. Jammu & Kashmir	12.500	19.800	19.800	19.800	19.800	19.800	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000
11. Karnataka			30.000	30.000	30.000	30.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000
12. Kerala			30.000	80.000	30.000	30.000	15.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000
13. Madhya Pradesh													
14. Maharashtra				20.000	20.000	20.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
15. Manipur	0.740	0.740	3.740	3.740	3.740	3.740	5.840	5.840	5.840	5.840	5.840	5.840	5.840
16. Meghalaya	6.338	6.338	6.338	6.338	6.338	6.338	6.338	6.338	6.338	6.338	6.338	6.338	6.338
17. Mizoram	0.083	0.083	3.083	3.083	3.083	3.083	3.083	3.083	3.083	3.083	3.083	3.083	3.083
18. Nagaland								1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
19. Orissa	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	15.500	15.500
20. Punjab													
21. Rajasthan			21.000				3.890	3.890	3.890	3.890	3.890	3.890	3.890
22. Sikkim		2.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
23. Tamil Nadu	81.000	48.414					15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000
24. Tripura	1.020	1.020	1.020	1.020	1.020	1.020	4.770	4.770	4.770	4.770	4.770	4.770	4.770
25. Uttar Pradesh			3.190	0.000	7.716		3.680						
26. West Bengal							10.000	10.000	20.000	20.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
27. A & N Islands													
28. Chandigarh							0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110
29. D & N Haveli							0.200	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250
30. Daman & Diu							0.470	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.470
31. Lakshadweep				2.400									
32. Pondicherry				0.500		+2.000	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.060
Total	130.971	127.765	177.541	222.751	177.567	171.851	165.481	152.651	162.651	162.651	152.651	158.351	178.351

For Earth quake relief for six months from July to Dec. 97.

% For Drought relief for 5 months & 20,000 KT Rice per month from June to Oct. 97.

81,000 KT Rice per month was sanctioned. The Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu has, however, informed that the State will not need it from July to Sept. '97 because TNCSC has purchased Rice from Andhra Pradesh.

Special Additional Allocation of 3500 KT Rice made to Goa for GANESH CHATURTHI.-

20,000 MT Wheat allotted to West Bengal each for Sept., Oct. & Nov.

additional demand under PDS and for ensuing festivals (Durga Puja)

V

from June '97 to Nov. 97 at Economic Cost and from Dec. '97 at APL Rates

(in '000 tonne)

WHEAT												
June 1997	July 1997	Aug. 1997	Sep. 1997	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1998	April 1998	May 1998	June 1998
							15.000	15.000	15.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
				10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
		40.000										
	0.150	10.150	10.150	10.150	10.150	17.930	22.930	22.930	22.930	10.000	10.000	10.000
		1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
		10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	12.500	20.000	20.000	20.000			
		5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	4.410	4.410	4.410	4.410	4.410	4.410	4.410
3.420	10.359	10.359	10.359	10.359	10.359	21.540	21.540	21.540	21.540	21.540	21.540	21.540
						5.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
						15.000	25.000	25.000	25.000	15.000	15.000	15.000
	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
			30.000	30.000	30.000	15.000	50.000	50.000	50.000		20.000	20.000
						0.990	0.990	0.990	0.990	0.990	0.990	0.990
						1.460	1.460	1.460	1.460	1.460	1.460	1.460
						0.950	0.950	0.950	0.950	0.950	0.950	0.950
						1.200	3.000	3.000	3.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	33.000	33.000	33.000	25.000	25.000	25.000
	20.000					15.000	15.000	25.000	25.000	15.000	15.000	15.000
						0.790	0.790	0.790	0.790	0.790	0.790	0.790
			20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	40.000	40.000	40.000	30.000	30.000	30.000
						0.520	0.520	0.520	0.520	0.520	0.520	0.520
	8.949	0.000	25.497			11.070	20.000	40.000	40.000			
		20.000	20.000	20.000		0.900	15.900	20.900	20.900	0.900	0.900	0.900
						0.670	0.670	0.670	0.670	0.670	0.670	0.670
						0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170
						0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150
						0.730	0.730	0.730	0.730	0.730	0.730	0.730
		0.200				0.730	0.730	0.730	0.730	0.730	0.730	0.730
3.420	18.009	132.958	134.209	169.506	144.009	186.946	338.210	373.210	373.250	150.250	150.280	172.280

= Includes 50,000 MT Rice given at Economic Cost for Onam to be lifted upto 30-9-97. 2,400 MT rice allotted to Lakshadweep at Eco. Cost (Addl.) to be lifted upto 31-5-98.

+ Allotted to Pondicherry for Relief Operations

5000 MT of Wheat allotted to Karnataka at API rates.

1200 MT of Wheat allotted to Nagaland for Christmas at APL rates.

15,000 MT Wheat allotted to West Bengal for Jan.98 for Ramjan & IDD festivals.

Addl. allocation is being made at the ECONOMIC COST upto Nov. 97 and At APL rates for Dec. '97 and the quantities thereunder will be utilised for distribution to PDS consumers only.

Statement-VI

Statement showing Demand for Imported Edible Oils for the month of Aug., - Nov., '98 by State/UTs under Public Distribution System (PDS)

(Quantity in MTs)

Sl.No.	Name of States/UTs	
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32,000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	N.R.
3.	Assam	N.R.
4.	Bihar	1,200
5.	Goa	2,000
6.	Gujarat	36,000
7.	Haryana	400
8.	Himachal Pradesh	N.R.
9.	J & K	N.R.
10.	Karnataka	10,000
11.	Kerala	NIL
12.	Madhya Pradesh	N.R.
13.	Maharashtra	27,000
14.	Manipur	2,400
15.	Meghalaya	400
16.	Mizoram	270
17.	Nagaland	N.R.
18.	Orissa	10,000
19.	Punjab	NIL
20.	Rajasthan	N.R.
21.	Sikkim	880
22.	Tamil Nadu	4,000
23.	Tripura	N.R.
24.	Uttar Pradesh	NIL
25.	West Bengal	14,000
26.	A & N Islands	N.R.
27.	Chandigarh	N.R.
28.	D & N Havell	320

1	2	3
29.	Delhi	2,104
30.	Daman & Diu	420
31.	Lakshadweep	400
32.	Pondicherry	4,000
All India		

Statement-VII

Statement showing allotment of Rice from June '97 to March '98 under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allotment			
		BPL	APL	Add.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	348.84	1540.16	0.00	1889.00
2.	Arunachal Pd.	6.94	58.75	20.97	86.66
3.	Assam	183.57	166.35	130.93	480.85
4.	Bihar	343.60	79.20	0.00	422.80
5.	Delhi	7.20	121.70	5.40	134.30
6.	Goa	2.80	35.70	23.50	61.80
7.	Gujarat	0.00	180.00	58.00	238.00
8.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Himachal Pd.	0.00	54.19	58.00	112.19
10.	J & K	40.19	131.07	171.50	342.76
11.	Karnataka	230.00	370.00	180.00	780.00
12.	Kerala	153.50	1112.86	245.00	1511.36
13.	Madhya Pd.	240.00	103.50	0.00	343.50
14.	Maharashtra	211.60	223.80	100.00	535.40
15.	Manipur	12.02	29.58	39.80	81.40
16.	Meghalaya	12.78	91.12	61.38	165.28
17.	Mizoram	4.66	60.70	24.83	90.19
18.	Nagaland	7.52	86.45	3.00	96.97
19.	Orissa	318.20	37.20	160.00	515.40
20.	Punjab	6.80	2.80	0.00	9.60
21.	Rajasthan	2.50	7.80	38.56	48.86
22.	Sikkim	3.36	29.42	34.00	66.78

1	2	3	4	5	6
23. Tamil Nadu	457.90	384.40	187.41	1029.71	
24. Tripura	22.92	91.53	25.20	139.65	
25. Uttar Pradesh	315.00	112.00	14.59	441.59	
26. West Bengal	241.96	104.94	60.00	406.90	
27. A & N Islands	1.80	28.20	0.00	30.00	
28. Chandigarh	0.20	1.70	0.44	2.34	
29. D & N Haveli	1.20	1.80	0.95	3.95	
30. Daman & Diu	0.20	1.10	1.88	3.18	
31. Lakshadweep	0.24	6.06	2.40	8.70	
32. Pondicherry	8.50	2.90	6.74	16.14	
Total	3183.80	5256.98	1652.48	10093.26	

Statement-VIII

Statement showing allotment of Wheat from June '97 to March '98 under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allotment			
		BPL	APL	Addl.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.00	105.00	45.00	153.00
2.	Arunachal Pd.	0.67	5.24	0.00	5.91
3.	Assam	7.02	196.06	60.00	263.08
4.	Bihar	515.40	118.80	40.00	674.20
5.	Delhi	22.40	381.60	127.47	531.47
6.	Goa	1.20	16.90	8.00	26.10
7.	Gujarat	200.00	295.00	112.50	607.50
8.	Haryana	73.30	7.20	70.00	150.60
9.	Himachal Pd.	38.93	37.95	30.14	107.02
10.	J & K	14.47	74.74	141.37	230.59
11.	Karnataka	57.50	92.50	50.00	200.00
12.	Kerala	0.00	214.04	90.00	304.04
13.	Madhya Pd.	293.40	126.50	45.00	464.90
14.	Maharashtra	393.00	413.80	266.00	1061.80

1	2	3	4	5	6
15. Manipur	0.31	16.79	3.96	21.06	
16. Meghalaya	1.22	14.48	5.84	21.54	
17. Mizoram	0.04	10.10	3.80	13.94	
18. Nagaland	1.87	15.46	10.20	27.53	
19. Orissa	0.00	0.00	199.00	199.00	
20. Punjab	36.20	15.10	0.00	51.30	
21. Rajasthan	214.50	326.80	100.00	641.30	
22. Sikkim	0.04	1.28	3.16	4.48	
23. Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	
24. Tripura	0.00	12.80	2.08	14.88	
25. Uttar Pradesh	640.00	221.70	145.62	1007.22	
26. West Bengal	217.00	647.60	118.60	983.20	
27. A & N Islands	0.84	8.16	0.00	9.00	
28. Chandigarh	1.60	9.70	2.68	13.98	
29. D & N Haveli	0.30	0.50	0.68	1.48	
30. Daman & Diu	0.10	0.40	0.60	1.10	
31. Lakshadweep	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.50	
32. Pondicherry	0.00	0.20	3.12	3.32	
Total	2734.32	3386.90	1873.72	7994.94	

Central Assistance to Madhya Pradesh for Tribal Development

1002. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provided an amount from Special Central Assistance to Madhya Pradesh for tribal development during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount expended out of it on each items year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Welfare provided an amount of Rs. 7695.71 lakhs and Rs. 9207.83 lakhs from Special Central Assistance to Madhya Pradesh for tribal development during 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively.

(c) The amount allocated/released to the State Government under Special Central Assistance is utilised primarily for Family Oriented Income Generating Schemes while giving adequate weightage to infrastructure incidental thereto. However, the schemes on which SCA was utilised by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh are those operated by Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandary, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Forest, Food & Civil Supply, Hastship, Irrigation, Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board, Public Health Engineering, Sericulture, Health, Public Works Department, Khadi & Gramodyog, Welfare of Schedule Tribes and Women & Child Development Departments.

[English]

Dengue Cases

1003. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL :
SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Dengue cases reported so far in various hospitals during each of the last three years till March 31, 1998 in Delhi and other parts of the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons died due to Dengue fever in the country during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to eradicate this disease ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) State-wise information about number of Dengue cases and deaths during the last three years may be seen in the attached statement :

(c) The following steps were undertaken for Prevention & Control of this Disease :-

- Intensification of surveillance activities,
- Vector control measures,
- strengthening of hospital services for proper management of cases,
- Intensification of information, education and communication activities,
- Source reduction,
- organisation of training Programmes,

- mass awareness campaigns by the local bodies
- invocation of bye-laws against mosquitogenic conditions and lodging of FIPs against these who flout these provisions,
- Declaration of Dengue as a notifiable disease under Delhi Municipal Corpn. Act, taking it mandatory for all hospitals report the cases of Dengue,
- distribution of Broad Guidelines for Action Plans—Calendar of activities for orevention & control of Dengue to the States.

Statement

Number of Dengue cases and Deaths, State-wise during 1996, 1997 and 1998

State	1996		1997	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Delhi	10252	423	273	1
Haryana	1631	54	54	0
Punjab	806	32	23	3
Karnataka	123	5	262	4
Maharashtra	3068	5	249	5
Uttar Pradesh	146	10	29	1
Tamil Nadu	491	16	264	21
Gujarat	14	0	5	0
Rajasthan			18	1
Total	16531	545	1177	36

1998 :- 24 cases and 3 deaths have been reported only from Tamil Nadu upto 31.3.98.

Restructuring of Employment Exchange

1004. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the Employment Exchanges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to reduce the number of unemployed youths in the country;

(d) whether the Government propose to introduce any scheme for giving vocational guidance to the youths; and

(e) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, The Status paper on Employment and Role of Ministry of Labour which includes the restructuring of Employment Exchanges has been submitted to Planning Commission for inclusion in the Ninth Plan.

(c) The Approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Productive employment is an important dimension of the state policy that seeks to achieve growth with equity. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

(d) and (e) 329 vocational guidance units in the employment exchanges and 85 University Employment Information and Guidance Bureaux are functioning to provide necessary vocational guidance and information to the job-seekers and university students. These centres collect and compile occupational information and provide guidance and career counselling to the job-seekers.

Pending TADA cases in Courts

1005. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of TADA cases pending in TADA Courts, State-wise;

(b) the number of those released on bail and those still under detention, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the slow pace of these pending cases;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to expedite the disposal of these cases;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that innocent persons are not harassed especially in view of the alleged wide abuse of the TADA Act;

(f) whether the Government propose to withdraw the pending TADA cases in view of the lapse of the TADA Act;

(g) if so, the details thereof; alongwith the time by which the persons under detention are likely to be released;

(h) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(i) the steps taken by the Government to release the men and women to above 60 years of age, who are suffering from ill health and detained under TADA ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) Updated information is being collected from States/UTs and will be laid on the table of the House.

(e) The instructions have been issued to State Government to comply with the instructions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in relation to TADA cases.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) The question does not arise.

(h) Pending TADA cases have been reviewed by the State Review Committee and the Central Review Committee as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Kartar Singh case. As a result of these reviews, TADA charges have been dropped against as many as 24,576 persons. Now most of the cases that remain pertain to serious terrorist crimes. As such, withdrawal of these pending TADA cases will not be in public interest.

(i) Instructions will be issued to states to look into this aspect also.

Unethical Medical Research carried out on Cervical Cancer

1006. SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that an unethical research being carried out on cervical cancer making women in Guineapigs by the doctors in Alipur village, Delhi;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been made by the Government into the unethical medical research being carried out in the village;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) A community based study was carried out by Institute of Cytology & Preventive Oncology (ICMR) from January 1985 to March 1993 at Alipur Primary Health Centre. The study aimed at assessing the feasibility of screening for cervical precancerous and cancerous lesions by collection of Pap smear through the existing health infrastructure. The Project protocol including its ethical aspect was reviewed and accepted by the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Institute and Project Advisory Committee of the Project.

During the intervention phase of the study, a total of 5396 women were screened. None of the women screened had cancer. However, 19 cases of dysplasias were detected. Except one case of refusal, all moderate and severe dysplasias were managed and no experimental intervention effort was attempted.

(b) to (d) As there was no unethical aspect involved in this study, the question of inquiry does not arise. The back up service facility was kept in mind throughout the study period and all the women including those with dysplasia detected during this study were provided appropriate management.

Strike by Nurses in Delhi

1007. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO :
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :
SHRI K.P. NAIDU :
SHRI A.C. JOS :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than eleven thousand nurses in 28 Government hospitals in the Capital went on an indefinite strike from May 5, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether their strike is legal;

(d) whether any alternative arrangement was made to provide the essential medical services for the in-door patients and OPD patients;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the steps taken by the Government to meet their demands and to implement the agreement earlier signed with them in September, 1997;

(d) whether before their indefinite strike on May 5, 1998 they had resorted to two-hour strike daily;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the reaction of the Government to the frequent strikes resorted to by nurses of Delhi hospitals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) 5337 Nurses working in the Government Hospitals in the Capital absented themselves from duty with effect from 5.5.98.

(b) The Delhi nurses Union were on Strike demanding the following :

- I. Up gradation of Pay Scales;
- II. Better Promotional Avenues;
- III. Enhancement of Nursing Allowances;
- IV. Accommodation Facilities;
- V. Establishment of Directorate of Nursing;
- VI. Filling up of Vacant Posts.

(c) As Conciliation Proceedings were in progress before the Asst. Legal Commissioner, prior to the commencement of the strike, the nurses should not have proceeded with the strike.

(d) and (e) The following contingency measures were initiated :-

A Control Room manned by Senior Doctors round the clock was started in 3 Central Government Hospitals; additional Beds were earmarked in Hospitals run by the Railways, Army and certain private Hospitals; Interns and Resident Doctors were engaged for performing specific duties, Nurses from allied organisations were deployed; decision to recruit fresh nurses to attend emergency care was taken; injunction orders were obtained by the Medical Superintendents from the Civil Court to prevent obstruction of other employees from performing duties.

(f) Government has inter alia approved :-

(i) upgradation of 1200 Posts benefiting 33.24% of nurses in the Central Government Hospitals;

- (ii) enhancement of the Nursing Allowance @ 1600 per month from existing level of Rs. 300 per month;
- (iii) Construction of a 500 unit Residential Complex at Srinivaspuri at a cost of Rs. 18 crores;
- (iv) Action taken to fill up vacancies.

(g) and (h) The nurses absented from duty for 2 hours from 9.00 A.M. to 11.00 A.M. between 30-4-98 to 4-5-98. The between 30.4.98 to 4.5.98.

(i) Government has constituted a Standing Committee for periodic review of pending matters.

Neptha based Companies in Rajasthan

1008. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for allocation of Neptha to the States for Petrochemical Complex;

(b) whether the Government of Rajasthan made a request to the Union Government for allocation of Neptha for production of Soda Ash, Urea, ammonia phosphate and for up setting of a petrochemical complex in Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Marketing and pricing of Naphtha have been decontrolled with effect from 1.4.98. No allocation from Government is required now. The Oil Companies may undertake to make supplies to the petrochemical units on the basis of recommendation of the Deptt. of Chemicals & Petrochemicals about the feasibility of the project and quantity required as also the feasibility of logistics, under commercial arrangement, mutually agreed. For smaller petrochemical units, the oil companies can make supply of Naphtha on the recommendation of a Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC).

(b) No such request has so far been received by this Ministry from the Govt. of Rajasthan.

(c) Does not arise.

Atrocities on Christians

1009. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that atrocities on Christian priests, nuns and other missionaries have been increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a Christian church at Naroda near Ahmedabad had been demolished; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected.

Dispute over Language

1010. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a great dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka Governments over language;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether both the States Government have requested the Union Government to intervene in the Matter to solve the dispute; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) A Memorandum submitted to the Central Government recently regarding the border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka draws attention to the alleged imposition of Kannada on the Marathi speaking population in the disputed areas. The Government of Maharashtra was sought the intervention of the Central Government in this matter. In such disputes, it is essentially for the State Governments concerned to amicably resolve their differences. The Central Government will be happy to extend all possible assistance to the State Governments concerned in this regard.

Import of Soyabean with Weeds

1011. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the soyabeans intended to be imported from US was found containing exotic weeds and viruses as reports in "Hindustan Times" dated April 2, 1998;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to cancel the deal for import; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d) Government is aware of presence of certain viral diseases in soyabean of US and other origins which are exotic to India. Imports of Soyabean have been permitted to augment domestic availability. This permission carries the stipulation that beans are imported either in split form or are split at the port of entry under supervision of Plant Quarantine Authorities. Imports in split form or beans split at the port of entry would ensure complete devitalisation of seeds thereby averting any possibility of their germination and preventing entry of exotic diseases in the country.

[Translation]

Flap Test I & II by British General Medical Council

1012. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have permitted British General Medical Council for Flat Test I and II in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the action taken to grant permission in future;

(d) the details of places and dates where flap test I and II conducted in the country by British General Medical Council after getting permission from the Union Government;

(e) the number of persons participated in the flap I and II tests alongwith the number of beneficiaries; and

(f) the details of benefits and losses accrued to people due to Flap test I and II ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALA) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected.

[English]

Crude Oil

1013. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA :
SHRI SUDHIR GIRI :

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

(a) the quantity of crude oil imported during each of the last three years and the amount of foreign exchange spent thereon;

(b) the reasons for more import of oil this year as compared to the last year;

(c) the total domestic production of crude oil during the last three years;

(d) whether there has been any decline in the domestic production of the crude oil during the previous years;

(e) if so, whether there is any proposal to raise the level of crude oil production in areas other than Bombay High; and

(f) if so, the details of earmarked wells for enhanced crude oil production and the expected additional production of crude oil for new field ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The quantity of crude oil imported during each of the last three years and the amount of foreign exchange spent thereon is as follows :

Item	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (Provisional)
Imports of Crude oil Qty. (Million Metril Tonns)	27.342	33.906	34.494
Value (Rs. crores)	11517	18538	15897

(b) During the year 1998-99, the imports are expected to be higher due to higher processing of crude by the refineries over the previous year on account of overall increased capacity utilisation.

(c) and (d) The total domestic production of crude oil during the last three years was 35.167 MMT, 32.693 MMT and 33.859 MMT respectively.

(e) and (f) The major oil producing areas other than Bombay High are Gujarat in Western Region and Assam in the Eastern Region. Steps that have been initiated to increase production from these areas are :

- (i) Implementation of enhanced oil recovery schemes.
- (ii) Repair of producing wells
- (iii) Optimisation of production through drilling of multilateral wells, Extended Reach drilling, drain hole drilling, Long drift sidetracking of wells and infill drilling.
- (iv) Hiring of services of foreign experts for field specific problems.
- (v) Sand Control/water shut off jobs.
- (vi) Installation of artificial lift.

The Additional production from the above measures cannot be quantified at this stage.

[Translation]

Damage to Medical College, Hospital and Primary Health Centres

1014. SHRI DADA BABURAO RARANJPE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any damage had been caused to any Medical college/hospitals/Primary Health Centres in Narmada Valley area in Madhya Pradesh due to earthquake on May 22, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the patients of any of these institutions and their medical treatment had been affected as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any temporary hospitals and health centres have been opened in the affected area;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government have provided any assistance for the reconstruction or repairs of these institutions;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) whether an official visit has been made in the said area; and

(j) if so, the details of the arrangements made so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (j) On 22nd May, 1997 at 4.22 A.M. an earthquake hit the Jabalpur town and surrounding areas, which lasted for about 30 seconds causing damage to human life, livestock, private and public buildings and affecting public services like water and power supply. As per State Government's report, 39 deaths occurred due to collapse of buildings and 397 persons were injured. In addition public buildings consisting of State and Central Government buildings, residential quarters, Police office buildings, Agricultural University, its hostels and residential quarters, Schools, Medical and other Colleges and buildings belonging to Municipal Corporation of Jabalpur. The Administration in each of the Districts has undertaken rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures. 12 Relief Camps had been set up in Jabalpur City, In 11 worst affected Villages, medical assistance was provided through Mobile Medical Units. The Central Team recommended Rs. 10.00 lakh for this purpose. On the request of the State Government, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare supplied Emergency Medical Stores worth Rs. 8,98,447/- on credit payment basis.

A Central Study Team from the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India visited the affected areas on 8.6.1997, to assess the nature and extent of damage, relief measures taken up by the State Government, and the financial assistance required for immediate relief and restoration of affected persons and services. The Central Team has recommended Rs. 7,386.48 lakh from National Calamity Relief Fund to the State Government out of which Rs. 100 lakh was meant for repair of colleges, schools and residential quarters etc.

[English]

Private Hospitals for CGHS beneficiaries in Andhra Pradesh

1015. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether CGHS beneficiaries are getting treatment in the private hospitals recognised by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of the hospitals in Andhra Pradesh where CGHS beneficiaries are getting treatment in private hospitals recognised by the Union Government;

(c) whether a number of proposals from private hospitals are pending for referred hospitals for CGHS beneficiaries;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be cleared; and

(e) the number of hospitals inspected by the Government in regard to facilities for referring CGHS beneficiaries with the outcomes thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) CGHS is functioning only in the City of Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh. Further, 23 private Hospitals/Diagnostic Centres, and the Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences have been recognised for use by CGHS beneficiaries.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) 34 private Hospitals/Diagnostic Centres have applied for recognition under CGHS in response to an advertisement in April, 1997. The policy of recognition of private hospitals in view for CGHS beneficiaries is under review to excessive expenditure as against allocation and intervention by Courts.

Non-use of Imported Dental Units in Sucheta Kripalani Hospitals, New Delhi

1016. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ultra modern dental unit with Central assistance are lying idle in the Sucheta Kripalani Hospital, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any inquiry into the non-utilisation of the dental units imported at a huge cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government in the matter; and

(f) the time by which these units are likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) No, Sir.

The Ultra Modern Dental Unit supplied to Smt. Sucheta Kripalani Hospital is functioning.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Exploitation of Child Labour

1017. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to check the exploitation of child labourers by the employers;

(b) the details of the welfare measures extended to the child labourer by the Government;

(c) whether the Government propose to evolve special proposals to control child labour; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) Government has taken a series of steps to address the problem of child labour in the country. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 the employment of children is prohibited in 7 occupations and 18 processes contained in part A and B of the schedule to the Act. Employers employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are liable for prosecution. Apart from legal measures, Government have taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations. A major programme was announced in August, 1994 for the rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations. So far, 76 child labour projects have been set up for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. This issue was also deliberated upon by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The court has given several directions, in their judgement dated 10.12.96, including payment of compensation by the employers, employing children in hazardous occupations. The Government has already taken a number of steps to implement these directions.

Abolition of Child Servitude

1018. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude had sent a delegation to the conference on Global march against Child Labour in Manila during January 1998; and

(b) if so, the details of observations and suggestions made for abolition of child servitude in India therein ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) Government is not aware of any Conference on Global March against Child Labour held at Manila in January, 1998.

(b) Does not arise.

Registration of SC/ST In Employment Exchanges

1019. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of workers belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and minorities registered with Employment Exchanges in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of Post Graduate and with higher qualifications amongst them; and

(c) the steps taken to provide them employment ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) The number of job-seekers all of whom are not necessarily unemployed belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities on the live register of the Employment Exchanges, as on 31-12-1994 (latest available) statewise is furnished in statement-I. Information for Backward classes is not maintained.

(b) The number of job-seekers with Post Graduate and higher qualifications is furnished in statement-II.

(c) The Approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Productive employment is an important dimension of the state policy that seeks to achieve growth with equity. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

Statement-I

Number of Scheduled Caste/Tribe and minorities applicants on the live register of Employment exchange As on 31.12.94

(In thousand)				
Sl. No.	State/UT	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe	Minorities
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	376.4	87.1	250.1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	●	2.1	0.2
3.	Assam	71.1	125.7	205.1
4.	Bihar	412.9	241.6	292.9
5.	Goa	1.6	-	24.3
6.	Gujarat	171.5	88.5	72.6
7.	Haryana	108.4	●	19.7
8.	Himachal Pradesh	99.5	15.7	12.4
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.5	0.8	62.1
10.	Karnataka	204.7	35.6	178.2
11.	Kerala	375.7	19.5	1312.8
12.	Madhya Pradesh	281.5	201.8	127.7
13.	Maharashtra	538.1	122.4	387.1
14.	Manipur	2.1	64.6	75.9
15.	Meghalaya	0.3	21.9	21.2
16.	Mizoram	●	39.2	42.6
17.	Nagaland	0.5	21.1	20.6
18.	Orissa	117.1	74.6	31.9
19.	Punjab	167.5	●	227.2
20.	Rajasthan	123.9	58.0	53.4
21.	Sikkim*			
22.	Tamil Nadu	775.3	12.6	549.5
23.	Tripura	13.0	15.7	4.3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	451.5	10.3	238.8
25.	West Bengal	489.2	90.8	669.9

1	2	3	4	5
26. A & N Islands	⊙	0.7	3.0	
27. Chandigarh	40.9	0.1	23.7	
28. D & N Haveli	0.2	0.9	0.2	
29. Delhi	144.1	19.6	34.0	
30. Daman and Diu	0.3	0.4	0.6	
31. Lakshadweep	⊙	6.4	8.5	
32. Pondicherry	10.6	0.1	24.0	
Total	4985.4	1377.8	4974.5	

Note :- * No Employment Exchange is functioning in this state

⊙ Figure less than 50.

Statement-II

Number of Scheduled Caste/Tribe Post Graduate on the live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 31.12.94

SL. No.	State/UT	Scheduled Tribe	Scheduled Caste
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2712	223
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
3.	Assam	167	146
4.	Bihar	386	296
5.	Goa	-	-
6.	Gujarat	1097	631
7.	Haryana	278	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	863	275
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	15	12
10.	Karnataka	2953	532
11.	Kerala	805	16
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3436	1912
13.	Maharashtra	3940	321
14.	Manipur	10	158
15.	Meghalaya	6	75

1	2	3	4
16. Mizoram	-	142	
17. Nagaland	2	84	
18. Orissa	302	69	
19. Punjab	811	-	
20. Rajasthan	1060	442	
21. Sikkim*	-	-	
22. Tamil Nadu	5369	40	
23. Tripura	123	32	
24. Uttar Pradesh	6870	181	
25. West Bengal	5045	116	
26. A & N Islands	-	1	
27. Chandigarh	234	5	
28. D & N Haveli	1	1	
29. Delhi	1573	215	
30. Daman and Diu	1	-	
31. Lakshadweep	-	21	
32. Pondicherry	603	-	
Total	38662	5946	

Note :- *No Employment Exchange is Functioning in this State.

Violence in Assam

1020. SHRI P.J. KURIEN :

SHRI A.C. JOS :

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tension has been intensified in Kokrajhar District of Assam after Bodo rampaging Santhals Adivasi beheaded hundred of people after torching their houses;

(b) if so, the estimated loss of the life and property and the measures taken to control the violence and protect the people belonging to minority community;

(c) the compensation paid by the Union Government to the affected persons;

(d) whether there is a proposal to repeal the Illegal Migration (Determination by Tribunal) Act, 1983;

(e) if so, the time by which the legislation is likely to be brought before the Parliament;

(f) whether the Union Government propose to invite the All Bodo Students Union for dialogue; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) According to available information serious ethnic tension cropped up in Kokrajhar District of Assam due to Bodo-Sanathan violence in which 45 persons (Santhals-37 and Bodos-8) have been killed and 290 houses (Bodos-157 and Santhals-133) have been burnt down or damaged. (Patrolling by Police/Security Forces was intensified. 248 persons (Santhals-196 and Bodos-52) have been arrested so far.

The Government have taken various steps to bring the situation, under control and the situation is under constant watch and review. The State Government have been duly sensitised and additional Para-Military Forces have been deployed.

The State Government have also set up 18 relief camps and providing relief materials including food and announced payment of Rs. 1 lakh to the next of kin of each of the deceased and Rs. 10,000/- to each family whose houses had been burnt down.

(d) and (e) the proposal to repeal the Illegal Migration (determination by Tribunal) Act, 1983 is under consideration of Government of India. No time frame can be indicated for bringing the legislation before the Parliament.

(f) and (g) All Bodo Students Union and other Bodo Groups were invited for talks at Delhi on 25-26 May, 1998 and discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere.

[Translation]

Introduction of Mobile Homoeopathy Dispensaries

1021. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to introduce mobile dispensaries of Homoeopathy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of the States where such dispensaries, are proposed to be introduced, State-wise

(c) the amount likely to be spent on it; and

(d) the time by which these mobile Homoeopathy dispensaries are likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Ban on Gutaka

1022. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA :
SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN :
SHRI SURESH KURUP :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total turnover of the Pan Masala and Gutaka Industry throughout the country at present;

(b) whether some States Governments have urged the Union Government to impose ban on Pan Masala, and Gutaka;

(c) if so, the details of those States; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The annual turn-over of Pan Masala and Gutka is reported to be approximately Rs. 1,000 Crores in 1997.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have requested the Central Government to examine the possibility of imposing prohibition on production and sale of Pan/Masala/Gutka. The Government of Goa has already enacted a legislation named; "The Goa Prohibition of smoking and Spitting Act, 1997" on 31.1.97 which inter-alia prohibits the advertisement of Tobacco products in any place and/or any public service vehicle.

(d) In order to elicit views of all concerned sectors in the matter and inter-Ministerial meeting involving the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India has been held recently.

[Translation]

Buffer Stocks of Foodgrains

1023. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was sufficient quantity of Wheat and Rice in the buffer stock in the country as on March, 1998

(b) if so, the quantity of Wheat and Rice separately; and

(c) the extent to which the buffer stock would suffice the Public Distribution System requirement of the country during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There was sufficient quantity of Wheat and Rice as compared to the buffer stock norms. The minimum stocks of Wheat and Rice required to be maintained as per the prescribed buffer stock norms and the stock available in the Central Pool as on 1st April, 1998 (i.e. closing balance as on 31.3.98) are as under :-

(Qty. in million tonnes)

Minimum buffer norms prescribed		Stock in the Central Pool	
Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
3.70	10.80	5.08P	13.05(P)

(P) : Provisional

(c) There is sufficient stock of Wheat and Rice to meet the requirement of Public Distribution System of the country during the current year.

Export of Sugar

1024. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given licence for export of Sugar to Sugar Mills;

(b) if so, the quantum of sugar to be exported by each sugar mill particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) whether the Government have exported sugar during the last two months; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the loss incurred by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government is not undertaking any export of sugar and as such the question of loss to the Government does not arise.

[English]

Cases of Hepatitis B

1025. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of Hepatitis B reported from various States as on March 31, 1998 State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to prevent this disease;

(c) whether any special allocation is given to State Governments to prevent this disease; and

(d) if so, the details of Central assistance provided to the various State Governments during each of the last three years; state-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) No authentic data is available of the number of deaths caused by Hepatitis-B infection alone. However, according to available data, the number of cases of Viral Hepatitis (all types) during 1995, 1996 and 1997 (provisional) is as follows :

Year	No. of Persons Infected	No. of persons died
1995	98940	943
1996	117954	801
1997	89038	982

(b) The following measures have been taken, to check Hepatitis-B infection :-

- (i) It is mandatory to screen, all Blood Donations for Hepatitis-B Virus, before transfusion.
- (ii) Efforts are being made, to promote safe sex behaviour under the National AIDS Control Programme. The routes of transmission for both diseases are the same.
- (iii) Provision of separate syringe and separate needle, for each vaccination under the Universal Immunisation Programme.
- (iv) It has been decided to immunize Hospital Workers of Central Government Hospitals against Hepatitis-B.
- (v) Guidelines have been issued for the use of a separate sterile syringe, and needle for each injection and aseptic surgical intervention.
- (vi) Health Education.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Amendments in Essential Commodities Act, 1981

1026. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to make any amendment in the Essential Commodities Special provision Act, 1981;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) whether any Committee has been set up for this purpose;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which the amendments in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 are going to help the general public ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 has lapsed on 31.8.1997.

(c) and (d) An Expert Group was set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Consumer Affairs) to review the

various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981. The Group recommended scrapping of the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 and certain amendments in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(e) Amendments have been proposed in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in public interest in order to deal more effectively with persons indulging in hoarding and blackmarketing and profiteering in essential commodities, ensure easy availability of essential commodities to the consumers, facilitate expeditions disposal or cases, prevent misuse of power by local field functionaries, provide for certain allowance for minor variation of stock due to climatic conditions or transit and also to keep pace with the path of liberalisation.

Rehabilitation of Jobless Textile Workers

1027. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have enhanced stipend and training period for National Renewal Fund beneficiaries at Gandhi labour Institute, Ahmedabad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have declared any scheme for rehabilitation of jobless unemployed textile workers in Gujarat;
- (d) if so, the criteria fixed for the said scheme by the Government;
- (e) whether the Government have extended some financial assistance to Gujarat Government for rehabilitation of displaced textile workers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (f) The Government has revised the rate of daily stipend per trainee under the NRF to Rs. 60/- for Class 'A' cities and to Rs. 50/- for the trainees located elsewhere. The duration of training period has been extended to a maximum of 6 months for seven specified trades.

It has been reported by the Ministry of Industry in a communication dated 6.3.98 that NRF (National Renewal Fund) assistance is being extended through Gandhi Labour Institute, Ahmedabad for counselling, retraining and redeployment of rationalised workers in Gujarat. The

Ministry of Textile in a communication in Nov.'97 stated that they have not extended any financial assistance to Government of Gujarat for rehabilitation of displaced textile mill workers.

[Translation]

Project for Child Labourer

1028. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI M. RAJAJIAH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of special projects for child labourers recently;

(b) if so, the details of achievements made in this regard, State-wise;

(c) the details of cases of violation of these laws reported during the last one year;

(d) the steps taken to ameliorate the plight of child labourers;

(e) the details of NGOs engaged in the implementation of these projects, State-wise; and

(f) the details of funds made available to these NGOs during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (f) The problem of child labour is being tackled by the Government through a process of rehabilitation of the working children as well as enforcement of the Child Labour Laws. The Government of India has been implementing two schemes, namely National Child Labour Project Scheme (NCLP) and Grants-in-aid to voluntary organisations. Under the scheme of NCLP, funds are released to the project societies at the district level which run special schools with provision for non formal education, Vocational training, nutrition, health check, etc. So far 76 Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned for the coverage of 1.5 lakh children.

Under the Grants-in-aid scheme, funds are released to the NGOs directly for taking up action oriented projects for the rehabilitation of child labour, the details of which are given in the attached statement. The functioning of the child labour projects is reviewed and monitored at the district, State & Central level. This is a continuous process.

Apart from rehabilitative measures, the various provisions of child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 is also being enforced with a view to prohibit the employment of children in certain occupations and processes and regulating their working conditions in those occupations/processes not prohibited under the Act. The States/UTs reported 957 (Provisional) violation cases during the last year.

Total funds released under the scheme of Grant-in-aid to NGOs during last 3 years are as follows :-

Year	Funds released (in lakh)
1995-96	27.29
1996-97	62.54
1997-98	38.01

Statement

Andhra Pradesh

1. Vijayapuram Praja Seva Samithi, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh
2. Navachaitanya Academy for Youth Advancement, Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Bihar

3. Gramin Sansadhan Vikas Parishad, Buxur, Bihar
4. Gram Swaraj Abhiyan Sansthan, Vaishali, Bihar
5. Gopal Samaj Kalyan Pratishthan, Nalanda, Bihar
6. Daroga Pd. Roy Mahila Prashikshan Avam Audogik Kendra, Di. Saran, Bihar
7. Manorma Mahila Mandal, Vaishali, Bihar
8. Chandrika Sewa Seden, Haktampur, Di. vaishali, Bihar
9. Mahua Mahila Vikas Sansthan, Vaishali, Bihar
10. Sudha Mahila Samaj Kalyan Parishad, Di. Nalanda, Bihar
11. Samta Gram Seva Sansthan, Patna, Bihar
12. Pragati Foundation, Muzzaffarpur, Bihar
13. Alpehankhyak Mahila Prashikshan Kendra, Patna, Bihar
14. Alternative for India Development, Palamau, Bihar

15. Lord Budha Mission, Vaishali, Bihar

16. Jaya Prapha Academy, Patna, Bihar

17. Bhartiya Jan Manch, Patna, Bihar

Gujarat

18. Gujarat Kelvani Trust, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Haryana

19. Nari Chetna Sangthan, Sonipat Haryana

20. Modern Education Society, Sonipat Haryana

21. Amar Jyoti Shiksha Samiti, Jind, Haryana

Jammu & Kashmir

22. Social Welfare of India, Shahdra Sharief, Rajori, Jammu & Kashmir

Madhya Pradesh

23. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Shiksha Samity, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

24. Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Edu. Society, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

25. Shri Nav Niketan Shiksha Samiti, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Maharashtra

26. Ahilya Devi Mahila Mandal, Nagpur, Maharashtra

Manipur

27. Social Environmental and Rural Technology Council, Pallel, Manipur

28. Manipur Women Coordinating Council, Manipur

29. Rural Health Organisation, West Senapati, Manipur

30. Manipur Rural Institute, Imphal, Manipur

New Delhi

31. Bandhuwa Mukti Morcha, New Delhi

32. Dr. A.V. Baliga Trust, New Delhi

33. All India Santhal Welfare & Cultural Society, New Delhi

34. India International Rural Cultural Centre, Alaknanda, New Delhi

Orissa

35. United Club, Ujini, Orissa

36. Jibaramjee Club, Orissa.

37. Manab Seva Sandan, Dhenkanal, Orissa

38. Project Swarajya, Cuttack, Orissa

39. Nyssadri, Distt. Dhenkanal, Orissa

40. Ramakrishna Ashram, Distt. Angul, Orissa

41. People's Rural Reconstruction Institute for Youth Action (PRIYA), Balasore, Orissa

42. Neelanchal Seva Pratishthan, Puri, Orissa

43. Mahatma Gandhi Khadi Gramodyoga Samity, Distt. Khurda, Orissa

Tamil Nadu

44. Village Reconstruction & Development Project, Salem, Tamil Nadu

45. Tamil Nadu Village Consumer's Protection Council Kavaripettai, Tamil Nadu

Uttar Pradesh

46. Gram Vikas Seva Samity, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

47. Smt. Ambika Devi High School Kanya Vidyalaya, Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh

48. Sanskrit Bhasa Vikas Parishad Sewapuri Distt. Deoria, Uttar Pradesh

49. Children Emancipation Society, 'Project Mala' Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh

50. Akhil Bhartiya Smaj Kalyan Parishad, Distt. Deoria, Uttar Pradesh

51. Bijnor Seva Sansthan, Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh

52. Samaj Kalyan Seva Samity Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

53. Jan Sewa Samiti, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

54. Bal Bikas Avam Mahila Kalyan Parishad, Gonda, Uttar Pradesh

55. Bhartiya Jan Kalyan Avam Mahila Vikas Sewa Sansthan, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh

56. Kapil Bal Avam Mahila Seva Sansthan, Basti Uttar Pradesh

57. Avad Mahila Avam Bal Kalyan Samiti, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh

West Bengal

58. Karimpur Social Welfare Society, Dist. Nadia, West Bengal

59. Unemployed Young Workers' Society, Burdwan, West Bengal

60. Bagmari Youth Progressive Association, Calcutta, West Bengal

61. Bhagra Diamond Club, Burdwan, West Bengal

62. Ikhupatrika Social Welfare Organisation, Distt. Midnapore, West Bengal

63. Jan Siksha Prachar Kendra, Calcutta, West Bengal

64. Society for Education & Environmental Development (SEED), Howrah, West Bengal.

[English]

Assistance for the Development of Medical College and Hospitals in U.P.

1029. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the development of medical colleges and their attached hospitals running in Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years, till date alongwith the purpose for which this financial assistance was provided; and

(b) the funds allocated for the scheme 'Health for All' in the country, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Central Govt. do not have any scheme

for providing Central assistance for the development of State run Medical Colleges and their attached Hospitals.

(b) There is no such scheme called 'Health for All'. However, 'Health for All' is the overall aim of the Health Policy of the Country and improvement of Health Care Services, particularly for the poor, continue to be the common objective of various ongoing Health Programmes.

Health Care Programme for School Children

1030. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any health care programme for poor school children in the country is being started;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any special health care programme for school children are already running by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) A School Health Check up Programme for Students in Primary Schools was implemented during 1996-97 as a special campaign. The reports received from 486 Districts indicate that 97.15% schools had implemented the scheme, and 85.6% of the enrolled children were examined for detection of common ailments, which included anaemia, worm infestations, night blindness, iodine deficiency disease (goitre), ear discharge, scabies, pyoderma, vision defects and dental problems. Statewise coverage are given in Statement I and II.

Continuation of the Programme as a Centrally funded Programme has since been discontinued.

Statement-I

Statement showing Coverage of Schools and Children

on 05-08-97

Sl. No.	State (Urban+Rural)	District		No. of Schools			No. of Children		
		No.	Repo.	Total	Covered	%age	Enrolled	Examine	%age
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	22	60761	60761	100.00	8046141	6907472	85.85
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	13	1478	1239	83.83	121693	106982	87.91
3.	Assam	23	23	34478	30475	88.39	2987848	2375439	79.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	Bihar	50	23	34880	33214	96.86	4707358	3593339	76.33
5.	Delhi	1	1	2180	2141	98.21	855264	728677	85.20
6.	Goa	2	2	1280	1280	100.00	98818	91063	92.15
7.	Gujarat	19	19	33094	32316	97.65	7090141	6234344	87.93
8.	Haryana	17	17	16163	16129	99.79	2567401	2377417	92.60
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12	12	10468	10468	100.00	776674	741369	95.45
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	14	15136	14831	97.98	1025553	899814	87.74
11.	Karnataka	20	20	41393	41365	99.93	4747180	3985971	83.97
12.	Kerala	14	14	11232	11215	99.85	2354425	2209995	93.87
13.	Madhya Pradesh	45	45	85965	85060	98.95	10026944	6938147	69.20
14.	Maharashtra	30	30	65073	65073	100.00	9376552	8269278	88.19
15.	Manipur	8	8	3763	3592	95.46	315530	275920	87.45
16.	Meghalaya	7	7	5087	4878	95.89	370042	286227	77.35
17.	Mizoram	4	4	1156	1156	100.00	106383	98628	92.71
18.	Nagaland	7	7	1871	1814	96.95	170404	153704	90.20
19.	Orissa	30	30	42402	42104	99.30	3988713	3115050	78.10
20.	Punjab	17	17	19606	19562	99.78	2737182	2533318	92.55
21.	Rajasthan	31	31	44181	44181	100.00	4317965	4658076	107.88
22.	Sikkim	4	4	873	868	99.43	105203	72609	69.02
23.	Tamil Nadu	23	23	40201	40201	100.00	5836846	5425049	92.94
24.	Tripura	4	4	2843	2808	98.77	474041	403816	85.19
25.	Uttar Pradesh	66	66	104526	92951	88.93	12993025	11302966	86.99
26.	West Bengal	19	19	45792	45002	98.27	6928894	5957992	85.99
27.	A & N Islands	2	2	289	271	93.77	40573	37869	93.34
28.	Chandigarh	1	1	185	146	78.92	75000	63239	84.32
29.	D & N Haveli	1	1	191	187	97.91	26715	20603	77.12
30.	Daman & Diu	2	2	75	75	100.00	14492	13768	95.00
31.	Lakshadweep	1	1	28	28	100.00	8723	8679	99.50
32.	Pondicherry	4	4	582	580	99.86	98885	97148	98.24
Total		513	486	727232	706471	97.15	93390608	79983966	85.64

**Statement-
Special School Health Check
Statement showing coverage of**

No.	Children No. State	No. of Children										
		Anaemia		Worm INF.		Night BL		IDD (Goitre)		EAR		
	Examined	Total	%age	Total	%age	Total	%age	Total	%age	Total	%age	
1.	Andhra Pd.	6907472	739907	10.71	207334	3.00	122826	1.78	NA	0.00	151723	2.20
2.	Arunachal Pd.	106982	4868	4.55	11200	10.47	14.38	1.34	71	0.07	4749	4.44
3.	Assam	2375439	144162	6.07	163850	6.90	53249	2.24	0	0.00	82317	3.47
4.	Bihar	3593339	354191	9.86	462715	12.88	74286	2.07	884	0.02	191775	5.34
5.	Delhi	728677	107220	14.71	84720	11.63	7251	1.00	86	0.01	29229	4.01
6.	Goa	91063	5902	6.48	8115	8.91	134	0.15	42	0.05	3297	3.62
7.	Gujarat	6234344	458779	7.36	303009	4.86	45937	0.74	11738	0.19	155624	2.50
8.	Haryana	2377417	142860	6.01	62724	2.64	5935	0.25	572	0.02	50466	2.12
9.	Himachal Pd.	741369	90475	12.20	84043	11.34	4422	0.60	0	0.00	21533	2.90
10.	J & K	899814		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
11.	Karnataka	3985971	526058	13.20	356427	8.94	124280	3.12	4833	0.12	98120	2.46
12.	Kerala	2209995	265512	12.01	135398	6.13	21853	0.99	8839	0.40	73767	3.34
13.	Madhya Pd.	6938147	764725	11.02	322678	4.65	246707	3.56	10082	0.15	161373	2.33
14.	Maharashtra	8269278	396244	4.79	950713	11.50	125093	1.51	0	0.00	144426	1.75
15.	Manipur	275920	22290	8.08	31181	11.30	5677	2.06	179	0.06	9093	3.30
16.	Meghalaya	286227	21979	7.68	24990	8.73	10078	3.52	144	0.05	9813	3.43
17.	Mizoram	98628	4622	4.69	6224	6.31	756	0.77	405	0.41	2792	2.83
18.	Nagaland	153704	5432	3.53	14000	9.11	731	0.48	49	0.03	5081	3.31
19.	Orissa	3115060	561604	18.03	552764	17.74	85252	2.74	5180	0.17	157528	5.06
20.	Punjab	2533315	357195	14.10	162203	6.40	4450	0.18	1308	0.05	60431	2.39
21.	Rajasthan	4658076	317691	6.82	145344	3.12	25707	0.55	3230	0.07	125316	2.69
22.	Sikkim	72609	11370	15.66	16023	22.07	739	1.02	510	0.70	3602	4.96
23.	Tamil Nadu	5425049	620869	11.44	769078	14.18	77098	1.42	3422	0.06	98327	1.81
24.	Tripura	403816	40539	10.04	44092	10.92	8343	2.07	395	0.10	15824	3.92
25.	Uttar Pradesh	11302968	100715	0.89	525426	4.65	109710	0.97		0.00	386977	3.42
26.	West Bengal	5957992	1241365	20.84	1526845	25.63	190420	3.20	14736	0.25	333667	5.60
27.	A & N Islands	37869	3341	8.82	5072	13.39	246	0.65	265	0.70	944	2.49
28.	Chandigarh	63235	12015	19.00	10709	16.93	114	0.18	0	0.00	1387	2.19
29.	D & N Haveli	20603	1865	9.05	2124	10.31	452	2.19	41	0.20	1012	4.91
30.	Daman & Diu	13768	597	4.34	467	3.39	29	0.21	5	0.04	290	2.11
31.	Lakshadweep	8875	1036	11.94	1282	14.77	4	0.05	9	0.10	366	4.10
32.	Pondicherry	97148	13106	13.49	18271	18.81	1312	1.35	7	0.01	1685	1.73
Total		79983968	7338534	9.18	7009022	8.76	1354529	1.69	67030	0.08	2382524	2.98

II

up for Primary Schools

Schools and Children Examined

(As on 5.6.97)

with Health Problems

Scabies		Pyoderma		Eye		Dental		Other		Health Prob.	
Total	%age	Total	%age	Total	%age	Total	%age	Total	%age	Total	%age
187403	2.71	163346	2.36	79795	1.16	518657	7.51	NA	0.00	2170991	31.43
4116	3.85	1795	1.68	2550	2.38	13179	12.32	8318	7.78	52284	48.87
53547	2.21	56603	1.96	41733	1.76	157675	6.64	98949	4.17	841085	35.41
94552	2.63	99072	2.76	72039	2.00	279152	7.77	122263	3.40	1750929	48.73
7846	1.08	30738	4.22	50969	6.99	111583	15.31	37479	5.14	467101	64.10
2106	2.31	2329	2.56	2614	2.87	31923	35.06	4620	5.07	61082	67.08
84737	1.36	176357	2.83	121899	1.96	663830	10.65	61813	0.99	2083723	33.42
13838	0.46	64276	2.70	32550	1.37	156431	6.58	34552	1.45	561204	23.61
12292	1.66	17532	2.36	12939	1.75	83331	11.24	5764	0.78	332331	44.83
	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0	0.00
69266	1.74	85747	2.15	48325	1.21	709786	17.81	119763	3.00	2142605	53.75
77632	3.51	46116	2.09	54772	2.48	500261	22.64	140376	6.35	1324526	59.93
245742	3.54	218447	3.15	105663	1.52	366474	5.28	426412	6.15	2868303	41.34
64643	0.78	163657	1.98	222775	2.69	1302109	15.75	1372037	16.59	4741697	57.34
11535	4.18	4803	1.74	9030	3.27	37120	13.45	13844	5.02	144752	52.46
10610	3.71	5327	1.86	10060	3.51	38479	13.44	20038	7.00	151518	52.94
596	0.60	1189	1.21	4393	4.45	16045	16.27	4430	4.49	41452	42.03
6183	4.02	2081	1.35	2377	1.55	14410	9.38	4222	2.75	54566	35.50
271832	8.73	132039	4.24	86137	2.77	685772	22.01	209459	6.72	2747567	88.20
59589	2.35	138621	5.47	49166	1.94	276531	10.92	68210	2.69	1177702	46.49
55576	1.21	178301	3.83	60184	1.29	140085	3.01	108624	2.33	1161058	24.93
3093	4.26	3359	4.63	3145	4.33	19961	27.49	6815	9.39	68617	94.50
124649	2.30	138009	2.54	134094	2.47	1040283	19.18	765545	14.11	3771374	69.52
15676	3.88	5480	1.35	1102	0.27	58101	14.39	37141	9.20	226673	56.13
238914	2.11	256869	2.27	175188	1.55	525322	4.65	194249	1.72	2513370	22.24
547747	9.19	161848	2.72	215090	3.61	1445435	24.26	533113	8.95	6210267	104.23
1398	3.69	589	1.56	863	2.28	9006	23.78	2101	5.55	23825	62.91
778	1.23	1976	3.12	1984	3.14	15907	25.15	2894	4.58	47764	75.53
1110	5.39	913	4.43	531	2.58	4510	21.89	418	2.03	12976	62.98
201	1.46	534	3.88	238	1.73	1507	10.95	313	2.27	4181	30.37
384	4.42	197	2.27	180	2.07	1301	14.99		0.00	4749	54.72
3672	3.78	3172	3.27	2628	2.71	21470	22.10	9883	10.17	75208	77.41
2258283	2.84	2151302	2.69	1605013	2.01	9245616	11.56	4413645	5.52	37835478	47.30

Atrocities on SC/ST

1031. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of atrocities committed against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the year 1996 and 1997, State-wise; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to check the atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI

MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The information is given in the attached Statement.

(b) In pursuance of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment assists the State Governments with Central aid on 50:50 basis (100% to UTs) for taking steps towards strengthening of administrative, enforcement and judicial machinery, setting up of Special Courts, provision of relief and rehabilitation to the victims of atrocities etc.

Statement

Statement showing the number of cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes in various States/UTs during the years 1996 and 1997

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	1996			1997		
		SC	ST	Total	SC	ST	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1629	252	1881	1880	236	2116
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	5	5	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	810	190	1000	710	158	868
5.	Goa	1	0	1	2	0	2
6.	Gujarat	1764	369	2133	1831	384	2215
7.	Haryana	63	1	64	93	5	98
8.	Himachal Pradesh	66	3	69	61	1	62
9.	J & K	17	6	23	8	11	19
10.	Karnataka	1089	180	1269	1227	78	1305
11.	Kerala	640	122	762	755	139	894
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4075	1466	5541	4269	1400	5669
13.	Maharashtra	1352	337	1689	831	189	1020
14.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	0	1	1	0	13	13
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	486	179	665	602	220	822
19.	Punjab	12	1	13	11	0	11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Rajasthan	6623	1393	8016	5624	1445	7069
21.	Sikkim	14	46	60	18	31	49
22.	Tamil Nadu	1812	85	1897	1403	227	1630
23.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10963	336	11299	8500	86	8586
25.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.	A & N Islands	0	0	0	0	2	2
2.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	1	0	1
3.	D & N Haveli	0	1	1	0	1	1
4.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Delhi	11	0	11	19	0	19
6.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Pondicherry	13	0	13	23	0	23
Total		31440	4973	36413	27868	4626	32494

Source : National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.
(Provisional data)

[Translation]

Persons killed by Naxalite Attacks

1032. SHRI MOTILAL VORA ;
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons killed in naxalite attacks during the last three years;

(b) whether such incidents are continuously on increase in the naxalite affected States;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to stop the same;

(d) whether the naxalite affected States have requested the Union Government to deal with the naxalite problem at national level;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(f) whether the Union Government have prepared any action plan to be implemented by the affected States; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) As per available information, 1515 persons are reported to have been killed in naxalite attacks during the last three years.

(b) The killings by naxalites in 1997 registered a slight increase as compared to previous years.

(c) 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 of weapons. Training of police personnel in Anti-Extremist Operations has also been arranged.

(d) and (e) "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.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. 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;
- (v) launching of Area Domination Programme among the States;
- (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.

[English]

Production of Fertilizers

1033. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :

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

(a) the number of contracts of import agreements of fertilizers with foreign countries since the formation of this Government;

(b) the details of production of fertilizers in the country during the last three years, year-wise till March 31, 98;

(c) whether the Government have imported urea in large quantity during the last year;

(d) the value/quantity and varieties of fertilizers to be imported/exported alongwith the names of exporting/importing countries;

(e) the amount of foreign exchange involved in these contracts;

(f) whether a comprehensive study has been conducted in regard to previous agreements in regard to any financial embezzlement; and

(g) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to stop the import of fertilizers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) Urea is the only fertilizer which is controlled and whose imports are made on Government account through designated canalising agencies. No contracts for import of Urea have been made since March 1998 when this Government assumed office.

(b) The production of fertilizers in the country in 'N' and 'P' terms during the last 3 years is given in the attached statement.

(c) No, Sir. The imports of urea were made as per the requirement.

(d) and (e) Since the country is deficient in fertilizers, exports are not allowed except for small quantities of Single Super Phosphate (SSP) to Bangladesh. Urea, Diammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) are the 3 major fertilizers which are imported in the country. The imports of DAP & MOP have been decanalised and are made on the private trade account. The imports of urea which are on Government account, are generally made from Confederation of Independent States (CIS), Arab-Gulf, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Libya etc.

Since imports of fertilizers are dependent upon variety of factors like evolution of demand, trend of indigenous production and consumption, behaviour of prices in the international market, global demand-supply position etc., it is difficult to estimate the value/quantity of imports during 1998-99.

(f) The Government has studied the contract agreement in the deal of M/s. National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) for purchase of urea from M/s. Karsan Limited, Ankara in which entire payment (Rs. 133 crores) was released in advance and in which no urea supply made. There is no other case in the knowledge of the Department of Fertilizers.

(g) Since the country has limitation of resource endowments, stopping imports of all fertilizers may not be feasible. The country has no known commercially exploitable reserves of Potash and thus its imports can't be stopped. In respect of Phosphates, policy mix of domestic production based essentially on rock-phosphate & Sulphur and intermediates namely; ammonia and phosphoric acid alongwith imports of DAP are the best available options. However, in respect of nitrogen, The endeavour will be to achieve optimum degree of self-sufficiency with residual role of imports to provide for fluctuations in demand and take advantage of the global demand-supply situation.

Statement

Production of Fertilizers in terms of N&P during the last 3 years

Year	(Production ('000 MTs))	
	'N'	'P'
1995-96	8777.0	2558.0
1996-97	8599.4	2555.9
1997-98	10085.6	2975.5

Performance of Labour Bureau

1034. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of Labour Bureau of carrying out surveys and research in organised and unorganised sector recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the major components of surveys/research projects approved for the current year;

(c) whether the Government propose to reconstitue an Advisory Body with eminent professionals, Trade Unionists to undertake oriented surveys/research programme to help for framing of Labour policy; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to revitalise the Labour Bureau as a National Institute ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) Performance of Labour Bureau including that of other organisations of the Ministry of Labour is reflected in the Annual Report of the Ministry of Labour which is circulated amongst the Members of the Parliament at the time of consideration and passing of Demands for Grants of the Ministry. It is reviewed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee while considering Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Labour. Labour Bureau has, inter-alia, included the following major activities in their action plan for 1998-99 :-

Publication of Consumer Price Indices for Industrial workers, Agricultural Workers and Rural Workers; Conduct of study to bring out reports on evaluation of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in Building and Construction Establishments in Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and spade work for study in Bihar;

To publish report on Survey of Working and Living Conditions of Workers in unorganised sector in respect of Man Made Fibre Textiles Industry and to finalise report in respect of Marine Fishing Industry; Publication of report on occupational Wage Survey in respect of ten Manufacturing Industries and completion of field survey and tabulation of data in respect of 13 Manufacturing/service sector industries; Publication of report on Survey of Working and Living Conditions of Labour belonging to SC/ST in Asansol and release of report in respect of another centre as decided by Inter Departmental Direction Committee Release of reports on Earning, Employment, Labour Cost, Absenteeism, Labour Turnover under Annual Survey of Industries (sample sector) in respect of various years; Release of report on Socio Economic Conditions of Women workers in Cashewnut Processing Industry and launching of study in respect of Food Processing Industry including

sea food and marine products, Zari and Embroidery and other selected Handicrafts and Match works and conduct of pilot survey at 78 centres in connection with new Working Class Family Income and Expenditure Survey and launching of the main survey.

(c) and (d) A Committee comprising of Director, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, Director General, Labour Bureau and officials from Ministry of Labour, Central Statistical Organisation, National Sample Survey Organisation, Planning Commission, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute has been constituted to examine the activities of Labour Bureau.

Suspension of SPG from Congress President

1035. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Special Protection Group attached to the Congress President has been replaced; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Gorkha Land Movement

1036. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons killed and injured so far in the Gorkha land movement of Darjeeling;

(b) the extent of damage caused to the public and private property; and

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to constitute Gorkha land State ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) As per information available with the Central Government, 184 persons were killed and 919 were injured in the Gorkha Land Movement.

(b) Reports available indicate that 1567 houses/buildings were either destroyed or damaged in the movement.

(c) No, Sir.

Bride Burning Deaths

1037. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state .:

(a) the number of incident of death of bride burning in the country during each of the last three years, State/ Union Territory-1 wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such deaths infuture ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K ADVANI) : (a) Available information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes is essentially the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has, from time to time, been writing to the State Government

emphasising the need to take measures to check the menence of crime against women. The measures suggested by the Central Government include, inter alia, 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. The Central Government has also been stressing upon the State Governments the need to ensure implementation of the existing laws, both in letter and spirit, and to bring about and awareness in general public about the laws/instructions regarding anti-dowry and other connected matters. The Central Government has also been modifying and amending the existing laws with a view to making them more stringent. The media is being used to project the positive role of women in society.

Statement

Incidence of Dowry Murder and Death by burning during 1995 to 1997

Sl.No.	State/UT	Murder for Dowry by Burning			Dowry Death by Burning		
		1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26	34	46	65	98	105
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	1
3.	Assam	1	0	2	7	3	6
4.	Bihar	68	50	45	102	83	106
5.	Goa	0	0	0	3	1	1
6.	Gujarat	7	28	20	21	21	25
7.	Haryana	2	6	4	68	65	74
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	1	0	1	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Karnataka	28	16	15	58	61	36
11.	Kerala	1	1	0	5	5	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	39	34	33	147	221	182
13.	Maharashtra	63	67	57	142	116	120
14.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Orissa	7	21	5	14	11	11
19.	Punjab	7	7	5	56	55	78
20.	Rajasthan	14	39	12	62	111	115
21.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	4	188	7	23	18	48
23.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	242	296	238	557	613	506
25.	West Bengal	1	1	7	18	19	76
Total (States)		510	788	497	1348	1505	1498

UNION TERRITORIES

26.	A & N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	1
27.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	2
28.	D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Delhi	2	5	7	77	59	77
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	1	0	0	0	1	1
Total (UTs)		3	5	7	77	60	81
Total (All-India)		513	793	504	1425	1565	1579

Source : Monthly Crime Statistics.

Note : 1. Figures are provisional

2. In Absence of data of Orissa from October 1997 onwards. Figures of correspondence months of 1996 of this State have been used.

[English]

Use of Cartilage by Surgeons

1038. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that surgeons are using Cartilage taken from the human ear to fight in contin-ence;

(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 HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT

EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) The Government is aware of the fact that aural Cartilages can be used in a variety of Blastic Surgery procedures including that of urethra for urinary incontinence. However, the procedure are not undertaken in any of the Central Government Hospitals in Delhi. In Clinical Practice, Cartilages from the ear are used for the repair of tympanic membrana as an autograft.

[Translation]

Funds Allocations to Tribal Areas of the Country

1039. SHRI FAGGAR SINGH KULASTE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated by the Government in each State for the tribal areas of the country;

(b) the number of such tribal districts in each State and procedure being adopted to allocate the funds;

(c) whether these amounts are made available on the basis of tribal population; and

(d) if so, the name of schemes adopted in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The Government of India releases funds to the State/UT Governments for the development of Scheduled Tribes and Tribal areas. A Statement indicating the amounts released to the States/UTs under

different schemes is indicated in the attached Statement-I. Allocation of funds are made giving weightage to the Tribal population in the States/UTs.

(b) Under Tribal Sub-Plan strategies Integrated Tribal Development Projects/Agencies have been delineated in – full districts and in – part districts of 18 States and 2 Union Territories. State-wise details are indicated in the attached Statement-II

(c) Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) and grants under Article 275(1) are released on tribal population basis. For release of grants under other schemes, tribal population is not taken into account.

(d) The names of the Schemes are Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan and Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constituion.

Statement-I

Details of State/UT wise release of funds under different schemes for Welfare of STs during 1997-98

S. No.	State/UT	Girls Hostal	Boys Hostal gksLVy	Ashram Schools	Vocation- al Train- ing Centres	Educa- tional Complex	NGOs	Tribal Research	SCA to TSP	Article 275(1)	STICs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	60.20	45.45	218.46	–	1.42	24.48	20.47	2581.54	453.50	100.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	–	–	–	–	–	102.76	0.26	–	–	–
3.	Assam	16.00	16.00	–	77.15	–	75.38	23.27	1460.00	205.00	–
4.	Bihar	–	–	–	–	16.06	38.00	0.53	00.00	641.75	–
5.	Goa	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	00.00	–	–
6.	Gujarat	–	–	–	86.34	13.81	–	9.47	2632.77	625.00	123.89
7.	Himachal Pradesh	15.00	15.00	–	40.00	–	–	0.94	521.89	108.00	–
8.	Karnataka	14.99	27.50	–	–	–	19.18	0.28	500.00	270.00	–
9.	Kerala	–	–	–	–	–	26.14	20.07	196.12	111.75	50.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	–	–	–	–	50.20	8.88	49.96	9207.83	1282.50	200.00
11.	Maharashtra	10.00	12.50	104.50	–	4.59	57.59	50.72	3400.89	667.25	99.50
12.	Manipur	3.00	13.00	3.00	45.50	–	11.27	9.80	950.00	123.00	00.00
13.	Meghalaya	13.75	13.75	–	–	–	121.11	–	–	255.00	00.00
14.	Mizoram	–	–	–	–	–	5.80	–	–	–124.00	–
15.	Nagaland	–	–	–	–	–	3.44	–	–	138.75	–
16.	Orissa	45.00	35.00	50.00	40.00	61.51	83.20	7.86	5576.27	657.00	100.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
17.	Rajasthan	150.17	159.55	-	24.00	51.35	14.41	13.37	2341.13	600.00	50.00
18.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60.00	108.35	-
19.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	-	17.03	30.50	243.71	121.00	-
20.	Tripura	17.25	15.25	93.46	32.00	-	0.26	11.67	885.00	231.25	00.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh	11.17	-	-	-	18.99	2.75	-	112.91	110.50	-
22.	West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	12.75	22.44	1600.39	339.25	10.00
23.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	118.00	-	-
24.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	Daman & Diu	20.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	50.75	-	-
26.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	100.79	-	-	-	-
28.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	3.12	-	521.80	131.75	-

STDCs : State Tribal Development Corporation for interior forest produce.

Statement-II

State/UT wise distribution of Integrated Tribal Development Projects in (ITDP) in Different Districts

S. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of ITDP	No. of Distt. covered		
			Total	Fully	Partly
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	8	-	8
2.	Assam	19	15	-	15
3.	Bihar	14	9	7	2
4.	Gujarat	9	8	1	7
5.	Himachal Pradesh	5	3	2	1
6.	Karnataka	5	4	-	4
7.	Kerala	7	7	-	7
8.	Madhya Pradesh	49	23	4	19
9.	Maharashtra	16	11	-	11
10.	Manipur	5	5	5	-
11.	Orissa	21	9	3	6

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Rajasthan	5	5	2	3
13.	Sikkim	4	4	1	3
14.	Tamil Nadu	9	5	-	5
15.	Tripura	3	3	-	3
16.	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	-	1
17.	West Bengal	12	12	-	12
18.	A & N Islands	1	1	1	-
19.	Daman & Diu	1	1	1	-
20.	J & K	-	-	-	-
Total		194	134	27	107

[English]

Illegal Abortions

1040. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, the country has the largest number of illegal abortions;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken or proposed to be taken any remedial measures in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the measures taken so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) There is no definite estimation of illegal abortions in the country. It is a fact that illegal and unsafe abortions are still more than the reported/legal abortions (Medical Termination of Pregnancy).

(b) The main reasons are :

1. Ignorance of the provisions of MTP Act;
2. Lack of adequate facilities for MTP and qualified medical practitioners for conducting MTP;
3. Social values and prejudices in many parts of the country still do not favour abortion. Unmarried, widowed and divorced women are usually reluctant to seek abortion services in public hospitals.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A brief account of the measures taken is in the statement attached.

Statement

Legalising safe abortion in certain prescribed circumstances through the enactment of MTP Act was the first major step taken by the Government against unauthorised abortions. The number of approved MTP facilities in the country has increased (1877 in 1976 to 8511 in 1994-95). MTP equipments have been supplied to Government health facilities with operation theatres. Doctors are being trained for MTP facilities.

Under the RCH programme, certain other major steps are being taken to improve and expand the facilities and their utilisation.

- i. In order to make MTP facilities easily accessible, all rural health facilities at the district and sub-divisional levels as also the community health centres are being equipped with facilities for MTP. The objective is to extend these facilities to the PHC level in a phased manner.
- ii. Doctors are being trained in MTP techniques in large numbers for coping with the demand for this service.

iii. In addition to regular doctors, provisions have been made for deploying additional medical personnel on contract basis for attending PHCs on certain fixed days in the week, for providing MTP and other safe motherhood services. Private clinics willing to provide MTP services are being given MTP equipment and also training facilities, if they have OTs and qualified staff.

iv. To make the public, especially poor and uneducated people, aware of the legal status of MTP as also the availability of MTP services in their neighbourhood, IEC (Information, Education and Communication) campaign is being intensified.

v. Certain provisions in the MTP Act 1971 and MTP Rules 1975 are proposed to be amended so as to provide for easier recognition of MTP centres and improvement in their reporting system.

Expenditure on Exploratory Drilling

1041. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by ONGC and other Oil companies on surveys and exploratory drilling during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the estimated expenditure expected on the said activities during 1998-99;

(c) whether the Government have analysed the inflow of information from exploratory work during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The amount of expenditure incurred by ONGC and OIL on survey and exploratory drilling during the last three years and the estimated expenditure for the current year is indicated below :-

		(Rs. in crores)			
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (Prov.)	1998-99 (Est.)
		1	2	3	4
ONGC					
Survey		214.66	219.62	303.57	391.00

1	2	3	4	5
Exploratory drilling	1047.83	1173.15	912.99	1365.00
Total	1262.49	1392.77	1216.56	1756.00
OIL				
Survey	24.33	27.68	38.65	50.09
Exploratory drilling	118.14	128.85	146.47	247.73
Total	142.47	156.53	185.12	297.82

(c) to (e) Analysis of inflow of information generated from surveys and exploratory drilling is an ongoing process. It helps in discovering hydrocarbon bearing new structures and developing the oil and gas fields.

Based on such analysis, acquisition of geo-scientific data and drilling of wells are planned every year as a part of ongoing process of exploration.

Racket in Kidney Theft

1042. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the Kidney -theft racket flourishing all over the country; and

(b) if so, the preventive steps taken by the Government to punish the culprits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) It is not a fact that Kidney theft racket is flourishing all over the country, except a few incidents as reported in News Papers.

(b) Transplantation of Human Organs Act has been passed by the Parliament, which has come into force with effect from 5.2.95. It provides for the regulation of removal storage and transplantation of Human Organs, for therapeutic purposes and for the prevention of commercial dealing in Human Organs, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Act provides for stringent punishment for a term which may extend upto five years with fine upto ten thousand rupees. If a registered Medical practitioner is convicted, his name can be removed from the Register of the State Medical Council, for a period of two years for the first offence, and permanently for a subsequent offence. Some of the States like Bihar, U.P. etc.

Child Labourers in the Tea Gardens

1043. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of child labourers are engaged in the tea gardens of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to check child labour in such gardens ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Indira Gandhi Health Institute, Shillong (Meghalaya)

1044. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indira Gandhi Health Institute, Shillong (Meghalaya) was supposed to be partly operational by December, 1997 after purchase of necessary equipments and its installation;

(b) if so, the details of its progress thereof;

(c) whether a Committee was set up to work out a detailed project report;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any report has been submitted by the said committee; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Efforts are being made to make the Interim Facilities operational by taking steps for installation of medical equipment and appointment of medical personnel.

The selection of some essential equipment and their suppliers has been completed by the Institute, after following the due tendering and procurement procedures, and the proposals have received the recommendations of the Standing Finance Committee. The Institute's proposals for obtaining approval of the President, Governing Council, has been received by the Ministry in April, 1998.

The Government sanctioned 108 posts in Group A, B, C & D. In response to the advertisement for filling up the posts again 11 vacancies in Group 'A' posts, not a single

application was received against six vacancies. These posts have been re-advertised. Powers have been delegated to the Director of the Institute for making appointments to Group C & D posts to speed up the process of filling up of posts.

(c) and (d) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. P.K. Dave, Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi was constituted (a) to prepare a detailed project report for setting up a Referral Hospital with Postgraduate Teaching, (b) to update the costing, determining the interse priorities and phasing to meet the minimum requirement of establishing post-graduate teaching, (c) to revise the Project to include MBBS Course, and (d) to examine the Project Proposal prepared by the Institute.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) On examining the Report, it was found that detailed cost estimates are required to be worked out, keeping in view the priorities and the norms laid down by Medical Council of India. The Institute has entrusted the task of preparation of cost estimates to M/s. Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation Ltd. The entire matter will be placed before the Governing Council.

Infectious Water Supply in Delhi

1045. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the diseases caused due to infectious water supply;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the reports of infectious water supply in several areas of Delhi, particularly in areas of South Delhi which may cause ulcer hepatitis and other diseases as epidemic;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The important Diseases caused due to infectious water supply are acute diarrhoea in young children, cholera, dysentery, typhoid and viral hepatitis.

(b) and (c) The Delhi Jal Board has informed that of the 39 samples from AIIMS and adjoining areas lifted by Delhi Jal Board, 5 water samples of internal water distribution system of AIIMS were found bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

(d) The ensure the potability of the water, and to avoid chances of contamination, the work of flushing and cleaning of all reservoirs and over-head tanks and dead ends in distribution system has already been done by Delhi Jal Board.

All Agencies such as NDMC, CPWD, Delhi PWD, Delhi Cantonment various Cooperative Societies and individuals have been again advised to clear their Over-Head/Underground Stodge Tanks on regular basis, so as to ensure potability of drinking water.

Further, 250 to 300 samples are collected daily from different areas and checked.

A Mobile Laboratory is also deployed to check the quality of water in rural areas.

Testing Kits have been provided to Junior Engineers to check the presence of residual chlorine in drinking water.

People are advised not to use 'Shallow Hand Pump' water for drinking. These Pumps in resettlement Colonies have been painted in red colour with the indication 'Not fit for drinking'.

There are specified Laboratories for free testing of water quality in case of any complaints.

Demand and Supply of Fertilizers

1046. SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI N.K. PREM CHANDRAN :

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

(a) the annual demand, supply and indigenous production of fertilizers in the country during the last three years, till 31.3.98. State-wise;

(b) the quantum of fertilizers imported alongwith the shortage thereof;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange incurred on the imports of fertilizers as well as the total amount of subsidy provided;

(d) the action taken by the Government to meet the shortage of fertilizers; and

(e) the name of fertilizers, which have not been extended the benefit of subsidy, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) and (b) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under price. movement and distribution control of the Government. All other phospehatic, potassic and low analysis fertilizers have been decontrolled starting from August 1992. The State-wise demand and supply of urea during the last three years is given at Statement I attached. The indigenous production of urea in the country as well as imports during the last three years are given at Statement II attached. The

quantum of imports of urea is determined so as to bridge the gap between assessed requirement and indigenous availability.

(c) The amount of the foreign exchange and subsidy incurred by the Government of India on imports of urea during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 have been as under:-

Year	Foreign Exchange in US\$(Millions)	Subsidy amount (Rs. in crores).
1995-96	874.41	1934.99
1996-97	472.70	1161.56
1997-98	359.25	729.31

(d) There have been no shortages of urea in the country since 1995-96. Localised shortages experienced by States in any of the seasons, were redressed by rushing supplies from alternative sources including imports. The availability of decontrolled fertilizers is regulated by the market forces of demand and supply.

(e) Subsidy on urea is provided under Retention Price Scheme (RPS) while the decontrolled fertilizers are covered under Concession Scheme of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC). Only three low analysis fertilizers Ammonium Chloride, Calcium Ammonium Nitrate and Ammonium Sulphate, are not receiving the benefit of any subsidy/concession.

Statement-I

Statement showing State-wise Demand/Consumption and Availability of UREA during 1995-96 to 1997-98

(Figures in 000 Mts.)

S.No.	States	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
		Demand/Consumption	Availability	Demand/Consumption	Availability	Demand/Consumption	Availability
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1828.45	2213.88	1932.09	2177.97	1652.50	2276.22
2.	Karnataka	759.81	891.63	812.40	939.81	877.19	1016.23
3.	Kerala	120.70	146.59	122.60	146.60	177.67	145.59
4.	Tamil Nadu	672.97	818.66	803.50	897.33	826.25	1013.37
5.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.40	0.27	0.41	0.39	0.32	0.64
6.	Lakshadweep	0.10	0.06	0.11	0.00	0.13	0.02
7.	Pondicherry	21.66	25.40	23.16	27.09	22.96	23.97
8.	Gujarat	970.73	1103.00	1051.73	1069.78	1180.14	1288.63
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1021.99	1308.53	1184.11	1292.68	1389.08	1733.81
10.	Maharashtra	1503.76	1793.14	1615.57	1732.40	1679.05	1999.13
11.	Rajasthan	931.72	1040.79	1057.38	1197.84	1171.24	1360.31
12.	Dadar & Nagar	1.05	0.94	1.13	1.31	1.01	1.28
13.	Goa	5.73	5.83	4.26	4.42	4.30	3.94
14.	Daman & Diu	0.17	0.08	0.33	0.12	0.35	0.00
15.	Haryana	1144.30	1403.70	1213.86	1288.84	1301.05	1490.84
16.	Himachal Pradesh	40.55	50.87	45.54	47.13	46.96	44.92
17.	Jammu & Kashmir	88.61	92.79	72.53	82.95	89.24	102.06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Punjab	1997.35	2271.93	1877.37	2024.60	1992.25	2321.27
19.	Uttar Pradesh	4262.69	4895.04	4443.38	4906.24	4673.89	5641.82
20.	Chandigarh	0.80	0.77	0.79	0.94	0.82	0.88
21.	Delhi	32.61	35.53	37.02	36.27	36.69	35.68
22.	Bihar	1097.15	1309.30	1291.78	1529.67	1298.79	1712.57
23.	Orissa	312.35	382.25	306.25	448.17	419.82	492.67
24.	West Bengal	948.67	1077.17	961.62	1124.72	1021.99	1261.69
25.	Assam	48.81	54.59	67.26	77.08	82.64	93.53
26.	Manipur	22.29	22.68	24.04	25.33	23.71	29.65
27.	Meghalaya	3.65	3.53	4.40	6.53	4.54	6.13
28.	Nagaland	0.47	2.35	0.61	0.70	0.76	1.17
29.	Sikkim	1.10	1.36	1.01	1.35	0.71	1.48
30.	Tripura	11.38	10.91	11.53	13.76	18.99	22.18
31.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.33	0.26	0.55	0.43	0.57	0.66
32.	Mizoram	0.21	0.45	0.42	0.57	0.82	1.48
33.	Tea Board (NE)	56.39	61.70	55.74	56.77	69.37	59.05
All India		17908.95	21025.98	19024.48	21159.79	20007.80	24182.87

Statement-II

Statement showing Indigenous Production and Import of UREA during 1995-96 to 1997-98

(Figures in Lakh Mts.)

	Production	Import
1995-96	158.20	37.85
1996-97	154.41	23.28
1997-98	185.96	23.89

[Translation]

Assistance for Arresting Veerappan

1047. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the two State Governments have demanded any assistance from the Union Government to counter the terror of Veerappan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of efforts being made by the Union Government to arrest him during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI. L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) The State Government of Karnataka had requested the Central Government for assistance in the form of Central Para-Military Forces to nab Veerappan. In a meeting subsequently held in the Home Ministry with senior officials of both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka it was decided that Tamil Nadu Police and Karnataka Police should have a joint command and upgrade intelligence collection before launching operations to nab Veerappan. Trained Commandos of the Central Police Force could then be deputed, as and when necessary, to assist the joint command of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in operation.

(c) "Public Order" and "Police" being State subjects, it is for the concerned State Governments to devise appropriate methods and take concrete steps in this regard. The Central Government will provide all possible assistance to the State Governments.

Reservation Under The Constitution

1048. SHRI PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any reservation rules have been framed under the reservation law which are applicable in all the spheres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIAMTI. MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no Act on reservation and the question of framing any reservation rules, therefore, does not arise. The reservation is under implementation through executive instructions which have the force of law under Article 13 of the Constitution of India

[English]

Funds to NGO's by Consumer Affairs Departments

1049. SHRI M. RAJIAH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Department of Consumer Affairs has been funding any N.G.O.'s for implementation of any consumer affairs awareness programmes; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance given during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Under the Central Excise & Salt Act, 1944, as amended in 1991, the Government has set up the Consumer Welfare Fund to give financial assistance to NGOs, State Governments etc. to undertake activities in the field of consumer protection. The Fund has been created by the Department of Revenue but is being operated by the Department of Consumer Affairs. The financial assistance is mainly given for production and distribution of literature, setting up facilities for training & research in consumer education; setting up of complaint handling/counselling/ guidance mechanisms like consumer guidance bureau setting up of consumer product testing laboratories etc.

During the last three years, the following assistance has been sanctioned:-

Year	Amt. Sanctioned
1995	90,44,633/-
1996	86,50,849/-
1997	40,31,450/-

[Translation]

Prices of Crude

1050. SHRI MANIK RAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the prices of crude oil have again gone up suddenly after coming down to the level of 9-10 dollar per barrel creating a threat of petrol crisis again.
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures being taken by the Government to avoid the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The prices of crude oils in the international market have firmed up marginally after touching a low of about 9-10 dollars/bbl in March 1998. However, there is no perceived threat of petrol crisis.

- (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Super Bazar

1051. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the aims of objectives for setting up the Super Bazar and the extent to which these objectives have been achieved;
- (b) whether the Super Bazar is selling most of the items at the maximum retail price and not at competitive prices;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the duties and functions of the vigilance wing of the Super Bazar;
- (e) whether the suppliers registered with the Super Bazar accountable to them;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether damaged stocks accumulated in the Super Bazar are being shown as assets; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) The Cooperative Store Ltd. (Super

Bazar). Delhi is a Cooperative Society which was set up in 1966 and its main objectives, as given in its bye-laws, are as under :-

- (i) to undertake wholesale and retail distribution of consumer goods and essential commodities; and to establish department stores;
- (ii) to develop an effective link between the producers/suppliers and the consumers with the object of transforming production on a continuous basis to suit the changing market;
- (iii) to raise the quality of products and maintain standards;
- (iv) to foster the growth of new products and new manufacturing units through market support and management advice;
- (v) to lower distribution costs and to introduce fair and better trading practices such as fixed prices etc; and
- (vi) to provide an information service to both producers and consumers;

(b) No, Sir. The retail prices being charged by Super Bazar are comparable to those of the other reputed retailers in Delhi/New Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Super Bazar, Delhi being a commercial organisation has a vigilance department also, which functions as per the guidelines given in the vigilance Manual and the instructions issued by the Govt. and the Central Vigilance Commission, from time to time.

(e) and (f) The suppliers registered with the Super Bazar, Delhi are accountable to the Super Bazar, Delhi, as per the terms agreed between them.

(g) and (h) As per the accounting system followed in the Super Bazar, Delhi, the damaged stocks are valued at 50% of its original cost and taken in the balance sheet of the Super Bazar as current assets. The value of these

damaged stocks varies from year to year as most of the goods damaged are replaced or returned back to the supplier, as per agreed terms.

Inventory of Stocks in Super Bazar

1052. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a huge inventory of stocks in various departments of the Super Bazar as on October 1, 1995;

(b) if so, the details of inventory between October, 1995 to March, 1998, department-wise together with their sale figures;

(c) whether complaints have been received regarding raising inventory disproportionate to sales; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar, the Departmentwise sales/ inventory from October, 1996 to March, 1998 is as given in the statement attached. The details of sale and inventory holding in the Super Bazar during the period October, 95 to September, 96, have already been furnished in reply to another similar question raised by the Hon'ble M.P. on 26.11.96 vide Unstarred Question No. 710 in the Sabha.

(c) and (d) The Cooperative Store Ltd. (Super Bazar), Delhi is an autonomous Cooperative Society registered under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984. It has its own Board of Directors to take decisions on its day to day activities including business matters. The Govt. of India do not interfere in such matters. The complaints with regard to holding of inventory disproportionate to sales, had been received in the past from the Hon'ble M.P. which were replied to on 17.11.97 and 19.2.98.

Statement

(Amt. Rs. in Crores)

Department	Oct. 96		Nov. 96		Dec. 96		Jan. 97		Feb. 97	
	Sale	Inv.	Sale	Inv.	Sale	Inv.	Sale	Inv.	Sale	Inv.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Gro/Toilet	688.48	739.54	741.12	761.91	744.01	753.46	797.45	724.17	855.44	699.28
Textiles	8.54	54.69	11.42	54.34	18.30	49.23	14.42	44.30	11.07	42.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Household	32.00	63.79	39.02	67.43	40.25	65.17	31.13	47.58	22.56	42.67
Watches	2.04	7.58	4.84	4.74	3.28	5.70	2.04	5.58	2.26	5.81
Handloom	14.60	29.16	15.99	30.28	19.13	31.11	17.29	24.05	15.98	19.84
Books Sty.	82.20	66.62	75.54	67.77	71.71	75.73	94.29	62.12	64.26	69.85
Office Auto	39.37	3.70	50.38	2.87	28.41	2.71	35.27	2.80	64.90	6.09
Sports + Stoy	0.90	3.16	1.72	3.46	1.02	3.36	0.74	2.84	1.15	2.79
Footwear	11.66	14.71	11.13	17.63	14.79	18.49	13.17	15.62	9.71	13.83
Readymade Garments	10.13	15.41	13.28	14.86	24.03	11.91	16.42	18.62	10.14	13.25
Medicine	85.94	107.53	81.03	104.29	84.61	101.11	92.53	79.59	89.32	87.90
Bicycle	12.68	7.53	7.10	8.33	10.25	5.53	9.90	4.10	5.51	5.58
Fruit/Vege	2.42	0.68	3.15	0.86	4.44	1.15	4.04	0.49	4.02	0.67
Weight/Paint	1.94	6.90	2.72	6.79	3.65	6.70	10.49	6.18	2.65	5.50
Furniture	93.86	-	49.09	-	59.35	-	69.69	-	69.14	-
Candel	0.03	0.67	6.14	1.31	0.23	1.46	0.19	0.82	0.25	0.61
Cracker	-	8.36	1.81	5.30	-	5.30	-	5.24	-	5.24

Department	March 97		April 97		May 97		June 97		July 97	
	Sale	Inv.	Sale	inv.	Sale	Inv.	Sale	Inv.	Sale	Inv.
G & T	1046.22	540.30	642.58	690.24	733.59	777.15	617.48	765.25	638.20	717.21
Textiles	14.79	35.20	13.94	35.00	24.18	32.88	18.09	37.14	15.10	37.09
Household	65.19	29.74	25.40	33.17	47.87	31.20	41.59	29.48	37.50	26.46
HMT Watches	2.44	5.31	2.11	4.61	2.04	4.44	2.02	6.30	1.85	5.99
Handloom	36.32	22.94	11.08	18.74	10.96	18.87	13.17	18.67	12.79	18.15
Books Sty.	114.13	53.80	64.63	56.98	47.99	52.29	52.17	55.02	62.52	65.64
Office Auto	247.07	9.51	48.00	7.86	40.52	5.44	34.52	18.37	48.09	24.11
Sports/Toys	2.94	1.94	0.21	1.74	0.56	1.57	0.39	1.42	0.39	1.03
Footwear	13.74	10.60	9.00	11.81	11.77	6.78	10.03	10.47	11.51	9.85
Readymade Garments	8.71	3.50	4.65	6.77	3.62	7.36	3.13	12.36	3.57	12.89
Medicine	87.49	85.95	74.96	88.39	91.03	98.89	85.69	99.93	92.17	101.75
Bicycle	7.85	2.47	5.35	3.85	5.89	4.03	5.54	4.28	5.54	5.14
Fruit/Vege	4.60	1.39	3.59	0.38	8.70	0.42	3.25	1.07	4.32	1.85
Weight/Paint	12.18	3.83	5.91	3.66	4.01	4.37	7.20	4.85	16.09	4.39
Furniture	259.15	-	32.83	-	49.55	-	49.18	-	53.95	-
Candle	0.17	0.48	-	0.48	0.03	0.46	0.08	0.72	0.02	0.65
Cracker	-	5.24	-	5.24	-	5.24	-	5.24	-	5.24

Department	Aut. 97		Sept. 97		Oct. 97		Nov. 97		Dec. 97	
	Sale	Inv.	Sale	Inv.	Sale	Inv.	Sale	Inv.	Sale	Inv.
G & T	675.20	679.43	633.42	552.34	649.97	769.22	665.94	787.53	661.75	649.50
Textile	5.32	34.22	4.05	28.47	5.42	40.04	14.68	38.91	21.06	33.05
Household	29.92	36.78	30.85	31.82	29.17	59.89	30.10	54.40	34.96	41.36
HMT	1.30	5.00	1.51	3.53	2.30	5.71	1.92	5.09	1.24	4.56
Handloom	11.93	21.30	15.20	17.30	15.39	16.93	13.04	22.94	15.52	19.45
Books & Sty	63.10	67.85	54.46	72.95	65.56	56.89	52.56	39.17	63.09	28.58
Office Auto.	52.44	15.44	45.25	6.88	22.58	2.52	39.14	61.57	59.02	1.34
Sports & Toy.	0.54	1.08	0.74	0.88	0.62	0.85	0.55	0.59	0.24	0.50
Footwear	10.26	10.11	11.04	9.25	9.19	9.01	7.75	8.41	8.12	7.50
RMG	67.67	10.22	4.27	7.33	6.70	8.15	11.16	9.39	19.60	14.85
Medicine	91.04	105.88	87.32	103.04	81.16	94.58	95.16	105.10	82.16	105.50
Bicycle	5.73	4.33	6.53	1.97	1.79	3.81	5.38	3.97	3.81	2.93
Fruit/Vege.	4.72	0.84	3.67	0.29	4.37	0.49	4.16	0.75	4.87	0.45
Weight/P	1.28	3.93	1.86	3.56	5.49	3.24	1.61	2.92	0.53	2.46
Furniture	50.69	-	63.16	-	44.09	-	45.00	-	37.17	-
Candle	0.02	0.61	0.04	0.29	3.79	1.42	0.34	1.06	0.15	0.94
Cracker	-	5.24	-	4.66	2.35	4.66	-	4.66	-	4.05

Department	Jan. 98		Feb. 98		March 98	
	Sale	Inv.	Sale	Inv.	Sale	Inv.
Gro/Toilet	7.77.21	6.72.06	7.29.53	6.86.39	7.83.31	5.25.87
Textiles	12.69	28.96	7.83	28.21	10.86	27.69
Household	32.81	34.82	20.28	33.12	48.27	36.84
HMT	1.19	3.56	2.63	3.47	1.71	4.05
Handloom	14.47	21.37	13.83	18.29	32.59	9.67
Books/Sty.	48.59	32.73	42.72	35.26	58.00	41.88
Office Auto	30.48	-9.62	24.27	-10.73	1,33.57	-37.78
Sports/Toys	0.26	0.42	0.48	0.85	2.09	1.31
Footwear	7.44	7.79	7.28	9.01	13.86	8.16
Readymade Garments	12.96	14.99	8.00	16.80	11.42	3.25
Medicine	79.47	94.29	81.20	91.87	98.27	91.89
Bicycle	2.40	2.02	3.45	1.71	7.07	5.44
Fruit/Vege.	24.41	3.00	22.06	2.17	5.56	1.55
Weight/Paint	3.31	3.32	0.97	2.20	1.52	2.05
Furniture	37.39	-	129.69	-	183.08	-
Candle	0.16	0.76	0.07	0.65	0.26	0.48
Cracker	-	4.05	-	4.05	-	4.05

Demand of More Para-Military Forces

1053. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Tripura have demanded for more Para-Military forces from the Union Government to curb the extremist activities/Insurgency in the State;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central Para-Military Forces are made available to the State Governments to assist them to maintain public order. The levels of deployment depend upon over all security scenario and the availability of Central Para-Military Forces. Accordingly, Central Para-Military Forces have been made available to Government of Tripura keeping in view the overall availability of these forces.

[Translation]

Fund for Family Planning

1054. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total grant-in-aid provided to Gujarat for family planning programme during 1997-98;

(b) whether the total amount granted by the Government has been utilised by the State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) An amount of Rs. 7505.43 lakhs was released to Gujarat in cash and kind.

(b) to (d) The Grant-in-Aid- to States is both in cash and kind. The assistance in kind includes drug kits, dispensary kits, contraceptives etc. It is given on the basis of utilisation/requirements, and so there is no surplus. The assistance in cash, is initially given on the basis of assessed requirement for salaries etc, and is finally settled on the basis of audited accounts.

Compensation Cases

1055. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cases received for compensation in connection with Bhopal Gas tragedy at present;

(b) the total number of cases received in the beginning and the number of cases disposed of;

(c) the number of cases which have been rejected out of them and the number of cases in which nothing has been paid as compensation amount to the applicant; and

(d) the number of cases pending in courts and the time by which these are likely to be disposed of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) During the period December'96 to February'97, when fresh claims were invited, a total of 4.08 lakh claims have been filed.

(b) to (d) The position of disposal of earlier cases, as on 30.4.98 is as follows :

Claims registered	6.19 lakhs
Claims disposed	6.14 lakhs
Claims rejected	2.72 lakhs
Claims pending	0.05 lakhs

The office of the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims, has informed that the pending cases are likely to be disposed of by the end of June '98.

[English]

Bomb Explosions

1056. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a series of Bomb Explosions killed passengers and injured several others in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and other places of the country during December, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu, has sought CBI probe into the train blasts; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) According to information available, on 6.12.1997, there were three bomb explosions in three different trains, one in the Cheran Express at the Erode Railway Station, one in the Pandian Express at the

Tiruchi Railway Junction and one in the Alleppey Express at the Tiruchur Railway Station. In these incidents nine persons were killed while sixty persons sustained severe injuries.

(c) and (d) A request was received from the Government of Tamil Nadu for ordering a CBI probe into these incidents. The views of the CBI in this regard have been communicated to the State Government. The response of the State Government is awaited.

Ban on Child Labour in Carpet Industry

1057. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to ban child labour in the carpet industry;

(b) if so, the date by which the child labour is likely to be banned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) Employment of children below the age of 14 in hazardous occupations (including the carpet industry), is already prohibited under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.

Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1997

1058. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance issued on October 1, 1997, has since been lapsed;

(b) if so, the regulations are in force for regulating or controlling the issue and sale of lotteries; and

(c) the reasons for not bringing a legislation before the Parliament to regulate rather ban Central and State Government lotteries as per entry 40 of the Union List in Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K ADVANI) : (a) to (c) In order to give continued effect to the provisions of the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1997 promulgated on the 1st day of October, 1997, the Lotteries (Regulation) Second Ordinance 1997 was promulgated on the 30th day of December, 1997. As the Lotteries (Regulation) Second Ordinance, 1997, was going to lapse on the 5th day of May, 1998, the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1998 was promulgated on the 23rd day of April, 1998.

In order to replace the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1998 by an Act, the Lotteries (Regulation) Bill,

1998 has since been introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 27th day of May, 1998.

Reservation of STs Candidates

1059. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Delhi has sought the permission of Ministry of Home Affairs to do away with 7.5 per cent reservation for scheduled tribes candidates in recruitment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the NCT of Delhi, and shall be laid down on the Table of the House.

Census on Enclaves

1060. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the year in which the census of Indian Citizens in 119 exchangeable enclaves of India in Bangladesh was made last, Enclave-wise;

(b) whether that was the first and the last census of those Indian Enclaves; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not conducting the census of those enclaves; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not conducting the census of those enclaves by the Government since then ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K ADVANI) : (a) The Census of Indian Citizens in 119 exchangeable enclaves of Indian in Bangladesh was conducted at the 1951 Census.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has no administrative control or access to the Enclaves lying within Bangladesh and hence it has not been possible to conduct any Census after 1951.

Oil and Gas Exploration

1061. COL. SONA- RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large quantity of Oil and Gas have been found in Rajasthan during exploration by Oil India Ltd. and Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have offered some blocks/areas for exploration/development under joint venture;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the parties to whom the offer has been extended and the terms and conditions agree to;

(e) the names of the companies whose proposals for pre-exploration survey for Mineral Oil and Natural Gas are pending with the Government; and

(f) if so, the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) ONGC has found substantial quantity of gas in six prospects namely Manhera Tibba, Ghotaru, Khartar, Bakhri Tibba, Bankia and Sadewala structures. Similarly, OIL has discovered commercial quantity of gas in three prospects namely Dandewala, Tanot & Bagitibba and observed minor indications of presence of gas in other prospects namely Ramgarh, Jalalwala and Gamnewala in Jaisalmer Basin. OIL have also established presence of heavy oil/Bitumen in Bikaner-Nagpur basin.

(c) and (d) Production Sharing contracts have already been signed for the block RJ-ON-90/1 between Government of India, ONGC and Shell India Production Development B.V., and for blocks RJ-ON-90/4 and RJ-ON-90/5 between Government of India, OIL and Essar Oil Ltd. Salient terms and conditions of the contracts are as under :-

The contracts of exploration blocks are Production Sharing Contracts with a contract period in case of crude oil and associated gas, of upto 25 years. Companies are exempted from payment of bonuses and statutory levies. The Government of India would have the first right of refusal in respect of the oil produced under these contracts, with companies being paid for their share of oil at international prices. Provision for participation by ONGC/OIL in the venture at the exploration and/or the development stage has been made and ONGC/OIL can take a participating interest of 30% to 40% in the venture. Provisions have also been made for the development of commercially exploitable natural gas resources.

(e) and (f) There is no such proposal pending with the Government.

Fire in Vishakhapatnam Refinery

1062. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

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

(a) whether a devastating fire broke out in the refinery of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., situated at Visakhapatnam in September, 1997;

(b) if so, the main causes of the fire;

(c) the number of persons killed/injured therein;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the persons found guilty;

(f) the estimated loss suffered by the refinery as a result thereof;

(g) the effective steps taken by the Government to stop such incidents in future; and

(h) the amount of compensation and other facilities provided so far to the affected families ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (h) A major fire accident occurred in HPCL, Vizag Refinery/Marketing terminal on 14th September, 1997 resulting in the death of 60 persons, including 14 of HPCL, injuries to 10 besides financial loss of about Rs. 80 crores.

2. The ex-gratia payment has been made by the HPCL, in coordination with District Administration as under :

(i) Ex-gratia payment per deceased :	Rs. 2 lakhs
(ii) Immediate expenses per deceased :	Rs. 10,000/-
(iii) Injured :	Rs. 10,000/-
(iv) Seriously injured :	Rs. 25,000/-

The State Government also made ex-gratia payment of Rs. 50,000/- to the dependents of the deceased. The above payments were in addition to the other payments admissible under the relevant Act and the rules of the Corporation.

3. The Government had set up a Commission of Inquiry on 11.10.1997 under the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1952 to investigate into the above fire accident etc. The Commission was to submit its report within a period of 3 months which period was extended by 2 months. But despite extensions, the Commission could not complete its work and had been allowed to cease to function from March 1998. A fresh Commission of Inquiry is being set up to complete the investigations.

4. Further action will depend upon the report of the Inquiry Commission.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Rajbhar Caste in the List of Scheduled Castes

1063. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has forwarded a proposal to Union Government for inclusion of 'Rajbhar' caste in the list of Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh has been received for inclusion of Rajbhar community in the list of Scheduled Castes.

(c) The proposal is being considered alongwith all such cases in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

[English]

World Bank Assistance for Opening of Hospitals/Dispensaries

1064. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some hospitals/dispensaries have been opened in Maharashtra with the World Bank assistance during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) whether the Government have received any request from the State Government to open some more hospitals/dispensaries with World Bank assistance in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) A project proposal received from the Government of Maharashtra under the State Health System Development Project has been posed to the World Bank for assistance. Such State Projects are formulated through detailed discussions with the World Bank. Past experience shows that they take 12 to 24 months to fructify, depending on the time taken on the Design and Formulation of the Project by the State. The State Authorities are kept fully involved in the discussions with the Representatives of the World Bank, at each stage. Hence, it is not possible to comment on the final dimension of the Project at this juncture.

[Translation]

Blackmarketing of Food-Items

1065. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to check the blackmarketing of food items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases of blackmarketing reported in the country during each of the last three years and upto May, 1998, State wise;

(d) the number of persons punished and the number of cases lying pending so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 (P.B. Act) is in force which provides for detention in certain cases for the purpose of prevention of blackmarketing in respect of all essential commodities including food items.

(c) and (d) This information is maintained by the State Govt./UT Administrations and is not available with the Central Government. However, number of detentions under the F.B. Act, 1980 State-wise for the last three years and upto May, 1998 is given below :-

Name of State	1995	1996	1997	1998 (upto May)
Andhra Pradesh	5	5	4	-
Assam	1	10	11	3
Bihar	12	-	-	-
Gujarat	141	55	101	37
Madhya Pradesh	1	-	-	-
Maharashtra	-	-	2	1
Orissa	7	2	-	-
Tamil Nadu	-	-	3	-
Total	167	72	121	41

[English]

Law and Order situation in J&K

1066. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have recently sent a Central team to Jammu and Kashmir to assess the prevailing law and order situation in the State; and

(b) if so, the findings of the team ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K ADVANI) : (a) No Sir. No Central team was sent to assess the prevailing Law & Order situation in J&K. However, a team of Senior Officers has gone to J&K on 19.4.98 in connection with the specific terrorist incident of killings at Parankot in Udhampur. Similarly another team of Senior Officers went to J&K on 7.5.98 in connection with the specific terrorist incidents at Surankot and in the Dessa Area.

(b) In the Prankot-Dhakikot incidents 26 persons were killed which led to some migration to Pouni, Thankpal, Reasi, Panasa and Chanasana, etc. In the Surankot incident 4 persons were killed which led some migration to Poonch, etc. The two teams had recommended certain administrative and security measures.

Border Fencing

1067. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the decision was taken by the Government to have border fencing in Jammu areas and the amount spent to execute the task and the work done alongwith the total estimate of the cost involved;

(b) the reasons for not completing the task with in the stipulated period;

(c) whether the material purchased for fencing purposes has been damaged and pilfered; and

(d) if so, the total loss incurred thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K ADVANI) : (a) The Government had taken a decision in March, 1995 to provide border fencing on 180 Kms. along Jammu International Border at a cost of Rs. 41.40 crores against which an expenditure of Rs. 9.66 crores was incurred on procurement of materials, special equipments and vehicles, construction of DG sheds at BOPs and site offices at Jammu and Samba.

(b) The work was started in July, 1995 but had to be stopped due to persistent firing from Pakistan side. Thereafter, preparations were made to restart the work but due to Parliamentary and Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir, the work was not taken up since tension on the border was not conducive for the same. The proposal for restarting the work is now under active consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) No materials purchased for fencing has been damaged and pilfered.

[Translation]

Spurt in Militant Activities

1068. SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI SUDHIR GIRI :
SHRI A.C. JOS :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a spurt in militant activities in the North Easter States;

(b) if so, the number of innocent persons including the security personnel killed in various States during the last six months and the loss caused to the Government property;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to check the increasing militancy in the North-Eastern States and to talk with neighbouring countries in this regard;

(d)^e whether any suggestion to amendment in the Constitution for checking militant activities; and

(e) if so, the points of the Constitution being taken in account for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K ADVANI) : (a) and (b) It cannot be said that there has been any spurt in militant activities in the North Eastern States. The number of civilians and security personnel killed in North Eastern States during the last six months are given below :

States	Civilians	Security Forces
Assam	119	27
Nagaland	17	12
Manipur	41	57
Mozoram	—	—
Tripura	75	21
Meghalaya	2	2
Arunachal Pradesh	—	1

Details of loss caused to public property are not available.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to check militancy in the North Eastern include, inter alia, deployment of additional units of Central Para Military Forces and Army; improved coordination and sharing of intelligence; modernisation/upgradation of State Police forces; sanction of Special Central Assistance; declaration of the most seriously affected areas as 'disturbed areas' and notification of the major insurgent groups as 'unlawful associations. The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action.

The North Eastern militant organisations are known to have their bases in neighbouring countries also. Government has taken up the matter with the concerned countries to seek their cooperation in this regard.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Monkey Fever and Handigodu Disease in Karnataka

1069. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of spread of Monkey Fever (Kyasanur Forest Fever) and Handigodu

disease which are creating havoc in Sagara, Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken for its prevention ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The Government of Karnataka have informed that 372 Handigodu Disease cases have been reported from Sagara in Shimoga District of Karnataka from 1975 to 1977, and that no fresh cases of Monkey fever have been reported since 1997.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the State Government of Karnataka,

Against Monkey Fever :

1. Surveillance.
2. Blood Samples collection & Examination
3. Free Supply of Vaccine for prevention and treatment to the patients.
4. The public are being informed and educated about the disease, and also on ways to avoid contact and infection.
5. Health Education, through public meetings, under the auspicious of various local bodies and organisations.
6. Mylol and Hoscut lotions are supplied for forest goars to apply on exposed parts of the skin.

Against Handigodu Disease :

A Team of Doctors with Mobile Van, visit the affected Villages, to identify cases for the treatment. Some major problematic patients, are shifted to General Hospital at Sagar for further Treatment.

Inclusion of Hepatitis-B Vaccine in Immunisation Programme

1070. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Health Organisation has recommended that Hepatitis-B vaccine be incorporated in the expanded programme of immunisation in all the countries of the World;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have included this vaccine in the mass immunisation programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any new Hepatitis-B vaccine has been manufactured within the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the time by which the new vaccine is likely to be available in the market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Estimated cost will be around Rs. 525 crores per annum, and for the IX Plan Period will be around Rs. 2625 crores. Additional Resources of this size are not available within the Department Planning Commission has indicated that funds required be made up by internal Resource Mobilization as additional allocation would not be possible.

(e) and (f) M/s Shanta Biotech, Hyderabad has commenced production from 1997-98, with an installed capacity of 5 lakh doses, which is likely to be increased to 200 lakh doses during 1998-99.

Allocation of Funds by W.H.O.

1071. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether W.H.O. has proposed any change in its policy of allocation of funds to its member countries;

(b) whether any proposal from W.H.O. envisages a sharp cut in the allocation of funds for India;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. One of the Recommendations of the Executive Board of the WHO made to the World Health Assembly was to reduce Budget Allocations to the South-East Asia Region by 48.4% allocation of funds to India by 36.8%. The purpose of such a reduction was to provide additional funding to the countries of Africa and Eastern Europe.

(d) At the 51st Session of the World Health Assembly which met in Ganga between 11-16th May, 1998, the Government of India representative, intervened on behalf of India and the South East Asia Region and was able to persuade the World Health Assembly to revise the recommendation of the Executive Board. Accordingly, the

World Health Assembly resolved that reduction shall not exceed 3% per year to be spread over six years which works out to a reduction by 18% for the SEARO region.

Registration of Unemployed

1072. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Employment Exchanges in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of educated and uneducated unemployed registered in those employment exchanges during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number out of them got jobs during the said period, State-wise and

(d) the details of scheme formulated or proposed to be formulated by the Government to provide employment to unemployed persons ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) Statewise number of Employment Exchanges in the country is furnished in Statement-I

(b) and (c) Information relating to the years, 1992, 1993 and 1994 (Latest available) is furnished in statement-II.

(d) The Approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Productive employment is an important dimension of the state policy that seeks to achieve growth with equity. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

Statement-I

Number of Employment Exchanges/UEIGBs as on 31st March 1998

Sl. No.	State/UT	Employment Exchanges/UEIGBs
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8
3.	Assam	53
4.	Bihar	66
5.	Goa	1

1	2	3
6.	Gujarat	40
7.	Haryana	95
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	14
10.	Karnataka	39
11.	Kerala	77
12.	Madhya Pradesh	65
13.	Maharashtra	42
14.	Manipur	9
15.	Meghalaya	10
16.	Mizoram	3
17.	Nagaland	7
18.	Orissa	37
19.	Punjab	44
20.	Rajasthan	38

1	2	3
21.	Sikkim*	
22.	Tamil Nadu	37
23.	Tripura	4
24.	Uttar Pradesh	102
25.	West Bengal	74
26.	A & N Islands	1
27.	Chandigarh	2
28.	D & N Haveli	1
29.	Delhi	21
30.	Daman and Diu	2
31.	Lakshadweep	1
32.	Pondicherry	1
Total		940

Note :- *No Employment exchange is functioning in this state.

Statement-II

State-wise live register and placement of Educated/uneduca. persons for the year 1992 to 1994

(in thousand)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Live Register						Placements Effected					
		Educated			Uneducated			Educated			Uneducated		
		1992	1993	1994	1992	1993	1994	1992	1993	1994	1992	1993	1994
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pd.	1945.7	1385.2	2035.7	960.9	1795.6	1033.0	6.5	4.4	4.9	12.6	11.6	3.8
2.	Arunachal Pd.	0.2	5.1	0.3	7.5	0.4	10.1	●	●	●	●	0.1	●
3.	Assam	784.8	580.4	799.3	577.7	747.6	528.6	1.0	0.6	0.8	1.7	2.2	1.1
4.	Bihar	2177.6	1309.2	2252.3	1087.0	2310.4	1390.5	1.5	0.8	0.7	11.8	13.5	10.7
5.	Goa	81.8	26.4	85.4	30.9	84.6	30.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.9	0.2	0.2
6.	Gujarat	676.7	350.3	633.1	340.5	629.1	277.3	16.4	9.2	12.9	8.5	18.9	12.4
7.	Haryana	419.3	234.4	436.9	239.4	440.7	222.5	1.3	1.3	1.3	2.3	3.2	2.7
8.	Himachal Pd.	321.0	151.4	341.7	141.1	373.7	160.7	2.5	2.7	3.1	2.8	1.6	1.8
9.	J & K	48.9	81.8	60.9	76.9	60.0	78.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.1	0.5
10.	Karnataka	964.3	537.5	1004.0	571.5	1128.8	535.5	5.7	8.3	13.8	4.8	7.3	11.4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11. Kerala		2298.6	1527.5	2604.0	1567.0	2742.8	1442.7	14.2	10.4	13.3	1.4	6.2	4.7
12. Madhya Pd.		1418.0	564.5	1442.4	497.2	1537.9	497.7	5.9	8.7	8.1	7.2	9.3	9.4
13. Maharashtra		2246.3	1074.4	2300.0	1049.3	2398.4	1039.2	17.3	14.0	15.6	9.6	11.6	9.0
14. Manipur		144.3	68.6	155.2	74.6	167.7	86.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0
15. Meghalaya		11.3	13.6	12.6	15.0	14.1	13.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1
16. Mizoram		15.0	21.3	16.9	23.0	18.9	23.7	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.1
17. Nagaland		10.4	10.2	12.1	8.5	14.1	7.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
18. Orissa		553.1	343.8	532.4	325.4	594.4	267.0	4.6	2.7	2.1	2.5	2.1	1.8
19. Punjab		466.7	254.8	431.9	213.9	379.1	185.5	2.1	1.7	1.2	3.0	2.2	1.7
20. Rajasthan		548.0	316.7	525.7	303.0	520.1	286.8	10.4	6.8	6.3	2.2	2.2	1.2
21. Sikkim													
22. Tamil Nadu		2225.6	1511.1	2355.2	1504.8	2216.8	1451.0	22.8	9.1	7.1	7.4	14.9	7.6
23. Tripura		58.1	121.6	58.3	130.9	60.8	133.8	0.8	0.1	⊙	0.1	2.4	1.0
24. Uttar Pradesh		1793.6	741.1	1679.5	700.1	1702.1	654.5	5.4	6.8	3.5	13.5	8.1	5.1
25. West Bengal		2930.2	2161.0	2963.4	1851.7	3082.2	2010.8	5.0	2.4	3.0	2.4	4.1	4.2
26. A & N Islands		8.6	8.4	8.6	10.2	8.6	11.2	0.5	-	-	0.1	0.5	0.6
27. Chandigarh		92.2	69.7	90.7	71.0	87.9	69.3	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.5
28. D&N Haveli		1.2	1.7	1.2	2.3	1.2	2.8	0.1	-	-	0.0	⊙	0.1
29. Delhi		688.3	217.2	695.4	212.7	763.2	206.9	2.5	2.8	2.5	14.3	11.6	11.0
30. Daman and Diu		1.7	0.8	1.3	1.7	1.5	3.7	⊙	0.1	⊙	⊙	0.00	0.1
31. Lakshadweep		1.7	5.2	1.7	6.3	1.7	6.8	-	-	-	0.1	0.2	0.2
32. Pondicherry		73.1	57.3	78.7	56.7	84.4	58.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0
Total		23006.3	13752.2	23616.8	12658.7	23966.8	12724.4	128.4	95.3	101.9	110.3	136.1	103

Note:- *No Employment Exchange functioning in this state

Educated :- Matric and above

Uneducated :- Below Matric including illiterates

⊙:-Figure less than 50

Atrocities Committed by BSF

1073. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether atrocities are being committed by BSF on the villagers in some of the villages bordering Bangladesh in Basirhat sub-division in 24 parganas district in the name of stopping infiltration from Bangladesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

Strike In Government Hospitals In Delhi

1074. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that strikes by Doctors, Nurses and Karamcharies of Government Hospitals took place in Delhi frequently;

(b) if so, the details of such strikes especially in Delhi during the last two years with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide essential medical facilities to the indoor patients as well as O.P.D. patients during the strike and to check such strikes in futures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI):
(a) to (c) The details in respect of Strikes in Central Government Hospitals in Delhi is given in the Statement.

Statement

Name of the Hospital	Details of the Strikes and reasons	Steps taken to provide essential Medical facilities to the patients	Steps taken to check such strikes in future
1	2	3	4
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospitals	<p>1. 24 hours, strike by Resident Doctors Association on 13.2.1997 for alleged harassment of their three colleagues.</p> <p>2. Strike on 28.8.97 to 31.8.1997 by Resident Doctors Association against non-handling of their colleague by the attendments of a patient.</p> <p>3. One day strike by Willingdon Hospital Workers' Union on 20.8.1997 against the anomalies in the recommendations of the Pay Commission.</p> <p>4. The strike by Willingdon Hospital Workers Union from 3.9.97 to 5.9.97 on the call of Joint Action Committes of Health Karamchari Union against the anomalies in the Pay Commission's recommendations.</p> <p>5. Performed single shift duty by the Nursing Personnel from 2.9.97 to 9.9.1997 on the call of Delhi Nurses Union for restructuring of their pay scales and the improvement in their service conditions.</p>	<p>1. Senior Doctors were deployed for duty, round the clock in the Emergency Control Room and in Casualty.</p> <p>2. All Heads of Departments/units were advised to ensure supply of adequate medicines, bandages and drugs, etc.</p> <p>3. Nursing Home Doctors and Emergency Control Room officers were advised to utilise the imprast money available with them for the purchase of the medicines, etc. non available in the Hospital.</p>	<p>The Medical Supdt. of each of Central Government Hospitals is expected to take steps as are required for the redressal of the grievanceies of the employees.</p>
Safdarjung Hospital	<p>Group 'C' and 'D' employees were on strike on three occasions in support of their demands</p>	<p>Necessary steps were taken to provide essential medical facilities to indoor</p>	

1	2	3	4
Safdarjung Hospital	regarding implementation of 5th Pay Commission's recommendations. Nurses went on Strike for their demands like higher pay scale, better promotional avenues, residential accommodation and increase in the nursing allowance.	as well as outdoor patients, including Casualty and Emergency Services.	
Lady Hardinge Medical College & Smt. S.K. Hospitals	<p>Resident Doctors remained on Strike for one day on 17.4.96 in support of Resident Doctors Association of Maulana Azad Medical College.</p> <p>2. Nurses were on Strike</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performed only morning shift from 13.6.96 to 17.6.1996 regarding accommodation. - Performed only morning shift w.e.f. 3.9.1997 to 9.9.1997 <p>3. Group 'C' & 'D'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One day on 20.8.1997 - Two days on 3rd & 4th September, 1997. 	Senior Faculty Doctors, Sr. Nursing Personnel and Labour Officer & Supervisor, Medical Record Officer, etc. manned the essential medical facilities to the OPD and indoor patients.	

Institute of Chemical Technology

1075. SHRI S.S. OWASI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Petrol substitute developed in Andhra Pradesh" appeared in 'Indian Express' dated April 14, 1998;

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

(c) whether this technology is also useful for the fertilizer companies which produce carbon dioxide as a by-product;

(d) the number of experiments carried out so far; and

(e) the extent to which this is likely to help as a substitute to petrol and reduce pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) A scientist from the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) had worked in

a South Korean Institute as a visiting fellow. The laboratory experiments carried out by him there had used carbondioxide and hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst to make dimethyl ether. Studies carried out in USA indicated that dimethyl ether was found to have the potential to replace diesel as fuel. The process has been worked out at a laboratory level and its suitability for different raw material sources has yet to be established. At this stage, it is not possible to pronounce on the feasibility of utilising surplus carbondioxide from fertilizer units for the production of a diesel substitute.

VIP Security

1076. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
 SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :
 SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :
 SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN :
 SHRI JUNG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :
 SHRI SURESH KURUP :
 SHRI C.D. GAMIT :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of VIP's provided with security by the Government category-wise;

(b) the number of police personnel and para-military forces deployed for security purposes;

(c) the amount spent by the Government in providing security-category-wise;

(d) the annual expenditure incurred by the Government during the last two years; category-wise, year wise;

(e) whether the Government has decided to review the security measures of all the VIPs in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the major decisions taken in this regard;

(h) the extent to which these new measures would help in creating confidence among the people who have been complaining about the security arrangements of various VIPs;

(i) whether the Government have withdrawn the security provided to some VIPs; and

(j) if so, the member and the category of VIPs from which security cover has been withdrawn ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K ADVANI) : (a) and (b) As on 21.5.1998 Delhi Police was providing security to 392 protectees under different categories of security. The total number of police personnel and para-military forces deployed for security purposes is 6200.

(c) and (d) The total expenditure incurred by Delhi Police on the security of protectees during 1996-97 and 1997-98 is as follows :-

1996-97	1997-98
Rs. 23.78 crores	Rs. 27.85 crores

(e) to (g) Since 'Public Order' and Police, are State subjects, as per the Constitution of India it is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs to provide security to the persons residing within their jurisdiction. Therefore, there is no question of review of security measures of all VIPs in the country by MHA.

(h) to (j) The security of protectees is reviewed periodically based on the latest threat perception in each case and necessary changes in security are made as warranted. This is a continuous process and in the last such review the security of 111 persons was withdrawn.

[Translation]

Mouth Cancer due to Gambiyar in Pan Masala

1077. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether use of gambiyar in Pan Masala is causing mouth cancer;

(b) if so, whether the gambiyar is easily available to Pan Masala sellers due to abundance of tennary industries in Kanpur as an alternative of original Kathha; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) According to Indian Council for Medical Research, gambier is suspected to be carcinogenic. Its use in Pan Masala is not permitted under the provision of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. The Food Health Authorities of States/UTs have been requested to keep a strict vigil on quality of food stuff so as to prevent indiscriminate use of gambier.

[English]

Indian Workers in Gulf Countries

1078. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the existing policy of the Government on export of manpower;

(b) whether the Government propose to review the policy with a view to protect the rights of the Indian emigrants labour in other countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) Deployment of Indian workers abroad on contractual employment is regulated by the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 and the rules framed thereunder. Under this Act, all intending emigrants having 'Emigration Check Required' endorsement on their passports are required to furnish through registered recruiting agents, demand letters, power of attorney and employment contract, duly attested by Indian mission in the country of employment. Emigration clearance is granted after thorough scrutiny of these documents by the concerned Protector of Emigrants.

The emigration procedure was simplified with effect from 4th October, 1991. Under the revised procedure, the emigrants falling under any of the following six additional categories of 'Emigration Check Not Required' are given emigration clearance after submission of an affidavit by the registered recruiting agent to the effect that the workers actually belong to these categories and that they have been

trade – tested for work for which they will be deployed by the foreign employer :-

- i) Supervisor (all professions) :
- (ii) Skilled workers (all professions) :
- (iii) Semi-Skilled workers (all professions) :
- (iv) Light/Medium/Heavy Vehicle Drivers :
- (v) Clerical workers of all categories including Stenographers, Store-keepers, time-keepers, typists.
- (vi) Cooks excluding those who seek employment in Household duties (as cooks)

(b) and (c) The Government is considering a proposal for setting up of a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council and Constitute of a Welfare Fund for the emigrant workers.

Allocation of reducing fund for Public Health Scheme

1079. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether allocation of funds for public health had fallen from 3.3 per cent in the First Five Year Plan to 1.78 per cent in the Eighth Plan despite the increase of population from 35 crores to 95 crores;

(b) the number of people from whom health facilities are beyond reach at present alongwith those who have no access to sanitation and safe drinking water; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate fund for public health programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) In the First Plan period, health, family welfare and water supply, and sanitation were all assigned resources collectively for public health. Subsequently over the next four plan periods, family welfare, water supply and sanitation programmes have been implemented through separate departments. Therefore, comparison with outlays on public health between the First Plan and Eighth Plan periods is not practical. However, in the Eighth Plan, the outlays on health, family welfare and water supply and sanitation were respectively 1.7%, 1.4% and 3.8% of the public sector outlay.

(b) and (c) There is a vast network of Sub-centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres which cater to health needs of people in rural areas. Most of the services are offered at free or nominal rates and

are within reach of the public. However, to improve access to health care services a project to upgrade and strengthen rural hospitals and improve referral care has been initiated in a phased manner in four States with external assistance. Special emphasis has been placed on improving access to health care among the poorer sections of the public.

Disease control programmes for prevention and control of AIDS, Leprosy, T.B., Blindness, Malaria are also under implementation for which funding support has been obtained from the World Bank. Substantial financial support has also been obtained from the Bank for a project for improving reproductive and child health.

As per information available in Economic Survey, 1996-97, percentage of population covered with drinking water and sanitation facilities is given below :

Percentage coverage

(as on March 31, 1996)

1.	Drinking Water Supply	
	Rural	82.00
	Urban	85.00
ii.	Sanitation facilities	
	Rural	4.64
	Urban	50.00

[Translation]

Food Adulteration

1080. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sale of adulterated and sub-standard food material is increasing;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action to check the sale of adulterated and sub-standard food material, and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The Annual Reports on the working of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954, received from the States/UTs, do not reveal that the sale of adulterated food material is increasing in the Country.

(b) and (c) The Food (Health) Authorities of States and Union Territories are being advised from time to time

to keep a strict vigil on the quality of food stuff being manufactured and sold in the country and take appropriate legal action against those violating the PFA Act and Rules.

[English]

Sale of Sub-standard Medicines

1081. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the medicines, particularly tablets and syrups are not at all effectively because they are of cheap quality;

(b) if so, whether any complaints has been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) All Medicines including tablets and Syrups manufactured and sold in the Country are required to comply with quality para-meters stated in the Books of standard (Pharmacopoeias), as prescribed in Second Schedule to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the rules framed thereunder. Failure to do so would attract necessary punitive action like withdrawal of the Batch of Drugs sold, withdrawal of permission granted to manufacture the specific item, suspension/cancellation of manufacturing Licences or prosecution of the manufacturers as per the provision of the Drugs and cosmetics Act, 1940 and the rules the retander.

There are a number of instance when samples of the Drugs tasted revealed that these are either of substandard quality or spurious.

(b) and (c) Whenever specific complaints of poor quality drugs are brought to the notice of the Government, necessary investigations are carried out by the Drug Control Authorities of States/U.Ts, and necessary punitive action taken against defaulters.

[Translation]

Procurement Price of Wheat, Rice and Sugar

1082. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the procurement price of wheat, rice and sugar during each of the last three years till date;

(b) whether there is any increase in the procurement prices of these items every time;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the procurement of wheat, rice and sugar was satisfactory during the said period:

(e) if so, the details thereof year-wise; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) The Minimum Support Prices (MSP) fixed by the Government for wheat and paddy during the last three marketing seasons are as under:

Marketing Year	Paddy			Wheat
	Common	Fine	Super Fine	
1995-96	360	375	395	360
1996-97	380	395	415	380
1997-98	415		Grade 'A' 445	415+60 (Central bonus)

Procurement prices of levy rice vary from state to state depending on the level of statutory charges prevailing in each state Ex-factory prices of levy sugar for the sugar seasons 1994-95- 1996-97 is attached in the given statements.

(b) and (c) : the minimum Support Prices or wheat 36X

nature. The MBBS have been raised on the basis of the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) which takes into account a number of factors such as cost of production reasonable return to the farmers, etc.

Procurement prices of levy rice are increased after taking into account MSP of paddy, statutory taxes and levies milling charges and other incidental charges, output ratio of rice from paddy, etc.

As regards sugar, the increase in Statutory Minimum Price for Sugarcane and conversion cost results in rise in the exfactory levy sugar prices.

(d), (e) & (f) Quantities of wheat and rice procured for Central Pool during the last three Marketing Seasons are as under:-

Marketing Year	(IN LAKH TONNES)	
	Rice (including paddy in terms of rice)	Wheat
1995-96	99.50	123.27
1996-97	122.57	81.83
1997-98	136.56 (upto 25-5-98)	82.97

Under the present policy of partial control, the sugar factories are required to supply 40% of their total production under levy quota for distribution through the Public Distribution System except

the factories covered under various incentive schemes.

The above qualities procured were adequation for meeting the requirement of Public Distribution System/ Targetted Public Distribution System.

Statement

The Ex-factory price for average grade of Sugar for 19 pricing zones for the year 1994-95 to 1996-97

(Rs./Qtl. of Sugar)

Sl.No.	Zones	1994-95 for SMP Rs. 39.10	1994-95 for SMP Rs. 39.10 w.e.f. 27-5-95	1995-96 for SMP Rs. 42.50	1996-97 for SMP Rs. 45.90
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Punjab	773.90	773.90	871.04	1084.04
2.	Haryana	762.56	762.56	861.56	985.43
3.	Rajasthan	903.16	903.16	945.39	1110.45
4.	UP (West)	796.80	796.80	898.62	961.61
5.	UP (Central)	795.62	796.62	881.03	994.05
6.	UP (East)	946.30	946.30	938.5	1038.74
7.	Bihar (North)	840.92	840.92	940.69	1140.37
8.	Bihar (South)	942.25	942.25	1034.7	-
9.	Gujarat (South)	746.68	746.68	852.14	938.58
10.	Saurashtra	778.05	778.05	940.93	1055.69
11.	Madhya Pradesh	812.70	812.70	981.36	1112.02
12.	Maharashtra (South)	804.75	804.75	847.68	976.52
13.	Maharashtra (North)	801.51	801.51	873.27	983.60
14.	Maharashtra (Central)	763.60	763.60	824.24	958.33
15.	Karnataka	-	-	-	-
	Karnataka (With Harvesting)	751.63	-	-	-
	Karnataka (without Harvesting)	746.80	-	-	-
15(a)	North West Karnataka (with Harvesting)	-	778.36	-	-
15(b)	North West Karnataka (without Harvesting)	-	773.52	851.05	970.70
15(c)	Rest of Karnataka (with Harvesting)	-	752.25	-	-
15(d)	Rest of Karnataka (without Harvesting)	-	747.18	889.66	1001.84
16.	Andhra Pradesh	800.81	800.81	937.73	1071.60
17.	Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	782.46	782.46	937.38	1049.04

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Assam, Orissa, West Bengal & Nagaland	815.67	815.67	1039.88	1420.07
19.	Kerala, Goa & Coastal Karn.	-	-	-	-
19(a)	Kerala, Goa & Coastal Karn. (With Harvest)	805.62	805.62	-	-
19(b)	Kerala, Goa & Coastal Karn. (Without Harvesting)	792.58	792.58	931.75	1127.98
All India		785.45	785.96	876.75	1000.77

[English]

Freedom Fighter Pension

1083. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any struggle/uprisings by the Communist Party in Kerala have been declared as part of freedom struggle by the Government recently.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Swatantra Sainik Samman pensions are granted to the participants in such struggles;

(d) whether the Government propose to review the decision of the former Government regarding any of these struggles; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) During 1997-98, the Central Government had recognised the following regional movements that took place in Kerala as part of the freedom struggle:

- (i) Kellara-Pangode Case
- (ii) Kadakkal Riot Case
- (iii) Chengannur Rior Case
- (iv) Vettiyoorkavu Conference
- (v) Anti-Independent Travancore Movement
- (vi) Punnapra-Vayalar Movement
- (vii) Kayyur Movement
- (viii) Kavumbai Movement
- (ix) Karivelloor Movement
- (x) Morazha Movement; and
- (xi) Malabar Special Police Strike

(c) The Central Government has been granting pensions to the participants of the recognised movements on their fulfilling the eligibility criteria laid down under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme. However, no pension has been granted so far to the participants of above movements of Kerala as no verification report has been received from the State Government in respect of the claims submitted by the applicants.

(d) At present, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Removal of Mochi Community In Gujarat

1084. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have removed Mochi Community from the list of Scheduled Caste in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether Government of Gujarat have requested the Union Government to restore the Mochi Community in the List of Scheduled Caste:

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard: and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI. MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Agreement for Treatment of Poor Patients
In Appollo Hospital**

1085. SHRI MADAN PARSAD JAISWAL :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any agreement with the Appollo Hospital for extending treatment to poor patients also in the hospital;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons treated there during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) The Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that as per agreement entered with the Indraprastha Madical Corporation Ltd. the Apollo Hospital shall provide Medical Care to patients up to 1/3rd of the total bed strength free of charge on the recommendation of Delhi Government, and also provide free medical facilities for not less than 40% of its outdoor patients.

A public interest litigation has also been filed in Delhi High Court for the imlementation of the above agreement, and the matter is sub-judice.

(c) No person has been treated free of charge during the last three years.

[English]

Construction of Houses for Beedi Workers

1086. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh propose to allocate funds for the construction of houses for beedi workers particularly, in the tribal areas during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has achieved target in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Introduction of Caste Data

1087. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had any decision for introduction of caste data in the 2001 census in order to implement the provisions of the Mandal award;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main reasons for introducing the caste based census; and

(c) whether the proposal to reintroduce caste information in the census data after a gap of 60 years has sparked off a debate ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Change the name of Ahmedabad

1088. SHRI G.M. BANATWALA : Will the Minister of AIRS be pleased to state :

HOME

(a) whether there is any proposal to change the name of Ahmedabad City;

(b) if so, the proposed new name and from whom the proposal has been received;

(c) the reaction of the Government to such proposal; and

(d) whether the Government are aware of the strong opposition being to any such change of name particularly as inspired by anti-minority consideration ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) The State Government of Gujarat has sent a proposal to change the name of Ahmedabad city to Kamavati. A request has been received not to accede to the proposal. No decision has been taken in the matter so far.

Ambedkar Villages

1089. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Ambedkar villages in various districts of the States, especially in UP where schools and hospitals have been set up;

(b) the details of financial assistance provided for the Ambedkar villages during the last three years, with the achievements made in this regard;

(c) the number of Ambedkar villages electrified and provided with the drinking water, State-wise;

(d) the details of villages linked and remained unlinked by the roads, State-wise; and

(e) the time likely to be taken to make available such facilities in remaining villages ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

1090. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI MOTILAL VORA :

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

(a) whether the Government have received a memorandum from the victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy urging the Prime Minister to set up a Special Cell in the CBI for the effective prosecution of Union Carbide officials; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) and (b) A representation was submitted on behalf of the victims to the then Hon'ble Prime Minister proposing that a special cell with adequate legal, technical and scientific competence and open to participation by representatives of survivors/organisations must be set up to supervise the prosecution of the accused corporations and officials.

Prices of LPG

1091. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a distinct possibility of further increase in the prices of Liquefied Petroleum Gas to avoid an increase in the subsidy bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the likely impact thereon;

(c) whether All India Gas and Petroleum Dealers have submitted a memorandum to the Government seeking among other things increase in hike of their commission to ensure fair returns for the services rendered by them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The Government have decided that subsidy on LPG will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 15% of the import parity price by 2001-02. The subsidy will be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year 2002 onwards.

(c) and (d) Based on the recommendations of the Committee constituted to review all the issues pertaining to dealers/distributors' commission, the Government have increased the rates of Commission effective 6.11.97 as under :

Product	Unit	Commission
MS 37	Rs./KL	409
MS 93	Rs./KL	446
HSD - Slab-I	Rs./KL	222
Slab-II	Rs./KL	168
LPG packed Domestic	Rs./Cylinder (14.2 kg)	10.50
LPG packed Non-Domestic	Rs./Cylinder (19 Kg.)	14.05
LPG packed Non-Domestic	Rs./Cylinder (47.5 Kg.)	35.15

Recognition of Medical College in Sikkim

1092. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not granting recognition to the Medical College which is under construction in Sikkim; and

(b) the total amount spent on it as on date and the allocation likely to be spent thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The proposal of the Sikkim-Manipal University of Health, Medical and Technological Sciences, for establishment of a new Medical College at Gangtok has been found to be deficient, in terms of qualifying criteria prescribed in the Regulations of the MCI, and the University Authorities and State Government have been asked to make good the deficiencies. The clearance of the proposal depends upon rectification of the deficiencies by the applicant.

(b) Since the College is proposed to be set up by the Sikkim-Manipal University of Health, Medical and Technological Sciences, this Ministry has no information

about the total amount spent, and likely to be spent on this College.

[Translation]

Terrorism in North-Eastern States

1093. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any agreement with Bangladesh to deal with terrorism in North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details of the factors responsible for the increase in terrorists activities in North-Eastern States; and

(c) the extent to which terrorism in this region is likely to be restrained after signing agreement with Bangladesh ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) No formal agreement has been entered into by the Government of India with the Government of Bangladesh to combat terrorism 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 in depth, all outstanding issues and to recommend practical measures for resolving them; (c) regular between Bangladesh Rifles and Border Security Force.

Certain States in the N.E. have varying degrees of Militancy and terrorism. 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.

[English]

Quota of Mid-day Meal

1094. SHRI FAGGAR SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of foodgrains quota allocated to States/Union Territories for mid-day meal during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of students benefited indicating the impact of the scheme and the expenditure involved;

(c) whether the entire allotted quota provided to all the districts of Madhya Pradesh every month; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor indicating the time by which it is likely to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) The quantity of foodgrains allotted to States and UTs under the mid-day meal Scheme since its inception is as follows :

Year	(In Lakh MTs)
1995-96	7.13
1996-97	15.86
1997-98	25.68

(b) According to available information about 9.80 crore children in primary classes would be covered by the Scheme during 1998-99 for which an amount of Rs. 1092.15 crore has been provided. Several States have indicated a favourable impact on enrolment and attendance of children particularly girls and those belonging to the disadvantaged sections of the Society.

(c) and (d) Allocations of foodgrains to States indicating district-wise allocation also are made on an annual basis at the beginning of each financial year. During 1997-98, 2.22 lakh MTs of foodgrains were allotted to Madhya Pradesh under the Scheme, of which 1.61 lakh MTs was lifted from FCI depots.

[Translation]

Primary Health Centre

1095. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Primary Health Centres run by the Union Government in Bihar; and

(b) whether the Government propose to open more Primary health Centres during the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The Primary Health Centres are being administered directly by the respective State Governments and not by the union Government. As per the Data Available, a wide net work of about 2209 Primary Health Centres are functioning in Bihar State.

(b) It has been ascertained that the Planning Commission has not yet received any proposal for opening new Primary Health Centres from the State Government of Bihar.

*(English)***Pending Cases in the Labour Courts**

1096. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of cases pending in various labour courts as on date;
- (b) the number of cases pending for more than five years; and
- (c) the steps taken for the speedy disposal of these cases ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) A statement showing the number of cases pending in the various Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts is attached.

(b) 881 cases are pending for more than five years.

(c) The Government does not interfere in the settlement of cases pending with the Central Govt. Industrial Tribunals-cum-Labour Courts, which are judicial

Statement

S. No.	Name of the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court	No. of cases pending as on 28.02.1998
1.	Asansol	162
2.	Bangalore*	636
3.	Calcutta	279
4.	Chandigarh	1100
5.	No. 1, Dhanbad	1014
6.	No. 2, Dhanbad	829
7.	Jabalpur*	1598
8.	Kanpur	425
9.	No. 1, Mumbai	189
10.	No. 2, Mumbai	117
11.	New Delhi	782
12.	Jaipur**	
Total		7131

*As on 31.08.1997

**Yet to start functioning.

Assistance to Hospital Project in Assam

1097. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of loan/financial assistance provided by the Union Government to hospitals projects in Assam during each of the last three years;
- (b) the terms and conditions on which these allocations have been made;
- (c) whether the Union Government have received any further request from the Government of Assam for financial assistance for the expansion development of medical colleges and hospitals in the State;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) 'Health' being a State subject, it is for the State Government to take steps for providing financial assistance to Hospital Projects. However, the Planning Commission has released Rs. 200.00 lakhs as Additional Grant for the upgradation of Guwahati Medical College, Guwahati in Assam during 1996-97.

(c) to (e) Planning Commission has informed that the Government of Assam had requested for an additional Central Assistance of Rs. 1.00 crore for purchase of C.T. Scan for strengthening diagnostic facilities for Trauma, Cardiovascular & Neurological ailments in Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh. The Working Group set up to discuss Ninth Plan Outlays for North Eastern Council recommended that provision for purchase of C.T. Scan at Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh may be made by North Eastern Council within the Outlay of Rs. 40.4 crores provided for development of additional facilities for specialisation and super-specialisation at Guwahati Medical College, Assam Medical College and Silchar Medical College.

Maintenance of Old Structures of Government Hospitals in Delhi

1098. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the buildings of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narain Hospital, Safdar Jung Hospital, Lady Harding Medical College and its associate Sucheta Kriplani Hospitals in Delhi are pre-Independence structures;
- (b) if so, whether the maintenance of these hospitals are being made properly;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to make the maintenance of these hospitals properly to avoid any hazard to the general public visiting in these hospitals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) Safdarjung Hospital has some structures that were constructed around 1942 and majority of the structures of Lady Hardinge Medical College and its Associate Hospitals were constructed in 1916. The maintenance of the buildings of Central Government Hospitals, namely Safdarjung Hospitals & Lady Hardinge Medical College and its associate Sucheta Kriplani Hospitals in Delhi is done by C.P.W.D. Proper maintenance of these Hospitals is impaired because of increased patient load.

(d) The Civil and Electrical works or the proper maintenance of buildings as well as for the upgradation of existing facilities are carried out by the C.P.W.D. periodically.

Pre-independence Structures are to be demolished after construction of alternate building as the Left and Right Wing of OPD at Safdarjung Hospital has been sanctioned. Separate building for the National Institute of Orthopaedic is being planned in S.J. Hospital Campus.

New Accident and Emergency Block in LHMC & SSKH is under consideration.

Some existing sewers are being replaced by bigger ones where feasible without dislocating the service.

The maintenance of the building of the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narain Hospital is the responsibility of the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Import of Tainted Blood from Australia

1099. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Australian Company Limited had exported tainted blood to Delhi and other cities of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for such imports;

(c) whether the Government are aware about the facts;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to stop the import of tainted blood in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (f) There is no information about any Australian Company exporting tainted blood to any Indian Cities. However, as per newspaper reports, an Austrian Co. had been reported to have exported tainted blood products to India. It is a fact that M/s Panacea Biotec, New Delhi had imported human albumin 20% injection manufactured, by M/s. Albovina Gmbh Austria during the years 1994-96.

Samples from each consignment of blood products being imported into the country are tested to ensure that these are free from HIV 1&2, HBsAg and HCV Viruses. No consignment of blood products is released by the Port Officers without testing for the above Viruses. All the Port Officers have been instructed by the Drug Controller (India) to ensure that each consignment of blood products is accompanied by protocols of testing and manufacturing as well as Batch Release Certificate.

Supply of Gas in Saurashtra Region

1100. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved the land fall point near Pipavav in Saurashtra Region of Gujarat for supply of gas from Tapti Gas Field;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the gas supply is likely to be started at Pipavav ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Oil Reserves

1101. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted surveys to assess the quantity of oil reserves in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of places where such surveys are being conducted during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) ONGC and OIL have been carrying out exploration activities including seismic surveys in their operational areas in different parts of the country. As a result of their exploration efforts, ONGC & OIL have been able to establish as on 1.4.1997, in place volume of 5343.50 MMTs and 790.48 MMTs of oil+oil equivalent of gas respectively in their operating areas.

(c) Seismic surveys are being carried out by these two companies in Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery, Upper Assam, AAFB, Cambay, Rajasthan, Himalayan Foot Hills, Vindhyan, Bengal and Ganga Basin in addition to East Coast and West Coast offshore.

Loans to Backward Classes

1102. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Commission for Backward Classes have issued instruction to the Government for providing loans to the people belonging to backward classes through the loan distribution system of the nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

[English]

Terrorist Activities

1103. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of incidents of attacks by various terrorists group in Jammu and Kashmir from January 1, 1996 to May 15, 1998 and the number of persons killed, injured and kidnapped in the said attacks;

(b) the number of terrorists arrested, injured and killed during the above period;

(c) the details of weapons and other materials seized from killed terrorists;

(d) whether any proof of the involvement of the Pakistan's ISI has been found in this regard; and

(e) if so, the concrete measures taken to check such activities ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) There were 9285 incidents of terrorists violence in J&K from Jan. 1996 to 15th May 1998 including explosions, Rocket Attacks, random firing, arson, arms snatching etc. and 1224 cases of abduction. 2521 Civilians and 439 security forces personnel were killed, and 2994 Civilians and 1049 security forces personnel were injured respectively during the period.

(b) 2502 terrorists were killed and 3967 were apprehended during the period, it is not possible to ascertain the number of terrorist injured.

(c) 4300 A.K. Series Rifles, 2331 Pistols/Revolvers, 175 UMGs, 111 RPG's, 21 LMGs/SLR, 124 Sniper Rifles, 214 Rocket Launchers, 395 Rocket Boosters and a large quantity of accessories, assorted ammunition, explosive material and communication equipment etc. were recovered from the militants during the period.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. It is a well known fact that Pak ISI is sponsoring, aiding and abetting militancy in J&K. Interrogation reports of a number of militants arrested by Security Forces and diaries/documents etc. recovered from them have confirmed this fact.

The steps taken by the Government to tackle militancy in J&K include sustained anti-terrorist operations by the Police and the Security Forces, including intensive patrolling on the border/LOC and hinterland, establishing pickets in vulnerable areas, strengthening of State Police, strengthening of the intelligence network and coordination of security arrangements among various agencies. A Special Group has also been recently constituted to prepare specific Action Plan to tackle militancy in J&K.

Waiving off Accumulated Loans

1104. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government propose to waive off Rs. 1,450/- crores of loan taken by J&K Government; and

(b) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) No Sir. The Ministry of Finance, has however been requested to keep in view the request of J&K Government for waiver of accumulated loans while finalising the terms of reference of the 11th Finance Commission.

[Translation]

Migration from Jammu and Kashmir

1105. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the militants killed a large number of persons near Srinagar;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed including the security personnel during the last three months till date;

(c) whether the people have migrated in large number from villages due to fear of being killed.

(d) if so, the number of houses destroyed and number of families left their houses and migrated to other places;

(e) the details of places in the border areas of J&K where the terrorist killed large number civilians; and

(f) whether the above areas comes under the control of BSF/Army/Central Security Force or the State Police ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a), (b) and (c) Incidents of killings by militants are not confined to particular areas. 285 Civilians and 68 Security Forces Personnel were killed in militant violence in J&K during the period from 1 January, 1998 to 15 May, 1998. The Major incident in the recent past near Srinagar was at Wandhama where 23 persons were killed while in the border areas the place where terrorists recently killed large number of persons are Prankote & Dhakikote Surankote.

(c) The recent incidents of killings of innocent people at Parankot (Udhampur Distt.) and Surankot (Poonch) had created a sense of fear, which has resulted in some migration. However, as reported by State Government, due to the security measures taken in these areas, some of the migrants have already started going back to their native places.

(d) As per the State Government one houses and one temple were gutted in the incidents near Srinagar at Wandhama and 3 houses and 1 shop were burnt at Prankote/Dhakikote in Udhampur Distt.

(f) The Unified Headquarters headed by the Chief Minister of J&K reviews the deployment of Security Forces in the state and it would not be in the public interest to divulge details in this regard.

[English]

Sending Back of Government Employees

1106. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to shift back Central Government employees who were brought on

deputation to other posts of country including Delhi from Kashmir in wake of the large scale of killing since, 1989;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the situation has become conducive to send back the migrant employees to Kashmir; and

(d) if not, the reasons for their sending back ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Lashkar's Valley Jihad

1107. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : 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 "Thousands ready to Join Lashkar's Valley Jihad" appearing in Indian Express dated May 7, 1998; and

(b) if so, the action Government intends to take in restricting these Lashkars sent to J&K for committing subversive activities ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Government have seen the New item.

(b) Close vigil is being kept by the security forces along the border/LOC and in the interior areas. Various arrangements have been made for this purpose including intensive patrolling, provision and use of surveillance equipments including night vision devices, etc. deployment of forces in the vulnerable areas both on the LOD/Border and in the hinterland, setting up of Village Defence Committees in some of the sensitive regions near the Border, and close and continuous co-ordination between all concerned security and intelligence agencies etc. The arrangements are being continuously reviewed and strengthened/streamlined as found necessary.

Talks with Kashmir Hurriyat Leaders

1108. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have initiated any move to have talks with the Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the leaders of Hurriyat Conference thereto;

(d) whether the Government have consulted the major political parties in this regard;

- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
 (f) the reaction of the political parties thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) to (f) Question does not arise.

Seizure of Arms

1009. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether security forces have seized a lot of arms in the valley of Kashmir during the last two years; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the details of the arms seized in the State of Jammu and Kashmir are as given below :

	1996	1997	1998 (Jan. to 15th May)
1. A.K. Series	2150	1725	425
2. Pistol/Revolvers	1052	1024	255
3. UMGs	84	64	27
4. Carbines	6	3	3
5. RPGs	48	38	25
6. GPMGs	9	5	0
7. LMG/SLR	9	12	0
8. .303 Rifles	36	3	4
9. Sniper Rifles	49	60	15
10. Rocket Launchers	43	81	90
11. Rocket Boosters	119	208	68

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, Repatriates Cooperative and Financial and Develops Bank Ltd. etc. review of their working and statement show reason for delay in laying papers etc.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 274/98]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Limited, Chennai, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Limited, Chennai for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 275/98]

- (4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rehabilitation Plantations Limited, Punalur, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Plantations Limited, Punalur, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 276/98]

- (5) 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 (Assistant Commandants) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 308 in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 1997.

- (ii) The Border Security Force [Air Wing Non-Gazetted (Combatised) Group C Posts] Recruitment Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 419 in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 1997.
- (iii) The Border Security Force (Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. S.O. 166 in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 1998.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 277/98]

- (6) A copy of the National Security Guard (Group "A" Posts) Recruitment Amendment Rules 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 326 in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 1997 under sub-section (3) of section 139 of the National Security Guard Act, 1986 together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 364 dated the 1st November, 1997.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 278/98]

- (7) A copy of the Central Reserve Police Force (Amendment) Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 85 in Gazette of India dated the 18th April, 1998, under sub-section (3) of section 18 of the Central Reserve Police Force Act, 1949.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 279/98]

- (8) A copy of the Presidential Special Order (Hindi and English versions) providing Additional funds under Schedule I and II to the Governors (Allowances and Privileges) Rules, 1987 in respect of Governor of Assam, under the sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Act, 1982.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 280/98]

Annual reports of National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Ltd, Krishak Bharti Cooperative Ltd. Review of their working and Statements showing reasons for delay in laying papers etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the national Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 281/98]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Krishak Bharti Cooperative Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review by the Government of the working of the Krishak Bharti Cooperative Limited, New Delhi for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 282/98]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 283/98]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :-

- (i) The Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Amendment Order, 1997 published in Notification No. S.O. 772 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th November, 1997.

- (ii) The Fertiliser (Movement Control) Amendment Order, 1997 published in Notification No. S.O. 613 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 1997.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 284/98]

(6) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madras Fertilizers Limited, Chennai, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Madras Fertilizers Limited, Chennai, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 285/98]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 286/98]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Paradeep Phosphates Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Paradeep Phosphates Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 287/98]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 288/98]

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, Sindri, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, Sindri, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 289/98]

(f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited, Rohtas, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited, Rohtas, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 290/98]

(g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Fertilizers Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Fertilizers Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 291/98]

(h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Kochi for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Kochi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 292/98]

(i) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the projects and Develop-

ment India Limited, Dhanbad, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Projects and Development India Limited, Dhanbad, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the paper mentioned at (g) of item (6) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 293/98]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, Gurgaon, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, Gurgaon, for the year 1996-97.

- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 294/98]

- (10) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 295/98]

Notifications under Employees Provident Funds and Misc. Provisions Act 1952 and Annual reports of V.V. Giri National Labour Institute Noida, Central Board for workers Education Nagpur, review of their working and statement showing reasons for delay in laying papers etc.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 :-

- (i) The Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance (Amendment) Scheme, 1997 published in Notification No. GSR 334 in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 1997.

- (ii) The Employees' Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 1997 Published in Notification No. G.S.R. 376 in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 1997.

- (iii) The Employees' provident Funds (Amendment) Scheme, 1997 Published in Notification No. G.S.R. 405 in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 1997.

- (iv) The Employees' Provident Funds (Second Amendment) Scheme, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R 406 in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 1997.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 296/98]

- (2) A copy of the Beedi Workers Welfare Funds (Amendment) Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 78(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 1998 under sub-section (4) of section 12 the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 297/98]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, for the year 1996-97.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 298/98]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 1996-97.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 299/98].

- (7) A copy of the Consolidated Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 300/98]

- (9) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (10) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, together with Audit Report thereon, under section 36 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 301/98]

- (11) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) on Action Taken or proposed to be taken on the convention No. 122 and Recommendation No. 122 adopted at the 48th Session of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva in June-July, 1964.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 302/98]

Annual reports alongwith Audited reports of the Dental Council of India, the National Institute of Ayurveda etc, review of their working and Statement showing reasons for delay in laying papers etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

1. (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Dental Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the Dental Council of India, New Delhi for the year 1995-96.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 303/98]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur for the year 1996-97 together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 1996-97.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 304/98]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Academy of Ayurveda, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Academy of Ayurveda, New Delhi for the year 1996-97

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 305/98]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar, for the year 1996-97.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 306/98]

- (9) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (India) Limited and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, for the year 1997-98.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 307/98]
- (10) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the companies Act, 1956 :-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (I) Limited, Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (I) Limited, Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 308/98]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Bangalore, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Bangalore, for the year 1996-97.
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 309/98]
- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the population Research Centre, Vadodara, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Vadodara, for the year 1996-97.
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 310/98]
- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Chandigarh, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Chandigarh, for the year 1996-97.
- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 311/98]
- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Dharwad, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Dharwad, for the year 1996-97.
- (18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 312/98]
- (19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Delhi for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 313/98]
- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Gandhigram, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Gandhigram, for the year 1996-97.
- (22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 314/98]

- (23) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the population Research Centre, Lucknow, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Lucknow, for the year 1996-97.
- (24) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (23) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 315/98]
- (25) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Patna, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Patna, for the year 1996-97.
- (26) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (25) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 316/98]
- (27) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Puna, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Puna, for the year 1996-97.
- (28) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (27) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 317/98]
- (29) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1996-97.
- (30) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (29) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 318/98]
- (31) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Udaipur, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Udaipur, for the year 1996-97.
- (32) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (31) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 319/98]
- (33) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 1996-97.
- (34) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (33) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 320/98]
- (35) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh, for the year 1996-97.
- (36) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (35) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 321/98]

- (37) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts. in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1996-97.
- (38) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (37) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 322/98]
- (39) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Guwahati, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Guwahati, for the year 1996-97.
- (40) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (39) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 323/98]
- (41) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (42) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (41) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 324/98]
- (43) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research
- (44) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (43) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 325/98]
- (45) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Research Institute for Yoga, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Research Institute for Yoga, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (46) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (45) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 326/98]
- (47) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1995-96.
- (48) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (47) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 327/98]
- (49) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, for the year 1996-97.
- (50) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (49) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 328/98]
- (51) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chittaranjan

National Cancer Institute, Calcutta, for the year 1994-95.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Calcutta, for the year 1994-95, together With Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Calcutta, for the year 1994-95.

(52) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (51) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 329/98]

- (53) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

(54) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (53) above.

Placed in Library, See No. LT 330/98]

Annual reports of the National SC & ST Finance and Development Corporation and the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation for 1996-97 and review of their working and Statement showing reasons for delay in laying papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A Copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of working of the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 331/98]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of working of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, 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 (a) of item (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 332/98]

Annual report, of Cochin Refineries Ltd, Engineers India Ltd etc, review of their working and Statement showing reasons for delay in laying papers etc.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cochin Refineries Limited, Ernakulam, for the year 1996-97.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Cochin Refineries Limited, Ernakulam, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 333/98]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97. 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library, See No. LT 338/98]
- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil India Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 1996-97. (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, Bongaigaon, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Oil India Limited, Dibrugarh for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. (ii) Annual Report of the Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, Bongaigaon, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library, See No. LT 339/98]
- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madras Refineries Limited, Chennai, for the year 1996-97. (h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Gas Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Madras Refineries Limited, Chennai, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. (ii) Annual Report of the Gas Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97. (2) Eight Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library, See No. LT 340/98]
- (ii) Annual Report of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :-
- (i) S.O. 271(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1998 rescinding the Parafin Wax (Supply, Distribution and Price Fixation) Order, 1997.
- (ii) The Furnace Oil (Fixation of Ceiling Prices and Distribution) Amendment order, 1997 published in Notification No. S.O. 623(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 1997.
- (iii) The Furnace Oil (Fixation of Ceiling Prices and Distribution) Amendment Order, 1998 Published in Notification No. S.O.
- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Lubrizol India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Lubrizol India Limited, Mumbai, for the year

137(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th February 1998.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 341/98]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 31 of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974 :-

- (i) The Oil Industry Development Board Employees (Medical Attendance) (Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 40(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st January, 1998.
- (ii) The Oil Industry (Development) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 128(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th March, 1998.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 342/98]

- (5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :-

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Gas Authority of India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and natural Gas for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 343/98]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 344/98]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1998-99

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 345/98]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 346/98]

- (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Lubrizol India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 347/98]

Standards of Weights and Measures Rules, 1997

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Standards of Weights and Measures (General) (Third Amendment) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 629(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 1997 under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the Standards of Weight and Measures Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 348/98]

12.03 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND

BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA-LAID

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following Message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1998 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st June, 1998."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1998 as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 1st June, 1998.

12.04 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

[English]

- (1) Governing Body of Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of rule 15 of the rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Indian Council of Medical Research, 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 Governing Body of Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, subject to other provisions of the Rules."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of rule 15 of the Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Indian Council of Medical Research, 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 Member of the Governing Body of Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, subject to other provisions of the Rules."

The motion was adopted.

(ii) **Central Committee of Tuberculosis Association of India**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of clause 3(vii)(a) of the Rules and Regulations of the Tuberculosis Association of India, 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 Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of clause 3(vii)(a) of the Rules and Regulations of the Tuberculosis Association of India, 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 Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India."

The motion was adopted.

(iii) **Central Supervisory Board for Pre-Natal Diagnosis**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of Section 7(2) (f) of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of

Misuse) Act, 1994, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two female members from among themselves, to serve as members of the Central Supervisory Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 7(2) (f) of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two female members from among themselves, to serve as Members of the Central Supervisory Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

(iv) **Employees State Insurance Act.**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of Section 4(i) of the employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, read with rule 2A of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, 1950, 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 Employees' State Insurance Corporation, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 4(i) of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, read with rule 2A of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, 1950, 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 Employees State Insurance Corporation, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

(v) **Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of Section 5(g) of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, Act, 1966, the Members of this House do

[Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai]

proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, subject to the provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 5(g) of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, Act, 1966, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, subject to the provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

(vi) **Governing Council of North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of Rule 3(b) read with Rule 4(b) of the Rules of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Governing Council of North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Rule 3(b) read with Rule 4(b) of the Rules of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Governing Council of North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules."

The motion was adopted.

(vii) **Official Language Committee**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4 of the official Languages Act, 1963, the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, twenty members from among themselves to be members of the Committee to review the progress made in the use of Hindi for the official purposes of the Union and submit a report to the President making recommendations thereon in accordance with sub-section (3) of section 4 of the said Act."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, twenty members from among themselves to be members of the Committee to review the progress made in the use of Hindi for the official purposes of the Union and submit a report to the President making recommendations thereon in accordance with sub-section (3) of section 4 of the said Act."

The motion was adopted

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise a very important issue. Yesterday, the hon. Finance Minister, in his Budget speech, has said something about the price of petrol. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There are two important items. It will take only two minutes. After completing them, you can speak.

Item no. 18 - Shri Nitish Kumar - Not present.

Shri Sharad Pawar, you can speak now.

12.08 hrs.

RE : BUDGETARY HIKE IN PETROL PRICES

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Yesterday, the hon. Finance Minister, in his Budget speech, regarding the additional charge on petrol, has briefed the House and, through the House, the whole country and said that the additional charge will be one rupee per litre, merely one

rupee per litre. I will just quote his statement, It says :

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, good roads are a necessity for social and economic development. I am sure that those of us who are privileged to afford personalised vehicles can afford to contribute to the faster development of good roads in the country. I propose to charge an additional tax at the rate of rupee one per litre on petrol with immediate effect."

What is the actual situation? I will give the actual situation. In Delhi, till yesterday the price of petrol was Rs. 22.84 per litre but actually today it started with Rs. 26.77 per litre and the rise is Rs. 3.93. In Calcutta, yesterday it was Rs. 23.55 and today it is Rs. 27.59. The rise is Rs. 4.84. In Mumbai, yesterday it was Rs. 25.79 and today it is Rs. 30.21. The rise is Rs. 4.42. . . . (Interruptions) In Chennai, it was Rs. 26.79 and today it is Rs. 31.36. The rise is Rs. 4.57.

Exactly the same situation has happened in regard to the price of urea also. In regard to the price of urea, the hon. Finance Minister made a statement in the House that there would be a rise by one rupee per kilo. But actually the price of a 50 kg. urea bag has been practically raised by Rs. 70. It means that actually the rise per kilo is Rs. 1.50.

This is clear-cut case of misleading the House. I think, it is high time that either the Finance Minister should clarify the entire position or he should withdraw this. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, let us also add . . . (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : You please listen to me. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition has pointed out a very serious thing and the hon. Finance Minister has not got the patience. Mr. Finance Minister, you please wait for three or five minutes. What is this? . . . (Interruptions) These prices has been charged by different public sector undertakings.

These prices have been approved by the Government. When the Finance Minister is announcing here, and through this House to the whole country, that their sacrifice will be one rupee more per litre, everybody knows even that will have a cascading effect on the economy and on the inflationary pressure. Actually he must have known that it will not be less than Rs. 4. What was the intention? Within a few hours, this is the price which is being charged. This

is a very serious matter. Budget is a serious exercise and through Budget, such impressions should not be given to the people that it is only one rupee excise being charged when, in fact, this is the position. Therefore, we strongly protest and I suggest that the Finance Minister should withdraw this and make a proper amendment and place it before this House and the people.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, please.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Please take your seat.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He will clarify the position.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Jaipal Reddy only. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Jaipal Reddy only. Now he will clarify. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Sir, are you going to give an opportunity to every party?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, I have not called your name. I have called Shri Jaipal Reddy.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, we want you to give an opportunity to all the parties.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I will come to you.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity. My friend, Shri Yashwant Sinha has been known to me for many years. I never thought that he would be so dubious as this. I thought that he would be straight forward but in the Budget he adopted many techniques which are not considered straight forward. Take for example, the price of urea. The argument trotted out by the Finance Minister was that he was doing this to restore the urea price . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I have already allowed him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : He proposed the argument
... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. It is only for
a clarification.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please complete.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : That was the argument.
... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that I have
allowed him to ask for a clarification.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : If that was the real cause,
Mr. Speaker, Sir, he can reduce the price of phosphatic
fertilizer. There is no need to increase the price of urea.
There was a need to decrease the price of phosphatic
fertilizer. He has also misled the House in regard to the
excise that will be additionally charged on the Urea.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your clarification. I have
allowed you to seek a clarification but not to make a
speech.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Thank you, Mr. Speaker,
Sir. I appeal to the Finance Minister to withdraw this
increase in the price of both Urea and Petrol.

MR. SPEAKER : Now the Minister may reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. I have already
allowed three Members to ask clarifications. Please take
your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir,
Government have hiked the prices of Petrol and Urea .
... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jogi, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can discuss it during the debate
on the Budget. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot do like that because I
have already called him. You cannot do like that. No, no.
Please take your seat. Please understand.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : Hon'ble Minister
has misled the house. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have already allowed three Members
to seek clarifications. Shri Baalu, take your seat. This is
not a Budget discussion.

The Minister is already replying. Mr. Minister, would you
oblige Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I will say what I have to
say and then there will be no need for any further
clarifications. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Take your seat. The Minister is
already giving a reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Only
yesterday I had said that this Budget is a budget of fictitious
figures. Economy of the country will become unmanageable.
... (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : This Budget is based
on the anti-poverty and anti-farmer, Policies of the
Government. Therefore, our party walkout from the House
against this Budget.

12.10 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some
other Hon'ble members left the House.*

*Not Recorded.

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I decided. . . .
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North Centre) : Hon'ble Finance Minister had announced an increase of Rs. 1 on Petrol but Petrol prices have gone up by Rs. 5. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : First, you listen to him.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : First I will reply. Then there will be no questions on that.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seat. Shri Jogi, take your seat. Please sit down. Please understand. The hon. Minister is giving a reply. If you have any clarification, you can seek it later on.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what the Minister says.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat first. The Minister is giving a reply. Please cooperate with me. Please cooperate with the Chair.

He is already giving a reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, Please. He is already giving his reply. What is this? You can ask afterwards.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, please take your seat. Let the hon. Minister of Finance complete his reply. You can ask later. Please take your seat. Let the hon. Minister complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Please tell us about Urea also . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jogi, Please take your seat. Let him complete. Prof. Kurien, please take your seat. Mr. Minister

(Interruptions)

*Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Shri Baalu, please take your seat. He is giving a clarification.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I got up to respond to the points raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition with a view to putting an end to this matter. I had thought that after I had given my clarification, there would be no questions left. I am very grateful to Shri Jaipal Reddy, the hon. Member, for having paid the kind of personal tribute that he is paying me for all these years that I have known him. I would only like to assure him that I was never dubious, I am not dubious and I will never be dubious. (Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : You should listen to the hon'ble Minister when he is speaking. You often stand up and interrupt the speeches. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : As far as the prices of motor spirit, namely, petrol is concerned, I stand by exactly what I told the House yesterday. The moment we came to know that there had been some confusion, we immediately got into discussion with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas because the adjustment in the pricing structure of excise duty was supposed to be calibrated in a manner where there was not likely to be any additional burden on the consumer other than the liability arising out of the payment of rupee one case for National Development Fund. After the discussion with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, necessary instructions are being issued to bring petrol prices back to normal except for this rupee one increase. The necessary instructions have already been issued. Now, this is what I have been wanting to tell this House.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : You may please tell us about Urea . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

(Interruptions)

12.23 hrs.

(Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh then left the House.)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Let me complete. Shri Somnath Chatterjee, you must have patience. You are such a senior Member. *(Interruptions)*. Let me complete my submission. I am ready to reply your questions. *(Interruptions)*. Let me say something about urea. I will try to reply to your questions... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : How is this Government functioning? *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I have to make an announcement in regard to urea also. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : How is this Government functioning? *(Interruptions)*. I have got a telephone call from Cuckutta. *(Interruptions)*. How is this Government functioning? *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : His intention was to increase it by rupee one and another Ministry is hiking up the prices. This is the way the Government is functioning! Regarding those people who have been charged extra these are the Government companies which have charged what is the explanation of the Government? *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : As far as the increase in urea prices is concerned, the Government has already

announced in this House yesterday, that the urea prices will now go up only by 50 paise per kilogram and not by one rupee. This is the announcement which I wanted to make *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This requires intervention by the Opposition. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we will take up matters under Rule 377.

(Interruptions)

12.26 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to clear the Proposal of Madhya Pradesh Government to Provide Owner's Patta to Ploughers of Forest Land in Vananchal Region of M.P.

[Translation]

SHRI GAJRI SHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN (Balaghat) : Adivasis and other people have occupied the

forest land of Madhya Pradesh and other States also and have started ploughing the land after the implementation of Forest conservation Act. Madhya Pradesh Government has decided to provide owners Patta to such ploughers. The proposal to distribute the land according to it is under consideration of the Government. Union Government is requested to accord approval to the proposal.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : They have deliberately done it. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called matters under Rule 377. There is a Zero Hour also. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. There is a Zero Hour also. Please cooperate.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : The Minister did not come with a *suo motu* statement. It was his obligation to clarify the matter. The Finance Minister was saying something and the other Ministry was doing something else, and the Budget has been ridiculed. Within 24 hours, the Budget *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. I have called matters under Rule 377. I will allow you after it is over. taken a decision to reduce by half the increase that I had *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you after it is over.

(ii) Need to exclude Forest land in Uttaranchal in U.P. from the Purview of Forest Conservation Act, 1980, in the interest of General Public.

SHRI BASHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the implementation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980, developmental works in Uttaranchal area of Uttar Pradesh have been suspended and it has become difficult for the common man to live there. In this regard, an interim order on writ petition No.202 of 1995 in T.N.Godaverman Thirumalpad versus Union of India and others, case was passed on 12.12.1996. Through it the State Governments were directed to identify the forest land and get marked.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, On the basis of this direction, Forest Department of U.P. Government on 17.3.97 declared the "Benami land : of hill areas of Uttar Pradesh as "Protected Forest Land". Due to this, traditional rights of natives of Uttaranchal area to utilise this land as pasture, for digging well for drinking water, collecting grass and fuel wood and taking stones, granite and sand from it have been affected. In view of this Act, restrictions are being imposed by the

forest department on the villagers to get stone, sand, granite and water from this land and his also prohibited grazing of animals in the forest area. Therefore, I request the Union Government to exclude the Forest land in Uttaranchal in U.P. from the purview of Protected Forest land in the interest of General Public and the traditional rights of the people of Uttaranchal region should be restored.

[English]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. I have called matters under Rule 377. Thereafter, I will come to you. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri T.R. Baalu, I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar) : I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the Finance Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete first.

[Translation]

SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier there was uproar in the House. Therefore, I would like to read it again . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is not necessary. Do not worry. It will go on record. Please take your seat.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order?

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Banka) : Mr. Speaker Sir, point of order can not be raised in zero hour . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

Sir, under which rule is he raising a point of order? What is your ruling? Under which rule is he speaking? (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister was good enough to announce a reduction in the price of urea in response to the point made by the Leader of the Opposition. If that was the decision, he should have come forward with the *suo motu* statement. He cannot say that in response to the point made by the Leader of the Opposition. Why did the Government not come forward with a *suo motu* statement? May I also tell you, Sir, that never in the history of free India did the Government revise the Budget proposals in less than 24 hours. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had come prepared with a *suo motu* statement. But before I could read that statement, the hon. Leader of the Opposition had raised the matter. So, I said that it was in response to his point.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister was kind enough to come forward with a *suo motu* statement. Will he please explain how the price has been raised so much? . . . (Interruptions) How is this Government functioning? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, we shall have a regular discussion on the Budget and I am ready to answer each and every question during that discussion. (Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (GARHWAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, other than Matters under Rule 377 nothing should go on record.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bheru Lal Meena.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say something about the Budget.

MR. SPEAKER : Now the Matter under Rule 377 is going on. I will allow you later.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bheru Lal Meena.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, where is the Finance Minister going? Why is he going away? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not goo.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

(Interruptions)

*Not Recorded.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, in protest, we are walking out.

12.35 hours.

(At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House)

(At this stage, Shri Murasoli Maran and some other Hon. Members left the House)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are walking out in protest against your not allowing us to speak and also because the Finance Minister has gone away without even giving clarifications to what we want to seek. This is an anti-farmers and anti-poor Budget.

12.35¼ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri P. Shiv Shanker and some other hon. Members left the House.)

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Finance Minister will be coming within five minutes.

(iii) Need to provide more funds to Rajasthan Government for upliftment of Scheduled Tribes especially the Bheel and Meena Communities

[Translation]

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA (Salumber) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Tribal Development Sub-Plan Department is working in Rajasthan for the upliftment of Scheduled Tribes there. 10% more than the allocated General Budget is being spent by this department. In spite of all this, upliftment of adivasi community is not taking place. Their condition has remained unchanged. Among the Scheduled tribes in Rajasthan, adivasi Bheel and Meena are the weakest sections. Financially they are very poor. The population of adivasi Bheel and Meena is scattered in the hill areas. They do not have the land to cultivate. Therefore, they capture the forest land and lead their life by cultivating it. There is no industry in this area. Adivasi youth are wondering unemployed. I request the Union Government to provide more funds to Rajasthan. Planned works should be started to provide irrigation facilities to adivasis especially Bheel and Meena Communities. Also, small scale industries should be set up there so that their standard of living could improve.

[English]

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, it arises out of today's proceedings of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Under what rule?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Under rule 204 which deals with the presentation of the Budget.

Sir, it is a very important occasion when the Members witness the presentation of the Budget in the Budget Session of Parliament. The Budget was presented in the House in the manner given in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha. Today, the hon. Leader of the Opposition has brought to the notice of the Hon. Finance Minister and the House about the serious misuse of the pronouncements regarding the budgetary policies announced by the Finance Minister yesterday. It resulted in loss of crores and crores of rupees in one day to the consumer. Also, the reply given by the hon. Finance Minister is not strictly according to the rules and procedures of this House. The hon. Finance Minister's right to reply is accepted, but he has no business to first introduce the proposals and then to withdraw it on a small point of order raised by the Leader of the Opposition.

The Finance Minister announced in the House today that the price of urea has been reduced by 50 per cent. Is this the manner in which the Budget is to be handled? There is a procedure for proposing and withdrawing levies. I have a very serious objection to the hon. Finance Minister's proposal of reducing the price of urea. I would have liked him to say that the price of urea which has been raised yesterday is completely abolished. But even for that, there is a procedure to be followed.

He should have come through that procedure at an appropriate time and given that concession to the farmers of the country at an appropriate time. May I take it that this Government knows only one method of functioning, that is, pressure? Because the Opposition stood up today, they have suddenly withdrawn the price from Rs. 1 to Rs. 0.50. What lesson are they going to give to this country? What direction are they going to give? Why should he withdraw?

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chawk) : It has not been announced after the matter raised by the opposition.

[English]

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Please sit down, you did not listen. This is not the way . . . *(Interruptions)* This is not the way. The Finance Minister is at liberty. He has a right

to introduce a levy and to withdraw a levy. But this is Parliament and there are rules of procedure and business. Nothing should be done which is not in accordance with the rules and procedure of this House. May I submit to the hon. Finance Minister, what will happen to the money that has gone out of the pocket of the consumer? It runs into crores and crores. Who will pay back or who will use that money?

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Is it a point of order?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Because the procedure has been broken here in this House, it has come out of that. We are here to uphold the rules and procedure of this House. My humble submission is, the hon. Finance Minister has not gone according to the rules and procedure of this House. Let him think about it and let him come in an appropriate manner and meet the objections raised by the Opposition parties and Opposition leaders here and also some of the hon. Members sitting on their side. This is very serious matter. This should not be taken so lightly. This Government is functioning under pressure. I want that this Government should not function under pressure. He should come with a *suo motu* statement.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Finance Minister has already given a reply.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Therefore, you have to give to decision. According to me, a very serious breach of rules and procedure has taken place. The hon. Finance Minister has committed some mistake and it should be rectified.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Finance Minister has already given a reply. He is coming within five minutes.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : The situation in Kerala is much more difficult. In Kerala, the sales tax is imposed. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat, Shri A.C. Jos.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri A.C. Jos, you can discuss all these things during the Budget discussion. Please take your seat.

SHRI A.C. JOS : I am not disobeying your orders. But the hon. Finance Minister should clarify the position.

MR. SPEAKER : You can discuss all these things during the Budget discussion. Please take your seat. Shri Janardan Prasad Misra will speak now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Janardan Prasad Misra speaks.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I want the hon. Finance Minister to clarify.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Finance Minister has already given his clarification.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : The hon. Finance Minister has not gone according to the rules and procedure of this House.

MR. SPEAKER : He has already given his clarification.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I want to help him. Let him come up and say. Let him go according to the rules and procedure of the House. Either you should give a direction or he should take direction from you. I need a direction from you.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Janardan Prasad Misra will now speak.

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : You can take your time. It is a serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Finance Minister is going to clarify. Please take your seat.

SHRI A.C. JOS : The Finance Minister is ready for explanation.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH : What can I do if you could not understand it . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please do not think that you can run the House without the cooperation of the Opposition. You need the cooperation of the Opposition also . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

*Not Recorded.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Please listen to me also. . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has already come. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Please listen to me also.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the item Matters under Rule 377 is going on. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : As I said earlier, please do not think that you can run the House without the cooperation of the Opposition.

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, I will hear you. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I do not want to question your ruling. But this is how they are functioning.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, please understand the point.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I beg to seek your indulgence.

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand it. Let him complete the Matter under Rule 377. I am coming to you. Please take your seat.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : The point is that after the Matter under Rule 377, you will come back to me.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : All right, agreed.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : You have also walked out. After walking-out, why are you raising the same issue again?
(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, Does the hon. Minister want us to go away from the House?
(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Mr. Minister, do you want us to go away from the House? This is the way of functioning of the BJP Government. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete the Matter under Rule 377.

(iv) Need for early implementation of National Education Policy

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA (Sitapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is essential to raise the standard of Primary Education in the country for removing poverty, malnutrition and all other social evils prevailing in the society because standard of education is considered as the criteria for development. Perhaps for that reason our first Prime Minister had stated that poverty, illiteracy, diseases and unequal opportunities were the main challenges before the country and accordingly the objective of providing free and compulsory primary education to all was set. But it is really sad that even 50 years after Independence this objective could not be achieved. There are more than 4 crore and 24 lakh illiterates in India, which is the largest number of illiterates in the world. I feel that the main reason for illiteracy is the non participation of local communities in direction and management of schools. As per the figures given in one report, the rate of adult literacy was 18 per cent earlier which reached to 52 per cent in 1991. In the same way the rate of female literacy was 9 per cent in 1951 which increased to 43 per cent in 1992. But I do not find these figures factual because every third child leaves school before completing primary education and every second child does not get facility of drinking water. As per the results of a survey conducted in rural areas not a single student of fifth standard was able to solve the question paper of Hindi and mathematics set for students of 2nd standard. As per another survey conducted in Tamil Nadu only 50 per cent teachers of 4th class were able to solve 80 per cent question paper of mathematics set for 4th class. In such a situation raising the standard of education is like day dreaming .

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development that National Education Policy should be implemented at the earliest so that standard of education could be raised.

(v) Need to allocate more funds for modernisation of Canals of Chambal Region.

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (Kota) : In spite of spending huge funds given by the Government of India, State Governments and several Indian as well as foreign institutions for development of the irrigated area, the problems of the public concerning irrigation have increased tremendously. The Government of India had given Rs. 3 crore 50 lakh for providing water to agricultural land in a time-bound manner through 'Barabandi' system. There is need for effective implementation of this scheme. Repair and construction work is of inferior quality. There is more need for development work in villages of tail areas of the

canal. Due to dilapidated condition of Chambal Canals which irrigate various areas of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh fields in villages of tail area of the canal do not get sufficient irrigation water and standing crops on thousands of bighas of land get destroyed every year. The crop of wheat which require irrigation thrice gets water only once or twice but inspite of that full irrigation tax is collected. Irrigation tax should be remitted for the areas which do not get water. Repair and modernisation of canals is the only solution to this problem. There is an urgent need for repairing the dam to stop the leakage of 14 cusecs water from Kota Barrage. This year also crops standing over an area of thousands of bighas in villages of tail areas of canals got destroyed due to shortage of water.

Therefore, it is requested that the Government of India should make arrangements for proper maintenance and modernisation of canals for the Chambal irrigated area and provide funds for the following works of public importance :-

1. Culvert construction in Mendoli village of Tehsil Patan.
2. Culvert construction on Sei river in village Theekar in Bundi district.
3. Culvert construction in village Balapura. (village Panchayat Mal Bambori) Tehsil Maangrol, district Baran.
4. Culvert construction on the way from Chhotabai Ke Khal to the Pratiharon Ke kuen in village Roythal Bundi.
5. Culvert construction in Bandi Kakhal village Chhodeda in district Bandi.
6. Culvert construction on the way from village Guvadli to Roythal (district Bandi).
7. Culvert construction on the drain passing near the agricultural land of Ramkrishan Meena on the State highway going to Keshavrai Patan from Bajad in village and tehsil Bajad of district Bundi.

(vi) Need to release funds from Prime Minister's Relief Fund to the people affected by severe fire incident in Chall Parliamentary Constituency, U.P.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, last week hundreds of houses were gutted due to electric sparks in village Ambai Bujurg in block Kada Sirathu and village Gadhva (Koshambhi) block Bhontar of my Parliamentary Constituency (Allahabad) in U.P. A girl lost her life and half a dozen cattle perished in this fire incident.

Most of these house belonged to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes. I request the hon. Prime Minister to release funds from Prime Minister's Relief Fund for providing financial assistance for building new houses and paying compensation to this affected persons. Drinking water facility and employment should also be provided to them.

(vii) Need to fulfil the assurance given by the Naval Authorities regarding Employment Opportunities to those who sold out their land to the Naval Air Station at Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI C. GOPAL (Arakkonam) : A Naval Air Station, later Named as INS Rajali was inaugurated in Arakkonam in the year 1992. Agricultural land of seven villages surrounding Arakkonam was acquired since the inception of Naval Station by offering very less amount as compensation. At the time of land acquisition, it was assured by the Naval authorities that one among the family members would be provided with employment. But the Government has not fulfilled the promise and failed to offer employment to the family members who have sold out the land to Naval Air Station for less price. As a result, nearly 400 family members were affected.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to fulfil the promise by giving employment opportunities to the members who have sold out land to the Naval Air Station:

(viii) Need to Deploy Road Protection Force for guarding trucks passing through Nagaland against armed Tribal Insurgents of Nagaland and Manipur

KUMARI KIM GANGTE (Outer Manipur) : Sir, I could hardly wait to bring to the notice of the Government and the Members of this august House. I am sorry to say that we have wasted so much time when our country in different parts of the land is facing so many problems. . .

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please understand that you have to read the approved text only.

KUMARI KIM GANGTE (Outer Manipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to bring the issue of N.H. 39 blockade under Rule 377.

Movement of vehicles carrying essential commodities along the National Highway no. 39 that passes through Nagaland and Manipur has very often been disturbed and many people have lost their lives in the past. And now, since 23rd May till today, indefinite economic blockade has been imposed on this route, cutting off the only life-line of the people of Manipur. National Highway No. 53 also

[Kumari Kim Gangte]

is no better than National Highway No. 39 as some anti-social elements often take control of this route. As a result of the blockade called on National Highway No. 39, the prices of commodities have soared to such an extent that a kilogram of salt costs Rs. 25/-. LPG, Petrol, Kerosene and other essential items are no longer available in Manipur. It is already over half a month that blockade has been going on.

I urge the Government to immediately rescue the people of Manipur and also to provide permanent Road Protection Force on the lines of Railway Protection Force to guard the trucks carrying essential commodities.

(ix) Need for Electrification of Rural Areas in Muzaffarpur and Vaishali Districts of Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : R.E.C. has given approval for the electrification of all the villages under rural electrification programmes in the Motipur, Kanti, Sahebganj, Saraia Paru, Vaishali, Goraul, Lalganj and Bhagwanpur blocks of Muzaffarpur and Vaishali districts in Bihar.

Therefore, I urge the Government to expedite the implementation of the electrification of all the above villages.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri C.P. Madalagiriappa.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. An hon. Member from your side is raising a matter under Rule 377. Please allow him to raise his matter.

(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you. Let him complete his submission under Rule 377.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pilot, please allow him. I am coming to you. Let him complete his submission. Only one more Member is there.

(x) Need to have a New Direct Railway Line from Bangalore to Chitradurga

SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA (Chitradurga) : The present railway route between Bangalore and Chitradurga via

Arasikere, Birur is circuitous. It consumes too much time and it is not convenient to the daily passengers. Hence, I have made several representations to the Government of India in this regard. The then hon. Minister of Railways had assured us to order for a survey of a new direct railway line between Bangalore and Chitradurga up to Davanagere. But so far nothing appears to have been done in this regard.

The new railway line is direct and it touches Tumkur, Sira, Hiriya before reaching Chitradurga and Davanagere. This would reduce the duration by about three hours and the distance by about 75 kms. In fact, this is a long pending demand of the people of Chitradurga.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to conduct the survey for this new direct railway line between Bangalore and Chitradurga immediately without any further delay.

[English]

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (Bolangir) : I am sure the House is aware of the recent deaths which have taken place in Orissa due to the extreme heat wave as the mercury is rising to 51 degree centigrade. The death toll in my constituency alone is about 100 persons, 150 in Cuttack, 130 in Sambalpur and about one thousand persons in the entire State of Orissa. Most of the people who have died belonged to the lower strata of society.

As regards my constituency, 39.5 per cent of the population comprises Scheduled Castes and Tribes and 92 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line. Also, there is an acute scarcity of drinking water. I would like to appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to release some funds as compensation from the prime Minister's Relief Fund for the downtrodden and poverty ridden people of my district and the State as was done in the case of Balasore and Midnapore.

MR. SPEAKER : The Finance Minister would like to give some clarifications with regard to the farmers of Orissa.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I have already announced in this House when I intervened for the first time.

[Translation]

I have said clearly that when I came to this House, we had already decided after consulting the government that the announcement made regarding increase in prices of urea will be rolled back to 50% . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when budget discussion is held, I will prove in this house how fertility is being affected. It is not only us but many other people are also concerned about it, you know this thing . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : At the time of discussion on the General Budget you can raise all these issues.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Banka) : What do you want? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : The prices of urea should be reduced . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, sit down please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M. SELVARASU (Nagapattinam) : Sir, the farmers are affected. The Minister should say something. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to respond to this.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, it seems that the hon. Minister wants to say something.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, would you like to say something? . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Do not increase the price of urea. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : What will be the impact of the rise in the price of urea? (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU : The price of urea should not be increased. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anil Basu, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : If you are not amenable to reason, what can I do? If you are not prepared to listen to a reasoned argument, there is no other way out in a parliamentary democracy. . . (Interruptions) Let me first make my submission and then you can reject it. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : The Minister of Finance walked out without listening to us. He had the temerity to walk out. He was called back by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jos, please listen to the reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki) : Sir, this is not proper. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chacko, please listen to him first.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Nobody is allowing Hon'ble Minister to speak . . . (Interruptions) Is it not justice with us . . . (Interruptions) This is not the way of speaking. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Let him listen to us also. The Minister of Finance was walking out when we were making our submissions. (Interruptions) They are now teaching us propriety.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chacko, please listen. The hon. Minister is on his legs. Listen to him first. After that, you can say whatever you want.

(Interruptions)

*Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kurien, please understand that Shri Pilot has himself said that the Minister may give his reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you Shri Chacko.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will the hon. Minister like to say something?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. speaker, Sir, in the budget the farmers have been cheated.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Fifty times this has been repeated that they have been cheated. The hon'ble Minister is not being allowed to speak . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Banka) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. Are you giving permission for a discussion on the General Budget? Under rule 207, you cannot allow that.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, the Minister is prepared to reply. Please take your seat. Please understand the position. The hon. Minister has said that he is making a *suo motu* statement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : I want to know whether you are allowing a discussion. . . *(Interruptions)* Let him say that. When he gives that ruling, I will sit down.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister was on his legs.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate with the Chair.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SOMPAL : I have all along been saying that I am prepared to respond. I will confine my remarks precisely to the urea price rise. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is supplementing.

SHRI SOMPAL : The price rise of urea which was announced by the hon. Minister of Finance yesterday has been rolled back by fifty per cent.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Has he announced it?

SHRI SOMPAL : He has already announced it. He announced it before you came to the House *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji, we have also seen you. Why are you speaking unnecessarily. First, you listen to me . . . *(Interruptions)* This is not the way . . . *(Interruptions)* will you listen or not? . . . *(Interruptions)* Why are you talking like this? . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I would like to know from the hon'ble Finance Minister whether he had made a mention about decreasing or increasing the price of urea in the budget? . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is prepared to reply.
Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to the hon. Minister.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is ready to reply.
Please listen to him.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Is it in keeping with the parliamentary traditions and conventions that when we have sat down as per your instructions, the members from the other side have stood up and are violating the parliamentary code of conduct and dignity
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the leader of Rashtriya Janata Dal has no faith in Parliamentary system. Therefore, he has no moral or legal right to speak over parliamentary system. . .
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : The people of entire country and the world know that he is involved in fodder scam. Action should be taken against them as early as possible. . .
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us now take up the resolution listed at item No.18. Shri Nitish Kumar.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, what is this? The hon. Minister has not replied.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Hon'ble Minister of Railways is also a farmer. First you should listen to a farmer. . .
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? When the Minister is giving his reply, you are not hearing him. Shri Jogi, please understand.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is giving his reply but you are not listening to him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : How will you face the farmers, now will you go to villages? . . .
(Interruptions) None else than the Minister of Agriculture will speak . . .
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jogi, please understand that the Minister is giving a reply. You are not listening to him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is the fourth time that the Minister is on his legs to give a reply. Please listen to him first.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Maha Samund) : Who was involved in the urea scam . . .
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : You are trying to throttle farmers . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jogi, this is too much.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL : He is saying correctly that Rs. 133 crores were misappropriated in the name of farmers.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The Congress has always told to investigate the urea scam. We are in favour of it. Please go ahead . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : As you are in the Government, you are free to punish anybody for that. But do not touch the farmers. . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, Shri Ajit Jogi is very much interested about *Kisans*. But what about urea scandal? They have eaten away Rs. 133 crore and they are talking about *Kisans* . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : They are not allowing him to speak, Sir. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It is a fact that our Government was there at that time. We are not against investigation. The hon. Member has pointed out the urea scam. Sir, he has pointed out urea scam. If you recollect, in the same House, we Congressmen raised it when the United Front Government was in power. Please investigate it and punish the guilty. We are telling you today. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri A.C. Jos, please sit down.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, my precise submission will be limited to three points and these are pertinent to urea price rise announced by the hon. Minister of Finance.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Do you agree with it, Minister of Agriculture?

SHRI SOMPAL : My friend, Shri Pilot is taking an exemption. Therefore, I desist from it.

One, the price has been rolled back and that has been announced before Shri Pilot come to the House.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We were agitating. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, they do not allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kunien, please take your seat.

SHRI SOMPAL : There are only three meaningful sentences. . . . (Interruptions) In parliament, there is no way out except to listen. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : He has spoken so many times. . . . (Interruptions) He is not answering. He is always teaching us.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Everybody wants to speak. Nobody wants to listen. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please complete.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, it is very natural for the Members to get agitated if it pinches the farmer.

Number one, the argument underlying the price rise is the skewed use of nitrogenous fertilisers in proportion to other fertilisers. There are three types of fertilisers : nitrogen, phosphate and potassium. During the past six

years, this use has got skewed too much in favour of nitrogen. It is a scientific fact. . . . (Interruptions) Through you, I would request the hon. Members to reject my argument, come out with a counter-argument and say whatever they like. But please ask them to at least allow me to conclude. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, over-presence of urea amounts to serious imbalances in the soil. It changes the soil chemistry. It affects the soil structure, soil texture and soil organism. There is widespread evidence available to prove that this is harming the soil fertility on a long-term basis. If this continues for another two decades, this will be irretrievable. All these lands will go barren. I can give all the scientific parameters. But for want of time, I will not go into those details.

Secondly, over-presence of nitrogen in the atmosphere tends to breed harmful insects which affect the crops.

Thirdly, it results in excessive vegetative growth affecting the foodgrain production and fruit production. And it increases the vegetative growth.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : That is why you have increased the price!

SHRI SOMPAL : It tends to undermine certain micro-nutrients which are available in the soils and which are also depleting at a fast rate. . . . (Interruptions) What is this? . . . (Interruptions) Sir, even senior Members are not listening to me. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Murasoli Maran, please take your seat.

SHRI SOMPAL : Anybody on this earth can have a face to say agriculture, but Communists cannot.

SHRI ANIL BASU : You want to play havoc. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : Communists do not know what 'agriculture' is. They destroyed Russia unnecessarily. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

You have brought this great country on the verge of destruction and now you are professing here. (Interruptions)

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please complete now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, it is very objectionable. What the Agriculture Minister has said is objectionable (Interruptions) The statement of the Minister is objectionable. Sir, it should be expunged from the record (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will go through the record and if there is anything objectionable, I will expunge it.

Mr. Minister, please complete now.

(Interruptions)

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip) : He should withdraw his words (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please complete now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, on account of excessive vegetation, the crops become susceptible to disease and viral attack and also fungal attack.

Thirdly, about the economic impact (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North-Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not good to insult one Member like this. Hon'ble Minister is trying to mislead the House (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMPAL : I have not insulted any hon. Member (Interruptions) There is no such record available on the Table (Interruptions) You can check it (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If there is anything objectionable, I will expunge it from the record.

SHRI SOMPAL : I will tender an apology, if I have insulted anybody.

Sir, the last point which I would like to make is (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister of state in the Ministry of Agriculture is explaining the technology of fertilizer to us. In our country, manure is being used in the fields since thousands of years. You please listen to the hon'ble Minister - he is saying that urea will reduce the fertility of soil, and, therefore, its price has been increased. There is no logic in what he has said (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, you please sit down now. Please take your seat.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, for a senior Member, who happens to be on the Panel of Chairman, it does not behave him to behave like this (Interruptions)

Sir, the last point, which is the economic argument is that the farmers and for that matter the hon. Members are legitimate in their right to get agitated if it pinches the farmers. I would wish to submit that when we calculate the cost in the CACP, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, any rise in the price of input is calculated and it will be reflected in the Minimum Support Price. Therefore, I can undertake that the farmers will not be pinched (Interruptions) This is a very valid argument (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I hope, you have finished your speech and now please listen to me. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Sir, I have raised this point of order.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister is talking against farmers. Does he want them to commit suicide. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up item no. 18.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, this is unfair (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Item No. 18. Shri Nitish Kumar.

13.29 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do resolve that a Parliamentary Committee consisting of twelve Members of this House to be nominated by the Speaker, be appointed to review the Rate of Dividend which is at present payable by the Indian Railways to the General Revenues as well as other ancillary matters in connection with Railway Finance vis-a-vis General Finance and to make Recommendations thereon".

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do resolve that a Parliamentary Committee consisting of twelve Members of this House to be nominated by the Speaker, be appointed to review the Rate of Dividend which at present payable by the Indian Railways to the General Revenues as well as other ancillary matters in connection with Railway Finance vis-a-vis General Finance and to make Recommendations thereon".

The motion was adopted.

13.29½ hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : RECOMMENDATION TO RAJYA
SABHA TO ASSOCIATE THEIR MEMBERS
WITH PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :
Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do recommend to the Rajya Sabha to agree to associate six Members from Rajya Sabha with the Parliamentary Committee to review the Rate of Dividend which is at present payable by the Indian Railways to the General Revenues as well as other ancillary matters in connection with Railway Finance vis-a-vis the General Finance and to make recommendations thereon, and to communicate the names of the members so appointed to this House".

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do recommend to the Rajya Sabha to agree to associate six Members from Rajya Sabha with the Parliamentary Committee to review the Rate of Dividend which is at present payable by the Indian Railways to the General Revenues as well as other ancillary matters in connection with Railway Finance vis-a-vis the General Finance and to make recommendations thereon, and to communicate the names of the members so appointed to this House".

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We now come to Item No. 23. Shri N. Bhaskara Rao, to continue his speech.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Rao. Please allow him to speak. We are taking up an important discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The next item also relates to farmers. You can express your ideas therein. I have called Shri Rao.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nitish Kumar, to make a statement.

13.31 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Blast on a Bridge between Gosaigaon-Chautara
Block Section of New Coochbehar-New Bongaigaon
Section of Northeast Frontier Railway's
Alipurduar Division**

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)
I would like to apprise the House of an unfortunate incident of a blast on bridge number 237 between Gosaigaon - Chautara block section of New Coochbehar - New Bongaigaon section of North-east Frontier Railway's Alipurduar division at about 03.35 hours on 02.06.98. The blast occurred while a goods train Up New Guwahati Sugar Special was passing over the bridge.

While there has not been any derailment to the goods train which is still standing on the bridge; the blast has caused extensive damage to the bridge girders as a consequence of which the section is likely to remain closed for passenger traffic. Likely time of restoration is awaited.

Local Civil and Police authorities have arrived at the site. Divisional Railway Officials have also reached the site. All relief operations are under progress.

Prime facie, the blast was caused by an explosive device. Police clearance has been obtained at 10.05 hours. The Railway Security department has been asked to step up vigilance and keep a close watch on all the railway installations.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Was there any casualty?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : No, it was a goods train.

13.33 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Incidents of Suicide Committed by Farmers in Various Parts of the Country due to Non-Payment of Remunerative Prices for their Agricultural Produce - Contd.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bhaskara Rao to continue his speech.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : We wanted to ask a few clarifications from the Finance Minister. He had said that only one rupee per liter has been . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Banka) : You cannot allow him to speak on it.

MR. SPEAKER : Except Shri Rao's speech, nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Rao. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please cooperate. He is a senior Member and an ex-Chief Minister also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are discussing the farmers' issue.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Chacko, please take your seat. We are discussing the farmers' issue under Rule 193.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. N. Bhaskara Rao's speech only will go on record. Nothing else will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundpuram) : The Finance Minister is not listening to us, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed you. Mr. Bhaskara Rao, please begin your speech.

*Not Recorded.

13.36 hrs.

[Dr. LAKSHMINARAYAN PANDEY in the Chair]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly listen to us. We are raising a very important issue. . . . *(Interruptions)* Hon. Speaker promised to give us time. A serious situation has developed in the country. . . . *(Interruptions)* Hon. Finance Minister has explained it away very easily. Yesterday from 5 PM onwards, till today, a sort of looting has been going on. Petrol was being sold at a price higher by Rs. 4. The hon. Finance Minister says that he has increased only Re. 1 per litre of petrol. Today, while coming to Parliament House, I got petrol filled in my car at Rs. 26.77 per litre. Who will be responsible for this loot? The hon. Finance Minister says that it was not intended. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please hear me.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Speaker was in the Chair and he has decided upon this matter. He called Shri Bhaskara Rao.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : I will complete in only one minute. An important issue is raised.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You can say everything in budget discussion.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can say everything in the General Discussion on the Budget. What is the problem?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have raised this issue. The Finance Minister has already given an answer.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : We were promised by the hon. Speaker . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He assured that every question will be answered in the reply to the discussion on the Budget. Please allow others have their say. Shri Bhaskara Rao.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : So far as agriculture and increase in the price of uraa is concerned . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that hon'ble Finance Minister has assured that he will give reply to every point.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has said whatever he wanted to say. At that time Hon'ble Speaker was in the Chair. It has been discussed during his presence. Now, I am calling Shri N. Bhaskar Rao.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have raised the entire issue with great enthusiasm. It has come to the notice of the House. Please allow other people also to speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate. This is not the proper way. Please allow others.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow your other colleagues also.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. It is not proper.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow Shri Bhaskara Rao.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are raising this issue again and again.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow others to make their speeches.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the proper time.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we are having discussion under Rule 193.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri N. Bhaskara Rao.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I am on a Point of Order. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not Zero Hour. This is a discussion under Rule 193.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have taken up discussion under Rule 193.

I have called Shri N. Bhaskara Rao.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There will be a number of opportunities when you can raise this issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not allowing. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Bhaskara Rao.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Finance Minister has categorically assured the House that he will answer each and every question during the Budget discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the proper way. Kindly do not defend other Members. They will also have their say.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are discussing the suicidal deaths of farmers under Rule 193. You have had your say. Let him also have his say. Please cooperate.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are a very senior Member of this House. Please cooperate.

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : We are cooperating.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are discussing the issue of farmers under Rule 193.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow your colleagues to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO (Khammam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, I was submitting how the farmers are facing difficulties in the country. Farmers are the backbone of the Indian economy. They are ignored, neglected, deceived and even cheated.

This is what I said yesterday. The Government's credit agencies are not coming forward with the liberalised economic policy. There, the process is very cumbersome. The farmers are unable to get credit from the credit agencies of the Government.

As such, the farmers are forced to go to private money lenders. The private moneylenders are giving them money according to their own fancies. The cotton growers, particularly, in Andhra Pradesh committed suicide on account of their debts, which they could not discharge; the debt which they have taken from the private moneylenders. About three hundred farmers died in Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 1 lakh has been given to the family of each farmer who died. But that is not sufficient. A person who is responsible for the growth of crops for the whole nation gets only one lakh of rupees as compensation. Sir, I demand that it should be increased to Rs. 5 lakh from Rs. 1 lakh. That is what I pleaded yesterday and I am repeating that in this House today also.

Another thing which I would like to bring to the notice of this House is that a moratorium should be declared by the Government on all the Government agencies and the private moneylenders, which have advanced money to the farmers, for five or ten years or even more. Otherwise, the farmers, at present, cannot repay the debts and the suicides cannot be stopped. They will continue.

Now, coming to the price of paddy, in Andhra Pradesh the fixed rate is Rs. 415 per quintal for normal variety and Rs. 445 per quintal is for fine variety paddy. In the case of wheat the Central Government has given a bonus of Rs. 55 to the wheat growers. But that benefit has not been given to the paddy growers. This means that the 75 kg. bag will cost only Rs. 32. Even that paddy has not been purchased by anybody. The backlog is much there. The *Kisans* in Andhra Pradesh are suffering a lot. The businessmen or the middlemen there, are not coming forward to purchase the paddy.

A small company which is manufacturing a soap can fix a price of its own but the farmers who have produced

19 crore tonnes of foodgrains for this country for feeding 95 crores of people, are unable to fix their own price. They are not getting remunerative prices. They are suffering a lot and moreover, the other problem is that nobody is lifting the products produced by the farmers. The country needs a crop pattern.

Since, the hon. Finance Minister is present, I would like to draw his attention to this. The crop pattern is not there in the country. As such the proposal that he made in his Budget Speech yesterday about the crop insurance will not be a successful effort. It will fail. As an agriculturist, I know this. We introduced this in Andhra Pradesh as also in some of the other States, but it failed miserably. The States could not implement it because the crop pattern is not there in the country. Now, the hon. Finance Minister has proposed this in his Budget that crop insurance will be introduced. But it will only be on paper. The farmers are not going to get any benefit out of it.

I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for introducing the 'Kisan Credit Card'. It is a welcome measure. But he has come halfway only. I had requested the hon. Agriculture Minister, when I met him, that Insurance Credit Card System, which is there in other countries, has to be introduced in our country also. The credit that has been advanced by some of the agencies has not only to be ensured but insured also.

In case the farmers fail to pay back, the insurance company will pay that amount. Kindly consider this matter. The hon. Finance Minister is here. I would request him to please consider, in addition to having the Kisan Credit Card, introducing insurance credit card system, which will help the farmers. It is helping the farmers very much in other countries. So, the insurance credit card system may be introduced in a small way at the beginning and after seeing the result, you can think of going all out in the entire country. That is my humble submission.

In some of the district in Andhra Pradesh, the farmers are on *dhama*. They are agitating against the Regulation-1 of 1970. This matter relates to the Minister of Agriculture. The Regulation-1 of 1970 was introduced in the year 1970 in Andhra Pradesh by the then Government. That Regulation is prohibiting the transfer of land from a tribe to a non-tribe and also from a non-tribe to a tribe. Neither a tribe can transfer the land to a non-tribe nor a non-tribe can sell his land to a non-tribe. That is a draconian law because of which, the growth has completely stopped, the development has stopped and no industry is coming forward in that area. Even in Bhadrachalam, Shri Rama Temple's property is coming under this Regulation. They cannot sell their property. They cannot barter it. They cannot take any decision in regard to their land. That is the situation. The State Government also cannot do anything with this Regulation.

[Shri Nadendla Bhaskara Rao]

This matter relates to the Centre as well as to the State. This matter cannot be regulated by a legislation. It is issued under the Presidential Order. The Central Government and the State Government should sit together and take a decision, either to amend the Regulation or to abolish the Regulation. Here also, the suicidal problem is coming.

I had visited some of these areas where the Kisans are on *dharma*. The crops were grown but they were taken away by somebody. There is no law and order in those areas. The tribals take away the crops and the non-tribals suffer. Like this, the farmers are suffering. The farmers have nothing to do with the Regulation. But the State Government had introduced it. They provoke the farmers. They are coming in their way. The Central and the State Governments should sit together and do something on this issue. Otherwise, the farmers in these four or five districts in Andhra Pradesh would continue to suffer. In these areas, not even 20 percent or 30 percent tribal population is there. Yet, this Regulation had been brought. As a matter of fact, this Regulation cannot stand. In some other States, in the areas where 60 percent or 70 percent tribal population is there, such a Regulation is not there, such a draconian law is not there. As it had been introduced in Andhra Pradesh, the farmers are suffering. I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to think seriously about this matter. The farmers in these four or five districts in Andhra Pradesh are suffering very much on account of this Regulation. I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to kindly think about it or speak to the Chief Minister and do something in regard to this Regulation.

Even mango and sugar crops have also been affected and the farmers are suffering on account of this. Some compensation should be thought of by the Minister of Agriculture.

In Chennai, electricity is supplied to the agriculturists free of cost. Even in Punjab, they are introducing it. In some other States, they are thinking or contemplating to introduce this system. Why not there be a Central law on this? Electricity should be supplied to the farmers free of cost. After all, they are producing so much for the people of this country. Some time back, we used to beg other countries to give some foodgrains, but now we are self-sufficient. The farmers are doing so much service to this nation. Why not we think of giving electricity to the farmers free of cost?

Another thing is, the Prime Minister promised that there would be a comprehensive report on all these things from different States but such a comprehensive report has not yet come. Of course, there is no mechanism to give a

comprehensive report but the Prime Minister has made such a statement. The hon. Minister of Agriculture will, at least, take note of it.

The last thing is about urea. My friends are agitating about urea. Urea is an important ingredient for the farmers. Kindly consider that 50 percent levy is lifted so that normalcy is maintained. Then there will not be any agitation in the House. I am sure, the hon. Minister will definitely do that.

With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you very much, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Banka) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue which we are discussing today, neither concerns any political party nor any particular government. It has been rightly stated from the Chair that the matter should be discussed by us cutting across party lines. But I feel that the issue which we are discussing today is not going to enhance the prestige of the country rather it will degrade it. No Government or party can accept the responsibility of its success or failure. The whole country unitedly has to accept this challenge. Farmers of our country represent 80% of the total population and this community is compelled to commit suicide even after 50 years of our independence. The country as a whole and the people who have remained on the helm of affairs of the country are responsible for this sorry state of affairs.

Sir, 20th century is at its tail end. We witnessed two prime things in this century - one is Mahatma Gandhi and other is nuclear bomb. Mahatma Gandhi was born in our country, therefore, we call him father of the nation. It is a different story but Gandhiji's strength was more than the other powers of the world. He stood by the poor peasants and vulnerable sections of the society and defeated the world's biggest power at that time. It was said that sun would never set in British Empire. It was the power ruling both the India and Africa. Mahatma Gandhi defeated such a big power at that time. This power was an astonishing one which set the precedence of freedom for other countries. Even today, Bill Clinton, the President of super power America when visits, Africa feels proud to be photographed with Nelson Mandela, the ardent follower of Mahatma Gandhi who spent 27 years of his life in jail. Such was the power of Gandhi. Another such power i.e. Nuclear, which has now been acquired by India was discussed in the Parliament during the last few days. I am mentioning the power of Gandhiji and nuclear power because of these astonishing powers are there in India after Independence. These powers are recognised by rest of the world and they have a fear for these powers too but inspite of it farmers of India comprising 80% of the

population are still compelled to commit suicide. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to this fact that the whole nation has to take the responsibility of such happenings. As has been directed by the Chair, this matter should be discussed cutting across the party lines. So industrial policies are being discussed in the House daily.

14.00 hrs.

We have not been able to develop a single unanimous agricultural policy in the country till date. Whosoever in the power, I am not concerned with it. But, was it not our responsibility. I would like to ask this House that whether our Parliament has not failed in this regard. Could we ever raise these questions seriously? Such matters are raised in the House only when suicides take place. It seems that the whole character of our Parliament is changing. Now-a-days issues like FEMA, FERRA, Liberalisation, Globalisation are discussed daily in the Parliament. However, the issues concerning 80% people of the country are seldom discussed in the House. Union Agriculture Minister Shri Sompal is present in the House. He himself has been a farmer. He has been a great supporter of farmers. I am saying all this so that if not possible in this session, while importing the seriousness of the matter, and taking into confidence the whole House a national agricultural policy should be presented in the House in the next session so that people of the country could feel that the Government and the Parliament is unanimous on this issue concerning the common man.

Sir, Shri Rajesh Pilot is present here and I would also like to tell him. When I go through the proceedings of the last 7-8 years, I find that most of the time, issues regarding the poor people have been discussed in the House. When we talk about poor farmers are naturally included in it. Poverty had been the main issue for discussion in the House but for the last 7-8 years members are shirking this issue. Therefore, in my view there is a need to change the thinking also. We should ponder over this matter seriously, only then this discussion will become fruitful. I do not want to go into the details. . . . (Interruptions) Today, this matter does not concern the Government only rather it concerns the whole nation and House also. It has been stated from the Chair that members should discuss the matter cutting across the Party lines. Today, when we are discussing this issue, I would like to say that Shri Rajesh Pilot had made a proposal two three days earlier. I am happy that hon'ble Finance Minister has accepted that proposal. At least for the first time Government has done something in favour of farmers. This shows that Government has a positive attitude towards farmers. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : There are no two opinions that whatever you have done, we failed to do. We made efforts to get it done while we were in power but failed. Shri Yashwant has done it. I am grateful to him. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : I am happy that you have stated this. Government accepted it within two days of presentation of their Budget. I think it is a good initiative in the direction of welfare of farmers. They will get an opportunity. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Budget was started with a positive note but it was not maintained later (Interruptions) Prices of urea and other items were raised.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Members from ruling party as well as from opposition are unanimous on the issue to decrease the price of Urea. Government have already reduced the prices by half (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Prices were increased by Rs. one and later reduced by 50 paise. Farmers have been cheated (Interruptions)

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was requesting both you and the Agriculture Minister that an initiative has been taken and members are discussing this issue unanimously in the House. Therefore, Hon'ble Minister should immediately pay attention towards these points so that a decision could be taken with regard to the agricultural policy.

The second point which I would like to make to the Agriculture Minister is regarding the immediate problems of farmers. The farmer produces crop but remains unaware of the market trends. Market function in its own way and traders never care for the interest of farmers. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister that alongwith the procurement of the crops, the Government should also provide storage facilities to the farmers in their own villages so that they could sell the crop at right time in the market. Agriculture Minister should get this thing accomplished immediately. It will help in improving the living standard of farmers effectively. Otherwise, they will not prosper. Most of the farmers are simple. If they get the protection from the government. . . . (Interruptions) Today whole house is debating on the incident happened in Andhra Pradesh.

There are two types of farmers in this country. One are those who live in more fertile areas and also get more facilities in the name of farmers. They lead a better life. Second type of farmers are those who live in such areas, where their standard of living has been deteriorated and they have come to the verge of starvation. And now they

[Shri Digvijay Singh]

have lost faith in their occupation. There are 240 such districts in the country which are known as regional deprived areas and need adequate planning. For example, the Baghelkhand region which include area from Rewa to Surguja in Madhya Pradesh, area from Palamu to Bhagua-Jamaich in Bihar and from Mirzapur to Sonbhadra area in U.P. are regional deprived areas. Central Government have declared that farmers living in these areas can never do farming. This decision has not been taken today. It was stated in 1967 when this area was in the grip of famine. Later in 1967-68 it was stated that adequate irrigation facilities can not be maintained by the rain water in these areas. I would like to request the Agriculture Minister to pay special attention to provide irrigation facilities in these areas.

We are hearing about the incidents happened in Andhra Pradesh. But Parliament and even newspapers are not able to describe the terrible condition of these areas. Kalahandi situation in Orissa is one of the examples. Even today, hundreds of people are dying of starvation in Mayurbhanj-Kalahandi area. On the one hand farmers are committing suicides over the issue of crop and on the other hand farmers are not able to grow their crops and are dying due to starvation. In this peculiar situation, without making criticism, I appeal the Government and the House that in order to deal with these questions, Government should formulate an appropriate agricultural policy to regenerate farmers and peoples faith in the government, House and in politics.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Sir, a very serious matter is under discussion in the House. It is not a matter of suicides by the farmers only, rather it concerns every common man. It is a national issue because 70% of our people depend on agriculture. It is a matter of great sorrow and concern that the person who satiates the hunger of others, die due to hunger or is forced to commit suicide.

Therefore, the entire House and the country is very serious over this issue. My hon'ble colleague Shri Digvijay has rightly said that this matter should be discussed cutting across the party lines. A concrete policy should be adopted to prevent this situation. The condition of the Agriculture sector is needed to be reviewed. Why farmers are committing suicides? It was said in the olden times that "Uttam Kheti Madham Vayapar, Nikhad Chakri." But what is happening today. Today agriculture is treated as a degraded occupation. Today nobody likes to marry one's son to a farmer's daughter. Parents of a girl prefer to marry off their daughter to a service man than to a farmer, even

if he has 100 acres of land. The economic survey of 1997-98 shows that agricultural production during the year has declined by 3.7%. At the time of Independence, the share of agriculture in the GDP was 52.3% which has now come down to 24.4% despite the fact that 70% of our population depends on agriculture. In this situation, farmer has no way but to commit suicide. We have to think that why such incidents are taking place.

The foremost thing is that no concrete agricultural policy has been formulated during the last 50 years. In the absence of such policy farmers have no option but to commit suicide. The target fixed for agriculture sector last year by Reserve Bank of India was 18% but only 14% of the target was achieved. Target of 12-15% was fixed for export sector though only 5-7% people depend on it. Therefore, farmers have no way but to commit suicide. No Government paid attention to achieve the targets fixed for agriculture sector and, therefore, farmer of the country is in such a pathetic condition.

It is very sad that rain water is misused and only 17 percent rain water is utilised. It is really very sad that only 37 percent land is irrigated properly. Inadequate irrigation results in lower yield of crops and thus farmers are becoming poor day by day. The main reason behind it is that a viable Agricultural policy has not been formulated so far. Farmers have to struggle a lot for getting loan from banks. They are compelled to grease the palms of bank managers for getting bank loan. Generally 20 per cent of the amount of loan is lost in this. Hon. Minister of Finance and Agriculture have proposed to present NABARD as a third party for payment but the schemes of NABARD are not implemented properly. Farmer takes loan for purchasing agricultural implements and he has to pay 10 or 12 per cent of the loan as sales tax. Thus, about 50 per cent of loan is spent in paying interest and other expenses and as a result, farmers are becoming poor.

Farmers suffer losses because of damage to their crops due to natural calamities. For that he gets compensation at a rate of Rs. 500 per acre. Rs. 200 to 300 out of it are paid to middlemen and he gets only Rs. 200 which is meagre amount. This practice is prevailing since 1947 and there is no change in it. There are no storage or marketing facilities for agricultural produce and ground water level is going down. Irrigation is becoming costlier. The government should think about welfare of farmers. Concern was expressed over the condition of farmers sometime ago and I would like to make some suggestions in this regard. I would like to say something on the budget presented by this government. I am happy to say that 50 years after independence, special attention has been paid towards agriculture and this sector has been kept in the National Agenda as per the aspirations of the

people. I am happy to say that under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, our hon. Minister of Finance has raised allocation for agriculture sector by 58 per cent in this budget. I feel that by this act Prime Minister has demonstrated that he keeps his words. But increase in prices of urea will offset this increase in allocation. I am happy to say that in view of the feelings of farmers and common man this increase was rolled back by 50 per cent. I feel that during discussion on the budget, this increase will also be taken back. We shall press for it. The hon. Minister is a well-wisher of farmers . . . (Interruptions) I do not agree with the arguments given in this regard that the use of nitrogen results in pollution and its unbalanced use affects fertility of soil. I would like to say that prices of Potash should be reduced for maintaining balance. On the one hand concern is being expressed about suicides committed by farmers but on the other hand the cost of fertilizer is increased. The farmers are not ready to bear the burden of even a single rupee. I request that the increase in the prices of urea by Rs. 25 per bag should be withdrawn and for maintaining balance of soil the prices of other fertilizers should be reduced and people should be encouraged to use traditional fertilizers.

Yesterday, Jakhariji stated that he would ensure prosperity of farmers if he had authority. But now we are in power and I would like to say that our present policy of determining prices of agriculture produce is defective. Agriculture Price Commission should have dominance of representatives of farmers. It is really sad that in our country except farmers producers of all the products themselves determine the prices for their produce. The practice of fixation of agricultural produce should be changed now itself otherwise we shall not be able to do that. The prices of crops should be determined on the basis of price index so that they could get remunerative prices for their produce.

My third point is about the crop insurance scheme. I thought that a comprehensive policy would be introduced in the budget presented by the hon. Minister of Finance, but it is sad that it has been limited to only 24 districts. We get full compensation if a glass or tyre of our car is damaged in some accident or a factory suffers losses due to fire accident, whereas farmers get compensation at a rate of Rs. 500 per acre even if their crops worth ten thousand per acre get destroyed. Punjab government has formulated a scheme but so far it has not been implemented. I would like to bring to the notice of hon. Minister that a comprehensive Crop Insurance scheme should be formulated and implemented effectively. Premium instalments of insurance should be collected from the Mandi Board, only then farmers in our country would survive and incidents like committing suicides by farmers would be stopped.

If Crop Insurance Scheme is implemented comprehensively, then the farmers can get compensation for the crops which have been damaged.

Thirdly, the procedure for giving loans to the farmers should be made simple. Yesterday, Hon'ble Finance Minister mentioned about 'Kisan Credit Card' and said that guidelines have been given to Reserve Bank that overdues may be disposed off in a proper manner. It is a very good thing. For the first time, any government has done this. Once, when I was a Minister in Punjab, we had made an announcement that no farmer will be handcuffed. Now the government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has decided that no farmer will be jailed in connection with realisation of debt. It is very good thing. But it needs to be specific and further elaborated. The Government is going to provide 'Kisan Credit Card' but what would be its limit. It is being said that it will be given only in deserving cases. In this connection, I would like to give you one suggestion that from one acre to five acres, the limit should be at least one lakh rupees, from five acres to ten acres the limit should be two lakh rupees and above ten acres the limit should be five lakhs. All these details should be specified clearly so that people come to know what you want to do.

I would like to mention one more thing. Reason for committing suicide by the farmers is that the rate of interest is very high, and sometimes due to non-payment of interest in time, it increases 4-5 times more than the principal amount. Therefore, I want that the instructions should be given to the banks to ensure that the amount of interest does not exceed the principal. I feel that if it is done, no farmer will commit suicide. Therefore, this should be implemented that rate of interest should not increase more than principal amount. If provision regarding third party payment is also removed, then farmers could be saved from committing suicide. The instructions given to Reserve Bank of India should be time bound and specific.

My other point is that we should make proper use of rain water. Most of the damage to the crops is caused by floods. My own constituency is quite close to Haryana. There, every year people make investment in agriculture but three rivers, namely Ghaggar, Tangri and Markanda destroy everything. Next to my constituency is Ropar. Three-four rivers flow there via Himachal Pradesh. Water destroys crops in our area. Then, there are Satluj and Beas river. I want that a Flood Control Board should be set up to control rain water and there should not be any floods in the country as Russia has done. For this purpose, dams should be constructed. These can be constructed in hill areas with lesser funds and collected water can be used for irrigation purposes and thus we can avoid damage during floods. I want that government should make serious efforts so that this country can also be freed from floods.

[Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra]

No farmer will commit suicide after this and country can prosper, if there is no damage to crops due to floods. Therefore, there is need to pay attention to this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my other point relates to storage facilities. Though we say that this responsibility is of farmers as to why they cannot keep their crops protected. But for this, arrangements should be made in villages so that they get storage facilities. Godowns should be constructed there and the government and bank should give guarantees for their produce. 90% of the price of the produce stored in such godowns should be given to the farmers as advance and remaining 10% should be given by the banks afterwards. If such arrangement is made, then these suicides can be prevented and farmers can progress.

The other important issue relates to subsidy due to which farmers are getting indebted. The subsidy being given to the farmers is being swallowed by the factory owners. Though it is given in the name of farmers, it is the factory owners who are reaping its benefit.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, government is giving subsidy on urea and other fertilisers but the farmers do not get this subsidy as factory owners themselves take away this subsidy. For instance, if production capacity of a factory is, say 10 lakh tonnes of urea and instead of producing 10 lakh tonnes it produces only one lakh tonne but shows production of 10 lakh tonnes on paper, it takes away subsidy from the government on that capacity production, though it has produced only one lakh tonnes of urea. The result is that on the one hand farmers do not get any benefit from subsidy and on the other, due to lesser production by factory, there is shortage of urea. Moreover, later on, it is sold at higher price. Therefore, my request is that you should make such an arrangement that farmers may get this subsidy directly. For this, even if you have to prepare vouchers for one bag you should do it but subsidy should be given only on what he has purchased so that farmers could get actual benefit of subsidy being given on urea by Government of India. Similarly, there is also misuse of subsidy being given to consumers even that is pocketed by factory-owners, consumers do not get its benefit.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are very less market facilities for the farmers, produce due to which they do not get reasonable prices. Food grains are purchased by FCI but it is taking undue advantage of the situation. It is ridden with scams. Less price is given for good quality of food-grains whereas if corrupt practices are adopted, then they can get higher price for their inferior quality foodgrains also. Farmer is not being benefited from FCI. Middleman is exploiting the farmer. The middlemen are exploiting both

the farmers as well as the consumers. Therefore, my suggestion is that market facilities should be there for selling foodgrains produced by farmers. We should search markets for exports and should encourage farmers for this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you know that in our country there is no arrangement for consumption of any surplus production. Last year, potatoes were produce in abundance but the excess production got rotten. Earlier onions were wasted and same situation prevails regarding sugar now. All this is happening because there are no proper market facilities for farmers to sell their produce. Therefore, such market facilities should be provided so that farmers could get reasonable prices for their produce.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, till now we have heard that farmers have committed suicide only in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa but now it is being heard that farmers are committing suicides in Punjab also though in Punjab, our government is in power. In Punjab, Akali Dal and BJP combine is in power. The Government of Punjab has given more facilities to farmers. The government has also provided free electricity to them. In spite of being given so many facilities, farmers have started committing suicide there also. Therefore wherever suicides have taken place these should be investigated. I would like to request that a committee of the Members of Parliament should be constituted to inquire into the cases of suicides by the farmers because the reports published in newspapers are sometimes contradictory. This committee should find out the truth and pinpoint the reasons for the suicides and give suggestions to government to find out solutions to this problem. The government should accept and implement those suggestions.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I conclude my speech by requesting that an announcement may be made by the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that this committee will be constituted and necessary changes in the statement which he is going to make in the House' may be made.

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know whether my name is there in the list of speakers or not. Many members have left and it seems that only those who have to speak are present here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rama Nand Singhji, you please sit down. You will also get time to speak.

SHRI NAKLI SINGH (Saharanpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we may also be given time to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nakli Singh ji, you please sit down. You will also be given time to speak.

[English]

SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda) : Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate, Hon. Members of Parliament have spoken about the agony of the peasants from different parts of the country in Andhra Pradesh, Vidarbha area of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Punjab. There are reports of suicides committed by the peasants. According to information available to us up to yesterday evening, 357 farmers in Andhra Pradesh committed suicide during this season. It is a very unfortunate situation and it is unprecedented in the post-Independence India.

It is not only the question of remunerative prices for peasants. Of course, that is also one of the main issues. But in the case of Andhra Pradesh, I would like to inform the House that the main problem is the indebtedness of the peasants. The peasantry in Andhra Pradesh is under the heavy debt burden running into hundreds of crores of rupees. The loans which are being sanctioned through the cooperative societies and commercial banks are very inadequate and inevitably the peasants are going to the private money lenders where the interest rate is very high.

I would like to submit that modern agriculture, the capitalist agriculture, needs more investment. Because of the modern agricultural techniques, because of the use of fertilizers and pesticides, the agricultural expenses are going up year after year. If the harvest is all right and if the prices are remunerative, then, there will be good returns to the peasants. But unfortunately in 1997-98, there were inadequate rains during the season. Whatever crop was raised was destroyed because of the unseasonal rains in the later period. Millions of acres of land were kept fallow. This year, there was no cultivation. In a few more millions of acres of land, the crop was destroyed because of the unseasonal rains and bogus pesticides, substandard fertilizers that were supplied to them. So, this was the most unfortunate situation under which the peasantry was suffering. Besides all these things, the cotton-peasants this year suffered a very big loss because under the Open General Licence system of the Central Government, it is said that this year, cotton was imported even though it was not necessary and the prices had gone down. It is not only the cotton-peasants who suffered but also the tobacco-peasants, the jawar-peasants and the castor-seed peasants who all suffered because the crop yield was very low and absolutely there was no remunerative price for these peasants. So, under these circumstances, the peasantry unfortunately found no other go. The banks are refusing to pay them money. The private moneylenders are forcing them to pay back. There are many other methods for the industrialists and the other people to demand the postponement of payment of loans. But the peasants, with

self-respect, are unable to pay the loan, unable to find any other go and they are forced to commit suicide. That is the most unfortunate situation. That is not a solution. But the Government should now come to the aid of the peasants and to give all-out help to the peasantry in order to instill a sense of confidence in them.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh announced rupees one lakh *ex gratia* for those who had committed suicide. But many peasants are asking about those peasants who are alive. They are asking whether the living peasants have to commit suicide to get rupees one lakh to their families as compensation. Nobody will commit suicide for getting rupees one lakh to his family. But the amount of Rs. 1250 per hectare that is proposed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to pay them as a compensation for the loss of the crops is very inadequate and the peasants are feeling that both the State Government and the Central Government are not doing enough in these circumstances to help them at this hour of crisis.

Sir, I feel that the Indian agriculturists are facing a very serious crisis because of the liberalisation policy. A few decades back, we heard that the peasants of the European Community countries went bankrupt. Tens of thousands of peasants in each of these countries were thrown out of agriculture. They became bankrupt and went in for other types of professions. Now, after the Green Revolution, in Andhra Pradesh and in many other places because of the new type of agriculture which the peasants are trying to resort to, unfortunately millions of peasants have been uprooted.

They are becoming bankrupt. Most of them are leaving their land and coming to towns to either become rikshaw pullers or to work as agriculture labourers. Unfortunately, the fertilizer prices are going up every year. Even today we heard about the increase in the price of urea. This is another extra burden on the peasantry. We heard the Agriculture Minister's scientific explanation about the increase in the price of urea.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : It is an economic explanation.

SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY : It may be economic also. The Agriculture Minister is saying that the remunerative prices would include increase in the price of fertilizers also. Did it happen even till yesterday? It has not happened. The agricultural prices were very low. In the last ten years, the price of cloth has increased twenty times whereas the price of cotton has increased only two-fold. The price of cigarette has increased twenty times whereas the price of tobacco has increased only twice. What is the rationale for this? While deciding about the prices of crops,

[Shri S. Sudhakar Reddy]

the prices of the commodities that are produced through agriculture, should also be considered. It is unfortunate that the Government is not taking into consideration the serious problems. I am really shocked to know that while the peasants are committing suicide throughout the country due to crisis in agriculture, the Government has the courage to increase the price of urea. Some sort of explanation, economic and scientific, is given to convince the people. It is not at all convincing. Here, I would like to say that commercial banks are giving the least priority to agriculture sector. This should be changed.

I have a request to make that the Agriculture Ministry should think very seriously about removing all the middle organisations. There should be a system of providing loans to peasants through cooperative societies at the rate of less than five percent interest. The amount of loan should also be increased. The subsidy cut should be withdrawn. The prices of fertilizers should be brought down so that it is rolled back. The availability of fertilizer should be there at the price that is possible for the peasants to pay. I appeal to you that a committee should be appointed by the Union Agriculture Ministry to go into the reasons of suicide in Andhra Pradesh and other States. Earlier a committee of experts had gone into the question of suicides in Punjab and Haryana. That type of committee should be there to go into the question of unprecedented suicides that are taking place in Andhra Pradesh. This committee should also go into the question of indebtedness of the peasantry and suggest remedial measures. Credit system should be changed totally. New loans with less interest rates should be arranged for the peasants. I demand abolition of all loans of small and marginal farmers so that the problem of indebtedness does not haunt us. The charging of interest should be abolished on middle peasants and other peasants.

I am really surprised that in spite of such a serious problem, this Budget has also not provided any allocation for the crop insurance except for 24 districts or so. It is very unfortunate. The previous Government also had made it for 24 districts. Perhaps, now it has been increased for a few more districts. The crop insurance throughout the country is the most essential thing that will help peasantry in the present circumstances.

So, the Open General Licensing system should be reviewed, particularly, with regard to cotton, tobacco and other things. Sometimes, export is needed. But when it is not allowed, the prices crash down and the peasantry are bound to suffer. The cotton import should not be allowed in the present circumstances. Remunerative prices, of course, should be fixed.

The last point which I am asking is this. Due to the substandard fertilisers and seeds, the peasantry suffer throughout the country. A few companies have been identified in this regard. So, I request the Union Government along with the State Government to identify all such companies and an exemplary punishment should be given to such companies. Their property should be seized and that money should be paid as compensation to the peasantry.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing in this august House, a matter of significant importance, that is, suicide committed by farmers. Everybody is worried about the Indian farmers. Earlier, the Congress Party was also in power. But they had not done anything for them. *(Interruptions)* . . . They had ruled this country for about 50 years. Now, they are also talking about the problems of the Indian farmers. . . *(Interruptions)* . . .

SHRI VILAS JUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : Sir, he should just speak above the party lines. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, maintain order in the House.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I am not blaming the Congress Party. This problem of farmers is existing everywhere whether there is a BJP Government or Telugu Desam Government or some other Government which is in power. . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already told that in this no party politics is involved. He too has a limited time.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, in all the petrol pumps in Delhi there is an altercation and quarrel going on because some owners are demanding Rs. 4 more and the people are not prepared to give it. Everywhere it is happening. What I am saying is that even when the Government has ordered, they are not obeying it and are still insisting on the consumers to give Rs. 4/- more per litre of petrol. . . *(Interruptions)* This is a matter to be brought to the notice of the Government. The Government should take action against them. In all the petrol pumps whether it is Chennai, Calcutta, Bombay or Cochin, they are charging Rs. 4/- more. . . *(Interruptions)* I am saying the truth.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri E. Ahamed, please be seated.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, everybody is saying that the farmers are the backbone of our country, the backbone of our economy. But what have we done so far? We are commemorating the Fiftieth Year of our Independence. But what have we done so far for our Indian farmers? Now, the Indian farmers are in great distress. In Andhra Pradesh alone, till today, 356 farmers have committed suicide. Everyday, one or two farmers are committing suicide. This number is on the increase. Not only in Andhra Pradesh but also in Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka, Maharashtra and so many other parts of the country, the incidents of suicide are taking place.

Sir, in this regard, I want to submit that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken a lot of steps to safeguard the interests of the farmers of Andhra Pradesh as compared to the other States.

Even the Leader of the Congress Party, Shri Sharad Pawar has appreciated the steps so far taken by the Andhra Pradesh Government as compared to other States. But these steps alone are not sufficient to satisfy the farmers today. That is why I am requesting the Union Government that from the Prime Minister's side also some relief to the families of the farmers who have committed suicide should be announced.

As regards crop insurance, the steps taken by various State Governments are not sufficient to satisfy the Indian farmers. So, my suggestion is that the National Crop Insurance Scheme should become a policy. Everyone talks about crop insurance, but only on record we are having the Scheme. Practically in the villages it is not applied to anybody. Even those who are taking loans from the nationalised or cooperative banks also are not getting the crop insurance.

Recently, Andhra Pradesh was hit by cyclones. Thousands of farmers affected by floods have so far not received anything under this insurance scheme. That has been pending with the Union Government for the last one and a half years. Those who have taken loans from the nationalised banks are also not getting the crop insurance money. So, the National Crop Insurance Scheme must be extended to every farmer villagewise; not districtwise or Mandalwise. If it is made villagewise, it will help the Indian farmers.

As regards pest attack, the UF Government had taken a decision to put pest attacks due to adverse seasonal conditions in the category of natural calamities. After that, the Andhra Pradesh Government got some money. We paid some money to the farmers of the State. Our friend, Shri Sudhakar Reddy, just now said that Rs. 1265 per hectare paid to the farmer is not sufficient. It comes to Rs. 600 per acre. That is why a comprehensive policy is

required. The Union Government must take a decision to treat it as a law.

In Andhra Pradesh, frequent cyclones, frequent droughts, frequent pest attacks, all these things have culminated in the most severe problem being faced by the farmers. That is why my request to the Union Government is to clear all these issues pending before them. We asked the Union Government to release some money from the Natural Calamity Relief Fund for the cyclone affected people. But so far we have not received anything. That is why people think that we are not doing anything to the farmers.

Six districts in the State have faced heavy floods. We asked the Union Government for funds from the Natural Calamity Relief Fund, but so far we have not received anything. After the inclusion of pest control in the Natural Calamity Relief Fund, we asked the Union Government to release some amount under the head to the next of kin of farmers who committed suicide. All these issues are pending with the Union Government. That is why, on behalf of the Andhra Pradesh farmers I am demanding in this House that, as early as possible, the Centre must release this amount so that it can be given to the farmers of Andhra Pradesh.

The Reserve Bank of India has given instructions for rescheduling of loans taken from nationalised banks. We asked for a two-year moratorium and a seven-year rescheduling period. Through NABARD, farmers are getting cooperative loans. In their case, only two years moratorium and five years rescheduling period have been allowed. The Andhra Pradesh Government requested the Union Government to instruct NABARD that like nationalised banks, the rescheduling period should be extended to seven years instead of five years.

Regarding spurious pesticides, insecticides and seeds, in the last fifty years, we have not controlled them. The Act is very weak. After all these calamities, the Andhra Pradesh Government has prepared a legislation and requested the Union Government to amend the Act, so that we can take action against the culprits.

That is also pending with the Union Government. We are awaiting its clearance. If the Union Government gives its clearance, then, we will take strict action against those who commit such mistakes. The Union Government should take immediate action on this. Otherwise, it will become very difficult for us to tackle such persons.

On behalf of my party, the TDP, I would like to say something regarding urea. The hon. Minister of Agriculture has told this House about the economic and the scientific approaches.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can talk about it at the time of the Budget discussion.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, it is a farmers' issue. There is an additional burden on the farmers. That is why I am making this request.

Everybody knows that usage of more of urea affects the land. We are taking steps to educate the farmers through pamphlets and other means. This immediate increase in the price of urea affects the farmers. That is why it is my party's request to reduce the remaining fifty percent also.

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion has been initiated in the House right from the day the Lok Sabha session commenced over the issue of suicides being committed by the farmers of our country. It is a matter of great concern that even now these suicides continue. The House has taken this issue seriously and from the first day itself, discussion on the subject has started. Hon'ble Prime Minister has said that this issue of suicides by farmers should be taken seriously but we have seen that since yesterday, when this discussion was started, he has not been present in the House. This shows how serious is our Hon'ble Prime Minister towards this problem. Therefore, I express my annoyance.

14.52 hrs.

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU in the Chair]

As far as the question of suicide by farmers is concerned, the feeling of despair and failure growing among the farmers of the country, must be stopped, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Vidharba region of Maharashtra, Karnataka and in many other states of the country. Yesterday, very serious discussion was held in the House and even today discussion is being held about suicide by farmers. In Maharashtra, particularly in Vidharbha region, atleast 51 farmers have committed suicide and the number is still increasing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to the attention of House that very little heed is being paid to the agony and the sorrows of farmers. Here everyone of us belonging to any party or organisation says that we should rise above party politics and ponder over the problems of farmers but we keep on levelling allegations and counter-allegations whereas very less effort is made to solve the problems of farmers. In Maharashtra, where the farmers have committed suicides, there due to heavy rains and hailstorms the crops have been damaged resulting in ruination of farmers. The famine like situation has arisen in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and some other states due to which farmers have been committing suicide.

It is really shameful for the Government and this country. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards this matter. In Vidharbha region of Maharashtra crops of farmers have been damaged due to heavy rain and hailstorm and, thus, farmers suffered heavy losses. Now farmers are not in a position to repay the loan taken from banks, rural banks, NABARD, District banks and co-operative banks. But the Government did not give any relief in the matter of repayment of loan. Such incidents of committing suicide by farmers would not have occurred, had timely relief been provided to farmers. The Government had not taken the matter seriously and immediate relief was not provided to farmers, who lost their crops due to heavy rain and hailstorm. Those farmers would not have committed suicide if timely relief was provided to them.

Sir, just now one of our friends has stated that situation has improved but at the same time it has also been stated that the Government or any Minister is not responsible for the hailstorm, heavy rains or drought. I would like to say in this House that the Government is not responsible for it. Government or hon. Prime Minister is also not responsible for the problem of increasing population, even then Chief Ministers. Prime Minister and the Government are trying their best to solve the problem, in the same way the Government should evolve measures for solving this problem and checking the growing tendency of committing suicides by farmers.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Many hon. Members are there to speak. At 3.30 p.m. we have to take up Private Members Business. That is why I am requesting you to complete your speech.

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur) Sir, I will conclude my speech within few minutes.

Ours is an agricultural country and our economy is mainly dominated by agriculture. Agriculture is the base of our country's economy. Our country cannot develop if it has a weak base. 74 percent population of our country lives in villages. The balance of our economy would get upset and the economy would be ruined if the problems of farmers are not considered seriously. The loans taken by farmers from banks should be waived off if we want to check the suicides being committed by farmers. The Employment Guarantee Scheme was introduced in Maharashtra but that was not implemented effectively. Increase in the prices of urea has also subdued the relief. The Government has given a relief of Rs. 1 lakh each to families of farmers who committed suicide in Maharashtra,

Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. I would like to say in this House that no arrangements were made to fulfil the minimum needs of farmers when they were alive and now a relief of Rs. 1 lakh is being given to their family members. In my view, it is injustice to the families of farmers. In place of 1 lakh at least Rs. 5 lakh should be given as relief to each affected family. All the drought affected farmers should be encouraged morally and given economic as well as other assistance.

Sir, I would like to make another point. Agriculture is the base of our Industry and, thus, it is a basic industry. Basic and structural industries have been nationalised under the Industrial Policy of the country. The maker of the Constitution of India, Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar had stated that basic industries, which provides raw material to other industries should be nationalised. In this way agriculture can be considered as a basic industry and this should also be nationalised.

15.00 hrs.

Sir, I would like to know whether the Government propose to nationalise agriculture for solving this problem? I would like to say that the farmers who committed suicide were marginal farmers who owned only 2 or 3 acres of land. I request this House and the Government to make arrangements for providing relief to them. The Government should not show only slackness towards the problems of farmers especially in such a serious situation of drought, when farmers have suffered huge losses. Government should work with utmost urgency for providing relief to farmers.

Sir, I shall not take much time but I must raise my demand to complete the irrigation project 'Indira Sagar Prakaalp' in my Parliamentary constituency in Maharashtra so that farmers could be benefited. It is lying incomplete for paucity of funds. Sir, through you I would like to say that the Government should consider this issue seriously so that farmers could be encouraged. They should feel that government is concerned about their problems and is paying attention to solve them. Not only that, the Government should provide relief to the affected farmers and take effective decisions in this regard. With these words I conclude and thank you for allowing me to speak.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Mr. Chairman Sir, with a heavy heart, I share the grief and tears of the bereaved members of the families who have lost their bread winners.

Sir, this is a grave tragedy that the farmers of this country had to commit suicide, ending their lives, for the

simple reason that they could not clear the debts which have fallen on their shoulders like a rock. When they see that the crops they have cultivated are ending in a failure and when the crops die, the hope and confidence of the farmers also die.

Some years back, this tragedy started in the State of Andhra Pradesh, that is, your State and today, I understand that more than 500 farmers have committed suicide in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. This does not mean that only these 500 farmers were facing crises. It is only the tip of the iceberg. There are millions and millions of farmers who are facing the misery and because of the fact that they could not leave their family members in lurch, they do not dare to commit suicide. It is a psychological question. Why has this tragedy happened, Sir?

It is because the farmers are emotionally attached to the soil. They cannot give up the profession. I come from a peasant family. Even if there is a temptation to give up the profession to go to some city or town to find some other profession, they cannot give up the profession because they are emotionally attached to the soil. They worship the soil as Mother Earth. They cannot give up the profession. When they cultivate the crops, they put all the energy, resources, borrowed money-everything. Throughout the night, they brave scorpions and snakes. At the dead of night, they go to irrigate their fields. When they find that the crops that they cultivated have died, their hopes are totally shattered. It is because of so many reasons.

Many of my friends expressed for what reasons do they commit suicide. It is due to the calamities of nature. Agriculture is a gamble of the monsoon. There are spurious pesticides and fertilisers. They spend their money to purchase fertilisers and pesticides. The pesticides fail to attack the pests. The farmer goes to the land where the pesticide was used to protect the crop. When it fails, he goes to the field and consumes the pesticide and ends his life. This is the greatest tragedy.

There were days when we were importing foodgrains. This goes to the credit of the farmers. The farmers have brought credit to the country that we have not only become self-sufficient but we are also in a position to export our foodgrains. I do not understand the rationale why we are importing the foodgrains. We have to protect the farmers.

Of course, I commend our Minister of Finance for many measures he has introduced. He announced in his Budget speech to promote and protect the farmers, particularly the agriculture sector. At the same time, I fully commend his giving a boost to agriculture. When he is increasing the price of urea by a small amount, may I ask the hon. Minister of Finance to give up that idea at all? When you reduced

[Shri Vaiko]

it by 50 paise, it was greeted. I hope, he will again come and announce that the whole raise will be given up. We have taken very effective measures to protect the agriculture sector. When he is giving a boost to the agriculture sector, when he is protecting the farmers, then our opponents try to take this point to use it against agriculturists. Why should we give a handle to our friends from the other side? That is my point. . . . *(Interruptions)* They cannot find any other argument against our proposals regarding the agriculture sector. They would not appreciate whatever measures have been introduced in his Budget speech. . . . *(Interruptions)* The farmers should be given protection through crop insurance. We should not give it halfway. I agree with Shri Nadendra Bhaskara Rao. I expect our hon. Minister of Finance and also the Minister of Agriculture to adulate the policy of giving crop insurance for the farmers. When the crops failed, they could not clear the debts. They are born in debt, they live in debt and they die in debt. It is passed on from the present generation to the coming generation. Therefore, a way should be found out. The Reserve Bank of India should be taken into confidence. The NABARD should give instructions to the district cooperative banks and other banks which give loans.

Sir, the debts should be cleared; the debts should be written off; the long pending debts which the farmers could not repay should be written off.

Sir, last year in our State there were heavy rains continuously for more than 45 days. The sheep there suddenly developed a peculiar disease, which was called the blueton, and more than 50,000 sheep died within minutes. First, they shivered, then they fell on the ground and died instantaneously. For the farmers who were supporting their families with the support of these sheep, this incident was like a bolt from the blue. The State Government had announced a compensation of Rs. 300 per sheep and goat. But the market selling price of the sheep and goats were about Rs. 1,000. So, we demanded that Rs. 1,000 should be given to the affected people whose sheep and goats had perished at one stroke. Even the other day we had a demonstration on this.

Sir, there are so many ways in which the farmers are affected. It could either be on account of failure of crops; or it could be on account of their inability to repay the debts. Therefore, the Government should take into consideration the plight of the farmers and should see that there are no debts for the farmers and there are no suicides by the farmers. In order to achieve this objective, there should be a better comprehensive Crop Insurance system and better subsidies. This Government has already announced in its National Agenda for Governance and has committed that subsidies would continue; subsidies would be direct and subsidies would be effective.

Sir, I would not like to take much time of the House at this juncture but I would like to point out one more problem being faced by the farmers. The subsidies which are meant for the farmers, most of it do not reach them directly. The one subsidy which reaches the farmers is free electricity. This facility of free electricity to the farmers should continue. The Government proposes to bring a Bill in this regard. But this facility which reaches the farmers directly should continue.

Sir, the plight of the farmers is the concern of the whole country. Therefore, this Government should take all steps to protect the interest of the farmers. Of course, this Government has done a commendable job by giving a boost to the agricultural sector. But this should continue. Some of our friends have demanded a probe to be conducted on this issue of suicide by farmers. A Committee was appointed and they have done an in-depth study about the various reasons for which it happened. Therefore, I would like to submit that the plight of the farmers should be taken into consideration.

Sir, the farmers are the backbone of this country. Hon. Chairman, Sir, when you were speaking, you also referred that the farmers are the backbone of this country. Everybody is saying that the farmers are the backbone of the country. It is really true. Nobody can see the backbone and therefore everybody is telling that they are the backbone of the country. The backbone of the country is not at all cared for. Therefore, the Government should take steps to protect the farmers. At least, hereafter there should not be any talk of suicide by farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rajesh Pilot, the Private Members Business will commence at 3.30 p.m. There are quite a few Members to speak on this subject.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Just a minute. I am posing this issue before the House. What should we do now ? The Private Members' Business will commence at 3.30 p.m.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the House agrees, there is no objection.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, we have still 15 minutes for the Private Members' business to commence. As has been decided by the BAC, the Private Members' Business will go up to six o'clock. If the hon. Members agree to sit beyond six o'clock, then we can finish it today otherwise it would have to be carried forward tomorrow. There is no other option. It is because everybody wants to speak on this subject. It is a very sensitive subject.

Over and above that, the recent hike in fertilizer prices have added a new dimension to the subject. Everybody would like to speak on this subject. Now, it is up to the Government to decide whether they would like to continue

the discussion today or they want us to come tomorrow on the same subject. We leave it entirely to the Government to decide whichever way they want to decide.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Chairman, Sir, it would be better if we continue the debate tomorrow. I will reply to the debate tomorrow.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Since the Minister has also agreed to it, we will continue the debate tomorrow.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House has been discussing the grave situation that has arisen on account of suicides committed by a number of peasants and agriculturists belonging mainly to three States, that is Andhra Pradesh, the State from where you, Mr. Chairman, come. I referred to the State of Andhra Pradesh because the number of suicidal cases are more in Andhra Pradesh than in any other State. The other States are, the State of Karnataka, from where I come, and Vidharbha, a part of Maharashtra. I sincerely feel that this serious discussion should evolve remedial measures so that immediately the suicidal tendency should be checked. This discussion should evolve a long term policy decision evolving an Agriculture Policy which would effectively prevent recurrence of such suicidal tendencies for ever.

Broadly two reasons are being mentioned for the suicides committed by the peasants. One reason is, heavy burden of loan and the other is the failure of crops. So far as the burden of loan is concerned, some device can be evolved. We can have rescheduling of loans. Even the interest can be funded. Prof. Chandumajra gave a very good suggestion. He suggested that the Government should take a decision that in any case the interest burden should not go beyond the principal amount. The banks or other financial institutions should be told in unequivocal terms that they cannot collect interest more than the principal amount that was lent to the farmers.

So far as the failure of crop is concerned, no doubt the hon. Finance Minister has tried his best to make a specific provision in the Budget which was presented yesterday, but that would not suffice. A very effective method will have to be evolved for this purpose. I do not want to politicise the issue but before we take any decision which would have a long term effect, we should also enquire into the reasons as to why the farmers were driven to commit suicides. In my sincere opinion, the failure of the successive governments, both at the Centre and the States, to effectively take remedial measures and also to implement various policies which we talk about very often are the main reasons behind it. So far as an agriculturist is concerned, agricultural produce is the only source of income for his livelihood. We call the farmer the backbone of the country and that he feeds the entire nation!

As rightly said, it is not within the realm of the farmer to decide the price for his produce. He is entirely left at the hands of the middleman, the trader and the hoarder in this regard. The market forces are such that the farmer is denied his due share every time. He never gets remunerative price for his produce. There are many other reasons.

To improve agricultural output and to provide better facilities we suggest many methods. This subject of better output is discussed umpteen number of times covering the aspects as to how to improve irrigation facilities, how to provide better storage facilities and then as to how to improve the transportation system. We also talk about making known to the farmer the latest post-harvest preservation technologies etc. Many other things are discussed but we are unable to properly implement the decisions. We must thank the hon. Finance Minister that under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the most able Prime Minister of the country, he has taken the bold decision to augment the funds allocated for agricultural sector. Just yesterday the whole country has heard the Finance Minister say in his Budget Speech that the allocation for agricultural sector has increased by 58 per cent. Never in the history of independent India had it happened.

In our system of governance, the Government of India at Delhi can take decisions. They can prepare the plans and chalk out the programmes. But they will have to be implemented by the State Governments and further down by the Zilla Parishads, Zilla Panchayats, Taluka Panchayats and ultimately by the Gram Panchayats. So, until and unless the goals are fixed in the minds of people at the ground level, people who actually implement these programmes, the situation will not improve.

Each party is in power in one State or one local body or the other. I would earnestly request all the concerned people to sit together and think, cutting across the party lines. We will have to have a strong will to tackle this problem. Then only we can find a remedy for this tendency among farmers to commit suicide.

So far as Karnataka is concerned, I will say a few words and then conclude. As is known, the suicides committed were on account of failure of the *Tuvar Dal* crop and also because of the steep fall in prices. Apart from that, a tendency is developing there now in respect of rubber crop. I do not find anybody from Kerala sitting here, except my friends from RSP and from Ponnani. They can appreciate this fact. The prices of rubber have collapsed. The price which was Rs. 60 a kg six months ago has fallen to Rs. 22 to Rs. 24 a kg. The farmers of these crops have no other go but to tread the path of the agriculturists who have committed suicide. So, I would request the Government to take preventive measures by calling a halt for import of synthetic rubber.

[Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar]

We have to take immediate steps to get a remunerative price for the rubber products and stop importing synthetic and rubber that are being imported under the Open General Licence. It is estimated at least at Rs. 50 per kg. Otherwise, the rubber growers cannot survive.

Same is the case with coconut, area and pepper. Producers of these crops heavily depend on market forces. With the SAARC agreement in operation and with the liberalisation policy being adopted by the successive Governments, the farmers are at a loss to know whether they will be able to get, forget the remunerative price, at least the cost price for their produces.

In the light of all this, hard decisions have to be taken by the Government. I hope even our friends sitting across in the Opposition benches also would agree that all of us should join to chalk out a proper long-term perspective plan so that not only the lives of the agriculturists but also the whole country could be saved. We are feeling proud many a time that today our agriculturists have contributed so much that we are holding our heads high. I am very proud that we have become self-sufficient in the production of food. Urgent measures will have to be taken in this regard.

With this observation, I hope and pray that good sense would prevail upon all of us to come to a proper conclusion to solve this problem.

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN. This discussion will continue tomorrow also.

15.28 hrs.

RE : BUDGETARY HIKE IN UREA PRICE

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Rajesh Pilot, would you like to raise some point or you want the hon. Finance Minister to make a statement ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : During Zero Hour, we have raised it and the hon. Speaker has assured us that the hon. Finance Minister would come and answer.

[Translation]

You have heard the views of all the hon. Members of the House. Whether they belong to the ruling party or the opposition. All of them have unanimously said that the increase in the prices of urea by Rs. 1 per kg. will burden the farmers further. The whole House feels that this additional burden on farmers should be reduced. I also think that Yashwant Sinha ji has also not taken this decision happily but circumstances have forced him to do so. I would request that instead of going by the scientific approach made by Minister of state in the Ministry of Agriculture, in view of the feelings expressed by the august House the

hon. Yashwant Sinha should consider this demand and roll back the increase in price of Urea.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel that some injustice has been done to farmers we all are talking about developing agro-based agriculture. In this speech hon. Minister of Finance had also said that agro-based agriculture should be encouraged if we really wish to increase 58 per cent agro-based. But for doing so it should be kept out of the ambit of tax. Yesterday I could not get your point completely because you have increased excise duties on some food items.

This sector has to be kept tax free if you wish to develop agro based. I feel that this government has raised the prices of tractor due to some misunderstanding. These were not raised by several previous governments.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have brought these three four points to the notice of hon. Minister of Finance and I request that these should be considered sympathetically.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. No interruptions, please.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshetra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a submission that these points should be considered sympathetically as prosperity of farmers is essential for prosperity of the country. I, therefore, request that the issue of providing relief to farmers should be given priority.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Could I just take one minute before the hon. Finance Minister starts his speech?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Speaker has assured Shri Rajesh Pilot that the hon. Finance Minister would reply. We have to take up Private Members' Business at 1530 hours. Every one will get a chance to raise the issue when we take up the Budget for discussion.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Let me raise the point, then we can deal with the same later on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

[Translation]

SHRI INDERJIT GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think I am not mistaken and you can correct me if I am mistaken. Yesterday hon. Minister of Finance had made announcement and that was mentioned in his written speech that a tax of Rs p-1 . 1 per kg had been imposed on urea. You may 5 it tax or increase whatever it is. And today he is saying that he is prepared to reduce it to 50 paise. I would like to raise one question. Yesterday the budget was presented

formally and it was in the budget proposal. I would like to ask whether hon. Minister of Finance is constitutionally empowered to do so. He can make an amendment through Finance Bill. Whatever may be the procedure for it but he can not do so by delivering a suo moto speech here. It is a wrong proposal and defiles the sanctity of budget proposals.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this government's concern for welfare of farmers was expressed in my yesterday's speech. Not only allocation for agriculture has been raised in this budget but hon. Members would find that a serious effort has been made to solve the problems of farmers by improving the whole rural credit system. Today, in this House, we discussed the issue of committing suicides by farmers. In budget speech I made a mention that now farmers would not be compelled to commit suicide or imprisoned for delay in payment of loans. This question was not raised here but in various parts of the country, I have seen that at the time of sowing crops, farmers hide themselves in jungles because administration threatens them to imprison for non payment of debt. I felt this agony. Now this situation has changed and under the rule of this Government farmers would not be compelled to commit suicide or go to jail for delay in payment of loan. The issue of increase in prices of urea has been raised here. I would like to make a submission before the House that the revenue worth Rs. 1000 crore or 2000 crore, earned by it does not matter much. But the important thing is that the policies formulated for determining the prices of fertilizers in 1951 have distorted the ideal M.P. ratio of 4:2:1. Now this ratio has changed totally and has become 10:2:1. My friend Sompalji was telling about the studies conducted in this regard which reveal that it is going to affect the fertility of soil adversely and our agricultural land may convert into a desert. In such a situation, all the members of this House whether they belong to ruling party or opposition would be held responsible for not taking timely action in this regard.

I would like to say that in the budget of the Government of India, a meagre amount of Rs. 1000 or 2000 crore does not matter much. This step was taken to lessen the consumption of urea and increasing consumption of other fertilizers so that distortion in prices of various fertilizers could be addressed.

I would like to say that a study Group was constituted by the Planning Commission which made a recommendation that by the end of 8th Five Year Plan, prices of urea should be raised upto 30 per cent. At that time our party was not in power. Even then, feeling the pulse of the House I made an immediate announcement here to roll back the prices by 50 per cent. It is a separate issue that how it would be implemented. I would like to tell hon. Indrajit Gupta that it was an announcement and not implementation.

During discussion on budget, we will present it through a correct procedure. This budget is pro-farmer, for welfare of farmers and for strengthening rural economy. The whole country has this feeling towards this budget. With this view in mind, I have rolled back the increase by 50 per cent. This is a pro-farmer budget and politics should not be played in this regard. Whether it is politics when we discuss the issue of suicide committed by farmers or the arrest of farmers? The issue relating to farmers is not a political issue but an issue which should be discussed on priority basis for welfare of farmers and strengthening the economy of the country. I request the members to take this budget with the same spirit.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I have not raised a political point but a constitutional point . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am not replying to your point.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You cannot change your proposal in this manner . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, this is not the situation of the farmers . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : It is an anti-farmer budget . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please hear the Minister of Finance first.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I would like to say that prices of urea were raised to Rs. 3300 on 25.7.91 and raised further on 14.8.95. If it is an anti-farmer budget that what was that. What type of politics is it . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record. No further discussion on this matter.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall take up Private Members' Business.

15.39 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS – Introduced*

(i) Private Investigators Bill**

[English]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the licensing of private investigators and vest them with certain powers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the licensing of private investigators and vest them with certain powers."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : I introduce the Bill.

15.39½ hrs.

(ii) High Court at Allahabad (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Meerut) Bill*

[English]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court at Allahabad at Meerut.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court at Allahabad at Meerut."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : I introduce the Bill.

15.40 hrs.

(iii) National Population Policy Bill*

[English]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for a national population policy and for measures to control the population in the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for a national population policy and for measures to control the population in the country and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : I introduce the Bill.

15.40½ hrs.

(iv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill*

(Amendment of articles 302 and 304)

[English]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : I introduce the Bill.

(v) Population Control Bill*

15.41 hrs.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for population control through compulsory sterilisation of certain persons; measures for promoting small family norm and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for population control through compulsory sterilisation of certain persons; measures for promoting small family norm and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I introduce the Bill.

15.41½ hrs.

(vi) Compulsory Voting Bill*

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory voting by the electorate in the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory voting by the electorate in the country and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I introduce the Bill.

15.42 hrs.

(vii) Provision of Employment Bill*

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide employment or for means and resources for self-employment to at least one adult member of every family.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide employment or for means and resources for self-employment to at least one adult member of every family."

The motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I introduce the Bill.

15.42½ hrs.

(viii) Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill*

(Substitution of new section for section 3, etc.)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952."

The motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I introduce the Bill.

15.43 hrs.

(ix) Forest-(Conservation) Amendment Bill*

(Insertion of new section 3c)

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" (Almora) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980."

The motion was adopted.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 2-6-98.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.43½ hrs.

(x) House of the People (Administration) Bill*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the appointment of a Commission to oversee the administration of the secretarial staff of the House of the People and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the appointment of a Commission to oversee the administration of the secretarial staff of the House of the People and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.44 hrs.

(xi) Declaration of Assets By Ministers, Members of Parliament and Civil Servants Bill*

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for declaration and public scrutiny of assets of Ministers, Members of Parliament and Civil Servants.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for declaration and public scrutiny of assets of Ministers, Members of Parliament and Civil Servants."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.44½ hrs.

(xii) Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) (Withdrawal of Legal Proceedings) Bill*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for withdrawal and prevention of all legal proceedings under the Terrorist and

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 2-6-98.

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987, which expired on 23 May, 1995 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for withdrawal and prevention of all legal proceedings under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 which expired on 23 May, 1995 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I introduce the Bill.

15.45 hrs.

(xiii) Reservation (Services and Higher Education) Bill*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for adequate reservation in posts and services under the Central Government and its public sector undertakings and in higher educational institutions for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes and backward minorities and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for adequate reservation in posts and services under the Central Government and its public sector undertakings and in higher educational institutions for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes and backward minorities and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I introduce the Bill.

15.45½ hrs.

(xiv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill*

(Amendment of article 15, etc.)

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I introduce the Bill.

15.46 hrs.

(xv) Population Control Bill*

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for measures to control population in the country and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for measures to control population in the country and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.46½ hrs.

(xvi) Unemployment Allowance Bill*

[English]

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for unemployment allowance to all educated persons and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for unemployment allowance to all educated persons and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I introduce the Bill.

15.47 hrs.

(xvii) Tobacco Growers (Benefit) Bill*

[English]

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of tobacco growers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of tobacco growers."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I introduce the Bill.

15.47½ hrs.

(xviii) Chilli Growers (Benefit) Bill*

[English]

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of Chilli growers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of chilli growers."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I introduce the Bill.

15.48 hrs.

(xix) Cotton Growers (Benefit) Bill*

[English]

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of cotton growers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"The leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of cotton growers."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I introduce the Bill.

15.48 1/2 hrs.

(xx) Constitution (Amendment) Bill*

(Insertion of new Article 51 B)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The Motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.49 hrs.

(xxi) The Constitution (Amendment) Bill*

(Amendment of Article 174)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria):Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr Chairman, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.50 hrs

(xxii) The Constitution (Amendment) Bill*

(Introduce of Article 29 A etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.51 hrs.

(xxiii) Universities and Colleges (Reservation of Vacancies in Post for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Bill**[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of vacancies in posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Universities and Colleges.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of vacancies in posts for Scheduled Casts and Scheduled Tribes in Universities and Colleges."

*The motion was adopted.**[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.51½ hrs.

(xxiv) Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill*
(Amendment of Section 376)*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further amend the Indian Panel Code.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code."

*The motion was adopted.**[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.52 hrs.

(xxv) Scrutiny of Assets of Minister, Members of Parliament and Public Servants Bill**[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill

to provide for scrutiny of assets of Minister, Members of Parliament and Public Servants.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for scrutiny of assets of Ministers, Members of Parliament and Public Servants."

*The motion was adopted**[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.53 hrs.

(xxvi) Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill*

(Insertion of new Section 8 B)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce the Bill further to amend the representation of the people, 1951.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951."

*The motion was adopted**[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.54 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION
National Housing Policy*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up item No.27-the Resolution on National Housing Policy by Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey. Before we take up the Resolution for discussion, we have to fix time for discussion. Shall we fix two hours?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 2-6-98.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 2-6-98.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are going to discuss an issue which affects all of us. In a large country like India where more than 50% of its population live below the poverty line and where Housing is one of the other basic problems being aggravated by the ever rising population. This problem concerns one and all.

15.55 hrs.

[SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA in the Chair]

Crores of people are deprived of this facility and those who are enjoying this facility are still having inadequate one. This problem is prevalent in the rural as well as in the urban areas. Though attention was paid to this problem from time to time and efforts were made to formulate a National Policy in this regard and even resolutions were passed in the House but the same could not be implemented in the way they should be. The result is that the people who want to lead a normal life are compelled to live in the open or under the over-bridges in the metropolitan cities. Some of them are living in huts in big cities. Crores of these people with their small children are leading their life in unhygienic conditions along the open drains. On one side there are these huts and on the other side there is a dirty nullah with insects breeding in it. As we discuss the problem of food and employment, we should also express concern about shelter.

Sir, there was a proposal to evolve a national Housing Policy in 1992 and the matter was discussed in House and the resolution was passed in the year 1994. It was the responsibility of the Planning Commission to fix the targets and accordingly necessary allocation was to be made in 5 year Plans. But Planning Commission did not take it seriously. As a result crores of people are still without shelter and are compelled to live miserably. A declaration has been given by the United Nations which states that an arrangement will be made to provide shelter to every person by 2002. The pace which was needed to be kept in this arrangement is missing. It was being discussed that houses will be constructed under this plan and also under Indira Awaas Yojna. The efforts made by various agencies like the HUDCO and the private agencies could not make much dent into the problem.

Similarly, houses were built in the rural areas also under 20 Point Programme but these houses were not completed even in 5, 10 or 20 years. The houses which were constructed, collapsed just after their completion. Consequently, problem of Housing remained as it was. Initiative to build the House under Indira Awaas Yojna was taken but the efforts made were not fault free.

16.00 hrs.

Today we are very much concerned about this problem. A policy decision has been taken in this regard and it has been mentioned in the national agenda that a Housing Policy will be formulated with a target "to provide houses to poor and deprived people on priority basis by constructing lakhs of houses every year." However, it has not been clearly stated what will be the policy in this regard. I would like the Government to state clearly about it. I am quoting few lines from the national agenda:-

"Shelter is the basic need of the man which should be fulfilled on the priority basis. Therefore a national Housing policy will be formulated on the advice of State Governments with the aim to provide shelter to all. To achieve this target, 20 lakhs additional dwelling units will be constructed every year. Like other programmes, emphasis will be made to provide benefit to poor and deprived people."

I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to when this policy will be formulated for which the decision has already been taken? Will a comprehensive bill to remove the disparities coming in the way of implementing the policy will be presented so that the work would be completed in a definite time frame and the problem could be resolved. Private agencies are also involved in this work but their involvement is on the basis of profit only. These agencies are getting more and more benefit. Therefore, there is a saying now-a-days that "on one side there is a network of land Mafia and on the other hand there are large number of touts associated with them." This network of land grabbers involve all types of people including those involved in construction of houses. I am quoting The Times of India dated 26th January, 1998 which says that Private agencies have completely failed in their efforts.

[English]

"The Haryana model of involving the private sector in the housing industry has not yielded the expected results, at least in the pilot phase launched with much fanfare in Gurgaon in the early 1980s.

Successive governments have, over the years, enacted laws and simplified procedures. Powers have been delegated to the enforcement agencies, including the police, to nab land-grabbers and check mushrooming unauthorised colonies. The law makes it incumbent on private developers to earmark at least 10 per cent of the total plotted area for developed sites to be allotted, at affordable rates, to the homeless among the economically weaker sections."

[Translation]

I was submitting that private agencies have not yielded the desired results this time also. Their contribution was

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

not much and their involvement was purely for the profit. Rajasthan has done much in the field of Housing. It has been stated in Rajasthan Patrika of 4th January that :-

"Rajasthan Housing Board has decided to complete its House Building projects in prescribed time and to set up a vigilance cell to check the illegal construction and land grabbing. This cell will submit its detailed report whether the houses being constructed by the Board have been completed on time or not. No provision has been made for such a cell in the Board's Act. Therefore, this cell will be constituted in the name of keeping check over the House Building Project. This cell will also be responsible to check the illegal construction and land grabbing."

Similarly, some other states have also taken such decisions but failed to implement them. Chamber of Commerce has also expressed great concern about it.

Sir, today in the present circumstances we require crores of houses. In the year 1992-93, 350-400 crore houses were needed. If the situation continuous like this by 2002, the requirement of houses will be more than the target and it will be a matter of concern for us. National Housing Bank, Life Insurance Companies and Urban Housing Development Bank should help to solve this problem.

As I have said only few states have been benefitted by the programmes undertaken to build the House but such needy States could not get the desired benefits. Housing problem is still there. I was stating about the States where people are still living in very pathetic conditions. Even after the efforts made by HUDCO and other private agencies and housing plans made by Housing Boards of various State Governments, there is a great need of houses in the rural areas. There is no proper Housing in the villages. People are facing hardships there. NRIs are willing to help in this regard. We should take their help also.

The State of Madhya Pradesh is very backward in this regard. The State does not have the required number of houses there. In the cities like Indore, Bhopal, Ujjain, Mandsaur, Jabalpur and Ratlam, the number of hutments are increasing in proportion to the population.

Recently, I visited Rewa Nagar. That area was in the grip of flood and the most affected were these hutments. People live in these hutments in the absence of any other alternative. I understand that the housing problem is the joint responsibility of Centre and State Governments which we have failed to accomplish. Therefore, I have requested

that a National Housing and construction policy should be evolved with a resolve to construct a specific number of houses within a definite time frame and provide them to the poor and deprived people.

I would like to cite an example. Some houses were constructed by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. But the people of poor and deprived classes failed to pay even the cost fixed for these houses. I had seen those places where these houses have been constructed. They remained unoccupied as poor and deprived people were not able to make the payment and after 5 years they collapsed or the material was taken away by the people. Hence, the efforts which are being made are not proper and adequate. The matter should be seriously considered. I do not want to go into the details of the state-wise plans as approved by the HUDCO but the concern which I have shown for the states like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra has not even been shown. This plan requires action on war footing but the same has not been done. Land should be made available at a low cost for Housing purpose.

I would like that the Resolution which I am going to present before the House should be pondered over seriously. I would also request the Hon'ble Members and the august House to support my resolution and show consensus so that the primary requirement of the society could be met. The Central Government should also deliver a message to us that they are also concerned about this problem in a serious manner. There are so many agencies and organisations which are giving suggestions and are working in the direction of solving this problem.

I would like to mention about the news report published in Navbharat Times two days ago regarding the Housing scheme. As per their estimates 3 crore houses are required to be constructed, but in my opinion around 4 1/2 crores houses are required. 20 lakh more houses would be needed every year alongwith the present housing programmes. To achieve this target the Ministry of Urban Affairs has decided to get the active co-operation of Department of Urban Development. While quoting this I would like to make a submission that all these agencies have realised that this necessity is a real challenge. If this House Building Plans are not being taken up on war-footing then in future this problem will become an acute one. This is a Scientific era and the houses should be constructed by using new technology.

As I have stated that a declaration has been made by the United Nations to provide shelter to all by 2002 but it could not be materialised as has been stated at the end of this paper.

"Due to the ever increasing population, the targets of providing houses could not be achieved if such plans

are not taken upon on warfooting. The current shortage of 3 crore houses will be doubled during the next 5 years."

As I have expressed my concern that in coming years i.e. upto 2002, the housing requirement can be of around one thousand crore houses. This is an issue of concern.. *(Interruptions)* According to him the housing requirement might be of 6 crore houses but according to my estimate this figure can go upto one thousand crore. The government should evolve a definite policy and chalk out a definite programme in this regard. If need be, they should come forward with a comprehensive bill for this purpose. with these words.. I move my motion:

"This House is of the opinion that Government should formulate a National Housing Policy on priority basis primarily for the benefit of poor and deprived persons with a view to solving the housing problem to a great extent in the next five years."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"This House is of the opinion that Government should formulate a National Housing Policy on priority basis primarily for the benefit of poor and deprived persons with a view to solving the housing problem to a great extent in the next five years."

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad): Mr.Chairman, Sir, I commend Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey for having brought this Resolution before the House. Housing, is next only to food and clothing. It is a prime necessity of life. We have not been successful in meeting the basic requirements of food and clothing but we are very short of meeting even the barest minimum needs in housing. Housing being a State subject, Central intervention is limited to giving policy directives to State Governments in various Five Year Plans. There was no comprehensive national policy. But it was the U.N. Declaration of November, 1998 of the Global Shelter Strategy 2001 that called on all the national governments to bring out and formulate a National Housing Policy. This House debated the National Housing Policy which was formulated and brought before us in May, 1992.

The BJP Government, in its National Agenda of Governance, talks of a new National policy called National Housing and Habitat Policy and seeks to add two million additional houses every year. Whether it is the 1992 National Housing Policy or another national policy which BJP Government is going to bring, for the first time the nation has started thinking in terms of a comprehensive national policy. The 1992 policy, although may appear utopian, at least shows the direction to tackle what, in my

view, is the most difficult problem facing the nation, the problem of houselessness, the problem of shelter inadequacy.

Before we get into details of what needs to be done, let us look at the size of the problem. There are problems of growing urbanisation, slums, rural housing, tenancy rights and ownership rights. It is clear that the country is getting urbanised rapidly. The urban population increased from 25.7 per cent in 1991 and is expected to go up to 31 per cent in 2001.

The decadal growth will be about 41 per cent. This urbanisation is leading to slums. It is estimated that in 1991 about 4.67 crore people about 21.4 per cent- of the urban population lived in the slums. This population is likely to go up to 6.4 crore in the year 2001.

There are various estimates about housing shortage and the stock of housing available. The 1991 census says that about 162 million households lived in 131 million houses leading to a housing shortage, in 1991, of about 31 million units. The Lok Sabha question of 6th August, 1997 gives housing shortage of 21.23 million units. But if you go to yet another estimate, the Working Group of the Planning Commission it talks of a housing shortage anywhere between 41 million houses and 64 million houses by the year 2001. We do not seem to be agreeing on the exact number of new houses required; the houses to be upgraded and the houses to be repaired. But one thing is quite clear that we are talking about at least 30 to 40 million new houses being built in a very short period of time-five years, as Shri Pandey has said-to completely eradicate or eliminate houselessness.It is a gigantic problem.

The National Housing Policy brought out in May 1992 and debated in this House in 1994 at least has enunciated some broad objectives and some very specific goals. The central features of the 1992 Policy are: adequacy of land supply and adequacy of finance and infrastructure. It seeks to achieve it by involving the private sector in a big way and also by seeking to eliminate the legal restraints. The Policy seeks greater involvement of the private sector; increased inflow of housing finance and changing the role of the Government from that of a builder to that of a facilitator. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundpuram): Sir, nobody is there from the Government side.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad):There is the Housing Minister, The Housing Minister is sitting there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Housing Minister is sitting there.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad): The Urban Development Minister is there. I am sure, he is listening to what I am saying.

SHRI A. C. JOS: He is not visible to me . . .
(Interruption)

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : He is very much sitting in the front row.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : The Housing Policy seeks, more than anything else, to redress the legal constraints that are coming in the way of a large tract of service land, rental housing and basic services coming into the market. But I have one problem with the Policy. The 1992 Policy seeks to define housing. The 1992 Policy has sought to lay down some norms about housing. It talks about a 20 square metre built-up area in a 85 square metre plot for rural housing and for urban housing, a 25 square metre plot. But it does not talk of housing in a broader sense.

Here, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the 1992 World Health Organisation Report on Health and Environment wherein the World Health Organisation has sought to define housing in a much broader context of essential basic services like drinking water; facilities of disposal of human wastes; quality of housing sites and the effects due to pollution including that caused by the cooking fuels. As we know, the *chulhas* are in vogue in the Indian homes. All these need to be brought under the definition of housing. If the Government is proposing to bring out a new Policy, I would request the Government to look at the definition part of it once again.

I would like to spend some time on the legal constraints that are facing housing. Government has plans to repeal the Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act; modify the Rent Control Act; the Transfer of Property Act, the Land Acquisition Act and many other Acts which are coming in the way of development. Most of these Acts have very good intentions.

These could not be effectively implemented primarily because housing being the State subject, most of these laws has to be dealt with by various State Governments. I think, the model rent legislation has been circulated. This House had passed the Delhi Rent Control Act but it could not be notified for a very long time. After it was notified, this Government is again seeking to change it. If you want to overcome this serious problem, the only thing required is the political will. Land acquisition proceedings need to be speeded up.

When you talk of additional finances, new secondary mortgage need to be created. For closure law needs to

be legislated. There is a need to revise the Master Plan standards, modify building standards and the by-laws. There is a model Apartment Ownership Bill and a Bill to regulate builders and developers. This Bill is being circulated. Another important initiative is the rent control tribunals. There are many things which could be done through legal means. The Minister who is a legal luminary himself is handling the portfolio of Urban Development and, I am sure, he will bring all his legal acumen to bear on the subject to bring in some legal innovations in all these laws with respect to housing.

Finance, both in formal and in informal sense, remains ultimately the most important and crucial constraint for housing because in India, a very large number of housing is the self-help housing, which means, building by people themselves in the informal sector. The gross fixed capital as a ratio of GDP has been decreasing constantly. It decreased from 3.2 per cent in 1980-81 to 2.6 per cent in 1991-92. As per the Ninth Plan Working Group, the estimate for housing has been of the order of Rs. 1,21,000 crore for building 16.8 million houses. This includes Rs. 34,000 crore of formal content and Rs. 87,000 crore of informal content.

The long pending demand of construction of housing and building activity as an industry has been met. Hopefully, more credit will flow to this sector. The previous Government also had tried to increase the Government spending. The Government spending for housing was increased from Rs. 2,424 crore in the Seventh Plan to Rs. 6,377 crore in the Eighth Plan. But that is not enough. Operations of the National Housing Bank were increased; capital of the HUDCO was increased. As I said earlier, there is a need to involve private sector funds in a greater way. To start with, we can involve 17 million provident fund payers into the housing activity. Some initial beginning has already been made.

The Indra Awaas Yojana has made a signal contribution to rural housing. We have built over three million houses from 1985 to 1995. This programme of empowering the poorest of the poor, the Scheduled Castes and the Tribals by giving them ownership rights of land and access to own houses needs to be further strengthened. It has to be brought-forth on a firmer footing.

I am sure that the Government will strengthen this very important programme of rural housing.

Now, I come to the problems of slums. As I have said in the beginning, the slum population is increasing day by day. The Government needs to state clearly as to what they want to do about the problems of increasing slums. The slum culture with slum lords in Delhi, Bombay and in large metropolitan towns is becoming a critical problem.

Sir, I would not take much time. I will conclude by saying that the seriousness of the problem of shortage of housing, houselessness and shelter inadequacy has given rise to the demand that the Right to Shelter should be made a Fundamental Right in the Constitution.

Sir, this problem needs highest priority. The spirit with which this Resolution has been brought in this House and the discussion on the National Housing Policy that the House had in 1994, need to be taken into account. Whether it is the National Housing Policy of 1994 or the proposed new policy of the BJP-led Government, this would remain only on papers unless the political will is gathered and a serious and sincere attempt is made to evolve a consensus.

I thank Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey for having brought this Resolution before this House and request the hon. Minister to address this serious problem in the spirit with which the Resolution has been moved.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in support of Hon'ble Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey ji's Resolution. I request him that till end he should remain firm on his Resolution and should not withdraw his important Resolution of public interest on any false assurance under pressure from government.

One special feature of any welfare State is to provide houses at fixed rates to those who have fixed income, at cheaper rates to those who have less income and free of cost to those who have no income at all. I do not want to give figures in this regard. In this country many surveys have been conducted and according to those surveys around 30-35 crore people in the country are houseless. Roughly speaking, we can see this thing in villages and towns. There is lack of employment opportunities in villages. As a result, rural people are migrating to cities in search of employment. They are being ill-treated in big cities in the name of cleanliness and regionalism. It is a matter of concern for country like India.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I just want to say that in 1974 a revolutionary law was enacted through which it was decided that the Urban Land Ceiling Act should be enforced so that the builders who acquire land at cheaper rates and sell houses at exorbitant prices, could be checked and houses could be provided at cheaper rates to poor people. With this intention Parliament had passed this Act in 1974 but its working during last 25 years compelled us to abolish this Act. Previous government took the decision to abolish this Act and new government is implementing that decision. There was need to implement that decision. There was need to implement this law properly. But the people living in the cities, the influential people and the big politicians

living in cities joined hands with the Land Mafia and got the law, enacted with good intentions, abolished. The result is that land remained under the possession of rich people and the decision of giving land to poor people could't be implemented. I would like to request that government should declare a specific policy. In 1992, a Housing Policy was announced in this House. A long discussion was held on that policy but now a case has been filed against the Minister who had presented that policy. The allegations have been leveled against him that a lot of manipulations were made in allocation of government quarters to the people, government officials particularly to his staff. According to my information they got those flats but the Department, of which he was Minister, could not fulfil its responsibility of providing such houses to poor people. The government constituted the Development Authorities at different places with this intention but the officers of these Development Authorities started making their own arrangements. There is a big development authority known as Noida Authority. The matter of allotment of land is pending in the court and the Allahabad High Court has imposed restriction that review of all allotment will be done on their behalf. The influential politicians and officers living in Delhi got land at cheaper rates there but the poor masses did not get it. Many Development Authorities throughout the country had made announcements that reservation in allotment of land would be provided to persons belonging to dalit community according to their population. It is regretted that no Development Authority has implemented this policy in their respective cities. If you visit villages, then you will find that even today the condition of people who are living in dalit colonies is very bad. I would like to mention about them. I remember correctly that when Patil Saheb was Speaker, an International Parliamentarians Conference was held and one special train took the Parliamentarians from all over the world to Agra for seeing Tajmahal. Fortunately I was also sitting in that train. The train left in the morning, we found that many people were sitting on both sides of railway line and roads with lota in their hands. The Parliamentarians were eagerly looking at them. One Parliamentarian from Australia asked me as to what they were doing. I felt ashamed and said that they were doing yoga. In our country the condition is so bad that our rural women have to ease themselves on the way with lota in their hands they do not have even sufficient water to clean their body. Such houses are required in rural as well as urban areas which has the toilet facilities so that they can keep their places clean. In big cities like Calcutta, I found that people are living in very small huts by dividing it like two tier and three tier system in railway. People take rest turn by turn for 5-6 hours after putting in hard labour. Such is the plight of people living in cities. In some big cities, people are becoming narrow-minded in the name of cleanliness. They say that their city

[Shri Mohan Singh]

is only for people of one particular region and those who are migrating to cities are not allowed to live there. Therefore, their jhuggi-jhoppries are being demolished in the name of regionalism. It is necessary to pay attention towards this issue. I remember correctly that Shri Rajiv Gandhi had given crores of rupees for the development of Dharavi region of Mumbai which is most dirty colony in the world. Houses were allotted but the people of weaker sections who were provided houses at cheaper rates or free of cost by government, sold their own houses and again went back to jhuggi-jhonpries.

I remember correctly that when Shri T.A.Pai was Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation of India, the Mumbai Taximen Union had purchased land from him at 4% interest rate and one colony was set up for Taximen in Kurla in the name of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. They were provided houses for Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10,000/- After 1-1 1/2 years, they sold those houses for Rs. 4-5 lakhs and again went back to jhuggi-jhonpries. Today, there is a law that in villages nobody can purchase the land of a Dalit. Similarly, the government should enact a law that those persons who get houses at cheaper rates or free of cost from the government cannot sell them. Besides, there should be stipulation that nobody can purchase such houses.

I would like to make another request with few suggestions that an ambitious plan should be formulated to rehabilitate those living in Harijan colonies set up in traditional manner in the villages. The old landlords set up Harijan colonies in villages by providing them a small plot in order to plough their fields. Today they are confined to that plot only. Whenever their cattle, pigs, pet goats enter their fields, either they are killed or beaten. Therefore for villages also you have formed two organisations which are known as 'suda' and 'Duda'. These organisations also did not get success in achieving their aim. Their sittings are not held. These authorities are diverting from their aim because required efforts are not made for construction of houses for slum dwellers and for providing basic amenities in slum-dwellings. The Government of India should consider for strengthening their activities.

I would like to say that the loan being given by HUDCO to Authorities at cheaper rates of interest so that it can construct houses for common people, you should review that as to how much amount has been given by HUDCO to Development Authorities and how far they have utilised that amount for this purpose. Housing Development Bank has been formed, for which one law has been enacted to the effect that the amount earned from excise or custom duty and the remaining amount of a trial will be deposited

in that bank and that bank will undertake Housing Development work throughout the country. But it was discussed in this very house 3-4 years earlier that the Manager of the said bank sold all shares in order to earn money instead of making investment for Housing Development Works and shares plunged and the Bank ruined. The Government of India should consider all these situations and formulate one plan. Now we are heading towards 21st century. India is a civilized country. Today our country is second in population. But in 21st century when our population will be more than one billion then our country will be number one in regard to population also. According to estimates, our population would be more than that of China's upto 2010 years. When our population will be 1 billion 10 crores, the population of slum dwellers will be around 50 crores. This situation is shameful for our country which declare itself as a very civilized country. Therefore, the Government of India, by formulating one ambitious plan, should provide housing facility to poor and helpless people of society. In one entire block, if its population is 1-1 1/2 lakh and if in that block 25,000-30,000 people belonging to Dalit category are living then in that block at least 40,000 people are such who belong to weaker section and do not have any houses. Under Indira Awaas Yojana, you are allowing construction of 12 houses but as far as their allotment procedure is concerned, there is rampant favouritism and corruption and as a result of which the poor people are not getting the desired benefits. Therefore, I would urge upon the government to increase the budgetary allocation under Indira Awaas Yojana. The government should formulate an ambitious plan for every block in the country so that the poor and the weaker sections of the society could get houses with all facilities in the first year of the next century. We should accomplish this aim through this plan.

With these words, I strongly support Dr. Pandey's Resolution with this hope that he will not withdraw his Resolution under any circumstances and he has right to take support from persons like us. I thank you while supporting this Resolution.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): I am providing accommodation to you.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Bhargava is replying to it. I would like to draw your attention towards the problem of accommodation being faced by hon. members, especially those members who have been elected for the first time and are forced to live in one room houses. Sir, when we, the MPs are not getting accommodation, then how the poor people of our country would be provided with houses. Would the hon. Chairman of Housing Committee like to say something on this point.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : As I am the Chairman of the Housing Committee, I would like to say that earlier the MPs were provided accommodation after six months period, but this time, I convened a meeting with concerned officials and MPs are provided accommodation within a period of less than two months. Several members have appreciated this effort. My problem is that the members are not getting accommodations as a number of ex-MPs have not vacated these houses. The Hon. Minister is also present here. I have requested the Hon. Speaker and Estate Officer to make arrangements for getting those houses vacated so that MPs could be provided accommodations. I hope that before the scorching heat of June, all the MPs would get accommodation. I am trying my best.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Hon. Minister is also present here. Atleast, new accommodation should be allotted to a member before serving notice to him. You are insulting me. Mulayam Singh has also been served notice. Where is the new accommodation allotted to me?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Sir, now I would like to speak for five minutes on the motion moved by Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey. I also join in the views expressed by Shri Mohan Singh that it is a grave problem.

The Hon. Minister is also present here and this problem should be solved. This problem relates to villages and cities both as 'Kuccha' houses exist at both these places. Food and Shelter are two necessities for a person. One may survive while having very little food and water, but in absence of shelter, life becomes miserable, therefore, request you to pay attention towards this problem.

The Government has chalked out a 20-Point programme. Indira Awaas Yojana was also introduced. But the houses constructed under this scheme are inferior in quality and often collapse in rainy season. I think that utmost attention should be paid toward it. The present coalition government led by Bhartiya Janata Party has allocated more funds for Indira Awaas Yojana, which is a good thing and should not be opposed by anyone. So on behalf of all the Members, I thank the Government for it. A National Housing policy has also been formulated. There are two types of 'Kuccha' settlements. One is settled in a planned way and the other is having no plan, where people have settled in their own way as and when they occupied space and do not want to change it. A person having a house in front row and running a shop in it would not like to change its location. The Government of India has made an announcement to provide grant Rs. 1 1/2, 4 or 5 per person for planned temporary settlements. I request the hon. Minister that the grant should be provided to all the settlements. In view of increasing price rise, the

amount of grant should also be increased. Temporary dwellings should also be well planned and basic facilities like toilet, drinking water and electricity should be provided in them. Arrangements for parks, grounds, primary and middle schools should also be made, otherwise these will always remain temporary dwellings.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, while coming to Delhi you might have seen several temporary dwelling along the railway tracks. Thousands of people live in them. The same situation prevails in Jaipur. We cannot serve humanity unless these temporary dwellings are converted into planned colonies. In the same way, people live on both the sides of drains. Their houses and huts remain dirty and people live like just insects. We have done nothing for them even so many years after independence. If we really want to serve the humanity, these dwellings should be shifted to some cleaner place. During the rainy season, filth increases and diseases spread there. Housing Board has not provided houses to them. They should be shifted permanently to some open place in a planned manner.

People living in the temporary settlements are not given houses. If sometimes they are shifted to some other place, the Government does not occupy the vacated land immediately and again people illegally occupy it or give it to their relatives.

The Government also makes announcement that temporary colonies set up upto 1981 will be regularised. However, this issue is related to votes also. They give us votes, so we will say that colonies set up up to 1990 will be regularised or fix any other date as per our convenience. This issue should be solved on humanitarian ground and politics of votes should not be brought into it. We cannot just let them live in those temporary settlements and think of their welfare. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention in this regard.

They should be given land from surplus land after imposition of ceiling. The hon. Minister is going to abolish the Land Ceiling Act. This Act was enacted to provide land at a cheaper rate to the people. They can then take loans on easy installments for building the houses. I would like to cite an example of the Rajasthan Government. Vidyadhar Nagar Scheme was announced in Jaipur in which people paid Rs. 19 per month for 19 years and built good houses. Such long term scheme should be formulated for benefit of the people. You should consider this point also. In this way, people can get good houses in a specific period. But it should be ensured that corrupt practices are not adopted. People will get no benefit if due to corruption, inferior quality material is used in construction. These houses may be constructed through HUDCO or any other housing agency

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

but these agencies charge commission. If I construct a road in Jaipur from annual fund given to MPs I will have to pay 40 per cent of its cost to CPWD. In the same way Rs. 45,000 is charged for installation of handpumps, whether it is deep or shallow boring in which just two pipes are fixed.

Parliament's fund also pertains to the Government of India. Money should be taken in proportion to the work done. Therefore, the Government should evolve a policy with regard to the amount of Rs. one crore given annually to a Member of Parliament. If a development work is carried out with the fund allocated to a Member, then only the relevant amount should be drawn out of the fund. Similarly, 40% commission should not be taken for the construction of road.

If some rooms are constructed in a school, a commission is given for that. This practice should be stopped. This should be the policy of the Government. If it happens then only the amount of 1 crore will be spent effectively.

I would like to request Shri Laxminarayanji to remain firm on the resolution and I also request the Government to work for the upliftment of poor people living in jhuggis. If Bhartiya Janata Party is unable to do this, then I think it will be a big crime. It is a golden opportunity for the Government to serve the poor people and also to strengthen their position. Time never waits for anyone. Therefore, I request the Government to work for the welfare of poor people and to provide them low cost houses. I believe that you will consider it. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the matter which has been raised today is an important one and we must congratulate Shri Laxminarayan for this. There are some basic necessities of human beings viz food, cloth and shelter. Until and unless we provide these three to our citizens, we can't claim that our responsibility, towards poor has been completed. Fortunately, our farmers have achieved a level of production of foodgrains where we have become self sufficient. Likewise, cloth is also available easily to our masses. Today, we are producing so much cloth that it is surplus even after exporting it.

The third point is with regard to providing shelter to the people. We have not fulfilled our promises made to the people. The time has come to pander as to why we have failed despite all round development. Some people thought that the construction of houses is not productive investment. Investment on housing do not provide any financial return thus it could be delayed. We thought so and that is why we did not construct houses.

Today when our population has increased tremendously, this work has become more difficult to be accomplished. A joint effort on our part is required now. The question is how to take up this issue? In my opinion if we have to solve the problem of housing, first the land will have to be provided to the people. There are large number of people in the country without any land on which they can construct a single room. First of all land should be made available to them. The same should be done in urban areas also where land prices have increased. The question is how we can distribute the land. We have to think over it.

As far as the question of villages is concerned if the Government have surplus land in the rural area, it may be distributed among the villagers. Otherwise land can be acquired or purchased for this purpose. A poor villager can not build his house until the land is made available to him. As far as the question of urban areas is concerned, I divide these areas into two parts-one is town and other is city. Prices of land have increased too much in towns also. The local bodies like Municipal Councils or Corporations can also acquire the land which can be divided into plots and can be given to the people who want to build houses. This work can be accomplished by the local body of that area. A lot of discussion has been held for urban areas also. Hon'ble Minister is saying that urban Ceiling Act is going to be abolished. There can be difference of opinion among people over this issue. Some will be of the opinion that by abolishing this Act, people will be able to get the land but some will say that land could not be provided by abolishing it. I do not want to go into this discussion. However, if land can be provided by abolishing it, then it must be done and if not then it should not be abolished. But I feel that discussion is going on to abolish this Act. But we should consider it thoroughly whether the abolition of this Act will help in providing more land to the people or not. I doubt that the proper attention was paid on this issue. I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister, that if necessary, this Act can be abolished. But first of all we have to provide land for the construction of houses.

Second question is regarding the arrangements for money. A lot of money is required to construct a house. The cost of constructing a house is much more than that of food and cloth. Many people spend, lakhs and even crores of rupees on building a house. If the money can not be provided for the construction of houses then how the houses will be constructed. The question is how this money can be provided.

I feel that the Government should consider all the aspects before formulating a policy in this regard. So far as the issue of providing funds to poor villagers is concerned, I would like to say that Government should undertake this work as village Panchayats, Municipalities or Corporations are unable to do this work. I think that

state Government should take initiative in this regard. The work of acquiring and distribution of land should be done by the State Government and Central Government should also provide assistance in case it is required. The same policy should be adopted for solving this problem in cities. Prices of land are increasing continuously in urban areas and Government should think in this regard.

My third point pertains to technology. Our house building technology has become obsolete. We are not adopting our ancient technology. In villages house are constructed with thousand years old technology suitable to the environment and atmosphere of the area.

17.00 hrs.

We have abandoned the old technology. New houses are constructed by using building material like earth, stones, bricks, cement and iron in large quantity. There is no need for using building material in such a large quantity but thrust should be on finding a new technology. The Government should think carefully and introduce a new technology for constructing houses in rural as well as in urban areas if it really wants to solve this problem. We should think about this problem seriously. When we go to cold places, we find that people do not construct high walls for their houses. It also costs less.

Sir, the issues of prefabricated material also arises here. I think that like other countries we should also set up two or three factories for production of fabricated materials for building good and more number of houses in a short period. With the help of fabricated material, we would be able to construct a house in six days in place of six months. We should pay attention towards introduction of a new technology which suits to the climate of the country and in which less building material is required. These houses should be durable good and with basic facilities.

Sir, now the question arises that who will do this work? Whether the only Government is responsible for it. If one thinks that union Government, state Governments, Panchayat at village level or Municipal Council in cities are responsible for this task it is not correct. All the government machinery require help of other institutions in this work. If a laboratory or factory is set up in some area the owner or employer should provide housing facility to the staff. This is not the responsibility of Government only but this responsibility should be shared by private institutions, private industries and individually by people themselves. In private sector no one realizes the responsibility regarding tourism and housing. Today we face shortage of houses. Our tourism department has also not been developed to the desired extent. We say that private sector can help us in this regard. Though private sector also has some

lacunae which should be removed. This work should not be taken from private sector and given to public sector. I think this should remain in private sector but a ceiling should be imposed on profit earned by this sector. When we estimate the actual cost of a house, we find that private sector is earning profit not only 20 or 60 per cent but 300 per cent 400 per cent and sometimes to the extent of 1000 percent on building houses.

There are some legal problems also. One of our colleagues has said that Right to shelter should be provided in the Constitution of India. Jethmalaniji knows very well about the human rights. He also has this feeling. I do not think that Right to Shelter can be provided easily. Right to food, Right to work, Right to education, Right to clothing and Right to shelter are essential but so far we could not provide those rights to our citizens. We have provided our citizens Right of speech, Right to move and Right to occupation which are not essential for life but for leading a quality life. But why this right has not been given. I am happy that Government propose to provide Right to primary education, Right to work and Right to shelter to the citizens of this country. Government should look into various aspects of these rights. If these can be done, the government will have to do it. I would like to say that all these Rights cannot be provided by the Government only. Private institutions and individuals should also take responsibility. Japan has provided Right to work for its citizens and alongwith this 'Duty to work' has also been provided in their constitution. We should also provide Rights with corresponding duties in our constitution.

17.07 hrs.

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD *Singh in the Chair*]

Sir, my third and the last point is that all these aspects should be taken into account while framing a national Housing Policy. We should not build very small houses with just one door and two windows but basic facilities should also be provided in them. In certain area of our villages and cities houses have been constructed in such an unplanned manner that have no proper approach road. In some areas lanes are so narrow that at a time two vehicles cannot pass side by side through it. Some residential areas lack drinking water facility just now my friend, Mohan Singh ji has said that there is no proper arrangements for toilets in some areas. We should pay attention towards sanitation which is the basic factor of town planning. If village planning, town planning and city planning is done in a better way. The problem of roads, lanes, toilets and other facilities will be solved. These points should be considered while formulating a national housing policy. Housing problem can be solved by creating a national will for efficient implementation of the National Housing policy.

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

I am very happy that on the occasion of 50th anniversary of the Independence attention is being paid towards basic needs and it is a good thing. I would like to say that schemes formulated earlier on such issues should also be studied. Such policies have been formulated many a times but with the change of government such policies are put in cold bags and again new Government frames a fresh policy. Such old policies pertaining to Irrigation, Housing and education should be studied and reviewed thoroughly and lacunae therein should be removed. Such a comprehensive policy would be supported by all the Members of this House and thus we shall be able to solve an important problem.

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would try to deliver speech in Hindi. What is the basis of the housing policy being framed at present? What is the policy regarding houses being constructed in public as well as in private sector. Rich people construct big houses like five star hotels. On the one hand some people are forced to live in slums and there is no provision to provide houses to them and on the other hand just adjacent to slums five storey big houses are constructed. People living in villages are generally not very rich. Government have constructed houses under Indira Awaas Yojana. These houses have been constructed at a cost of Rs. 16,000 each. But due to embezzlement of money by contractors, these houses are not constructed properly and lack basic facility. About 33 per cent people live below the poverty line. Generally these poor people have more children to support and they do not get housing facility. The Government should impose a ceiling on number of houses owned by rich people. They should not own more houses. Their economic status should also be reviewed. Houses should be constructed in a phased manner. Rich people spend huge money on construction of their houses. Government should formulate a plan as to what type of houses should be constructed in the rural areas. Government construct houses for the poor and homeless. We have shortage of dwelling units. We have 40 million housing units for poor people living in villages and cities. The issue of environment and hygiene are also related to it. Several members have spoken on the issue of providing drainage system and latrine in the dwelling units. The poor people living in villages are not educated and do not know much about hygiene. In such a situation social problems also crop up. Government should also pay attention towards these points while formulating a housing programme. With these words I conclude.

SHRI SATYAPAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate Shri Laxmi Narain Pandey for bringing this motion to draw the attention of this House towards a vital problem which is not confined to a specific area,

city or village but has become a national problem. I congratulate the coalition government formed under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for paying attention towards this important problem. In the National Agenda of the Government, a promise has been made that 20 lakh new houses would be constructed annually to solve this problem. For the last 50 years due attention was not paid towards the housing problem. As a result thereof today not thousands but millions of people are living in Jhuggi-jhonpris of metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Delhi and Chandigarh and other big cities of this country. I am elected from Chandigarh constituency which is a small union territory and if not the world, the people consider it most beautiful city of the country. You will be astonished to know that out of a total population of 7 1/2 lakh, 1 1/2 or 2lakh people of this union territory do not have proper housing facility. Labourers from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan come here to earn their livelihood. You cannot even imagine about the dwelling units of these labourers. The whole family including husband, wife, children and married children live together in a small jhuggi of 7x7 sq. feet. There is no arrangement for electricity or drinking water facility. Millions of people do not have housing facility. Thousands of government employees are waiting for a long time to get government accommodation. they get a salary of Rs.3000 or Rs.4000 and one has to pay Rs.1500 to Rs. 2500 as rent for getting a two room accommodation. In this way 50 per cent of the salary is spent on house rent. Some employees are in service for the last 20-25 years but are still deprived of the Government accommodation. If one enquired about the position regarding it, he will come to know that allotment list of 1974 is going on in one department and in other department the list of 1976 is in process. There are several employees who serve and retire but they do not get the Government accommodation during the tenure of their service. Unfortunately, there is much discrimination in our society. On one land, there are people who are not getting any accommodation to live while on the other one finds large bungalows constructed on one acres of land, with only husband, wife and a child with their car and a dog to live in. So only 4-5 people live in large houses while there are thousands of people who do not have any shelter to live. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to evolve a way to divide the large houses as we are not in a position to accept the concept of large houses, the owner of such houses can even allot these divided portions to their own relatives. I request that a policy should be formulated in this regard and efforts should be made to provide houses to the poor people.

Mr. chairman, Sir, keeping in view the shortage of land I suggest that permission for the flat system should be granted to developed towns like Chandigarh. Now-a-days

such permission is not given in large number. Requirement for the houses is increasing and the open space is shrinking. Today we should adopt flat system, so that more and more people could be accommodated. Permission should be given for five-six storied buildings.

A large section of the society which is affected by the problem is of Journalists. At some places journalists are being provided Government accommodation but still there are many places where this facility is not available to them. This matter was raised in High Court and now it is in Supreme Court. I request the Union Government to formulate a policy in this regard. A journalist who earns 7-8 or 10 thousand rupees, faces many hardships to live in private houses. So a uniform policy should be evolved for the journalists. Supreme Court's judgment in this regard has been given. Such matters are in High Court also. Therefore, Government should formulate a policy in this regard so as to provide accommodation to all of them and this problem could be solved.

It has been mentioned here during discussion that land can be acquired. It is right but it has been come to the notice that the construction companies acquire land from the Zamindars at the rate of 2-3 lakhs per acre. However, they sell the houses constructed on it at the rate of 40-50 lakh. They purchase the land at low cost but sell it to the consumers at higher rates. This problem is prevailing in Chandigarh on a larger scale. Through you, I would like to request the Government that full compensation should be paid to the Zamindars in lieu of their land and further they should also be provided a house alongwith the compensation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Mohan Singh has stated one thing and the issues like Indira Awaas Yojana and developing colonies for the Harijans are being raised. In this regard, I would like to submit that if we continue the practice of developing separate colonies for the downtrodden sections, we will not be able to create harmony in the society. Therefore, we should end this practice. Allotment of house for the poor people should be held on the basis of a draw. Now we should end this practice that such and such colony belongs to the Muslims or to the Dalits or some other section of the society. We have done it in Chandigarh. Approx. 4 thousand dwelling units have been constructed and allotted without any basis for cast and creed. There was no demarcation of colonies on the basis of Harijans and any other cast. All people have to live together so that a harmony can be developed among them and they will forget that they belong to a particular community.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, he has rightly mentioned about the electricity, water and toilets. At present, there are lakhs of people in Delhi and even in my own constituency

Chandigarh who do not have the facility of toilet. I think that toilet, school, water, electricity and road are the five things which should be provided to all by the Union Government including the Union territories for which Central Government is directly responsible. Central Government can make excuses for other states that State Governments are responsible for all this but Union Territories come direct under the Central Government and I would like the Government to formulate a policy in this regard.

The last point which I would like to make while concluding my speech is that all these points which have been mentioned are very important. Members are unanimous on the points raised regarding houses. There is no two opinions in it. However, we should keep in mind that we may formulate a number of scheme to construct houses, but if we are not able to control our population explosion then all schemes will fail. Today, the situation is that the hospitals which were constructed to accommodate 500 patients are catering to the needs of 50 thousand people. The houses which were build for 5 thousand people are being occupied by 50 thousand people. In this situation, how we can make up this deficiency. Shri Shanta kumar has just stated that the people have started selling the houses which were given to them by Himachal Pradesh Government. People have started migrating from one State to another just because in a particular state, much favourable scheme is available to them for housing. Hence, this increasing population has to be controlled. During question hour, a suggestion has come that some State Governments have enacted laws in this regard. I remember that Haryana Government in its Haryana Municipal Act and Haryana Panchayat Raj Act has stated that the people having more than two children will not be allowed to contest election. Such limitations would also be imposed on the Government employees. Such limitations have to be imposed on other place also because if we fail to control the population then any of the Welfare schemes will not yield any result. Therefore, attention should be paid towards this problem. With these words and while supporting the proposal made by hon'ble Pandeyji and expecting that new Government will keep its promise to provide houses to its employees and other people, I conclude my speech.

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa) : Mr. Chairman, my name was in the list but has not been called till now.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name is in the list. You will also get the opportunity to speak.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (Bikaner): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was listening to everyone. The motion moved by Laxminarayan Pandeyji is very important. In olden times

[Shri Balram Jakhar]

we gave a slogan, food, clothes and shelter. But today electricity, water and shelter have become the basic needs of life. One can manage other things. I would like to raise only one issue in this connection. In my opinion the Hon'ble Minister very well knows that I am going to repeat what Shri Satya Pal Jain has said. All the problems mentioned by you are correct. Besides these there may be other problems also. But unless population is controlled solution to these problems cannot be found. I have myself experienced this thing. In 1945 I completed my college studies. I became Sarpanch of village.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1964 consolidation of holdings took place in our country in which all our village land were consolidated. It was a good step. After that some land was consolidated by the Panchayat and that surplus land was distributed among the families in the village. Today after 34 years, the same problem has again arisen. Now from where will the land come and how it will come? Land will be purchased from any poor person by giving 50,000 rupees and afterwards it would be sold for 50 lakhs and the poor will continue to suffer. Not a single party can do this work alone. Therefore, my request is that all parties should think over this issue.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this issue was raised by one member in 1977. His heart was full of love for the country. He was aware of the future. His intention was to build country's future. He knew that population control was the key to the prosperity of the country. Nobody tried to understand him in this country. People opposed him and our party had to suffer. It is not a question of party. No party can do this work alone. I want that all the parties should sit together, think about population and take a decision now to effect birth control.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we all have to face consequences of population explosion if it is not controlled. The situation will go out of control. I am repeating this thing again and again that we should all sit together and think about it and take unanimous decision as to how it can be controlled. It has to be done right now, only then we can think of a better tomorrow. If we will not control this, then country cannot progress. Once population is brought under control then all other problems like the problem of unemployment, problem of housing and problem of food will be solved automatically. Then no one will die due to starvation in this country. All our targets go haywire due to increase in population. Earlier we were producing 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains and we had to import. But now even though we are producing 20 crore tonnes, the problem remains as it is. Due to increase in population all our efforts to haywire. Even now we have to import food grains.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, here all learned MPs are sitting. All of them are Protector and Makers of law. My request is that we should formulate one policy unanimously to control population so that we can save this country, can save children of this country and secure future of this country. If population is controlled then no one will die due to starvation and none will be compelled to live alongside the drains. Today the condition of this country is such that person who have migrated from village to city in search of employment are forced to live shameful life.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will not take much time by going into details. In the interest of country, I would like to say one thing that for the sake of country's future and for the sake of the future of our children we should take decision not to have more than one child. A provision of punishment can also be made for enforcing this decision. Only then this country can make progress.

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the proposal presented by Hon'ble Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeyji. Food, clothes and shelter are the basic needs of life. But it is very unfortunate that even after 50 years of independence, we have not been able to solve any of these problems. When the question of Housing Policy comes then our Hon'ble Members say that our population policy should be correct and all these problems are due to increase in population. Through you, I would like to submit that population increase mainly due to poverty. The rate of population growth is higher among the poor than among the rich.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are two kinds of problems. First relates to housing problem of Dalits living in villages. Second problem relates to those people who are migrating to cities in search of employment. Today, when discussion regarding housing is going on here, some of our colleagues start discussing about housing problems of journalists and sometimes about housing problems of rich people. Sir, I would like to say that the landlords in villages have large areas of land. The poor people on their land were inhabited to work as bonded labourers for the big landlords.

The fund provided for Indira Awaas Yojana in the rural areas is inadequate. Today it is not possible to construct a house with Rs.20-22 thousand. In that also there is corruption which you cannot even imagine. In a Block, 10-15 houses are made available but they are also in the name of some other person. In Madhya Pradesh, specially in the Rewa district, housing problem is very acute. Just now as Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey has said, National Housing Policy should be formulated. Whether it is HUDCO or some other Housing Board which construct houses for people, their schemes are limited to those people who are rich. I know that rich people who possess 5-10 houses,

put up application in the Housing Board by making affidavit that they do not own any house though they possess not one but five houses.

whereas dalits and the deprived long to own just one house of their own.

Just now Shri Mohan Singh was saying that houses should have toilets and smokeless chullahs, but the question of having these facilities arises only when a proper shelter is provided for them at least. Right now, the newspapers are reporting that the number of people dying due to heat wave is very high. This year, an unprecedented number of people have died due to this very reason. I would like to submit that the maximum of these people were shelterless. It is said that people died due to heat wave, heavy rains or chilly weather, whereas actually they die of poverty and impoverishment. It is the misfortune of our country that people are said to have died due to heat wave or chilly weather whereas the fact of people dying of starvation is concealed. Just now Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey was talking about the floods in Rewa. No plans are formulated for rehabilitation of people living in slums. Such people start living on the dry riverbed. Earlier whenever there was flood in the rivers, the excess flow of water was absorbed in the vast riverbed. However, ever since the temporary settlement came up, the river bed was narrowed and due to which the entire city bears the brunt of floods. Hence I would like to request that a National housing policy should be drafted. A well planned scheme should be drawn up to rehabilitate dalts and the deprived. I agree with the Hon'ble Member on this count that it is wrong to rehabilitate the scheduled caste people and tribals in separate sectors. The age old belief of leaving out the southern corner of the village for the scheduled caste tribals is very wrong. It is very essential for social harmony that one should settle down at any place without making any discrimination of caste and creed. At least, it would then be less obvious as to who belongs to high caste and who to the lower one. However, this would be possible only when a national housing policy is formulated. Our government has a very ambitious plan and it has announced that the shelterless will be provided shelter. However, I am apprehensive that the benefits of this scheme are not passed on to handful of people who have been benefited by all the other schemes as well. While supporting the motion moved by Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, I would like to say that instead of passing on the benefits to a limited number of people, a better housing policy should be formulated for the people living under the poverty line so that they may get shelter. Such a house should be provided which should have toilets and smokeless chullahs so that they may be liberated from their present miserable existence. With these words, I support the Motion.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla): Hon'ble Mr. Ch -1 airman,
Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey. I believe that this is a very commendable motion and as he has elaborated that it is very essential to have housing facility.

I would like to make a point that many people have set up large scale industries in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. People have constructed palatial houses after seeking loans from the Finance Corporation, but have not repaid the loans. Their houses are also in a very bad condition. The industries are also not in a good condition either. Hence, a survey should be made in this regard so that such spare houses could be given to the poor. I would also like to say that the houses are constructed throughout the country under Indira Awaas Yojana. These houses are very small and have very less space

Several colleagues of mine have pointed out that so long as land is not allotted for them, we can not claim to have actually helped them. The foremost point is that the scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and backward class people have nothing and they are leading a miserable life.

Just now, Shri Mohan Singh ji said that a separate colony should be there for the scheduled caste people but the other friends were of the opinion that if we wish to help the scheduled caste, such a discrimination should be avoided. People in villages are living in a very bad condition. They live in 'Kutchha' houses. The condition is even worse in the cities. One can notice in places such as Mumbai, Calcutta etc. that one member of the family is working as mason and another works as carpenter. Such people live in slums and there is no government scheme for providing houses to them. The poor should be covered under this scheme. The previous government has waived off the loan of 10,000 rupees due from big farmers. However, if a poor person is found to have 5000 rupees, it is said that he has misappropriated the money. They should be given financial assistance as per the target set by the banks in this regard.

Our erudite Minister is a very good advocate and is a respected figure. I would like to submit that if you wish to formulate a law, it should be of such a nature so that the poor people may get help. It is true that money will have to be given to the poor for acquiring the land because there is no such provision in our legal system that we may grab the land belonging to some other person.

As our former Speaker has pointed out that we should find a way out through discussion so that houses could be provided for the poor. An amount of Rs. 16,000 is not sufficient for constructing even a toilet, let alone a house. There is no need to divert people with such absurd fancies, Someone is pointing out condition in Delhi and someone else is talking about Mumbai. If one happens to travel by train, he may find people barefoot and without adequate

[Shri K.D. Sultanpuri]

clothing also. Our population comprises of such persons also. So long as legislation is not formed for sustenance of entire population, our country can not progress. We have to bear in mind that now that we are independent, we are not under the governance of any one party. All the parties are participating in the governance of the country. We are in opposition and point out the shortcomings of the government. However, if it is said with regard to these shortcomings that we have done something wrong or such and such work was not handled correctly or that it was not handled properly during such and such period, the present government may correct it. It is your duty to set things right and if you do so, the country will appreciate you. If you fail to do so, you will not remain in power and will have to sit in opposition like us. This is my submission. You should keep in mind that all are equal.

Now what is the position and status of the Members of Parliament. I have been a Member of Parliament for the last 20 years and I am well aware of the rights of the Members. A labourer gets as much remuneration as is given to the Members of Parliament. The labourers might be earning 4000 rupees. We get Rs. 1500 and that too is mentioned in all the newspapers. The pay and the TA, DA amount is insufficient. There are some states which are paying a lot of money. A loan of Rs. 50,000 is given for purchase of vehicle whereas 5 lakhs, 7 lakhs or even 8 lakhs are being given as a loan for purchasing a vehicle at some places. More money is being given in the smaller states. We are not keeping in mind our status and we are satisfied with our present status. When we go out, we talk about the poor. Our officers, who address us as Sir, travel by car whereas we travel by matador. Such is our constitution and law. We talk about the poor. Since when have you taken the charge of upliftment of the poor? In view of the present condition of the country, the prestige of the Parliament and the Members of Parliament is also being lowered, so we should keep in mind that we may fight out certain issues in villages or elsewhere but when we assemble in the House, we should put forth our views. Keeping in mind the welfare of the poor, who have been ignored so far. All of us should pay attention towards them. New Members have also been elected to this House and they also wish to work for their country.

The work for the country can be done only when we work sincerely. If there is even a slight wavering in our sincerity, it will be of no use. The capitalists neither give any money nor do they pay income-tax. Taxes are paid only by government servants. The taxes payable by them are deducted from their salaries. The rich persons in the private sector do not pay any tax. If any case is filed against them, they approach High Court and the Supreme Court. The corrupt people say that they are not to be called

corrupt until proven guilty by the court. They will be treated as corrupt persons only when convicted by court. A fellow member is present here. What crime has he committed that when his PA said something in the restaurant, he was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. No injustice should be done to the person who serves the poor. If any injustice is done to such a person, all of us should fight against it and we should not lower our prestige. It is not as if a Member of Parliament is elected without any basis. 10-11 lakh people vote for us and only then we are elected to this House. Then we say such things and oppose one another. Will it help us gain respect and prestige?

We have to provide houses for the poor and we have to work towards this end and it has been aptly said that 'rozi, roti aur makaan, maang raha hai hindustan.' We will have to consider it and we should have a clear thinking.

Hon'ble Member has moved this resolution here, but I am apprehensive that Jethmalani ji will make an appeal that he will take it into consideration, hence this resolution should be withdrawn and Pandey ji will do so. I am telling you not to do so. I wish to convey my sentiments in this regard. Hence I request you not to agree to the request of the Hon'ble Minister.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : You have been doing so. This convention has been set by you.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : We will support you. I give you my word for it. All the senior leaders of my party have also promised to do so. We support your motion. I would like to say that this is a very commendable Motion, for which I congratulate you. I won't say much, I would only like to say :

"Resham ke galeechon par
dhanwaan ke bete Sote hain,
Aur jinki badaulat sab kuch hai,
voh raat ko baithe rote hain."

With these words, I thank you.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are sitting here till 6 o'clock and there are only 15 minutes left for Six o'clock. I have a Cabinet meeting to attend at five minutes past Six o'clock. If you agree and if the House agrees, we can continue this discussion next time. I am in your hands and in the hands of the House.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two hours were allotted for this subject which come to an end at 5.54 pm. If the House

agrees, one more hour may be increased for the discussion and it may be taken up on Friday after six o'clock.

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS: We agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey. This is a national as well as an international issue. From our experience in Kerala State, I can tell you that this problem would not be solved by mere legislation, Legislation will not be the last word. I would submit that in Kerala we had passed a legislation in this regard by fixing the land ceiling and that was as early as 1960. As per that Act, in the Corporation area Three cents were allotted, in the Municipality area Five cents were given and in Gram Panchayat area it was 10 cents.

The lands were distributed. Then, even a scheme was launched by the late Shri M.N.Govindan Nair which was called a 'Lakh Houses Scheme' by which the Government also took the initiative. When the scheme was evolved the people were allotted one lakh houses. What was the result? The result was that we did not find many of the dwellers there. They left the place. What was the reason for that, It was because the land prices had increased subsequently. So, they sold that Three cents of land in the Corporation area for about Rs. 10 or Rs. 12 lakh and left the place.

Sir, now we are facing a very serious situation, So, the question is not of having a legislation, but we should have the political will and the social will to solve this problem. We are now celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. Even today, half of the population of our country is without shelter. Somebody had suggested that it can be included or enshrined in the Constitution as a fundamental right. Even that will not solve this problem, So, we must have the political will.

I would ask all the political parties and particularly those who were in power at the Centre as to what did they do in this matter. Of course, there were certain schemes. But apart from that nothing was done to solve this social problem which is prevailing throughout India. There were difficulties in land legislation and there were other difficulties with regard to land ceiling. Now, the Urban Land Ceiling Act has been repealed. What is the purpose? Is it to ruin the poor? No land was distributed to the poor people. The slum area people did not get any house and did not get any allotment of land. The entire land was allotted to the rich people.

That was the purpose behind the abolition of the Urban Land Ceiling Act. No Government was sincere in this matter and no Government had made any serious attempts to solve this problem. Nothing was done to solve this problem of providing shelter to the poor, Now, we are at the crossroads.

The United Nations had taken up this issue and they had fixed up a date. We will be the poorest country in the world because half of our population will be without any shelter. In spite of the fact we were in power for over a half century, we could not solve this problem.

In other words, it is a human rights problem also, Every human being in the world is entitled to have a shelter. That is the primary concern of every individual. After air and other things, the most important thing is the shelter. Can we provide it? We always boast about many schemes. We have introduced Indira Awaas Yojana, Lakh Houses Scheme and so many other schemes, but we could not achieve anything in this case. The poor man will have to live on the streets. He has no dwelling area and, therefore, he is always on the streets.

If you go to Kerala, you will find that millions of people live in the coastal areas without any shelter. Recently, there was a Supreme Court ruling saying that no house should be built within an area of 500 yards, and thereby these people, for years together, will not be able to construct any house. Nobody will be permitted to construct a house because of this 500 yards limit. What will happen to the poor fisherman? From Mumbai to Cape Comorin, they are dwelling on the seashore. They will not go anywhere else because their primary income is from fishing. Can we ask these people to shift their place of residence to an interior place? Then, what will be their source of income? Lakhs of people will be put to starvation. Until and unless this law is changed, they cannot be given any shelter by any Government.

So, I would ask my learned friend, the hon. Minister, to take this fact into consideration, This 500 yards limit must be changed to at least 50 yards. Of course, I do not stand in the way of environmental protection and all that. Let it be there. But the primary concern of the man is to have shelter. Can we provide shelter to these people without changing the law? You know it better than me. As a lawyer, I had my own experience. I submit that this law should be changed so that we will be able to give this poor fisherman a shelter.

We can boast of many things and we have been boasting. That is the only remedy for us, and nothing has been done in this case. So, I earnestly and strongly support this Resolution with a sincere purpose and not for any

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

political reasons or political gains. I hope that the Minister will not compel the mover of this Resolution to withdraw it. The Minister is also in the know of things. So, I would appeal that we, all of us together, should find a solution to this human problem which is there for ages together. Let us solve this issue.

I know that it is a herculian task, but this could be solved by putting sincere efforts. It is a matter to be seen as to whether that earnest effort will emerge or not. Whenever this issue has been discussed, a partisan approach has always emerged. But that should not be the case. So, I would appeal to the Minister that immediate steps should be taken not only to save the millions of shelterless people but also to save our national pride.

With these words, I support this Resolution. I hope that the hon. Minister would take immediate steps to solve this human problem.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak on the National Housing policy and I would like to express my views in connection with the motion moved by Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey.

Sir, today the problem of food, clothing and shelter is there in India. Somehow people can manage food and clothes but the problem of housing is acute. In this motion it is stated that houses will be provided to poor people. Today there are not lakhs but crores of people who are without any shelter. I do not want to go into details. Many of our Hon'ble Members have expressed their views in this connection. I am elected from rural area and constituencies of other Hon'ble Members also fall in rural area. Indira Awaas Yojana and Housing Scheme for weaker sections were formulated for the development of those areas but as a result of bunglings and corruption, these scheme have not been successful. You can take the case of Indira Awaas Yojana. Hon'ble Members have mentioned about problems of their own constituencies. I would like to tell about my constituency. There are so many houses for which arrangement of loan was made but even then construction has not been completed. It was said that problem of food, clothes and shelter would be solved and poverty would be removed but infact we can see that no effort is made to solve this problem. Even today there are many people belonging to dalit section who have been allotted land for constructing houses but with the passage of time the size of their families has increased. They have

been allotted one biswa or two biswa land or even less land but the size of their families has increased so much so that the entire family which includes parents, grand parents, daughters-in-law and children have to sleep in one room itself. I do not know how do these people manage to live in single room with large families. This is an acute problem.

Sir, today people are migrating from rural to urban areas. Government had started 'Rain Basera Yojana.' This Scheme was meant for those who come from villages to the cities and work there for 15-20 days. If we see the conditions of such people we will find that these people live under the sky, under the bridges or sleep on pavements. Therefore, government should again launch 'Rain Basera Yojana' where these labourers and rickshaw pullers and all other such poor people who come from villages to cities could be accommodated.

Similarly, Housing Development Authorities HUDA or HUDCO, are constructing houses under Special Component Plan but the condition of these houses is not good. I would like to draw your attention towards Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. Such houses are being constructed there which have been lying vacant for 10-15 years and the doors and windows of such houses have been stolen due to which they are lying vacant. Therefore, government should make such arrangement so that the people who are living under the sky could be provided housing facility where they can lead their lives.

18.00 hrs.

Sir, people construct their houses with hard earned money and after lot of saving. Some of the house plan of constructed houses are approved and some of them are not approved. This causes a lot of difficulty for the people.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards Allahabad. Today, houses are being demolished in Uttar Pradesh in the name of removing encroachments even though it might have been constructed with hard earned money. I know that it is encroachment, but when we cannot give houses to the poor, we have no right to demolish their houses. Similarly, the people who are living in villages for 25-50 years, but they complain about house grabbing. You know that there are certain powerful people in the villages who grab the land and houses of poor people. Therefore, the people who are living in villages for years should be given right to hold possession of their houses.

Just now one of our Hon'ble Member has said that many houses in cities are such where there is only 2-3 rooms and veranda but there is large area of surplus land. I would like to say that such land should be acquired and

flats should be constructed on it so that we could construct more and more dwelling units on such land.

Sir, even today people lead their lives in jhuggi-jhonpris, alongside the drains, near the banks of river Ganga, close to the railway line or near the sea-shore. Beside, there is no scheme for repairing houses which are allotted to poor people. Once it has been allotted there is no one to look after the maintenance even though the condition is very bad and it is difficult to live in such houses. Therefore, National Housing Policy should be formulated and uniform law should be enacted for everyone whether he is rich or belong to middle class and housing facility should be provided to those poor people who are without any shelter. With these words I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, the discussion regarding suicide by farmers is going on under Rule 193. Considering the interest and sentiments of the hon'ble Members, the discussion will continue tomorrow also from 1.00 pm. onwards. Tomorrow, there won't be any lunch break. The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11.00 A.M. on 3rd June.

[English]

18.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Wednesday, June 3, 1998/Jyaistha 13, 1920 (Saka)

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