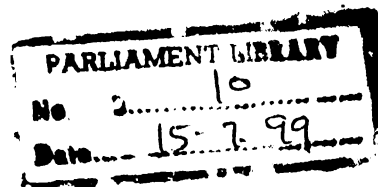


LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)



Second Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. III contains Nos. 11 to 20)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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Twelfth Series, Vol. III, Second Session 1998/1920 (Saka)
No. 11, Wednesday, June 10, 1998/Jyaishta 20, 1920 (Saka)

| SUBJECT | COLUMNS |
|--|---------|
| MEMBERS SWORN | 1 |
| REFERENCE TO VICTIMS OF TRAGEDY CAUSED DUE TO SEVERE CYCLONE | 1—2 |
| ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS | |
| *Starred Questions Nos. 202—205 | 2—40 |
| WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS | |
| Starred Questions Nos. 206—221 | 40—73 |
| Unstarred Questions Nos. 2128—2261 | 73—218 |
| PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE | 218—229 |
| PRESENTATION OF PETITION..... | 229 |
| ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES..... | 229—232 |
| STATEMENTS BY MINISTER | |
| (i) Situation caused by Cyclonic Storm in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan | |
| Shri Som Pal..... | 254—256 |
| (ii) Minimum Support Price Policy for Copra and Raw Jute | |
| Shri Som Pal..... | 310 |
| MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 | 258—265 |
| (i) Need to take steps to solve acute drinking water problem in Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh | |
| Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda' | 258 |
| (ii) Need to include Dogri language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution | |
| Vaidya Vishnu Datt | 260 |
| (iii) Need to provide medical and financial assistance to the tribal people affected by diseases in Mandala district of Madhya Pradesh | |
| Shri Faggan Singh Khatke | 260 |
| (iv) Need to declare highway between Nasirabad and Magu as National Highway | |
| Dr. Laxminarayan Paley | 261 |
| (v) Need to disburse compensation for Rabi-I season 1996-97 to the farmers of Kuttanad, Kerala, by the General Insurance Corporation | |
| Shri V.M. Sudheeran | 261 |

*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 |
|---|---------------------|
| (vi) Need to find solution to the problem arising out of ban on felling of trees in the States of North-East Shri Bijoy Handique | 262 |
| (vii) Need to ensure that elected representatives of a Panchayat Raj Body are not deprived of attending Zila Parishad meetings particularly in Ganjam district, Orissa Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik | 262 |
| (viii) Need to provide financial assistance from Prime Minister's Relief Fund to the people affected by fire incident in Shivpura and Godhan villages of Mohanlalganj Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh Shrimati Reena Choudhary | 263 |
| (ix) Need for early commissioning of full fledged Local Radio Station at Puri, Orissa Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy | 263 |
| (x) Need to provide more facilities at Calicut Airport Shri E. Ahamed | 264 |
| (xi) Need to provide financial assistance to the victims of Coimbatore bomb blast Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan | 264 |
| (xii) Need to stop shifting of the showroom of HMT from Srinagar and constitute a Committee for setting up eco-friendly industries Prof. Saifuddin Soz | 264 |
| STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL OF THE EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE | |
| AND | |
| EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL | 265—285 |
| Motion to Consider | 265—267 |
| Shri Basu Deb Acharia | 265—266 |
| Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam | 266—267, 278—283 |
| Dr. Shakeel Ahmad | 267—269 |
| Shri Tapan Sikdar | 269—270 |
| Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay | 270—273 |
| Shri Mohan Singh | 273—274 |
| Dr. Ulhas Vasudeo Patil | 274 |
| Shri N.K. Premchandran | 274—276 |
| Shri Madhukar Sirpotdar | 276—277 |
| Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde | 277 |
| Clauses 2 to 6 and 1 | 284—285 |
| Motion to Pass | 285 |
| STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF GRATUITY (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE | |
| AND | |
| PAYMENT OF GRATUITY (AMENDMENT) BILL | 285—292 |
| Motion to consider | 285—286 |
| Shri Mohan Singh | 285—286 |
| Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam | 286, 289—290 |

| SUBJECT | COLUMNS |
|--|---------------------|
| Shri A.C. Jos | 287 |
| Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda' | 287 |
| Shri Bikash Chowdhury | 288—289 |
| Clauses 2, 3 and 1 | 291—292 |
| Motion to Pass | 292 |
| STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL OF REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE | |
| (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE | |
| AND | |
| REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL | 292—303 |
| Motion to Consider | 292—295 |
| Shri Basu Deb Acharia | 292—294 |
| Dr. M. Thambi Durai | 294—295, 301—302 |
| Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde | 295—296 |
| Shri Kharabela Swain | 296—298 |
| Shri Nikhilananda Sar | 298—299 |
| Shri Mohan Singh | 299—300 |
| Shri Ramdas Athawale | 300—301 |
| Clauses 2, 3 and 1 | 302 |
| Motion to Pass | 302 |
| STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING | |
| (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE | |
| AND | |
| MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL | 303—309 |
| Motion to Consider | 303—304 |
| Shri Basu Deb Acharia | 303—304, 308 |
| Dr. M. Thambi Durai | 304—305, 307—308 |
| Shri Manoranjan Bhakta | 305—307 |
| Shri Chandrashekhar Sahu | 307 |
| Clauses 2 to 7 and 1 | 309 |
| Motion to Pass | 309 |
| GENERAL BUDGET, 1998-99—GENERAL DISCUSSION | |
| AND | |
| DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS, 1995-96—GENERAL | 319—360 |
| Shri Murlī Deora | 319—340 |
| Shri Satya Pal Jain | 340—352 |
| Shri Mohan Singh | 352—360 |

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, June 10, 1998/Jy'aistha 20, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBERS SWORN

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Secretary-General may now call the names of newly elected Members for the purpose of making and subscribing oath or affirmation.

Shri Maheshwar Singh (Mandi)

Shri Syed Hussain (Ladakh)

11.03 hrs.

REFERENCE TO VICTIMS OF TRAGEDY CAUSED DUE TO SEVERE CYCLONES

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : Due to heavy cyclone in Gujarat, 800 people have loss their lives.

MR. SPEAKER : I am making a reference also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : As the hon. Members are aware, more than 100 persons are reported to have died and hundreds injured in the tragedy caused due to the severe cyclones in Saurashtra and Kutch regions of Gujarat and Jalore District of Rajasthan on June 9, 1998. Many are reported to have been rendered homeless also. There are also reports about disruption of power supply and communication links apart from loss of property.

We deeply mourn this tragedy.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed souls.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.03½ hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, yesterday a severe cyclone hit Gujarat in which more than 400 people were killed. ...(Interruptions)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our sentiments have also been expressed through resolution to condole the tragedy in Gujarat. There has been a large scale loss of life and property. The Government in this connection will place a detailed statement before the House.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sir, you please visit that place, more than 400 people have been killed there. You send a Parliamentary Team there. The Jhabua district in Madhya Pradesh is also affected by that cyclone. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR KALITA (Guwahati) : A Parliamentary Team should be sent there. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHAW PATEL (Kheda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not a small issue, heavy loss has occurred there, more than 200 people were killed and 10,000 people have been rendered homeless. Therefore, the Central Government should provide immediate relief.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.05 hrs.

[English]

Modernisation of Canals

*202. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering modernising/upgrading of the canals in the country;

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

(c) the total estimated cost involved therein and the funds sanctioned for the purpose, State-wise; and

(d) the proposed schedule for completion of work, if any, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject, Extension, Renovation and Modernisation (ERM) of existing major and medium irrigation projects is carried out by the State Governments as per their own priority out of their own resources. Modernisation/upgradation of the canals is normally one of the component of such ERM projects. Funds are allotted by the Planning Commission for major

and medium irrigation projects including ERM projects. Upto the end of VIII Plan, out of 170 ERM Projects undertaken in the different States, 60 were completed. The total estimated cost of the 110 on-going schemes is about Rs. 11890 crores against which an expenditure of about Rs. 4114 crores has already been incurred upto March 1997.

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to say that the hon. Minister has not replied to the question properly. The question was about State-wise details but the Minister has replied in general.

According to the statement of the hon. Minister, 170 ERM projects were taken up in different States out of which only one-third, about 60 projects, have been completed so far. It is known to the august House that the country is facing huge losses of crops due to inadequate irrigation facilities as a result of which several farmers in the country have committed suicides. I want to know from the hon. Minister the reasons for such slow progress and also the steps going to be taken by the Government for early completion of these projects.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is right when he observes that out of the 170 extension, renovation and modernisation projects, only 60 have been completed. But this does not mean that progress has not taken place in the case of the other 110 projects. Progress has been there. If the hon. Member wishes to have the details of State-wise allocations in this respect, I can give them here, it is a long statement. Or else, I can send them to him.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Naik, would you like to ask a second supplementary?

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : No Sir.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, the Ministry of Water Resources has a lot to do with the canal systems. Upgradation and Modernisation of canals can help irrigate many more acres of land. It is explained by the scientists that if the irrigation and canal systems are computerised, the same quantity of water can be utilised to irrigate about three to four times of the land under irrigation now. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has realised that this can be done. If the Government has realised that this can be done, what kind of steps is it going to take to see that not only simple upgradation and modernisation but also computerisation of canal systems and irrigation systems is done so that water which is available in a very small quantity can be used for irrigating more land?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Shivraj Patil is right in saying that water available through all the canal systems is not being fully utilised. There are several

reasons and factors leading to this state of affairs. Firstly, all the distributaries of the canal systems have not been constructed. Secondly, the field channels take sometime for the farmers to create, therefore, the potential which has been created is not really utilised. Thirdly, there is a change in the cropping pattern. The earlier design was based on the rainfed agriculture and later on these cropping patterns have undergone change. So, the water which is required now was not envisaged originally. So, there is a lag between the potential and the potential utilised. In addition to this, for better use, land levelling and lining of canals and field channels is also undertaken. It is being done in many States. Central loan assistance is being given under ERM projects for this. So far as modern techniques are concerned, sprinkler sets and drip irrigation are to be promoted. Subsidy schemes are going on where 70 per cent is provided for sprinklers and drip irrigation to a normal farmer, and for SC, ST and women farmers up to 90 per cent. These are being promoted.

But so far as computerisation is concerned, it has not been thought of so far. If need be, it can be imbibed as one of the components for modernising irrigation system.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of Hon'ble Minister that Uttar Pradesh is the largest state of the country. The Chambaltaal Project near Agra was formulated in the year 1988 and its expenditure was estimated at Rs. 16 crores at that time. Now 1998 has come but even today this work has not been completed and instead of Rs. 16 crores expenditure cost, an expenditure of Rs. 90 crores has been incurred. Therefore I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister what steps are being taken by the Government to complete such projects which are pending for years?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, large amount of water which we receive in the form of rainfall flows into sea through rivers and as a result the level of underground water is going down every year. Will the hon'ble Minister make efforts to collect and retain this water so that the level of water can come up and the area which remains unirrigated can be irrigated and the work of Chambaltaal project near Agra can be started properly?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government has provided sufficient funds to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in the Ninth Plan and in the earlier plans to modernize Agra Canal. If the Hon'ble Member desires, I will send complete details to him. As regards the second question in which the Hon'ble Member has stated that larger amount of rain water goes waste, it is true. I would like to tell that till now we are able to use only 17.25% of rain water. There is certainly a need to make more use of rain water.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Planning Commission has chalked out watershed management programme of Rs. 75,800 crore to be implemented in 5 five year plans and it has started implementing this from this five year plan itself. For this purpose a provision of Rs. 670 crore has been made in this years' budget. By implementing this programme, the problem which is pointed out by Hon'ble Member can be solved by taking permanent and long term measures.

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister was pleased to observe in his answer to the question that was raised by an hon. Member that he has got the State-wise break-up of all the canals where modernisation and upgradation has been carried out.

I would like to specifically ask him about the Krishna Western Delta. The Buckingham Canal is spoiled beyond repair. The silt is so much that it has not been cleaned. It has got to go all the way right up to Chennai but it does not go beyond Ongole. People are suffering very badly because of this. What is the position of Krishna Western Delta? Is it being modernised? The State Government had been saying that they are getting funds from the World Bank. But nothing has been done so far. May I ask him to just throw some light on this particular canal and the Western Delta of Krishna.

If you could kindly look into the situation in both these places, you can find out that not only thousands and thousands of acres of land but lakhs and lakhs of acres of land will be irrigated. May I just request him to throw light on these canals?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not readily have this particular information now. I would send the same to the hon. Member.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : My request is, please do something while sending reply to me. ...*(Interruptions)* Please take some action on them.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : A huge amount of money is being spent to extend and renovate the irrigation projects as is evident from the details furnished by the hon. Minister. In the light of such details, may I know from the hon. Minister the volume of land involved in the 170 irrigation projects?

I would like to know whether the projects facilitate the overall growth of production. If so, what is the total quantum of production and the total volume of land to be involved in these projects?

SHRI SOMPAL : These schemes, under extension, renovation and modernisation, are being implemented by the States and the money is being given by the Central

Government. Sir, the details of the area to be covered under these schemes are not readily available, but under another scheme which is known as WRCP (Water Resources Consolidation Project) some figures are available and some States have taken this up. It is not that. These figures are not available right now, because the States ask for the funds and it is all implemented by the States. They will be collected from them and can be sent to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister that Bansagar Multi-purpose and multi-state project which was launched in Rewa in Madhya Pradesh in 1978 and which was to be completed in 10 year's time, has not been completed as yet. Only the construction of dam is in progress. Its full benefit are not being yielded as canal has not been constructed as yet. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister the time by which the work of canal will be completed and till date how much amount has been spent on this project?

[English]

SHRI SOMPAL : Again Sir, this pertains to a specific project. The details are to be sought from the State and then only they can be sent to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister should know that Canal is a state subject. As far as question of funding is concerned, the Government of India provides funds to state Government whenever they face financial problem. Through you I would like to know as to whether Central Government has entered into an agreement with Nepal recently under Kosi Barrage Agreement? Hundreds of Kilometres of land under jurisdiction of Nepal is eroded and the expenditure incurred for regulating the flow of the water has to be borne by the State Government. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Ministry of Agriculture and its experts have ever considered the fact that Ganges is a national river but its water level is receding? However it is a separate point because I am not aware as to which agreement they have entered into with Bangladesh under which the water level of Ganges is going up due to process of silting. Silt is accumulating in river bed. The same is the case with canals of Uttar Pradesh and other canals used for irrigation purposes. The silt is accumulating in those canals. The course of rivers is being diverted, erosion is taking place and a loss of billions of rupees is being incurred. I would like to know from the Government whether any measures have been taken to remove the silt accumulating in the canals through the rivers passing through Kosi Barrage

and if so what are the details thereof and what help does the Government propose to extend to the State Government of Bihar in this regard?

[English]

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the question is not related to modernisation of canal system, still on the Eastern Kosi Phase II project, Rs. 81.22 crore are to be allocated in the Ninth Plan.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Hon'ble Minister, Sir, I have asked the question in Hindi so please give reply in Hindi only. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I apologize. ... (Interruptions) In fact I should have given reply in Hindi. Though his question is not related to original question. ... (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Minister, why are you yielding to the pressure? ... (Interruptions) Sir, he cannot force the hon. Minister to reply in a particular language. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : It is a very small matter. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the question is asked in Hindi the reply should also be given in Hindi only. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hindi is our National Language. It has been the convention to answer the question in the same language in which the question has been put. If a member asks a question in English, the reply should be given in English and if he asks question in Hindi, the reply should also be in Hindi ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, please sit down. Shri T.R. Baalu, please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

... (Interruptions)*

11.23 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Lalul Prasad and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

11.24 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Lalul Prasad and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, please sit down. Shri T.R. Baalu, please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an arrangement for simultaneous interpretation in the House.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lalul, the hon. Prime Minister is clarifying.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, please take your seat.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : There should be no compulsion. Members are free to use any language they like. It should be left to the Member concerned. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not like that. Shri Ahamed, please take your seat. The hon. Prime Minister is on his legs.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Kumari Mamata Banerjee, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should be no objection if a question put in Hindi was being replied to in English by my colleague, however, it has been the practice of the House to reply in Hindi to a question put in Hindi.

[English]

But here, there should be no language controversy.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : We are not raising any controversy. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sathiamoorthy, please take your seat.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE . There is an arrangement for interpretation. If you want to ask questions in Tamil and if you inform the Chair, there is an arrangement. All the languages are our national languages.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we agree with the hon. Prime Minister that the House should not be divided on this issue. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Now the Minister may respond.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question remains unanswered *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Your question has been answered.

Flood Control

*203. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to various states for irrigation and flood-control projects during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the impact created by the measures taken in respect of irrigation and flood control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The State-wise approved outlays for irrigation and flood control for the last three years, namely 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given in Annexures I, II and III respectively

(b) By various measures taken through major, medium and minor projects, the country has created an irrigation potential of 89.4 million hectares (provisional) at the end of Eighth Plan period against the ultimate irrigation potential of 113.5 million hectares.

Various flood management measures undertaken through embankments, drainage channels, town and village protection works have provided reasonable degree of protection to an area of 14.374 million hectares out of a total flood prone area of 40 million hectares.

Annexure I

Revised Approved Outlays in respect of Major/Medium Irrigation, Minor Irrigation, C.A.D. and Flood Control for the year 1995-96

(Rs. in Crore)

| Sl. No. | States/U.Ts. | Major & Medium | Minor | CAD | Flood Control | Total |
|---------|-------------------|----------------|-------|-------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 609.67 | 70.00 | 8.00 | 30.00 | 717.67 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0.50 | 15.95 | 0.46 | 3.22 | 20.13 |
| 3. | Assam | 25.78 | 42.64 | 5.28 | 22.97 | 96.67 |
| 4. | Bihar | 182.74 | 24.83 | 10.54 | 35.15 | 253.26 |
| 5. | Goa | 30.28 | 4.00 | 0.90 | 0.30 | 35.48 |

* Not Recorded.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|----------------|------------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| 6. | Gujarat | 636.53 | 101.85 | 9.25 | 1.60 | 749.23 |
| 7. | Haryana | 114.33 | 40.51 | 13.90 | 10.00 | 178.74 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 3.06 | 25.77 | 1.00 | 2.04 | 31.87 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 20.32 | 24.02 | 2.60 | 13.71 | 60.65 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 650.50 | 56.19 | 8.69 | 9.72 | 725.10 |
| 11. | Kerala | 113.00 | 34.00 | 12.00 | 21.00 | 180.00 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 298.26 | 127.38 | 10.49 | 1.00 | 437.13 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 635.93 | 299.68 | 100.57 | 0.55 | 1036.73 |
| 14. | Manipur | 35.96 | 6.52 | 1.40 | 5.01 | 48.89 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 1.85 | 6.30 | 0.25 | 1.60 | 10.00 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 0.02 | 2.40 | 0.05 | NIL | 2.47 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 0.80 | 2.55 | NIL | 0.20 | 3.55 |
| 18. | Orissa | 213.09 | 89.00 | 3.70 | 8.80 | 314.59 |
| 19. | Punjab | 73.90 | 33.99 | 37.00 | 31.29 | 176.18 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 298.70 | 50.85 | 87.91 | 22.41 | 459.87 |
| 21. | Sikkim | NIL | 2.56 | 0.06 | 0.34 | 2.96 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 76.23 | 29.62 | 11.56 | 3.49 | 120.90 |
| 23. | Tripura | 5.49 | 4.46 | 0.02 | 2.04 | 12.01 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 337.01 | 58.07 | 22.67 | 10.73 | 428.48 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 105.00 | 15.00 | 2.00 | 43.00 | 165.00 |
| Total (States) | | 4468.95 | 1168.14 | 350.30 | 280.17 | 6267.56 |
| 26. | A&N Island | NIL | 1.41 | NIL | 0.71 | 2.12 |
| 27. | D&N Haveli | 0.50 | 1.05 | 0.01 | NIL | 1.56 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| 28. | Chandigarh | NIL | 0.20 | NIL | NIL | 0.20 |
| 29. | Delhi | NIL | 2.52 | NIL | 14.15 | 16.67 |
| 30. | Daman & Diu | 0.55 | 0.12 | NIL | 0.35 | 1.02 |
| 31. | Lakshadweep | NIL | NIL | NIL | 1.85 | 1.85 |
| 32. | Pondicherry | NIL | 2.83 | NIL | 3.50 | 6.33 |
| Total (U.Ts.) | | 1.05 | 8.13 | 0.01 | 20.56 | 29.75 |
| Total (States + U.Ts.) | | 4470.00 | 1176.27 | 350.31 | 300.73 | 6297.31 |

Annexure II

Revised Approved Outlays in respect of Major/Medium Irrigation, Minor Irrigation, C.A.D. and Flood Control for the year 1996-97

(Rs. in Crore)

| Sl. No. | States/U.Ts. | Major & Medium | Minor | CAD | Flood Control | Total |
|---------|-------------------|----------------|--------|-------|---------------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 651.88 | 122.76 | 13.00 | 22.00 | 809.64 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1.00 | 16.92 | 1.94 | 3.85 | 22.81 |
| 3. | Assam | 23.50 | 76.10 | 2.78 | 19.92 | 122.30 |
| 4. | Bihar | 328.14 | 84.63 | 11.23 | 36.35 | 460.40 |
| 5. | Goa | 45.50 | 4.00 | 0.90 | 0.80 | 51.20 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 1089.03 | 133.00 | 9.25 | 1.60 | 1232.88 |
| 7. | Haryana | 271.23 | 56.43 | 13.90 | 11.00 | 352.56 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 3.22 | 31.40 | 1.10 | 3.70 | 39.42 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 21.52 | 22.90 | 2.98 | 14.62 | 62.02 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 1035.00 | 90.82 | 33.00 | 10.00 | 1168.82 |
| 11. | Kerala | 130.00 | 45.35 | 12.00 | 35.50 | 222.85 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 318.10 | 122.46 | 4.99 | 1.00 | 446.55 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 679.53 | 371.03 | 112.80 | 1.27 | 1164.63 |
| 14. | Manipur | 32.21 | 6.21 | 1.32 | 6.96 | 46.70 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 3.00 | 7.80 | 0.70 | 4.43 | 15.93 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 0.05 | 2.80 | 0.05 | — | 2.90 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 0.75 | 2.55 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 3.68 |
| 18. | Orissa | 338.00 | 100.58 | 4.00 | 10.00 | 452.58 |
| 19. | Punjab | 76.52 | 33.70 | 37.00 | 23.90 | 171.12 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 301.65 | 42.81 | 98.60 | 11.35 | 454.41 |
| 21. | Sikkim | — | 2.56 | 0.06 | 0.34 | 2.96 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 186.16 | 62.41 | 12.32 | 1.59 | 262.48 |
| 23. | Tripura | 5.49 | 11.46 | 0.02 | 2.04 | 19.01 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 470.01 | 109.22 | 30.00 | 16.70 | 625.93 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 124.00 | 65.33 | 1.50 | 66.35 | 257.18 |
| Total (States) | | 6135.49 | 1625.23 | 404.78 | 305.46 | 8470.96 |
| 26. | A&N Island | 0.00 | 1.68 | 0.00 | 1.60 | 3.28 |
| 27. | D&N Havell | 0.90 | 1.05 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 1.96 |
| 28. | Chandigarh | 0.00 | 0.20 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.20 |
| 29. | Delhi | 0.00 | 2.70 | 0.00 | 24.00 | 26.70 |
| 30. | Daman & Diu | 0.55 | 0.12 | 0.00 | 0.35 | 1.02 |
| 31. | Lakshadweep | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.86 | 1.86 |
| 32. | Pondicherry | 0.00 | 2.81 | 0.00 | 3.50 | 6.31 |
| Total (U.Ts.) | | 1.45 | 8.56 | 0.01 | 31.31 | 41.33 |
| Total (States + U.Ts.) | | 6136.94 | 1633.79 | 404.79 | 336.77 | 8512.29 |

Annexure-III

*Revised Approved Outlays in respect of Major/Medium Irrigation, Minor Irrigation,
C.A.D. and Flood Control for the year 1997-98*

(Rs. in Crore)

| Sl. No. | States/U.Ts. | Major & Medium | Minor | CAD | Flood Control | Total |
|---------|-------------------|----------------|--------|-------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 712.67 | 115.12 | 10.20 | 17.00 | 854.99 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0.49 | 27.18 | 1.21 | 4.48 | 33.36 |
| 3. | Assam | 21.46 | 83.12 | 3.19 | 19.92 | 127.69 |
| 4. | Bihar | 366.23 | 65.91 | 11.30 | 40.00 | 483.44 |
| 5. | Goa | 35.80 | 3.55 | 0.95 | 0.84 | 41.14 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 1186.13 | 171.37 | 10.00 | 5.00 | 1372.50 |
| 7. | Haryana | 329.69 | 60.93 | 15.00 | 12.10 | 417.72 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 10.00 | 35.09 | 1.20 | 3.90 | 50.19 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 39.60 | 39.58 | 3.54 | 15.90 | 98.62 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 1023.44 | 85.14 | 19.93 | 7.47 | 1135.98 |
| 11. | Kerala | 148.10 | 46.55 | 12.00 | 25.50 | 232.15 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 262.61 | 162.45 | 5.00 | 1.00 | 431.06 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 2245.02 | 401.15 | 80.67 | 6.37 | 2733.21 |
| 14. | Manipur | 50.00 | 7.00 | 1.60 | 7.10 | 65.70 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 1.50 | 8.00 | 0.70 | 2.00 | 12.20 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 0.05 | 2.80 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 2.90 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 0.80 | 2.73 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 3.93 |
| 18. | Orissa | 586.00 | 71.40 | 4.00 | 5.00 | 666.40 |
| 19. | Punjab | 76.98 | 34.55 | 50.43 | 70.00 | 231.96 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 374.19 | 43.08 | 98.18 | 7.82 | 523.25 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|------------------------|---------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|----------|
| 21. | Sikkim | 0.00 | 2.56 | 0.06 | 0.34 | 2.96 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 257.55 | 63.36 | 12.75 | 2.03 | 335.69 |
| 23. | Tripura | 6.98 | 23.32 | 0.02 | 4.64 | 34.96 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 470.00 | 112.86 | 25.00 | 18.15 | 626.01 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 155.00 | 76.65 | 3.00 | 70.23 | 304.88 |
| Total (States) | | 8360.29 | 1745.45 | 370.16 | 348.99 | 10822.89 |
| 26. | A&N Island | 0.00 | 1.89 | 0.00 | 1.61 | 3.50 |
| 27. | D&N Haveli | 1.32 | 1.12 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 2.45 |
| 28. | Chandigarh | 0.00 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.25 |
| 29. | Delhi | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 11.00 | 12.00 |
| 30. | Daman & Diu | 0.20 | 0.17 | 0.06 | 0.23 | 0.66 |
| 31. | Lakshadweep | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.12 | 2.12 |
| 32. | Pondicherry | 0.00 | 2.81 | 0.00 | 3.00 | 5.81 |
| Total (U.Ts.) | | 1.52 | 7.24 | 0.07 | 17.96 | 26.79 |
| Total (States + U.Ts.) | | 8361.81 | 1752.69 | 370.23 | 364.95 | 10849.68 |

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister the details regarding the number of flood control and irrigation projects lying pending especially the ones relating to Uttar Pradesh alongwith the reasons therefor? Have any funds been received from the World Bank for the funding of these projects? If so, when was it received and how much of it has been utilised?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have any details regarding the amount received from the World Bank for flood Control. If any such amount has been received, the details will be sent to the Hon'ble Member.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer to my question is incomplete. Perhaps it has not been heard carefully. I had enquired about the number

of projects lying pending, especially those pertaining to Uttar Pradesh and I also wanted to know as to whether any funds have been received from the World Bank for the funding of both the irrigation and flood control projects or not?

SHRI SOMPAL : The details regarding the number of projects lying pending and the amount of financial assistance received from the World Bank will be communicated to Hon'ble Member.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the figures given, Uttar Pradesh was given Rs. 428 crore in 1995-96; Rs. 625 crore in 1996-97 and Rs. 626 crore only in 1997-98 which means that there has been a difference of mere eight lakh rupees over last year's amount. I would like to know the reasons for such

a sharp decline in the grant and also whether the Government propose to provide funds for the projects lying pending in Uttar Pradesh or not?

SHRI SOMPAL : The budget allocations are made after consulting the Planning Commission and the State governments. An amount of Rs. 626 crore was proposed to be provided and the same has been given to Uttar Pradesh. The details regarding reasons for arriving at this particular amount might certainly be there in the minutes of the meeting of Planning Commission, however we have no such information at all. This allocation was made after consulting Planning Commission and the State Government and this amount was found appropriate.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Prime Minister the details regarding the amount of money given to Rajasthan for Ghaggar flood control and the impact thereof? How the diversions were made by Ghaggar Control Board; how much land was waterlogged after discharging water into the depressions and what was its impact in other areas? Lakhs of acres of land was waterlogged. Ten to twenty villages were affected and thousands of people became shelterless. The Government propose to release more water in depression area Nos. 16 and 18 but according to the report of the National Water Commission, if such a thing is done, the town of Suratgarh will be submerged in four and a half years' time. Does anyone look into these aspects or not before taking such a decision? Then there is an important issue regarding canal as to how the Rajasthan Canal is proposed to be modernised and whether the command area has been developed or not? First the development of command area has to be undertaken and then only canal can be constructed. What steps are proposed to be taken to prevent that loss?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an amount of Rs. 11.35 crore in 1996-97 and Rs. 7.82 crore in 1997-98 has been provided to Rajasthan for flood control. So far as the issue of flooding of Ghaggar is concerned, I am very much aware of this problem and I have personally visited the affected area. A terrible situation has been created there. Lakhs of hectares of land has been flooded as this area has a number of natural ditches and depressions. Earlier the flood water used to diverted towards Pakistan but now Pakistan has constructed some dam in its area, due to which highly fertile land giving a high agricultural yield has been waterlogged. This issue has been considered many a times. However, the problem is that the study groups have been sent from the Centre and the plans have been chalked out but the demand has not been put forth by the Government of Rajasthan for launching this project in the manner desired. Whenever a demand has been made, required amount has been made available. However it has not been possible to tackle the problem completely with this much amount.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Under the Indus water treaty, they cannot block the flow of natural water in their area. This is totally wrong and I object to it.

SHRI SOMPAL : That is a separate issue and your point has been noted. It will be looked into.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply to the question put by the members regarding flood control and irrigation projects that the details are being collected and he has got no information. I would like to know about the provisions made for Uttar Pradesh under this scheme? I would like to draw your attention towards Allahabad—the Sangam of Ganga and Yamuna rivers. Heavy erosion takes place there during flood. Have any measures been taken to stop this erosion? Does the Government have any scheme to relocate the poor people living near the rivers?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an amount of Rs. 16.7 crore in 1996-97 and Rs. 18.15 crore in 1997-98 has been given to Uttar Pradesh for flood control. As for the question raised regarding Allahabad, Hon'ble Member is raising a matter regarding a particular place and the relevant information can be sought from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. I do not have any information in this regard at the moment. As regards the issue of making arrangements for people who are living quite close to such rivers as are flooded during the rains, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to raise the height of embankment, issue warning prior to flood and extend help after the floods. This information is available with the State governments. If they feel that the grant given by the Central Government is insufficient, they can get it increased after discussing the matter.

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : The river Brahmaputra is dotted with innumerable breaches and erosion points, but the allocation for anti-erosion measures during the last three years are too little. A project called Hatiaal-Dainigaon-Neamati, an anti-erosion project of Jorhat, costing Rs. 32 crore was approved by the Ministry of Water Resources in 1995. Since winter is the only construction season in Assam, rupees one crore were released immediately by the Planning Commission. Then, it was included in the State Plan. But the Government of Assam was assured that it would be included in the Central plan. However, during the last two and a half years, it has not been included in the Central Plan and the work is not in progress. The river threatens a premier town of Assam, Jorhat, at a distance of 5 kms., as the crow flies.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether this project would be included in the Central Plan with immediate effect so that about hundred villages and a

premier town of Assam could be protected from the fury of the Brahmaputra river.

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR KALITA : Sir, I appreciate the question. Please tell us about Guwahati also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, please.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL : This question pertains to a special project and the relevant information is not immediately available with me. However the suggestion made by Hon'ble Member has been noted and it will be considered.

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Sir, would you include it in the Central Plan? ...*(Interruptions)*. It is because the resources of the State are too meagre.

SHRI SOMPAL : I have said that it has been noted and it will be considered.

SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN : Sir, I never get a chance. I cannot shout at this.

MR. SPEAKER : You will get a chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a huge loss is incurred every year due to floods. Hon'ble Minister might have tried to find out the reasons for occurrence of floods. Silt has accumulated at the riverbeds, thereby raising its level and that is why even slightly excess water inundates the villages. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether he proposes to formulate a programme for desilting of rivers? This is not an issue pertaining to a particular State because a single river passes through a number of states. The level of riverbeds is going up and that is why, floods are creating such a havoc. Will the Union Government formulate a scheme in consultation with the State Governments for the desilting of rivers and construction of dams and roads?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a number of measures are being taken for flood control. Such floods occur when either the heavy flow of river water causes breaches in its banks or due to heavy rains in the catchment area or due to the excessive rain in the local areas floods are caused or when the tidal waves and rains co-occur such a situation is created. One of the measures for flood control is to construct the dams on the rivers. Such dams are there in Delhi and U.P. also. It is proposed to elevate the level of villages and the same has already been done for thousands of villages.

These measures are included in flood control drive. So far as the question of rivers becoming shallow due to the accumulation of silt is concerned there is no plan for dredging operation and desilting at present. No research has been conducted till date on the economic and technical feasibility of this aspect. My personal view is that this kind of plan will not be practical within the resources of our country. However, the Ministry can consider to conduct studies on this subject.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, the river Damodar is known as Whang Ho of West Bengal because every year the floods from Damodar cause serious problems for the people of West Bengal. When the original DVC plan was formulated, the proposal was to construct four reservoirs but only two reservoirs were completed. Because of that, whenever there is excess rain and the two reservoirs are full, the excess water is released and Bengal is flooded every year. So, if all the four reservoirs are constructed, the extra water can be preserved there and that water can be used for irrigation purpose whenever there is a drought. But now on both the counts we are suffering. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the DVC plan will be reviewed and the other two reservoirs which were originally contemplated will be constructed?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Hannan Mollah, this question relates to flood control.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Yes, Sir, it is because of floods in Damodar that West Bengal is suffering.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your Supplementary.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : I am asking my Supplementary, Sir, I would like to know whether the other two reservoirs will be constructed by the Government and the Lower Damodar Channel be completed within the shortest possible period.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is again a project-specific question, the details of which are not known immediately.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, there is a question pertaining to the same Supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, Shri Anil Basu, not like this.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Tilaiya, Panchet, Maithon and Koria are the four barrages in the catchment area of DVC ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu, not like this.

SHRI ANIL BASU : But unfortunately those were constructed in 1960 and a lot of siltation has taken place since then, thereby reducing the capacity of the barrages.

Would the hon. Minister consider de-siltation of these barrages of DVC which is under the control of CWC which, in turn, is under the control of the Ministry of Water Resources of the Government of India.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Sone Canal

*204. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the present irrigation system in each State:

(b) if so, the present position with regard to irrigation in each State:

(c) whether the proposal for modernisation of Sone Canal in Bihar is pending with the Union Government for years; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to take decision on the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

State-wise position of approximate irrigation potential created and utilised through major, medium and minor irrigation schemes upto March, 1997 is enclosed as Annexure.

Sone Canal Modernisation Project Phase-I (Bihar) was considered acceptable by the Technical Advisory Committee in its 56th meeting held on 10.11.93 and was recommended for investment clearance subject to arranging concurrence of State Finance Department and environmental clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have since accorded clearance to the project on 4th June, 1998.

Annexure

(In thousand hectares)

| Sl. No. | States/UTs | Potential created | | | Potential utilised | | |
|---------|-------------|-------------------|---------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------|
| | | Major & Medium | Minor | Total | Major & Medium | Minor | Total |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | A. P. | 3047.10 | 2901.87 | 5948.97 | 2883.80 | 2687.16 | 5570.96 |
| 2. | Ar. Pradesh | 0.00 | 83.42 | 83.42 | 0.00 | 65.54 | 65.54 |
| 3. | Assam | 196.67 | 592.76 | 789.43 | 138.17 | 484.45 | 622.62 |
| 4. | Bihar | 2802.50 | 5108.24 | 7910.74 | 2324.20 | 4573.70 | 6897.90 |
| 5. | Goa | 13.02 | 20.52 | 33.54 | 12.07 | 17.77 | 29.84 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 1350.00 | 1935.30 | 3285.30 | 1200.00 | 1839.62 | 3039.62 |
| 7. | Haryana | 2078.79 | 1576.77 | 3655.56 | 1833.62 | 1531.62 | 3365.24 |
| 8. | H.P. | 10.55 | 150.38 | 160.93 | 5.59 | 128.42 | 134.01 |
| 9. | J & K | 173.70 | 378.68 | 552.38 | 147.57 | 384.84 | 512.21 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 1666.02 | 1531.01 | 3197.03 | 1471.70 | 1488.71 | 2960.41 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|--------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 11. | Kerala | 513.31 | 573.12 | 1086.43 | 464.31 | 537.49 | 1001.80 |
| 12. | M.P. | 2178.30 | 2657.52 | 4835.82 | 1551.30 | 2422.02 | 3973.32 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 2313.00 | 2619.20 | 4932.20 | 1287.70 | 2341.10 | 3628.80 |
| 14. | Manipur | 63.00 | 60.39 | 123.39 | 52.00 | 51.19 | 103.19 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 0.00 | 46.64 | 46.64 | 0.00 | 40.33 | 40.33 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 0.00 | 12.71 | 12.71 | 0.00 | 11.20 | 11.20 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 0.00 | 67.24 | 67.24 | 0.00 | 57.93 | 57.93 |
| 18. | Orissa | 1557.75 | 1357.47 | 2915.22 | 1442.66 | 1227.05 | 2669.71 |
| 19. | Punjab | 2512.85 | 3354.17 | 5867.02 | 2452.34 | 3296.12 | 5748.46 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 2285.57 | 2421.24 | 4706.81 | 2086.31 | 2336.78 | 4423.09 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 0.00 | 26.23 | 26.23 | 0.00 | 20.59 | 20.59 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 1545.51 | 2115.22 | 3660.73 | 1545.49 | 2111.36 | 3656.85 |
| 23. | Tripura | 2.30 | 92.58 | 94.88 | 2.30 | 84.03 | 86.33 |
| 24. | U.P | 7059.00 | 23595.00 | 30654.00 | 6126.00 | 21923.00 | 28049.00 |
| 25. | W. Bengal | 1444.08 | 3217.37 | 4661.45 | 1332.52 | 2576.90 | 3909.42 |
| Total-States | | 32813.02 | 56495.05 | 89308.07 | 28359.65 | 52218.72 | 80578.37 |
| Total-UTs | | 18.22 | 112.15 | 130.37 | 9.00 | 104.32 | 113.32 |
| Grand Total | | 32831.24 | 56607.20 | 89438.44 | 28368.65 | 52323.04 | 80691.69 |

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter of modernisation of Sone Canal is pending for many years. A high level committee was constituted in 1992 for this purpose. This committee had submitted its report in 1993. I would like to know as to what is the hindrance in the implementation of recommendations of this report even after the passage of 6-7 years?

SHRI SOMPAL : In the 56th meeting of Technical Advisory Committee held on 10th November, 1993, phase 'A' of modernisation plan of Sone Canal was discussed. After that clearance was to be obtained from the Finance Department of Bihar State. Ministry of Environment and Forests has given its clearance on 4th June, 1998. Now the project will further progress.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : My second supplementary question is that Sone Canal was constructed during the British period and due to the lack of maintenance, banks or canal have been eroded and its water carrying capacity has also gone down. This has made the condition of the people living by the river side miserable. Through you, I would like to know as to what further action is to be taken by the Government in this regard?

SHRI SOMPAL : Since the clearance has been accorded by the Ministry of Forests on the pilot plan of the first phase of modernisation of Sone Canal, now the work will start on it. The Plan is that its capacity will increase from 5-6 lakh hectares to more than 9 lakh hectares. In first phase Rs. 403.41 crores, in second

phase Rs. 381.58 crores and in third phase Rs. 344.55 crores will be spent on it. In all, an amount of Rs. 1129.54 crore will be spent.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. C.P. Thakur. Since this question relates to Bihar, I will allow only Members from Bihar.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, the capacity of Sone Canal has gone down because there was an agreement between the Government of Bihar and the Government of Uttar Pradesh, and the water of Sone Canal is diverted to Singrauli project. So, unless the Katvan project is taken up, the capacity of Sone Canal will not improve. So, I would like to know from the Minister whether there is any plan to take up Katvan Yojana along with this modernisation of Sone Canal. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

The capacity of Sone Canal has gone down. Its water has been diverted to Singrauli project. There was an agreement between the Governments of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh under which there was a provision that Katvan reservoir will be constructed but till date no such reservoir has been built, due to which the water does not reach the tail end of the canal. Will the Hon'ble Minister state whether the work on this project has been initiated or not? Progress can be made only thereafter.

SHRI SOMPAL: U.P. Government have some objection on this issue and the matter has not been settled till date. When this objection is removed after the settlement then only the progress can be made in this regard.

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Sir, while the canals are being modernised in many parts of the country, is the Government aware that many canals are drying up in several districts of West Bengal which is causing a great hardship to the poor peasants? I have witnessed with my own eyes the condition of poor peasants of Baraipur, which falls under my constituency, where canals have all dried up. The same is the case in Sonarpur which is under the constituency of Kumari Mamata Banerjee. Has the Government taken up any investigation to find out why this is happening? When the Government take up the modernisation programme, will they take up a sound surface water policy where not only canals but lakes and ponds will also come in because indiscriminate sinking of tubewells has caused arsenic poisoning in West Bengal. We cannot bear that. So, we want an investigation into why our canals are being dried up. I want to know whether the Minister will also include in his plans, ponds, lakes and other surface water sources.

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, as you have rightly observed the present question relates to the State of Bihar only. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURENDER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Questions 202, 203 and 204 are correlated and it is absolutely wrong to say that this question relates only to Bihar.

SHRI SOMPAL: But still I am responding to the question of the hon. Member.

She is right that modernisation of the irrigation system and increasing the potential for irrigation, creation and renovation of tanks, bunds, lakes and beels and oxeyes are part of the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas and as I have already informed the House while replying to the first question, there is a plan which has been formulated by the Planning Commission which will be implemented over five Plans, including the Ninth Plan. It will cost Rs. 75,000 crore and this is an integral component of that plan to take care of water harvesting through lakes, ponds, tanks, beels, oxeyes and recharging the underground water system so that the availability and utilisation of rain water can be enhanced.

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, to undertake hydro-geological survey and exploratory drilling for getting the ground water, Central Ground Water Board has been formed. I would like to know whether the Government is going to accelerate this programme of the Central Ground Water Board.

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, exploration of underground water is undertaken by the Central Ground Water Board and yes, this is an integral component of the whole irrigation scheme in creating the irrigation potential.

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Questions 202, 203 and 204 are partly correlated.

Sir, there is a vast gap between the irrigation potential created and its utilisation. In the sandy areas of Rajasthan and Haryana it is really very difficult to take the water to the fields without constructing pucca water courses.

MR. SPEAKER : Please put your supplementary.

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : Sir, I am putting my supplementary.

The World Bank has put a condition that maintenance of water courses is strictly prohibited by the State Government because they will not advance any aid to the State Government and they have to be maintained by the farmers. Keeping in view the problems of maintaining them in the sandy areas, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Union Government will provide funds for the maintenance of the water courses?

Secondly, waterlogging and salinity cause the biggest threat to the fertility of the land.

✓ MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your supplementary quickly. Otherwise, I will disallow your supplementary.

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : Sir, I am asking my supplementary.

At least 13 million hectares of land has gone out of production. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what steps the Government of India is taking to reclaim that land and is there any Master Plan prepared by the Government to divert the flood affected areas to dry farming?

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, so far as the construction and maintenance of field channels are concerned, the Central Government does provide assistance to the States under Command Area Development Authority Scheme. This is for creating the channels and not for maintenance. Maintenance is the exclusive responsibility of the States. ...*(Interruptions)*

✓ MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, so far as the problem of waterlogging is concerned, it is assuming menacing proportions in recent years for several reasons.

I do have these details, but they cannot be given here in this short time. The hon. Member is right in saying that reclamation of such land and delogging of such land is essential and for drainage, flood control and irrigation schemes, they have to act in tandem for tackling the problem. Huge areas have already gone under water. Drainage is an integral component of the water shed scheme, irrigation schemes and flood control schemes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding question No. 204, I would like to state that the Bansagar Dam has not been reviewed yet though Ninth Five Year Plan has commenced. Therefore, I demand to have half-an-hour discussion on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

✓ MR. SPEAKER : First you give notice in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY : Sir, I want to know whether there is any irrigation facility in Bihar or it is confined only to West Bengal? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Sir, please allow discussion on question number 204. ...*(Interruptions)*

✓ MR. SPEAKER : Please give notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

✓ MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

✓ MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

✓ MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. Shri Lal Muni Chaubey, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

✓ MR. SPEAKER : You have to give notice first.

...*(Interruptions)*

✓ MR. SPEAKER : Order please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Ocean Development Programmes

*205. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes being run by the Union Government for Ocean Development;

(b) the details of achievement made so far; and

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) :

[English]

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The details of the schemes being run by the Union Government for Ocean Development, the achievement and the expenditure incurred thereon during the six year period from 1992-93 to 1997-98 are furnished below:

(1) Polar (Antarctic) Science :

- Seven scientific expeditions to Antarctica including a special cruise for exploration of krill and living resources in Antarctic waters were launched.

- Ice core drilling upto 150 m depth for paleo-climatic and environmental studies.
- 4500 sq. km of geological mapping of unmapped areas of the Wohlthat mountains.
- Day time auroral studies and ozone profiling studies were undertaken to understand the dynamics of ozone hole phenomenon.
- Monostatic doppler acoustic sodar was developed.
- Assessment of krill resources in the Indian Ocean sector of the Southern Oceans.
- Ecophysiological studies of micro-organisms in Antarctic lakes.
- Upgradation of communication links with the mainland through E-Mail.
- Participation in international campaigns in ozone and climatological studies.
- Setting up of Indian National Database on Antarctic Science (INDAS).

Eighth Plan Expenditure : Rs. 81.65 crore
1997-98 Expenditure : Rs. 21.51 crore

(2) Marine Non-Living Resources :

- Bathymetry of entire Pioneer area, 1,50,000 sq. km. in Central Indian Ocean Basin done with the help of hydrosweep. 30% of the area relinquished to the International Seabed Authority as part of the obligation under UNCLOS.
- Sampling at a closer grid interval of 12.5 km. completed. Sampling at 5 km. grid initiated.
- Three mooring systems deployed at pre-selected sites for time-series oceanographic data.
- Design of a manipulator arm for Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV).
- In the field of metallurgy, out of 15 process routes chosen, Roast Reduction Ammoniacal Leaching, Sulphur-dioxide Ammoniacal Leaching and Acid (Pressure) Leaching process short-listed for recovery of metals from the nodules.
- The leaching efficiency for recovery of metals- Ni. 90%-93%, Cu. 88%-95% & Co. 86% to 88%, demonstrated in batch process pilot plants at National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur [NML(J)] and Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar [RRL(B)].

Eighth Plan Expenditure : Rs. 32.14 crore
1997-98 Expenditure : Rs. 15.50 crore

(3) Marine Living Resources :

DRUGS FROM THE SEA :

- 450 species of marine flora and fauna collected and subjected to chemical extraction and biological evaluation.
- Detailed screening of organisms led to identification of 5 organisms possessing high anti-diabetic, anti-viral, anti-amoebic, anti-anxiety and larvicidal activity.
- Regulatory pharmacological and toxicological studies on the promising leads, were initiated for developing a herbal anti-diabetic drug.

Eighth Plan Expenditure : Rs. 2.00 crore
1997-98 Expenditure : Rs. 2.50 crore

(4) Ocean Observations and Information Services: (Marine Satellite Information Service (MARSIS))

- Development of maps of the coral reef areas in the Gulf of Kuchch, Gulf of Mannar, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands through ocean remote sensing and coastal wet land maps for all the maritime states and union territories.
- Sea Truth data collection for validation of satellite derived data.
- Generation of PFZ advisories and dissemination to over 170 fish landing centres. An empirical wave forecast model was evolved. Coastal Zone Information System (CZIS) for Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu, Mahanadi Estuary Mangroves and Chilka Lagoon in Orissa were developed.
- 7 modern tide gauge stations established in various states. These have provided the basis for monitoring variations in mean sea level.
- Digital Float Tide Gauges (DFTG) were deployed for sea level monitoring and modelling.
- Establishment of 14 National Marine Data Centres for collection, storage and dissemination of data and information on ocean related parameters.
- Atlases of the Indian Ocean sea surface temperatures and on 'chlorophyll-a' of Northern Indian Ocean prepared.
- A National Data Buoy Programme (NDBP) was taken up for implementation. Under this 12 data buoys were deployed (8 in the shallow waters and 4 in the offshore areas) along the east and west coasts for generation and dissemination of oceanographic data on real-time basis.
- A dedicated National Data Buoy Centre has been set up at National Institute of Ocean Technology,

Chennai, for receiving, archiving and dissemination of data to user agencies.

- The Marine Satellite Information Service (MARSIS), Sea Level Monitoring and Modelling (SELMAM), National Ocean Information System (NOIS), Data Buoy, Joint Global Ocean Flux Studies (JGOFS) and Land Ocean Interaction in the Coastal Zone (LOICZ) programmes which were implemented during 8th Plan have been revamped, restructured and integrated into an Ocean Observations and Information Services (OOIS), during the 9th Five Year Plan. This Programme has four components viz. Ocean Observing System, Ocean Information Services, Satellite Oceanography and Ocean Modelling and Dynamics.

Eighth Plan Expenditure : Rs. 26.28 crore

1997-98 Expenditure : Rs. 20.93 crore

(5) Marine Environment and Coastal Zone :

- Monitoring of marine pollution at 77 locations along coastline leading to identification of areas of clean sea water quality and areas of low, moderate and high concentration of pollutants up to 25 km zone.
- 25 hot spots (areas that are likely to become highly polluted in future) were identified for intensive monitoring.
- Periodical inter-calibration exercises to evaluate the quality of data being generated were undertaken.
- Two Coastal Research Vessels viz. Sagar Purvi and Sagar Paschimi were commissioned for continuous pollution monitoring.
- An Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM) Programme was initiated for ensuring sustainable development and management of ocean resources.

Eighth Plan Expenditure : Rs. 19.83 crore

1997-98 Expenditure : Rs. 5.38 crore

(6) Marine Research and Capacity Building :

- 42 projects and 84 fellows in the field of ocean science & technology received financial support.
- Infrastructure support was provided to the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, I.I.Sc., Bangalore for Air-Sea interaction studies; Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, for M.Sc. course in Coastal Aquaculture and Marine Bio-technology, P.G. Diploma Courses in Coastal Aquaculture and Coastal Zone Management.

- Ocean Science & Technology Cells (OSTCs) were set up in five Universities for promotion of front-ranking research in Ocean Science & Technology and related human resource and capacity development. These cells will develop into Centres of Excellence in due course.

Eighth Plan Expenditure : Rs. 12.82 crore

1997-98 Expenditure : Rs. 2.16 crore

(7) Coastal Community Programmes :

- Shore stations set up in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and South Goa and Walkie-talkies and accessories distributed to fisherfolk for two way communication between shore and fishing vessel
- Extension of this programme to other areas viz. West Bengal, Orissa, Maharashtra, North Goa and the Union Territories of A & N Islands, Lakshadweep and the Pondicherry, initiated.
- A scheme to develop an Integrated Fish Finder-cum-Navigation Guidance System (IFFNGS) was taken up for implementation to help fishermen to fix the position of the fishing vessel in the sea and locate fish shoals. 50 numbers of IFFNGS distributed to fishermen in the coastal States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Goa.
- Supporting a multi-disciplinary project in A & N Islands to understand the resources, ecology and environmental aspects of coastal and Marine ecosystem.
- Demonstration of scientific method of Shrimp culture in acid sulphate soil completed in A & N Islands.
- Mixed culture of finfish in cages was demonstrated to the local community.
- A project for rejuvenation of coral reefs in A & N Islands taken up.

Eighth Plan Expenditure : Rs. 4.14 crore

1997-98 Expenditure : Rs. 1.92 crore

(8) Ocean Awareness :

- About 50 seminars, symposia, workshops were provided financial assistance. Three seminars relating to Ocean sciences were organised in Hindi.
- Exhibitions relating to Oceans were organised at several Universities, Institutions and Vigyan Melas. The Department also put up an integrated display of Department's activities in 'Made in India' Fair held at Johannesburg, South Africa and in the Expo'98 held at Lisbon, Portugal bearing the theme "Oceans—A Heritage for the Future".

- Provision of technical support for establishing an oceanarium at Goa.

Eighth Plan Expenditure : Rs. 0.80 crore

1997-98 Expenditure : Rs. 0.15 crore

(9) International Cooperation :

- Participated in Programmes like Global Ocean Observing System, Global Flux Studies and International Oceanographic Data, Information and Exchange, Land Ocean Interaction in Coastal Zone, World Ocean Circulation Experiment. The programmes help in exchanging oceanographic data required for climate modeling at regional and global levels.
- Implementing a Regional Seas Programme dealing with protection of marine environment in South Asian Seas Region—initiated by United Nations Environment Programme.

Eighth Plan Expenditure : Rs. 3.49 crore

1997-98 Expenditure : Rs. 0.96 crore

(10) Infrastructure and Ships :

National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai

National Institute of Ocean Technology undertook four technology mission mode programmes on Ocean Energy, Deep Sea Technology and Ocean Mining, Coastal and Environmental Engineering and marine Instrumentation.

Ocean Energy

- Improved power module of 55 KW peak capacity with two turbines and a central common variable speed induction generator developed and connected to the Kerala State Electricity Board grid at Vizhinjam. Performance evaluation carried out.
- Studies to configure an energy conversion device for long term reliable power generation from wave energy, were taken up.
- Feasibility report for a mini-tidal power plant of 3 MW capacity completed.
- Technology survey and update for the feasibility study of 1 MW experimental OTEC plant on a floating platform.

Deep Sea Technology and Ocean Mining

- To lift crushed polymetallic nodules from sea-bed, a slurry pumping system using high pressure high flow clean water jets designed and fabricated.

- Remotely operated underwater robotic arm capable of collecting samples/articles from ocean bed and operating valves in underwater pipelines upto 250 metre water depth is designed. Fabrication for integration and testing with the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) commenced.

Coastal and Environmental Engineering

- A finite element model for estimating the wave parameters in the near shore region incorporating wave refraction, diffraction, reflection, shoaling and breaking developed.
- Mode for assessing sustainable development of brackishwater aquaculture in a creek with known bathymetry and tidal variation validated with data from Varaha and Sarada river creek near Visakhapatnam.
- Estimate of coastal inundation due to tropical cyclone initiated incorporating coastal topography, near-shore bathymetry and storm surge predictions.

Marine Instrumentation

- Acoustic tide gauge designed, fabricated and tested.
- Wave rider buoy with strapdown accelerometer for wave measurement designed and fabricated.
- Remotely operated instrument floating platform designed.

Research Vessels

- FORV Sagar Sampada and ORV Sagar Kanya the multi-disciplinary vessels of DOD undertook cruises which have helped in locating some of the under-exploited and potentially rich deep oceanic resources.

NIOT

Eighth Plan Expenditure : Rs. 11.84 crore •

1997-98 Expenditure : Rs. 8.25 crore

Sagar Sampada & Sagar Kanya

Eighth Plan (Non-Plan) Expenditure : Rs. 67.86 crore

1997-98 Non-Plan Expenditure : Rs. 15.05 crore

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the economic and physical targets fixed for the ocean development in Eighth Five Year Plan. Has only help from foreign countries been taken for this purpose? If so, name of those countries and also the economic and physical targets achieved during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : We have begun to use the vast seashore resources of the coastal length of 8,000 k.m. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There are other hon. Members. They have to put questions. We have to complete the questions. After that, if there is time, I will call you.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : In response to the hon. Member's question, I would like to answer that the allotted fund in the 8th Plan was Rs. 200 crore and for 1997-98 Plan and non-Plan, it is about Rs. 1.06 crore. As mentioned in the detailed answer given to the hon. Member, we have improved a lot under the various schemes like Polar (Antarctic) Science, Marine Non-Living Resources, Marine Living Resources, Ocean Observations and Information Services, Marine Environment and Coastal Zone, Coastal Community Programmes, and International Cooperation and Ocean Awareness. I would like to tell the House that we are using the deep sea ocean resources for energy apart from fish and that about 100 tonnes of polymetallic nodules were taken from the seas and they are very useful to our country. Some valuable drugs could be produced from the organisms in the sea. We have got assistance of about Rs. 14 crore from Norway for National Data Buoy Programme, of which about Rs. 3.70 crore was received as external aid.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : What steps have been taken by the Union Govt. till date for the exploration of nodules in the ocean? Has any special achievement been made in this regard?

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : I have already told the hon. Member that we are exploring metal resources and about 100 tonnes of poly-metallic nodules were taken from the ores of the Indian Ocean.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rs. 200 crores have been spent till date. I would like to know the amount spent on the ocean development on Mumbai and Konkan coastal belt of Maharashtra? We have talked to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, other Ministers and also the officials of your department about the new rule framed by you. Is there any technical difficulty in it? People face difficulties in building their houses and

hutments there. Are you going to take immediate action on the plan formulated by the Chief Minister in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can send a written reply.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : I will get the details and supply the information to the hon. Member.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Allocation for Agriculture and Allied Sectors

*206. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers from several associations all over the country have collectively asked the Government to reserve sixty per cent of the Central Budget for the allocation of agriculture and allied sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. No such representation has been received by the Government.

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

Finalisation of Ninth Five Year Plan

*207. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in the finalisation of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the time by which the Plan is likely to be finalised;

(c) whether any major changes have been visualised in the draft on the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any concrete measures have been included and specific financial allocations have been made/proposed to be made for the economic and educational development of the minorities; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year

Plan was approved unanimously by the National Development Council (NDC) in its meeting held on 16th January, 1997. The Internal Planning Commission undertook the exercise of working out details of the Ninth Plan, within the framework of the Approach Paper adopted by the National Development Council. The draft Ninth Five Year Plan, 1997-2002, approved at the internal meetings of the Planning Commission was released on March 1, 1998 by the then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. This Plan is yet to be considered by the National Development Council.

(c) and (d) The Government decided to review this Draft so as to suitably reflect the altered priorities, as enunciated in the National Agenda for Governance. Detailed action plans are already under preparation which will, upon finalisation, be integrated with the existing draft. This revised document will then be submitted, through due process, for consideration and approval of the National Development Council in due course.

(e) and (f) Empowerment of socially disadvantaged groups including Minorities as agents of socio-economic change and development is one of the main objectives as given in the Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan. Several Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes are in operation for the economic and educational development of the minorities. The details of the financial allocations during 1998-99 for some of these schemes are as follows:

(i) Pre-examination coaching for Weaker Sections based on economic criteria (Rs. 2 crore); (ii) Grant-in-aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation (Rs. 30 crore); (iii) share Capital to National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (Rs. 41 crore); (iv) Multi-Sectoral Plans for Minority Concentration Districts (Rs. 10 crore); (v) Area intensive programme for educationally backward minorities (Rs. 13 crore); and (vi) Modernisation of Madarsa Education (Rs. 7 crore).

Narmada Control Authority

*208. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Review Committee of Narmada Control Authority regarding Sardar Sarovar project as per orders passed by the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to shift the affected families of the said project;

(d) if so, the total number of families which have been shifted so far and are likely to be shifted;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of the action plan worked out by the Government for timely completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) In the matter of Civil Writ Petition No. 319/94 filed by Narmada Bachao Andolan in April, 1994 in the Supreme Court in its Order dated 5.5.1995 ordered that the effective height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam be maintained at Elevation 81.5 metre for the time being. During the course of further hearing of the matter the Court in its Order dated 12.3.1996 had considered it appropriate to defer the hearing of the matter for the time being to enable resolution of the differences between the different States according to the machinery provided for the purpose. In pursuance of the said Order, a special meeting of the Review Committee for Narmada Control Authority was held on 15.7.1996 followed by a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the party States with the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 15th and 16th July, 1996 on Sardar Sarovar Project wherein the following was agreed to:—

"Construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam may proceed as planned, limiting the Full Reservoir level to 132.68 metres (436 feet) in the first instance. Thereafter the data for actual flow of water in the dam will be observed for a period of five years. If during any three out of these five years, the flow of water-discharge is adequate as assessed in the award, the decision regarding raising the reservoir level to 138.68 metres (455 feet) could be considered.

Construction of the dam will proceed pari-passu with the resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected persons as per terms of the Award and relief and rehabilitation Policies laid down by the States in this regard. The States shall ensure speedy and proper implementation of the relief and rehabilitation measures."

Subsequently during the 7th meeting of Review Committee for Narmada Control Authority, held on 13th November, 1996 it was decided that the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam be raised upto EL 110 metres in the spillway portion during 1996-97 with the stipulation that the progress of the implementation of Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) measures would be reviewed at EL 81.5 metres with similar reviews for every 5 metre height of the Dam so that the construction work could progress pari-passu with the implementation of Resettlement & Rehabilitation measures.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 10,191 Project Affected Families have been settled upto April, 1998 and balance families likely to be shifted are 30,536.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The project scheduled to be completed by 2000 AD. However, completion of the project is dependent on the availability of funds and pari-passu implementation of Resettlement & Rehabilitation measures of Project Affected Families by the party States as per the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (N'WDT) Award.

[Translation]

Disputed Irrigation Projects

*209. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that water sharing disputes are going on among various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Union Government to resolve the disputes amicably and expeditiously?

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

(b) and (c) The Central Government endeavours to resolve inter-State water related disputes by encouraging negotiations, constituting Boards for development and regulation of Inter-State Rivers/River Valleys. Tribunals for adjudication of water disputes are set up on the request of any of the party States if the water disputes are not resolved otherwise.

Tribunals have been set up for adjudication of Godavari, Krishna, Narmada, Ravi-Beas and Cauvery Water Disputes. First three Tribunals have already given their final awards.

Further, the Ministry of Water Resources has also set up a Standing Committee under the National Water Resources Council for resolving inter-State issues in water resources.

Soil Erosion by Ganga

*210. SHRI HIRA LAL ROY :
KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several districts of Bihar and West Bengal are adversely affected due to soil erosion by the rivers of Ghaghra, Padma and Ganga;

(b) if so, whether any expert Committee has been set up by the Planning Commission to tackle the problem;

(c) whether measures recommended by the Committee are being implemented;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the problem of soil erosion is likely to be controlled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes Sir. Severe bank erosion by the river Ganga, called Padma in Bangladesh has affected several areas in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad in West Bengal. Bank erosion by river Ganga has also affected the districts of Buxar, Chhapra, Begusarai and Bhagalpur in Bihar. This phenomenon has also been observed at some reaches along the left bank of river Ghaghra in Bihar State.

(b) to (d) To examine the bank erosion problem of the river Ganga/Padma in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad in West Bengal. Planning Commission constituted an Experts' Committee in September, 1996 which submitted its report in December, 1996, recommending short term and long term measures, costing Rs. 315 crore and Rs. 612 crore respectively for tackling the erosion problem in various reaches lying upstream and downstream of the Farakka Barrage in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad. The long and short term measures were prioritised and the schemes were allocated between the Centre and the Government of West Bengal based on their respective jurisdiction for providing funds by the Planning Commission, and their execution subsequently.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) River behaviour and its management for large rivers like Ganga flowing through alluvial plains are not easily amenable for accurate predictions, and undertaking measures to remedy the problem due to bank erosion. Thus it is difficult to completely eliminate or to fix a definite time frame towards controlling bank erosion in such a large river.

Target and Production of Wheat

*211. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH :
SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of wheat this year is less than the targets fixed;

(b) the quantum of wheat estimated to be produced and the actual production thereof;

(c) the action being taken by the Government to meet the shortage of wheat;

(d) the impact of shortfall on wheat prices; and

(e) the target set and achieved for procurement of wheat by different Government agencies like Food Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Production of wheat during 1997-98 is likely to be 66.38 million tonnes as compared to the target of 68.50 million tonnes, thus showing a shortfall of 2.12 million tonnes.

(c) Action has been taken to import 1.5 million tonnes of wheat.

(d) and (e) The procurement of foodgrains under price support is voluntary in nature, since only the foodgrains offered by the farmers are procured by the Food Corporation of India/State Government agencies. As such, no targets for procurement are fixed. However, a substantial quantity of 11.96 million tonnes as on 5.6.1998 has been procured as against only 8.52 million tonnes procured as by this day last year. With sufficient stock available with the Government, the prices of wheat are very comfortable as reflected in only 3.2 per cent annual increase in the wholesale price Index of wheat for the week ending 23.5.98 as against 16.4 per cent during the corresponding period last year. The current year increase in wheat prices is also lower than the price increase of 6.5 per cent for all commodities.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

*212. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government now propose to sign CTBT after conducting nuclear tests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been pressure from the developed countries to sign CTBT;

(d) if so, the details of such nations;

(e) whether signing on CTBT is likely to adversely affect our further nuclear tests; and

(f) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government have announced that India will observe a voluntary moratorium and refrain from conducting underground nuclear test explosions. It has also indicated willingness to move towards de-jure formalisation of this declaration.

(c) and (d) Several developed countries such as USA,

France, United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Italy, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and others have called on India to sign the CTBT without any conditions.

(e) and (f) Under the CTBT, States Parties are prohibited from conducting "any nuclear test explosions or any other nuclear explosion". Government have already announced a voluntary moratorium on further underground nuclear test explosions. However, the series of tests conducted by India have provided us critical data for the validation of our capability, significantly enhanced our capability in computer simulation and enabled us to undertake sub-critical experiments in future, if considered necessary.

[English]

Electronic Industry

*213. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to form a "development council" for electronic industries to deal with its problems for both hardware and software sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its composition, aims and objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India, vide order published in the Gazette of India: Extraordinary S.O. 157(E) dated 2nd March, 1998 has established the Development Council for Electronics Industry for a period of two years in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 6 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, (85 of 1951), read with rules 3, 4 and 5 of the Development Councils (Procedural) Rules, 1952. The purpose of this Council is to provide a forum for considering the problems of the electronics industry and to suggest measures for future development of both hardware and software sector. The composition of the said Council is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Composition of Development Council for Electronics Industry

1. Secretary to the Government of India, — Chairman
Department of Electronics,
Electronics Niketan, CGO Complex,
New Delhi.
2. Secretary to the Government of India — Member

- Ministry of Commerce,
Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Secretary to the Government of India — Member
Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion,
Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Secretary to the Government of India — Member
Department of Telecommunication,
Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Secretary to the Government of India — Member
Department of Science and Technology,
Technology Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. Secretary to the Government of India — Member
Department of Small Scale and Agro
and Rural Industries, New Delhi.
7. Dr. N. Seshagari, — Member
Special Secretary and Director General,
National Informatics Centre,
Block 'A', CGO Complex, New Delhi.
8. Adviser (Industry and Minerals), — Member
Planning Commission,
Yogna Bhawan, New Delhi.
9. Managing Director, — Member
Punjab State Electronics Development
Ltd. (PSEDC),
Udyog Bhawan (5th Floor),
189, Himalaya Marg,
Sector 17, Chandigarh-160017.
10. Chairman and Managing Director, — Member
Bharat Electronics Ltd.,
116/2, Race Course Road.
11. Chairman and Managing Director, — Member
Computer Maintenance Corporation Ltd.,
1, Ring Road, Kilokari,
Opp. Maharani Bagh, New Delhi.
12. Chairman and Managing Director, — Member
Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.,
45/1, Margrath Road,
New Delhi.
13. President, — Member
Consumer Electronics and Television
Manufacturers Association (CETMA),
J-13, Jangpura Extension,
New Delhi-110014.
14. President, — Member
Electronic Component Industries
Association (ELCINA), ELCINA House,
422, Okhla Industrial Area,
New Delhi-110020.
15. President, — Member
National Association of Software and
Service Companies (NASSCOM),
109, Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi-110021.
16. President, — Member
Manufacturers Association for
Information Technology (MAIT),
4th Floor, PHD House,
Opp. Asiad Village Complex,
New Delhi-110016.
17. President, — Member
Computer Society of India (CSI),
122 TV Industrial Estate,
S.K. Ahire Marg, Worli,
Mumbai-400025.
18. President, — Member
Confederation of Indian Industries (CII),
23-26, Institutional Area,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.
19. Chairman, — Member
Electronics and Computers Software
Export Promotion Council (ESC),
3rd Floor, PHD House,
Opp. Asian Games Village,
New Delhi-110016.
20. Mr. Vijay Thadani, — Member
President & CEO,
NIIT Ltd.,
C-125, NIIT House, Okhla Phase-I,
New Delhi-110020.
21. Mr. Gopal Srinivasan, — Member
Director,
TVS Electronics Ltd.,
Jayalakshmi Estate,
8, Haddows Road,
Chennai-600006.
22. Mr. Shiv Nadar, — Member
Chairman,
Hindustan Computers Ltd.,
A-10 & 11, Sector 3,
NOIDA.
23. Mr. J.C. Kapoor, — Member
Chairman,
Danfoss (India) Ltd.,
706/707, Surya Kiran Building,
9, Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi-110001.
24. Mr. Gurpreet Singh, — Member
Continental Devices India Ltd.,
20-A, Aurangzeb Road,
New Delhi-110001.

25. Shri O.N. Vaid, — Member
Joint Secretary, Secretary
Department of Electronics,
Electronics Niketan,
6, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-110003.

(b) The Union Government does not hold stocks of urea or other fertilizers. The price of urea was Rs. 3660 per tonne upto the 1st June 1998. The maximum retail prices for decontrolled fertilizers announced by the Union Government for Kharif 1998 are as under:

(Rupees per tonne)

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) | 8300 |
| Muriate of Potash (MOP) | 3700 |
| Complexes (Various grades) | 6200 to 8000 |

*214. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and varieties of fertilizers demanded by each State Government during each of the last two years and the current year for both Kharif and Rabi seasons separately, State-wise;

(b) the stock of various fertilizers with the Union Government and their market price at present;

(c) whether the Government have announced the revised rate of subsidy on fertilizers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total amount of subsidy provided by the Government during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under statutory price control and for which assessment of demand and allocations are made. A Statement indicating the State-wise assessed demand from Kharif 1996 to Kharif 1998 season vis-a-vis consumption of urea from Kharif 1996 to Rabi 1997-98 is enclosed. The assessment of urea demand for Rabi is normally made in August-September.

(c) and (d) The urea manufacturers are compensated through payment of subsidy (the difference between the retention price and the selling price minus distribution margin) under the scheme known as Retention price-cum-subsidy scheme. In case of imported urea, the difference between the cost of imports and the selling price is borne by the Government of India as subsidy. Any change in the selling price or the retention price/import price results in change in the rate of subsidy. Government has not announced any revised rate of concession for the decontrolled fertilizers.

(e) The subsidy on fertilizers is paid to the manufacturers and importers of fertilizers and not to the State Governments. A statement of subsidy paid during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in Crore)

| | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Urea Indigenous | 4300 | 4743 | 6600 |
| Urea (Imported) | 1935 | 1162 | 729 |
| Decontrolled fertilizers | 500 | 1672 | 2596 |

Statement

Assessed Requirement and Consumption of Urea

(In '000 tonnes)

| Serial No. | State | Kharif 1996 | | Rabi 1996-97 | | Kharif 1997 | | Rabi 1997-98 | | Kharif 1998 |
|------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| | | Assess-ment | Consump-tion | Assess-ment | Consump-tion | Assess-ment | Consump-tion | Assess-ment | Estimated Consumption | Assess-ment |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 953.50 | 935.06 | 1020.00 | 997.03 | 985.00 | 830.04 | 1020.00 | 822.46 | 980.00 |
| 2. | Karnataka | 525.00 | 501.70 | 364.80 | 310.70 | 550.00 | 542.19 | 366.00 | 335.00 | 590.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 3. | Kerala | 69.17 | 66.05 | 63.70 | 56.55 | 80.00 | 64.68 | 63.36 | 52.99 | 72.00 |
| 4. | Tamil Nadu | 390.00 | 313.69 | 505.00 | 489.81 | 340.00 | 326.25 | 550.00 | 500.00 | 375.00 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 620.00 | 546.70 | 500.00 | 505.03 | 605.00 | 547.82 | 615.00 | 632.32 | 600.00 |
| 6. | Madhya Pradesh | 620.00 | 559.79 | 686.00 | 624.32 | 695.00 | 639.08 | 750.00 | 750.00 | 700.00 |
| 7. | Maharashtra | 1100.00 | 1035.84 | 610.00 | 579.73 | 1100.00 | 1048.05 | 635.00 | 631.00 | 1125.00 |
| 8. | Rajasthan | 450.00 | 398.80 | 650.00 | 658.58 | 480.00 | 421.24 | 750.00 | 750.00 | 485.00 |
| 9. | Goa | 5.35 | 2.47 | 1.80 | 1.79 | 4.50 | 2.41 | 2.20 | 1.89 | 4.50 |
| 10. | Haryana | 550.00 | 541.60 | 750.00 | 672.26 | 580.00 | 551.05 | 750.00 | 750.00 | 600.00 |
| 11. | Punjab | 1075.00 | 896.53 | 1050.00 | 980.84 | 980.00 | 941.09 | 1030.00 | 1051.16 | 1000.00 |
| 12. | Uttar Pradesh | 2070.00 | 1976.08 | 2550.00 | 2467.30 | 2120.00 | 2073.89 | 2700.00 | 2600.00 | 2225.00 |
| 13. | Himachal Pradesh | 30.00 | 27.05 | 22.00 | 18.49 | 30.00 | 25.50 | 22.00 | 21.46 | 30.00 |
| 14. | Jammu and Kashmir | 70.00 | 36.47 | 42.00 | 36.06 | 62.25 | 47.21 | 43.00 | 42.03 | 75.00 |
| 15. | Delhi | 10.50 | 10.74 | 24.00 | 26.28 | 11.55 | 10.62 | 30.00 | 28.07 | 13.50 |
| 16. | Bihar | 660.00 | 672.02 | 650.00 | 619.76 | 725.00 | 643.33 | 700.00 | 655.46 | 700.00 |
| 17. | Orissa | 340.00 | 205.66 | 138.50 | 100.59 | 300.00 | 259.82 | 158.00 | 160.00 | 325.00 |
| 18. | West Bengal | 440.00 | 392.00 | 610.00 | 569.82 | 430.00 | 396.99 | 625.00 | 625.00 | 460.00 |
| 19. | Assam | 35.00 | 31.85 | 33.00 | 35.41 | 40.00 | 37.63 | 46.00 | 45.01 | 50.00 |
| 20. | Tripura | 8.68 | 5.45 | 7.42 | 6.08 | 13.00 | 5.98 | 12.00 | 13.01 | 12.00 |
| 21. | Manipur | 23.25 | 21.00 | 7.00 | 3.04 | 23.35 | 18.88 | 5.50 | 4.83 | 23.00 |
| 22. | Meghalaya | 2.50 | 2.21 | 2.75 | 2.19 | 3.00 | 2.43 | 3.00 | 2.11 | 3.00 |
| 23. | Nagaland | 0.50 | 0.45 | 0.35 | 0.16 | 0.50 | 0.36 | 0.50 | 0.40 | 0.50 |
| 24. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0.27 | 0.24 | 0.30 | 0.31 | 0.27 | 0.25 | 0.35 | 0.32 | 0.35 |
| 25. | Mizoram | 0.40 | 0.24 | 0.40 | 0.18 | 0.55 | 0.26 | 0.50 | 0.58 | 0.40 |
| 26. | Sikkim | 2.00 | 0.86 | 0.45 | 0.16 | 0.90 | 0.38 | 0.45 | 0.33 | 0.50 |
| All India | | 10084.14 | 8227.67 | 10344.28 | 9796.81 | 10187.94 | 9479.08 | 10917.92 | 10528.72 | 10479.69 |

Combating Terrorism

*215. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have decided to root out terrorism between the two countries;

(b) whether the Bangladesh Foreign Minister recently visited India and had discussions with the Indian Government;

(c) if so, whether the Bangladesh authorities in the recent past have taken steps to demolish militant sanctuaries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) to (d) : Matters relating to terrorism have been discussed with the Government of Bangladesh within the overall framework of discussions on security related issues between the two countries. Bangladesh and India have agreed to work together to counter terrorism and have stated that they would not permit their respective territories to be used for any activities targetted against the other.

2. The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh visited India on 20-24 April 1998 as a Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. During his discussions, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh reiterated that his Government would not allow Bangladesh territory to be used for anti-India activities.

Per Capita Amount

*216. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita amount allocated for agricultural and rural development during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount sought by State Governments and approved by Planning Commission for this purpose during the above period, State-wise;

(c) whether the State Governments have been allocated less amount; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) The total Plan outlay of the States are decided through mutual discussions between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the respective Chief Ministers/ Governors keeping in view the availability of resources which consist of Central support and States' own resources. The sector-wise allocations within the total plan outlay are proposed by the States and finalised in consultation with the Planning Commission keeping in view their priorities and the overall objectives of the Five Year Plans and these are not decided on a per capita basis. Therefore, the question of allocating less outlays for particular sectors to the States does not arise. A Statement-I indicating the State-wise allocations for Agriculture and Rural Development for the State plans as decided on the basis of mutual discussions for the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is enclosed. State-wise outlays for Agriculture and Rural Development sectors divided by respective population of the States for the census year 1991 are shown in the attached Statement-II. Besides the outlays for different sectors for the State Plans, outlays are also allocated for Central Ministries on the basis of inter se priority of different sectors and total resource availability in consultation with the concerned Ministries. These outlays are also not decided on a per capita basis. The details of Central sector outlay for Agriculture and Rural Development sectors during the last three years are in the attached Statement-III.

Statement-I

Annual Plans—1995-96 to 1997-98—Originally Approved Outlay for State Plans

(Rs. in Crore)

| Sl. No. | States/UTs | Agriculture & Allied Activities | | | Rural Development | | |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|-------------------|---------|---------|
| | | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 72.00 | 64.48 | 128.40 | 143.00 | 241.96 | 230.00 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 49.70 | 52.14 | 60.81 | 19.38 | 20.18 | 23.93 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|----------------|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 3. | Assam | 166.00 | 159.53 | 162.88 | 96.00 | 132.41 | 131.28 |
| 4. | Bihar | 155.43 | 80.58 | 92.28 | 385.56 | 726.68 | 826.41 |
| 5. | Goa | 11.19 | 11.91 | 8.79 | 3.15 | 3.06 | 2.70 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 189.48 | 255.72 | 317.62 | 167.17 | 182.55 | 200.59 |
| 7. | Haryana | 89.64 | 108.80 | 105.13 | 34.27 | 35.42 | 57.00 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 107.69 | 121.85 | 132.84 | 25.32 | 39.19 | 48.60 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 110.11 | 117.65 | 152.00 | 32.44 | 44.69 | 60.37 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 237.35 | 254.46 | 208.93 | 190.55 | 276.41 | 232.18 |
| 11. | Kerala | 207.25 | 243.20 | 207.27 | 76.00 | 191.19 | 91.56 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 213.83 | 319.95 | 337.93 | 314.04 | 317.68 | 379.59 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 435.72 | 535.57 | 313.14 | 488.57 | 1002.95 | 717.42 |
| 14. | Manipur | 26.63 | 24.85 | 26.58 | 12.97 | 11.17 | 11.73 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 38.12 | 40.37 | 40.37 | 18.30 | 21.25 | 21.57 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 21.90 | 24.98 | 28.48 | 37.35 | 39.15 | 38.45 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 21.10 | 21.10 | 22.63 | 34.14 | 39.45 | 41.12 |
| 18. | Orissa | 170.83 | 135.06 | 121.61 | 185.28 | 220.02 | 132.89 |
| 19. | Punjab | 107.89 | 104.79 | 74.12 | 46.48 | 100.72 | 109.33 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 317.40 | 314.58 | 316.98 | 196.74 | 276.36 | 287.25 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 19.42 | 21.80 | 37.80 | 9.76 | 10.22 | 10.04 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 265.65 | 334.27 | 342.75 | 145.10 | 302.23 | 437.55 |
| 23. | Tripura | 47.58 | 36.50 | 33.29 | 35.55 | 32.72 | 72.79 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 396.07 | 504.10 | 510.45 | 459.93 | 1047.33 | 857.06 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 102.78 | 119.58 | 150.58 | 154.93 | 254.60 | 254.95 |
| Total (States) | | 3580.76 | 4007.82 | 3933.66 | 3311.98 | 5569.59 | 5276.36 |

Statement-II*State-wise Outlays Divided by Respective Population of the States for the Census year 1991**(in Rupees)*

| Sl. No. | States/UTs | Annual Plan—1985-86 | | Annual Plan—1996-97 | | Annual Plan — 1997-98 | |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Agriculture & Allied Activities | Rural Development | Agriculture & Allied Activities | Rural Development | Agriculture & Allied Activities | Rural Development |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 11 | 20 | 10 | 36 | 19 | 34 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 570 | 222 | 598 | 231 | 697 | 274 |
| 3. | Assam | 74 | 43 | 71 | 59 | 72 | 58 |
| 4. | Bihar | 18 | 44 | 9 | 84 | 11 | 95 |
| 5. | Goa | 95 | 27 | 101 | 26 | 75 | 23 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 46 | 40 | 62 | 44 | 76 | 48 |
| 7. | Haryana | 54 | 21 | 66 | 21 | 63 | 34 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 207 | 49 | 234 | 75 | 255 | 93 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 142 | 42 | 151 | 57 | 195 | 78 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 52 | 42 | 56 | 61 | 46 | 51 |
| 11. | Kerala | 71 | 26 | 83 | 65 | 71 | 31 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 32 | 47 | 48 | 48 | 51 | 57 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 55 | 61 | 67 | 126 | 39 | 90 |
| 14. | Manipur | 144 | 70 | 134 | 60 | 144 | 63 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 213 | 102 | 226 | 119 | 226 | 121 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 314 | 536 | 358 | 562 | 409 | 552 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 173 | 279 | 173 | 323 | 185 | 336 |
| 18. | Orissa | 54 | 58 | 42 | 69 | 38 | 42 |
| 19. | Punjab | 53 | 23 | 51 | 49 | 36 | 54 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 72 | 44 | 71 | 62 | 72 | 65 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 473 | 237 | 530 | 249 | 920 | 244 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 47 | 26 | 60 | 54 | 61 | 78 |
| 23. | Tripura | 171 | 128 | 131 | 118 | 120 | 262 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 28 | 33 | 36 | 75 | 38 | 61 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 15 | 23 | 17 | 37 | 22 | 37 |
| Total (States) | | 80 | 66 | 88 | 98 | 93 | 97 |

Statement-III**Central Sector Outlays for Agriculture and Rural Development**

| (Rs. in crore) | |
|--|---|
| Year | Central Sector (BE) (including all UTs) |
| 1 | 2 |
| AGRICULTURE & ALLIED ACTIVITIES | |
| 1995-96 | 2144.00 |
| 1996-97 | 2080.47 |
| 1997-98 | 2050.42 |
| RURAL DEVELOPMENT | |
| 1995-96 | 8310.00 |
| 1996-97 | 8692.00 |
| 1997-98 | 9095.70 |

[Translation]

Irrigation Facilities in Hilly Areas

*217. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is under the consideration of the Government for providing irrigation facilities in the hilly areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) There are no major & medium irrigation projects under the consideration of the Union Government in the hilly areas. So far as the Minor Irrigation Schemes are concerned, such schemes do not require clearance from the Union Government and they are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments. The details of such minor irrigation schemes are, therefore, not maintained by the Central Government.

Technology Mission on Dairy Development

*218. SHRI V.K. KHANDELWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced technology mission on dairy development;

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

(c) the progress made in the dairy sector since introduction of technology mission, State-wise;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to get the desired results from this mission;

(e) funds allocated/spent during the last three years for this mission, State-wise; and

(f) efforts being made to bring remaining States/Union Territories under the purview of technology mission for the improvement of Dairy industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Technology Mission on Dairy Development (TMDD) was introduced in the following sixteen states/UTs:

Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Pondicherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal. The major programmes initiated by the mission are strengthening of frozen semen stations, establishing linkages for providing animal breeding and health services, establishing communication facilities (Phones) in government veterinary dispensaries, liquid nitrogen storage and delivery system, fodder seed production programme and training of government officers.

(c) Cumulative progress made in dairy sector for the period upto 31.3.98 for key items, Statewise, is given in Statement-I.

(d) The Government of India had sanctioned Rs. 33.58 crores during the 8th Five Year Plan period and Rs. 3.98 crore during 1997-98 for implementing different components of the mission. The Empowered Committee of the mission chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, Government of India, constantly reviewed the progress of the mission implementation.

(e) Statement-II of funds allocated and released during last three years i.e., 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given.

(f) The TMDD was introduced in 16 major States/UT which had comparatively better potential for faster dairy development. Other States/UTs were offered other dairy development schemes.

Statement-I**Cumulative Progress of Key Dairying Indicators in TMDD States upto 31-3-98**

| S. No. | Names of States | No. of DCS in OF areas | | Daily Average Milk Procurement (TKGD) | | Daily Average Liquid Milk Marketing (TLPD) | | Processing Rural + Urban Capacity (TLPD) | |
|--------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | | Base as on Mar-87 | Progress as on 31-3-98 | Base as on Mar-87 | Progress as on 31-3-98 | Base as on Mar-87 | Progress as on 31-3-98 | Base as on Mar-87 | Progress as on 31-3-98 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 3633 | 5424 | 689.84 | 756.52 | 494.63 | 618.6 | 1312 | 2247 |
| 2. | Bihar | 1218 | 2763 | 76.13 | 211.42 | 70.33 | 244.11 | 287 | 584 |
| 3. | Goa | 87 | 155 | 11.1 | 25.08 | 21.29 | 70.68 | 30 | 75 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 8840 | 12086 | 2137.24 | 3989.22 | 902.33 | 1576.61 | 3021 | 6660 |
| 5. | Haryana | 3028 | 2630 | 145.18 | 197.41 | 77.3 | 62.11 | 315 | 530 |
| 6. | Himachal Pradesh | 136 | 254 | 11.08 | 15.26 | 9.28 | 21.34 | 20 | 300 |
| 7. | Karnataka | 3954 | 7823 | 689.04 | 1478.4 | 528.63 | 1311.71 | 880 | 2010 |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | 2565 | 4601 | 196.17 | 194.62 | 170.3 | 225.8 | 620 | 1030 |
| 9. | Maharashtra | 3370 | 6387 | 1676.76 | 2165.52 | 1365.41 | 2142.68 | 3430 | 3940 |
| 10. | Orissa | 391 | 1255 | 17.38 | 76.68 | 22.68 | 94.36 | 70 | 125 |
| 11. | Pondicherry | 64 | 82 | 19.36 | 30.23 | 14.01 | 35.79 | 30 | 50 |
| 12. | Punjab | 4561 | 6156 | 418.53 | 734.18 | 109.12 | 373.79 | 900 | 1410 |
| 13. | Rajasthan | 4193 | 5374 | 455.79 | 660.83 | 109.62 | 354.69 | 850 | 1050 |
| 14. | Tamil Nadu | 5549 | 7686 | 775.8 | 1156.45 | 872.2 | 1375.53 | 1115 | 2421 |
| 15. | Uttar Pradesh | 5201 | 11613 | 354.33 | 669.36 | 165.5 | 366.7 | 385 | 1140 |
| 16. | West Bengal | 1144 | 1459 | 47.23 | 154.52 | 563.42 | 648.47 | 850 | 1510 |
| Total | | 47934 | 75748 | 7720.96 | 12515.7 | 5496.05 | 9522.97 | 14115 | 25082 |

Over all progress in the Country

| | Base as on 1987 | Progress as on 31-3-98 |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1. Milk Production (Million Tonnes) | 45.7 | 70.8 |
| 2. Per Capita availability (gms/day) | 164 | 204 |
| 3. Average Milk Yield (Litre per Annum) | | |
| Cow | 340 | 640 |
| Buffalo | 910 | 1020 |

TKGD : THOUSAND KILOGRAMS/DAY
TLPD : THOUSAND LITRES/DAY
DCS : DAIRY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

Statement-II**State-wise, Year-wise Allocation and Utilisation of Grant-in-Aid**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| STATE | FUND ALLOCATION UPTO | | | | | FUND UTILISATION UPTO | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | Total | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | Total |
| 1. Uttar Pradesh | 124.616 | 252.486 | 17.618 | 17.431 | 412.151 | 84.275 | 10.314 | 204.740 | 86.560 | 385.889 |
| 2. Karnataka | 137.612 | 347.244 | 219.602 | 28.888 | 733.346 | 83.838 | 8.000 | 574.595 | 31.228 | 697.661 |
| 3. Andhra Pradesh | 97.260 | 195.410 | 0.168 | 11.600 | 304.438 | 45.421 | 38.643 | 121.452 | 50.845 | 256.361 |
| 4. Gujarat | 38.595 | 352.605 | 236.890 | 28.531 | 654.621 | 21.663 | 63.237 | 463.300 | 88.820 | 637.020 |
| 5. Madhya Pradesh | 55.414 | 94.596 | 19.886 | 1.251 | 171.147 | 32.951 | 36.108 | 57.345 | 28.072 | 154.476 |
| 6. Tamil Nadu | 57.650 | 23.360 | 0.138 | 0.000 | 81.148 | 35.489 | 2.885 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 38.374 |
| 7. Punjab | 46.072 | 1.058 | 13.210 | 20.570 | 80.910 | 34.228 | 7.392 | 12.980 | 6.600 | 61.200 |
| 8. Orissa | 16.570 | 165.670 | 0.000 | 5.395 | 187.635 | 10.402 | 7.840 | 138.288 | 32.700 | 188.800 |
| 9. West Bengal | 7.066 | 273.034 | 4.600 | 2.690 | 287.390 | 1.652 | 3.154 | 257.617 | 15.500 | 277.923 |
| 10. Haryana | 38.12 | 95.018 | 2.410 | 1.800 | 137.540 | 15.560 | 13.079 | 101.623 | 0.000 | 130.262 |
| 11. Rajasthan | 27.478 | 51.164 | 7.914 | 16.950 | 103.506 | 10.071 | 8.269 | 70.278 | 5.540 | 94.158 |
| 12. Pondicherry | 2.230 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 2.320 | 2.070 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 2.070 |
| 13. Goa | 7.114 | 1.246 | 0.000 | 3.380 | 11.740 | 1.976 | 0.107 | 2.497 | 0.002 | 4.582 |
| 14. Bihar | 18.070 | 341.062 | 0.000 | 5.742 | 365.474 | 9.291 | 6.271 | 145.260 | 156.380 | 317.202 |
| 15. Maharashtra | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 8.500 | 8.580 | | | 0.000 | 0.110 | 0.110 |
| 16. Kerala | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 4.580 | 4.580 | | | 0.000 | 0.020 | 0.020 |
| 17. Himachal Pradesh | 0.000 | 157.00 | | | 157.000 | | | 157.000 | | 157.000 |
| Training (Central Activity) | 18.000 | 7.503 | 7.500 | 10.000 | 43.000 | 17.030 | 8.050 | 6.170 | 4.860 | 36.110 |
| | | | | | | | | | | 0.000 |
| Total | 690.749 | 2358.453 | 529.936 | 167.308 | 3746.446 | 405.917 | 213.349 | 2313.145 | 506.807 | 3439.218 |

[English]

Poultry Development

*219. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the problems including unfair market practices being faced by the poultry farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government are planning for new scientific technology to boost the production;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government propose to formulate a policy to provide remunerative price and better facilities to small poultry farmers;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the measures being taken by the Government to redress the grievances of small poultry farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Poultry and eggs are free market commodities and are governed by the usual open market practices.

(c) and (d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research operating an All India Coordinated Research Project on Poultry Breeding with components of poultry for eggs and for meat being operated through various Regional Centres in the country with the aim of developing and improving layer and broiler crosses for increased egg production and early higher body weight, respectively.

(e) and (f) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a Market Intervention Scheme of procurement of eggs to help the poultry farmers to get remunerative prices through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and the National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC) by sharing the losses if any incurred under the scheme between the Central Government and the National Egg Coordination Committee. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is making available quality chicks and ducklings through the four Central Poultry Breeding Farms and one Central Duck Breeding Farm for intum multiplication and distribution through State Poultry Farms. It is also providing training in poultry production through Central Poultry Training Institute and also by providing testing facilities for the performance of breeding stocks as also quality feed and feed ingredients through four Random Sample Poultry Performance Testing Centres and three Regional Feed Analytical Laboratories and Nutrition wing of Central Poultry Training Institute respectively.

(g) In view of answers for parts (a) to (f) above, the question does not arise.

Monetary Limit for Below Poverty Line

*220. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether State Governments have submitted a proposal to the Union Government to enhance the monetary limit for identification of persons below poverty line;
- (b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard;
- (c) the present monetary limit for identification of persons below poverty line;
- (d) the details of new formula likely to be adopted;
- (e) the number of persons living below poverty line, Statewise; and
- (f) the steps proposed to be taken to raise them above poverty line during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received by the Planning Commission. However, the poverty line is periodically updated for changes in the costs of the consumption basket of the poor on the basis of the appropriate consumer price indices.

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission assesses the persons living below the poverty line on the basis of a poverty cut-off point defined in terms of monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. The rural and urban poverty lines of 1973-74 at national level are disaggregated into state specific poverty lines using inter-state price differential of the year. These state-specific rural poverty lines are updated by consumer price index of Agricultural Labourers and urban poverty lines by the consumer price index of industrial workers. The state-specific poverty lines for 1993-94 are given in the Statement-I.

(e) The latest State-wise estimates of percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line are available for the year 1993-94. These are estimated from the consumer expenditure survey of the 50th round of

the National Sample Survey Organisation. These estimates are enclosed in Statement-II.

(f) The anti-poverty asset generation programmes such as the Integrated Rural Development Programme and Wage employment generation programmes such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme, Nehru Rozgar Yojana etc., are expected to reduce the disparity between rich and poor by raising the income of the poor over and above the effects arising out of the general growth process.

Statement-I

Poverty lines as per the new official methodology—1993-94

(Rs. monthly per capita)

| States | Rural | Urban |
|----------------------|--------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. Andhra Pradesh | 163.02 | 278.14 |
| 2. Arunachal Pradesh | . | . |
| 3. Assam | 232.05 | 212.42 |
| 4. Bihar | 212.16 | 238.49 |
| 5. Goa | 194.94 | 328.56 |
| 6. Gujarat | 202.11 | 297.22 |
| 7. Haryana | 233.79 | 258.23 |
| 8. Himachal Pradesh | 233.79 | 253.61 |
| 9. Jammu & Kashmir | . | . |
| 10. Karnataka | 186.63 | 302.89 |
| 11. Kerala | 243.84 | 280.54 |
| 12. Madhya Pradesh | 193.10 | 317.16 |
| 13. Maharashtra | 194.94 | 328.56 |
| 14. Manipur | . | . |
| 15. Meghalaya | . | . |
| 16. Mizoram | . | . |
| 17. Nagaland | . | . |
| 18. Orissa | 194.03 | 298.22 |
| 19. Punjab | 233.79 | 253.61 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|
| 20. Rajasthan | 215.89 | 280.85 |
| 21. Sikkim | . | . |
| 22. Tamil Nadu | 186.53 | 296.63 |
| 23. Tripura | . | . |
| 24. Uttar Pradesh | 213.01 | 258.65 |
| 25. West Bengal | 220.74 | 247.53 |
| 26. Andaman & Nicobar | . | . |
| 27. Chandigarh | . | . |
| 28. Dadar & Nagar Haveli | 194.94 | 328.56 |
| 29. Daman & Diu | . | . |
| 30. Delhi | 233.79 | 309.48 |
| 31. Lakshadweep | . | . |
| 32. Pondicherry | . | . |
| All India # | 205.84 | 281.35 |

* In the Expert Group, poverty ratios for these states have not been calculated separately, but has been adopted from those of other states. The details are as follows:—

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island.
3. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.
4. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
6. In 1993-94, poverty Ratio of Himachal Pradesh is used for Jammu & Kashmir.
7. Since poverty ratio is estimated from the consumption expenditure distribution and the poverty line, it is preferable that the poverty lines of these states may be equated to that of the state whose poverty ratio is adopted.

The poverty line (implicit) at all-India level is worked out from the expenditure class-wise distribution of persons and the poverty ratio at all-India level. The poverty ratio at all-India level is obtained as the weighted average of the state-wise poverty ratio.

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

| State | Rural | | Urban | | Combined | |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| | No. of Persons (Lakhs) | %age of Persons | No. of Persons (Lakhs) | %age of Persons | No. of Persons (Lakhs) | %age of Persons |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. Andhra Pradesh | 79.49 | 15.92 | 74.47 | 38.33 | 153.97 | 22.19 |
| 2. Arunachal Pradesh | 3.62 | 45.01 | 0.11 | 7.73 | 3.73 | 39.35 |
| 3. Assam | 94.33 | 45.01 | 2.03 | 7.73 | 96.36 | 40.86 |
| 4. Bihar | 450.86 | 58.21 | 42.49 | 34.50 | 493.35 | 54.96 |
| 5. Goa | 0.38 | 5.34 | 1.53 | 27.03 | 1.91 | 14.92 |
| 6. Gujarat | 62.16 | 22.18 | 43.02 | 27.89 | 105.19 | 24.21 |
| 7. Haryana | 36.56 | 28.02 | 7.31 | 16.38 | 43.88 | 25.05 |
| 8. Himachal Pradesh | 15.40 | 30.34 | 0.46 | 9.18 | 15.86 | 28.44 |
| 9. Jammu & Kashmir | 19.05 | 30.34 | 1.86 | 9.18 | 20.92 | 25.17 |
| 10. Karnataka | 95.99 | 29.88 | 60.46 | 40.14 | 156.46 | 33.16 |
| 11. Kerala | 55.95 | 25.76 | 20.46 | 24.55 | 76.41 | 25.43 |
| 12. Madhya Pradesh | 216.19 | 40.64 | 82.33 | 48.38 | 298.52 | 42.52 |
| 13. Maharashtra | 193.33 | 37.93 | 111.90 | 35.15 | 305.22 | 36.86 |
| 14. Manipur | 6.33 | 45.01 | 0.47 | 7.73 | 6.80 | 33.78 |
| 15. Meghalaya | 7.09 | 45.01 | 0.29 | 7.73 | 7.38 | 37.92 |
| 16. Mizoram | 1.64 | 45.01 | 0.30 | 7.73 | 1.94 | 25.86 |
| 17. Nagaland | 4.85 | 45.01 | 0.20 | 7.73 | 5.05 | 37.32 |
| 18. Orissa | 140.90 | 49.72 | 19.70 | 41.64 | 160.60 | 48.56 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|--------|-------|---------|-------|
| 19. Punjab | 17.76 | 11.95 | 7.35 | 11.35 | 25.11 | 11.77 |
| 20. Rajasthan | 94.68 | 26.46 | 33.82 | 30.49 | 128.50 | 27.41 |
| 21. Sikkim | 1.81 | 45.01 | 0.03 | 7.73 | 1.84 | 41.43 |
| 22. Tamil Nadu | 121.70 | 32.48 | 80.40 | 39.77 | 202.10 | 35.03 |
| 23. Tripura | 11.41 | 45.01 | 0.38 | 7.73 | 11.79 | 39.01 |
| 24. Uttar Pradesh | 496.17 | 42.28 | 108.28 | 35.39 | 604.46 | 40.85 |
| 25. West Bengal | 209.90 | 40.80 | 44.66 | 22.41 | 254.56 | 35.66 |
| 26. Andaman & Nicobar | 0.73 | 32.48 | 0.33 | 39.77 | 1.06 | 34.47 |
| 27. Chandigarh | 0.07 | 11.35 | 0.73 | 11.35 | 0.80 | 11.35 |
| 28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 0.72 | 51.95 | 0.06 | 39.93 | 0.77 | 50.84 |
| 29. Daman & Diu | 0.03 | 5.34 | 0.15 | 27.03 | 0.18 | 15.80 |
| 30. Delhi | 0.19 | 1.90 | 15.32 | 16.03 | 15.51 | 14.69 |
| 31. Lakshadweep | 0.06 | 25.76 | 0.08 | 24.55 | 0.14 | 25.04 |
| 32. Pondicherry | 0.93 | 32.48 | 2.38 | 39.77 | 3.31 | 37.40 |
| All India | 2440.31 | 37.27 | 763.37 | 32.36 | 3203.68 | 35.97 |

- Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
- Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island.
- Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.
- Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
- Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
- Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
- Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
- Poverty Ratio of Himachal Pradesh is used for Jammu & Kashmir for 1993-94.

Sharing of Krishna Waters

221. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Minister of Urban Development had any discussion with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh regarding sharing of Krishna Water;

(b) if so, the details alongwith outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra is demanding to increase its share of water to meet the requirement of the State; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, has not met the present Union Minister of Urban Development regarding sharing of Krishna Water. However, the State of Andhra Pradesh has filed a petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India under Article 131 of the Constitution against the Government of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Union Government of India in the matter of violation of Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal Award by the States of Karnataka and Maharashtra. Similarly, the Government of Karnataka has also filed a suit in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Union Government of India regarding true interpretation, scope and extent of decision of the KWDT Award. The matter is thus at present subjudice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Services by Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau

2128. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been paying money to a British Institute previously called Imperial Agricultural Bureau now names the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau International for services rendered;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount being paid annually; and

(c) the details of services rendered by the said organisation and the manner in which those services are utilised by our country?

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

(b) During 1998-99, £ 11,920 (Eleven thousand nine hundred twenty pounds only) equivalent to Indian Rupees 8,01,701/- has been paid as annual membership contribution.

(c) India is one of the major users of Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau International Services which consist of :—

(i) scientific information on agriculture and related subjects,

(ii) identification services for harmful and beneficial arthropods, plant-parasitic nematodes, fungi and bacteria, and helminths, and

(iii) biological control of insects and weeds.

The CABI Services are being utilised for the identification in Entomology, Mycology, Nematology and Parasitology in India, control of selected targets insects and other pests with emphasis on biological control procedures. India also receive services in form of CABI Journals and Abstracts for Institutions and Libraries.

Krishnarajasagar Dam

2129. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge pit has been noticed near the Krishnarajasagar Dam in Karnataka;

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

(c) whether any study has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No such matter has been reported to the Centre.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Seed Growing Programme

2130. SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount provided by the Union Government to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the seed growing programme in Government agricultural farms during 1996-97;

(b) the amount of assistance proposed to be provided to the Government of Madhya Pradesh by the Union Government for the said programme during 1998-99; and

(c) the total number of Government agriculture farms running in losses in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) An amount of Rs. 1109.92 lakh was provided by the Government of India during 1996-97 to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the seed programme including seed production programme on agricultural farms.

(b) An amount of Rs. 1068.92 lakh has been earmarked for the seed programme during 1998-99.

(c) The State Government has intimated that 31 Government farms were in losses in 1995-96.

Taping of Rain Water

2131. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to explore the possibility to tap the rain water to solve the problem of water in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the technique being developed in the country to tap the rain water for human use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) In addition to construction of river valley projects since pre-plan period, the Government have launched National Watershed

Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPPRA) during the VIIIth Five Year Plan for integrated and holistic development of vast rainfed areas through watershed management approach. The project inter-alia supports such programme measures as soil and water conservation in arable and non-arable lands, drainage line treatment and production systems including household production and livestock farming. Under the soil and water conservation measures greatest importance is given to in-situ rain water conservation with a view to convert surface run-off into ground water recharge, which in turn is used for sustaining production systems in the treated watersheds.

(b) The details of physical targets vis-a-vis achievement under NWDPPRA during VIIIth Plan and area proposed to be treated during IXth Five Year Plan is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The various technical programme component for conservation of rain water under NWDPPRA include the following:

- Use of contour vegetative hedges, continuous contour trenches, loose boulder checks, gully plugging, use of filter strips etc. while treating the drainage lines.
- Besides rainwater is also conserved as a water harvesting structure, run off management structure, sunken ponds/dug outs, farm ponds etc.

Statement

Physical Status of NWDPPRA Implemented during VIIIth Plan and Status in IXth Plan

Physical Status (in Hectare)

| State/UT | Target of VIII Plan | Water-sheds taken by the States | Area covered under water-sheds | Actual area developed | Area Proposed to be taken during IX Plan suggested by the State | Area Proposed for treatment during IX Plan proposed by Min. of Agriculture |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 197150 | 94 | 191949 | 176939 | 554867 | 200000 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 2800 | 3 | 1970 | 1970 | 17419 | 12000 |
| Assam | 60200 | 110 | 104973 | 70221 | 125477 | 110000 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Bihar | 137200 | 191 | 98978 | 23189 | 190288 | 110000 |
| Goa | 3075 | 4 | 3808 | 2100 | 3250 | 3000 |
| Gujarat | 208025 | 168 | 334261 | 292579 | 633048 | 210000 |
| Haryana | 40600 | 5 | 18725 | 20272 | 39000 | 42000 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 14000 | 58 | 37240 | 34309 | 46294 | 18000 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 12050 | 44 | 22000 | 14044 | 84600 | 27000 |
| Karnataka | 250600 | 85 | 357607 | 485109 | 750000 | 250000 |
| Kerala | 54025 | 114 | 88276 | 88276 | 189102 | 60000 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 458375 | 385 | 749641 | 660202 | 1200000 | 430000 |
| Maharashtra | 455000 | 266 | 917900 | 879886 | 1799097 | 425000 |
| Manipur | 1975 | 5 | 6821 | 8682 | 65793 | 35000 |
| Meghalaya | 3925 | 8 | 4110 | 2877 | 24000 | 21000 |
| Mizoram | 1675 | 20 | 17666 | 18198 | 60632 | 40000 |
| Nagaland | 3625 | 28 | 14125 | 14510 | 80421 | 50000 |
| Orissa | 136350 | 258 | 388875 | 295000 | 867000 | 138000 |
| Punjab | 15950 | 13 | 19270 | 18035 | 34910 | 20000 |
| Rajasthan | 339950 | 204 | 533939 | 547931 | 1095556 | 340000 |
| Sikkim | 1675 | 12 | 7031 | 7626 | 23743 | 10000 |
| Tamil Nadu | 89025 | 88 | 175784 | 172657 | 342800 | 100000 |
| Tripura | 6175 | 17 | 7634 | 7694 | 53798 | 32000 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 208600 | 186 | 233295 | 303683 | 545000 | 210000 |
| Spl. Problem area | — | 16 | 94421 | — | — | — |
| West Bengal | 95250 | 165 | 150000 | 131000* | 400000 | 100000 |
| Dadar & Nagar Haveli | 575 | 3 | 692 | 84 | 1500 | 2000 |
| Andaman & Nicobar | 825 | 4 | 2669 | 1785 | 5828 | 5000 |
| Others | 700 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 2800000 | 2554 | 4584286 | 4278858 | 9138421 | 3000000 |

* Government of West Bengal has yet to furnish the final figures of expenditure and area treated during VIII Plan.

[English]

Cattle Breed

2132. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether many indigenous breeds of cattle have become extinct or fast declining threatening their existence;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) According to the information available with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Vechur (Kerala) and Punganur (Andhra Pradesh) cattle breeds have declined in population and are threatened as well as the Sahiwal and Red Sindhi breeds, major native tracts of which are not in India.

(b) and (c) Studies have been conducted by State Agricultural Universities in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh with respect to the Vechur and Punganur breeds of cattle.

(d) The ICAR has plans to cryopreserve semen/embryos of threatened cattle breeds through the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources etc.

Under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, assistance is provided to State Governments towards setting up/strengthening farms of indigenous breeds.

[Translation]

Policy on Livestock

2133. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of livestock is declining in the country during the last five years;

(b) if so, details thereof for the last two years alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated or propose to formulate any concrete work plan/policy for the development of livestock; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The inter-censal trend upto the last quinquennial livestock

census of 1992, does not show any decline in total livestock population in the country. The work relating to 1997 quinquennial livestock census is now in progress.

(c) and (d) For development of livestock, the Government has been implementing a number of Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Some of the important schemes are as follows:

(i) Extension of Frozen Semen Technology and Progeny Testing Programme.

(ii) National Bull Production Programme.

(iii) Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development.

(iv) National project on Rinderpest Eradication.

(v) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases.

(vi) National Ram/Buck/Rabbit Production Programme.

(vii) Assistance to States for Integrated Piggery Development.

(viii) Integrated Dairy Development Projects in Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas.

[English]

Participating Irrigation Management Programme

2134. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any review on the implementation of participating Irrigation Management Programme during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the problem faced and achievement made by the Participating Irrigation Management Programme during the above, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve these problems?

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

(b) Under Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme a provision existed for encouraging Participatory Irrigation Management by giving financial assistance of Rs. 275 per ha. as management subsidy to be paid in three years to Water Users Associations (WUAs). This was changed from 1.4.1996 to one time functional grant of Rs. 500 per ha to WUAs. Most of the WUAs were formed at the outlet command level with approximate command of 40 ha. These were not found to be viable. Efforts were made during the Eighth Plan to persuade the State Governments to form WUAs at the minor (canal) level which has command area of 500 to 1000 ha.

For the success of Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) it is necessary that:

(i) WUAs should have legal status and statutory functions and powers which necessitates amendment to State Irrigation Acts or enactment of a new Act. During the year 1997 the Government of Andhra Pradesh, enacted "Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Management of Irrigation System Act 1997" and held elections for WUAs under this Act. Government of Goa also enacted "The Goa Command Area Development Act, 1997" to provide for formation of WUAs. Other States have yet to take any action.

(ii) It is necessary that before or within a reasonable time of handing over of the systems to WUAs the irrigation system should be reasonably rehabilitated. Sufficient financial allocations are not available for this.

(iii) Sufficient funds are not available for training of farmers and officials of Irrigation Departments and for dissemination of information about PIM among them.

Details of achievements of participatory Irrigation Management statewise are given in the attached Statement.

(c) Water being a State subject, the role of Union Ministry of Water Resources is that of facilitator whereas the implementation of Participatory Irrigation Management has to be done by the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Water Resources have taken the following actions for the implementation of Participatory Irrigation Management

(i) Guidelines have been issued to States for implementation of Participatory Irrigation Management.

(ii) A series of conferences on Participatory Irrigation Management have been held at the National, State and Project levels to create mass awareness among officials and farmers.

(iii) Training course on Participatory process are being conducted for officers and farmers.

(iv) States have been advised to form High Level Working Groups to consider policy issues and guidelines of Participatory Irrigation Management.

(v) Ministry of Water Resources have prepared manuals on Participatory Irrigation Management in three regional languages for guidance of the State Governments.

(vi) A draft of model amendments to Irrigation Acts in order to give legal status to farmers' organisations has been prepared by the Ministry of Water Resources for circulation to States.

(vii) The Ministry of Water Resources has been vigorously disseminating information about Participatory Irrigation Management in various States and other countries to the State Governments and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

(viii) A Working Group on Participatory Irrigation Management for IX Plan was constituted by Planning Commission which has submitted its report which is under consultation with Planning Commission.

Statement

Details of Achievement of Participatory Irrigation Management

| Sl. No. | State | Number of Water Users' Associations (Hydraulic Level) | Approximate Command Area covered ('000 ha) |
|---------|------------------|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 10,292 (Minor) | 4700.00 |
| 2. | Assam | 2 (Minor) | 1.00 |
| 3. | Bihar | 1 (Distributary) | 12.20 |
| 4. | Goa | 39 (Minor) | 4.59 |
| 5. | Gujarat | (i) 71 (Minor) | 19.00 |
| | | (ii) 405 (Lift Irrigation Schemes) | |
| 6. | Haryana | 554 (Outlet) | 110.80 |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | 875 (Micro Schemes) | 35.00 |
| 8. | Karnataka | 193 (Minor) | 138.38 |
| 9. | Kerala | 3712 (Outer) | 148.48 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 65 (Minor) | 26.80 |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 142 (Minor) | 55.80 |
| 12. | Manipur | 62 (Minor) | 49.27 |
| 13. | Orissa | 53 (Minor) | 27.60 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| 14. Rajasthan | | 35 (Minor) | 15.93 |
| 15. Tamilnadu | | 328 (Minor) | 426.40 |
| 16. Uttar Pradesh | | 1 (Minor) | 0.25 |
| 17. West Bengal | 10,000 | (Tubewell) | 37.00 |

(In remaining 8 States i.e. Arunāchal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim and Tripura, no achievement has been made)

5808.50
Say, 5.81 million ha.

Reservoir Scheme of U.P

2135. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of reservoir schemes submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to the Union Government during each of the last three years till date;

(b) the number out of them approved and rejected by the Union Government during the said period, year-wise;

(c) the number of such schemes pending with the Union Government at present and their pendency period; and

(d) the time by which a decision on these schemes is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) During the last three years, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has submitted only one Reservoir Scheme namely Kishau Dam Project in October 1997.

(b) to (d) The Scheme is presently under appraisal with the various Central Agencies. Its clearance will depend upon how promptly the State Government complies with the observations of various Central Appraising Agencies.

[Translation]

Linseed-Mustard Research Centre

2136. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh during the year 1989 to set up Linseed-Mustard Research Centre in the State;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in taking the decision on the said proposal; and

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken?

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

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Question does not arise.

[English]

Area Under Wheat Cultivation

2137. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase areas under wheat cultivation during 1998-99;

(b) whether the Government also propose to promote wheat cultivation in the rice growing States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the Central assistance proposed to be extended to the States like Orissa for increasing wheat cultivation during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The Government is laying a major emphasis for the increase in the total cropped area including that of wheat mainly through increase in the cropping intensity. However, the scope for the increase in area under wheat is limited. The promotion of wheat cultivation as such, may not be feasible in most rice growing states because of the unfavourable agro-climatic conditions.

(d) There is no centrally sponsored scheme specifically for increasing the wheat cultivation in Orissa. However, to supplement the efforts of the state in increasing the production and productivity of cereals a centrally sponsored scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice)" is being implemented for which an allocation of Rs. 869.97 lakhs as central share, has been made for 1998-99. This includes the assistance for the wheat development programmes, together with rice and millets.

Gross Domestic Product

2138. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from First Five Year Plan to Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise and Plan-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : The estimates of State Domestic Product are prepared by the respective State Governments broadly following

the standard methodologies recommended by the Working Group on State Income which was set up by the Central Statistical Organisation in 1957. The estimates of Net State Domestic Product prepared by the State Government are available from 1960-61 onwards only on a uniform basis and the same are given in the Statement attached.

Statement

Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices

(Rs. in crores)

| Sl. No. | State/U.T. | I Plan | | II Plan | | III Plan | | | | | | |
|---------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | 1951-52 to 1955-56 | 1956-57 to 1959-60 | 1960-61 | 1961-62 | 1962-63 | 1963-64 | 1964-65 | 1965-66 | 1966-67 | 1967-68 | 1968-69 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | — | — | 983 | 1080 | 1118 | 1319 | 1510 | 1521 | 1783 | 2025 | 2043 |
| 2. | Assam | — | — | 336 | — | — | — | — | 494 | — | — | 696 |
| 3. | Bihar | — | — | 993 | 1031 | 1113 | 1277 | 1456 | 1676 | 1615 | 2050 | 2004 |
| 4. | Gujarat | — | — | 738 | 830 | 836 | 910 | 1114 | 1152 | 1338 | 1589 | 1511 |
| 5. | Haryana | — | — | 245 | — | — | — | — | 389 | 540 | 651 | 596 |
| 6. | Himachal Pradesh | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 171 | 189 |
| 7. | Jammu & Kashmir | — | — | 95 | 98 | 105 | 114 | 130 | 127 | 168 | 190 | 193 |
| 8. | Karnataka | — | — | 692 | 764 | 812 | 941 | 1086 | 1164 | 1426 | 1525 | 1631 |
| 9. | Kerala | — | — | 432 | 467 | 488 | 519 | 611 | 711 | 765 | 919 | 994 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | — | — | 807 | 849 | 856 | 1035 | 1203 | 1084 | 1242 | 1754 | 1646 |
| 11. | Maharashtra | — | — | 1597 | 1647 | 1812 | 2037 | 2266 | 2355 | 2759 | 3131 | 3323 |
| 12. | Manipur | — | — | 12 | 12 | 15 | 17 | 19 | 24 | 41 | 40 | 48 |
| 13. | Orissa | — | — | 374 | 404 | 501 | 582 | 652 | 640 | 787 | 885 | 965 |
| 14. | Punjab | — | — | 404 | — | — | — | — | 684 | 909 | 1055 | 1166 |
| 15. | Rajasthan | — | — | 559 | 631 | 622 | 648 | 848 | 825 | 1024 | 1191 | 981 |
| 16. | Tamil Nadu | — | — | 1112 | 1140 | 1168 | 1251 | 1404 | 1494 | 1751 | 1858 | 1926 |
| 17. | Tripura | — | — | 28 | 34 | 34 | 37 | 42 | 46 | 56 | 67 | 71 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
|-----|---------------|---|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | — | — | 1843 | 1936 | 2001 | 2221 | 2882 | 2986 | 3509 | 4073 | 3829 |
| 19. | West Bengal | — | — | 1339 | 1396 | 1499 | 1744 | 1929 | 2070 | 2828 | 2685 | 2748 |
| 20. | Delhi | — | — | 175 | 195 | 208 | 225 | 265 | 286 | 327 | 370 | 411 |

— Not made available by the concerned State Governments.

Source : Directorates of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments.

Note 1 : Owing to differences in methodology and source material used the figures for different States are not strictly comparable.

Note 2 : The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland and the Union Territories of Goa, Daman & Diu & Pondicherry did not prepare these estimates prior to 1970-71.

Note 3 : The Union Territories of Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh do not prepare these estimates.

Note 4 : The States of Mizoram & Sikkim and Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands have prepared these estimates only from 1980-81.

Statement

Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices

(Rs. in crores)

| S.No. | State/U.T. | IV Plan | | | | | V Plan | | | | | |
|-------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | 1969-70 | 1970-71 | 1971-72 | 1972-73 | 1973-74 | 1974-75 | 1975-76 | 1976-77 | 1977-78 | 1978-79 | 1979-80 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 2196 | 2523 | 2758 | 2948 | 3926 | 4722 | 4218 | 4276 | 4994 | 5511 | 6128 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | — | 21 | 23 | 26 | 27 | 41 | 39 | 44 | 59 | 74 | 72 |
| 3. | Assam | 685 | 771 | 814 | 883 | 1023 | 1337 | 1314 | 1514 | 1702 | 1818 | 1908 |
| 4. | Bihar | 2193 | 2245 | 2363 | 2784 | 3400 | 4140 | 4062 | 4364 | 4731 | 5105 | 5372 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 1777 | 2189 | 2242 | 2109 | 3169 | 3018 | 3693 | 4281 | 4781 | 5066 | 5794 |
| 6. | Haryana | 782 | 869 | 977 | 1060 | 1304 | 1429 | 1616 | 1902 | 2085 | 2301 | 2423 |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | 197 | 223 | 241 | 267 | 333 | 380 | 406 | 392 | 472 | 505 | 518 |
| 8. | Jammu & Kashmir | 221 | 250 | 275 | 292 | 352 | 419 | 480 | 482 | 606 | 881 | 727 |
| 9. | Karnataka | 1763 | 1858 | 1916 | 2012 | 2815 | 3178 | 3092 | 3283 | 3813 | 3995 | 4822 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
|-----|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 10. | Kerala | 1111 | 1255 | 1276 | 1457 | 1823 | 2086 | 2228 | 2398 | 2521 | 2754 | 3156 |
| 11. | Madhya Pradesh | 1867 | 1991 | 2251 | 2486 | 3245 | 3806 | 3639 | 3707 | 4508 | 4426 | 4463 |
| 12. | Maharashtra | 3656 | 3876 | 4094 | 4342 | 5758 | 7359 | 7677 | 8574 | 9618 | 10647 | 12146 |
| 13. | Manipur | 43 | 41 | 50 | 64 | 82 | 96 | 102 | 105 | 122 | 126 | 180 |
| 14. | Meghalaya | — | — | — | — | 65 | — | — | — | — | 126 | 137 |
| 15. | Nagaland | — | 25 | 29 | 35 | 41 | 48 | 56 | 62 | 71 | 83 | 102 |
| 16. | Onssa | 1044 | 1037 | 1062 | 1310 | 1621 | 1692 | 1760 | 1692 | 2111 | 2117 | 2250 |
| 17. | Punjab | 1275 | 1436 | 1534 | 1737 | 2156 | 2380 | 2599 | 3062 | 3455 | 3719 | 4220 |
| 18. | Rajasthan | 1204 | 1654 | 1517 | 1645 | 2389 | 2535 | 2576 | 3047 | 3400 | 3644 | 3401 |
| 19. | Tamil Nadu | 2148 | 2371 | 2696 | 2839 | 3432 | 3639 | 3727 | 4304 | 4710 | 5023 | 6095 |
| 20. | Tripura | 76 | 78 | 89 | 86 | 110 | 138 | 146 | 164 | 175 | 197 | 217 |
| 21. | Uttar Pradesh | 4186 | 4257 | 4434 | 5491 | 6220 | 7154 | 7005 | 8135 | 9464 | 9756 | 10320 |
| 22. | West Bengal | 2993 | 3168 | 3505 | 3606 | 4412 | 5216 | 5487 | 6052 | 6566 | 6901 | 7581 |
| 23. | Delhi | 459 | 477 | 541 | 600 | 696 | 879 | 1001 | 1116 | 1251 | 1339 | 1528 |
| 24. | Goa, Daman & Diu | — | 77 | 86 | 93 | 116 | 139 | 152 | 171 | 195 | 210 | 255 |
| | Pondichery | — | 39 | 47 | 51 | 69 | 76 | 83 | 90 | 108 | 135 | 165 |

— Not made available by the concerned State Governments.

Source : Directorates of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments.

Note 1 : Owing to differences in methodology and source material used the figures for different States/UTs are not strictly comparable.

Note 2 : The States of Mizoram & Sikkim and UTs of A & N Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep did not prepare these estimates.

Statement
Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices

(Rs. in crores)

| Sl. No. | State/UT | VI Plan | | | | | VII Plan | | | | | VIII Plan | | | | | | |
|---------|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | 1980-81 | 1981-82 | 1982-83 | 1983-84 | 1984-85 | 1985-86 | 1986-87 | 1987-88 | 1988-89 | 1989-90 | 1990-91 | 1991-92 | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | 1994-95 (P) | 1995-96 (P) | 1996-97 (Q) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 1. | Andhra Pr. | 7324 | 8974 | 9702 | 11516 | 11962 | 13412 | 14242 | 17375 | 22089 | 25423 | 31165 | 37344 | 30131 | 48048 | 55844 | 64361 | 72195 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pr. | 98 | 131 | 152 | 173 | 203 | 247 | 280 | 299 | 352 | 368 | 460 | 572 | 676 | 815 | 889 | 987 | 1080 |
| 3. | Assam | 2298 | 2966 | 3359 | 4016 | 4715 | 5175 | 5601 | 6330 | 6780 | 8064 | 9498 | 10632 | 11543 | 13095 | 14580 | 15553 | 16811 |
| 4. | Bihar | 6349 | 7391 | 8289 | 9479 | 11371 | 12366 | 14182 | 15358 | 18533 | 19408 | 22787 | 25099 | 26820 | 31250 | 34912 | 33613 | 37331 |
| 5. | Goa | 315 | 343 | 418 | 442 | 542 | 509 | 608 | 671 | 781 | 920 | 1024 | 1265 | 1544 | 1887 | 1961 | 2066 | — |
| 6. | Gujarat | 6547 | 8205 | 8675 | 11283 | 11740 | 12103 | 14022 | 13908 | 19496 | 21425 | 24180 | 26068 | 35018 | 38715 | 51388 | 53665 | 63501 |
| 7. | Haryana | 3032 | 3498 | 4004 | 4351 | 4747 | 5788 | 6081 | 6743 | 8878 | 9919 | 12238 | 14639 | 15416 | 18347 | 21863 | 24553 | 30005 |
| 8. | Himachal Pr. | 723 | 846 | 897 | 1023 | 1031 | 1237 | 1363 | 1539 | 1933 | 2184 | 2521 | 2975 | 3411 | 3744 | 4340 | 4831 | — |
| 9. | J & K | 1050 | 1195 | 1362 | 1549 | 1747 | 1929 | 2134 | 2086 | 2548 | 2688 | 2763 | 2935 | 3218 | 3471 | 4264 | 5287 | — |
| 10. | Karnataka | 5587 | 6423 | 7137 | 8617 | 9697 | 10218 | 11733 | 13435 | 15671 | 17798 | 20551 | 26738 | 29162 | 33800 | 39538 | 45252 | 50262 |
| 11. | Kerala | 3823 | 4050 | 4712 | 5523 | 6141 | 6503 | 7354 | 8258 | 9182 | 10668 | 12173 | 15102 | 17175 | 19688 | 23236 | 25802 | 28480 |
| 12. | Madhya Pr. | 7012 | 7596 | 8680 | 10151 | 10324 | 12092 | 12491 | 16112 | 18994 | 21119 | 25515 | 27849 | 31070 | 38417 | 42022 | 47240 | 54843 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 15163 | 16993 | 18304 | 21152 | 22890 | 26467 | 28431 | 33770 | 40472 | 50139 | 58137 | 65808 | 82078 | 97980 | 111728 | 133421 | 152129 |
| 14. | Manipur | 200 | 242 | 256 | 304 | 344 | 372 | 426 | 542 | 606 | 634 | 723 | 888 | 958 | 1156 | 1306 | 1412 | — |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 180 | 206 | 227 | 263 | 302 | 342 | 386 | 467 | 506 | 660 | 767 | 884 | 979 | 1133 | 1258 | 1380 | — |
| 16. | Mizoram | 62 | 70 | 78 | 95 | 122 | 157 | 194 | 259 | 260 | 281 | 306 | 417 | 478 | 582 | 597 | — | — |
| 17. | Nagaland | 110 | 135 | 163 | 190 | 220 | 242 | 269 | 340 | 387 | 469 | 663 | 762 | 842 | 880 | — | — | — |
| 18. | Orissa | 3443 | 3844 | 4070 | 5253 | 5191 | 6226 | 6748 | 8853 | 8881 | 9917 | 9864 | 12505 | 13416 | 15481 | 18158 | 21310 | 22488 |
| 19. | Punjab | 4448 | 5285 | 5838 | 6456 | 7381 | 8347 | 9174 | 10816 | 12486 | 16056 | 16738 | 20245 | 23280 | 27660 | 31524 | 35483 | 41050 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 4126 | 4850 | 5531 | 7043 | 6983 | 7669 | 8341 | 9438 | 12882 | 13836 | 18281 | 20082 | 23871 | 24727 | 30420 | 33708 | 41872 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 49 | 55 | 65 | 75 | 95 | 113 | 135 | 158 | 187 | 185 | 213 | 237 | 243 | 248 | — | — | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
|-----|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 7218 | 8677 | 8821 | 10222 | 12028 | 13682 | 15305 | 18166 | 20423 | 23935 | 27646 | 32563 | 37864 | 46098 | 53132 | 57655 | 66134 |
| 23. | Tripura | 264 | 313 | 354 | 390 | 433 | 474 | 522 | 601 | 771 | 840 | 917 | 1030 | 1079 | 1244 | 1310 | — | — |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 14012 | 15036 | 17600 | 19533 | 21514 | 24669 | 27237 | 30481 | 36601 | 41664 | 49496 | 57206 | 62056 | 69682 | 79056 | 88552 | 103170 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 9594 | 10667 | 12002 | 14121 | 16319 | 17415 | 18946 | 23012 | 24686 | 27790 | 31500 | 36433 | 38768 | 44460 | 53819 | 57753 | 65785 |
| 26. | A & N Islands | 49 | 56 | 61 | 75 | 81 | 95 | 110 | 116 | 126 | 151 | 160 | 176 | 193 | 278 | 347 | 382 | — |
| 27. | Delhi | 2455 | 2845 | 3305 | 3527 | 4006 | 4939 | 5640 | 6568 | 7784 | 8914 | 10126 | 13170 | 14506 | 16866 | 19080 | 21879 | — |
| 28. | Pondicherry | 170 | 190 | 213 | 247 | 281 | 314 | 356 | 391 | 455 | 511 | 580 | 648 | 720 | 727 | 917 | 1003 | — |

P : Provisional

Q : Quick Estimates

— : Not made available by the concerned State Governments.

Source Directorates of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments.

Note 1 Owing to differences in source material used the figures for different States/UTs are not strictly comparable.

Note 2 The UTs of Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep do not prepare these estimates.

[Translation]

Refugees from Bhutan

2139. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large scale influx of refugees from Bhutan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Government has taken up this matter with Bhutan Government; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) No, Sir. There is no large scale influx of refugees into India from Bhutan. There are no restrictions on the entry of Bhutanese nationals into India across the open Indo-Bhutan border and they are free to enter India, travel and reside in Indian territory.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Revision of Pay Scale

2140. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3783, on December 18, 1996 regarding revision of pay scale and state:

(a) whether the Board of Arbitration has given its decision on the matter;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the Board is likely to give its final decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The JCM Scheme does not prescribe any time-limit for the disposal of cases by the Board of Arbitration.

Departmental Examinations

2141. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have prescribed Educational qualification for appearing in the Departmental Examination for post of Lower Division Clerk, Upper Division Clerk and Assistant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the minimum service required for the Departmental Candidates for taking these examinations;

(d) whether some of autonomous bodies under the Union Government are having different criteria for Departmental Exams for these posts; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) The eligibility conditions including educational qualifications and minimum service required for the Departmental candidates for appearing in the Departmental Examination for posts of Lower Division Clerk, Upper Division Clerk and Assistant are prescribed in the relevant Recruitment/ Examination Rules keeping in view the functional requirements for the post/organisation concerned. As these posts are available throughout Government of India the information sought is not centrally maintained.

(d) and (e) The service conditions of the Central Government employees are not directly applicable to the employees of autonomous bodies under the Union Government. They determine such conditions/criteria independently.

Uranium Deposits

2142. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the States in which scientists had recently explored the deposits of Uranium;

(b) the locations where work of exploration of Uranium has since been started;

(c) the total quantity of Uranium extracted therefrom so far;

(d) whether the Government propose to explore the deposits of Uranium by using more modernised equipments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Uranium occurrences were explored recently in the States of Bihar, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Orissa and Karnataka. Economical deposits, however, occur in Bihar, Meghalaya and Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Exploration for delineating uranium deposits by drilling is in progress at different places such as Gogi in Gulbarga District, Karnataka; Wahkyn in the West Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya; Lambapur-Peddagattu in Nalgonda District and Mulapalle in Cuddapah District, Andhra Pradesh; Umra—Udaisagar in Udaipur District, Rajasthan and Naktu—Kudri in Sonbhadra District, Uttar Pradesh.

(c) It is not in the public interest to disclose information on the quantum of uranium produced in the country.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Atomic Minerals Division carries out exploration by utilising modern multidisciplinary techniques such as remote sensing, airborne gamma-ray and magnetic surveys, ground geophysical and geochemical surveys, etc. These are followed by ground geological studies, analysis of samples and exploratory drilling and exploratory mining to prove the economic viability of deposits. State-of-the-art equipment are used for these activities.

ICAR

2143. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR is functioning in Goa; and

(b) if so, the sphere of its functioning and the details of the new discoveries and projects taken up by it in Goa?

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

(b) I.C.A.R. Research Complex for Goa is conducting researches on various aspects of field and horticultural crops, livestock and fisheries. The Institute has standardised production technologies in rice, sugarcane, groundnut, mango, cashew, pineapple, vegetables and other crops of Goa. Exotic meat types of rabbit and Quail introduced. Integrated fish-livestock and rice-fish farming system introduced. A total of 22 projects are in operation at the Institute.

Touts in Office

2144. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Psst ... want a passport. Rs. 17,000 please" appearing in *Indian Express*, dated April 9, 1998;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto: and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to eliminate touts from issue of passport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have taken several measures in the recent past to counter the illegal activities of touts

and unauthorised agents in the grant of passport services to the public. These include derecognition of travel agents as an authorised channel for servicing passport applications, issue of passport application forms free of charge, augmentation in the number of passport offices and collection centres in the country, despatch of passports directly to the addressees by post etc. The activities of touts outside the RPO, Delhi have been brought to the attention of the local police from time to time and police action against them has been intensified. However, vigilance is being strengthened at the Passport Office at Delhi and other places. Government is also making efforts to increase public awareness of the various facilities available at the Passport Offices so as to minimise the influence and activities of unauthorised agents.

Postings of IAS/IPS

2145. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government with regard to posting of IAS/IPS officers in academic, training and research institutions;

(b) the impact on the functioning of these institutions by posting of such non-cadre officers; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to stop tendency of posting of non-cadre officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Appointments of IAS/IPS officers to posts in academic, training and research institutions falling within the Central Staffing Scheme are made under the provisions of the said Scheme. Appointments to posts not falling within the Central Staffing Scheme, are made in accordance with the provisions of the recruitment rules of each post. If the Rules provide for appointment of an IAS/IPS officer to a post, such an appointment is made. Similarly, if an IAS/IPS officer is sought to be appointed to a post on the basis of the selection made, out of the persons who might have applied for the post in response to an advertisement or circular inviting applications, the officer is given clearance for joining the post.

(b) Any impact on the functioning of an Institution depends upon the administrative ability and the managerial qualities of an officer, and not on the source from which the officer is drawn.

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

Mullaperiyar Dam

2146. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the widespread and strong sense of protests and anxiety among the people of Kerala regarding the demand to increase the height of the Mullaperiyar Dam;

(b) whether the Government are aware that any increase in the height of the century-old dam would endanger the dam itself and bringing about unimaginable distinction to the life and property of the people living in 'dukki and Ernakulam districts of Kerala; and

(c) whether Government would in the larger interest of the country clear the defaults and apprehensions of the people of Kerala about the Government's approach to it?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Power Generation From Garbage

2147. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to generate power from garbage;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the role of State Governments therein;

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be executed; and

(d) the quantity of power likely to be generated under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a 'National Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban, Municipal and Industrial Waste' since the year 1995-96. This programme provides for various financial and fiscal incentives for generation of power from Urban, Municipal and Industrial wastes, including garbage. The incentives being offered under this programme include: investment and interest subsidy for commercial projects, financial support for innovative demonstration projects, accelerated depreciation, concessional customs and excise duties and financial support for preparation of Techno-Economic Feasibility & Detailed Project Reports.

State Governments have to provide land and garbage for the projects and facilities for evacuation, wheeling, banking, third-party sale and purchase by State Electricity Boards, of the Power to be generated from these projects, for which State Governments have to announce conducive policies.

(c) The National Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban, Municipal and Industrial Waste is proposed to be continued during 1998-99.

(d) A target of setting up 'Waste to Energy' projects with aggregate capacity of 5 MW, has been fixed for the year 1998-99.

Remunerative Prices for Wheat

2148. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed remunerative prices for wheat and other foodgrains for the ensuing crop-season;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the floor prices proposed by State Governments concerned and those fixed by Union Government; and

(c) how far the same are remunerative for the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) A statement showing minimum support prices fixed for wheat and other foodgrains for 1997-98 crop season is enclosed. The minimum support prices have been fixed on the basis of the recommendations of the CACP, the views of the Central Ministries, the prices suggested by the State Governments and other relevant factors. The minimum support prices fixed by the Government cover not only the cost of production but also provide a reasonable margin of profit to give incentive to farmers for investment in agriculture and adopter of improved technology.

Statement

Minimum Support Prices fixed for Wheat and other foodgrains Crops of 1997-98

(According to Crop Year)

| Commodity | Variety | MSP |
|--|-----------|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. Paddy | Common | 415 |
| | Grade 'A' | 445 |
| 2. Coarse Cereals (Jowar, Bajra & Ragi) | | 360 |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----------|---|---|-------|
| 3. Maize | | | 360 |
| 4. Wheat | | | 510\$ |
| 5. Barley | | | 350 |
| 6. Gram | | | 815 |
| 7. Arhar | | | 900 |
| 8. Moong | | | 900 |
| 9. Urad | | | 900 |

\$ — Including a Central bonus of Rs. 55 per quintal payable on wheat offered for sale to the procurement agencies for Central pool for period from 1.4.98 to 10.6.98.

[Translation]

Reservation for Handicapped

2149. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the posts reserved for handicapped have been filled in Ministries and their subordinate departments;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase percentage of reservation for the physically handicapped persons in the Central Government services;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) The Ministries/Departments are required to ensure implementation of the orders pertaining to reservation for the physically handicapped. Instructions have been issued from time to time impressing upon all concerned to implement the reservation policy for the physically handicapped in the right earnest. Information about filling up of vacancies reserved for the physically handicapped persons is not centrally maintained.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Reservation for the physically handicapped in Groups 'C' & 'D' posts has been in force since 1977. Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 which came into force w.e.f. 1.1.1996 also provides for 3% reservation for the physically handicapped, which was found adequate at the time of the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.

[English]

Funds to West Bengal

2150. SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have allocated funds, other than Calamity Relief Fund to the Government of West Bengal for relief towards tornado-hit areas; and

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned and released?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Cotton Production in Non-Transitional States

2151. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to grow cotton in the non-transitional States particularly in the State of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total black cotton soil areas in that State; and

(d) the result of the soil testing and growing cotton there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government of India is assisting States including non-

traditional Cotton State of Orissa for growing cotton. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme, assistance is given to the State of Orissa for the transfer of technology through demonstration on production, integrated pest management and training of farmers as well as supply of critical inputs like seeds, plant protection equipment, sprinkler sets etc.

Besides, the Cotton Corporation of India in the Ministry of Textiles is also encouraging the cultivation of cotton in non-traditional areas like Sundarban in West Bengal, Orissa, Jammu Division in Jammu and Kashmir through supply of seed, training of farmers, marketing of cotton produce etc.

(c) The total black cotton soil in the State is 9.6 lakh hectares.

(d) The soil pH is neutral to alkaline having free calcium carbonate in the profiles. The soil is rich in calcium but deficient in Phosphorus, Potassium, Zinc and Boron. Besides, black soil, major portion of cotton is grown on loamy soils.

Production of Tobacco

2152. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of tobacco produced in the country particularly in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the land area for tobacco production has been increased during the above period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The area under tobacco has been increasing during the last three years. A statement giving State-wise area and production of tobacco for the last three years is attached.

Statement

| STATE | AREA (Thousand Hectares) | | | PRODUCTION (Thousand Tonnes) | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 130.5 | 136.2 | 164.4 | 164.5 | 170.3 | 183.3 |
| Assam | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Bihar | 14.9 | 18.2 | 18.2 | 7.7 | 10.4 | 10.4 |
| Gujarat | 113.4 | 121.8 | 120.6 | 213.2 | 196.0 | 211.5 |
| Haryana | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Karnataka | 59.4 | 59.6 | 70.9 | 45.2 | 48.8 | 58.0 |
| Kerala | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Maharashtra | 9.8 | 9.4 | 9.5 | 12.8 | 13.5 | 10.8 |
| Meghalaya | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Mizoram | 1.0 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| Orissa | 10.3 | 9.1 | 6.9 | 6.0 | 6.7 | 4.5 |
| Rajasthan | 1.7 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 2.7 | 2.1 | 2.4 |
| Tamil Nadu | 7.2 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 10.7 | 13.0 | 13.3 |
| Tripura | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 16.7 | 13.1 | 15.2 | 90.7 | 61.1 | 92.8 |
| West Bengal | 12.6 | 13.3 | 11.8 | 10.0 | 10.4 | 9.1 |
| All India | 381.7 | 394.6 | 432.3 | 566.7 | 535.2 | 599.1 |

Five Days Week

2153. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to change Five Days Week for Central Government Officers;

(b) if not, whether the Government are contemplating to introduce Six Days Week system in all the Government

offices including the offices which are directly dealing with public;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) Government have decided to continue Five Day Week in the Civil Administrative Offices. However, the Departments whose functions are predominantly marked by public dealings or of commercial nature and at present working on Five Day week, have been asked to review the arrangement and switch over to Six Day Week, wherever feasible.

Procurement Price for Wheat and Paddy

2154. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently increased the procurement price of wheat on the advice of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have not increased the procurement price of paddy simultaneously;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to increase the procurement price of paddy also; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government fixed the minimum support price (MSP) at Rs. 4.55 per quintal of wheat for the 1997-98 crop to be marketed in 1998-99 on the basis of the report of the CACP, views of the State Governments, concerned Central Ministries and other relevant factors. Further, the Government decided to pay a bonus of Rs. 35 per quintal on the sale of wheat to the public agencies for the period from 1st April to 10th June, 1998.

(c) to (f) The Government has already fixed the MSP of paddy for the 1997-98 season. The MSP fixed is Rs. 415 per quintal for paddy common and Rs. 445 per quintal for paddy Grade 'A' variety. There is no proposal to increase the MSP of paddy already announced for the 1997-98 season since the MSP for the next season, i.e. 1998-99 season is already under consideration of the Government.

Kendriya Bhandar

2155. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether suppliers of different items to the Kendriya Bhandar can be blacklisted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to frame the rules for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Kendriya Bhandar follows the rules laid down by Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) for banning and suspension of business dealings with the Contractors mutatis mutandis. A copy of the relevant extracts from the DGS&D Manual of Office Procedure for Supply etc. in this regard are enclosed (Statement).

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Statement

Extracts from DGS&D Manual of Office Procedure for Supply etc.

24.14 BANNING AND SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH THE CONTRACTOR

24.14.1 Business dealings with a firm, whether it is registered or not registered, may be ordered to be suspended or banned, in public interest by the competent authority. Presently, the authority in this regard is vested with the Chief Vigilance Officer of the Department of Supply.

24.14.2 THE SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH FIRMS

Suspension of business dealings may be ordered where, pending full enquiry into the allegation, it is not considered desirable that business with the firm should continue. Such an order may be passed:—

(i) If the firm is suspected to be of doubtful loyalty to India;

(ii) If the Central Bureau of Investigation or any other investigating agency recommends such a course in respect of a case under investigation; and

(iii) If a prime-facie case is made out that the firm is guilty of an offence involving moral turpitude in relation to business dealings which, if established, would result in business dealings with it being banned.

24.14.3 BANNING OF BUSINESS DEALINGS

The grounds on which banning may be ordered are:—

(i) If security consideration including question of loyalty to the State so warrant.

(ii) If the proprietor of the firm, its employee, partner or representative is convicted by a court of law following prosecution for offences involving moral turpitude in relation to the business dealings.

(iii) If there is strong justification for believing that the proprietor or employee or representative of the firm has been guilty of malpractices such as bribery, corruption, fraud, substitution of tenders, interpolation, misrepresentation, evasion or habitual default in payment of any tax levied by law; etc.

(iv) If the firm contumaciously refuses to return government dues without showing adequate cause and government are satisfied that this is not due to reasonable dispute which would attract proceeding in arbitration or court of law, and

(v) If the firm employs a government servant, dismissed, removed on account of corruption or employs a non-official convicted or an offence involving corruption or abatement of such an offence, in a position where he could corrupt government servants.

Nuclear Waste

2156. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have long term plans for disposal of nuclear low level radio active waste generated in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether arrangements have been made with any foreign country for disposal of nuclear waste; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Processes, technologies and equipment have been indigenously developed for treatment, conditioning, handling, packaging and disposal of low level radio-active wastes generated in India. Plants have been set up and are operated successfully for this purpose as per the guidelines and approvals given by the regulatory authority, namely the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Mother Dairy

2157. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fruits and vegetables outlets/ extension counters opened by Mother Dairy in Delhi since January 1, 1997;

(b) the locations of such outlets/extension counters where weighing machines without printer have been installed; and

(c) the reasons for providing the weighing machines without printer at such extension counters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) 30 Fruit and vegetable outlets were opened by the Fruit and Vegetable Project in Delhi during the period January 1, 1997 to May 31, 1998.

(b) All fruit and vegetable outlets which were opened during the above period were provided weighing machines with printers.

(c) Does not arise in view of answer to (b) above.

[Translation]

Rajghat Inter-State Project

2158. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the construction work of the Rajghat inter-State Hydrel Power and Irrigation Project on the river of Betwa has not been completed since long;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The construction of Rajghat inter-State Multipurpose Dam Project was started in October 1979 with the target date of completion as June, 1986. However, due to constraint of funds, the work could not be completed by June, 1986. The project was then rescheduled several times and the latest likely date of completion of the project is June, 1999.

[English]

Achievement of Targeted Plan Investment

2159. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI S.S. OWAI SI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which have not achieved the targeted plan investment for 1997-98;

(b) the reasons for not utilising the plan investment by them;

(c) the action being taken against such States; and

(d) the extent to which their plan outlay has been reduced for 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) During 1997-98, the Planning Commission has approved Revised Plan Outlays at a lower level than the originally approved outlay in respect of 15 States listed in the attached Statement. The main reason for revised outlays of these States being lower than the originally approved outlays has been the shortfall in achieving the projected figures of States' own resources. Under the existing guidelines of the Planning Commission, the normal Plan assistance from the Central Government is given to the States to the full extent if the actual plan expenditure of the States does not fall below the originally approved/ revised approved outlay and the expenditure for earmarked sectors/schemes does not fall below the approved outlays for the same. In case of special category States, they are allowed to use upto 20% of plan assistance to meet their non Plan gap and cuts in central assistance are applied keeping in consideration. The actual expenditure figures for Annual Plan 1997-98 for the States are not yet available. The question of imposing a cut in central assistance in respect of these States will arise if the total expenditure turns out to be lower than revised approved outlay or the actual expenditure for the earmarked sectors/schemes falls below the approved outlays for them. The outlays for Annual Plan 1998-99 are yet to be finalised.

Statement

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Assam
3. Bihar
4. Goa
5. Haryana
6. Kerala
7. Madhya Pradesh
8. Manipur
9. Meghalaya
10. Nagaland

11. Orissa
12. Punjab
13. Tripura
14. Uttar Pradesh
15. West Bengal

Human Rights Violations

2160. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports of the US States Department imputing and alleging glaring human rights violations in India, involving poor prison conditions, arbitrary arrests, lengthy pre-trial detentions, prolonged under trial, legal and societal violence against women, female bondage and prohibition including child prostitution, trafficking and infanticide and child labour; and

(b) the details of the US State Departments report and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The country reports of the US State Department on human rights are submitted to the US Congress in accordance with US law. Apart from criticism, these reports on India have regularly contained several positive references to Indian democracy, India's commitment to human rights and the institutional safeguards available in India for the promotion and protection of human rights. The report for 1997 is on the same pattern as the earlier reports. It is not the practice of Government to comment formally on these reports which are prepared pursuant to domestic US law.

Central Administrative Tribunal

2161. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to abolish the Central Administrative Tribunal functioning in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of appeals filed by the Government against the orders of the Central Administrative Tribunal and the appeals pending before the Supreme Court; and

(d) the number of cases disposed of since its inception and the number of cases pending before the Bangalore bench of the CAT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) No such decision has been taken by the Government to abolish the Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal functioning in Bangalore.

(c) The Ministries/Departments of the Union Government decide on their own about filing appeals against the orders of the Central Administrative Tribunal in the Supreme Court. No information in this regard is maintained on a centralised basis.

(d) As on April 30, 1998, the Bangalore Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal had disposed of 18397 cases since its inception and 617 cases were pending.

[Translation]

Pariyet Reservoir

2162. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Pariyet Reservoir in Madhya Pradesh is becoming dangerous as the Waste Weir of this reservoir has gone totally out of order and some cracks have also been developed in the reservoir due to earthquake;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Union and State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Some cracks have been noticed in the Pariat dam. The sluice and waste weir structures did not suffer any damage. The Government of Madhya Pradesh prepared an estimate of Rs. 1.00 lakh required for repair of Pariat dam which is maintained by the Municipal Corporation of Jabalpur for city drinking water supply. Central Water Commission have suggested remedial measures for the cracks in the dam. The Corporation Authorities have also been advised to keep strategic material ready to meet out unforeseen condition and to act according to the situation.

Training Centres for Food Processing

2163. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of training centres operating for food processing industry in the country particularly in Maharashtra; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to set-up such centres in every state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries had implemented a developmental plan scheme during the 8th Plan Period, under which assistance was provided to various organisations for setting up of 231 Food Processing & Training Centres (FPTC) in the country. The scheme is also being implemented during the 9th Plan in the first year of which, assistance has been provided for setting up of 14 FPTCs. Thus, in the last six years, assistance has been provided for setting up of 245 FPTCs.

Out of 245 FPTCs, 3 were sanctioned for the State of Maharashtra during the 9th Plan Period, of which two have become operational.

The scheme is not State-specific. Besides, this Ministry does not set up such Centres directly and, instead, extends assistance to various organisations including voluntary agencies & non-Governmental organisations, for setting up of such Centres.

Share of Agriculture in G.D.P

2164. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Agriculture lifted 1996-97 real G.D.P., R.B.I." appearing in 'Business Standard' dated May 18th, 1998;

(b) if so, whether contribution of industry and service sector in G.D.P. has increased to 27% and 48.6% respectively whereas the share of agriculture sector has come down to 24.4% during the financial year 1997-98;

(c) if so, details thereof alongwith the matter reported therein; and

(d) whether any work plan has since been formulated by the Government to increase the share of agricultural sector in G.D.P. by fixing time-bound targets?

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

(b) and (c) The details about the share of G.D.P. at factor cost (at constant 1980-81 prices) during 1997-98 are given in the table below :

| SECTOR | PERCENTAGE SHARE |
|---|------------------|
| I. AGRICULTURE | |
| - Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing | 24.4 |
| II. INDUSTRY | |
| - Manufacturing | 22.7 |
| - Mining & Quarrying | 1.8 |
| - Electricity, Gas & water-supply | 2.5 |
| - Sub-Total | 27.0 |
| III. SERVICES | |
| - Construction | 4.3 |
| - Trade, Hotels, Transport & Communication | 20.4 |
| - Financial, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services | 12.6 |
| - Community, Social & Personal services | 11.3 |
| - Sub-Total | 48.6 |

(d) The declining share of agriculture in GDP is because of a relative'y higher growth in other sectors of the economy, viz., manufacturing and services. This is not an unusual feature for a developing economy where the share of primary sectors in the GDP generally declines in the initial stages of development processes while that of manufacturing and services increases. As such, there is neither any plan nor any target to increase the share of agriculture sector in the GDP. However, to increase production and productivity, the Government is implementing, on a comprehensive scale, several crop specific centrally sponsored programmes/schemes relating to cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, jute & mesta, sugarcane and horticulture crops.

[English]

Construction of a Dam in Bihar

2165. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JHANJHARPUR) :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Bihar for construction of multipurpose dams over the rivers of Kamla-Koshi and Bagmati;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the construction work on these dams is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Union Government received proposals from the State Government of Bihar long back for the construction of multi-purpose dams on Kamla Kosi and Bagmati rivers in Nepal territory, with acceptance of His Majesty Government of Nepal.

(b) and (c) Details of the projects and time frame for construction will depend on agreements to be reached with His Majesty Government of Nepal for the purpose.

Violation of Kachathevu Agreement

2166. SHRI VAIKO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of frequent firing upon our fishermen by Srilankan Navy in violation of Kachathevu agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has taken up the matter with Srilankan authorities; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) and (b) Government are aware of the reports of violence against Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan waters. The Government of Sri Lanka have denied the involvement of their forces in a large majority of the incidents reported. The Sri Lankan Government acknowledged the involvement of its Navy in one of the fifteen reported incidents of firing on Indian vessels in 1997, clarifying that the concerned vessel was engaged after it defied repeated orders to stop.

One incident of firing on Indian fishermen has been reported to the Government in the current year. The Sri Lankan Government has denied the involvement of its Navy in the incident.

(c) and (d) The problems faced by Indian fishermen have been taken up with the Government of Sri Lanka at a high level. Both sides agree on the need to deal with these problems in a humane and compassionate manner. The Sri Lankan Government have assured us that their forces are under instructions to exercise maximum restraint in dealing with Indian fishermen found in Sri Lankan waters. The Sri Lankan Government have, however, emphasised that a grave security situation exists in Sri Lankan waters surrounding the North of that country and have expressed concern at the large scale movement of Indian vessels in sensitive zones close to the Sri Lankan shores. They have also referred to the violent activities of the LTTE in their waters.

Integrated Dairy Development Project

2167. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal in October, 1997 from the Government of Maharashtra for approval regarding implementing the Integrated Dairy Development Project in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have since taken decision on this proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government of Maharashtra had proposed to implement an Integrated Dairy Development Project for the districts of Parbhani, Akola, Thane, Raigarh and Jalna.

(c) Government of India approved the project in February 98 at a total cost of Rs. 1941.55 lakhs.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Channelisation of Swan River

2168. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh for Channelisation of Swan river in Himachal Pradesh is pending with the Union Government for decision since long; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Union Government to take decision on the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) A fresh project proposal incorporating the recommendation of Central Water and Power Research Station, titled "Swan River Flood Management & Integrated Land Development Project" costing Rs. 93.15 crores was submitted by Government of Himachal Pradesh to Central Water Commission for its techno-economical clearance on 6.12.1997. Additional copies of the project proposal required for examination were received by Central Water Commission in April and May, 1998 from Government of Himachal Pradesh. The project is under examination in Central Water Commission.

[English]

Fruit Processing Industry in Ernakulam

2169. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the European Economic Community has funded a fruit (pineapple) processing industry near Muvattupuzha in Ernakulam district, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of the investment likely to be made, construction of project and estimated time of completion of the project;

(c) whether the staff and employees have been appointed for the said project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) While total investment envisaged is Rs. 25.19 crores which includes land, building, machinery, utility services, customs duty etc. EEC funding would be 70% of the cost. The estimated time of completion of the project is June, 1998.

(c) and (d) While 14 posts have already been filled up, actions have been initiated for filling up the posts of operators, storemen, marketing officers etc.

[Translation]

Recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission

2170. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission has suggested to curtail the number of bureaucrats;

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

(c) whether the Commission has also suggested to increase the efficiency of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon by the Government; and

(e) the details of the recommendations which are not acceptable to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) No general decision has been taken on the recommendation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission for abolishing posts under the Government. Matters relating to abolition or creation of posts are decided on the basis of merits and need.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The implementation of the various recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission is being done by the different nodal Ministries; the information called for is not Centrally maintained.

[English]

Farakka Barrage

2171. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether continuous withdrawal of water in the upstream of the Ganga River has considerably reduced affecting the ensured and targeted perennial flow of 40,000 cusecs of water to the Farakka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the position has further worsened as a result of the agreement with Bangladesh regarding the sharing of Ganga water which adversely affect a number of Minor irrigation projects in West Bengal, and the navigability of the Calcutta Port; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects in Maharashtra

2172. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of total funds allocated by the Union Government to Maharashtra for undertaking irrigation projects during the last three years, till date;

(b) whether total sanctioned funds have been utilised by the State during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) The details of outlays as recommended by the Planning Commission for Major and Medium Irrigation Projects of Maharashtra and the expenditure incurred is as under :—

Rs. in Crores

| Sl. No. | Year | Outlay recommended by Planning Commission | Expenditure |
|---------|---------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. | 1994-95 | 618.09 | 904.49 |
| 2. | 1995-96 | 622.43 | 1153.82 |
| 3. | 1996-97 | 679.53 | 642.89 (Revised outlay) |
| 4. | 1997-98 | 2245.02 | Not available |

[English]

Closure of Passport Office

2173. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Passport Office at Vijayawada was closed down some years ago;

(b) whether there has been a demand for the reopening of the office in view of the large number of applications for passports;

(c) whether the Government has decided to reopen the office, initially as a Collection Office to be later converted into a full-fledged Passport Office; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in reopening the office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Opening of new passport offices is based on certain parameters such as the location of existing passport offices, inflow of applications from a particular region and the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament for External Affairs that there must be at least 50,000 applications per annum from an area for a new Passport Office to be opened in that area. Government has decided to open a Passport Collection Centre at Vijayawada subject to allotment of appropriate office space by the State Government.

Food Processing Industry at Nagpur

2174. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up or encourage Food Processing Industry in Nagpur in view of great potential of orange there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide assistance to private sector to set up Food Processing Industry at Nagpur; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries do not set up any Food Processing Unit directly in any State. However, financial assistance in the form of loan and grant is provided under its plan schemes for promotion of food processing industries. These schemes are project-specific and not State-specific nor area-specific.

(c) and (d) The Plan schemes envisage financial assistance to non-Governmental organisations, co-operatives, public sector undertakings and private sector industry etc. No proposal has been received seeking financial assistance for setting up a food processing industry at Nagpur.

Sardar Sarover Project

2175. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the disputes raised on the issue of share-ability of expenditure of rockfill dykes and link channels and also the expenditure on rehabilitation and resettlement of oustees among the participating States on the Sardar Sarover Dam Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any meeting of the participating States has been arranged by the Union Government to sort out the disputes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the effective steps likely to be taken by the Union Government to resolve the matter expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) According to Government of Gujarat, the expenditure on dykes and link channels is to be changed to power component of Sardar Sarovar Project and the expenditure on resettlement & rehabilitation of oustees to be charged to Unit-I (Dam & Appurtenant works) of the project and thus, both these expenditures are to be shared by the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra as per Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award. However, the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra do not agree with the contention of Gujarat Government.

(c) to (f) The matter was discussed in the sixth meeting of Review Committee for Narmada Control Authority on 23.8.1993 wherein it was decided that the concerned States would hold mutual discussions and arrive at a decision failing which the matter would be referred to the Attorney General of India for his opinion which will be final and binding on the party States.

[Translation]

Special Package for Eastern U.P.

2176. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any special package for development of Eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Planning Commission allocates funds to the State for its overall development, including the backward areas. However, the responsibility of formulation of programmes, implementation and funding for the development primarily rests with the State Government.

[English]

Sardar Sarover Project

2177. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal regarding sharing of cost of the Sardar Sarover by the participating States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outstanding amount required to be paid to the State of Gujarat by other participating States;

(d) the amount paid by the participating States to the State of Gujarat till date, State-wise;

(e) the efforts made by the Union Government to ensure early release of arrears from these States; and

(f) the time by which the arrears are likely to be paid to the State of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) As per Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award (1979), the capital cost of the power component of Sardar Sarovar project is to be shared by the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat in the ratio of 57:27:16. The cost of irrigation component of the project is to be shared between the State Governments of Gujarat and Rajasthan in the ratio of 18:1.

(c) and (d) Details of share cost of the project to be paid to Gujarat by other participating States upto March,

1998 are as under:

| State | Amount Due | Amount Paid | (Rs. in Crores) |
|----------------|------------|-------------|---|
| | | | Outstanding Dues (excluding disputed shares) |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1052.34 | 488.89 | 509.41 |
| Maharashtra | 498.48 | 329.13 | 143.75 |
| Rajasthan | 294.86 | 62.95 | 222.00 |
| Total | 1845.68 | 880.97 | 875.16 (excluding disputed share of Rs. 89.55 crores) |

(e) and (f) The issue regarding payment of share costs of Sardar Sarovar Project to Government of Gujarat by other party States has been discussed in several meetings of Narmada Control Authority and Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee and the States have been apprised of the need for immediate settlement of outstanding dues to the Government of Gujarat. The issue was also considered by the Review Committee for Narmada Control Authority in its seventh meeting held on 13.11.1996 where the States agreed to expedite the payment. The party States also agreed to make suitable provisions for the purpose in their Annual Plan/Budget. The Union Ministry of Water Resources are continuously requesting the concerned States to expedite the payment of their share cost to Gujarat.

Development of Energy

2178. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is ample scope for production and development of energy from Non-conventional sources in Bihar;

(b) if so, the efforts made to explore the available resources; and

(c) the plan formulated for the development of Non-Conventional Energy in the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a wide range of programmes for the production and development of non-conventional energy sources such as Biogas plants, Improved Chulhas, Biomass gasification and Briquetting plants, Solar Thermal Water Heating, both domestic and

industrial, Solar Photovoltaic energy based rural home-lighting, lanterns, water pumping for irrigation and village level power plants, grid connected power from Wind Energy, Small Hydro, Biomass Combustion, Bagasse-based Co-generation and Solar Photovoltaic Energy and energy from Urban and Industrial Wastes, throughout the country including in the State of Bihar.

(c) The Ninth Five Year Plan is yet to be approved. However, Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency (BREDA) which is the State Nodal Agency for Non-Conventional Energy Sources, in the State of Bihar, has proposed its Ninth Five Year Plan programmes for the distribution/installation of non-conventional energy systems/devices as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Family Size Biogas Plants | - | 10,000 nos. |
| Institutional Biogas Plants | - | 50 nos. |
| Biomass Gasifiers | - | 50 nos. |
| Improved Chulhas | - | 2,00,000 nos. |
| Solar Lanterns | - | 60,000 nos. |
| Solar Fridge | - | 20 nos. |
| Solar Domestic Lighting Systems | - | 2,000 nos. |
| Solar Water Heating System | - | 25,000 Litres/day |
| Solar Cookers | - | 10,000 nos. |
| Wind Mills | - | 500 nos. |

[Translation]

Bansagar Project

2179. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the Bansagar Project in Madhya Pradesh was to be completed;

(b) the estimated cost and the total amount spent thereon till March 31, 1998;

(c) the percentage of work of the main dam, canals and power plant completed so far, separately, and the percentage of work still pending; and

(d) the time by which the remaining work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Bansagar Project

in Madhya Pradesh was originally scheduled to be completed by June, 1987.

(b) The estimated cost of the dam portion at 1990 price level is Rupees 936 crores. The amount spent upto February, 1998 is Rupees 531.91 crores.

(c) Percentage of work completed/pending:

- (i) Main Dam—
Masonry work - 97.5%/2.5%
Concreting - 78%/22%
- (ii) Canals M.P.—
Sihawal canal - 81%/19%
Kiyoti canal - 24%/76%
Purwa canal - 35%/65%
U.P. canal - 5%/95%
- (iii) Power Plant—
Power House I - 100%
II - 30%/70%
III - 80%/20%
IV - 35%/65%

(d) The remaining work for the dam is likely to be completed by June, 2001 and for canals by 2012.

[English]

Wheat Procurement Centre

2180. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the irregularities being committed at the wheat procurement centres;

(b) whether the farmers are not being given support price at these procurement centres and the payment is also being delayed; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps being taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No such report has been received from any wheat procurement centre.

(b) and (c) The farmers are being paid Minimum Support Price plus Bonus as declared by Government of India/State Government and payment is being released to the farmers at the centres promptly.

Fishing Harbours

2181. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish fishing harbours and fish landing centres in the country particularly along the west coast of Arabian Sea;

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

(c) the steps being taken for speedy implementation of the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) A statement showing the list of fishing harbours and fish landing centres sanctioned for construction along the coastline of India including the west coast is attached.

(c) The Administrative Approvals for the fishing harbours and fish landing centres are issued with a condition to complete the fishing Harbours within stipulated time period.

Statement

| S. No. | Name of State | Fishing Harbours | Fish Landing Centres |
|--------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1 | 1 |
| 2. | Gujarat | 2 | 1 |
| 3. | Kerala | 5 | 4 |
| 4. | Karnataka | 3 | 5 |
| 5. | Maharashtra | 1 | 7 |
| 6. | Orissa | 1 | 10 |
| 7. | Tamil Nadu | 1 | |
| 8. | West Bengal | 1 | 2 |
| 9. | Pondicherry | 1 | - |
| 10. | Goa | | 1 |
| 11. | Diu & Daman | - | 2 |
| | | 16 | 33 |

Technical Posts

2182. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of technical posts lying vacant in the Department of Animal Husbandry for long;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these technical posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected.

Accumulation of Arms by Pakistan

2183. SHRI T.R. BAALU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. Government is planning to supply F-16 fighters to Pakistan;

(b) whether supply of F-16 fighters to Pakistan is likely to create imbalance in South Asia; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to counter this threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Government had seen reports in the international media, during the month of May 1998, prior to the series of nuclear tests conducted by Pakistan, that the United States Government might be considering the possibility of supplying a consignment of F-16 fighters, for which payment had already been made, to Pakistan to dissuade it from conducting nuclear tests. However, following the nuclear tests by Pakistan, the United States Government has imposed sanctions against Pakistan and there have been no further reports about US plans to supply F-16 fighters to Pakistan. The Pressler Amendment, which bars the sale of these aircraft to Pakistan, remains in force.

(b) and (c) Government believe that the acquisition of sophisticated weapons by Pakistan, far beyond its legitimate requirements, is not conducive to peace and security in South Asia. Government have also made it clear that supply of such weapons to Pakistan poses a threat to India's security. Government have conveyed their views on this subject to the concerned countries. Government will take all necessary measures to counter the adverse effects on India's security caused by the acquisition of weapons by Pakistan, and will effectively safeguard India's national security interests in keeping with its assessment of developments in India's security environment.

Employment Opportunity

2184. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether more unemployed will join the labour force in the course of the next Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the employment opportunities likely to be generated by the 9th Five Year Plan; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to bridge the gap between the unemployed and the employment opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) The estimate of unemployment for a five year plan period is furnished generally in the Five Year Plan document. The Draft Ninth Five Year Plan, 1997-2002, approved at internal meetings of the Planning Commission is to be considered by the National Development Council (NDC). The Government has decided to review this Draft so as to suitably reflect the altered priorities, as enunciated in the National Agenda for Governance. The revised document will then be submitted through due process for consideration and approval of the National Development Council.

(d) The approach to the Ninth Plan as approved by the National Development Council envisages priority to productive employment which 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 under-employment.

[Translation]

Dams

2185. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of dams of varied capacity constructed by the Union Government in different states during the last three years;

(b) the details of such dams, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) whether Pancheswar Dam in Uttar Pradesh is also included therein;

(d) if so, the estimated cost of the said dam; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

New Varieties of Seeds

2186. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new varieties of cotton seeds have been developed by the Government;

(b) if so, whether any norms have been set for distributing seeds among farmers; and

(c) the details of the facility being provided by the Government for protection of crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes Sir. As a result of intensive efforts through the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project 30 varieties/hybrids have been developed in the past three years.

(b) The production and distribution of seeds is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Agriculture Department of the States, the State Seed Corporations are engaged in the task of multiplying and distributing certified/quality seeds to farmers. The efforts of the State Governments are supplemented by the Central Government and its agencies, the National Seeds Corporation Ltd. and the State Farms Corporation of India Ltd. Assistance is provided under the Intensive Cotton Development Programme for supply of certified seeds.

(c) For protection of crops, regular surveillance and monitoring through Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMC) located in various states is done. Apart from this, the following facilities have been provided:—

- Training to farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM),
- Grants in aid to States for setting up Bio-control Laboratories,
- Financial assistance for demonstration and extension in respect of IPM,
- Educating farmers to conserve naturally occurring parasites and predators, and
- Quality Control of Pesticides through Central Insecticide Laboratory.

Operation Flood Schemes

2187. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dairy projects set up so far in the country under operation flood scheme, State-wise;

(b) the details of the projects running in profits presently, State-wise;

(c) the number of Oil Projects undertaken so far under operation flood scheme, State-wise; and

(d) the efforts made for rehabilitation of the Dairy/Oil Projects running in losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) A total of 170 dairy projects (milksheds) have been established under the Operation Flood Scheme of which 91 projects are running in profit. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Oil projects were undertaken outside Operation Flood Programme.

(d) The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has taken up rehabilitation of a few dairy projects running on loss in anticipation of sanction of a scheme by the Government of India. A rehabilitation plan for oil projects is also on jointly by the NDDB and oil Unions/Federations.

Statement

State-wise details of Dairy Projects

| Sl. No. | Name of the State | Number of dairy Projects (Milksheds) | Number of Dairy Projects/ Milksheds in profit |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 11 | 4 |
| 2. | Assam | 1 | - |
| 3. | Bihar | 8 | 3 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 16 | 12 |
| 5. | Haryana | 5 | 1 |
| 6. | Himachal Pradesh | 2 | - |
| 7. | Jammu & Kashmir | 1 | - |
| 8. | Karnataka | 13 | 12 |
| 9. | Kerala | 2 | 2 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 7 | 2 |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 20 | 7 |
| 12. | Nagaland | 1 | - |
| 13. | Orissa | 5 | 4 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------|---------------|-----|----|
| 14. | Punjab | 11 | 9 |
| 15. | Rajasthan | 16 | 9 |
| 16. | Sikkim | 1 | - |
| 17. | Tamil Nadu | 13 | 6 |
| 18. | Tripura | 1 | - |
| 19. | Uttar Pradesh | 28 | 14 |
| 20. | West Bengal | 6 | 4 |
| 21. | Goa | 1 | 1 |
| 22. | Pondicherry | 1 | 1 |
| Total | | 170 | 91 |

Cultivation of Cash Crops

2188. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total area under cultivation for cash crops has increased from 1995 onwards in the country;

(b) whether Union Government have fixed any criteria for the cultivation of food crops and cash crops in proportion to its use in the domestic market;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by the Government on the proposal of Government of Kerala to assist the State Government for implementing scheme for the development of cash crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The total area under major cash crops such as Cotton, Sugarcane, Jute/Mesta and Tobacco in the country during 1995-96 to 1997-98, is given below:—

| Crop | (Area in lakh hectare) | | |
|------------|------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 |
| COTTON | 78.71 | 90.35 | 91.22 |
| SUGARCANE | 38.67 | 41.47 | 41.68 |
| JUTE/MESTA | 9.29 | 9.26 | 10.79 |
| TOBACCO | 3.82 | 3.95 | 4.32 |

(b) and (c) Area under Virginia tobacco is only regulated by the Tobacco Board in the Ministry of Commerce as per domestic and export requirements.

(d) Based upon the proposal from the State of Kerala, a provision of Rs. 40.381 lakh as Central Share has been made for the State under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System.

Veterinary Hospitals

2189. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for opening of veterinary hospitals and insemination centres in the country and the number of cattles prescribed in each for this purpose;

(b) the details of veterinary hospitals and insemination centres in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have provided any financial assistance for setting up veterinary hospitals and insemination centres during the last three years;

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

(e) whether the Union Government propose to increase the number of veterinary hospitals and insemination centres in the country; and

(f) if so, the number of such hospitals and centres likely to be set up in each State and by when they are likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Government have not fixed any criteria for opening of veterinary hospitals. However, the National Commission on Agriculture (1976) had recommended at least one veterinarian for every 5000 cattle units by the year 2000 AD. The general criteria followed for the establishment of insemination centre is that at least one centre should be available for every 1000 breedable cattle/buffaloes.

(b) The details of veterinary hospitals and insemination centres in the country, State-wise is given in the attached Statement-I.

(c) and (d) No financial assistance is provided for setting up of veterinary hospitals in the States. However, financial assistance is provided to the States for setting up of artificial insemination centres under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Extension of Frozen Semen Technology'. The assistance provided to the States in the last three years and the number of insemination centres established, State-wise, is given in the attached Statement II.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal to increase the number of veterinary hospitals. However, the number of insemination centres may be increased, on the basis of the proposals received from the State Governments.

Statement-I*Number of Veterinary Institutions and Artificial Insemination Centres as on 31st March, 1996*

| Sl. No. | Name of the State/ Union Territory | Veteri- nary Hospitals/ Poly- clinics | Veteri- nary Dispen- saries | Veterinary aid Centres/ Stockman Centres/ Mobile Dis- pensaries | Artificial Insemination Centres |
|---------|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 280 | 1641 | 2616 | 3528 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1 | 91 | 166 | 27 |
| 3. | Assam | 26 | 434 | 1245 | 731 |
| 4. | Bihar | 62 | 1155 | 2190 | 1652 |
| 5. | Goa | 4 | 22 | 54 | 80 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 13 | 443 | 1142 | 3789 |
| 7. | Haryana | 607 | 859 | 759 | 2276 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 304 | 729 | 166 | 894 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 195 | 146 | 460 | 550 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 267 | 700 | 2093 | 5951 |
| 11. | Kerala | 180 | 923 | 17 | 1890 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 772 | 2254 | 90 | 2885 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 31 | 1090 | 2036 | 4076 |
| 14. | Manipur | 54 | 101 | 29 | 154 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 4 | 58 | 165 | 61 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 5 | 38 | 143 | 50 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 4 | 27 | 133 | 6 |
| 18. | Orissa | 58 | 482 | 2924 | 1618 |
| 19. | Punjab | 1103 | 1328 | 45 | 2119 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|----------------|------|-----|------|------|
| 20. | Rajasthan | 1180 | 285 | 1080 | 2109 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 12 | 25 | 69 | 35 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 97 | 765 | 2202 | 3510 |
| 23. | Tripura | 9 | 44 | 371 | 133 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 1968 | 261 | 2714 | 2661 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 110 | 611 | 704 | 2878 |
| 26. | A. & N. Island | 9 | 8 | 41 | 31 |
| 27. | Chandigarh | 5 | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| 28. | D. & N. Haveli | 1 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 29. | Daman & Diu | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30. | Delhi | 48 | 24 | 1 | 25 |
| 31. | Lakshadweep | 2 | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| 32. | Pondicherry | 2 | 14 | 7 | 57 |

Statement-II

The Financial Assistance provided to States during the last three years under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Extension of Frozen Semen Technology" and the Number of Insemination Centres set up

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Name of the State | 1995-96 | | 1996-97 | | 1997-98 | |
|---------|-------------------|---------|---------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|
| | | Amount | A.I.* Centres | Amount | A.I. Centres | Amount | A.I. Centres |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | - | - | - | - | 192.5 | 1000 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | - | - | 4.8 | 40 | - | - |
| 3. | Gujarat | - | - | - | - | 34.2 | 114 |
| 4. | Haryana | 23.8 | 170 | - | - | - | - |
| 5. | Madhya Pradesh | 28 | 200 | - | - | - | - |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|---------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|------|
| 6. | Manipur | - | - | - | - | 19.56 | 154 |
| 7. | Mizoram | 1.8 | 15 | - | - | - | - |
| 8. | Kerala | 27.36 | 228 | - | - | - | - |
| 9. | Punjab | - | - | 99.72 | 831 | - | - |
| 10. | Rajasthan | - | - | - | - | 100 | 500 |
| 11. | Uttar Pradesh | 24.34 | 147 | - | - | 200 | 1000 |
| 12. | West Bengal | - | - | - | - | 131 | 1055 |

* A.I. Centres = Artificial Insemination Centres.

Food Processing Industries in U.P.

2190. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of food processing industries operating in Uttar Pradesh till date and the location thereof along with the industries set up during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up more food processing industries in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the decision taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors and details of food processing industries set up in the country is not maintained centrally. However, as per Annual Survey of Industries (1994-95) published by Central Statistical Organisation, there were 2652 food processing units in the factory sector in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) This Ministry does not set up food processing units directly in any State.

Setting up of a Inter-State Wing

2191. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has decided to set up a fullfledged Inter-State wing in the Irrigation and Command Area Development Department to protect the interest of Andhra Pradesh in utilising the water of the Krishna river;

(b) if so, whether this wing has decided to undertake a study of all projects irrigation, power, industrial and others utilising the Krishna Waters; and

(c) whether the Inter-State wing likely to study the pleas filed by the three states before the Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Andhra Pradesh Government has set up a separate organisation under a Chief Engineer to deal with all inter-State aspects concerning rivers flowing through the State.

Export Oriented Units

2192. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of food processing industries set up in the country during Eighth Plan and its location, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some 100% export oriented units in the country during Ninth Plan;

(c) if so, the number of export oriented units which are likely to be set up with foreign collaboration; and

(d) the names of States where these units are going to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Food Processing Industries are both in the Organised and Unorganised Sectors and details of food processing industries set up

in the country is not maintained centrally. However, as per the Annual Survey of Industries (1994-95) published by Central Statistical Organisation, the total number of food processing units in the factory sector in the country was 29,407. In this survey report, separate plan-wise break up of units set up is not available. However, the State-wise break-up of the units is given in the attached Statement.

(b) to (d) This Ministry does not set up food processing units directly in any State.

Statement

State-wise Number of Food Processing Units in the Factory sector as per the Annual Survey of Industries—1994-95

| Sl. No. | Name of the State | No. of Units |
|---------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 10183 |
| 2. | Assam | 734 |
| 3. | Bihar | 433 |
| 4. | Goa | 34 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 1270 |
| 6. | Haryana | 600 |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | 46 |
| 8. | Jammu & Kashmir | 69 |
| 9. | Karnataka | 1221 |
| 10. | Kerala | 1170 |
| 11. | Madhya Pradesh | 1302 |
| 12. | Maharashtra | 2420 |
| 13. | Manipur | 9 |
| 14. | Meghalaya | 3 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|---------------|-------|
| 15. | Nagaland | 5 |
| 16. | Orissa | 425 |
| 17. | Punjab | 1196 |
| 18. | Rajasthan | 515 |
| 19. | Tamil Nadu | 3782 |
| 20. | Tripura | 22 |
| 21. | Uttar Pradesh | 2652 |
| 22. | West Bengal | 1089 |
| 23. | Chandigarh | 36 |
| 24. | Daman & Diu | 5 |
| 25. | Delhi | 125 |
| 26. | Pondicherry | 42 |
| 27. | Others | 9 |
| Total | | 29407 |

[Translation]

Optimum Use of Land

2193. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has formulated a time bound programme for optimum use of land to support the growing population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of land available which would be put to optimum use;

(d) the total land in the country subject to soil erosion and land degradation;

(e) whether the Planning Commission have made an assessment about the loss in this regard; and

(f) if so, the remedial steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has formulated a National Land Use Policy outlines and circulated to State Governments for implementation as land is State subject.

(c) and (d) About 173.6 million hectare land is suffering from various soil erosion and land degradation problems like water erosion, wind erosion, ravines, salt affected land, waterlogging, shifting cultivation, degraded forest, special problems and coastal sandy areas. These could be developed for optimum use.

(e) and (f) There is no systematic study for assessment of losses, however, various Centrally Sponsored Schemes like (i) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project (RVP), (ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers (FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils, (iv) Scheme of Watershed Management for Shifting Cultivation areas in North Eastern India, and (v) National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), schemes of other Union Ministries and State Sector Schemes are being implemented for control of solid erosion and land degradation.

[English]

Irrigation Projects

2194. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total irrigation capacity created in Rajasthan during 1997-98;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to introduce some new irrigation projects in the State to increase the irrigation capacity during the next two years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The details of new Major & Medium Irrigation Projects to be taken up by the State of Rajasthan during 9th Plan as per their plan documents is given in the Statement. An Irrigation potential of 401.72 thousand hectares is likely to be created on completion of these Projects of which 58.60 thousand hectares was targetted for the year 1997-98.

Statement

Details of New Major & Medium Projects for IX Plan (1997-2002)

Pot. in th. ha./Amount in Cr.Rs.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Project | Latest Estimated Cost (AP 1997-98) | Ultimate Irrigation Potential |
|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| A. MAJOR | | | |
| 1. | Yamuna Water Projects | 485.00 | N.A. |
| 2. | Gagrin | 20.00 | 10.93 |
| 3. | Manohar Thana | 78.10 | 37.93 |
| 4. | Indira Lift | 184.00 | 74.07 |
| 5. | Dholpur Lift | 19.20 | 24.16 |
| 6. | Piplada Lift | 14.77 | 14.87 |
| 7. | Mahi High Level Canal | 450.00 | N.A. |
| 8. | Raj. Water Consolidation Project | 2000.00 | N.A. |
| B. MEDIUM | | | |
| 1. | Sukli | 18.70 | 4.22 |
| 2. | Bandi Sendra | 13.04 | 4.09 |
| 3. | Chaken | 9.55 | 3.38 |
| 4. | Gardada | 36.50 | 9.22 |
| 5. | Piplad | 16.93 | 3.75 |
| 6. | Bami | 15.05 | 7.75 |
| 7. | Lahasi | 16.27 | 4.32 |
| 8. | Takli | 14.50 | 5.17 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|--------------|-------|------|
| 9. | Gulendi | 12.06 | 2.47 |
| 10. | Piplait Lift | 11.34 | 9.69 |
| 11. | Olwara Lift | 9.70 | 4.68 |
| 12. | Kareli | 9.14 | 3.62 |
| 13. | Karal | 26.12 | 4.80 |
| 14. | Hindoi | 12.23 | 2.92 |

[Translation]

Poisonous Elements

2195. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the poisonous elements of chemical pesticides used in foodgrains have resulted in serious health hazards;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard and if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the impact thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Pesticides registered under Insecticides Act, 1968, after evaluation and efficacy, are restrictively used in grain storage for prophylactic and curative treatments against stored grain pests. Studies conducted by various research institutions have revealed that the residues of pesticides, when used at recommended doses and interval do not pose any health hazard.

(c) Steps being taken to minimise the harmful effect of chemical pesticides on foodgrains include:

- (1) Spraying of recommended insecticides on grain bags as prophylactic measures.
- (2) Not spraying directly on foodgrains or mixing with foodgrains.
- (3) Carrying out proper aeration of treated foodgrains before issuing them for consumption.

[English]

Irrigation Projects

2196. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign banks, International Financial Institutions and NABARD have sanctioned funds during 1997-98 for executing some medium and major irrigation projects in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) During 1997-98 only Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan has sanctioned an amount of Yen 7760 Million (Approx. Rs. 265 crores) for "Rengali Major Irrigation Project", Orissa for which an agreement was signed in December, 1997. Details of funds sanctioned by NABARD for executing major & medium irrigation projects are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Hydel Power Projects

2197. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the ongoing small hydel power projects in the hilly areas;

(b) the present status of each project; and

(c) the number of small hydel power projects likely to be completed by the end of the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources deals with small hydro power projects upto 3 MW station capacity. So far, 216 small hydro power projects with an aggregate capacity of 155.38 MW have been installed in the country and 208 SHP projects aggregating to 230.40 MW are ongoing. These projects are located both in the hilly areas as well as in the plains. Out of these, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is supporting 82 demonstration SHP projects aggregating to 96.37 MW in 19 States & UTs. Project-wise details of ongoing small hydro power projects in hilly areas under the MNES Subsidy Scheme is given in the attached Statement. 19 of these SHP projects are likely to be completed during the current financial year.

Statement

*Details of ongoing small hydro power projects in the hilly areas (upto 3 MW station capacity)
under MNES Subsidy Scheme*

| Sl. No. | Name of State/ Project | Total Capacity (kW) | Present Status |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| HIMACHAL PRADESH | | | |
| 1. | Jubal | 150 | Commissioned. |
| 2. | Manali | 200 | -do- |
| 3. | Holi | 3000 | Main equipments supplied. Civil Work in advanced stage. Commissioning during 1998-99. |
| 4. | Sal Stage II | 2000 | -do- |
| 5. | Bhabha Aug. | 3000 | -do- |
| 6. | Gumma | 3000 | -do- |
| UTTAR PRADESH | | | |
| 7. | Bilkot | 50 | Commissioned. |
| 8. | Khet | 100 | -do- |
| 9. | Karmi | 50 | Main equipments supplied. Civil Work in advanced stage. Commissioning during 1998-99 |
| 10. | Bagar | 50 | -do- |
| 11. | Lathi | 100 | -do- |
| 12. | Naini | 50 | Commissioned. |
| 13. | Gogina | 100 | -do- |
| 14. | Leti | 50 | Main equipments supplied. Civil Work in advanced stage. Commissioning during 1998-99. |
| 15. | Baichem | 100 | Commissioned. |
| 16. | Surag | 50 | -do- |
| 17. | Badiyakot | 100 | -do- |
| 18. | Khati | 50 | Orders placed. The project execution is under review in the State due to site problems. |
| 19. | Jumaged | 1200 | Main equipments installed. Work in advanced stage. Commissioning during 1998-99. |
| 20. | Urgam | 3000 | Commissioned. |
| 21. | Jankichatti | 200 | -do- |
| 22. | Islaged | 200 | -do- |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------|---|
| 23. | Dlor Extn. | 50 | Commissioned. |
| 24. | Ghagaria Extn. | 50 | -do- |
| TAMILNADU | | | |
| 25. | Mukurthy | 700 | -do- |
| BIHAR | | | |
| 26. | Neterhat | 50 | Preliminary works in progress. Commissioning by 1999-2000. |
| 27. | Sadani | 1000 | -do- |
| 28. | Lower Ghaghari | 400 | -do- |
| SIKKIM | | | |
| 29. | Rohomchu | 3000 | Main equipments supplied. Civil Work in progress. Commissioning during 1999-2000. |
| WEST BENGAL | | | |
| 30. | Rongmok & Cedars | 500 | Commissioned. |
| 31. | Mungpoo Kali Khola | 3000 | Civil Work to be initiated. Orders for E&M equip. under finalisation. Commissioning by 2000-01. |
| ARUNACHAL PRADESH | | | |
| 32. | Sirnyuk | 2000 | Commissioned. |
| 33. | Domkhrong | 2000 | Main equipments supplied. Civil Work in advanced stage. Commissioning during 1998-99. |
| 34. | Sipit | 2000 | -do- |
| 35. | Siddip | 3000 | Main equipments supplied. Civil Work in progress. Commissioning during 1998-99. |
| 36. | Liromoba | 2000 | -do- |
| 37. | Kitpi | 3000 | Main equipments supplied. Civil Work in progress. Commissioning during 1998-99. |
| 38. | Kush | 2000 | Main equipments supplied. Civil Work in preliminary stage. Commissioning during 1999-2000. |
| MANIPUR | | | |
| 39. | Khuga Stage-II | 250 | Equipments supplies in progress. Civil Work in preliminary stage. Commissioning by 1999-2000. |
| 40. | Singda | 750 | -do- |
| MEGHALAYA | | | |
| 41. | Gaiwang | 100 | Main equipments supplied. Civil Work in preliminary stage. Commissioning during 1999-2000. |
| 42. | Rongap | 100 | -do- |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|---|
| MIZORAM | | | |
| 43. | Teirei | 3000 | Main equipments supplied. Civil Work in advanced stage. Commissioning during 1998-99. |
| 44. | Tuipanglui | 3000 | -do- |
| 45. | Kau-Tlabung | 3000 | -do- |
| NAGALAND | | | |
| 46. | Horangki | 1500 | Main equipments supplied. Civil Work in advanced stage. Commissioning during 1998-99. |
| 47. | Telangsao | 600 | Main equipments supplied. Civil Work in progress. Commissioning during 1998-99. |
| TRIPURA | | | |
| 48. | Saikerbari | 100 | Orders for Civil works E&M equip. to be placed. Commissioning by 2000-01. |
| TOTAL | | 53950 | |

Slaughter Houses

2198. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of slaughter houses operating in the National Capital Region of Delhi; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government to prevent unauthorised slaughtering of animals in different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Municipal Corporation of Delhi is operating one registered slaughter House at Idgah, Delhi.

(b) Slaughter of animals is a state subject under the control of local bodies. For prevention of unauthorised slaughtering, raids and other measures are taken by the local bodies. The state Governments have been informed to prevent unauthorised slaughter.

A Centrally sponsored scheme "Improvement/ Modernisation of Slaughter Houses" is being implemented by this Ministry to provide hygienic slaughter facilities and prevention of unauthorised slaughter of animals.

North Eastern Council

2199. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether North Eastern Council (NEC) is being revamped; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals taken up for speedy development of North Eastern States including Sikkim and special Budgetary provisions, if any, being made from Central Pool?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) A decision 'in principle' has been taken by the Government to restructure the NEC on the following lines:—

(i) Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission will be the Chairman of the NEC; (ii) NEC will have greater involvement and coordination with the Planning Commission and it will function exclusively for the development of the North-East and will have no security functions; and (iii) Sikkim will be brought within the ambit of the NEC.

(b) The steps taken by the Government for speedy development of North Eastern States and Sikkim include, inter-alia, adoption of a "Project Approach" with an accent on completion of priority to on-going projects to be identified in consultation with the State Governments and the North Eastern Council (NEC) and creation of a non-

lapsable Central Pool of resources by utilising the unspent balance out of 10% of the budget allocations earmarked by the concerned Central Ministries for the North-East.

Diseases Due to Nuclear Test

2200. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the villagers of Pokharan area have started complaints of excessive bleeding from their nose, skin and eyes just after five days of nuclear test;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the preventive measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Irrigation Projects in Karnataka

2201. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the sources of water from which irrigation facilities are being provided in Karnataka;

(b) the break up of irrigation potential in the State;

(c) the total drought prone area in the State brought under the irrigation during the end of Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the projections made for the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Irrigation facilities are provided in Karnataka through major & medium surface irrigation projects and minor (ground water and surface water) irrigation schemes.

(b) The break up of Ultimate Irrigation Potential in the State of Karnataka through different sources of irrigation is as under :

| Sl. No. | Source | Ultimate Irrigation potential (in million hectares) |
|---------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Major & Medium irrigation projects | 2.50 |
| 2. | Minor irrigation schemes | |
| | (i) Surface Water | 0.90 |
| | (ii) Ground Water | 1.20 |
| | Total | 4.60 |

(c) 14 major and 18 medium ongoing projects at the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan in Karnataka envisage creation of irrigation potential of 1.22 million hectares in drought prone areas besides covering other areas of the State.

(d) Ninth Plan targets have not been finalised by the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

Konar Irrigation Project

2202. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of such irrigation projects in the country on which the work has been suspended due to lack of consent between various agencies of the Union Government and the State Governments;

(b) the percentage of construction work of Konar Canal Project completed in Bihar till date;

(c) the estimated cost and expenditure incurred thereon upto date;

(d) whether the construction work of this project has been suspended;

(e) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the reasons therefor;

(f) whether any irregularity and misappropriation of funds has come to notice of the Government;

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government against erring personnels; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (h) Irrigation projects are planned, formulated and implemented by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources.

The latest estimated cost of Konar Canal Project is Rs. 312.49 crores. The approximate expenditure incurred by the State Government upto March, 1997 is Rs. 89.48 crores.

The percentage completion of various components of the project as per Annual Plan 1996-97 documents of Government of Bihar is as under:—

| | | |
|----------------|---|-----|
| Main Canal | — | 97% |
| Distributories | — | 64% |
| Structures | — | 60% |

Completion of the project will depend upon the priority attached to it by the State Government.

[English]

Soil Erosion

2203. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing soil erosion in the country alongwith its reasons, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of land affected by soil erosion; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to deal with the problems of soil erosion so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The main reasons for soil erosion in different States are, increased demographic pressure on land, deforestation, overgrazing, inappropriate land use, inadequate long term protective measures etc.

(b) and (c) According to an estimate about 43.00% of total geographical area is affected by soil erosion in the country. Various Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers, National Watershed Development Projects for Rainfed Areas etc. and State Sector Programmes for soil conservation are being implemented to reduce soil erosion.

Upper Krishna Project

2204. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction work of the Upper Krishna Project has come to a stand still;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Attack on Indians in Moscow

2205. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Skinheads attack on Indians on the rise" appearing in 'Hindustan Times' dated April 7, 1998;

(b) if so, facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of Indian Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to raise this issue with Russian Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There have recently been around a dozen incidents of intimidation or assault by skinheads involving Indian nationals in Russia. While the degree of injury or verbal abuse has varied, there has been no confirmed report of death or serious injury requiring prolonged hospitalization of Indian nationals, arising out of such incidents. Upon enquiry, media reports of a sharp rise in violent racial attacks against Indians in Russia proved to be exaggerated.

In view of earlier isolated incidents involving Indian nationals, the Embassy of India, Moscow, had even prior to the publication of the "Hindustan Times" article of 7 April 1998 sensitised the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the local Moscow City authorities, and Russian specialised agencies, of our extreme concern over such developments affecting Indian nationals and urged them to intensify measures to ensure the safety of Indian nationals. Such concerns were reiterated at frequent intervals and as a result patrolling around University campuses and around metro stations was increased. Other measures taken to instill confidence in the Indian community included : (i) Establishment of direct contact with Rectors of institutions where Indian students are studying; (ii) meetings of Embassy officials with representatives of the Indian student and business communities who were urged not to panic, take adequate precautions, move around in groups, immediately register any incident, cooperate with the police, and keep the Embassy fully informed; (iii) Visits by Embassy officials to University hostels where Indian students are concentrated. As a result of the steps taken the number of reported incidents quickly declined, and a sense of calm and security returned within the Indian community.

Government Officers in Private Sector

2206. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gazetted employees of the Central Government who sought permission to take up jobs in private sector during the past five years;

(b) the number of such employees who were granted permission;

(c) the details of such employees with respect to the department in which they were working and the nature of job taken up by them in the private sector;

(d) the number of retired gazetted employees of the Central Government who sought permission to take up jobs in the private sector within two years of their retirement;

(e) the number of such retired employees who were granted permission;

(f) the details with respect to such retired employees regarding the nature of their work in Government service and in the private service;

(g) whether any such retired employee took up work in private sector without Government permission; and

(h) if so, details thereof including action taken against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Central Government servants are not permitted to take up jobs in private sector.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (h) Information is not centrally maintained.

[Translation]

Loss of Production due to Bio-Technic

2207. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news appearing in 'Dainik Jagran' dated May 16, 1998 regarding the likely loss to be suffered by the farmers worldwide, as a new bio-technic has been got patented in USA as reported by the Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI), Canada in its report;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) A patent No. 5723765 has been granted in the United States of America for a technology which is claimed to introduce a 'Terminator' gene and prevent germination of seed if replanted a second time. Since

there is very little import of seeds into India, there is no reason to believe that this US Patent will have any significant impact in India. Moreover, farmers are free not to purchase any such seed.

[English]

Price of Cotton/Chilli

2208. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was sudden fall in the price of cotton and chilli in the open market;

(b) if so, the present market price of cotton and chilli as compared to last three years;

(c) whether the farmers price of Cotton Corporation of India should participate in the Market Intervention Scheme and have urged for fixation of remunerative price for cotton at Rs. 2,350 per quintal; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The prices of cotton and chilli have generally been showing a rising trend except for abnormal increase in cotton prices in May, 1995. This is evident from the movement of wholesale price index numbers of cotton and chilli during the current and last three years as given below:

Wholesale Price Index

(Base 1981-82 = 100)

| Period | Cotton | Chilli |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| May, 1995 | 407.4 | 286.6 |
| May, 1996 | 298.1 | 400.1 |
| May, 1997 | 327.2 | 350.2 |
| May, 1998 | 370.8 | 410.0 |

(c) and (d) No such proposal has been received in this regard by Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). However, CCI always participates in the open auction taking place in market yards for sale of Kapas. As cotton is covered under the minimum support price the Government procures cotton at the MSP whenever prices fall below the support price.

Technopolis Knowledge Parks

2209. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have given permission to TATAs to set up a self-contained Technopolis Knowledge Park in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the special features of the Park, the expenditure involved and the facilities likely to be made available;

(c) whether TATAs have developed similar Technopolis Knowledge Park in other parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No industrial license is required from the Ministry of Industry for setting up of industrial parks. However, the Ministry of Industry received an application from the Tata Housing Development Company Ltd. (THDCL) booking recognition of their proposed specialised industrial park, namely, Technopolis Knowledge Park, to qualify for income Tax rebate under section 80 IA of the Income Tax Act. Their request has been forwarded to the Ministry of Finance for necessary action. The application mentioned that National Electronics Company Ltd. (NELCO) along with THDCL are planning the development of Technopolis Knowledge Park in Mumbai to cater primarily to the requirements of financial services, media and information technology. The Park would in particular provide facilities for:

1. Information Technology
2. Financial Services—Back Office
3. Travel Services
4. Media especially electronic and film based mass media
5. Pharmaceutical research
6. Engineering consulting.

(c) and (d) Since no licence is required for setting up Technopolis and knowledge Parks by the Private Sector, this information is not being maintained by the Central Government.

Developmental Scheme for Rajasthan

2210. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved any scheme for development of backward/desert areas of Rajasthan during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the allocation made during the said period, year-wise;

(d) the details of other schemes received from the State Government of Rajasthan for seeking financial assistance; and

(e) the number of schemes out of them relates to backward/desert areas dominated by poors, down-trodden and people of minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (e) The details of major development schemes being implemented in the rural areas including backward/desert areas of Rajasthan are given in the Statement attached. In addition, Govt. of India has also sanctioned Rs. 2.0 crore for taking up intensive development of seven most backward Panchayat Samitis in the State during 1996-97 and Rs. 0.77 crore for a Flood Control Scheme, namely, Restoration of Govardhan Drain during 1997-98. The Central Assistance of Rs. 60 in each year of 1996-97 and 1997-98 was also provided for Indira Gandhi Nahar Project (IGNP) outside the State Plan under Border Area Development Programme for timely completion of the Project.

Statement

Rural Development

(Rs. in crore)

| Sl. No. | Schemes | Total Allocations | |
|---------|---|-------------------|---------|
| | | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
| 1. | IRDP | 43.88 | 45.33 |
| 2. | Ganga Kalyan Yojna (With effect from 1st Feb. 1997) | 3.59 | 7.98 |
| 3. | Drought Prone Area Programme | 8.71 | 11.20 |
| 4. | Desert Development Programme | 52.58 | 34.00 |

Border Area Development Programme (BADP)

The BADP is being operational with the special Central Assistance for the balanced development of the border blocks of Rajasthan. Under this Programme

Rs. 25.63 crore were allocated in each of the last two years, i.e., 1996-97 and 1997-98.

Irrigation & Command Area Development

The benefits of the irrigation schemes flow to backward areas and in certain cases to desert areas depending upon the site location of their command. The Planning Commission has approved the following schemes/projects for investment clearance during the last two years:

(Rs. in Crore)

| Sl. No. | Name of the Project | Estimated Cost |
|---------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Sukli Medium Irrigation Project | 18.698 |
| 2. | Bandi Sendra Medium Project | 13.041 |
| 3. | Bisalpur | 309.070 |
| 4. | Modernisation of Gambhir Canal | 1176.260 |
| 5. | IGNP (II) | 3398.910 |
| 6. | Restoration of Goverdhar Drain | 3.470 |

Besides, in the Union Budget of 1996-97 Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) was announced for completing the on-going irrigation projects. The details of the Projects along with the amount sanctioned during the last two years under the Programme are as under:—

(Rs. in Crore)

| Sl. No. | Project | Amount Sanctioned | |
|---------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| | | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Indira Gandhi Nahar (II) | — | 36.00 |
| 2. | Panchana | — | 5.00 |
| 3. | Jaisamand (Mod) | 1.85 | 2.00 |
| 4. | Chappi | 3.50 | 5.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----|---------------|---|-------|
| 5. | Bisalpur | — | 38.20 |
| 6. | Narmada Canal | — | 23.00 |
| 7. | Gambhiri | — | 1.00 |
| 8. | Chauli | — | 1.25 |

Village & Small Industries

Integrated Industrial Development Scheme is being operational for the development of backward and rural areas in Jodhpur and Nagaur Districts of Rajasthan with effect from 25.3.94 and 18.3.97 respectively. The estimated cost of the project at Village Sanguria, Jodhpur district is Rs. 514 lakh and Rs. 501.74 lakh at Village Gagelao Thasil, Nagaur district of which Rs. 98 lakhs and Rs. 100 lakhs have been released till date respectively.

Growth Centre Scheme

With a view to developing backward area, five growth centres have been approved by Govt. of India to be located at Abu Road, Bikaner, Dholpur, Jhalawal and Bhiwara. Bhiwara was included in the Scheme during 1997-98 and a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs was released as Central Assistance for this Centre. During 1996-97 and 1997-98 a sum of Rs. 140 lakhs and Rs. 170 lakhs was released for all the five growth centres as Central Assistance.

Delhi Milk Scheme

2211. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints about malpractices in distribution of milk on unauthorised tokens at DMS milk booths have been received by Delhi Milk Scheme authorities from individuals and Area Welfare Associations during 1995, 1996 and 1997 (till August, 1997);

(b) the number of such complaints received (year-wise) alongwith the details of such milk booths;

(c) the reason for which distribution of milk has not started on first-come-first-serve basis; and

(d) the number of complaints received through MPs during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Delhi Milk Scheme does not any longer have a system of tokens for the distribution of its milk nor have there been complaints of unauthorised tokens being used.

(c) DMS milk is sold on first-come-first-served basis. DMS milk being priced far below those of other suppliers, there is very heavy pressure of demand on DMS milk casting a substantial strain on the distribution mechanism. The Resident Welfare Associations are being associated in distribution so as to make it fair and equitable.

(d) The DMS received 15 complaints in 1995, 18 in 1996 and 14 in 1997 (till August) from MPs regarding distribution of milk. Required remedial action was taken in all the cases.

[Translation]

Wind Energy

2212. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether demand for energy is constantly increasing in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the efforts made to promote alternative resources of energy;

(c) whether any survey was conducted at some places to explore the potentiality of wind energy in the State;

(d) if so, the outcome of the survey; and

(e) the time by which the plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government provides capital subsidy, fiscal incentives and soft loans from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) for renewable energy projects in the country, including Madhya Pradesh. Such assistance is available for biogas plants; improved chulhas; solar photovoltaic devices and systems; biomass gasifiers; solar water and air heating systems; and, grid-connected, as well as decentralised power generation projects, based on solar energy, wind energy, small hydro and biomass. Resource assessment studies and surveys are being supported to identify potential areas for such projects. In addition, the State Government has announced an attractive policy to promote Non-Conventional Energy Sources in the State, as per the guidelines of the Central Government.

(c) Under the Wind Resource Assessment Programme, 15 Wind Monitoring Stations and 30 Wind Mapping Stations have been set up to identify potential areas for Wind Energy exploitation in the State.

(d) Four potential sites, namely, Jamgodrani, Kukru, Sendhva and Mahuriya have been identified, which are considered suitable for Wind Power Projects.

(e) The exploitation of the full potential will depend upon identification of further sites; techno-economic viability; continuation of Central and State incentives; and mobilisation of financial resources.

NCES Potential in Maharashtra

2213. SHRI R.S. GAVAI :

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO D. MANDLIK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various schemes started to explore the non-conventional energy sources in Maharashtra especially in tribal areas during the last three years;

(b) the locations selected for setting up these projects;

(c) the funds allocated during the last three years and as on April 30, 1998, project-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make easily available and at cheaper rates the equipments used in installation of the solar energy, wind energy and other non-conventional energy sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been implementing a wide range of programmes for the production and development of non-conventional energy sources such as Biogas plants, Improved chulhas, Biomass gasification and Briquetting plants, Solar thermal water heating, both domestic and industrial, Solar photovoltaic energy based rural home-lighting, lanterns, Water pumping for irrigation and village level power plants, Grid connected power from Wind energy, Small hydro, Biomass combustion, Bagasse-based Co-generation and Solar photovoltaic energy and energy from Urban and industrial wastes, throughout the country including in the State of Maharashtra. The entire State of Maharashtra including all the tribal areas are covered under these schemes.

(c) The details of funds allocated to Maharashtra, during the last 3 years and as on 30th April, 1998, project-wise is given in the Statement attached.

(d) In order to make easily available, at cheaper rates the equipment used in the installation of solar energy, wind energy and other non-conventional energy

projects, the Government has announced schemes for grant of financial support to take up research and development, technology upgradation and the setting up of pilot plant production and activities. Government is providing soft loan assistance to industries for the expansion of existing units and the setting up of new units for production of silicon for use in solar cells. The Ministry has taken up a technology development plan for indigenous production of wind energy equipment and to encourage complete indigenisation of wind electric generators.

Statement

The details of funds allocated to Maharashtra during the last three years and as on 30th April, 1998

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Name of the Programme | Funds allocated and released during last three years and as on 30th April, 1998 |
|---------|--|---|
| 1. | National Project on Biogas Development | 1473.780 |
| 2. | Community/Institutional/Night soil based Biogas Plants | 82.610 |
| 3. | National Programme on Improved Chulha | 267.160 |
| 4. | Integrated Rural Energy Programme | 140.900 |
| 5. | Special Area Demonstration Programme | 16.513 |
| 6. | Solar Photovoltaic Programme | 23.250 |
| 7. | Solar Thermal Energy Programme | 9.970 |
| 8. | Water Pumping Windmills | 5.000 |
| 9. | Wind Power Programme | 365.240 |
| 10. | Small Hydro Power Programme | 34.000 |
| 11. | Biomass Power Programme | 17.600 |
| 12. | Urban & Industrial Wastes | 17.100 |
| 13. | New Technologies | 8.390 |
| 14. | Information & Public Awareness | 7.100 |

[English]

Production of Cotton

2214. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of India's place being third among the cotton producing countries in the world the per hectare yield of cotton in the country is less than that of other cotton producing countries in the world;

(b) if not, the estimate of yield per hectare in U.S.A., China and Pakistan, separately;

(c) whether the cotton production has become unremunerative due to less yield and more cost; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken by the Government to increase the yield of cotton in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India's per hectare yield of cotton is less than several other cotton producing countries in the world in spite of its place being third on the basis of production. The yield estimates for India, USA, China and Pakistan as per FAO Production Year Book-1996 are as under:

| | (Kg./ha.) |
|------------|-----------|
| — India | 307* |
| — U.S.A. | 772 |
| — China | 767 |
| — Pakistan | 488 |

*Unofficial. The official estimate of the Directorate of Economics & Statistics is 266 Kg. per ha. in 1996-97.

(c) The cultivation of cotton is remunerative as the returns are higher than the cost.

(d) To increase the productivity and production of cotton, Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz., Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) in all the cotton growing States. It has also been decided to launch a Technology Mission on Cotton during the IXth Five Year Plan. The Government is also fixing the Minimum Support Price of cotton with a view to ensure remunerative prices to the cotton growers for their produce.

Delhi Milk Scheme

2215. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the alleged corruption prevailing in Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS);

(b) if so, the details of the cases of corruption reported during the last three years;

(c) whether any departmental or CBI Inquiry had also been conducted against guilty officers of DMS during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government on the basis of finding of the inquiry; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to check the corruption prevalent in DMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No case of corruption has been detected/reported in the Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) during the last three years.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

(f) Apart from General Manager, Chief Vigilance Officer and Vigilance Officers exercise the necessary checks and control to prevent corruption in DMS.

Setting up of Food Processing Industries in Maharashtra

2216. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large scope for setting up of food processing industries in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh particularly in the field of mango and grapes;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(c) whether Government are considering to set up such industries in the said States with foreign collaboration;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of Food Processing Industries set up during the last three years in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) While the Ministry has not conducted any specific survey in this regard, it can be said on the basis of raw material availability that a good potential exists for setting up of

mango and grapes-based food processing industries in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The Ministry does not set up any food processing industry directly in any State.

(e) Since liberalisation in July, 1991 till March, 1998, 39 projects approved for 100% Export Oriented Units, joint ventures etc., with an investment of Rs. 710 crores have been set up in the State of Maharashtra. Besides 106 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda with an investment of Rs. 1392 crores have also been implemented in the food processing sector.

In the case of the State of Andhra Pradesh, 30 projects approved for 100% Export Oriented Units, and Joint Ventures etc. with an investment of Rs. 516 crores have been set up. Besides, 52 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda with an investment of Rs. 191.80 crores have also been implemented during the same period.

[Translation]

Corruption Cases

2217. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of corruption committed in the sales and purchases of seeds, pesticides and fertilizers during the last three years;

(b) the details of action taken against the officers and people involved in the above corruption cases;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to check such corruption in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The following cases of frauds and other irregularities in the purchase of fertilizers/administration of Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Schemes have come to notice in the recent past:—

(i) M/s National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) deal with M/s Karsan Ltd. of Turkey for import of urea;

(ii) Import of fertilizers by NFL through M/s Lal Krishna Impex;

(iii) Import of sub-standard urea by NFL from M/s Tumu SA, Romania; and

(iv) Claim of retention price subsidy with the support of fabricated documents etc. by:

(a) M/s Harshvardhan Chemicals & Minerals Pvt. Ltd. and

(b) M/s Phosphate India Ltd.

No case of corruption/administrative irregularity has been reported in respect of Seeds and Pesticides.

(b) In the case appearing at S. No. (i) above, CBI has filed a charge sheet on 27.12.97 against nine accused including former Chief Executive of NFL. The other cases are presently under investigation with CBI.

(c) to (e) There are sufficient provisions under various rules and regulations to check the corruption in the Government.

Unirrigated Land in M.P

2218. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some tribal districts of Madhya Pradesh have been affected due to acute shortage of water for irrigation in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Under Tribal Sub Plan of Government of Madhya Pradesh, tribal areas are covered under 44 Major and 5 Medium Irrigation Projects of the State. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, irrigation potential of 62.32 thousand hectares is anticipated to have been created under Tribal Sub Plan against a target of 183.80 thousand hectares. Government of Madhya Pradesh plans to create additional irrigation potential of 42 thousand hectares under Tribal Sub Plan during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[English]

Restriction on Fishing

2219. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the marine fishermen fishing in and around Paradeep Port are facing some problems due to the restrictions imposed by the Port authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to resolve their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The Pradeep Port Trust have shifted the Mechanised fishing vessels from the commercial harbour basin to the fishing harbour, newly constructed with the Government of India's assistance after having detailed discussions with mechanised fishing vessel operators and members of

fishermen's association. The fishing harbour enables the mechanised fishermen fishing in and around Paradeep to have exclusive facilities for landing and berthing of their fishing vessels.

Dome of K.A.P.P.

2220. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 2417 on March 29, 1995 regarding Kaiga Atomic Power Plant and state:

(a) whether the report has since been received by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the recommendation made in the said report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Expert Committees were constituted by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) which oversees the safety and other aspects of nuclear installations in the country. From the reports of the Committees, it emerged that the earlier designs adopted for the Kaiga dome (inner containment dome) needed re-engineering. Also the earlier techniques for construction and quality control of such complex structures needed improvement. Consequently, re-engineering has been carried out which has been cleared by the AERB and fresh construction has already commenced on the basis of this re-engineered design.

Construction of Kaiga-II dome has been completed in March, 1998 and that of Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Unit-3 has been commenced and will be completed by end of July, 1998.

On the basis of this experience, it is likely that the re-engineered design evolved through the interaction of some of the best experts in the field would form the basis for the construction of future domes in nuclear power projects.

[Translation]

Ocean Development

2221. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated by the Union Government to undertake Ocean Development programmes during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any irregularity/misappropriation of funds has been noticed by the Government in utilising the said funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any inquiry has been initiated in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against those who found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The funds allocated (revised estimates) under both Plan & Non-Plan to the Department of Ocean Development for the past three years are as under :

(in crore rupees)

| 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 57.79 | 64.38 | 102.11 |

(b) and (c) There is no case of utilisation/reappropriation of funds for a purpose other than for which they were allocated without approval of the competent authority. The audit inspection report of the Department for the year 1995-96 and the audit report of National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), an autonomous body funded by the Department, for the period from 1993 to 1997 have, however, made certain observations on the accounts & activities of the Department/NIOT. These have been taken note of.

(d) No inquiry has been warranted.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Welfare Schemes for Small Fishermen

2222. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the welfare of the small fishermen;

(b) if so, the names of the States where such scheme has been implemented;

(c) whether the scheme has been implemented for small fishermen living around Paradeep, Nuri and Konark in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the benefit provided to the fishermen living around those places during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Government of India is implementing the Centrally Sponsored National Welfare of Fishermen Scheme for the welfare of fishermen. The scheme has the following three components:—

(i) Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen;

(ii) Development of Model Fishermen Villages; and

(iii) Saving-cum-Relief for Marine Fishermen.

(b) The names of the States and Union Territories where one or more components of the scheme are being implemented are given below:—

States—1. Andhra Pradesh, 2. Assam, 3. Bihar, 4. Gujarat, 5. Himachal Pradesh, 6. Jammu and Kashmir, 7. Karnataka, 8. Kerala, 9. Madhya Pradesh, 10. Maharashtra, 11. Manipur, 12. Orissa, 13. Tamil Nadu, 14. Rajasthan, 15. Tripura, 16. Uttar Pradesh, and 17. West Bengal.

Union Territories—1. Andaman Nicobar Island, 2. Lakshadweep, 3. Pondicherry, and 4. Daman & Diu.

(c) and (d) Fishermen living around Paradeep, Puri and Konark have been provided benefit under the Saving-cum-Relief and the Development of Model Fishermen Villages Components of the National Welfare of Fishermen scheme, during the last 3 years.

Betel Leaves

2223. SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have declared betel leaves as one of the agricultural commodities; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the cultivation of betel leaves?

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

(b) Under all India coordinated research project on betelvine of ICAR, researches on various aspects including pest and disease of the crop is being conducted at 10 research centres to improve the cultivation of betel leaves. Besides some of State Governments are also providing assistance to improve the cultivation in their States.

[Translation]

Prisoners of War

2224. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian soldiers/citizens are imprisoned in China;

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

(c) whether Government have initiated any talks with Government of China to get them back; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) According to information available with the Government, no Indian soldier is imprisoned in China. However, two Indian citizens—Mr. Gurinder Singh Virk and Mr. Lodee Panden—are under detention in Chinese jails. Mr. Virk was sentenced for 12 years imprisonment on charges of swindling while Mr. Panden is under trial on charges of smuggling and selling cultural relics. They are under detention on criminal charges in accordance with Chinese Law.

(c) and (d) Our Mission in Beijing has been provided Consular access in accordance with bilateral agreements. Government will continue to provide all possible assistance to them in accordance with bilateral agreements.

[English]

Natural Calamity

2225. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently set up a Committee to define the extent of pest infestation and consequent destruction of crops to be treated as natural calamity for the purpose of relief to the farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the compensation provided to the farmers till date, State-wise?

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

(b) The Committee had recommended the following criteria for 'pest attacks' to qualify for financial assistance from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) :—

(i) The pest attack must have been caused or compounded by sustained adverse seasonal conditions,

(ii) The pest attack must be in the nature of an outbreak or epidemic and such as could not normally have been prevented by human intervention,

(iii) The pest attack should have affected crops in a sizeable contiguous area, and

(iv) The extent of damage to the crops should be 50% or above.

An assistance of Rs. 12.00 crore was released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh from the NFCR in

February, 1998 in the wake of damage to crops, mainly cotton, due to pest attack.

[Translation]

Irrigated Land in Tribal Sub-Plan Area

2226. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of irrigated land in each State under the tribal sub-plans after implementation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980; and

(b) the steps taken to increase the irrigated land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) State-wise details of Ultimate Irrigation Potential in Tribal Sub-Plan areas through Major & Medium Irrigation Projects are as under:

(In thousand hectares)

| Sl. No. | Name of State | Ultimate Irrigation Potential (UIP) of Projects covering inter-alia Tribal Sub-Plan Area | Irrigation Potential likely to be created in Tribal Sub-Plan Area after completion |
|--------------|----------------|--|--|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 75.44 | 11.64 |
| 2. | Assam | 192.90 | 69.70 |
| 3. | Bihar | 380.47 | 342.63 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 204.38 | 111.96 |
| 5. | Madhya Pradesh | 929.40 | 132.10 |
| 6. | Maharashtra | 424.75 | 132.62 |
| 7. | Manipur | 16.00 | 15.58 |
| 8. | Orissa | 1150.56 | 577.43 |
| 9. | Rajasthan | 193.43 | 186.26 |
| 10. | West Bengal | 1434.67 | 164.56 |
| 11. | Kerala | 8.38 | 8.38 |
| Total | | 5010.38 | 1752.86 |

(b) New Schemes are taken up by the States to increase the irrigation potential.

[English]

Setting up of Electronic and Software Industry

2227. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up some electronic and software units in Orissa in collaboration with some American Companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its location in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Spices

2228. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested to the Union Government to provide financial assistance for setting up of Technology Mission for the increase in production of spices in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) No request has been received from Government of Karnataka to provide financial assistance for setting up of Technology Mission for the increase in production of spices in the State. However, Government of India is already implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Development of Spices in Karnataka with 100% Central assistance. The important spices being supported under the programme in Karnataka are: Black Pepper, Ginger, Turmeric, Chillies, Coriander and Tree Spices (Clove, Nutmeg and Cinnamon). Under this Scheme, an amount of Rs. 285 lakhs was released to Government of Karnataka during 1997-98. Besides, Rs. 3.38 lakhs was released to University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwar for production of foundation seed and nucleus planting material etc. of various spices. The scheme is proposed to be continued during 1998-99 as well.

Sanctions against India

2229. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI ANIL BASU :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
DR. SANJAY SINH :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether economic sanctions have been imposed by several countries for conducting nuclear tests at Pokhran in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details of sanctions imposed by individual nation;

(c) the countries who have supported, criticised and remained neutral after the nuclear tests;

(d) whether Prime Minister has written letters to heads of various Government, head of G-8, G-15, UN bodies etc., projecting the India's view on nuclear tests;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the manner in which India propose to meet the sanctions; and

(g) the change likely in foreign policy after the nuclear tests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Several countries have announced economic measures against India after the nuclear tests at Pokhran.

(b) Full details of the economic measures applied by individual countries are not available and are still coming in.

(c) Several countries have expressed understanding of the rationale behind India's nuclear tests. Many countries have refrained from issuing official statements. A number of countries, particularly in Europe and Latin America, apart from China, have been critical of the tests.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Prime Minister has written letters to leaders of various governments explaining the security

concerns underlying the decision to authorise these tests. Government has also conveyed its disappointment to the countries which have imposed sanctions, as it reflects an inadequate appreciation of India's legitimate security concerns.

(f) We are assessing the possible impact of the sanctions and appropriate steps are being taken by Government to deal with the situation and safeguard India's interests.

(g) There is no change in India's foreign policy. Government have reiterated their commitment to nuclear disarmament and intends to continue actively to promote early progress towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

[Translation]

Agriculture Development Works

2230. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have analysed the reasons for the delay in implementation of agriculture development schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure speedy implementation of the agricultural schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) No delay in the implementation of major agricultural development scheme has been reported to the Government of India.

(c) The implementation of Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes is carefully monitored by Government of India through field visits, periodical progress reports and discussion with State officers at the bi-annual National Conferences/Zonal Conferences, Area Officer meetings, etc.

[English]

Institute of Fisheries

2231. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up National Institute of Fisheries and Engineering Training in some States;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up such Institute in other States also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) The Government have set up the Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET) with its headquarters at Kochi (Kerala) and units at Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). The Government have no plans to set up such Institutes in other States.

GDP Growth Rate

2232. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has decided to revise its GDP growth target of 7 per cent per annum;

(b) if so, whether according to the official estimate the economy will grow only 5 per cent in 1997-98;

(c) whether Planning Commission propose to review its target;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the extent to which the Planning Commission is likely to achieve the growth rate during the 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) The draft Ninth Five Year Plan prepared at the internal meeting of Planning Commission has set GDP growth rate at 7 per cent per year for the period 1997-2002.

According to the Advance estimate of the Central Statistical Organisation, the economic growth measured by GDP at factor cost in 1997-98 is 5 per cent.

The plan is yet to be considered by the National Development Council. The Government has decided to review this draft so as to suitably reflect the altered priorities, as enunciated in the National Agenda for Governance. Detailed action plans are already under preparation which will, upon finalisation, be integrated with the existing draft. This revised document will then be submitted, through due process, for consideration and approval of the National Development Council.

(e) The Advance Estimate is a projected value. The actuals at the earliest is known through Quick Estimate made by the Central Statistical Organisation.

Modernisation of Food Processing Industries

2233. SHRI S.S. OWAIISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether food processing mechanism needs modernisation in the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to modernise its food processing system by incorporating modern technology;

(c) whether any Committee has been appointed to consider the question of Modernisation of the food processing system; and

(d) if so, the details and the recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Technology upgradation in any industry including that of food processing is an on-going process. The Ministry under its Plan Schemes provides financial assistance to various institutions viz. CFTRI, Mysore; Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur etc. for taking up Research and Development programmes in all areas of food processing.

The Ministry also operates another scheme under which financial assistance is provided in the form of loan and grant for setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing industries.

(c) Ministry has not appointed any Committee to consider the question of modernisation of food processing system.

(d) Does not arise.

Teesta Barrage

2234. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which Teesta Barrage Project is pending at present;

(b) the quantum of funds released by the Union Government and the amount incurred on the said project till date;

(c) the bottlenecks affecting the progress of this project, if any;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to complete the project expeditiously; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Presently first sub-stage of Stage-I of Phase-I of Teesta Barrage Project is

under execution. The percentage completion of various components of the Project as on 1.1.98 are as under:—

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Teesta Barrage | 100% |
| Mahananda Barrage | 100% |
| Dauk Nagar Barrage | 100% |
| Teesta Mahananda Link Canal | 100% |
| Mahananda Main Canal | 100% |
| Dauk Nagar Main Canal | 65% |
| Nagar Tongaon Main Canal | Yet to be started. |
| Teesta Jaldhaka Main Canal | 55% |
| Distribution System | 25% |

(b) to (d) Bottlenecks affecting the progress of the Project are land acquisition problems, non-availability of forest land, shortage of funds, change in scope of the project etc. Planning Commission released a Special Central Assistance of Rs. 5 Crores in the year 1983-84, an advance Plan assistance of Rs. 10 Crores in 1986-87 and Rs. 10 Crores during 1987-88. Further an additional Central Assistance of Rs. 150 Crores was sanctioned by the Planning Commission during the VIII Five Year Plan. Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 5 Crores was released for the project during the year 1996-97 and Rs. 15 Crores during 1997-98 under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) of Ministry of Water Resources. An expenditure of about Rs. 672.66 Crores has been incurred on the project up to March, 1997.

(e) Irrigation is a State subject. Completion of the project will depend on the priority attached to it by the State Government.

Loan to Farmers

2235. SHRI R.S. GAVAI :
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a concrete plan for providing loans to farmers at concessional rates and if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) if so, whether the Government have fixed the target for providing loans under the multiagent system during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(c) if so, the details of the achievements made by the Government under the said scheme during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on table of the Sabha.

Production of Wheat

2236. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have felt the need to draw a long-term plan to boost the production of wheat to meet the growing demands by 2000 A.D.; and

(b) if so, the various strategies proposed to be adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To boost the production of wheat so as to meet the demand by 2000 A.D. the implementation of on-going centrally sponsored "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Wheat)" is proposed to be continued with some modifications during the Ninth Five Year Plan. Besides, the implementation of "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice)" and "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals)", which include the wheat development programmes would also continue. These schemes are to supplement the efforts of State Govt. in increasing the production and productivity of cereal crops. The strategy proposed to be adopted for increasing the production of wheat and other foodgrains includes increasing the coverage under high yielding varieties, stepping up the use of plant nutrients, improving irrigation facilities, propagating the use of water saving devices like sprinkler irrigation system, development of efficient water harvesting and conservation methods, etc.

World Bank Assistance

2237. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had taken a number of steps to improve agricultural production with the help of World Bank and other foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the extent to which it has increased the production of agricultural commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. At present, various World Bank Aided and Bilateral/Multilateral projects are under implementation.

(b) The Agricultural Production is influenced by a number of factors. The on-going World Bank Aided Projects and Bilateral/Multilateral Projects are also supplementing the, on-going efforts of the State Governments for increasing production. The extent of increase in the production of Agricultural Commodities because of the implementation of Externally Aided Projects cannot be assessed separately as all the measures intended for increasing productivity and production have the bearing on overall production.

Desilting of Reservoirs

2238. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have evolved any Action Plan to remove the silt accumulated in various dams and reservoirs in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to check the soil erosion in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which all dams and reservoirs of the country are likely to be desilted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. Soil erosion and silting of reservoirs are natural phenomenae and provisions are made in the reservoirs for accommodating silt. Generally, the reservoirs are planned for a life of 100 years. Soil conservation measures, afforestation and water management practices in the catchment of River Valley Projects are taken up to reduce the rate of siltation in the reservoirs to some extent.

Honey Bee

2239. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of structural and operation of National Honey Bee Keepers Association;

(b) the details of honey produced in the country during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) the details of its export to different countries, country-wise; and

(d) the facilities provided by the Government to Honey Bee Keepers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Government is not aware of the functioning of any organisation by the name of National Honey Beekeepers Association. However, there is an All India Beekeepers Association with its Headquarters at 1325, Sadashiv Peth, Pune. This is a national level association comprising of bee Scientists, Researchers, Students and Beekeepers. Its membership is open to any one who is interested in the development and promotion of beekeeping in the country. Its activities include publication of Indian Bee Journal in English, Bharatiya Madhavi Palan in Hindi, dissemination of apicultural information to beekeepers, traders of bee products and to bee scientists, supply of hives and other literature and supply of beekeeping equipment.

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

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

(b) The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Development of Beekeeping for Improving Crop Productivity. The scheme was launched during the Eighth Plan with effect from the year 1994-95 with an outlay of Rs. 18.87 crores. Assistance is being provided for the following activities under this scheme:—

| S. No. | Activity |
|--------|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. | Promotion of research and development. |
| 2. | Production & distribution of honey bee colonies. |
| 3. | Development of infrastructure for handling and marketing of honey and its products. |
| 4. | Training of farmers/Beekeepers. |
| 5. | Promotional activities. |

Apart from the above, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission is implementing the following Schemes:

1. Primary unit for *Apis mellifera*.
2. Primary unit for *Apis cerana*.
3. Medium scale apiary unit for *Apis mellifera*.
4. Medium scale apiary unit for *Apis cerana indica*.
5. Semi commercial apiary for *Apis mellifera*.

| 1 | 2 |
|-----|--|
| 6. | Semi commercial apiary unit for <i>Apis cerana</i> . |
| 7. | Commercial apiary unit for <i>Apis mellifera</i> . |
| 8. | Commercial apiary unit for <i>Apis cerana</i> . |
| 9. | Commercial apiary (supply cum service unit) of <i>Apis cerana</i> . |
| 10. | Commercial apiary (supply cum service unit) of <i>Apis mellifera</i> . |
| 11. | Bee Migration. |
| 12. | Pollination. |
| 13. | Introduction of beekeeping in educational institutions. |
| 14. | Beekeepers summer course. |
| 15. | Honey House with Honey Processing Plant. |

Statement-I

State-wise Honey Production

| | | (Value Rs. in Lakh) | |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Sl. No. | Name of State | 1996-97 | 1997-98 (Provisional) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 158.77 | 174.53 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | — | — |
| 3. | Assam | 206.79 | 227.31 |
| 4. | Bihar | 517.76 | 589.14 |
| 5. | Goa | 0.10 | 0.10 |
| 6. | Gujarat | — | — |
| 7. | Haryana | 29.37 | 32.28 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 36.76 | 40.41 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 105.18 | 115.62 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|----------------|--------|--------|-------|-------------------|---------|---------|
| 10. | Karnataka | 89.31 | 98.17 | 22. | Tamil Nadu | 617.23 | 678.48 |
| 11. | Kerala | 259.87 | 285.66 | 23. | Tripura | 5.30 | 5.83 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 15.20 | 16.71 | 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 110.27 | 121.21 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 70.22 | 77.19 | 25. | West Bengal | 423.89 | 465.95 |
| 14. | Manipur | 81.99 | 90.13 | 26. | D & N Haveli | — | — |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 88.53 | 97.32 | 27. | Daman & Diu | — | — |
| 16. | Mizoram | 1.73 | 1.90 | 28. | Delhi | 1.96 | 2.15 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 18.45 | 20.28 | 29. | Lakshadweep | — | — |
| 18. | Orissa | 298.05 | 327.63 | 30. | Chandigarh | — | — |
| 19. | Punjab | 43.16 | 47.44 | 31. | Andaman & Nicobar | — | — |
| 20. | Rajasthan | — | — | 32. | Pondicherry | — | — |
| 21. | Sikkim | 2.82 | 3.11 | Total | | 3182.71 | 3498.55 |

Statement-II*Export of Honey from India*

(Quantity in Kg., Value in Rupees)

| Sl. No. | Name of Country | 1995-96 | | 1996-97 | |
|---------|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | | Quantity | Value | Quantity | Value |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | United States of America | 158133 | 13606827 | 470035 | 24642140 |
| 2. | Bangladesh | 856 | 60674 | 24266 | 2276951 |
| 3. | Germany | — | — | 35340 | 1932546 |
| 4. | Malaysia | 3710 | 215418 | 9114 | 1319449 |
| 5. | United Kingdom | — | — | 23605 | 941336 |
| 6. | Singapore | — | — | 3670 | 718560 |
| 7. | Italy | — | — | 2680 | 392336 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|--------------------|--------|----------|--------|----------|
| 8. | United Arab Emirat | 13620 | 1931861 | 4750 | 304759 |
| 9. | Netherlands | — | — | 5790 | 253799 |
| 10. | Kuwait | — | — | 848 | 128360 |
| 11. | Oman | — | — | 180 | 40330 |
| 12. | Sri Lanka | 1590 | 112037 | 390 | 31578 |
| 13. | France | — | — | 150 | 8576 |
| 14. | Russia | 340040 | 40874526 | — | — |
| 15. | Mauritius | 3237 | 180467 | — | — |
| 16. | Saudi Arabia | 100 | 7000 | — | — |
| Total | | 521286 | 62988810 | 580818 | 32990719 |

National Policy on Informatics

2240. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to have a National Policy on Informatics;

(b) if so, the principles and objectives of the aforesaid policy;

(c) whether the Government have set up any task force for the purpose;

(d) if so, the composition and the terms of reference of the task force; and

(e) the time by which the National Policy on Informatics is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to formulate National policy on Informatics to enable India to emerge as an Information Technology Superpower within the next ten years, recommend as appropriate empowered institutional mechanism to implement this policy as a national mission with the participation of the Central and State Governments, industries, academic institutions and society at large, recommend steps required to remove bottlenecks and give a boost to India's Information Technology industry, and preparation of a blueprint for making the adoption of Information Technology into a national movement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The composition and the terms of reference of the task force are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) The Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development setup by the Government on 22.5.1998 is required to submit its report within 90 days and the National Policy on Informatics will be announced after considering its recommendations.

Statement**National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development****COMPOSITION**

| | |
|--|--|
| Chairperson : | Shri Jaswant Singh Deputy Chairperson, Planning Commission |
| Co-Chairpersons : | Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh |
| | Dr. M.G.K. Menon Former Union Minister of State, Science & Technology |
| Members : | |
| (1) Dr. N Seshagiri Member-Convenor | Director General, National Informatics Centre |
| (2) Shri N. Vittal | Chairman, Public Enterprises Selection Board, former Secretary, Department of Electronics and Chairman, Telecom Commission |
| (3) Shri A.V. Gokak | Chairman, Telecom Commission |
| (4) Shri R. Gupta | Secretary, Department of Electronics |
| (5) Shri P.G. Mankad | Secretary, Ministry of I&B |
| (6) Shri T.H. Chowdary | Former CMD of VSNL and Information Technology Advisor to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh |
| (7) Dr. P.V. Indiresan | Former Director, IIT, Chennai |
| (8) Shri Dewang Mehta | Executive Director, National Association of Software Companies (NASSCOM) |
| (9) Shri N.R. Narayana Murthy | Chairman & Managing Director, INFOSYS |
| (10) Shri Ashok Soota | President, WIPRO Computers |
| (11) Shri Rajendra Pawar | Vice Chairman and MD, NIIT |
| (12) Dr. Y.S. Rajan | Senior Advisor (Technology), CII |
| (13) Shri Ravi Parthasarathi | Managing Director, Infrastructure Leasing & Finance Services (ILFS) |
| (14) Shri Anil Bakht | IT professional |
| (15) Shri Sudeendra Kulkarni | Director (Communications and Research), PMO |

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (1) Recommend a strategy for the extensive use of Information Technology in all areas of the national economy—agriculture, industry, trade, and services—as a critical input in making India a global economic power.
- (2) Prepare the design for building a world-class physical, institutional, and regulatory IT infrastructure, which is appropriate for India. This design will embrace the growing convergence of telecommunications, computers, consumer electronics, and the media infrastructure (minus its content).
- (3) Towards this end, determine the means for creating a National Informatics Infrastructure (NII) backbone, bridging it to the Local Informatics Infrastructure (LII) and the Global Informatics Infrastructure (GII). The design of the NII will be dynamic, taking into account the rapidly changing nature of Information Technology.
- (4) Recommend how NII can be created at an optimal cost by using the existing resources of the various wings of Government such as the Department of Telecommunications, Prasar Bharati, Railways, Power Grid Corporation of India, etc.
- (5) Suggest measures for achieving a massive expansion in the use of the Internet by all sections of society, especially in business and education, and development of Indian content on the Internet.
- (6) Recommend a strategy for boosting the learning and use of Information Technology in Indian languages. The Policy will suggest measures to promote the development of software, especially educational and commercial software, in Indian languages.
- (7) Develop a strategy for a twenty-fold increase in India's software and other IT service exports in the next ten years. In particular, the Policy will focus on the development of world-class software products and brands that can quickly establish global dominance.
- (8) Suggest measures to catalyze the growth of exports through the extensive use of E-commerce and EDI (electronic data interchange).
- (9) Suggest ways in which the use of IT can be maximized in the Government at all levels, so as to make its functioning people-friendly, transparent, and accountable.
- (10) Develop a strategy for dramatically increasing the PC density in the country and, to that end, ensure that every household and commercial establishment that has a telephone also has a computer. The strategy will aim to facilitate the availability of computer hardware, software, and connectivity at the lowest possible cost.
- (11) Devise a strategy for establishing a strong and internationally competitive domestic manufacturing base for computers, computer components, and peripherals.
- (12) Design a training and manpower development plan involving government agencies, private businesses, voluntary organizations, educational institutions and others to quadruple the number of IT professionals in the country in the next two years. The Task Force will suggest a plan to implement the commitment made in the National Agenda for Governance to ensure universal computer literacy in all secondary schools in the country. The plan will also aim at making available IT education to all those sections of the economy where it serves as a productivity multiplier.
- (13) Develop a strategic plan to raise the necessary financial resources to realize the objectives of the National Informatics Policy. This plan will rely on innovative means of funding that minimize government outlay.
- (14) Suggest an appropriate legal framework for the creation of an IT-based society, with due focus on intellectual property rights (IPR), secrecy, security, and safety of information.
- (15) Recommend how India can leverage its global competitiveness in InfoTech to play a prominent role in the development of IT in other countries, especially those that are underdeveloped.

Pakistan's Nuclear Plan

2241. SHRI RAMAKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pak Nuclear-Plan terrorism linked US study" appearing in the 'Pioneer India', 27 May, 1998.

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the news report regarding the annual US Congress Task Force report on terrorism and unconventional warfare.

(b) We are aware of consistent outside support to Pakistan in this field despite the existence of multilateral export control regimes, unilateral declarations of restraint and supply restrictions in producer countries.

(c) Pakistan's clandestine nuclear weapons programme and its linkage with terrorism has been highlighted and our security concerns emanating from such covert activities have been conveyed bilaterally to several countries and raised in various fora. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interests.

Agriculture Credit

2242. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have urged the Union Government to create a Central Fund to enable the States to increase the quantum of agricultural credit and contain the rate of interest at reasonable level;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have accepted the proposal;

(c) if not, the time by which the Government are likely to take decision on the said proposal;

(d) whether the lack of funds in the States affected the welfare measures of the agriculture sector; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No request has been received from the State Governments for creation of Central Fund for increasing the quantum of agricultural credit and containing the rate of interest at reasonable level.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Production of Fish

2243. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the States where fish production has declined during Eighth Plan;

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

(c) the steps taken to increase the fish production during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) There has been no decline in fish production in any state during the Eighth Plan period. However, minor fluctuations in fish production

have been observed in the states of Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Mizoram during Plan Period.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Steps have been taken by the Government of India to increase production of fish and other marine products as well as the productivity of fishermen and fishing industry. These steps inter alia include expansion of aquaculture in fresh and brackish waters, development of coastal marine fisheries, construction of requisite infrastructure such as fishery harbours and fish landing centres and development of human resources. A number of central sector and centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented for the development of fisheries and aquaculture in the States/Union Territories.

Digging of Wells

2244. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDALIK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether digging of wells has been undertaken by the Central Ground Water Board during 1997-98;

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

(c) whether some locations have been selected for drilling of bore holes in Karnataka during 1998-99;

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

(e) the criterion laid down by the Central Ground Water Board to select the location for drilling bore holes; and

(f) the time by which the bore holes work is likely to be started in the States?

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

(b) Details of wells drilled by the Central Ground Water Board during 1997-98 are given in the Statement-I.

(c) and (d) The Central Ground Water Board has fixed a tentative target of drilling 978 wells in various parts of the country, including 103 wells in the State of Karnataka, during 1998-99 as per details given in Statement-II. Actual locations of wells depend on the requests of the State Government, results of the studies of remote sensing, geophysical survey and hydrogeological mapping.

(e) The criteria for selection of locations for drilling boreholes by the Central Ground Water Board include the need for ascertaining the availability, quality and quantity of ground water, requests of the State

Governments for ground water development, results of studies of remote sensing, geo-physical surveys and hydrogeological mapping.

(f) Drilling of bore holes is a continuous process and is undertaken by the Central Ground Water Board under its normal programme of work on annual basis in different parts of the country. The programme of drilling in 1998-99 has already commenced in April 1998.

Statement-I

Details of wells drilled by the Central Ground Water Board during 1997-98

| S. No. | State | No. of wells drilled |
|--------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | ANDHRA PRADESH | 73 |
| | (1) Chittoor | 4 |
| | (2) Cuddapah | 20 |
| | (3) East Godavari | 11 |
| | (4) Guntur | 5 |
| | (5) Nalgonda | 17 |
| | (6) Nellore | 16 |
| 2. | ARUNACHAL PRADESH | 1 |
| | (1) Changlong | 1 |
| 3. | ASSAM | 15 |
| | (1) Kamrup | 1 |
| | (2) Goalpara | 6 |
| | (3) North Lakhimpur | 1 |
| | (4) Sonitpur | 1 |
| | (5) Sibsagar | 6 |
| 4. | BIHAR | 30 |
| | (1) Banka | 3 |
| | (2) Bettiah | 2 |
| | (3) Dumka | 2 |
| | (4) Hazaribagh | 10 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|--------------------|----|
| | (5) Jehanabad | 1 |
| | (6) Madhubani | 4 |
| | (7) Nalanda | 7 |
| | (8) Ranchi | 1 |
| 5. | GUJARAT | 75 |
| | (1) Banaskantha | 6 |
| | (2) Jamnagar | 10 |
| | (3) Junagarh | 2 |
| | (4) Kutch | 27 |
| | (5) Mehsana | 6 |
| | (6) Rajkot | 23 |
| | (7) Surendra Nagar | 1 |
| 6. | HARYANA | 6 |
| | (1) Faridabad | 6 |
| 7. | HIMACHAL PRADESH | 3 |
| | (1) Kangra | 3 |
| 8. | JAMMU & KASHMIR | 13 |
| | (1) Jammu | 11 |
| | (2) Kathua | 1 |
| | (3) Udhampur | 1 |
| 9. | KERALA | 21 |
| | (1) Alleppey | 4 |
| | (2) Calicut | 6 |
| | (3) Kollam | 10 |
| | (4) Trivandrum | 1 |
| 10. | MAHARASHTRA | 69 |
| | (1) Akola | 19 |
| | (2) Amrawati | 4 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|----------------------|----|-----|---------------------|----|
| | (3) Buldhana | 4 | | (3) Churui | 10 |
| | (4) Dhule | 3 | | (4) Dholpur | 6 |
| | (5) Jalgaon | 3 | | (5) Jaipur | 7 |
| | (6) Nanded | 19 | | (6) Jaisalmer | 2 |
| | (7) Pune | 14 | | (7) Jhunjhunu | 15 |
| | (8) Raigarh | 3 | | (8) Jodhpur | 1 |
| 11. | MEGHALAYA | 16 | | (9) Karoli | 3 |
| | (1) East Khasi Hills | 4 | | (10) Sawai Madhopur | 6 |
| | (2) West Garo Hills | 6 | 15. | TAMIL NADU | 58 |
| | (3) West Khasi Hills | 6 | | (1) Cuddalore | 4 |
| 12. | ORISSA | 43 | | (2) Dindigul | 21 |
| | (1) Balasore | 4 | | (3) Parambalur | 1 |
| | (2) Bolangir | 7 | | (4) Ramanad | 2 |
| | (3) Ganjam | 5 | | (5) Thiruvapur | 2 |
| | (4) Kendrapara | 4 | | (6) Tanjour | 2 |
| | (5) Kalahandi | 3 | | (7) Vellore | 2 |
| | (6) Nuapara | 7 | | (8) T.V. Mallai | 24 |
| | (7) Sambalpur | 3 | 16. | UTTAR PRADESH | 48 |
| | (8) Sundergarh | 2 | | (1) Allahabad | 15 |
| | (9) Subarnapur | 8 | | (2) Bhaduhi | 2 |
| 13. | PUNJAB | 25 | | (3) Bulandsahar | 2 |
| | (1) Faridkot | 13 | | (4) Meerut | 6 |
| | (2) Fatehgarh | 1 | | (5) Etawah | 3 |
| | (3) Jalandhar | 3 | | (6) Mirzapur | 9 |
| | (4) Hoshiarpur | 4 | | (7) Moradabad | 4 |
| | (5) Patiala | 4 | | (8) Nainital | 1 |
| 14. | RAJASTHAN | 60 | | (9) Varanasi | 6 |
| | (1) Barmer | 9 | 17. | WEST BENGAL | 29 |
| | (2) Bharatpur | 1 | | (1) Birbhum | 2 |
| | | | | (2) Darjeeling | 1 |
| | | | | (3) Medinipur | 10 |
| | | | | (4) Murshidabad | 9 |
| | | | | (5) Nadia | 7 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|-------------------|-----|----|-------------------|---|----|
| 18. | MADHYA PRADESH | 60 | | | 2. Dibrugarh & Tinsukhia | 6 |
| | (1) Bastar | 8 | | | 3. Morigaon | 5 |
| | (2) Durg | 11 | 2. | ARUNACHAL PRADESH | 1. East Siang | 2 |
| | (3) Jabalpur | 15 | | | 2. Changlong | 2 |
| | (4) Khandwa | 3 | 3. | MEGHALAYA | 1. Ri-Bhoi | 8 |
| | (5) Narsinghpur | 2 | | | | |
| | (6) Rajnand Gaon | 3 | 4. | GUJARAT | 1. Sabarkantha Benaskantha Gandhi Nagar | 8 |
| | (7) Sarguja | 2 | | | 2. Kutch & Coastal Saurashtra | 20 |
| | (8) Sidhi | 2 | | | 3. Bharuch Baroda Surat | 10 |
| | (9) Ujjain | 14 | | | 4. Junagarh | 32 |
| 19. | KARNATAKA | 112 | | | 5. Mehsana Ahmedabad | 9 |
| | (1) Bellary | 11 | 5. | PUNJAB | 1. Patiala Fatehgarh Sahib Sangrur | 8 |
| | (2) Bidar | 9 | | | 2. Kapurthala | 8 |
| | (3) Bijapur | 3 | | | 3. Roper | 1 |
| | (4) Dharwad | 17 | | | 4. Hoshiarpur Nawanshahar | 1 |
| | (5) Gulbarga | 16 | 6. | HARYANA | 1. Gurgaon | 7 |
| | (6) Hassan | 9 | | | 2. Faridabad | 7 |
| | (7) Kolar | 19 | 7. | HIMACHAL PRADESH | 1. Kangra | 2 |
| | (8) Mandya | 8 | | | 2. Bilaspur Hamirpur | 4 |
| | (9) Raichur | 20 | 8. | UTTAR PRADESH | 1. Gonda | 5 |
| 20. | UNION TERRITORIES | 23 | | | 2. Bahraich | 5 |
| | (1) Chandigarh | 4 | | | 3. Fatehpur | 5 |
| | (2) Delhi | 17 | | | 4. Mirzapur Sonbhadra | 13 |
| | (3) Pondicherry | 2 | | | 5. Banda | 10 |
| | | | | | 6. Varanasi | 3 |

Statement-II

Details of tentative target of drilling of wells by Central Ground Water Board during 1998-99

| S. No. | State | District | No. of boreholes to be drilled |
|--------|-------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | ASSAM | 1. Lakhimpur & Dhemaji | 5 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----------------|---|---|----|-----------------------|--|---|----|
| | | 7. Meerut, Bulandshahar | 10 | 14. ANDHRA PRADESH | 1. East Godavari | | 5 |
| | | 8. Rampur, Mordabad | 5 | | 2. Nizamabad | | 29 |
| | | 9. Nainital | 2 | | 3. Krishna | | 8 |
| | | 10. Saharanpur | 2 | | 4. Srikakulam | | 12 |
| | | 11. Uttarkashi, Bijnor, Pauri | 2 | | 5. Cuddapah, Nellore, Kurnool, Mehboob- nagar, Medak | | 29 |
| | | 12. Etawah | 5 | | 6. West Godavari | | 20 |
| 9. TAMIL NADU | | 1. Kanchipuram, Tiruvallore, Tiruvannamalai | 10 | | 7. Khamam | | 14 |
| | | 2. Ramanathapuram | 5 | | 8. Warangal | | 15 |
| | | 3. Dindigul, Coimbatore | 16 | | 9. Kanimgar | | 15 |
| | | 4. Vellore | 13 | 15. ORISSA | 1. Balasore, Puri, Cuttack | | 36 |
| 10. KERALA | | 1. Cannanore | 15 | | 2. Sambalpur | | 12 |
| | | 2. Quilon | 4 | | 3. Malkangiri, Rayagada | | 12 |
| | | 3. Eamakulam | 4 | | 4. Gaipati | | 12 |
| | | 4. Allepy | 10 | | 5. Ganjam | | 12 |
| 11. BIHAR | | 1. Banka, Jehanabad, Nalanda | 20 | | 6. Nayagarh | | 12 |
| | | 2. Hazaribagh, Bokaro, Kodama, Dhanbad | 15 | 16. RAJASTHAN | 1. Sawai Medhopur | | 10 |
| | | 3. Supaul, Madhepura, Saharsa | 5 | | 2. Jodhpur | | 8 |
| | | 4. East Champaran, Vaishali, Muzaffarpur | 5 | | 3. Jalore | | 8 |
| | | 5. Ranchi | 3 | | 4. Bikaner | | 16 |
| 12. MAHARASHTRA | | 1. Nagpur, Chandarpur, Gadchiroli, Yavatmal | 10 | | 5. Jaipur, Ajmer | | 15 |
| | | 2. Nanded, Latur | 16 | | 6. Chittorgarh, Bhilwara | | 15 |
| | | 3. Raigarh, Pune | 16 | 17. MADHYA PRADESH | 1. Ujjain | | 16 |
| | | 4. Akola | 16 | | 2. Jabalpur | | 16 |
| 13. J & K | | 1. Srinagar | 8 | | 3. Sidhi | | 7 |
| | | 2. Jammu | 2 | | 4. Bastar | | 16 |
| | | 3. Kathua | 2 | | 5. Durg, Rajnandgaon | | 20 |
| | | 4. Udhampur | 2 | | 6. Reeva, Sidhi, Setna | | 8 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------|-------------|--------------------------------|-----|
| 18. | KARNATAKA | 1. Dharwad | 31 |
| | | 2. Belgaon | 11 |
| | | 3. Shimoga | 9 |
| | | 4. Hassan | 6 |
| | | 5. Chikmagalur | 8 |
| | | 6. North Kanara | 12 |
| | | 7. Coorg | 13 |
| | | 8. South Kanara | 13 |
| 19. | WEST BENGAL | 1. Birbhum | 5 |
| | | 2. Burdwan | 4 |
| | | 3. Darjeeling | 1 |
| | | 4. Jalpaigun | 1 |
| | | 5. Murshidabad | 5 |
| | | 6. Nadia, North 24 Parganas | 5 |
| | | 7. Medinipur, Hugli, Howrah | 10 |
| 20 | DELHI | 1. NCT of Delhi | 22 |
| TOTAL | | | 978 |

Indo-French Agreement

2245. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the month of January, President of France visited India and had number of bilateral agreements signed between the two countries;

(b) if so, the total agreements signed with details; and

(c) the extent to which France has agreed to cooperate with India to combat terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Two agreements on consular matters and a Letter of Intent on Cooperation in Biotechnology were signed. The details are as follows:

An Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters was signed by the Union Home

Minister and the French Foreign Minister on January 25, 1998. This agreement provides for assistance with regard to serving of processes, obtaining of evidence, executing search and seizure, effecting temporary transfer of persons in custody to appear in court proceedings or to assist in an investigation and providing documents and records.

An Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil Matters was signed by the Union Law Secretary and the French Ambassador on January 25, 1998. This agreement establishes a mechanism for assistance in serving judicial or extra-judicial documents on persons residing in the other country (in addition to each country having the option of doing so through its diplomatic or consular agents) and, obtaining proof.

A Letter of Intent on Cooperation in the field of biotechnology was signed by MOS (S & T & P) and the French Minister for Education, Research and Technology on January 25, 1998. It identifies specific areas for joint research and cooperation.

(c) France and India have agreed to cooperate with each other to combat terrorism. The signing of the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters reflects the shared concern and willingness to cooperate, between the two countries over the globalisation and internationalisation of crime and terrorism.

Impacts of Nuclear Tests

2246. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the impact of nuclear test conducted by India on the various foreign aided irrigation projects of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to ensure that the progress of such projects do not suffer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The irrigation projects under implementation with External Assistance are not likely to be affected by the economic sanctions due to Nuclear Tests conducted by India.

Subarnarekha Barrage Project

2247. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Planning Commission accorded clearance to the Subarnarekha Barrage Project and a canal network on the left bank of the river in Midnapore district of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Minister for irrigation and Waterways of the Government of West Bengal met the Union Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the decision taken by the Union Government in the matter; and

(f) the time by which the project is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (f) Subernarekha Barrage Project of West Bengal was considered by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources in its 38th meeting held on 27.1.1988 for Rs. 215.61 Crores and found acceptable subject to environment and forest clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forest. Subsequently, Ministry of Environment and Forest has given environmental and forest clearance on 19.9.1994 and Planning Commission has accorded investment clearance on 15.3.1995.

Irrigation Projects are implemented by the State Governments out of their own resources as per their own priorities.

Visa Restrictions

2248. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United States of America (U.S.A.) has imposed restriction on issuing visa for India;

(b) if so, when and till what date the restriction has been imposed; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The USA has announced restrictions under Section 102(b) of its domestic law namely Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act (NPPA). These sanctions do not include any restriction on issuing visa for India.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Corruption Charges Against Ministers

2249. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :
SHRI SURESH KURUP :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the present Cabinet Ministers are facing corruption charges; and

(b) if so, the names of such Ministers and the charges against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Officers in Kendriya Bhandar

2250. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government holds more than 90% share capital in Kendriya Bhandar for controlling and managing the organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some Central Secretariat officers on deputation are getting extensions again and again despite standing orders for not granting extensions of the re-employment beyond 60;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government ensure that the selection for such replacement takes place well before the expiry of their present terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Kendriya Bhandar is a Cooperative Society registered under the Delhi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1972 and has been set up for the welfare of the Government employees. Its Management vests in its Board of Directors. Out of total share capital of Rs. 77.78 lakhs, Central Government has contributed an amount of Rs. 68.18 lakhs.

(c) and (d) The present General Manager who was a Central Secretariat Service Officer was appointed as General Manager on part time basis with effect from April 13, 1991 in addition to his duties as Joint Secretary in this Department and on whole time basis with effect from November 11, 1991 on absorption basis on his voluntary retirement from Government service. The decision of granting extension to the General Manager, Kendriya Bhandar was taken last by the Board of Directors having regard to various relevant considerations.

(e) The Board of Directors of Kendriya Bhandar is empowered to take necessary action in the matter at the appropriate time.

Secret Service Fund

2251. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "CBI wines, dines on secret funds" appearing in 'Hindustan Times' dated April 2, 1998;

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

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The CBI has reported that the Secret Service Fund is operated in accordance with the relevant guidelines which inter-alia permit extending hospitality to visiting foreign police dignitaries. The amount so spent is a small fraction of the expense from the Secret Service Fund of the CBI.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (b) above.

People Below Poverty Line

2252. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey recently to know total population in the country and the trend of percentage increased every year;

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

(c) the percentage of people living below poverty line, State-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the standard of people living below poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The last survey was conducted in 1991 Census. However, a sample survey of births and deaths known as Sample Registration System (SRS) is being carried out regularly by the Office of the Registrar General, India in randomly selected villages and urban blocks spread throughout the country. The main objective of the survey is to provide reliable estimates of birth and death rates at the state and national levels. It also provides other measures of fertility and mortality for bigger (with population 10 million or more) states and the country as a whole.

The annual growth rate of population measured in terms of natural growth rate is obtained as the difference between annual estimates of birth and death rates. The latest estimate of natural growth rate from SRS, at the national level, is 1.85 percent and relates to the year 1996. The estimates of natural growth rate of population (percent), and available from SRS for the year 1991 to 1996, at the national level and for the states and union territories are given in the Statement-I.

(c) The latest State-wise estimates of percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line are available for the year 1993-94. These are estimated from the consumer expenditure survey of the 50th round of the National Sample Survey Organisation. These estimates are enclosed as Statement-II.

(d) There is a three pronged action against poverty. These are: (a) acceleration of economic growth, (b) human and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting the minimum needs, alleviation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society etc., and (c) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and asset building for the poor. The main among these programmes are the Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Nehru Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, Griha Kalyan Yojana, Urban Basic Services for the poor and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme.

Statement-I**Natural Growth Rate, 1991 to 1996**

| State/Union Territory | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| India* | 1.97 | 1.91 | 1.94 | 1.94 | 1.93 | 1.85 |
| Bigger States | | | | | | |
| Andhra Pradesh | 1.63 | 1.53 | 1.57 | 1.55 | 1.58 | 1.44 |
| Assam | 1.94 | 2.04 | 1.93 | 2.16 | 1.97 | 1.80 |
| Bihar | 2.09 | 2.14 | 2.14 | 2.21 | 2.16 | 2.19 |
| Gujarat | 1.90 | 1.89 | 1.98 | 1.84 | 1.91 | 1.55 |
| Haryana | 2.49 | 2.33 | 2.30 | 2.27 | 2.18 | 2.07 |
| Karnataka | 1.79 | 1.78 | 1.75 | 1.67 | 1.65 | 1.54 |
| Kerala | 1.23 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.13 | 1.20 | 1.18 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 2.20 | 2.20 | 2.23 | 2.14 | 2.20 | 2.12 |
| Maharashtra | 1.80 | 1.74 | 1.79 | 1.76 | 1.70 | 1.60 |
| Orissa | 1.60 | 1.61 | 1.50 | 1.68 | 1.70 | 1.62 |
| Punjab | 1.99 | 1.89 | 1.84 | 1.74 | 1.73 | 1.63 |
| Rajasthan | 2.49 | 2.44 | 2.49 | 2.47 | 2.42 | 2.33 |
| Tamil Nadu | 1.20 | 1.23 | 1.13 | 1.12 | 1.23 | 1.15 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 2.44 | 2.35 | 2.46 | 2.44 | 2.45 | 2.37 |
| West Bengal | 1.87 | 1.64 | 1.83 | 1.69 | 1.57 | 1.50 |
| Smaller States | | | | | | |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 1.74 | 1.72 | 1.91 | 1.86 | 1.78 | 1.64 |
| Goa | 0.93 | 0.73 | 0.80 | 0.78 | 0.73 | 0.67 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 1.96 | 1.93 | 1.81 | 1.77 | 1.65 | 1.50 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Manipur | 1.47 | 1.39 | 1.57 | 1.50 | 1.39 | 1.38 |
| Meghalaya | 2.36 | 2.13 | 2.17 | 2.24 | 2.01 | 2.15 |
| Nagaland | 1.52 | 1.54 | 1.53 | 1.58 | N.A. | N.A. |
| Sikkim | 1.50 | 1.62 | 1.74 | 2.17 | 1.56 | 1.35 |
| Tripura | 1.68 | 1.55 | 1.69 | 1.66 | 1.12 | 1.19 |
| Union Territories | | | | | | |
| A & N Islands | 1.42 | 1.48 | 1.61 | 1.48 | 1.29 | 1.37 |
| Chandigarh | 0.93 | 1.23 | 1.58 | 1.53 | 1.38 | 1.32 |
| D & N Haveli | 1.97 | 2.64 | 2.14 | 2.50 | 2.15 | 1.97 |
| Daman & Diu | 1.89 | 1.73 | 1.67 | 1.89 | 1.38 | 1.26 |
| Delhi | 1.84 | 1.95 | 1.84 | 1.78 | 1.73 | 1.59 |
| Lakshadweep | 2.24 | 1.89 | 1.95 | 1.92 | 1.79 | 1.71 |
| Pondicherry | 1.26 | 1.30 | 0.92 | 1.05 | 1.25 | 1.10 |

*—Exclude Jammu & Kashmir due to non-receipt of returns.

Note: Estimates at the national upto 1995 do not include Mizoram as the SRS was not operational in Mizoram till 1995.

Source: Sample Registration System.

Statement-II

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

| Sl. No. | State | Rural | | Urban | | Combined | |
|---------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| | | No. of Persons (Lakhs) | %age of Persons | No. of Persons (Lakhs) | %age of Persons | No. of Persons (Lakhs) | %age of Persons |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 79.49 | 15.92 | 74.47 | 38.33 | 153.97 | 22.19 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 3.62 | 45.01 | 0.11 | 7.73 | 3.73 | 39.35 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| 3. | Assam | 94.33 | 45.01 | 2.03 | 7.73 | 96.36 | 40.86 |
| 4. | Bihar | 450.86 | 58.21 | 42.49 | 34.50 | 493.35 | 54.96 |
| 5. | Goa | 0.38 | 5.34 | 1.53 | 27.03 | 1.91 | 14.92 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 62.16 | 22.18 | 43.02 | 27.89 | 105.19 | 24.21 |
| 7. | Haryana | 36.56 | 28.02 | 7.31 | 16.38 | 43.88 | 25.05 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 15.40 | 30.34 | 0.46 | 9.18 | 15.86 | 28.44 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 19.05 | 30.34 | 1.86 | 9.18 | 20.92 | 25.17 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 95.99 | 29.88 | 60.46 | 40.14 | 156.46 | 33.16 |
| 11. | Kerala | 55.95 | 25.76 | 20.46 | 24.55 | 76.41 | 25.43 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 216.19 | 40.64 | 82.33 | 48.38 | 298.52 | 42.52 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 193.33 | 37.93 | 111.90 | 35.15 | 305.22 | 36.86 |
| 14. | Manipur | 6.33 | 45.01 | 0.47 | 7.73 | 6.80 | 33.78 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 7.09 | 45.01 | 0.29 | 7.73 | 7.38 | 37.92 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 1.64 | 45.01 | 0.30 | 7.73 | 1.94 | 25.86 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 4.85 | 45.01 | 0.20 | 7.73 | 5.05 | 37.92 |
| 18. | Orissa | 140.90 | 49.72 | 19.70 | 41.64 | 160.60 | 48.56 |
| 19. | Punjab | 17.76 | 11.95 | 7.35 | 11.35 | 25.11 | 11.77 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 94.68 | 26.46 | 33.82 | 30.49 | 128.50 | 27.41 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 1.81 | 45.01 | 0.03 | 7.73 | 1.84 | 41.43 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 121.70 | 32.48 | 80.40 | 39.77 | 202.10 | 35.03 |
| 23. | Tripura | 11.41 | 45.01 | 0.38 | 7.73 | 11.79 | 39.01 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 496.17 | 42.28 | 108.28 | 35.39 | 604.46 | 40.85 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 209.90 | 40.80 | 44.66 | 22.41 | 254.56 | 35.86 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|----------------------|---------|-------|--------|-------|---------|-------|
| 26. | Andaman & Nicobar | 0.73 | 32.48 | 0.33 | 39.77 | 1.06 | 34.47 |
| 27. | Chandigarh | 0.07 | 11.35 | 0.73 | 11.35 | 0.80 | 11.35 |
| 28. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 0.72 | 51.95 | 0.06 | 39.93 | 0.77 | 50.84 |
| 29. | Daman & Diu | 0.03 | 5.34 | 0.15 | 27.03 | 0.18 | 15.80 |
| 30. | Delhi | 0.19 | 1.90 | 15.32 | 16.03 | 15.51 | 14.89 |
| 31. | Lakshadweep | 0.06 | 25.76 | 0.08 | 24.55 | 0.14 | 25.04 |
| 32. | Pondicherry | 0.93 | 32.48 | 2.38 | 39.77 | 3.31 | 37.40 |
| | All India | 2440.31 | 37.27 | 763.37 | 32.36 | 3203.68 | 35.97 |

- Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
- Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island.
- Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.
- Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
- Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
- Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
- Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
- Poverty Ratio of Himachal Pradesh is used for Jammu & Kashmir for 1993-94.

Draught Animal Power

2253. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- whether Draught Animal Power is declining fastly;
- if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor including the steps proposed to be taken to optimise its use;
- whether addition of each megawatt of power involves an annual subsidy of Rs. 50 lakhs;
- if so, whether DAP has been allocated Rs. 1 crores in the Eighth Plan;
- if so, whether this allocation matched the requirements of this sector;
- if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether there was any plan to set up Animal Energy Centre in the Seventh Plan;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the quantum of proposed yearly subsidy for DAP in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) to (c) As per the Livestock Census, there were about 68 million Draught Animals in 1987 which have increased to about 73.5 million in 1992. The Central Government does not provide direct subsidy for addition of power capacity.

(d) to (f) A budget allocation of Rs. 1 crore was provided for Animal Energy Programme during the 8th Plan period based on the availability of financial resources.

(g) to (i) There was a plan to set up an Animal Energy Centre in the Seventh Plan. However, the Centre could not be set up due to financial constraints. The Central Government does not provide yearly subsidy for Draught Animal Power.

Reservation in Promotion

2254. SHRI R.S. GAVAI :
SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Personnel and Training has issued five OMs during 1997 abolishing the system of reservation in promotions;

(b) whether these are based on the Court's judgement;

(c) if so, whether the Government could not be able to put its view point before the court properly;

(d) the details of the Government counsels appeared before the Court;

(e) whether issuance of these OMs has any relevance to the rights confined to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Constitution; and

(f) if so, the Government's views in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Pending Projects of Maharashtra

2255. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several projects of Maharashtra are lying pending with the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, since when these projects are lying pending; and

(c) the reasons for not according approval to these projects and the time by which these projects are likely to be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) No project pertaining to the State of Maharashtra is pending at present in the Planning Commission for approval.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Criteria for Special Allocation

2256. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion adopted while providing special allocation to each of the States during the current plan-period;

(b) whether the measures have been taken to remove the disparity between the development plan and the allocated amount;

(c) whether any discussion was held with the States regarding the problems for which additional funds are required continuously; and

(d) whether Planning Commission has taken any decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) The criteria adopted in the allocation of Central Assistance to the State Plans are laid down in the revised Gadgil Formula as approved by the National Development Council in 1991. The Formula provides 7.5 per cent of the funds for special problems of the States. While finalising the Annual Plans of the States, the Planning Commission takes into account their special problems, particularly those of the less developed States and funds are provided accordingly.

[Translation]

Job Oriented Schemes

2257. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch job oriented schemes by food processing industries in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The Plan Schemes launched by Ministry of Food Processing

Industries aim at the promotion of processed food sector in the country. These schemes are project specific and not state specific nor region specific.

Under one of its schemes, financial assistance in the form of grant is provided for setting up Food Processing & Training Centres. The scheme envisages entrepreneur ship development and transfer of technology for processing of agricultural raw materials into food products, wherein "hands-on" experience is provided to the trainees for operating and managing a small unit.

Financial assistance for setting up 54 such Centres in Uttar Pradesh had been sanctioned till 31.03.1998. 28 of which have already become functional. Action has been initiated in respect of the seventeen proposals since received.

[English]

Support to Terrorism

2258. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US State Department in its latest report has accused Pakistan of supporting insurgency in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the US has been recently urged to declare Pakistan as a terrorists State:

(d) if so, to what extent India has impressed upon the US Government in this regard; and

(e) whether this is likely to help in improving law and order situation in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The US State Department's Annual Report on "Patterns of Global Terrorism" refers to "credible reports of official Pakistani support for Kashmiri militant groups that engage in terrorism, such as the Harkat-UI-Ansar (HUA)".

The Report also describes Harkat-UI-Ansar as being based in Pakistan and operating in Kashmir. The Report mentions that its supporters are made up of Pakistanis and Kashmiris as well as Afghan and Arab veterans of Afghan war.

(c) to (e) Government has consistently drawn the attention of the US and other countries in bilateral and multilateral forums, to our legitimate concerns regarding Pakistan sponsored terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of India. Government will continue to take effective steps to control the menace of cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir.

Joint Venture approved to International Distillers India Ltd.

2259. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Distillers India Ltd. (a multinational company) has been granted a Financial Collaboration approval for a Joint venture and also permitted to use the Industrial Licence held by an Indian Party;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in spite of the manufacturing licence and financial collaboration approval is given only for their operation in one location, they are in fact having manufacturing/processing facilities at several locations and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said action at the International Distillers India Ltd. is in direct violation of the Financial Collaboration approval and Industrial licence granted to them; and

(e) if so, the action Government propose to take against the said multinational company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Power Generation

2260. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) details of power generated from the non-conventional means during the last three years in the country and their cost per unit in comparison with the conventional means; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of power through non-conventional sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) A total capacity of about 746 MW has been installed during the last three years in the country based on Non-Conventional Energy Sources. This includes a capacity of 615 MW from Wind; 89 MW from Biomass; and 42 MW from Small Hydro Power. According to information received from the States, 2.36 billion units have been generated during the period from wind power projects.

The cost of power generation from Non-Conventional Energy Sources varies from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 3.00 per

unit depending upon the site, technology, type and size of project, fiscal incentives available and the means of financing. Taking into account the direct and indirect subsidies, environmental & social costs, and, other externalities, these costs compare favourably with the cost of conventional power.

(b) The Central Government provides capital subsidy, interest subsidy, fiscal incentives and soft loans from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA), for renewable energy power projects, based on wind energy, small hydro and biomass. Resource assessment studies and surveys are also being supported to identify potential areas for such projects. Further, as per Guidelines of the Central Government, 12 States have so far announced conducive policies for wheeling, banking, buy back and third party sale to attract private sector participation in these projects.

Private Computer Institutes

2261. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no control of Government over thousands of private computer institutes which have mushroomed all over the country claiming to impart computer courses of various kinds charging high fees;

(b) if so, whether the majority of these institutes are not recognised by the Government;

(c) whether the Government propose to exercise control over these institutes; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) While there is no regulation by the All India Council for Technical Education on opening of Computer Training Centres in the non formal sector, the Government of India has launched a scheme known as Department of Electronics Accreditation of Computer Courses (DOEACC), in order to bring standardisation and improvement in the quality of computer education in the country. Institutions/ organisations in the non-formal sector (both private as well as public) meeting certain well-defined norms and criteria, in terms of faculty, software and hardware are given Accreditation based on their request. The Scheme is voluntary and has been taken up after a detailed study by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), which is the statutory body to accord recognition to

technical education. There are four levels of courses offered under the scheme viz. 'O' (Foundation), 'A' (Advanced Diploma), 'B' (Graduate) and 'C' (Post-Graduate). Computer training institutes under the DOEACC Scheme are monitored periodically and appropriate action is taken if they fail to meet the performance criteria as defined in the Scheme.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Papers to be laid on the Table. Shri Surjit Singh Barnala.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you after the Papers are laid on the Table. Please understand it.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramanand Singh, there is no problem. It has already been recorded. Please take your seat.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review on the Working of the Central Warehousing Corporation, New Delhi for the Year, 1996-97 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Warehousing Corporation, 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 Warehousing Corporation, New Delhi for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 608/98]

- (2) A Copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 609/98]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce for the Year, 1998-99

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : On behalf of Shri Ramkrishna Hedge, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 610/98]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Surface Transport for the year, 1998-99

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Surface Transport for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 611/98]

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 1997 etc.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151(1) of the Constitution:—

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 10 of 1998) for the year ended the March, 1997 (Revenue Receipts—Indirect Taxes) (Customs).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 612/98]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 11 of 1998) for the year ended the March, 1997 (Indirect Taxes—Central Excise).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 613/98]

- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 12 of 1998) for the year ended the March, 1997 (Direct Taxes).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 614/98]

- (2) A Copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Finance for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 615/98]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Communications for the year, 1998-99

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Communications for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 616/98]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year, 1998-99

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 617/98]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year, 1998-99

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 618/98]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for the year 1998-99, Annual Report and Review on the working of the Institute of the Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi for the year, 1996-97 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 619/98]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, 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 Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 620/98]

- (4) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 621/98]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Computer Centre, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Computer Centre, Calcutta, 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. 622/98]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Computer 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 Regional Computer Centre, Chandigarh, 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. 623/98]

- (9) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 624/98]

- (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 National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 625/98]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Department of Space for the year, 1998-99

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):
I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Space for the year 1998-99

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 626/98]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, 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 Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 627/98]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, 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 Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 628/98]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National MST Radar Facility, Gadanki, 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 MST Radar Facility, Gadanki for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 629/98]

- (5) 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 Antrix Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Antrix Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 630/98]

- (6) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Atomic Energy, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 631/98]

- (7) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of External Affairs, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 632/98]

Annual Report and Review on the working of National Seeds Corporation Ltd., New Delhi for the year, 1996-97, etc.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : 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 National Seeds Corporation Limited, New Delhi for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Seeds 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. 633/98]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi for the year 1996-97 alongwith audited Accounts and comments for the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 634/98]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Water and Power Consultancy Services (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. 635/98]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Maharashtra Land Development Corporation Limited, Pune, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Maharashtra Land Development Corporation Limited, Pune for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 636/98]

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Meat and Poultry Marketing Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Meat and Poultry Marketing Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 637/98]

(f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Agatti, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Agatti, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 638/98]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Modern Food Industries (India) Limited, New Delhi for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Modern Food Industries (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. 639/98]
- (h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Eight statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 640/98]
- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 1998-99.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 641/98]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Water Development Agency for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Water Development Agency, for the year 1996-97.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 642/98]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur, 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 Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 1996-97.
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English version) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 643/98]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi 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 Coconut Development Board, Kochi, 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. 644/98]
- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Brahmaputra Board, 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 Brahmaputra Board for the year 1996-97.
- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 645/98]
- (12) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1998-99.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 646/98]
- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the National Seeds Corporation Limited for the year 1996-97 within stipulated period of nine months after the close of Accounting year.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 647/98]
- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Betwa River Board, Jhansi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Betwa River Board, Jhansi, for the year 1996-97.
- (15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 648/98]

- (16) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 649/98]

Notifications Under All India Services Act, 1951

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : 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 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:—

- (i) The Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 40 in Gazette of India dated the 21st February, 1998.
- (ii) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 41 in Gazette of India dated the 21st February, 1998.
- (iii) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Third Amendment, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 230(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 1998.
- (iv) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Third Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 231(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 1998.
- (v) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 192(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 1998.
- (vi) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Fourth Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 193(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 1998.

- (vii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 97(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 1998.

- (viii) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Second Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 98(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 1998.

- (ix) All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Amendment Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 717(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 1997 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 252(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 1998.

- (x) The All India Services (Commutation of Pension) Amendment Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 718(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 1997.

- (xi) All India Service (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 249(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1998.

- (xii) The All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Second Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 259(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 1998.

- (xiii) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 96(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 1998.

- (xiv) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Second Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 99(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 1998.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 650/98]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Ocean Development for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 651/98]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Electronics for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 652/98]

- (4) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Union Public Service Commission for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 653/98]

12.03³/₄ hrs.

[Translation]

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH (Satna) : I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Subhash Patel of Village and Post Kailwara Kalan, Katni and others requesting to provide relief to the people affected by black smoke and poisonous gases of lime kilns in several villages of Katni and Satna Districts of Madhya Pradesh.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 654/98]

12.04 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

[English]

(i) Committee on Estimates

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : I beg to move :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term ending on the 30th April, 1999."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term ending on the 30th April, 1999."

The motion was adopted.

(ii) Committee on Public Accounts

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from

among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term ending on the 30th April, 1999."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term ending on the 30th April, 1999."

The motion was adopted.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : I beg to move :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term ending on the 30th April, 1999 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term ending on the 30th April, 1999 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

(iii) Committee on Public Undertakings

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : I beg to move :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term ending on the 30th April, 1999."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term ending on the 30th April, 1999."

The motion was adopted.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : I beg to move :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term ending on the 30th April, 1999 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term ending on the 30th April, 1999 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

(iv) Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : I beg to move :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term ending on the 30th April, 1999."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term ending on the 30th April, 1999."

The motion was adopted.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term ending on the 30th April, 1999 and do communicate to

this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term ending on the 30th April, 1999 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

(v) National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Section 4(4) (e) of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Act, 1983, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 4(4) (e) of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Act, 1983, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will take up the 'Zero Hour'. Shri Fatmi to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate with the Chair. I will allow all of you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow all of you. Please take you seats. Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Fatmi only.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*. Today this House is an important pillar in India's democracy and its role is also very significant. We are pained when we see that the assurances given here by the Government are not fulfilled. I shall cite an instance in this regard. On 1.8.97, the then Home Minister, Shri Indrajit Gupta had given an assurance in this House. The matter was in regard to a CBI officer*... On 29th July when Supreme Court refused to grant bail to Lalu ji who was Chief Minister at that time he tendered his resignation. The Supreme Court gave one week's time to appear before the High Court. But on the very night of 29th ...*(Interruptions)* he took law in his hands ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, the hon. Member cannot mention the name of a person who is not a Member of this House. According to Rules and Procedure of the House, the name of any person cannot be mentioned here who is not present to defend himself. So, this name should be deleted from the records. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Fatmi only.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, to call army, he said such situation may develop ...*(Interruptions)* he did not ask for making any arrangements. I am urging the Government on this point. On this point, an assurance was given in this House on 1.8.97 that a Committee would be constituted which will decide about the officer against whom legal action is to be taken. Shri Durai was made Chairman of that Committee. ...*(Interruptions)* Durai Committee submitted a report to the Home Ministry. ...*(Interruptions)* therein the officer's* action was to be taken against him. I want to know from the Government of India, keeping in view the assurance given by Home Minister in this House, whether the Government propose to move Supreme Court on this issue or not and if not, the reasons therefor? This is a very serious matter. In this way any officer, if he wishes, may take law in his hands and disobey

Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*. This won't be tolerated. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we seek your protection. Will the Government move the Supreme Court or not? Prime Minister is present here. ...*(Interruptions)* Has any officer the right to take law in his hands? I would like to know it from the Prime Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Gadhvi's remarks.

...*(Interruptions)**

12.16 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

12.16 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Prabhunath Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats.

12.17 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Prabhunath Singh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, you have raised your point. Now please go to your seat. I cannot compel the Government to make a statement. You know the position that I cannot compel the Government. I have permitted you to raise the matter. After raising the matter you should not do this. Please go to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats and ask for permission. This is not the procedure. Otherwise I will adjourn the House. Please go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Khurana, would you like to respond?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats. The Minister is responding.

12.19 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, only today morning I

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

*Not recorded.

came to know about it. When, around 10 A.M. I came to office, I called the Secretary, Parliamentary Affairs. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I have asked him to collect all facts. As soon as I get all facts ...*(Interruptions)* You, please listen one more thing. ...*(Interruptions)* it is correct that ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that the hon. Minister is giving a reply. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : As the matter is subjudice, I can't say anything. Only after going through facts, I will tell ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of the order during Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, the name of an officer has been mentioned here. ...*(Interruptions)* He is not a Member of this House. It should be expunged from the record. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the name of an officer has been mentioned and he is not here to defend himself. He is not present here. He is not a Member of the House. ...*(Interruptions)* I know very well that there is no point of order during Zero Hour. Even then names of persons who are not Members of this House should not be mentioned. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. member that no names should have been mentioned. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, that officer is not a Member of this Parliament and his name has been

mentioned. He cannot defend himself. That portion should be expunged from the record. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, what is your ruling? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I agree with the hon. Member's point that names should not have been mentioned. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, please get it expunged from the proceedings. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will go through the record; please sit down.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I agree that no names should have been mentioned but the issue is different.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 500 people have died in Gujarat due to cyclone. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you also.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you later. Please sit down now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we are concerned with the issue. We are not concerned with any individual. The question was why we were supporting him and making some submissions. The question was whether Army could be called by a civilian authority and in what circumstances. When this matter came up before this House last time, everybody—I have with me the speech of my very good friend, Shri Jaswant Singh—expressed great dismay and worry. ...*(Interruptions)* Having been in the Army in the past, he felt that the Army should not have been called in such matters. I have got the records with me. ...*(Interruptions)* There was almost a consensus in this House. It was decided that there should be an inquiry into the matter. The Supreme Court also set aside the order of the High Court when the High Court held that it had the jurisdiction to give instructions in this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

Let us recollect the case. On a telephonic request, the Army was called and the learned Judges of the Patna High Court had given oral instructions. These were matters which disturbed everybody in this House.

An inquiry was called for. The then Leader of the Opposition, who is now the Prime Minister, was also present in the House. An Inquiry Committee was appointed and that Committee made certain recommendations. On that basis a chargesheet was issued. But that chargesheet could not be proceeded with because in a case in the Calcutta High Court the chargesheet was quashed. *...(Interruptions)* I am only mentioning this. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, are you permitting a discussion on this issue? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, the question is whether the army can be called under such circumstances. *...(Interruptions)* We request the Government of India to prefer an appeal to the Supreme Court. This is the simple point. We want that the Government should prefer an appeal to the highest court of this land so that we may know what the legal position is. This is what we are requesting. *...(Interruptions)* We do not know why they are shouting.

In the last Session every hon. Member of this House, including Shri Jaswant Singh of BJP, expressed concern over this issue. Now Shri Chandrasekhar has said it. We would request the Government to prefer an appeal in the Supreme Court so that we may know the law of the land. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.S. Gadhavi may please speak.

...(Interruptions)

12.27 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Dinshaw Patel and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi, I have allowed you. You have made your point.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri P.S. Gadhavi's speech.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kachh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a result of cyclone in Gujarat resettlements of poor people have been flooded with water. *...(Interruptions)* Twenty thousand people living in shanties have been affected. *...(Interruptions)* In Kachh alone 140 people have died *.....(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot compel the Government to respond.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Sir, nearly 500 persons are feared drowned. *...(Interruptions)* Due to cyclonic storm worst scenario has taken place near Kandla today. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has already given an assurance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, please go back to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much. Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats. This is not good.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

*Not Recorded.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Sir, are they going to the Supreme Court or not? That is the question now. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, this is 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, will you not allow my point of order? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, please wait. Kindly take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly listen to me also. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue which Shri Lalu Prasad has raised today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I shall allow you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue is not concerned with Lalu Yadavji alone. It concerns the whole nation and it is also related to the Constitution. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that we will seek legal advice in this regard today and see what could be done. Accordingly, we will inform the House tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DINSHAW PATEL (Kheda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may also be allowed to speak. I have a newspaper 'Navbharat Times' in my hand. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is the hitch in moving the Supreme Court. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Gadhavi.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the voice of Gujarat has been suppressed in this House. There has been a large scale damage but nobody is lending an ear to this problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I was the Minister of Home Affairs, I had to give a detailed statement in this House regarding that incident which was the topic of discussion before the adjournment of the House. It was unfortunate for me because I had to make that statement. At that time, nobody had raised an objection. Everybody had then listened to that statement patiently. That statement is available in your records. I have not mentioned it so far because I feared that someone might quote from my statement. I have observed that it has become a routine feature to quote from an old letter or statement. That is why, I was nervous.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to say much on the issue which was raised here. If I go into detail, I shall be compelled to mention some names. Since the concerned Members are not present in the House, it would not be proper to mention their names. Therefore, I would only call them officers. I will not mention the name of anybody. At that time, everybody was concerned about that incident.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, many Hon'ble Members know it very well. However, if you ask me for a proof, I would only say that the proof is that I am speaking with full responsibility. Among the people who had expressed their serious concern included the first citizen of the nation i.e. the Hon'ble President, Supreme Commander of Armed Forces. I was informed then that the Hon. President was very much concerned about it and he wanted to know if any action was taken or not. In this case, a question had arisen whether any civilian officer or a bureaucrat could call armed forces on his own, if necessary, in order to maintain law and order in peculiar circumstances and whether it was possible as per the Constitution or rules. I do not want to mention any name. One officer had gone to see the Judge of Patna High Court around 1 or 2 a.m. I do not remember the exact time. The Judge was sleeping at that time. He was awakened and told that Shri Lalu Yadav was to be arrested. At that time, Lalu Yadav was facing many charges against him. That officer told that a large number of people wielding sticks had laid a siege around the residence of the Chief Minister, Shri Lalu Yadav and if the police reached there in such a situation, there could be a possibility of conflict or bloodshed. So, the Officer advised that it would be better if they sought the help of Army. The version of the officer is contained in that report. At this, the Judge told the officer that if he thought so and if it was very necessary, he could go ahead. The words 'Go ahead' found mention in the report. The officer thought that the words 'Go ahead' implied that he could move ahead if it was necessary to call the army. Now, it is a different issue whether it was proper to call the army. Thereafter, the officer contacted the Army Commander of Danapur

Cantonment—I am unable to recollect his name as I have become old—and apprised him of the apprehensions regarding law and order problem in Patna. He requested for the help of the military in this regard. He also told him about the consent given by a Judge of the Patna High Court. He demanded atleast one company of the force so as to ensure law and order. However, the Commanding Officer of Danapur Cantt. turned down this request and told the officer that there was no rule under which he could send the army to help the civil authority and if necessary, he would seek clearance from his superiors in the Army Headquarters. He further said that if he did not get permission from the Headquarters, he could not act on his own on the basis of the report of the civil officer. While refusing any help, he told the officer that he would be contacting the Headquarters so that they too could review the whole situation and decide. When we asked the officer whether the Judge of the High Court had given the 'Go ahead' in writing, he said that it was a verbal order. I fail to understand the viewpoint of the Judge. The Commanding Officer at Danapur refused to send any Army or anybody without Headquarters' permission. The question which arose out of this episode is still unresolved. Can a civilian officer or a bureaucrat call the Army, on his own, for help? At that time, I had got a report that at every level there was a designated officer. In case the Army is to be called and permission is received in this regard, then the order and the request should come from the designated officer. However, that designated officer, at this time, is ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Sir, it is not the issue. The only issue is whether the Government should file an appeal or not. That is the only issue before the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It is for the Government to say ...*(Interruptions)* That is for the Government to say. I cannot say. That is for Shri Khurana to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, the High Court has examined everything. The only question is whether to go in for the appeal or not. ...*(Interruptions)* That is the only issue. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not know why all these history. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I consider it a very serious issue and there could be a big conspiracy behind it. Therefore, this issue should be looked into by the Court. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government should tell us whether it would file an appeal or not? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North-West) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Laluji was arrested when the United Front Government was in power. ...*(Interruptions)* Laluji was implicated. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why are you getting restless? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, why these things are being repeated now when the Government will be giving a reply tomorrow? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please ask the Government to respond. In the capacity of the Minister of Home Affairs, I had presented the facts of this issue before the House and said that it was such a serious matter on which serious steps were required to be taken. It is not a question of this Government or that Government. The question is, what sort of coordination should be there constitutionally between the civil authority and the military authority and how much powers should they enjoy? When we think on this question, we find that the action of the officer was against the powers vested in him. The officer acted beyond his powers. Therefore, some steps should be taken in this regard. It is incorrect that a charge-sheet was filed against him. Instead, departmental proceedings were initiated against him. In the departmental proceedings, the officer was asked whether being a senior officer, he had knowledge of the rules and whether he knew that calling the army in this manner was not proper? He was further told that he would have to give an explanation. This is what was decided at that time. However, our Government collapsed thereafter. Now a new Government has taken over and the Members want to know about the action in this regard. The issue is still unresolved. I want to know about the steps proposed to be taken by this Government. Will they take some steps or this matter will keep hanging fire? Can a civilian officer or a bureaucrat act on his own in calling Army? However, the consoling factor in this case was that the Army officer refused to help as it was beyond his powers. This way, we had reached at the verge of a big crisis. Many Members are concerned about it and we want the Government to come out with a line of action proposed to be taken by them.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been said that the issue is hanging fire. I want to submit that an assurance had been given by the then Minister of Home Affairs in the Rajya Sabha on 1.8.97 and that assurance is still to be referred to the Committee on Government Assurances.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What was the assurance?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : The assurance was that action would be taken on the statement given by the concerned Minister then. That statement became an assurance and it is still. ...*(Interruptions)* Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)* I am coming to that point. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : The High Court has dismissed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Let me complete first. ...*(Interruptions)* I heard Shri Indrajit Gupta patiently and I am replying to his query. He has said that the matter is pending for a long time and the members are concerned. My submission is that the inquiry committee recommended action against the officer. After this, the officer concerned moved the Calcutta High Court and its judgement went against the findings of the Committee. The Court quashed the findings. ...*(Interruptions)* This matter is pending with the Government and it is yet to be decided whether we should file an appeal against this judgement or not. ...*(Interruptions)* This is what I have said. I had said in the beginning that we were seeking legal opinion and the House would be apprised of the same tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Sir, the Opposition Members are aware of the procedure...*(Interruptions)* Before going in for appeal, even the former Home Minister is aware of it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (Katihar) : We would like to know the intentions of the Government.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : When was the enquiry quashed? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Government move the Supreme Court or not against that decision? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me to speak for only two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, the Opposition Members are aware of the procedure. ...*(Interruptions)* Before going in for appeal, even the former Home Minister is aware of it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : We would like to know the intentions of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : Except what Shri Chandresh Patel says, nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has given a categorical reply.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL (Jamnagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a number of people have died in Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large number of people have died in Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, it is already discussed by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs with Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : We intend to pray for peace for the departed souls. However, we are not being allowed to give vent to our sentiments. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, it is already discussed by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs with Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : With heavy heart, I have to say that more than one thousand people died yesterday in Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)* About 45 persons have died in my Parliamentary Constituency, Jamnagar. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Large scale devastation has taken place in Gujarat. ...(Interruptions) The Government of Gujarat has sent food packets from Jamnagar as well as Rajkot to the affected areas. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our senior most Member of Parliament has just. ...(Interruptions)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : They always interrupt whenever anybody starts speaking. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : We would tell what and how it happened. We are not going to agree to their version.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : You would get a chance.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : It would be my turn to speak after him.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Sir, I am also getting confused because I have with me the order passed by two hon. Judges of the Supreme Court. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Let us hear the order passed by the Supreme Court. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa) : Could Shri Indrajit Gupta be allowed to speak everytime? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Please allow him to speak for a minute. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

would you not at all allow me to speak?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I request all of you to take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I allow Shri Ram Naik to speak. Shri Indrajit Gupta, I will allow you after Shri Ram Naik.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Thousands of people have died in Gujarat, would he not be given a chance to speak? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had already made a request to speak on this issue. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi, what is this? Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : First, let the position be clear. You are permitting Shri Indrajit Gupta everytime. But you should see to it that Members are ready to listen to him.

[English]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : This issue will take only two minutes. Why are they raising a hue and cry?

* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is on his legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is on his legs.

14.40 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Prabhunath Singh came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

14.41 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Prabhunath Singh went back to his seat.)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. The Minister will speak. I will allow you.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I will speak first.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I will allow you.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I am already on my legs. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m.

14.42 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fifteen of the Clock.

15.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at one minute past Fifteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members please take your seats. Shri Prabhunath Singh, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you make it a rule that new Members don't have the right to speak, I will sit down. Otherwise, I will make my submission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I will call you later. Please take your seat.

Hon. Members, I have discussed the matter with the party leaders. Now you have lot of business also. You have to complete four more Bills and you have to start the discussion on the General Budget also. There are hon. Members who also wanted to raise Gujarat.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Tamil Nadu also, you had agreed ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you.

Now, Shri Indrajit Gupta.

[Translation]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you said, right now that lot of time has already been spent and a number of items of business of the House remain to be completed, I will not make a speech nor pass any remark on the speeches made by other Members so as to save the time of the House. I just seek your permission to have an information. I would like to read out two sentences from a judgement of the Supreme Court. I am not going to pass any remarks on it, however, I shall be happy if other Members explain it and go into its details.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : What is the date.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : 6th November, 1997.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Whose Government was there in power at that time. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You just calculate. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : At that time their Government was in power. ...(Interruptions) They had initiated action which was quashed by the Calcutta High Court. Then, what is the rationale behind citing the judgement. ...(Interruptions)

At that time it was their Government and they did a lot in this regard. Despite all their efforts, the Calcutta High Court quashed that. ...(Interruptions) This should be

mentioned here. At that time their position was different. ...*(Interruptions)* I have great regards for Shri Indrajit Gupta. He is citing the judgement which was delivered at the time their Government was in power. He had constituted the Durai Committee which made some recommendations for some action. ...*(Interruptions)* He thought of some action to be taken. But the High Court quashed his decision. What does he want to say now? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I am reading out two sentences:—

[English]

This is the judgement of Justice S.P. Bharucha and Justice H.C. Sen dated 6th November, 1997. It says:

"The learned Attorney-General has submitted that the warrant against Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav having been issued by the Special Court in which the charge-sheet had been filed after completion of investigation against him, the execution of that warrant was the concern of the Special Court and, therefore, there was no occasion for any officer of the CBI to approach the High Court or for the Division Bench of the High Court to issue any directions, oral or otherwise, for seeking the aid of the Army for execution of the warrant against Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav."

On this basis, it was contended that some of the directions pertaining to the inquiry into the incident relating to the seeking of the aid of the Army were not matters required to be gone into by the High Court and the directions relating to the same were untenable. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, this is the argument. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : That is the argument, Sir ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, this is the argument given by the lawyer, not the finding of the Supreme Court. Why are they confusing? Why do they not read the High Court judgement? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete. Please cooperate. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Where is that High Court judgement? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Mamata Ji, Please cooperate.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government took action after the said judgement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Supreme Court judgement that Mr. Gupta read out. ...*(Interruptions)* At that time their Government was in power, however, I would not like to go into its genesis. Earlier, I said that it is the Order of Calcutta High Court passed in April, 1998. ...*(Interruptions)* In that order action initiated by Enquiry Committee against the concerned officer was quashed and that was accepted. I said that we would come to the House tomorrow after taking legal advice whether we should file an appeal in the Supreme Court or not. Now the matter should end here. The name of the officer who is not present here but a reference has been made to him, should be expunged from the proceedings of this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Chandresh Patel will speak about Gujarat tragedy.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, about 45 people died in Jamnagar, Gujarat due to cyclone. Electric and telephone poles have been uprooted and large scale damage has taken place. Roads have been damaged and loss of crores of rupees has taken place in Okhaport, Salayaport, Vediport about 70 thousand people have become homeless in the premii of Reliance industry and there has been a loss of more than one hundred crore rupees in Gujarat and about 200 people have lost their lives. As per news reports about 500-600 people have died there. About 200 people have died in Jamnagar alone. About 250 people are lying in the hospital. A large number of people have been injured there. Electricity connections have been disrupted and it is not possible to restore electricity supply for next 5-7 days. Communication system has completely come to a halt. I demand that the Central Government should immediately provide an aid of more than one thousand crore rupees to them.

SHRI DINSHAW PATEL (Kheda) : Sir, due to cyclone and rain in Gujarat more than 500 people have died and more than one lakh people have been rendered homeless. The BJP is in power in this State and also at the Centre. So, I would only like to say that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak. This is not so. Let the Hon'ble Member speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : In the morning it was promised that an official statement would be made and then we would discuss the matter. The Minister concerned is ready to make the official statement.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHAW PATEL : More than 500 people have died there and about one lakh people have become homeless, potable water is not available there. This is not the problem only with Saurashtra, Kandla has also suffered heavy losses and Daman and Diu in the South and Pachchisgad, Bharuch, Baroda, Kheda and other districts of Pachchisgad have also suffered damage. There is no arrangement of food and water. I request the Government to sent immediate relief there. A Parliamentary delegation should be sent there immediately and the report of that delegation should also be placed here immediately.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.S. Gadhavi.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, it is a concern of the whole House. When the Minister is ready with the statement, he can speak. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already called his name.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Sir, I think cyclone will come here also. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Sir, the Kandla Port has been totally ruined. The Kandla Port cannot function for two months. Due to cyclone the imported food items which were lying there have rotten. In the Sarva Colony near the Kandla Port about twenty thousand people are living in slums. The cyclone has claimed a toll of about 140 people there according to the Gujarat Government's estimates, I just held a telephonic talk in this regard. On the basis of information I have received, about 1000 people have died there.

[English]

Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline is very important for North India.

[Translation]

Oil which comes through this pipeline will be cut off. About 1000 people have been ruined in my area.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

So, immediate action is required to be taken. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly allow her.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE (Surendranagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Gujarat the cyclone came at a speed of 150-200 kms. per hour and as a result of that 900 kms. of coastal area has been completely devastated. Consequently, the Saurashtra peninsula has been totally cut off. In Porbander a micro-wave tower collapsed killing 9 people instantly. The cyclone was so strong that a 120 mts. long Norway ship weighing 15,000 tonnes got sunk on the coast in Kandla port area. Kutch, Porbander, Jamnagar, Morvi and Junagadh are the worst affected areas. Many districts of North Gujarat are also facing the fury of this cyclone. The Chairman and other employees of the Port Trust are not traceable. It is apprehended that either they have gone to safer place or they have been stuck up in the cyclone. The Gujarat Government had already informed the Central Government about this. Several Ministers were deployed to supervise relief operations. They have gone there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Salt Cess is imposed for the welfare of the workers who are engaged in this work. Salt cess money to the tune of crores of rupees which is lying with Government should be utilised to provide relief to the affected workers engaged in Salt making. Gujarat Government should also be provided assistance at the earliest from the Prime Minister Relief Fund.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA (Swai Madhopur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, like Gujarat, Rajasthan is also reeling under cyclone. Several people in Jodhpur, Jalore and Udaipur have died as a result of that cyclone. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : First there will be Minister's statement.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the State Government is not providing any assistance to the cyclone affected people in our State. The people are not even getting food. ...*(Interruptions)* The people are facing a lot of difficulties because of rains. Many people have been washed away as a result of floods due to rains. Some women have been buried under the uprooted trees. What the Government is doing in this regard? A Central Team should be sent to Rajasthan and Gujarat to assess the factual position there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. The Minister is ready with his statement.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a national calamity. The entire House is with them. The Central Government should announce compensation of Rs. 5 lakh to the next of the kin of those who have died in the calamity. Many people have lost their source of livelihood. They should be rehabilitated. The Government should be vigilant during this national calamity. The Central Government should give full assistance to the affected people. The hon. Minister should pay full attention to the points raised by hon. Members in connection with the national calamity. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my area has also been affected by this cyclone. ...*(Interruptions)* I would request the Central Government to give full assistance to the cyclone affected people.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat. Mr. Minister will speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Sir, the House has to be brought to order only then I can speak. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Except the speech of the Minister, nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

15.24 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation Caused by cyclonic Storm in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Sir, I seek leave of the House to make a statement on the situation caused by cyclonic storm in some parts of the Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. A deep depression was formed on June 5, 1998 around 600 km. southwest of Goa which crossed over to Gujarat coast near Porbandar in the morning of 9th June, 1998 (0900 hours I.S.T.). The Indian Meteorological Department had constantly been monitoring the movement of the system and was in regular touch with concerned State Governments. Thirteen cyclone warning bulletins were issued between 5th to 9th June by I.M.D. through A.I.R. and Doordarshan.

According to the information received from the Government of Gujarat, 205 persons have lost their lives in the districts of Kutch (140), Porbandar (10), Jamnagar (35), Junagadh (4), Bhavnagar (1), Banaskantha (2), Surat (1), Bharuch (1), Rajkot (9), Valsad (1) and Navsari (1). Two hundred ten persons received injuries and were hospitalised. Due to wind velocity of 70 to 150 KMPH, the microwave tower collapsed in Porbandar city resulting in disruption of telecommunication system. Many electric poles, telephone poles and trees have fallen. The National Highways are operating normally. There have been some reports of road blockade and damage in remote areas. Twenty relief camps have been opened and over 7,000 persons given shelter in the districts of Kutch, Jamnagar and Junagadh. The State Government is taking all necessary rescue and relief operations in the affected areas.

According to the Government of Rajasthan, one person has died in Barmer district and one case of injury has been reported in Jalore district. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please take your seat. This is a serious issue.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL : This is not the way. They do not want to listen to a serious issue. This is not the proper way to behave in the House. This is a sad incident. Hon. Members should keep their cool. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, she could have spoken after I have finished.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, why are the Ministers losing their cool. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMPAL : We are not losing our cool. It is the question of dignity and decorum of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister please do not get annoyed.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, this is an important statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): For that purpose, Mr. Speaker is here. The Ministers snub us and even tell us to shut up. ...*(Interruptions)*. Recently an hon. Minister asked us to shut up and now he is telling us to maintain the decorum of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not be annoyed. Let him complete.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : This is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, what is this?

SHRI SOMPAL : Some parts of the districts of Barmer and Jodhpur received rainfall between 125 and 240 mm, causing damage to electric lines, uprooting about 150 poles and some trees, besides killing some heads of cattle.

According to the Government of Maharashtra, two fishermen are reportedly missing in Ratnagiri district.

The Crisis Management Systems at the national level have been activated. Under the Clarity Relief Fund, in

1998-99 an amount of Rs. 154.83 crore has been allocated to Gujarat, Rs. 75.64 crore to Maharashtra and Rs. 198.56 crore to Rajasthan. Seventy-five per cent of this amount is contributed by the Government of India. First instalment of Central share of CRF for the current year amounting to Rs. 29.03 crore to Gujarat, Rs. 14.18 crore to Maharashtra, and Rs. 37.23 crore to Rajasthan has already been released in April, 1998. In order to supplement the resources of the Government of Gujarat, the second instalment of Central share amounting to Rs. 29.03 crore is also being released today in advance. In addition, Rs. 50,000 to the next of the kin of each deceased is being released from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

A close contact is being maintained with the State Governments and all necessary assistance will be provided by the Government of India to meet the situation effectively.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us now take up Matters under Rule 377.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Sir, you cannot do like that just because we are well behaved. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is it that you want to say?

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : This is a matter of national security. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you. Please take your seat.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : This is a matter of national integrity and national security. On the 24th of May, the *Times of India* reported the abatement of ISI activities in Tamil Nadu by the Tamil Nadu Government. In Coimbatore, the Chief Minister is held guilty for deliberately not taking any action. According to the report appeared in the *Times of India*. ...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Sir, law and order is a State subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : We want the Central Government to at least make a statement on the floor of the House. If it is not true then the Government should make a statement and tell us what the truth is. There is no Government here; all junior Ministers are sitting here. We would like the Government to make a statement on this.

MR. SPEAKER : Please complete, Dr. Subramanian Swamy. Now we will take up Matters under Rule 377. Shri Bachi Singh Rawat.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : The DMK Government should be dismissed because of its involvement in ISI of Pakistan. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : This is a wild allegation. You should not allow this wild allegation against the Government of Tamil Nadu. It is a subject matter of law and order of a particular State. In that case, we should also discuss the nexus of some CIA agents with some political brokers.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (Periyakulam) : I am raising a serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shailendra Kumar, please take your seat.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : I am raising a matter concerning the security of the country itself because of increasing ISI activities in the State of Tamil Nadu and the close nexus of the State Government with the ISI agents there.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : What is the Government's reaction? What the Government has to say on this? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : Even the team sent by the Centre to the State to investigate the law and order situation there had categorically stated that there are enough proofs and evidences available of ISI complicity in funding insurgency in Tamil Nadu. More than that, the present State Government as soon as it came to power has released all the ISI agents whom we have put under custody. In Coimbatore, one *Patcha* who had been detained by us had acted as a prime brain in the Coimbatore incident and he is none other than the one who had been released by the State Government. There is a lot of evidence to prove that ...* but he is only pretending to be taking action against them. Even three days back, a news item has been released in the press expressing the details of Pakistan army people themselves giving training for these Tamil Nadu terrorists in an island near Rameswaram by name, Naduthievu.

15.33 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Shailendra Kumar came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

MR. SPEAKER : You must know the procedure first. Please go to your seat. What is this? This is not good.

15.34 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Shailendra Kumar went back to his seat.)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Muthiah is speaking.

...*(Interruptions)***

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : When the situation is like this, if this Government is going to delay action against the State Government, I am warning this Government by quoting the incident of Shri Rajiv Gandhi himself. Even when these people were in power during 1989-91, because of a good nexus with LTTE, we have lost Shri Rajiv Gandhi in those days. Like that, now in Coimbatore incident, an attempt was made by these terrorists....* aimed at the life of Shri L.K. Advani himself. Even though I am narrating all these incidents, I have to quote some more things to this House explaining the nexus of the State Government with ISI agents to urge upon this Government to take action against the State Government by invoking Article 356 of the Constitution and dismissing this Government. But unfortunately, I am not having either the Prime Minister or the Home Minister in the House to respond to my plea.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : The situation as explained by the hon. Member appears to be serious. The Home Minister is not here. I will communicate all the information immediately to the Home Minister for consideration.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up Matters under Rule 377. Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Matters under Rule 377.

...*(Interruptions)***

15.36 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri R. Muthiah and some other hon. Members left the House.)

15.37 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

(I) **Need to take steps to solve acute drinking water problem in Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, presently, forests of Kumaon are engulfed in devastating fire resulting in immense loss of

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**Not Recorded.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

forest wealth and wildlife. The environment has been polluted and sources of drinking water for rural people living in forests have either dried up or damaged. It has caused drinking water crisis.

This drinking water crisis has become more serious due to non-supply of power to the entire Uttaranchal region and non-functioning of drinking water pumping schemes due to low voltage of power. There is acute shortage of drinking water in several towns and villages of Pithoragarh, Bageshwar, Almora, Champawat districts which were dependent on power pumping schemes. People are using contaminated water due to non-availability of drinking water as a result which 40 people have died and out of these, the highest, 29 people have met untimely death in Lohaghat block alone. Hundreds of people are suffering from Diarrhoea.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to immediately provide potable water to the people and give Rs. two lakh to the dependents of each of the deceased persons. Further, the State Government should be directed to take necessary action in this regard immediately.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the Matters under Rule 377 of Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Matters under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vishnu Dutt Vaidya.

...(Interruptions)

15.38 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri T.R. Baalu and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, please go back to your seat.

15.39 hrs.

At this stage, Shri T.R. Baalu and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : With your permission, I would like to quote Rule 377C of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. The Rule says:

"(1) No member shall raise more than one matter during a week.

(2) Only the text approved by the Speaker shall go on record."

In this case, Shri Muthiah has gone on record making allegations. He has made some irrelevant remarks about the Tamil Nadu State Government and the law and order situation. ...*(Interruptions)* Have you permitted it or not? I want a ruling from the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)* Otherwise, the allegation should be expunged.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : The hon. Speaker has permitted Shri Muthiah to raise the matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, please understand the position. I allowed Shri Muthiah during Zero Hour and not during Matters under Rule 377.

[Translation]

(ii) **Need to include Dogri Language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution**

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT (Jammu) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Dogri language spoken by one crore people should be included in the Eighth schedule to the Constitution of India.

This language is included in the statutory list of state language of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Universities of Jammu and Kashmir confer M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in this language.

This language has its own dictionary and grammar. Its literature is also very rich. There are lots of books in this language available in prose, poetry, novel, songs etc. The books are of high standard from literary view point. Writers of this language have received several awards from All India Sahitya Academy and the Literary Institute of Jammu and Kashmir. Under these circumstances, this language should be included in the Eighth schedule to the Constitution of India thereby doing justice to it by developing it and bringing it at par with other standard languages.

(iii) **Need to provide Medical and Financial Assistance to the Tribal People affected by diseases in Mandala District of Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE (Mandala) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, about two hundred people have died of Diarrhoea during the last one month in Mandala, the tribal district of Madhya Pradesh and people are still dying. Reports of such deaths are coming from several areas. Employees of the health department in entire Madhya Pradesh and particularly in Mandala tribal district have

stopped their work in support of their demands. So I request the Central Government that adequate preventive measures should be taken to prevent death and occurrence of this disease in the interest of backward tribal districts. Adequate money as assistance should be given to the families of the deceased.

(iv) Need to declare Highway between Nasirabad and Mahu as National Highway

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a national highway between Delhi and Mumbai via Jaipur-Ajmer-Nasirabad-Neemuch-Mandsaur. Another road runs via Mathura-Agra-Dewas. The first road attracts heavy traffic as it is secured and of shorter distance but middle portion of this road from Nasirabad to Mau is not national highway. It has resulted in great inconvenience in road transport. A number of fatal accidents have taken place on this section. The Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh State Governments have also made a request to declare this middle portion as the national highway and various city corporations, municipalities, Nagar Panchayats and other trade, social and cultural organisations and general people have made a similar request stating that it would facilitate smooth traffic movement, save time and fuel and thereby contribute to national economy immensely.

I, therefore, request the Minister of Surface Transport that the above middle portion of highway passing through Nasirabad-Mau-Neemuch-Mandsaur, should be converted into National Highway.

[English]

(v) Need to Disburse Compensation for Rabi-I Season 1996-97 to the Farmers of Kuttanad, Kerala by the General Insurance Corporation

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey) : Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Government to the difficulties experienced by the poor farmers of Kuttanad, Alleppey District, Kerala due to the inordinate delay in getting crop insurance compensation for the failure of crop during Rabi-I season 1996-97. The insurance premium is collected from the farmers by the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies and the commercial banks, while the farmers avail loan for cultivation from these financial institutions. The main object of the scheme is to enable the farmers to re-pay the loan whenever low yield or crop failure occur due to pest or natural calamities, so that the farmer can avail fresh loan and go for the next crop without financial strain.

The rice crop grown in Kuttanad area during Rabi-I season 1996-97 was severely damaged due to the attack of pest "GALL MIDGE". The Government of Kerala have assessed the extent of crop failure and furnished the

data to the General Insurance Corporation for further action. I understand that the crop Insurance Cell of the General Insurance Corporation, Trivandrum has recommended assistance to the extent of Rs. 1.94 crore to the farmers of this area for the Rabi-I season 1996-97. But, the farmers are yet to receive the compensation, though compensation for Rabi-II season has been disbursed in other areas.

I request the Government to intervene in the matter and ensure that the poor farmers are not denied the legal compensation for which they have paid premium in advance.

(vi) Need to find Solution to the Problem arising out of Ban on Felling of Trees in the states of North-East

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the Supreme Court order prohibiting felling of trees in the States of the North-East, about 500 plywood factories and Saw Mills are on the verge of closure and the Government needs to organise a tripartite meeting among employers, employees and the State Governments, in order to search for a viable alternative by way of diversification re-using the existing plants and machineries.

In case, all the factories and mills are closed—a few have already been closed—thousands of employees will lose their job. Besides, a few more thousands who are indirectly associated, will be denied their earnings and means of livelihood. An explosive situation like this will further aggravate the frustration, the sense of deprivation and alienation which have already gripped the people of the North-East. The problem being socio-economic, the Government cannot afford to keep aloof unconcerned, but must intervene and involve itself in the effort of the industry to chalk out diversification schemes so that the employees and other connected people can eke out an existence.

(vii) Need to ensure that Elected Representatives of a Panchayat Raj Body are not deprived of Attending Zila Parishad Meetings, particularly in Ganjam District, Orissa

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Berhampur) (Orissa): Sir, the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act aims at providing better administration through Panchayat Raj Bodies. This Act seeks to give an opportunity to the representatives elected to these Bodies to reactivate Panchayat Raj administration. But six elected representatives, out of which four are ladies, of a Zila Parishad in Ganjam district of Orissa could not play their role as they were debarred from their membership.

These six representatives had not been told that they were supposed to take oath by the third meeting of the Zila Parisad to retain their membership. Their presence was marked in all the three meetings and they participated in the election of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman which were the sole items of the agenda in the first and second meetings. They somehow, came to know that they would have to take oath by the third meeting. When they made the demand to be administered oath, it was stated that they could take the oath in the fourth meeting. Before fourth meeting started, they were debarred from their membership. This act, in my opinion, is a great hit at the root of democracy.

In view of the above, I request that steps should be taken to ensure that elected representatives of a Panchayat Raj Body are not deprived from performing their duties.

- (viii) **Need to provide financial assistance from Prime Minister's Relief Fund to the People affected by the fire incident in Shivpura and Godhan villages of Mohanlalganj Parliamentary Constituency, UP**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY (Mohanlalganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, about 50 houses were gutted in a sudden fire incident last week in the Shivpura and Godhan villages of Mal block in the Malihabad Legislative Assembly constituency under my parliamentary constituency, Mohanlalganj in UP. As a result, losses of lives and property have taken place. Most of the houses gutted belong to the people of SCs and Muslims. One person and a number of cattle have died in this fire. Foodgrains as well as other essential commodities have been burnt to ashes. Through this august House, I appeal the hon. Prime Minister to take immediate steps to provide financial assistance to the affected people from Prime Minister's Relief Fund and ensure housing, drinking water facilities and employment for the affected persons.

[English]

- (ix) **Need for Early Commissioning of Full-Fledged Local Radio Station at Puri, Orissa**

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Sir, the transmitter of Local Radio Station, Puri of Orissa has started relaying the programmes broadcast from AIR, Cuttack on and from 29th June, 1995 and since April, 1996, all the required infrastructures are ready for commissioning of a full-fledged radio station which can originate its own programmes involving the glorious cultural activities of Puri and its talents and artists. All the technical and administrative staff are functioning at Puri from April, 1997. The announcer at AIR, Puri has also been posted since, November 1997. But the station is still relaying the programmes broadcast from AIR, Cuttack and not able to utilise the talents of the artists of the land. It is,

therefore, strongly urged that the Puri Station of AIR should immediately be inaugurated on or before the ensuing Car Festival, that is, on 26.6.1998.

- (x) **Need to provide more facilities at Calicut Airport**

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Calicut Airport has now become one of the busiest Airports in the country having 64 flights per week. Out of 64 flights, 32 overseas flights are operated jointly by Air India and Indian Airlines and another 32 weekly flights between Calicut-Mumbai, Calicut-Chennai, Calicut-Coimbatore and Calicut-Bangalore by Indian Airlines and private Airlines.

However, despite 32 international flights per week, Calicut Airport still lacks many of the facilities, with the result thousands of passengers are put to difficulties and hardships. First stage of expansion of the runway from 6000 feet to 7500 feet has been completed but not provided Glide Angle Indicator, Approach Light Indicator, Control Light, etc., necessary for night landing. Edge lights have also not been provided so far. There is no Aero Bridge. Even the arrival and departure lounge for the passengers are lacking convenience. There are no facilities for the passengers to make outside calls.

There is a long-standing demand for operation of direct flight from Calicut to Jeddah and Riyadh in Saudi Arabia even when there are thousands of passengers awaiting the journey.

I would urge upon the Government to seriously consider this demand as Calicut Airport gives sizeable revenue to Indian Airlines and Air India. Airport Authority of India should give due consideration for its development and to provide amenities to the passengers.

- (xi) **Need to provide Financial Assistance to the victims of Coimbatore Bomb Blast**

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore) : The bomb blast victims of Coimbatore should be assisted both financially and the dependents should be provided with some suitable jobs on the lines of help provided to the Mumbai bomb blast victims.

- (xii) **Need to stop shifting of the showroom of HMT from Srinagar and constitute a Committee for setting up Eco-Friendly Industries**

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : The Industry Minister has not considered my request for not shifting the showroom of HMT, Srinagar out of Kashmir. Even though I met him personally on 30th April 1998 and handed over a letter making a strong plea that the showroom should not be shifted out of Kashmir, there was no response. It had been emphasized by me that

HMT was the only public sector undertaking in Kashmir which constituted 0.3 per cent of the national investment in public sector in 1984 and shifting of showroom would be detrimental to the future of this unit. On the issue raised through an unstarred question, the Industry Minister has informed in writing that Government had no proposal to set up eco-friendly electronic industries in Kashmir.

I request the Government to constitute a Committee to consider the setting up of eco-friendly industries in Kashmir.

15.55 hrs.

[English]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL
OF THE EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS
AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE
AND
EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS AND
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I was referring to yesterday was that there are a large number of public sector undertakings which have fallen sick, where the Provident Fund amount of the employees and the workers are not deposited. As a result of this, after retirement, the retired workers and employees do not get their retirement benefits. They are deprived of even their own share of the amount which is supposed to be deposited.

I know one public sector undertaking in the State of West Bengal, Jessop, which is more than 200 years old. This company is sick now. More than 700 workers have either retired or have taken voluntary retirement. Even after retirement, they have not yet received their Provident Fund amount. They have not received even their own share of it. The families of these retired workers are starving now.

The statutory due to be paid to the retired employees and workers of public sector undertakings is more than Rs. 1,000 crore. The situation is worse in some of the private sector companies. How can these loopholes be plugged?

We support the provision that seeks to increase the contribution from 8.33 per cent to 10 per cent and provides for a maximum of 12 per cent. But merely increasing the contribution will not solve the problem of the workers unless some stringent measures are taken. There is no teeth in the labour laws. Most of the labour laws have become outdated. The hon. Minister who is presently looking after the Ministry of Labour has the experience to know that most of the labour laws have become outdated and lack teeth. There is a need for updating them. My submission is that some measures should be taken so that the retired employees are not

deprived of their statutory dues and other retirement benefits.

With these words, I move my Statutory Resolution.

16.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Minister may move the Bill for further consideration.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : I have moved the Statutory Resolution.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : The position is that only the person who moves first will be given a chance to speak.

SHRI A.C. JOS : I understand it. I am opposing the Ordinance through this Statutory Resolution. So, I should be given a chance to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : No, it is not like that.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 as passed by the Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

As the hon. Members are aware, the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 provides for institution of Compulsory Provident Fund, Pension, Family Pension and Deposit Linked Insurance Fund for the benefit of employees in factories and other establishments. These schemes constitute the main source of security of income to the workers in their old age and their families and dependents in the event of their untimely death. Our Provident Fund Scheme is one of the oldest and largest schemes in the world in terms of coverage and benefits provided. It covers most of the industrial and other establishments employing 20 or more persons. As on 31.3.1998, the total number of establishments covered was about 2.98 lakhs while the number of subscribers was 2.15 crores.

The Standing Committee of Parliament on Labour and Welfare had made certain suggestions for further amendment of the Act. The Central Board of Trustees, EPF had also made certain suggestions in this regard. Based on the suggestions received, it is now proposed to carry out the following amendments in the Act.

The most important amendment from the workers' point of view relates to enhancement of the rate of Provident Fund Contributions. At present, Section 6 of the EPF & MP Act provides for payment of contributions @ 8.33 per cent of the wages. However, there is an enabling provision for raising the rate of contribution to ten per cent. Under the enabling provision, the Central Government has already enhanced the rate of contribution to ten per cent in respect of 172 industries as against 177 covered under the Act. In order to ensure availability

[Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam]

of higher retiral benefits to the employees, it is proposed to enhance the minimum rate of P.F. contribution from 8.33 per cent to ten per cent and maximum rate from ten per cent to twelve per cent of the monthly wage.

At present, the EPF & MP Act is not applicable to the employees employed in new factories/establishments which have not completed three years of their existence after registration/establishment. This provision has resulted in denial of social security benefits to about ten lakhs employed. It is, therefore, proposed to abolish the provision of three years infancy period and make the Act applicable to all factories/establishments, employing twenty or more persons, from the date they are set up.

At present, a person who is or has been or is qualified to become a judge of a High Court is eligible for appointment as the Presiding Officer of the EPF Appellate Tribunal. There have been difficulties in selecting personnel of the prescribed qualification for appointment as the Presiding Officer of the EPF Tribunal. In order to have a wider zone of consideration, it is proposed to make a person who is or has been or is qualified to be a District Judge as also eligible for appointment as the Presiding Officer of the EPF Appellate Tribunal.

These are, in short, the important amendments proposed through this Bill. The Standing Committee of Parliament on Labour & Welfare has considered and approved the provisions contained in the Bill. As the Bill has been pending in the House since 7.8.1997 and delay in passing the Bill was depriving the employees of higher retiral benefits, a Presidential Ordinance was issued and the provisions of the Bill were brought into force w.e.f. 22.9.1997.

As the provisions of the Bill are, by and large, of non-controversial nature, I hope the hon. Members will welcome the proposed amendments. With these words, I commend the Bill for consideration of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Motions moved :

"That this House disapproves of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 (No. 8 of 1998) promulgated by the President on 23 April, 1998".

"That the Bill further to amend the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for having been given an opportunity to speak on 'The Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1998'. Provident Fund is a fund to which every employee makes

his contribution out of his income and employer also makes his contribution to this fund. Government as well as Public Undertakings and other big companies extending various benefits to their employees make their contribution to Provident funds. The amount contributed by the employees is their hard earned money. But many times, it is noticed that the employees on their retirement or in case of untimely death of an employee, the dependants of the deceased have to face a lot of difficulties to get their provident fund amount though the Government, Public Undertakings or Private Institutions make every effort for the timely payments. No one can deny that sometimes corruption is also there. Hence, it is my request to the hon. Minister, who is present here that a provision should be made to the effect that on retirement of an employee or on untimely death of an employee, if there is an unreasonable delay in payment of GPF amount from employer to the employee or his dependants, the employer would be liable to make payment with the interest at the rate given by banks. I am sure that if such a provision is made, the employees stand to benefit.

This Bill seeks to raise the contribution towards provident fund and I hope no one would have any objection to it. However, I want to make one or two points in this regard.

16.07 hrs.

[PROF. RITA VERMA in the Chair]

Madam, Chairperson, you have assumed Chair at a very appropriate time. I want to draw your attention to Para 3 of the Bill which reads:

[English]

"A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a Presiding Officer of a Tribunal (hereinafter referred to as the Presiding Officer unless he is, or has been, or is qualified to be, —"

[Translation]

Madam, Chairperson, I want to have your attention please. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether he had decided that only a male member would be the Presiding Officer of tribunal. He should insert word, he or she in this para. I hold this view. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : According to General Clauses Act :

[English]

wherever there is 'he', it means 'she' also.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : But if one is unaware of he may take it like that. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

"... unless he is, or has been, or is qualified to be,—

- (i) a Judge of a High Court; or
- (ii) a District Judge."

[Translation]

In respect of District Judge and High Court Judge, none objects to it but the phrase 'is qualified to be' may create confusion. The qualifications for District Judge in different states are more or less different. The requisite qualification that a person should be a lawyer and should have practice-experience of so much time may create confusion because there are judges from outside, even some are from Banks also. Hence, I want the phrase 'qualified to be' to be deleted from this. A person still serving or retired may be treated as qualified.

On one hand, you are appointing a High Court judge as a Presiding Officer which is contradictory to amendment of section 7(f).

[English]

"The Presiding Officer shall not be removed from his office except by an order made by the President on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity after an inquiry made by a Judge of the High Court....

[Translation]

You are appointing a High Court Judge as the Presiding Officer of the tribunal and at the same time you are deputing a person of the same status to look into the charges of misbehaviour against him. It does not sound well. Hence, my point is that if the Presiding Officer is a District Judge, the enquiry against him should be conducted by a High Court Judge and if the Presiding Officer is a High Court Judge, an enquiry against him should be conducted by a Supreme Court Judge only.

With these words, I support this Bill with the condition that my suggestions would find place in it otherwise I am not in support of it.

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dumdum) : Madam, I would like to support this Bill because there are many aspects in this Bill which take care of the interest of the employees as well as the health of the industry.

Firstly, it increases the PF contribution of the employees which will help the employees in times of need and also after retirement. Secondly, this abolishes the infancy period of three years which was introduced previously for new industries. So, that has also been

abolished. I think with this abolition, the family of the person who may die in between this period will also become the beneficiary by this way.

Another aspect is also very important. One of my honourable friends mentioned about it. The appointment of the Presiding Officer of this Appellate Tribunal is very significant. It is because it was decided previously that only a man qualified to be a High Court judge is eligible to be the Chairman or the Presiding Officer of this Appellate Tribunal but afterwards, you may say that through this Bill, a district judge will also become qualified to become the Presiding Officer. That is also very helpful. It is because High Court judges do not care to see the matter seriously and the area is also of concern. It is because people from far-east areas are also not in a position to always reach the tribune headed or presided by the High Court judge. With these aspects, I think this Bill will be passed automatically as the Opposition Members are also supporting it. This is my view.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati) : Madam Chairperson, I am on a point of order. The conduct of High Court judges cannot be discussed in this House. The hon. Member has mentioned that High Court judges cannot see the matter seriously. This sentence should be expunged from the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The matter shall be looked into and we shall decide it.

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : This matter has been mentioned in the Bill also. I am supporting this Bill for all these aspects and I am also requesting the hon. Members of the House to pass this Bill.

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar) : Madam, I rise to support this Bill with some reservation. The Bill seeks to amend Section 6 of the principal Act with a view to enhance the rate of provident fund contribution from 8.33 per cent to 10 per cent and from 10 per cent to 12 per cent. The workers of this country were so long fighting for removal of the discrimination which was there in the principal Act. Why are there two sets of contributions like minimum and maximum? This is not proper. The Standing Committee also recommended to remove the discrimination and raise both the rates to 12 per cent. I have suggested an amendment in that respect. The plea of the Labour Ministry is to keep the lower rate in five industries including jute industry.

They have stated it in their notification, dated 9th April, 1997. Their plea is mainly about sickness. Due to sickness, they have made this provision. But such a plea is not tenable. So far as the rate of provident fund contribution is concerned, sickness cannot be a criterion in fixing the rate of contribution. Today, one industrial unit is sick. But tomorrow, it may be revived or vice

[Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay]

versa. So, I quote what the Standing Committee had categorically stated:

"The Committee deliberated the clause in detail. Members were of the view that by restricting the minimum contribution to eight per cent in establishments which are sick or the industries which have been referred to BIFR, the employees of those industries would be deprived of the higher retiral benefits simply because of no fault of theirs.

The Committee are of the view that there should be no discrimination in the matter of contribution between the employees of sick industries and the employees of other establishments. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Labour, in consultation with concerned Ministries, should review and explore the possibility of having uniform rate of provident fund contribution at 12 per cent in all kinds of establishments covered under the Act."

I do not know why the Government has ignored this specific recommendation of the Standing Committee. It was a well-considered recommendation of the Standing Committee. I would cite an example. The jute barons of West Bengal are the biggest defaulters of provident fund, And you are exempting that industry from the higher contribution. What is the reason behind it? Is there any reason? No. There is no reason. So, I would request you to consider that this anomaly should go. You must accept the amendment given by me.

This is a social security measure. So many Acts are there. But the problem is with the implementation. Is it being implemented? If it is being implemented, how is it possible that hundreds of crores of rupees of the workers are lying in the coffers of the employers? Just now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia has mentioned the case of Jessop & Co. This is not an isolated case. This is a regular feature that employees are being denied their statutory dues, including provident fund, even after their retirement. And the Ministry of Labour has no teeth. I would like to know from Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam, who is now the Minister in charge of the Ministry of Labour. He happens to be the labour leader. I would like to know whether he has any plan to give some teeth to the Ministry of Labour. It is being marginalised like anything. The Ministry of Labour has no say. Everything is being dictated by the Ministry of Finance. Even the statutory dues like payment of wages are being denied to thousands of workers of this country.

The next point I would like to make is that default in payment of provident fund in respect of workers' contribution is a criminal offence.

But the default in payment of provident fund in respect of the employers contribution is not a criminal offence. A Committee was set up by the Consultative

Committee on Labour, I happened to be a Member of that Committee, and that Committee suggested that the Provident Fund Act should be thoroughly amended to give some teeth to this Organisation and also to the Labour Ministry. But nothing was done. Consequently, hundreds of crores of rupees belonging to the workers—the share of the employees and the employers—are not being paid. The employees are being denied of their own share even after retirement. So, only passing the Bill with some amendments is not at all enough. The Government would have to implement it.

Madam, the next point that I would like to make is about the amount of contribution. The amount of contribution is being increased. So, the total accumulation is going to increase. Naturally, the workers could expect a higher rate of interest as well. The Government would invest this money somewhere and the workers obviously would expect some increased rate of interest on this. What is the response of the Government on this aspect? The Government is silent on this point.

Madam, the next point that I would like to make is about the mismanaged affairs of the Provident Fund Organisation. Hundreds of crores of rupees, which are due by way of provident fund, has not been paid to the workers who have retired from service. Why is it so? It is lying with the Provident Fund Organisation. Why? The hon. Labour Minister is not present here but he has assured the other House that the Government would constitute a House Committee to go into the details of the mismanagement of this Provident Fund Organisation. If a House Committee is constituted then, we expect that Members of this House would also be included in that Committee which is being set up to ascertain the real causes of default and how such things could be removed. These are basically the reasons for which the hon. Labour Minister has agreed to constitute a House Committee. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Members of this House would also be included in that Committee or not.

Madam, the Working Class in this country is the biggest victim of the policies of liberalisation. I would like to submit that the prosperity and the progress, of which we often boast of, could not have been possible but for the boundless sacrifices of the Working Class in this country. But they are being neglected. We are discussing about industry-friendly Budget; we are discussing about industry-friendly decisions but we never talk about labour-friendly Budget and labour-friendly decisions. It has been my experience since 1989. I had been a Member of the Consultative Committee on Labour and had also been a Member of the Departmentally-related Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare since its inception.

This is my experience. All the misery has fallen upon the working class of this country. The union leaders come

to Delhi just to meet the Members of Parliament, so that they can approach the Minister to regularise the payment of wages and also to get their retirement benefits, including the Provident Fund and gratuity.

So, I would request the entire House, it is high time we should think over the matter more seriously and take some steps to redress their real grievances. Otherwise, the day is not far off when these people, the backbone of our country, will not sit idle any more. With these words I would request the Minister to accept my amendment and to respond to the problems which I have raised just now.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a good Bill and I would like to support it with some comments because if some good steps are taken in the interest of labours even by the wrong people, that should be supported. I support this Bill.

The provident fund contribution limit has been increased which is good for any Government. But in my view, only enhancing the limit is not enough. It has been our experience, and I can very well say on that basis that the State Governments, Central Government and employers in the private sector do not pay off the provident fund amount to the employees at the time of their retirement. I have been taking up such cases with the employers in my area as well as the neighbouring area. Such confrontations are general. Even after retirement the owners tell the employees that they do not have fund to pay their provident fund and hence they ask such employees to continue to work on the remuneration even at that age. In this way they continue to work for two to three years and keep on facing problems. In such situations we have to recommend their cases. The Governments divert the provident fund in development works and even after retirement the employees of the State Governments and Central Government have to run from pillar to post for payment of their provident fund amount even then they do not get it. The rules provide that the Government shall make arrangement of full payment of provident fund one month prior to retirement of an employee, but this is not being followed. I, therefore, request the Government to think over this.

Sir, one thing that worries me is whenever a commission is appointed, a judge is always inducted into the commission. I do not understand as to why only a judge should be appointed. It has been the practice in the past which continues even today. There are honest officers in the Department of Labour who have worked for the whole life in the interest of labours. After retirement when they can be appointed in the tribunal of labour department, why they cannot be considered for that. Being a High Court Judge....

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : It is the qualification.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Is qualification not essential for the officers of labour department. They are also LL.B. and they have spent their whole life with the labour, they have fought and worked in the interest of labour and against injustice done to them. You would not include such people in the commission because they do not possess qualification required for becoming a judge of a High Court or Supreme Court. So, my request is that you consider all these things and do not think that judges are the remedy of all ills. With these suggestions I support the Bill.

[English]

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL (Jalgaon) : Madam, I would like to raise a few issues before the House regarding this issue. It is very good that the Provident Fund Scheme is extended to unorganised sector. I believe that this Bill would protect the interests of the unorganised sector. But there are certain shortcomings in the Bill. It should have been provided for in the Bill that if the provident fund is not attached with the worker, it would be treated as a criminal offence. There are some workers who do not receive provident fund even after their deaths. It is seen that a lot of beneficiaries are not traceable and their approach the Provident Fund Organisations for payment. There is no control on these organisations. They put forward demands to fulfil the requirements of those people. There is scope for corrupt practices in this. This problem requires to be solved.

It is good that the Bill provides for enhancement of employees contribution to 12 per cent and it also provides for increase of upper limit of gratuity to Rs. 3 lakh. At present there are about 2.64 lakh establishments in which about 1.93 crores of workers are employed. All these workers will be benefited by this legislation. But there are certain things which should be taken care of. Firstly, if there are some Provident Fund Organisations which do not effect the 12 per cent deduction, will the Government take serious steps to ensure the deduction of 12 per cent? Secondly, does the Government intend to deposit the Provident Fund in the secondary market? These are a few of the questions which I wish to ask the Minister. On the whole I support the Bill and congratulate the Minister for bringing it forth.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Madam, I rise to support this Bill, especially on the point of enhancement of rate of contribution from 8.33 per cent to 10 per cent and from 10 per cent to 12 per cent.

This Scheme is detrimental to the interests of workers employed in organised sector. We had agitated on this point and that matter had already been discussed in Eleventh Lok Sabha.

[Shri N.K. Premchandran]

I would like to highlight one point. I come from a constituency where there are lakhs of people traditionally employed in cashew, coir and other works. It seems to be beneficial to cashew and other traditional workers. But there is a hurdle for those workers in joining the Employees Provident Fund Pension Scheme. That is, those who are not members of the Family Pension Scheme of 1971 are being deprived of being members of this Scheme. I have learnt that some orders have been passed already to the effect that if a worker pays the entire amount of arrears from 1971 onwards, he will become eligible to get the benefits under the Provident Fund Pension Scheme. The main difficulty of these traditional workers is that they are living below poverty line and are not in a position to collect a huge amount of Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 15,000 to be paid for getting entitled to this Scheme. So, I would appeal to the Ministry of Labour to remove this hurdle and make a provision that the amount of arrears liable to be paid by a worker be deducted from his Fund and an opportunity be given to him to avail of this benefit. These poor workers who live below the poverty line should also be given the chance of getting the benefit of this Scheme. I would appeal to the hon. Minister to clarify the position of Government on this.

This is a very serious situation. This is affecting the poor farmers, cashew workers, coir workers and the traditional workers. As far as non-payment of the contribution on the part of the workers are concerned, I wish to say that contributions of workers are regularly deducted from the salaries or wages. But they are not being paid properly, and in time. No receipts are being given to these poor cashew and coir workers. I can cite a number of examples.

A lump sum amount is paid for 150 workers but no individual receipt is being given from the Provident Fund office. Poor traditional workers and illiterate cashew workers are not in a position to understand, whether their contributions have been paid; and whether receipts are given for the same. So, I would suggest that proper individual receipts should be given to each and every worker.

As far as non-payment of contribution to the workers are concerned, it is a criminal offence under this Act and that punishment should stringently be implemented. Unless and until we implement it, there is no use of this Act and there is no use of this beneficial legislation as far as workers are concerned.

As Comrade Ajoy Mukhopadhyay has already submitted—I was also a Member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Labour—we have made certain proposals as far as these details are concerned. We could find a number of irregularities and default in the payment of Provident Fund contribution. Therefore, this matter has to be taken very seriously. Once again, I appeal to the hon. Minister to remove the hurdles so that the poor workers can also get the benefit without the payment of the entire arrears.

With these words, I once again support this Bill.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Madam Chairperson, I rise to support the Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill.

Actually this particular Ordinance was referred to the Standing Committee and we had discussed practically all the aspects of this Bill in the Committee. We have made certain recommendations and we have requested the Government to please look into these recommendations and thereafter bring the Bill in Parliament for enactment. I am happy that certain provisions have been incorporated but the rest of the recommendations have not been incorporated. Whenever such matters are adequately deliberated in the Parliamentary Standing Committee and recommendations made to the Government, it is the responsibility of the Government to look into the matter and to the best of its ability, it should try to incorporate the recommended provisions.

Here, what I note is that in this particular clause, the contributions have not been made equal to all industries. There is an exemption for sick industries. Earlier, the contribution was 8.33 per cent. Now, we have recommended 12 per cent. Then, why should there be differentiation? If at all any industry goes sick, one has to go into it thoroughly to know what were the factors which were responsible for the industries to go sick. If we go on giving such concessions, then it means that we are encouraging the industries to go sick. That should not happen.

Now, we have covered practically all the industries in Part-I. As far as the rate of contribution is concerned, I think, the Government should apply its mind.

The Government should review the things and see that this contribution is equally applicable to all the industries whether they are sick or not.

Secondly, if you look into all the aspects of the Provident Fund Section, there is a tremendous amount of recovery of arrears. We will have to make certain provisions in this Provident Fund Act to see that proper recoveries that too in time are made. Now, because of the lapse of time for recoveries, crores of rupees are still lying with the employers and the workmen are not getting the benefits of it. Not only that, but as has been rightly mentioned by some of the Members of this august House, even after retirement, those who had contributed during their life time, do not get their amount in time. Now, they are supposed to pay that amount within thirty days time. I have got a number of such examples where for more than a year the employees have not got their own amount.

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY : They say that the employees are not getting their due for three years.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : There are a number of cases.

The provident fund is a machinery from where the Government is getting so much amount, but so much amount is pending with the Provident Fund Commissioner. I would like to know where are they going to utilise this amount and why those employees, who contribute during their life time, should not get their dues in time. Therefore, this Ministry has to pay more attention and has to see that the workmen get some relief from this. This is also an aspect, which, at least, this Government should try to solve.

Hon. Member, Shri Mukhopadhyay had cited some of the provisions of the report of the Standing Committee. I do not know whether in his speech, the hon. Minister would give an explanation as to why these provisions were incorporated in this Bill. I think, that will help the Members of Parliament to understand this.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Which are those provisions?

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : It is on page 3. Next to that, that provision is there. Please see paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4 on page 4 also. These are regarding the contribution.

So, my humble submission to the Government is that whenever such reports are submitted to the Government, they should be properly and thoroughly studied and thereafter the recommendations of the Committee be taken into account. Otherwise, these Standing Committees would become meaningless. These are the Committees which are formed by the hon. Speaker and the functioning of these Committees is very important because the representatives of the people participate in these Committees. The reports of these Committees are unanimous, so these should be recommended and honoured. That is my humble submission to the Government.

With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur) : Madam Chairman, I will not take more than a minute.

There are some mills and institutions where the provident fund is being contributed by workers and at the same time equal contribution is being made by the employers. But when the cases of some of the mills are referred to the BIFR and BIFR orders for their closure, the units get completely closed down. In such conditions, the workers demand for their own provident fund.

In such cases, since the owner had already eaten away whatever money they had contributed, they allow just to get their part of money. The contribution of the

owner has not been permitted because they form a trust like unit and thereby they siphon off the fund or they either divert it to some institution or some industry. The Government has to take into account such ticklish problems and find out the solution. There are so many workers.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : There is already a provision in the Act but it has not been implemented properly. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : I will mention a specific case, Solapur - Lakshmi Vishnu Mill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : I know that particular case. Their machinery is not acting. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : There should not be any discussion between the Members.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : That is why, I would request the hon. Minister to take note of it and make it a cognizable offence.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : As the hon. Minister has pointed out in his opening remarks, one of the biggest social security schemes ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have taken enough time on this Bill. It is not just possible.

SHRI A.C. JOS : There is a very huge amount under the pension scheme attached to the provident fund. More than Rs. 20,000 crore are there. It should be utilised properly so that pension can be enhanced occasionally and reviewed.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI (Amreli) : Madam, please allow me half a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : Madam, please allow me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not just possible. We have already taken a lot of time on this Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Madam Chairman, I want to assure the hon. Members that if they write a letter to me, I will take steps immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can go and meet the hon. Minister later on and give your suggestions.

Mr. Minister, you please give your reply.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Madam, I am grateful to the hon. Members of this House for their participation especially senior leaders of the labour movement. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam]

[Translation]

Meenaji you please give in writing, I shall do that. ...*(Interruptions)* Should I not speak and sit down? Four Bills are to be considered and Budget is also there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Kumaramangalam, please address the Chair.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I am grateful to the hon. Members for their valuable contribution during the discussion on this extremely important Bill.

In fact, this Bill came about at the instance of the Members of Parliament as well as the Standing Committee.

The most important point that was raised by the hon. Member, Shri Basudeb Acharya, that a large number of PSUs are not depositing the statutory provident fund dues and the employees, after retirement, are not getting the benefits of provident fund. This is the serious problem which we are facing.

With regard to the company which he had mentioned, namely Jossep & Co., a sum of Rs. 14.15 crore is outstanding. We have taken every possible action to recover the statutory dues. In fact, I would inform the hon. Member that a group of Ministers was constituted last year to consider the payment of these dues, at least as a part of the Plan assistance because their wages themselves were paid as a part of the Plan assistance. Unfortunately that decision needs to be implemented.

I can assure the hon. Members that I will bring it to the notice of the Labour Minister so that he takes appropriate steps to see that the decision of the Group of Ministers, is acted upon.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : It should be for the maximum number of industries and not for any particular industry because there are so many industries.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : It is for the maximum number of industries. It is for all the industries. This is not only with respect to Jessop Company Ltd. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip) : Was there any decision taken by Parliament?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : This is regarding all the industries. I want to assure the Members that this is the decision taken with regard to all the industries which fall in a similar situation to Jessop Company Ltd.

In this case they have reached a situation where even their wages are being met by plan assistance. We will see all these cases and we will take care of them ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already assured.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : What the hon. Member, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad has said is whether only men would be eligible for appointment as Presiding Officer of the Tribunal. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ASIM BALA : They are not paying dues to all those workers who have been working in the company itself. What action the Government has taken with regard to payment of provident fund?

AN HON. MEMBER : That has already been discussed.

DR. ASIM BALA : But no action has been taken. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is not yielding. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No cross talk please.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I would like to point out what exactly you have said. Under Clause 13(1) of the general clauses of the Act, the male gender includes the female and, therefore, he includes 'she'. Now, of course, in most laws, we use 'the person'; that the word 'person' is used rather than 'he' and 'she'. But this is one of our older laws. So, in the Amendment, keeping in consonance with the Act, they have used the word 'she'.

With regard to claims being settled under the statute, I would like to say that they have to be settled within 30 days. Otherwise, an interest of 12 per cent per annum is given to the member to protect him under the Act which has been brought now. If there are instant cases, I would request the hon. Member to write a letter to the Labour Minister and I can assure him that the Labour Minister will take steps.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : How many letters?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him please reply.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : This is not the proper way of answering. Have I to inform the Labour Minister? What is this?

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no end to it.

SHRI A.C. JOS : We are discussing a Bill. It is not necessary to inform the Labour Minister. What is this? That is not the proper way of answering.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But we have had ample discussion. You got your chance to speak.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : What the hon. Members must understand and appreciate is that though there is a uniform policy, though there is a notification, there are many instant cases coming up. I know, in my individual capacity as a Member of Parliament and as a labour leader, in many cases, actually the dues are not being settled and that is exactly why, I said, please bring individual cases to the notice of the Labour Minister. I have said it on the floor of the House and I have assured you that I will myself tell the Labour Minister that this was an assurance made by me and he should pay immediate attention to see that those problems are addressed. ...*(Interruptions)*

What you have said about the Finance Minister is right. When I mentioned the Group of Ministers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him speak.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : This is not the way. Then I will have to sit down. ...*(Interruptions)* That is all right. I would not speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You go and talk to the Minister later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only the Minister's speech will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I recommend that the Bill be moved. ...*(Interruptions)* This is not the way. If anybody is going to ask any question, I am only going to sit down and ask that the Bill be moved. I would not respond because this is not the way. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mohan Rawale, please cooperate. We do not have much time. Please cooperate.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : With regard to the revision of qualification of the post of Presiding Officer, I wish to submit that, in fact, this is a very positive step which we have taken. They have said about that. I think they must understand that the qualifications of district judges are invariably laid down by regulations which are made on the recommendation of the High Courts.

About the higher rates of interest which some Members of Parliament have mentioned, we believe that it is more important that the monies of the workers are

secure. We can go into the market but the Board of Trustees feels that putting money in either the share market or private investment is risky. We would like to put it on a secure basis. There are many Members of Parliament and leaders who have other ideas. If they wish it would be secure and at the same time gives better returns, I am sure, that the Board of Trustees will consider it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Standing Committee can consider it.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : In the next Standing Committee we can pick it up.

With regard to the issue of discrimination the Standing Committee has made a recommendation and I must say that the actual problem is that all these particular industries, all the five of them are really sick industries which have been kept out. The arrears are already to the tune of Rs. 110 crore.

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar) : Will you yield for one minute?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : No.

It can be considered at the appropriate time from the kitty.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not respond to any interventions.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : We said that we would take it up later. Let us go through this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not done. Shri Mukhopadhyay, you have had ample time to speak.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : We have instructed that the payments should be made within 31 days. I have already mentioned 12 per cent interest. I must say that action will be taken under Section 14, 14(a) etc. under the Act. It is necessary to point out that as on 1-4-1998, in 40,000 cases steps have been taken. In 1998, 1,600 cases were acted upon. In fact, we have convicted cases in the year numbering 1047 and we had recovered, by means of action in 1997-98, Rs. 129 crore and Rs. 83.46 crore in 1996-97. I am giving the figures for the last couple of years and what action has been taken. I think many Members are aware that even legal directors have been pulled up in this matter.

With regard to the higher rate of interest I have already submitted my view. With regard to the House Committee I wish to assure the Members that we have

[Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam]

no objection, whatever, for the Members of this House to be Members of the House Committee and if Madam Chairperson directs, we can take the appropriate proceedings between the two Houses to see that a Joint Committee is constituted as a House Committee. We would bring a resolution to that effect.

I would only request that the present Bill be considered and passed as it is a major step for improving the retirement benefits of our employees. This has been long outstanding and, in fact, there has been substantial delay. There has been a demand by the industrial workers that it should be from April 1995 but it has become September 1997 when the Ordinance came.

I would request that this Bill may be passed. There are various important amendments to be considered. We are in the process. Many labour laws need to be looked at. I think the Standing Committee also must have been constituted by now. It should also assist us in having a look at those laws so that appropriate steps can be taken to bring amendments to streamline, simplify and make the laws effective.

I would recommend that the Bill be passed by the House.

17.00 hrs

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Madam Chairperson, this Ordinance was first promulgated in 1997. The Bill was also introduced in 1997 and it was referred to the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare. The Standing Committee also deliberated on the Bill.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : One minute, Acharia Ji.

Madam Chairperson, in my reply, at the end I did not make a request to Shri Basu Deb Acharia to withdraw his Statutory Resolution. In the light that this is a general and non-controversial Bill, I request that the hon. Member may kindly withdraw his Statutory Resolution.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : My intention was not to oppose the Bill.

Madam, there was enough scope to pass the Bill in the past also. We made certain suggestions in regard to implementation of some of the provisions of the existing Act which are not being properly enforced and also there is a need for updating and amending the existing laws. The Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare can consider that aspect also.

Another problem which has been highlighted by almost all the Members is the problem of default. Crores of rupees which are to be paid, are not being paid to

the workers and the employees. This issue was raised during the last Lok Sabha in both the Houses.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please be brief. The Minister has already made a request to you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Minister has also stated that a Group of Ministers was formed to examine this and to recommend to the Government how the problem not only of provident fund but also of gratuity, that is, the statutory dues, could be resolved.

The next Bill is coming and I have also tabled an amendment on that Bill. In view of the facts stated by the Minister and in view of the assurance given by him with regard to the formation of a House Committee and also with regard to streamlining, amending and updating the existing labour laws, I beg to withdraw the Statutory Resolution moved by me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Statutory Resolution?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

*The Statutory Resolution was, by
leave, withdrawn.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is an amendment to clause 2 to be moved by Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay. Shri Mukhopadhyay, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar) : Yes.

I beg to move :

"Page 1,—

for lines 7 to 10 substitute—

"2. In section 6 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), for the words "eight and one-third per cent," and "ten per cent," wherever they occur, the words "twelve per cent," shall be substituted." (1)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment No. 1 moved by Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay to the vote of the House

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

That clauses 3 to 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 3 to 6 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

That clause 1, the Enacting formula and the long title stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

17.08 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL
OF PAYMENT OF GRATUITY (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE
AND

PAYMENT OF GRATUITY (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, items number 26 and 27 shall be taken up together.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Ordinance 1998 (No. 8 of 1998) promulgated by the President on 23 April, 1998."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am putting forth my statutory resolution for the consideration of the House and I would like to say a few words on it. Recently we have passed a Bill which was in favour of labourers and this Bill is also similar to the previous one. This Bill propose to increase the gratuity limit from Rupees fifty thousand to

Rs. 1.5 lakh. In the changed situation and particularly when the Fifth Pay Commission recommendations have already been implemented this limit was required to be enhanced. I do not see much scope for disagreement. However, since there is an established parliamentary procedure that there is no scope for discussion unless the resolution is moved. So, I put forth my resolution for initiating the discussion in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may now move the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

As the hon. Members will be aware, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 provides for a scheme for payment of gratuity to the employees employed in factories, mines, plantations, oil fields, ports, railway companies, shops and certain other establishments and for matters connected therewith.

Under the Act, gratuity is payable in the event of superannuation, retirement or resignation from service subject to completion of five years' service. The completion of five years' service, however, does not apply in the case of termination of employment due to death or disablement. The employees in the non-seasonal establishments are entitled to gratuity at the rate of 15 days' wages for every completed year of service or part thereof in excess of six months, while the employees in seasonal establishments are entitled to seven days' wages as gratuity for each season. Payment of gratuity is further subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1,00,000/-.

Demand for revision of this limit has been raised on behalf of the workers from time to time. Various suggestions and recommendations made in this regard were considered and it was initially proposed to enhance the ceiling on the maximum amount of gratuity from Rs. One lakh to Rs. 2.50 lakh and a Bill was accordingly introduced and the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare examined the Bill and recommended that the ceiling on the maximum amount of gratuity should be further enhanced from Rs. 2.50 lakh to Rs. 3.50 lakh. The Government has since accepted the recommendations of the Committee and it is now proposed to enhance the ceiling on the maximum amount of gratuity from Rs. One lakh to Rs. 3.50 lakh.

This is, in short, the amendment proposed through this Bill. I hope the hon. members will welcome the proposed amendment which is of non-controversial nature. With these words, I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 (No. 10 of 1998) promulgated by the President on 23 April, 1998."

"That the Bill further to amend the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : Madam Chairman, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion. I welcome the Bill moved by the hon. Minister. My only suggestion to the hon. Minister is that this amendment which is being made through this Bill should be given effect retrospectively. The hon. Minister is aware and the House is aware that for the Central Government employees, this was given effect to from 1.4.1995. For the public sector employees also, this may be given effect to from the same date.

This demand to enhance the gratuity limit of all the workers, the staff and also the managers has been long-standing. After a long gestation period and after a long cry this has come before the House now. This is a welcome step and so, I am not opposing this amendment. My only request is that the hon. Minister should give effect to this amendment retrospectively, that is, from 1.4.1995, so that some more people would be benefited.

With these words, I support the Resolution.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almorah) : Madam Chairman, I rise to support the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 1998. Sub-section 3 of Section 4 of this Bill provides for Rs. 3.5 lakh in place of Rs. 1 lakh. This would benefit lakhs of workers and employees in the country. This was a long-standing demand of the workers. The Government has fulfilled it by bringing forth a Bill in this regard. This has been done as it was a commitment under our agenda. Our Government will never lag behind so far as safeguarding the interests of Government servants, workers and the poor is concerned.

Madam Chairman, some amendments have been brought by the opposition Members but nobody is opposing the Bill. I would urge that the Government should undertake a comprehensive study of all the labour laws so that the shortcomings are removed and justice is done. The hon. Minister has brought forward two amending Bills and I would urge him to bring forth a comprehensive Bill in due course in this regard. This Bill would be enforced from retrospective effect i.e. 24th September, 1997. I want to congratulate the hon. Minister for this and would once again like to support this Bill whole-heartedly. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI H.P. SINGH (Arrah) : Madam Chairman, nothing has been said about contract labour in this Bill(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt. You should have given your name in advance, if you wanted to speak. Shri H.P. Singh kindly resume your seat as your name is not there.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North-Central): Madam Chairman, I would like to welcome this Bill. Please allow me to speak for a while. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the Minister may please reply.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Madam Chairman, I am in total sympathy with the request that has been made by some of our leaders. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Madam, Shri Bikash Chowdhary's name is there. Please allow him to speak. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Let him speak for two minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY (Asansol) : Madam Chairman, I support the Bill wherein a provision has been made for raising the ceiling of gratuity from Rs. one lakh to Rs. 3.50 lakh. But I would like to point out that this sum of Rs. 3.50 lakh would not be given to the workers. The permanent workers in private sector and other employees with long service have already been shunted out. Now contract labourers have been engaged in their place.

Madam Chairman, the hon. Minister is sympathiser to workers. I would like to ask whether this Payment of Gratuity Act would be applicable to contract labour. If it will not be applicable then would the Contract Labour Abolition Act be enforced so that the workers engaged by contractors could be made permanent and they could benefit from the said Act.

Madam Chairman, even in public sector the workers do not get the gratuity for years. These are cases where workers who were to get gratuity died during this long wait and even then their family members did not get the gratuity amount. I would like to request the hon. Minister that if the public sector factories which are sick, are made viable, the workers engaged therein will not have to seek

assistance from Central Government but they could at least get the gratuity amount. Therefore, if sick units are made viable at least gratuity could be ensured to the workers.

Madam Chairman, it is good that an amendment has been made in the Payment of Gratuity Act, through which the ceiling has been raised from Rs. One lakh to Rs. 3.50 lakh. But it is regretted that even in public sector factories and industries contract labour is being engaged in large number. The number of permanent employees is fast receding and the day is not far when contract labour would outnumber them, if this trend of contract labour continues unabated. This may happen in another four-five years if it is not checked. On the one hand we talk of 'swadeshi' but our own workers are being thrown out and replaced by contract labourers. Our Labour Minister is a sympathiser of workers and that is why the ceiling of gratuity has been raised to Rs. 3.50 lakhs. This is worth appreciating. We do not have any objection but we want a guarantee that this amount would be given to workers. It is understood that this law would not be applicable to the contract labourers. So we feel that unless the contract labour system is abolished this would not benefit the workers in anyway. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Madam Chairperson, I am obliged to the hon. Members who participated in the discussion, especially the hon. Member Mohan Singhji, who moved the Statutory Resolution, though I suppose he moved it for the sake of opportunity rather than objecting to the ordinance. It is relevant for me to bring to the notice of the Members, through you that under the Payment of Gratuity Act, the service conditions' requirement is five years. Under the eligibility condition, even the casual contract workers are also covered. I repeat that the casual contract workers are also covered. The calculation system is based on pay plus D.A. The gratuity is payable even on dismissal except, of course, on grounds of moral turpitude. The Bill proposes to raise the limit from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 3.5 lakh and not from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh. The limit has been raised from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs 3.5 lakh.

The real problem is about the date. The Central Government employees had their raise, first time, effective from 1.4.1995 from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2.50 lakh. Then, they got, after the Fifth Pay Commission Report, another increase up to Rs. 3.5 lakh. It is necessary to bring some history to the notice of the hon. Members. Last time, when the Central Government employees got a raise from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh in 1986, the industrial employees finally got it only in May 1994 to the level of

Rs. 1 lakh. This time, we have a situation where we have moved quickly, within a couple of months, to the level of Rs. 3.5 lakh. But at this Rs. 2.5 lakh level, we really find that we were two and a quarter years behind. We have improved in our response. But the real critical problem is that we cannot amend that Act twice for two different levels. We cannot have Rs. 2.5 lakh level for a year and a half or two years and then have another Rs. 1 lakh after that. Then, we should have brought in two Ordinances. This is the critical situation. Therefore, we have actually taken the date of the Ordinance last time, that is, September 1997 and not the Ordinance now issued. Repromulation of the Ordinance is not the date that we have taken. We have taken the original date of September 1997.

I would request that this may be passed. I do believe that we should have a look at the system whereby this disparity that is constantly coming up between the industrial workers and the Central Government Employees on gratuity is sorted out and these problems do not go on continuing on a long-term basis.

Hon. Member Rawatji raised the issue of having a comprehensive law for looking at such social security schemes. I must assure him that a Task Force on social security has been set up to examine and review all the social security schemes and we will take urgent steps in this regard.

With this short reply on my part, and this is a Bill which is acceptable to all, in fact, long overdue, I will request this House to take this Bill into consideration. Thank you.

I would also request the hon. Member, Shri Mohan Singh, to withdraw his Statutory Resolution in the light of the Bill and the assurances that I have given.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Madam Chairman, I said in the beginning that it was not my intention to oppose this Bill. I moved the statutory resolution so that there could be a fruitful discussion on the subject. I beg the leave of the House to withdraw my resolution.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri Mohan Singh be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the motion moved by Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam to the vote of the House.

[Mr. Chairman]

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, are you moving you amendment?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : It is a very simple amendment.

I beg to move:

Page 1, line 4,—

for "24th day of September, 1997"

substitute "1st day of April, 1995". (1)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : It is a complicated matter.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The amendment is not complicated.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Matters would get complicated.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Matters also will not get complicated. It is very simple. There should not be any discrimination between Central Government employees and industrial workers.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Now this amendment will cause a discrimination.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yes. If there are different effective dates, it will cause discrimination.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : It will cause discrimination because they got Rs. 2.50 lakh. I cannot bring a law there also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : From that date, what is the difficulty in order to remove the discrimination between Central Government and industrial workers?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : This is your amendment. We did not bring the law.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I want to move this amendment and I request the hon. Minister to accept this amendment in order to remove the discrimination.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The hon. Minister wants to accept the amendment.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : If I may respond with your permission, I want to say that though I have all sympathies for what the hon. Member is saying, actually we will again have discrimination with his amendment because then we will have a situation where Central Government employees have got Rs. 2.50 lakh and industrial employees got Rs. 3.50 lakh. We will have to come with another amendment for that and this will go on endlessly. That is why, I said in future, we must bring in a system where it happens simultaneously. It is not that it is something new that we are going to do.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I now put amendment No. 1 moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

17.29 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL
OF REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE
AND

REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL
[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we will take up next items 28 and 29. Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 (No. 12 of 1998) promulgated by the President on 24 April, 1998."

The Ordinance was promulgated in the month of December, 1997 because of Supreme Court judgment in regard to requisition of the employees of public sector undertakings for election duty.

Madam, the Ordinance was first promulgated in December. Then, again, it was re-promulgated in the month of April although there was a scope to replace the ordinance by a Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal) : When ?...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why one day. You could have done. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nobody should disturb Basu Deb ji. This is how a lot of time is wasted.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : If it was so urgent then there was occasion when the House was in session. We had sittings for two days after the vote of confidence. At that time this ordinance could have been replaced by bringing forward a Bill and passed. But the Government did not do so. When they felt the need they promulgated the ordinance. During this inter-session period the Government promulgated as many as nine ordinances. An ordinance which had been promulgated earlier had to be re-promulgated when the earlier one lapsed. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : The earlier Session was slated for confidence motion only. Unless Confidence Motion is passed, how can we introduce the Bill. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Before becoming the Chief Minister, he was on this side for one and half years. ...*(Interruptions)* At that time he also used to say why ordinances were being promulgated.

Because of the Supreme Court judgement employees of the public sector undertakings could not be requisitioned. But we do not want to bring peace-meal legislations, rather. We want to bring comprehensive electoral reforms legislation before the House. An all party meeting was held. ...*(Interruptions)* For years we have been listening about Dinesh Goswami Committee, its recommendation about money power, muscle power and how to reduce them. A comprehensive legislation about electoral reforms should be brought. We demand that such a bill should be introduced in the House at the earlier. We are not against it. This ordinance was promulgated by the United Front Government. It had to be re-promulgated by this Government. We do not oppose it but we certainly oppose the practice of promulgating ordinances like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not interrupt, it wastes much time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is a wrong practice on the part of the Government. It should not be done in future. With this, I move my Statutory Resolution.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Under clause (6) of Article 324 of the Constitution, the President or the Governor of a State is required to make available to the Election Commission such staff, as may be necessary, for the discharge of his function. Further, under section 159 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the employees of the local authorities can be requisitioned for election duties.

Though under statutory provisions, apart from Government employees, only employees of local bodies could be requisitioned for election duties, upto February 1995, employees of banks, public sector undertakings and statutory bodies aided by the Government were requisitioned for election duties. Some time back, the State Bank of India Staff Association, Patna, and others and Northern Zone Insurance Employees Association, Rajasthan, challenged requisitioning of services of bank and insurance employees for election duties and the hon. Supreme Court of India *vide* its Judgement dated 7.2.1995 held that, as per statutory provisions, only services of Government employees and employees of local authorities can be requisitioned for election duties and, accordingly, the employees of the bank and insurance cannot be requisitioned for election duties.

In view of the aforesaid Judgment of the hon. Supreme Court, the Election Commission of India was facing great difficulty in deploying requisite number of employees for election duties especially as a very large number of employees are drafted and deployed on election duties as Presiding officers, Polling Officers, Counting Officials etc. An idea about the enormity of the requirements of staff for general elections to the House of the People can be had from the fact that to man nearly eight lakh polling stations in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections, around 40 lakh polling personnel were needed.

The Election Commission of India, accordingly, requested that section 159 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 may be amended to provide that, in addition to local authorities, all public sector undertakings

[Dr. M. Thambi Durai]

of the Central Government and State Governments, all statutory and non-statutory bodies aided by the Government, all universities and all other educational institutions aided by the Government should also make their staff available for election duties.

In the wake of general elections to the Twelfth Lok Sabha, the President promulgated an Ordinance, namely, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 on 23rd December, 1997 to provide for requisitioning of services for election work of employees of, apart from local authorities, every university and any other institution, concern or undertaking controlled, or financed wholly or substantially by funds provided, directly or indirectly, by the Central Government or a State Government. The employees of statutory bodies and companies were, however, exempted by the Ordinance from being requisitioned for election duties. The aforesaid Ordinance was re-promulgated on the 24th April, 1998 to give continued effect to the provisions of the aforesaid 1997 Ordinance and to avoid any difficulty to the Election Commission in holding elections in the interregnum.

The Government have since decided that, apart from the categories of employees brought under the ambit of section 159 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 by the aforesaid Ordinance, employees of public sector enterprises, etc., should also be brought under the ambit of that section so as to ensure easy availability or staff for election duties at all places. This would also avoid unnecessary burden on any organisation to spare a large number of its employees for election duties.

I am sure that hon. Members would agree with me that the measures proposed in the Bill are necessary to ensure deployment of requisite number of staff for election duties and I am confident that the Bill would receive support from all sections of the House.

I commend the Bill for consideration of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 (No. 12 of 1998) promulgated by the President on 24 April, 1998."

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Madam, I welcome the Government for the Bill. But I also regret that ordinance was promulgated twice.

I have a doubt that in the intervening period, they may promulgate ordinance for some other legislation also.

If they can assure the House in respect of other such legislations, I can understand the intention of the Government that they will not make any such endeavour to promulgate such ordinances.

The Government are extending help to Election Commission so as to remove the difficulties being faced by them. You said that you are seeking assistance from NGOs, statutory and non statutory aided institutions. But if we want to avail of their services, they may create a situation of might is right. In case of cooperative institutions, if elections are held in an area in which such NGOs or cooperatives function and employees are put on election duty in their own villages or areas they may cause undue political influence. So, I request the Government that it should incorporate a sub-section or sub-clause for this purpose to ensure that Election Commission deploys such persons carefully so that there is no undue political influence. This provision is very essential for ensuring fair elections.

As I do not have much time I would not go into details but I support it. I have always said that we should have provision for reservation in aided, non-aided and Government aided institutions particularly institutions like cooperatives, sugar factories. We have very often raised this issue in this House. This Government is new and it is very progressive. It has brought a good amendment in legislation. I have to speak this much only. Next time when I speak on Budget, I will speak as to how far the Government is good. But I request this Government to do something for such reservations. ... (Interruptions) No, I extend full support. For a good cause I extend full support. On this issue even Acharya ji is also supporting good work.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It was introduced by our Government.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : It is a good piece of legislation for the Election Commission. I support it.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Madam, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

The Supreme Court had given a judgement in February, 1995. It had said in that judgement that only Government servants or the employees of local bodies could be deputed on election duty. This decision of the Supreme Court put the Election Commissioners in a quandary because they have to manage about nine lakh polling stations during elections. For this, they require about 45 lakh employees. Then, where could they get the required number of employees from? During elections, employees in a district fall short of the required number. Should the Election Commissioner stop holding elections? I was also a Government servant earlier. The Government servants or the officers who are sitting here, know very

well that they do not go on election duty willingly. Some people apply for sick leave and others approach the political leaders or bureaucrats for getting their names deleted. The employees find one pretext or the other.

I would like to submit that in 1983, when I was a senior class-I officer in the Central Government, I was sent to Assam on election duty. When my colleagues heard about being deployed in Assam, most of them started weeping. At that time, STD facility was not there. They got the telephone calls booked to Madras and Mumbai and informed their parents about their deployment on election duty in Assam. They also told their parents that they were not sure whether they would return alive or not and thus, they started weeping on telephone also. My submission is that it is not a pleasant experience. Anybody can face any eventuality. I know, there are high chances of losing one's life on election duties in Assam, Punjab and Mizoram.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : He had gone there on election duty and ran away from there.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I did not run away. I went there. I had a hair breadth escape. That is why, I am saying that somebody will have to bell the cat. I do not find any reason for opposition of this ordinance. I do not consider it proper to oppose it on technical grounds. Since there is no other way to get 45 lakh employees for election duty, hence this ordinance. ...*(Interruptions)* I would also like to submit that the Chief Election Commissioner held talks with all political parties in this regard and he also talked of election reforms there. ...*(Interruptions)* Kalita ji, you can speak after me.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati) : Please see that a wrong message should not go from this House.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : That is what I am saying. Please have patience.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : It will send a wrong message to those employees who are already posted there and debuted on election duty.

[English]

Do not underestimate the employees of Assam. This is wrong.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I am not giving any wrong message.

SHRI SURENDER SINGH (Bhiwani) : It applies to those employees who are weak and also to those who are frightened. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : So, the Government have taken a right step by bringing in this ordinance. The proposal which you are opposing now, put forth by the Chief Election Commissioner himself and not this Government. It means you are opposing the stand of the Election Commissioners. That is what I want to tell. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Whatever he is speaking is his personal experience. What message he is giving to the employees of Assam. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I support this Bill and request all hon. Members in the opposition to withdraw their amendments and support the Bill.

[English]

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : This should be expunged from the proceedings. He has no business to talk about his personal experience.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record other than the hon. Minister's speech.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Kalita, I have not permitted you to speak. Please sit down. It is just not possible to run the House like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing except the hon. Minister's speech will go into the record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, you may please begin your reply. Enough is enough. Please sit down. When I am on my legs, you should sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Madam, you will have to allow Shri Nikhilananda Sar to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, I think, you will have to wait for a couple of minutes. I will allow Shri Nikhilananda Sar.

[English]

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR (Burdwan) : Madam Chairperson, I stand here to support the Representation

* Not Recorded.

[Shri Nikhilananda Sar]

of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1998 initiated by the hon. Minister of Law and Justice with some reservations.

As we all know, it is intended to give a new shape, to replace the Ordinance promulgated twice. But why had the Ordinance to be promulgated? It was simply to ensure fairness in the election process.

Many elections have been held since 1952 and there was no dearth of polling personnel. In a democracy elections are a must; elections are a part and parcel of democracy. The electorate should be satisfied with the fairness of the elections. The parties contesting elections should act in such a manner that the people can express their views freely. I am sorry that that sort of an atmosphere is almost absent. Now, money and muscle power, opportunistic groupings, caste and religious sentiments attached to political parties and evil misuse and misinterpretation of anti-defection laws vitiate the democratic spirit of the people at large. Members of legislative bodies have turned into saleable commodities. We have seen many *aya* Rams and *gaya* Rams. This is the present position.

So, to make the democracy successful piecemeal legislation like issuing of Ordinances is not enough. We support this Bill. But at the same time I would request the hon. Minister through you that he should enlighten the House about the comprehensive electoral reforms as to whether he is going to place it before this august House or not. People who have gone to the Supreme Court have not taken it in right earnest and due to this, they tried to avoid taking part in the election process. This sentiment should be given due consideration and the Government should come forward with proper legislative measures for presenting comprehensive electoral reforms as early as possible.

Hence, I would request the hon. Minister he should come forward with this Bill in the near future. With these words I support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I may please be given two minutes to express my views. Views of all political parties in regard to this Bill should be taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mohan Singh ji, you always speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : We have no representation in the Election Committee. Our party nominee has been dropped from that Committee and in the House our views are not being taken. I want that I should be given two minute's time. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am prepared to take your views. However, the problem is that once I allow you to express your views, 25 other Members will rise to make a submission in this regard.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Please seek recognition. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Even in the Committee, our party has not been given representation. ...(Interruptions) We are not opposed to this Bill. Some of our colleagues are under the impression that we are opposed to this Bill. We are not opposing this Bill. It is not so. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to conclude in two minutes.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Sir, what I want to say is that a Committee has been constituted to draft a comprehensive Bill for electoral reforms. However, I have a grouse against Shri Khurana that our party leadership has been dropped from that Committee. Hence, I have perforce to make a few submissions in this regard. I want you to take them into consideration.

My second point is that more and more people should be encouraged to participate in the elections. For this purpose, more and more polling stations should be set up. Even a village having less than 500 voters should have a polling station. With the setting up of more polling stations, more and more employees would be required to man them. This has necessitated bringing forward this Bill because the number of employees are declining and hence to deal with this situation, the number of polling stations would have to be increased. Employees of Universities, degree colleges, State Governments, Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings should be deployed on election duty. This Bill is very appropriate and is a welcome measure from this point of view. However, bringing a separate Bill on piece meal basis would create anomalies. Hence, it would have been better had the comprehensive Bill been brought forward.

With these words and a suggestion that our party would be given representation in that committee, I support this Bill.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North-Central): Sir, on behalf of my party, I support this Bill. Election is the soul of democracy. Hence, it should be conducted in a fair manner and in accordance with the rules and regulations. The employees and officers deputed to conduct elections should accept their responsibility.

18.00 hrs.

This Bill is very important with a view to restraining those unwilling officers who are deputed on election duties but dilly dally to accept it, on one or another pretext. But at the same time the Government should own its responsibility to protect their lives and look after their families. The Government should consider to incorporate a clause in this Bill to give insurance cover to the officers who face threat to their lives or are attacked during the course of their election duties. This is the request that I want you to consider in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Members from your party have already spoken on this Bill. Now please take your seat and listen to the Minister.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : Madam, I thank all the hon. Members who have made valuable suggestions during the course of discussion of the Bill.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia was concerned about the way the Ordinance was promulgated by the Government; he has some kind of an apprehension. I would like to tell that that was not the intention of this Government in promulgating Ordinances and create such a situation.

Actually, this Ordinance was promulgated at the request of the Election Commission because they wanted some personnel since the Commission had to conduct the 12th Lok Sabha elections. For that purpose only, the Ordinance was promulgated. This is our limited purpose in promulgating that Ordinance.

As the hon. Members suggested, this Government is committed to bring forward a comprehensive Electoral Reforms Bill soon. For that purpose, we had already conducted an all-party leaders' meeting and in that meeting, it was decided to appoint a committee. So, a Committee was also appointed under the leadership of Shri Indrajit Gupta. I think, within a period of three months, they would submit certain suggestions. After taking those suggestions, we would bring forward a comprehensive Electoral Reforms Bill.

Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde suggested certain things about the cooperative sector and expressed some reservation also. We will consider those things when we bring forward the comprehensive Electoral Reforms Bill.

When Shri Kharabela Swain was speaking about the security aspect said that the officers who are going for election duty fear for their lives. If that is the case, we

will request the State Governments to give necessary protection and security for those who are taking up that kind of an electoral work.

I think, most of the hon. members have accepted the necessity of this Bill and supported the Bill also. In view of this, I would request Shri Basu Deb Acharia to withdraw his Statutory Resolution and allow the Bill to be passed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, in view of the assurance given by the Minister of Law regarding the comprehensive legislation on electoral reforms which is now overdue, I withdraw the Statutory Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Resolution?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951. as passed by the Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted. ..

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI : I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

18.07 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL
OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT)
ORDINANCE
AND
MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up item Nos. 30 and 31 together, namely, the Statutory Resolution regarding Disapproval of the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance and Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 (No. 7 of 1998) promulgated by the President on 23 April, 1998."

Madam, the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 1998 was overdue. The Ordinance was promulgated and it was necessitated as the ratification of Convention No. 147 of the International Labour Organisation was required. There is no system of working hours for the seamen who are working in ships. Now, the ordinary hours of work for all seamen shall not exceed 48 hours in a week. Previously, there was no system. Even the seamen were to work for months together. There was no limit and even after the ILO Convention, this was not ratified by the Government of India.

Another problem which the seamen are facing is about disputes. The Industrial Disputes Act has no jurisdiction over it nor the Shipping Board can settle the disputes. So, there should be some system in regard to settlement of disputes. But this Bill is not helping them in regard to settlement of disputes.

The amendment to section 89 of the principal Act is:

"To transmit the complaint of any dispute of a foreign seaman of a vessel, registered in a country other than India, in Indian territorial waters, with the master, owner or agent, to the competent authority of the country of registration and a copy of such complaint shall be forwarded to the Director General, International Labour Organisation office."

This system will take time. Unless some foolproof mechanism is evolved in regard to settlement of dispute, the Indian seamen working in foreign vessels or Indian seamen working in Indian vessels will continue to suffer. How can this problem be resolved? I would request the hon. Minister to dilate on that point while replying to the

debate. If necessary, another legislation can also be brought forward in order to mitigate the sufferings of the seamen.

I felt that there was no need for promulgation of the Ordinance. The Government could have come forward with a legislation without promulgation of the Ordinance. I hope he will explain what was the necessity for it. Why was the Ordinance promulgated in the inter-Session period? Why was the legislation not brought forward before the House without promulgation of the Ordinance?

18.12 hours

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1950, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

With your permission, I would like to say a few words while moving the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

India ratified International Labour Organisation Convention No. 147, which was adopted in 1976, on 26th September, 1996 and it came into force in India after a period of twelve months, that is, on 26th September, 1997. The Convention prescribes a set of minimum standards, including standards relating to safety, social security and shipboard conditions of employment and living arrangements, to be observed by States in respect of ships registered in their territory.

Indian law and practice substantially comply with the provisions of the Convention. However, in order to conform, in full, to the requirements of the Convention, the following amendments were considered essential:

(i) Earlier, the Merchant Shipping Act did not specify fixed hours of work for seamen. However, as per the bilateral agreement between the shipowners and the seafarers, the normal hours of work are eight hours a day from Mondays to Fridays and four hours a day for Saturdays, making a total of 44 hours per week. The ILO Convention lays down for the member countries to specify the working hours. Keeping the practice for the seamen on Indian ships, it is proposed to provide, in the law, for the first time, that ordinary hours of work for seamen shall not exceed 48 hours per week. The incharge of ship will be liable for payment of fine, at the rate of double the average rate of wages payable per hour, beyond 48 hours, in case of contravention of this provision.

(ii) Earlier, the law provided only for investigation of complaints in respect of Indian seamen working on Indian registered ships by the Shipping Master. However, for

the first time, as per Convention, it is being provided that Shipping Master may receive complaints from foreign seamen, working on a foreign vessel or by Indian seamen, working on a foreign vessel, while they are in Indian waters. It is being made a part of duty of Shipping Master to transmit the complaints, so received, to the Competent Authority of the Registering country of the ship and a copy of this complaint will also be endorsed by the Shipping Master to the Director General, International Labour Organisation, Geneva.

The Ship Masters, in accordance with the instrument of Convention, ratified by India, has also been nominated as the competent authority for receiving such complaints from the competent authorities from other countries.

Whenever any shipping casualty occurs, resulting into loss of ship or loss of life or material, a preliminary enquiry is made and thereafter the Government may refer it to the Judicial Magistrate for a formal investigation. The Magistrate submits the formal investigation report to the Government. Earlier, the contents were not required to be made public. A provision is being made for this report to be published in the Official Gazette for the information of the public.

Since the ILO Convention No. 147 was to come into force in India with effect from 26/9/97 and Parliament was not in Session, it was decided that the four amendments may be given effect to, by way of a promulgation of an Ordinance so as to meet our international commitments. Accordingly, an Ordinance was promulgated on 26/9/97. Thereafter a notice was given to the Rajya Sabha for introduction of the Bill to replace the Ordinance but could not be introduced in the Winter Session in 1997 due to the circumstances prevailing then. Therefore, in order to have its continued effect, the Ordinance had to be re-promulgated twice, the last being on 23/4/98.

The Bill has been passed by the Rajya Sabha on 3/6/98 and now is in this House for consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Madam Chairperson, I rise to participate in the discussion on the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 1998. The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 is the main Act for acquisition of vessels and operation of vessels in India. I am fully aware that this particular piece of legislation is having a very limited purpose and it does not take into account the entire gamut of the Merchant Shipping Act. But after the hon. Minister has made a

statement, certain things have come to light and I would like to raise certain issues relating to that.

Madam, Section 142, sub-section 1(a) of the Bill says and I quote :

"Any complaint or dispute received by the Ship Masters from an Indian seaman on a vessel registered in a country other than India in Indian territorial waters with the Master, owner or agent...."

That is all right. But there are a large number of Indian flagships where Indian seamen are working and they have a lot of problems and there are a lot of disputes as well. Sometimes even the ships are held up in different ports because of disputes of the seamen. There is no adequate arrangement through which these problems could be redressed so that the shipping services could be run uninterruptedly.

Sir, I come from an area where shipping is our lifeline. We come across problems in regard to shipping every now and then and we also are quite accustomed about the problems. What I feel is that by bringing in this piecemeal legislation, the Government would not really be able to do justice neither to the crewmen or the seamen nor to the passengers and shippers. So, a comprehensive Bill has to be brought in to redress the problems of the seamen. After all, this Act was made in the year 1958. Over a period of time a lot of changes have taken place; Indian tonnage has increased and Indian shipping has gone far ahead. Therefore, to cope with the changing needs, it is necessary that a comprehensive Bill is brought before this House which can take care of the problems facing the shipping industry.

I know what is happening. Sometimes, for two or three months together the ships are held up and people cannot go to the mainland. Even the cargo services are disrupted. When such is the position, it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Surface Transport to see that it is improved. Necessary legislation can be brought in this regard so that all the problems can be taken care of.

Now, I come to the question of issuing CTC. It is the responsibility of the Director-General of Shipping. But, today—you may take any field—there is corruption everywhere. To get a CTC issued, you require about Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 70,000. This is going on in shipping merchant offices. Until and unless the Minister goes through all these things, he cannot do justice to the seamen who are working in the ships.

I would like to raise another very important point. Specifying 48 hours as working hours is a welcome provision. We all support it. There is no dispute in this regard. But, there are passenger ships whose voyage take about 10 to 12 days. So, for these 10-12 days, the

[Shri Manoranjan Bhakta]

seamen work in a particular vessel. They stay in that particular vessel for all these days. So, a clear cut provision should be made as to what will be the position. This kind of disputes are arising from time to time. Everything should be made clear so that neither the seamen nor the passenger nor the ship owners suffer.

I would say that the Bill has been drafted in a hurried manner. In the penal provision, the Government has to make it clear as to how this provision would be given effect to. Suppose, a ship runs for five days, the working hours of the seamen working in that particular ship would be much more than the prescribed hours. In the midst of the sea, the ship cannot stop and change the seamen. So, all these things should be specifically clarified.

As I have already said, this Bill has a very limited scope. There are a number of problems in the shipping industry. It is necessary that the Government should give a commitment to the House that it would look into all these things and bring a comprehensive Bill before the House so that the House has enough opportunity to discuss it in full. Then only the shipping industry will be benefited by this.

I do not wish to take much time of the House. I would only request the Minister not to be contend with the passing of the Bill right now but think for the future of the shipping industry. He should make an assurance that he would bring a comprehensive Bill before the House, looking at all the pros and cons.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, speaking on the Bill under discussion, hon. Manoranjan Bhakta has said that this Bill has been introduced in a haste. He should be knowing that already there have been three ordinances on this Bill. Hence, it is not proper to say that this Bill has been introduced in a haste. Even today, during the Question Hour there was a question on oceanography. The Government threw much light on infrastructure in ships at point No. 10 in its reply.

Merchant shipping assumes great importance in this Bill. The Government of India was signatory to the I.L.O. in this regard. The 147th Convention of I.L.O. made it obligatory on the part of the Government to make an amendment in the Act. The working condition of sea-men should be improved as per international labour standards. This Bill has been introduced to improve their working conditions. I feel this Bill should be passed unanimously. I support this Bill whole-heartedly and make an appeal to the august House to pass the Bill with a voice vote.

[English]

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI : Madam, I am grateful to the hon. Members who gave various suggestions for the

improvement of our shipping industry. At the outset, I would like to say that this Bill has a very limited scope. As suggested by the hon. Members who spoke, we would bring in amendments to this Act in due course of time. I do agree that the Merchant Shipping Act, 1957 is a very old one. I have taken note of all the suggestions given by the hon. Members and I will certainly bring forth a comprehensive Bill in due course.

Shri Manoranjan Bhakta has mentioned the problem of corruption which he came across. He stated that some officials are involved in corrupt practices. I assure the House, through you, Madam, that we will take necessary action and try to do what is needed for putting an end to this kind of corrupt practices in the system.

This clause which is being included will help our shipping industry in ensuring the welfare of seamen and seafarers. The countries which have signed and ratified the ILO Convention have to ensure the welfare of their seafarers. Taking all that into consideration, I would request Shri Basu Deb Acharia, who is a well-known labour leader himself, to withdraw his Statutory Resolution as the Bill is meant only to ensure the welfare of labourers and seamen.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, ratification of convention 147 of ILO was very much necessary. Accordingly I want two amendments—one is regarding duty hours of seamen and the other is about how to settle their disputes. I had made a suggestion in this regard. Can their disputes be settled under Industrial Disputes Act or by any other means?

The other issue regarding duty hours was raised by Mr. Manoranjan Bhakta as to how to implement 40 hours of duty.

[English]

In the implementation of these duty hours some problems would also crop up.

[Translation]

We have to see as to how it has to be tackled. We demand that a Bill for the welfare of seamen be brought here at the earliest. It is a good step. I support this but a comprehensive Bill should be brought in future so that their problems could be solved. With these words I withdraw the Statutory Resolution.

[English]

I seek leave of the House to withdraw my Statutory Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 7 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

18.33 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now Items 32 and 33 will be taken up together.

Now, General Discussion on the Budget (General) for 1998-99.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (Churu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion on Budget is going to start but the Finance Minister is not present ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has been the tradition of the House that the Minister remains present here ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : The Finance Minister is in the Rajya Sabha. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : It has been the tradition of the House. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : First of all he should be called.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : All right, I am just going to call him. ... (Interruptions)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : He should be called from the Rajya Sabha. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Mumbai South) : We cannot start the discussion. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister of Finance will come to the House. In the meantime, Shri Sompal will make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

18.34 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Minimum Support Price Policy for Copra and Raw Jute

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a Statement regarding the announcement of minimum support price for copra and jute for 1998 season and 1998-99 season.

The Government of India has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of Milling Copra at Rs. 2900 per quintal and for FAQ variety of Ball Copra at Rs. 3125 per quintal for 1998 season. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : It is too low. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : It is very unfortunate and ridiculous. I may be permitted to speak. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please hear him.

SHRI A.C. JOS : It is very very unfair. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : First allow me to complete the Statement. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats. Let him complete first.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I may be permitted. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : This marks an increase of Rs. 200 per quintal in MSPs for each Milling and Ball Copra for 1998 season over their respective MSPs for previous year. The increase in MSPs is expected to induce the copra growers to invest more and raise the productivity and production of copra.

The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) would continue to act as a nodal agency to undertake the price support operations for copra.

II. Minimum Support Price for Raw Jute for 1998-99 season

The Government of India has also fixed the Minimum Support Price for TD-5 grade of raw jute for Assam for the 1998-99 season at Rs. 650 per quintal ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Sir, this is too low price. They do not know what the farmers are suffering from. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN Please take your seat. Let him complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, cost of all imports has been increased considerably and the hon. Minister is fixing the price at Rs 650 per quintal. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMPAL Sir, I would request the hon. Members to complete my Statement first. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him complete his Statement first. He has not completed his Statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, does the hon. Minister want more and more farmers to commit suicide?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, it is a very dangerous thing. They are not considering the plight of the farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him complete. He has not completed his Statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would request the hon. Members to take their seats. Let him complete his Statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jos and Shri Basu, please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, after announcing the Minimum Support Price, there is no remedy left at all. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, how can the hon. Minister announce that? Sir, he says that the Agricultural Cost and Prices Commission had fixed the price and that he had nothing to do with it. The whole economy is going to collapse. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, we would request the hon. Minister to withhold this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, the whole rural economy of Kerala would be destroyed. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, the season is coming to a close and now they are fixing such a low price for that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him complete. He has not completed. If the hon. Members have anything to say, they may give notice for discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, once it is announced, we have no remedy at all. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, let the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission be requested to review the decision.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me complete the statement first...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : Let the hon. Minister review the decision. This is not acceptable to the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the hon. Minister complete his statement first.

SHRI ANIL BASU : The hon. Minister may kindly enlighten as to what is the remedy left to us. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : One or two hon. Members may make clarification's after the statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Mumbai South) : Mr. Minister, why do you not reconsider this announcement?
...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : The hon. Minister has no idea about the condition of the farmers in the country....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister should be allowed to read his statement. After that, if there is any complaint, they may make. If they want a discussion, they may give notice to the Hon. Speaker. That can be considered and a time may be fixed for discussion. When they were in power, how much increase did they make, let them say. ...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that if any one wants a discussion, he may give a notice to the Hon. Speaker. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANIL BASU : Khuranaji, you may say about Delhi but you do not know much about the villagers and agriculture. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the hon. Minister complete his statement first.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me complete the statement. The Members have their right to make any observation even in the post-statement period.
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANIL BASU : What is the remedy left to us?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMPAL : Is this the way to behave in this House? You are a senior Member. You cannot behave like this. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, Shri Anil Basu is a very senior Member. He is not expected to behave like this in the House. He should be disciplined and asked to sit down. ...(*Interruptions*) Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me complete my statement. After that, the hon. Members may make their observations. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, Will you allow me to seek a clarification?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat. Shri Jos, please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, I am on a point of order.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under which rule?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : We are about to discuss the General Budget and that is why the sitting of the House has been extended.

Now, this is a very important statement which the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture is making. This is a matter on which we have a right to get some notice.

That was not in the agenda. We did not find it in the agenda. This was also not circulated. We did not get a copy of the statement also. This is a very important aspect. The agriculturists, jute growers and coconut growers have been suffering for quite a long time. This is a very important matter on which the statement is being made.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The statement has been made with the consent of the hon. Speaker. No questions shall be asked when statement is being made.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I am not venturing to ask a question. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : The hon. Speaker has permitted. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Sir, he is not being allowed to make a statement. Let him complete his statement.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If you interrupt everywhere, on every issue like this, I can say with all humility that it is not possible to run the House.
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I raised a point of order. We are on a very important matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I agree that the hon. Speaker has every right. Nobody questions his right to permit a statement being made. But the time was not given by the hon. Speaker. We have intervened because the hon. Finance Minister was not present in the House. I have one submission. You find that the hon. Members are highly agitated because it concerns the farmers. You are fixing a price which is known to be even much below the input prices for this. Therefore,

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

may I request this? Heavens will not fall if you issue it day after tomorrow. Why do you not call some hon. Members, sit with them and have their views? Why do you not do that? That will be helpful.

I would request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to please see this. Do not think you have that majority always to bamboozle us. This is our request for a proper functioning. If you do not agree to that, well, then it is for you.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have great respect for hon. Member, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. Somnathji is a very senior Member of this House. You know a statement is not withdrawn in the middle when the Minister is making it in the House. Such things have never happened.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : All right, he may read the remaining half later.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, let the statement be made. When the statement is completed, if all the Members like and the House permits, we may hold a discussion on it for an hour or for one and half hours. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am not asking to withdraw it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, there is a point of order.

MR CHAIRMAN One thing can be done. Shri Khurana, after he makes the statement, tomorrow, the Minister of Agriculture can call for a meeting with the concerned Members from Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar and Karnataka. They are agitated.

SHRI SOMPAL : Tomorrow it is not possible because I will be busy in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is because day after tomorrow, Parliament will be adjourned. So, you find some time tomorrow.

SHRI SOMPAL : At first, let me complete this statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him complete his statement.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, my limited point of order is, it is not that the hon. Speaker may not give consent or that the Speaker has not given the consent....

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already given my ruling.

SHRI SOMPAL : The statement is being made after due permission from the Chair. There is a written order of the Chair to permit me to make a statement at this hour.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : We are also entitled to know it. This is a very important matter. There is something on the agenda. It must come on the agenda.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Thomas is on a different point. Shri Thomas, now you please take your seat.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : A very important matter like this should have come in the agenda. It has not come in the agenda.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Sir, this is under Rule 372. After the permission of the Speaker, the Government is within its right to make its statement. That is fine. But I am on a point of procedure. What happens is, when important statements are made, we would like that the Opposition Members to be present here. There was always a practice in this House to issue a supplementary agenda about two or three hours before, so that the Members can be present. But it is happening again and again. They are springing a surprise. That is why, the Members are agitated. If we had known that this statement is coming at 6 or 7 O'clock, we would have prepared. Something could have been discussed earlier. Why is this happening? I do not know. This is not the practice in the House. A supplementary agenda is circulated when an important statement is coming. It is happening again and again. Everyday, the Government is sitting in quietly.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Rule 372 clearly states that questions will not be put when a statement is being made by a Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* It has been already mentioned in the said rule.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Please consider this before allowing him to make the statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat. Let him complete the statement. Tomorrow sometime he will call a meeting of the Members from Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar and other States.

Shri Sompal please.

SHRI SOMPAL : The Government of India has also fixed the Minimum Support Price for TD-5 grade of raw jute for Assam for the 1998-99 season at Rs. 650 per quintal. This marks the highest ever increase of Rs. 80

per quintal over the minimum support price announced for the previous season. The minimum support price for other varieties and grades of raw jute will be fixed in the light of normal market price differentials with regard to TD-5 grade.

The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) would continue to act as a nodal agency to undertake the price support operation for jute for 1998-99 season. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : What was the price last time. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, discussion on General Budget. Shri Murli Deora.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO (Khammam) : Paddy is not taken into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will call the meeting.

SHRI A.C. JOS : You have ruled that he should convene a meeting tomorrow or the day after. But the Minister has not responded. I want an assurance from the Minister. He has not said anything. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : They have not considered the demand of Kerala. Even what is announced is below the cost of production. This minimum support price is below the cost of production. It will aggravate the difficulties of the people of Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, by how much was it raised last time?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : In our House after a statement is made no clarification is allowed to be made. The Minister has agreed to meet the Members of the concerned States. Tomorrow you can raise all these issues in the meeting.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : We want a discussion on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You give a notice under Rule 193.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next Item. Discussion on General Budget. Shri Murli Deora to initiate. Nothing will go on record except what Shri Murli Deora says.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Please tell us what was done last time. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please listen to me ...*(Interruptions)*. When they were in Government how much had they increased...Kindly tell us about that also. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. He has already completed.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I firmly protest at the price which is announced. ...*(Interruptions)* As a protest, I am walking out of the House.

18.55 hrs.

(At this stage Shri P.C. Thomas left the House.)

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : I am requesting him, through you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : The minimum support price is very low and it is below the cost of production. We also protest and walk out.

18.55¹/₄ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri N.K. Premchandran and some other hon. Members left the House.)

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if I am allowed to make a simple observation, a very brief observation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not necessary now. I have already called Shri Murli Deora.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : How much was increased during the last two years? Once it was increased by Rs. 20, second time by Rs. 60 and now it has been increased by Rs. 80. Last year by Rs. 20, then by Rs. 60 and now by Rs. 80 even then they say that they would stage a walk-out...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The value of Rupee is nothing these days. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Sir, this Government has given bonus on wheat but so far as

[Shri Nadendla Bhaskara Rao]

paddy is concerned, even the minimum support price is not announced. So, we request the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to announce this ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat now. I have called Shri Murlī Deora.

GENERAL BUDGET 1998-99—GENERAL DISCUSSION
AND
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS
1995-96—GENERAL*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we will take up the General Budget.

Motion moved:

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to make good the excess on the respective grants during the year ended 31st day of March, 1996 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof:

Demand Nos. 13, 14, 17, 65 and 81."

List of Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 1995-96 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha

| No. of Demand | Name of Demand | Amount of Demand submitted to the vote of the House |
|---------------|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | EXPENDITURE MET FROM REVENUE | |
| | 13. Department of Post | 73,52,76,021 |
| | 14. Department of Telecommunications | 60,48,91,516 |
| | 17. Defence Services—Army | 6,93,663 |
| | 81. Public Works | 8,43,16,283 |
| 2. | EXPENDITURE MET FROM CAPITAL | |
| | 65. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas | 99,150 |

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Mumbai South) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on first June, the hon. Finance Minister started his Budget Speech and when he finished the Speech at seven o'clock, almost this time, I think from this side of the House I was the first to go and shake hands with him and congratulate him. When I was hearing

the Budget, I thought it was a benign, nice and good budget, but next morning when I read the newspapers and when I went deep into the papers which I had collected, I was shocked. What the Budget Speech of Shri Sinha revealed here was okay but what it really concealed in the papers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Hidden agenda.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : ...and the hidden agenda was really disastrous. I remember when Shri Vajpayee had sent the list of the Ministers to the President—that fine morning Shri Khurana was there and I myself went to the swearing-in ceremony—in the Mumbai newspapers there was a big article saying that there seemed to be some confusion between Shri Jaswant Singh and Shri Yashwant Sinha.

18.58 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I do not know who would have been better, but I for one welcomed the appointment of Shri Yashwant Sinha. But then I read something which really pained me. I am seriously saying this. I read that since Shri Jaswant Singh is pro-reforms so the orders from the top were there that he should not be the Finance Minister, and here my friend Shri Yashwant Sinha came. I could not believe, and I still do not believe Shri Yashwant Sinha could be anti-reforms, but when I read the Budget and when I see the measures that Shri Yashwant Sinha can take in his maiden Budget—last time he was not able to present the Budget—I am really shocked and I am only convinced that whatever articles came at that time, they were true and Shri Yashwant Sinha's Budget is sending a message to the entire world, to the entire international community that India is against reforms. The hon. Minister said about the budget's number one qualification that it is 'simple'. 'sara!'. I will come to that later. I just want to say that this is the first time in the history of the Indian Budget—at least for 12 to 14 years I have been attending the Budget presentation in this House—that within 24 hours after the Budget was presented, Government announced a massive fall in the price of Petrol and Urea. I do not know whether Shri Yashwant Sinha has seen this front page cartoon of R.K. Laxman. I would like to read out one line: "We are lucky to have him. No other Minister brought down the prices within a few hours of announcing in the Budget." Just in one day! When the Opposition Members got up on their seats, I do not know what was the reason which provoked Shri Yashwant Sinha, the hon. Finance Minister, a veteran parliamentarian and a veteran bureaucrat, to lose all his cool and how he came forward with the statement that those who sit in the glass houses should not throw stones at others. This was not expected of him. There was a mistake. There was a bungling done between your Department and the Ministry of Petroleum. Earlier they were saying: "We are not responsible, they are responsible".

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

19.00 hrs.

But now, if you see some of the latest reports which were published in the *Indian Express* day before yesterday, they clearly said that there was a mistake. One should agree. Now, they are saying that Shri Monmohan Singh had raised it in 1994, so they have also raised. These are not the excuses. So, my point is that there was a lack of coordination between the Finance Ministry and other Ministries at the time of the Budget preparation, which I hope the Minister has taken note of and he will see that it is repaired. The Minister withdrew Rs. 3 extra charge on the petroleum products, but the Minister is still making an issue of not withdrawing the total price hike in respect of urea.

Today, if we see the Economic Survey, we find that the growth in agricultural production is negative. What message are we going to send to Indian farmers? The first Budget of this Government is raising the price of urea. I would request the hon. Finance Minister not to make a prestige issue of the urea prices. ...*(Interruptions)* Even their own allies and some friends of mine here have interest of farmers in their heart. I do not claim to know so much about farmers, as you know very well that I come from an urban city. ...*(Interruptions)* I would request the hon. Finance Minister to please roll back the urea price to its originality.

Sir, this morning, in Delhi, some people came to us. Shri Madan Lal Khurana is elected from Delhi. I do not know he is elected for how many years. God knows. Nobody remembers the years. ...*(Interruptions)* I was shocked to see that the very traders, the *mithaiwalas*, who are engaged in making sweets, are up in arms against the BJP Government. These are the people who were supporting the BJP. Shri Khurana is from Delhi. He may find out what has happened. All the *mithaiwalas*, Haldi Ram, Chandu Halwai etc. say that there is no coordination. What the Minister said in the speech here and what came in Gazette the next day from the Excise Inspector do not tally. I would like to read one line from there. "... shifted to any ready for consumption form if manufactured in factory." That is what it is shifted to now. The idea in his Budget speech was "...branded goods manufactured in factories." How are those who make *laddoos*, *pedas*, and *bhujia* are branded? I know what he will say. I believe that when some MPs of the Congress and other parties met him today, he told them about Rs. 15 lakh ceiling. If there is a sale of Rs. 15,000 a day, this ceiling of Rs. 15 lakh in nothing today. So, I would request the Finance Minister to look into it even though he himself does not eat sweets. I do not know whether Shrimati Sinha will give him any sweets—he does not deserve any sweet—and I do not think that she will dare to go to the market and buy sweets now because

he has come down heavily on these traders....*(Interruptions)* I know that Shri Khurana is very fond of sweets. He is also supporting him. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would say that this issue of eight per cent excise—may be it was not intentional, I do not think that Shri Yashwant Sinha can have the intention of levying excise on sweet makers—should be settled. On the 1st June, by 8.30 in the evening, the Excise Inspectors visited some of the *mithaiwalas* in Mumbai and you are saying that the Budget is *saral*. I would give two more examples. So, I would request him to please really simplify it, and not by way of speech. I am sure that he will very soon see that the matter of excise on *mithaiwalas* and other things are settled down.

The other anomaly is that the Finance Minister has put 8 per cent *ad valorem* on the import of every material. It is a countervailing duty, CVD. When he spoke at the time of presenting the Budget, I also realised that 8 per cent was on a higher side and accepted it for we want to give protection to Indian Industries. Yes, we are for it.

But has he calculated as to how much it really comes to? I am sure he knows that. Even the minimum will be 11.9 per cent, because *ad valorem* of 34 per cent means 8 per cent of the 134 per cent. So, it is more than 12 per cent. In some cases, it is going upto 26 or 27 per cent. So, it works out to a one-third increase. I do not think that this is a time when the Indian industries can afford to bear so much incidence of additional duties. The hon. Finance Minister has not raised that direct taxes like the income tax. It is good. But a heavy incidence of additional indirect taxes is not good. This will really cause inflation.

Sir, I welcomed the statement of Shri Yashwant Sinha, when he just assumed office as the Finance Minister, that there was a need to ease the credit supply, the SRR and SLR of the Reserve Bank of India. I know that the moment he became the Finance Minister, he eased the credit supply because so much of credit was required for the industry. In order to curtail the inflation, the earlier Governments had put a very tight money policy. So, what he has done is good. But by imposing so much of indirect taxes—which the other earlier Governments were warning him, he may remember—the inflation will reach the double digit mark very soon. Will the country afford this high inflation? When a person is in the bracket of Rs. Two lakh and suppose the maximum income tax rate is 40 per cent, if it is raised by 10 per cent, he will pay 10 per cent more and that means Rs. 20,000/- more. But as far as the indirect taxes are concerned, even somebody who is earning Rs. 500/- per month, or somebody who is out of job, will have to pay more because the excise duty has a cascading effect. Everybody who buys anything will have to pay this excise

[Shri Murlī Deora]

duty. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to please make his calculations again and this amount over Rs. 2,000 crore—Rs. 5,000 crore and Rs. 3,000 crore from both the excise duties and the countervailing duties respectively—which he is estimating is a gross under-estimation. May be, he may like to take the credit later on, at the end of the year by saying that the estimation was Rs. 8,000 crore, but he had collected Rs. 34,000 crore.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really surprised because his colleagues in the other House were saying that it was a gross over-estimation.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : It does not matter. Everyone has his own opinion. I know that some of my colleagues has said that this tight money policy was good in order to curtail inflation. I personally believe that he must curtail inflation, but not at the cost of growth. Interest rates should be high enough to encourage savings, but not so much high so as to discourage investments. Today when the interest rate is so high, people would like to put their money on fixed deposits, chit funds etc., and nobody will put their money in business. There will not be any entrepreneurship left. Why should they do it? Why should they take the risk? So, now he did a right thing. Earlier, even some people have said that. Even Dr. Manmohan Singh said that. A little bit of moderate increase in the rate of inflation is all right. But now this huge increase in the rate of indirect-taxes will cause a severe setback on the price rise. So, the hon. Finance Minister should be careful, calculate again—I am sure he will agree with me if he calculates again—and bring down the countervailing duty and the excise duty to some extent and exempt other things.

Sir, there is a system of MODVAT—Shri Somnath Chatterjee will recall—which was introduced in this very House. This is an indirect tax system followed all over the world. Actually it was delayed in India; it should have come earlier. The companies which are honest, maintain their accounts properly. They get a setback of 100 per cent return when the other tax is given to them, which they call MODVAT refund. I am shocked to see that a person like Shri Yaswant Sinha can make a law for that because some people are misusing this system. Instead of 100 per cent MODVAT refund, now it is only 95 per cent. He is penalising honest taxpayers for the fault of others. The Government should take action against those who are misusing this system. Just because somebody is misusing the system he is giving a refund of only 95 per cent. Even if that five per cent is taken, it means so much. It is not a correct way of taxing.

It is like a person who has taken a loan of Rs. 100 but is giving back Rs. 95. That is not fair. I do not know

whether the hon. Minister's people have told him that. Sometimes one person makes the raw material, the other person makes the finished product, and the third person makes the packaging. So, the same product is going to three places and everywhere he will lose five per cent. Where will the money come from? I do not think you are advised properly. What I know of Shri Yashwant Sinha—I used to sit near him in the J.P.C.—I do not think that he can make such a mistake. But may be, he is over-worked, getting tired and losing his temperament. But I am sure now he will cool down a little bit. If he follows the hidden agenda, it will be too much and we know that he does not believe in that. We all know that. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to please see that these anomalies are corrected.

Sir, this is the first time that eight per cent CVT is levied where it is not levied on one section of people but levied on another section of people. I do not know whether he knows it. The tax is not levied on the trading. But where are the traders? The traders are up in arms against you people. Please believe me. I know Mumbai. Mumbai is also a city of traders. I come from South Mumbai. You know that. I am not talking politics. I am only requesting you. Suppose, somebody is importing raw material for his factory. Shri Khurana, if he imports directly, for Rs. 100 he has to pay Rs. 8 extra. When there is a trading company—of his own or somebody else or fabricated and it imports the raw material, it is better placed. I am telling you this is true. What is this? You are encouraging the people to be dishonest. I know that it is not your intention. Either you do not have the tax or have the tax on every one. Why do you want the industries who are engaged in manufacturing to start the trading activities? That is not their job.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You have made your point and Shri Madan Lal Khurana has agreed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, one gentleman is speaking and the other person is giving a running commentary. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa) : We are new members so we should have manners but the old members need not have manners. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : What example is he setting to a new Member like me? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He is teaching me lesson. He must learn the manners before he enters this House. He is teaching manners to me! He will dictate me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee is not disturbing him. He is assisting him.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : These measures of such a heavy indirect burden on the economy has come at a time when the economy can least afford it. Mr. Finance Minister knows that. There is a terrible recession in the Indian market today. I will give you two-three examples. My friends might be knowing that several things like motor vehicle, scooters, etc. were not available easily and we used to give a certificate to get quick delivery of trucks. Today, do you know what is happening? The production of Ashok Leyland in Chennai, which is one of the biggest truck-making companies, has come down by 75 per cent. Same is the case with TELCO whose production has come down by 45 per cent.

It is because they cannot sell the trucks. I read day before yesterday that 11,000 people were laid off in Chennai because they could not sell their trucks. At such a time, if you have another increase of Rs. 23,000 or Rs. 24,000, I do not know how much it will come to, how will they be able to sell? First we must create a demand. Suppose, there was a demand, there was no stock in their godowns and the people were able to sell, yes, you must raise more taxes; you must earn more from those who are earning more. But this is not the time to levy such heavy taxes. I have hundreds of such examples which I can give you. But I do not want to do that now. This will have a cascading effect. So, please see that this does not happen.

Let us see how Shri Yashwant Sinha's Budget has been received by the people at large and the economists in India and abroad. I had the privilege to see, Mr. Speaker, some of his interviews, and I must compliment him for the way he has defended some of the measures that he has taken. But how has he scuttled, I do not know whether intentionally or unintentionally, some of the burning issues? It has to be 'intentionally' because Shri Sinha is a smart man. He knows the art of Budget-making; he knows the art of bureaucracy because he himself was a bureaucrat.

I would like to bring to the notice of the House as to how the international community has reacted to Shri Sinha's Budget. I know that he has given interviews to all these four people. I am quoting the *Times of India*. Shri J. Mulraj is the main person who writes for the *Times of India*. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I quote:

"The Union Budget presented on June 1 does nothing for the economy. It is a thoughtless, idealess and uninspiring Budget."

I am sure that the Finance Minister is not only sensitive about what the Members of Parliament are talking about but also to this. Very recently, I saw the

hon. Minister's interview given to Shri Menon of the *Business Standard*. I will only read one line from the editorial of the *Business Standard*. I quote:

"Yashwant Sinha's maiden Budget has disappointed the reformers like me, the stock-market—I am connected with the stock-market also, and many economists—I am not an economist."

Sir, I can tell you that the report appeared in the *Economist* of London is shocking. I am sure, you have got all these cuttings. I am sure, you know as to what is happening around the world. It says:

"India's post-nuclear test Budget was timid, politically motivated and is already starting to unravel."

I do not think that you are interested in such compliments. Lord Meghnath Desai is an Indian-born Member of the House of Lords in England. He is not a Congressman and he does not belong to any party. Lord Meghnath Desai has written and I quote :

"Mr. Sinha has lost an opportunity. He has missed the first chance and may never get another."

I am sure, he knows that even though he was a Finance Minister earlier, he was not able to present the Budget. He has presented the Budget this time but he should know that his colleague, Shri Jaswant Singh, is back in the other House. I am not giving any reasons, and I am only trying to appeal to him very humbly to see that these anomalies are corrected.

Sir, the biggest effect of the Budget was on the capital market. When I talk about the stock exchange, I would like to tell some of my young colleagues who are here that I know stock exchange. Against the total market capitalisation of over Rs. 5,10,000 crore, 11 per cent market has fallen. You know that the Sensex has fallen by 11 per cent within a period of five to six days, that is, from June 1 to June 5. I do not think that it has ever happened : here the investors have lost over Rs. 55,000 crore. Mr. Speaker, whatever figures I am giving here, I mean it. There is no mistake of any zero here. It means that the investors have lost Rs. 55,000 crore, and one-third of these shares are held by financial institutions like UTI, LIC, GIC, IDBI, ICICI. Who are the owners of that? It is not the Government, but it is the policy-holders. If you are a LIC policy-holder, the money belongs to you.

So, never in the history of India, a Budget has cast such devastating effect on the capital market. I agree with him. It is not only because of the Budget but there are other reasons too where Shri Yashwant Sinha has not much to do. I agree with him. He has to share the agony with other colleagues. I would like to give some suggestions on the capital market.

[Shri Murlī Deora]

First of all, the biggest reason after your Budget was the possibility of the economic sanctions which the American Government had announced. There is total confusion about what will be the economic sanctions on us. Some Minister is saying that there is no economic sanction. Some other Minister is saying that there will be economic sanctions. You know what is happening in the Ministry. All that took a full day. You know it Shri Yashwant Sinha. When the Modis and Standards Report came, that really gave a big jolt to the Indian stock market, 110 to 111 points going down in one single day. Day before yesterday, FIIs helped Sensex cut losses. You know it, Shri Yashwant Sinha. If the UTI, ICICI and LIC were not buying the shares, the Sensex would have come down by 220 points. What are you doing about it? I am telling you the real reason for that. Shri Madan Lal Khurana, here you can help him. Unfortunately, the other Harvard man is not here. One Harvard Finance Minister was enough. I would like to read from the newspapers. This is a serious thing. I am not bringing politics. If I am wrong, correct me. I am not criticising him. I am here to cooperate and help. I am saying what was the real reason for downgrading India's credit rating which hurt the market and which is hurting it further, because the second report of Modis and Door and Ford is going to come very soon. I am reading one line which is quoted in all the newspapers. I am sure you have it. I quote from "The Indian Express", Mumbai, June 5:—

"Indications regarding the BJP Government's position on such critical issues as trade and investment liberalisation were often contradictory."

Every one knows that. I do not blame Shri Yashwant Sinha. We see every day here the statements of Ms Jayalalitha and Shri George Fernandes and other people. I now quote from the newspaper:—

"In addition, the mix of political parties and personalities that made up the new Government seemed inherently unstable raising the potential for yet another transition."

It means temporary Government. I am not saying temporary Government. I am trying to say the impression, if it is cleared that the Government is temporary and unstable, you know what happens to the economy.

I would very humbly request the hon. Finance Minister to put his colleagues together. They should speak with one voice on what is happening to the economic reforms, whether you allow foreign participation in this field or not. Somebody is saying potato chips and micro chips. What is the IBM? When Shri George Fernandes threw IBM with Coco Cola—I am not talking about Coco Cola—do you know how much technological advancement our country had lost? Nobody is remembering that. Today also BJP people are talking that we are all for micro

chips, not for potato chips. IBM is not for potato chips. I am trying to give only this one example. Please correct this anomaly, Mr. Finance Minister.

Another reason was fall in the price of Indian rupee. Lastly, Mr. Finance Minister, you were replying to my question sitting here. I told you that day. You know what is the price today. It is over Rs. 42/-. I am not blaming you. You can say that you were there in the Government for 50 years and what were you doing? I am not saying that. We are not scoring debating points here. I am trying to say that the situation has come in such a manner that the price of Indian rupees against the dollar is the lowest and it will go down further. It is stated in the same newspaper as follows:—

"Six months forward cover process 10 per cent."

I am sure you know that. Shri Madan Lal Khurana, if today it is Rs. 42/-, if you buy the dollar against the Indian rupee after six months, you pay Rs. 46/-.

[Translation]

You will have to pay Rs. 4.40 over and above Rs. 42.

[English]

You must know where our economy is going.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I will take just one minute. You are relating all these to the Budget.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Yes.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I would like to inform you that the other Sensex, the Hangson of Hong Kong fell below the 80000 marks today. This is the first time in three years that it has touched that level.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Are you justifying that?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Yes. You are aware of the fact.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Yes, I know that. I am coming to that later.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : The Japanese Yen has touched a seven-year low. It was 141 yesterday.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : It is 135. I know that.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : These are the international surroundings.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Are you satisfied with that? I know that you are satisfied with that.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am not. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Since somebody has a fire in his house, you want that you should also have a small fire in your house. I know it.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Shri Murlī Deora, I took you as a very well-informed person. So, I thought that I should bring these facts to your notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Kindly bear with me. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am just pointing out the facts. I am not taking any solace. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURLI DEORA : These are the points. I agree with you that in the Far-Eastern countries, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia this had happened. But our economy is so much or a little bit inter-linked with them. Earlier, they had it but not now. In our case, why is it happening today only after the Budget? The Indonesian rupaiah had gone down by 272 per cent. Thailand, Malaysia and all these countries suffered loss six or eight months back. At that time, our rupee was not affected so much. It was affected very little. I would request you not to take solace or consolation from the fact that there is a problem in the neighbour's house and so let me also have a problem in my house. ...*(Interruptions)* You are the Finance Minister of India. Please do not do it. I know you will not mean it.

I would request the hon. Finance Minister to do something to build the capital market. In his speech on page 14, para 44, he has said that he is bringing measures to strengthen the capital market. In five days, what measures has he brought to strengthen the capital market? I am sure, you know about it. Whatever measures he has brought, they have brought doom to the capital market. Mr. Minister, you have not been able to bring enough measures. Let us not score debating points again. I would request you to do something more. May be, you have done more. But it has failed and you see the result now. Now, please do something more.

I would like to tell you what you should do. There was news that the buy-back of shares by the companies would be allowed. Everybody knows about it. I saw Shri N.K. Singh, the Revenue Secretary's statement day before yesterday saying that buy-back of shares would have given a boost and that would have helped the capital market to grow. I know that you have a problem with your colleague, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs. You could have taken the help of Shri Khurana. He would have coordinated with you. Even the Revenue Secretary to the Government of India had made a statement day before yesterday saying that this issue pertained not to the Finance Ministry but to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs. That is exactly my charge. There is no coordination between the Ministries.

If there is no proper coordination between the important Ministries, what would happen? We all know about it. Therefore, my request is that you should bring forth this measure which will help revive the stock-market and the capital market to some extent.

Now I come to the NRI investment. Mr. Minister, you have said that you have raised the ceiling on NRI investment. If a foreigner can buy more quantity of shares in a company, what would happen? Of course, we need foreign investment. Today, we have \$ 9 billion of FI Investment in India which is worth about Rs. 72,000 crore. It is \$ 9 billion! During this time, there is the highest outflow of foreign exchange. I have the figures of Merrill & Lynch and all that. You know about all these things. So, I do not want to tell you about them. The highest amount of outflow of foreign exchange that happened in a single week is from first June to sixth June. I have got the figures. I do not want to bore the entire House with figures. ...*(Interruptions)* But I am trying to tell you to kindly arrest this outflow. Otherwise, our BoP position will go down. Our debt-servicing ratio will go up and this will land us into big problems.

Another point is, those who are the foreign investors, they are worried as to what will happen to them when they take back their profit or loss by disinvestment, if the rupee falls. It is because when they invested, the price of dollar was Rs. 36 and when they are selling it, the dollar price is Rs. 42. They are going to lose six rupees in that which comes to 11 to 12 per cent. Please allow them to cover their foreign exchange risk. I understand, it is not allowed. What I suggest is that for the foreign investment, the FIIs should be allowed the facility of forward cover by the RBI. This will limit their futuring. Please consider this issue, Mr. Finance Minister.

For last some years, we had seen hundreds of finance companies, plantation companies mushrooming by way of collective investment scheme. I do not want to tell the names of the companies. But some of the companies were there with Rs. 50 lakh of paid up capital. Do you know, how much money they have raised? They raised Rs. 700 crore. The hon. Finance Minister knows about this and something has been done. I understand, now the SEBI is monitoring that. Please tighten these laws. We cannot allow the poor, small investors to lose their hard earned money and savings in these companies. I think, you know, what happened in Mumbai. I do not want to take anybody's name. I am trying to say that this is the time when close monitoring by the SEBI or other institution is done. There should be awareness amongst the investors about the credit ratings in order to keep a control or check on these companies. The credit rating agencies should be asked to give a public credit rating. If a company has a bad rating the credit rating agency says that the company has got a credit rating of

[Shri Murlī Deora]

'C minus' and nobody should buy. We must educate our investors. They should not be allowed to sell their assets. I understand, most of those who were cheated, were the small and poor investors in big cities and small towns, who sold their assets.

When we tested the nuclear device, there was an announcement by America about the sanctions against us. Even now, nobody knows whether the loans and assistance to India from the other agencies like the World Bank, ADB, IBRD will also get affected. I understand this as I read from the reports that the World Bank in these two weeks, had postponed twice the loans which were to be sanctioned to India. I had been to Washington. I am told, when it comes to actual voting and if America, Japan and one more country votes against the proposal, then India would not get back. This will have a very disastrous effect on our economy. I am sure, you know about it.

I will give one more suggestion. I remember, once Shri Indrajit Gupta had said in this House that over 12 billion dollars of un-utilised aid was in the pipeline. You know very well that we are paying commitment charges on that. Even though it is a small amount, yet we are paying a commitment charge on that. We must streamline the projects which are falling under the World Bank. Shri Sirpotdar, you may remember the case of the Water Supply and Sewerage Project of Bombay. When I was the Mayor of Mumbai, I had negotiated with the Finance Ministry about this project. Do you know, how much time did it take to get the money from the Finance Ministry and reimbursing the same to the Municipal Corporation of Mumbai? I think, the same problem is being faced by the Calcutta Tube Transport. Please streamline this Department at least now when many of our projects are in limbo or are hanging in the air because we do not know whether we are going to get the money or not. My suggestion to you is to please see those projects also which are there in the pipeline. In cases where money having been sanctioned is not disbursed, should be disbursed quickly. The beneficiaries should be helped in this regard.

Another point is, we should send the leaders of business community and not just diplomats and parliamentarians to the World Bank and other institutions around the world, especially to the Western world to tell our counterparts, "This was the necessity. India had to test this nuclear device. India does not mean to have a war."

Whatever strain the Government of India has, we should take that strain and go and tell this to the business counterparts because you know very well that in America and other countries—Shri Somnath Chatterjee, you should be happy as a Communist—what matters is business. I remember, I was in Europe at that time when the Tiananmen Square massacre took place in Beijing where the Chinese Government killed hundreds of young students in that Square in Beijing. Then the American Government had to come out with heavy sanctions against China. Everybody knows it. At that time, not only the American Government but the American people also supported those sanctions. But here, on this issue, the American Government is against us but the American people are not against us.

I was talking about China. What happened after that? In seven months, the U.S. Secretary of State went there in China. What did he do? He gave them the MFN Status. He gave them the status of Most Favoured Nation. The same thing they were talking them.

Just now, the Chinese President landed in the Western part of America. He did not land in Los Angeles or San Francisco. He landed in Seattle, Washington straight because they are buying five billion dollars worth of Boeings. You know that. That is why, Mr. Bill Clinton is today going there.

Sir, India has a big market. India's largest trading partner today, is America. So, I would request you, hon. Mr. Finance Minister and hope that you will also find some time and go there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He went there.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : He went before. Now, he will realise it. He does not know what is happening there. Unfortunately, the problem is that the Ministry of Finance and the Government of India are still not aware what is happening on the economic sanctions. Nobody knows it. Today, we had a meeting of our Standing Committee on Finance where every Member suggested that the next subject should be the possible effect of economic sanctions on India. So, I hope, Mr. Finance Minister will do that.

Sir, I am quoting one line from the speech of Shri Sinha which he gave last year—very nice photograph he has with a photogenic face—as a Leader of the Opposition. Earlier, he was in secular party. Now, the very party which he was calling communal throughout, either is not communal or he has become communal. I do not want to comment on that. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I am quoting Shri Sinha. It says:

"The central problem of the Indian economy is unemployment."

It is about last year's Budget. He further says:

"This problem has not even been mentioned in the Budget, much less tackled."

I agree with him as to what he says. But what has he done? He has done nothing. You have forgotten the BJP Agenda. I do not know whether you privately push through. In your National Agenda, it is said that you will give one crore jobs. I do not want to bring the paper and bother my head. Twice, it is written there : *Berozgari hatao*. "Eradicate unemployment." What has the hon. Finance Minister got here to eradicate unemployment? He has provided nothing to eradicate unemployment. I want to tell him—it is not his fault—what has been happening in these two years. There was a cover story in *India Today* and I have got it with me and I hope you must have read it....(Interruptions)... Shri Somnath Chatterjee, even you and my other Leftist friend, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, see, what is happening on the job front? In the last two years, two lakh people have lost their job. One lakh people have lost their jobs through the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Although, they got some compensation but they are out of job still. Another one lakh people are out of job through litigation or BIFR or closure of factory or dismissal or some other reasons....(Interruptions)... Shri Somnath Chatterjee, this is the only issue where I am a Leftist or rather more left than you. Otherwise, you know what I am. ... (Interruptions)... Sir, in Mumbai Siemens, over 2,000 people are retired on Voluntary Retirement Scheme. The work force of Tata Group which was 78,000 people in 1992-93 has come down to 68,760. It has come down by 10,000 people.

In spite of adding more projects, employment is coming down. Nine private airlines are closed down leading to five thousand people losing their jobs. Modiluft, Damania Airlines are among them. People were getting Rs. 30,000 salary a month. Now poor people are working for Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 a month also. It is a pittance because there are no jobs available.

Take Coal India in public sector. Shri Acharia, it is for you. They have a plan to fund Rs. 600 crore to retire 34,000 people under VRS. I have a copy of it. It is there in the *India Today* cover story wherein you talked about jobs and you blamed Shri Chidambaram for not bringing anything like unemployment eradication scheme. What are you going to do? You have also not done anything in this Budget. As a matter of fact, your Budget will create more unemployment. I am not happy to say that, you know this very well. My humble request to you is to do something on this front. Even in a capitalist country like America where there is an Exit Policy, Hire and Fire policy...

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : These are the misdeeds of your Government.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Goel ji, you would not be in power for many days so how would you do any misdeed.

[English]

He is my friend, he is a trader. He cannot speak today. The *Mithaiwallahs* had gone to his house today and hammered him in the morning. What to do, still he has to support the Budget.

[Translation]

Shri Yashwant Sinhaji, when there will be elections you would know what would be your plight. The *Mithaiwallahs* of Delhi had come. I had told you about that.

[English]

I gave him the names and asked him to please do something for these *Mithaiwallahs*. Please do not annoy the people who are selling sweets; otherwise you will get into trouble.

Even in USA there are social security systems for those who lose their productive jobs. I have to make one suggestion on this. I have a note on this, I will send it to you. My suggestion is to start many Industrial Training Institutes, in every small block of India. There are 700 blocks in the country. You can train 500 people in each block. They call it 'training in skills'. They give training in carpentry, masonry, tailoring, black smithery, electricals, motor-mechanism; in the cities in computers. I would like to tell you that Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan has started this kind of computer training programme. I invite Shri Sirpotdar to come and see this once in Mumbai. The Microsoft is setting up one in Hyderabad also. Mr. Bill Gates met your Chief Minister. He has funded this organisation. I am the Vice-Chairman of this organisation. I spoke to him about Calcutta. Those who were not getting jobs of Rs. 1700-1800 a month have started getting Rs. 4500 or more after getting trained in computers. This scheme is good especially in urban areas. So, please keep this idea of skill creation in urban areas by having ITIs in each of the 700 blocks in our country. This will help a long way.

I must congratulate the Government on repealing the Urban Land Ceiling Act. You live in Calcutta, you do not know. I live in Mumbai, I know what the builders, the sharks are doing. They have created an artificial scarcity of land in our urban metropolis.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : You have ruined your speech.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : I have spoken the truth. I am coming to that.

[English]

In 1976 this Act came. Not one per cent of the land has been acquired in Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta and Chennai up till now.

[Translation]

Not even one per cent.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What is the use of this. Leave it.

[English]

Where they are right, I will compliment them.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : They have thrown the poor out of city limits.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Please listen to me. The poor are not being thrown out. Believe me, they would get cheaper houses.

[English]

I am of the opinion that even though the Central Government has repealed it—as the Housing Minister has announced it—it is for the States to accept it.

I am told that even the Maharashtra Government has not accepted it. It is very important for the State Governments to accept this law to repeal the Urban Land Ceiling Act.

We agree that a large number of people live in rural areas and are engaged in farming but there are also large numbers of people who live in urban areas. But only once a programme was started for their benefit. It is called 'Self-employment for Urban Poor Nehru Rozgar Yojana'. Today, the banks have bungled that programme. The banks are just not giving funds to the people. I would request the hon. Minister to find out what is happening to this programme during his next visit to Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta and Chennai.

In cities like Mumbai, there is an Act called 'Public Premises Eviction Act'. I know, during his earlier stint, the hon. Minister helped the city. Eviction is taking place again. The LIC, the GIC and UTI are again throwing poor tenants out of the building. Even though Parliament has passed this Act, this is happening and so I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to please come to

the rescue of the poor tenants. I would request him to please give directions to the LIC. They are trying to throw out hundreds of tenants. They must follow the Act prevalent in that area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your kind assistance and help and under your guidance, we had a discussion in this House last week. It was on the farmers committing suicide due to crop failure. There is a full-fledged article published by *India Today* on this. There are interviews of farmers. Why did they commit suicide? The GIC is engaged in the crop insurance business. Recently, there was a question on the crop insurance scheme also. I humbly request the hon. Minister of Finance, through you, that he must increase the availability of funds with the GIC for this crop insurance scheme. As a matter of fact,—I do not know, whether I would be undiplomatic if I told you about this—the GIC is not interested in this business. What they are suggesting is the creation of separate Crop Insurance Corporation with the help of the NABARD, the LIC and the GIC and the other insurance companies which will come to India after the Budget is passed. It has been announced that the insurance business will go to the private sector. So, charge the private sector companies. We must protect our farmers at any cost.

Today Rs. 1100 crore are being lost on motor vehicle insurance. If a car accident takes place, we get an automatic insurance cover from the GIC. The GIC is losing Rs. 1100 crore. If they can lose Rs. 1100 crore on this, I am sure, they can provide more funds for our farmers who have helplessly committed suicide because their creditors are harassing them. My only request to the hon. Minister of Finance is to create a new corporation which will help in giving our farmers more funds and which will save them.

The hon. Minister has announced that in the insurance sector we will have private participation. What does he mean by hundred per cent 'Indian owned companies'? If the HDFC started banks or insurance companies, they themselves will have between five and forty per cent of foreign holding. If the hon. Minister will see the Malhotra Committee Report on Insurance Sector Reforms—it was set up by Dr. Manmohan Singh—he will find that it says that privatisation of insurance business should take place with minor participation of foreign insurance companies.

Why am I pleading for foreign insurance companies? It is because they can help so much technologically and also because they can invest a lot. I would like to tell one thing to my friends sitting here. Today, in India the foreign insurance companies are not operating on their own. I am sure, you remember the famous or infamous case of Kanishka Aircraft 747, the jumbo jet of Air India which plunged into the Atlantic Ocean, Shri Khurana. Who financed them? American Insurance companies financed them. The GIC covered only a small amount. The GIC

paid only Rs. 60 lakh. Ninety seven per cent of the business of the GIC or the other Indian insurance companies is through reinsurance. The insurance is done by the foreign companies. So, the foreign companies are already there in the insurance sector whether you like it or not. One must see how much corruption is there in the insurance companies.

[Translation]

A march by 2 lakh people is not going to help.

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I see that the enthusiastic applause of the Left friends have now stopped.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : No their party had also opposed it. ...*(Interruptions)* The BJP had also opposed it. ...*(Interruptions)* You get it passed from your party, then we will see. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Even my own party may not accept some of the suggestions that I am making. Some of the suggestions are my own.

It is the question concerning the country's economy. ...*(Interruptions)* I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to reconsider the decision. I know that we need technology and finance in the insurance sector. But what is needed more is transparency. It is better if the insurance companies in India have on their own even forty per cent of the shareholding instead of surreptitiously reinsuring the business. It is because majority of the business come through reinsurance. It will help in creating more jobs. Please reconsider the decision.

I would like to say a few words on oil. One-third of India's total import bill is for oil and petro chemicals. Today we are spending US \$ 10 billions on the import of oil and petroleum products. Fortunately, now it has come down because of the decline in oil prices. It has come down by four or five dollars. There is a need to reactivate the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). It was announced by the Government of India but it has not been streamlined. Nothing has been done on this front. I would request you to streamline the NELP. People should know what has happened to that policy. The tenders are not given the documents and they are not given the details about the oil field. ONGC and Oil India are given preference over them. The Income-tax on ONGC is less whereas for other companies it is more. There is an oil field in Bombay High—Neelam. Due to technological problem, production of oil in that oil field has come down by two-third.

I understand that the bids of several big companies like Caltex are pending. The Government should take a decision to see that these bids are announced correctly. For deep water drilling where lot of hydro carbon is available, geophysical and geological survey technologies are not available in India. We must take the help of these multi-national foreign companies. I am told that due to non-availability of berth in the ports, especially in Mumbai port, the country is losing US \$ 150 billions in demurrages. They can create barges and small ports near Gujarat or Maharashtra or somewhere else. Why should we lose so much on this? I am sure the hon. Minister will take care of this aspect.

Now, I would come to power sector. I was the convenor of the Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee on Energy. We were examining the fast track power projects.

There are eight fast track power projects cleared by the Government of India five years back. Six of them are still languishing and only two are on. There is no track of six fast track projects which you call fast track for five years! The biggest problem is—I must tell you, Mr. Minister—the finalisation of FSA, Fuel Supply Agreement. The Coal India says that they do not have coal or it says that they have coal but it does not have railway wagons. When it has railway wagons, it says that it has to be cleared by the Environment Ministry. Whoever becomes the Environment Minister he has different standards of environment and pollution control about which we all know. So, there is a need to streamline this. There is a need to have an effective intra-Ministerial coordination in this respect. The Environment Ministry should expeditiously clear the projects. They are pending for so many years. Setting up of a committee under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary himself would help a lot.

When Shri I.K. Gujral became the Prime Minister, a Committee was set up which was known as Justice Bhagwati Committee. Nobody did anything to see what happened to the past reports of the Committee. We keep on setting up committees to expedite power projects. My friend sitting here know what has happened in Delhi. We had virtual power riots in Delhi. We must prevent them. I am sure the hon. Minister is worried about the power supply situation. This is the situation on the generation side.

If you see the distribution side, you will find that it is very alarming. We do not talk about distribution at all. There are so many thefts and bungling taking place on the distribution side. I do not know why the Government is not thinking in terms of bringing a scheme to privatise distribution—not only to privatise generation, but also to privatise distribution.

[Shri Murlī Deora]

The State Electricity Boards have to pay over Rs. 5,000 crore to NTPC or to BHEL which supply them the power and the equipments. I compliment the hon. Minister for making a scheme. I think, since enough funds are not provided for the State Electricity Boards, the respective State Governments must be told that it is their responsibility and the new scheme which I believe the hon. Minister wants to propose—opening a letter of credit would come up to see that those companies which supply them the equipment and power are not starved of their legitimate funds.

Finally, I would request the Finance Minister to withdraw the hike in urea price. I understand that my friend sitting here who is a farmer himself knows it well. I do not think I have seen a farm even! The farmers are not buying urea even now because they are waiting for further reduction. They know how strong they are and how vulnerable we, the politicians, are. So, instead of making it as a prestige issue, better to withdraw it and better to announce it as he has made earlier. ...*(Interruptions)* I know how poor some of the farmers like you are! Some farmers are good like you and we are happy. We are proud of you, Sir. I am not saying all the farmers are very poor.

MODVAT refunds should be brought back to 100 per cent. The system which he has made is not a good system. We are not sending a correct message to people who are honest tax payers. If they have paid something, they must get the refund fully and not 90 per cent, which is not good. CVD charge of eight per cent should be brought down. I am not saying that it should be totally eliminated. I am not against the protection to the indigenous industry. But if you give only protection to the Indian industry then what will happen? Unfortunately, my friend Shri Indrajit Gupta is not here. Seven years back, in my speech on Budget discussion, I said in this House, sitting in that side, that one day IDPL is going to close. Unfortunately—I am sad to say that—IDPL is being closed today because we did not give them the technological support; they were buying truncated know-how from the USSR. I am trying to tell you that if one does not build up PSUs, if one does not give them the correct technology about which you have been many times telling—the companies, both private and public, will not last.

Mr. Minister, you do not know about the Bombay Club. I know them very well which you are aware.

20.00 hrs.

I must tell you about the Mumbai Club. There were two issues of scooters in eleven years. What have they done in these eleven years? They have not improved the quality or the efficiency of the scooter. They have not reduced the fuel efficiency. They have not reduced

the pollution emitting out of the scooter. Why? It was because there was protection. The delivery of scooters from Bajaj India Limited and Lohia Machines Limited took six years. If you want to buy a scooter, you had to book six years in advance. We all know what it was. That much protection is not good. Our Indian company should be protected from unhealthy competition. But they should also be allowed to compete. If they do not compete, they will never be able to improve their quality and price, after sales service.

MR. SPEAKER : You have already taken more than an hour.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Sir, I will really take only two-and-a-half minutes. ...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Minister is very fond of his first initial, that is, 'S' which stands for Sinha. I do not blame him. There is nothing wrong in that. ...*(Interruptions)* He said that letter three times, that is, *Saral, Samadhan and Samman*. They are good words. But think yourself today evening as to whether you have really provided a *sarai* Budget or not. Do you know what a confusion you have created about MODVAT and all these things? Do you know that the *mithaiwallahs* are up in arms in Bombay who are here in Delhi now.

[Translation]

We also need *mithaiwallahs* as they are also our voters.

[English]

They are all my voters.

Regarding food processing, please make it more simpler. I know that the Finance Minister has brought one page form for filing IT. I read that report that the very Income Tax Department is against this form because the information asked from the assessee is too little. They need more information. Please clarify ...*(Interruptions)*. So, Sir, I am sure that *saral* will not be really *saral*; in *Samadhan*, there will be really no *Samadhan*, and about *Samman*, you will be getting *Samman* when these things are settled. Otherwise, what will happen? We have to caution the people. We should tell the people to be *Savdhan* from you. 'From you' means from the Government and not from you personally. And this country cannot be allowed to flourish at the cost of *satyanash* of others. This country has to prosper and this country has to grow up and up. I would request you, Mr. Finance Minister, to please see that the harassment which is caused by some unintentional measures by you should be redeemed.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Budget which has been presented by the hon. Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha. This

Government took over the charge on 19th March, 1998. The economic situation was disappointing at that time and this has been mentioned by Shri Murti Deora and several other hon. Members will also mention about it in the course of the debate.

The Congress Party has ruled this country for the longest spell during the last 50 years. If I say that only one dynasty has ruled this country for a long period it would not be wrong. The Congress Party gave the slogan of Socialism in 1956. The Congress Party moved from the socialistic slogan under the leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1956 to the *Garibi Hatao* slogan in 1969 to the policy of globalisation in 1984 under the stewardship of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. ...*(Interruptions)* I am speaking on the Budget. I am referring to your leaders. ...*(Interruptions)* If you cannot understand the Budget, I cannot make you understand it.

AN HON. MEMBER : I understand the Budget.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : You would understand it better if you try.

The policy of globalisation of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was passed on to Sardar Manmohan Singh in the form of policy of liberalisation. These were contradictory policies. It is the result of those policies that the entire economic situation of the country is in shambles today. In 1996 there was a political experiment in the country. The people defeated the Congress party in the elections. The Leftists and the Congress whose ideologies were diametrically opposed to each other, came together and formed a coalition Government. They tried to run the Government under a Common Minimum Programme from 1996 to 1998. Consequently, the rate of economic growth declined and fell below 5 per cent. These are the figures of the Government.

During this period the agriculture growth was negative. The foodgrains production which had touched the 199 million tonnes mark in 1996-97 fell to 194 million tonnes during 1997-98. This was the result of the policies of those who speak of the progress of farmers. I would dwell on this later.

20.08 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, industrial production remained only 4.2 per cent due to recession. It started further decline. The position of fiscal deficit deteriorated constantly and it reached 7.1 per cent of gross domestic product. At that time, the difficulties being faced by infrastructural facilities were increasing constantly and the economy of the country was in a bad shape. After implementing various policies for 50 years, now they want to tell us what Swadeshi

and what Videshi is. Their Government failed to provide potable water to the people in villages. There are lakhs of villages not one village, in the country where people have to cover a distance of 5-6 kms. to fetch potable water. Today the power supply situation is also very unsatisfactory. Even today one can see thousands of villages where people have not been able to get power supply. We inherited such an economic situation.

After the conduct of nuclear tests at Pokharan, external threats have increased. People had apprehensions of a hard budget. People were thinking of the possibility of imposition of a number of taxes. People of the country were mentally prepared for heavy dose of taxes in this budget. They were even prepared to pay taxes. I want to congratulate the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister because they were unperturbed by such speculations. They have presented a budget which has disappointed the persons who were predicting heavy dose of taxation. The Finance Minister has removed their apprehensions and presented a budget which has been welcomed by the common people, workers, farmers, women and the general employees have also welcomed it. All sections of the society have welcomed it.

Sir, after the nuclear tests we faced many a threat but the budget presented by the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister shows that they have presented it with all seriousness. They did not take it lightly. This budget has not been presented in a haste. This budget has been presented after taking into account all eventualities and future threats.

After adopting the National Agenda of Governance, this Government has often said that India would be built by Indians. We faced threats from foreign countries. Despite that, the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister did not threaten anyone. Keeping in view this threat, an effort was made to arouse the sense of self-respect in the N.R.is. Efforts were made to further strengthen the sense of patriotism in them. As a result of that NRIs all over the world have given the message to the whole country that we should not be worried about anything. If sanctions are imposed then NRI's living abroad are ready to sacrifice everything for the sake of India. This budget also has given this message to us.

The NRIs have been offered a good package which would increase their investment. Their interest in investing their capital in their own country would also increase. Persons of Indian origin possessing foreign passports have been given special PIO cards. Provision has been made for enabling them to visit India without visa and I believe that it is a good step. It should be welcomed. Further, the limit prescribed for investment by NRIs in Indian companies has been increased from one per cent to five per cent. Total NRI investment in a company has also

[Shri Satya Pal Jain]

been enhanced from five per cent to ten per cent. These steps should be welcomed.

Efforts have been made to provide relief to all sections in the budget. There is hardly any section for which the Finance Minister has not made efforts to provide relief. Ours is a country which has more manpower and less resources. Therefore, so far as large industries are concerned, it is right that they produce more but they create less employment. On the other hand, although small scale industries produce less, they create jobs for more people. This budget has made good provisions for small scale industries. The Finance Minister deserves congratulations for it. People from small scale industries have heaved a sigh of relief because for a long period they were not given any concessions.

Sir, the rebate limit of excise duty has been enhanced from Rs. 30 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh. This move would benefit many units. Similarly, working capital which is 20 per cent of annual turnover, has been enhanced from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 4 crore. It will help them get loan from banks easily. Measures have been taken to reduce the cost of bank loan for small scale industries. SIDBI would play greater role in providing loans to small scale industries. A number of changes have been effected in excise duty, administrative machinery so as to eliminate inspector raj. Even now, small shopkeepers, petty traders engaged in small scale industries were afraid of inspector raj. Because of this step they will get rid of inspector raj in direct as well as other taxes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have been talking about villages and rural development for quite some time. But how much attention was paid to the development of villages becomes clear when we see the data in this regard. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi himself had said in Rajasthan that if one rupee is sent for the development at villages, only 15 paise reach the real beneficiaries. He knew where the remaining 85 paise go, but probably he did not want to divulge it further. He must have some compulsions. But no attention was paid towards development and as a result of this failure, only 37 per cent of cultivable land in villages is getting assured irrigation, rest of the people are not provided any means of irrigation. Just now, a mention was made about suicide by farmers. I would speak on this point later. Its main cause was that the Government failed to create irrigation facilities and consequently loans taken by farmers started increasing and ultimately it resulted in their suicide. I am happy that the Finance Minister has taken several steps in this budget for the development of farmers and villages and I would like to mention some of them. Plan allocation for the Agriculture Ministry has been enhanced by 58 per cent. As compared to all previous budgets, this is a record increase.

A provision of Rs. 1627 crores has been made for rural water supply which would benefit about one lakh families. Allocations have been made for water storage development programme and an increase of 31 per cent has been made in this regard. I am told that probably it is also a record increase. Till date, no budget had that much hike. Similarly, the provision for accelerated irrigation benefit programme has been enhanced by 58 per cent and I am told that it is also a record increase. There is a proposal to give cash credit card to farmers. The opposition members were also in its favour. The other day, during debate, some hon. Members of the Congress party had raised this point. Then Shri Yashwant Sinha ji told them to wait for the budget. He told them that after presentation of the budget they would not have any such complaint. It is really a good thing that the Government have introduced the cash credit card scheme. It will certainly give some relief to the farmers and also help them in the right direction. They would be able to purchase fertilizers, seeds etc. This scheme will also help them refrain from taking extreme step of committing suicide after taking loans. The Finance Minister has not tried to run this country on the basis of slogans only, on the contrary he has tried to extend permanent assistance to the farmers. The Finance Minister has tried to help the farmers get rid of loans. For this, farmers of the country would always remain indebted and thankful to him. Similarly, the Government have announced concessions for the farmers who were unable to repay loans and for that also the hon. Minister deserves congratulations.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the housing problem has become a major problem in the whole country. In every town and major cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Calcutta, we find the problem of housing emerging as the biggest problem. There are lakhs and crores of people who do not have dwelling units. Today Government employees whose names appear in 1974 list are yet to get accommodation and in some cases 1976 list is being taken up. There are thousands of employees who retire from service without getting Government accommodation. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I come from Chandigarh constituency. It is a small union territory and people consider it a beautiful city. It is really a beautiful city and there can be no two opinions about it. The total population of this union territory is seven and half lakhs, among which about one lakh people do not have accommodation. There are 30 slum areas wherein they live by constructing jhuggies of 6' or 8' size. Besides this, there are many people who do not get housing facility. I am happy that in the present budget the Government have provided sufficient funds for housing. I congratulate the Finance Minister for making a provision with a target of constructing 20 lakh additional houses. I pray God for his success so that the shortage

of housing in this country is minimised and general employees, poor man and people from lower income group who are currently facing housing problem, get some help. Out of these 20 lakh additional dwelling units, 13 lakh units will be constructed in rural areas and 7 lakh in urban areas. Besides, Rs. 1600 crore have been provided under Indira Awas Yojana. Earlier, sufficient funds were not being provided under Indira Awas Yojana for a long time and as a result, housing units as per the fixed target could not be built. I remember that a few days ago, some hon. Members had drawn attention towards it. Now, I hope that with the present allocation, thousands of housing units would be built for the benefit of the general public.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a provision of investing Rs. 110 crore in HUDCO. In addition to it, the hon. Finance Minister has given several concessions for the construction of houses in his Budget. Among these concessions are, 30 per cent tax rebate on housing loan for first five years and next five years, and increase in tax rebate for repair etc. of the house from 20 per cent to 25 per cent. I do not want to go into all other concessions and announcements as it would take more time. This was the sector towards which no Government paid attention in the past. The Finance Minister and the hon. Prime Minister deserve congratulation for taking care of the problem of the youth, students who are bearing the brunt of unemployment and loopholes in our educational system. No attention was paid towards it till date. I am happy that this Government has tried to provide some facilities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the Railway Budget for the first time, this Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has provided the facility of free rail journey to those youth who go to attend interviews. It is also for the first time that budget allocation for education has been raised by 50 per cent. There was a provision of Rs. 4716 crore in 1997-98 and it has been increased to Rs. 7047 crore in 1998-99. Earlier, the people of backward areas and poor families were not sending their children to school because they felt that if their son worked in a tea stall or their daughter washed utensils in a house, they would earn some money and the family would be able to get two square meals. I am glad that the Finance Minister has made a provision of free education for girls. I hope that the allocation of Rs. 100 crore made under this head would be increased gradually in future and the girls would be able to avail the benefit of free education. Besides, he deserves congratulations for making an announcement regarding setting up of the National Reconstruction Corps for enabling the youth to contribute in nation building. It will benefit more and more people. It may be recalled that all political parties had declared in their manifestos that they would provide more

funds for education and also pay more attention to it. But no Government did ever pay serious attention to it. It is perhaps for the first time that the BJP Government have tried to make several provisions for the youth and women education.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a demand was being made for a long time for the simplification of taxation procedure. I am happy that the hon. Finance Minister has paid attention towards it. The tax exemption limit has been raised upto Rs. 50,000. It is true that the BJP had mentioned in its manifesto that the exemption limit would be increased to Rs. 1 lakh. However, I would like to assure my friends that since it is the first budget of the hon. Minister of Finance and there are still four budgets to be presented, the limit would be increased to Rs. one lakh from Rs. 50,000 in the fifth budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I submit that the time will definitely come when we would present the fifth budget. Many members are under the impression that this Government may collapse any moment and perhaps, the present Finance Minister will not be able to present his next budget. I request such members to have patience and everything will come before them. Today, the people of this country are emotionally attached with this Government. They have already tested past Governments. Our communist brothers are not in a position to say anything because the Soviet Union which they considered as their Mecca-Madina and projected it as an example of State Control etc. is today totally disintegrated. So far as China is concerned, everybody is aware of the situation prevailing there. Since it is not the topic of discussion today, I do not want to say anything about it. The economy of India is the best at present and only it can last in the world in future. It will be accepted by the entire world.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it will also benefit the employees. I agree that the present tax exemption limit is Rs. 50,000 only and it is low but I am sure that in future, this limit will be increased further. The hon. Finance Minister has realised the problems of income tax-payers by introducing schemes like 'Saras, Samadhan Aur Samman' etc. and tried to solve their problems. I congratulate the Finance Minister for this. I am an advocate by profession. Even if some one is an advocate and he is required to file income tax returns, he will face a lot of difficulty as the form itself is very complicated. On the other hand, if some one is not an advocate of income tax or sales tax he will face more difficulty in filling the form. It is a matter of happiness that the hon. Minister has taken initiative for the simplification of the procedure and this step should be welcomed. The increase in income tax exemption limit is also a welcome step. It should also be

[Shri Satya Pal Jain]

appreciated that the limit of standard deduction has been raised to Rs. 25,000 for an income upto Rs. 1 lakh and moreover, there would be no standard deduction for those getting an income of more than Rs. 5 lakh. The simplification of the form is a welcome step. Besides, under 'Kar Samadhan', the number of cases which used to be pending in courts for 15-20 years, would come down. If one goes through the data of income tax and sales tax tribunal, he will find that there are a number of cases pending for several years. I feel that the provisions regarding filing an appeal directly in the High Court and disposal of the case by paying 30 per cent tax will bring down the number of cases substantially. The people of India are also grateful to the hon. Minister for introducing 'Samman' scheme for the tax-payers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Government has also paid attention to road development. The prices of petrol had increased exorbitantly during the Congress, Janata Dal and United Front Governments. Besides, the prices of LPG increased more during these Governments. Nobody knows as to where the money has gone. That money should have been used on the repair of roads. This Government has decided that the amount received through cess at the rate of Re. 1 per litre of petrol will be utilised for the development and repair of roads. Our Government deserves congratulation for this. No country can boast of progress unless there are better roads. Once somebody asked whether America was a great nation because it had better roads or because it was a rich nation. The response was that it was a great nation because it had better roads. I am sure that the amount collected through cess on petrol will be utilised on the development of roads by this Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a mention of hike in urea price. It is a very sensitive issue. The Finance Minister has effected an increase of 50 paise per kilogram of urea. Since the members of all parties have requested the hon. Minister to roll back the hike in urea price, he is reviewing the hike and he will come out with a policy in this regard. I would submit that we should consider this issue by rising above party politics. The hon. Minister of Agriculture was replying the other day but his voice was lost in the din. Today, everybody is concerned that more and more use of urea by the farmers has negative effect on the soil. We shall have to make the farmers aware of its negative effects. I concede that I am not an agriculturist by profession but the scientific data trickling out from different sources clearly show that due to excessive use of urea and other chemical fertilizers, the fertility of soil is diminishing gradually. So, we have to be alert in this regard. Raising a hue and cry here in order to get the vote of farmers is not going to help. It is a

matter worth pondering as to what extent we will be able to help the farmers by creating uproarious scenes. However, it is necessary to check the increasing use of urea and tell the farmers about its ill-effects. The use of urea causes depletion in Nitrogen level and thus, we receive less solid material from a plant. Nitrogen dissolves in water and sinks to the level where it is not at all required.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAN (Bandagara) : It is all absurd. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Please do not use the word 'absurd'. You should know how to speak in Parliament 'Absurd' is not a parliamentary word. Do not use that word. You should know that. Kindly do not do like this. You have the right to differ with my argument. It is not fair on your part. Anyhow, leave it.

[Translation]

I am just putting forth my point of view. You may differ with me. You may think that it is not so, the farmer may use as much urea as he likes even though his land may turn into a barren land due to its excessive use over a period of 15-20 years. For that matter, Jakhar Saheb may say, no, Satya Pal ji, you are not right. You may differ with me on this point, but using such unparliamentary expressions is not proper. My point is that we should seriously think about the use of urea otherwise it would adversely affect the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Finance Minister has withdrawn service-tax from tents and trucks and I welcome this measure. I had given a memorandum to Finance Minister in respect of sports goods industries. Today, people have confined themselves within their houses as a result they hardly take to physical exercises. Modernization is also one of the factors responsible for preventing the people from undertaking outdoor physical exercise. 12 per cent excise duty has been imposed on sports goods which has resulted in making these equipments costlier and people find it a costly affair to undertake in house physical exercises. This has worsened the situation and now the country-made exerciser is costlier than the imported one. It is adversely affecting the indigenous sports industries. I, therefore, request the Finance Minister to look into it. Whereas small scale industries have been given so many concessions, he should think of sports goods industries also and the excise duties proposed on them should be withdrawn. We had asked for the clarifications in regard to the last years' provisions and made a request to take remedial measures in that regard. In that connection, we had met Finance Minister and had urged him to do away with them but

what happened is just contrary to it. Instead of clarifying and doing away with that, it has been stated that all the instruments falling under sports goods category are not necessarily sports goods. I appeal hon. Finance Minister that he should reconsider it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I must say something about population control. Whichever Government or party may be in power, whatever provisions they may make in the budget or the measures they may take, unless they take steps to control population growth, all the provisions or measures would prove futile. No effort is going to deliver goods. Unless we control population growth, we cannot find any solution to this problem. I think that we should have a national population policy and all political parties should sit together to find a solution to this problem. Some of our colleagues often say that an effort was made in 1976 to check population growth but they had to pay a political price for it. Thereafter, no one dared to touch this subject. I feel that if even a good programme is not properly implemented, the whole nation has to pay for it. Let us think about it afresh and formulate such a policy which could help us to find a long lasting solution to population problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Union territories are directly administered by the Central Government. We have six Union territories in India, which come under the administrative control of Union Home Ministry. I have been elected from Chandigarh, a Union territory whose budget is formulated and passed by the Centre. State Governments prepare their own budgets and the Chief Minister of the State come and apprise Centre of their requirements. But in case of Budget of Union territories, even the elected representatives are in no way involved in the process of budget formulation. They have no role or say in the matter of budget formulation for their territories. I demand that henceforth these elected Members of Parliament should be involved and consulted in budget formulation exercise. Their views should be solicited so that they have a participation in this exercise and the democratic system is strengthened. Hence, I urge upon hon. Finance Minister to make more provisions for Housing and rehabilitation for the people of Chandigarh and hawkers and squatters may be provided with *pucca* booth. More funds should be allocated to construct houses there for Government employees and economic package should be offered to accelerate its economic development.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Member, Shri Murli Deora having gone through some press cuttings had said that eminent personalities of the country and even foreigners have called this budget as not in the interest of the country. Taking not much time of this House, I want to draw your attention towards the comments made by certain people who cannot be said to be associated with

BJP in anyway. The 'Observer' newspaper can be cited for that matter. It has published in its daily edition of 2nd June, 1998 the reaction of V.R. Panchmukhi, Director, 'Research and Information System'. I would read it out.

[English]

Dr. V.R. Panchmukhi, Director, Research and Information Systems called Shri Yashwant Sinha's maiden Budget an innovative Budget which was not in the usual format of globalisation.

"...It is rather a nationalistic Budget and what the BJP had promised."

Dr. Panchmukhi pointed out ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem is that one who says a right thing or talks logical would seem to be associated with RSS. Likewise, Calcutta edition of 'Telegraph' has published a statement of Shri S. Venkitaraman, former Governor of Reserve Bank of India and I would like to quote not the whole article, but a paragraph thereof.

[English]

"The Budget is the right mix of emphasis on agricultural infrastructure and tax reforms, to mention a few of the important features. No one can differ from the Finance Minister's approach that the disquieting trends in the Indian economy in the recent past have to be reversed. He has rightly mentioned the need to strengthen agriculture by making farmers' assets to credit easier. The emphasis in the Budget on housing for rural area is particularly noteworthy. One hopes, the Finance Minister's intentions will be translated into reality."

[Translation]

He further writes :

[English]

"Yashwant Sinha has produced a bold and responsible Budget, given the difficult circumstances of competitive populism and the pressure of coalition politics. The East Asian financial crisis has imposed severe restrictions on the Finance Ministers of most countries. International confidence is a tender plant. Above all, in the post-sanctioned atmosphere the Finance Minister has to keep in mind the need for private flow. Thus, external balance, investor confidence and domestic pressure have moulded Sinha's Budget. It is remarkable that Sinha has not yielded to the temptation to break the continuity of policy. The most significant and defining feature of the Budget is that Sinha has, as a statesman, recognised the advantage to the nation of maintaining the continuity of reforms."

[Shri Satya Pal Jain]

[*Translation*]

In this connection, I would also like to read out a paragraph published in a leading Hindi Daily 'Rashtriya Sahara'. I do not want to read the entire content. It has commended it as a bold budget. I want to reproduce a para of it. This newspaper has nothing to do with RSS nor BJP. It writes :

"Before evaluating the Budget for 1998-99 presented in the Parliament by the Union Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha, it would be befitting to call it a bold budget. In terms of both priorities and objectives, this Budget is something different to the budgets presented by all earlier Governments. Looking at this Budget, one can say that it attempts to give a new direction to the country. Perhaps this is for first time that a budget has been formulated keeping in view the ground realities of the nation. That is why, it seeks to give special thrusts to agriculture, rural development, education, wealth, employment sectors and welfare measures. Increasing Budgetary allocation by 50 per cent for agriculture shows that this Government cares for the people of this country. Even after 50 years of our Independence, 70 per cent of the people of this country are linked with agriculture in one or the other way and this is the mainstay of their livelihood."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it would have been better, had Shri Murlī Deora gone through these articles and comments also and it would have helped him to understand the entire scenario clearly. I often think why people tend to criticise, what is the reason? Of course, they find one or the other reason to criticise. There has been an uproar over Ayodhya issue in this House for the last two days. Our national agenda for governance does not make any mention of Ayodhya issue, at which some of our colleagues are perturbed that we have dropped Ayodhya and Ram Temple issue. There have been some news that some sort of construction activities are going on to build Ram Temple, I do not know whether it is going on or not. Now they are making a hue and cry that we are engaged in construction of Ram Temple. If we drop that issue, they complain as to why we dropped that, and if we bring it in our agenda, they are perturbed again. They have to criticize in both the situations. However, it is not expected of them that they would appreciate the positive side of this Budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Budget is pro-poor people, common men and pro-government employees. This budget aims at nation's self-respect, self-defence, development and making the country self-reliant. This budget also aims at building a new India and to lead the country to 21st century. I welcome and support this Budget and hope that this House will pass it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the situations and circumstances which we have undergone and the threat which we are facing today, I would like to say something about this and then I shall conclude. May be a handful of people in the Parliament and outside it condemn us on the issue of Pokharan tests and create an environment that we do not have anything in the country. It is very unfortunate that former Defence Minister says in the Parliament that we have lesser number of submarines and have shortage of many other things. I am happy that the Finance Minister has paid full attention on these things. He has brought an increase in the Defence Budget. This is not going to cause any sense of fear among the people of our country. The people of this country want to live with self-respect and they do not want that the Finance Minister of this country should go to other countries of the world with a begging bowl seeking assistance. Such things, the people of our country do not wish for rather the country would face any situation whatever may come. This country is not going to compromise with its self-respect even if we have to face hunger. Therefore, I would like to conclude by quoting a couplet from the poem of our Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee:

"Daun per sub kuchh laga hai, ruk nahin sakte,
Toot sakte hain magar hum jhuk nahin sakte."

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Finance Minister concluded his budget speech by quoting the poem of the great progressive poet Shri Ramdhari Singh Dinkar and today my colleague Shri Jain supported the budget and the budget speech in the same poetic vein. But as regard the poem recited during budget speech, Mr. Yashwant Sinha may be knowing very well as to for whom and in what context this poem was composed. Dinkarji wrote this poem in felicitation of a great freedom fighter who wearing a red cap went on organising youths to bring socialism in the country. I am sorry to say that though the poem composed by Dinkar in praise of that great socialist and ardent follower of Sarvodaya movement but there is no glimpse of socialism or sarvodaya thinking in this budget. I am sorry to say that Antyodaya is not possible. With this comment I begin my speech.

When the Finance Minister had submitted demands for Supplementary Grants, he had made a very brief comment on the previous budget and failure to fulfil the promises made therein. At that time he had said that there was a decline of 22 per cent in custom duty, 9 per cent in excise duty, 2 per cent in corporate tax and 14 per cent in income tax. But I do not understand as to how they are going to bring increase in these things with such an unstable ground. Last time it was said in the budget estimates that our fiscal deficit would be around

4.5 per cent as compared to gross domestic product (GDP) but finally this deficit went upto 6.1 per cent. I am sorry to say these things should have been particularly taken care of as you had pointed these aspects but it was not possible for you to do so as your budget neither reflects the Swadeshi thinking nor the reforms process started by Shri Man Mohan Singh, nor the pro-farmers' budget of Choudhary Charan Singh and it does not even reflect the dream world created by Shri Chidambaram. It seems as if nothing could be achieved in an effort to achieve everything. This is quite clear from this budget. In this regard I would like to point out the most important thing that unless a communal Government which is not disciplined, does not have unanimity of thought, does not share common responsibility is sure to face such dilemma. This is but natural. With this comment I would like to say something because poverty is on the increase in the country. You have said that this Budget is for the upliftment of the poor. Poverty is increasing and it is a symptom of many ills prevalent in the society. Unemployment is the root cause of poverty. So, the real problem is unemployment. If unemployment is removed poverty will naturally come to an end. But in our country the percentage of people living below the poverty line is decreasing but the number of the poor is not decreasing. As per data the percentage of people living below poverty line was 54-55 per cent during 1973-74 and seemingly it has come down to 32-33 per cent now. But the number of the poor has not decreased. At that time also about 32-33 crore people were living below the poverty line and even today the situation remains the same despite all efforts made in this regard. The only reason behind this in our country is the increasing unemployment. Two days ago the Government had accepted in this House that they would bring poverty to zero level by 2008. But from which point they have started. You have extended the age of retirement to 60 years. For the time being the budget deficit which was going to increase has been avoided by saving the pension amount, 900 crore rupees is not a big amount, however, limited saving has been done on this account but to save this should we extend the retirement age of Government employees. The Government did not think of its likely impact on employment in our country.

The Ministry of Labour of the Government of India has constituted a Committee to look into the situation of poverty in the country. The report says that situation of employment in the organised sector is very bad. Even in Government sector the situation is deteriorating. How all these things are happening. Industrial units are facing closure and retrenchment is going on in the Government sector. According to the report in the last decade i.e.

during 1980-90 employment had been increasing at the rate of 1.60 per cent but it has now already come down to 0.82 per cent in the first seven years of this decade. Public sector undertakings of Central and State Governments, local bodies and in the Government number of jobs have decreased from 2 crore 80 lakh to one crore 90 lakh because of our policies there is a decline of 80 lakhs during 2-1/2 years. Now you have extended the retirement age to 60 years. Due to this there would be no job opportunity in the Government sector which provides maximum job opportunity. While the retired persons get something for their sustenance from the Government exchequer but unemployed persons have to suffer most as they do not have any job and they remain on the verge of poverty and their problems keep on increasing. They are going to be worst hit on account of raising the retirement age. The sector in which there was a potential to accommodate the maximum youths in jobs is likely to be hit by this decision. ...*(Interruptions)* You have not accepted all the recommendations of the Pay Commission. Pay Commission had recommended to curtail the number of holidays and increase the duration of working hours and many other things were recommended which could have helped to promote work culture in the country but they have not been accepted. It cannot be understood as to why you chose to accept only such recommendation which are going to affect adversely the future of the coming generation. In this very context, I would like to say that still the industrial and small scale industry sector had the largest potential to accommodate maximum number of people in organised sectors. As I have said the Government has no discipline to adhere to. In pursuance of Abid Ali Committee's recommendations capital ceiling of 3 crore rupees for small scale units was fixed. Consequently, a number of small scale units having a capital of 3 crore rupees came up and they got all those facilities which are available to small sector. But in a convention the Prime Minister reduced the said ceiling to Rs. One crore. But when the said ceiling was reduced to Rs. One crore it was expected from the Finance Minister to have accepted that proposal and should have mentioned in the budget. The industry department would have issued an order to this effect and worked accordingly. But the industry department did not issue any such order. Finance Minister also did not make any mention of it in his budget. A chaotic situation prevailed in absence of financial discipline and due to this the same could not be reflected in the Budget of this Government. I would like to point out that the Government have imposed countervailing duty on imported machines. Some people from small industrial units told me that if they import a unit costing Rs. 90 lakhs, they have to pay duty as well as counter-veiling duty on it. Now the

[Shri Mohan Singh]

machine will cost more than Rs. 1 crore and thus they will be deprived of getting the benefits available to the small scale units. It therefore, calls for integrated thinking and coordinated outlook. I request the hon. Minister to take this point into consideration.

I want to speak particularly about the Defence Budget. The hon. Minister was vociferously saying that the Government have allocated Rs. 41,000 crore under the defence head. But in view of constant decline in the value of rupee this provision is not at all significant. Budgetary provisions on education has been increased by 50 per cent and on atomic energy by 100 per cent whereas only 14.5 per cent increase has been made in defence budget. In this connection I would like to say that most of the defence equipments are imported. The value of our currency is constantly declining. Today it is more than Rs. 42 per dollar. Persons monitoring the market trends say that within next one-two months the value of rupee will decline to Rs. 50 per dollar. Under such a situation the increase in defence budget is negligible. Moreover 70 per cent of our defence budget is spent on salaries and other perks being given to defence personnel. About 11 per cent of the Budget is spent on import of defence equipments. Now the Government say that India has become a nuclear power State. The country's defence priorities have changed accordingly. The Defence Minister claims that new researches and tests have enabled the country induct nuclear weapons in the defence forces. I cannot understand as to how we can start the weaponisation process. The day the Budget was presented, the Defence Minister was asked this question in a TV interview. He said that the hon. Finance Minister has since agreed to increase the allocations on defence, although the original budget does reflect the expected rise. It means that the Government have since decided to present the supplementary budget on the very day the general budget was presented. The Supplementary Budget would contain the supplementary demands of grants of a number of departments and pay hike of their employees. An able and competent Finance Minister will not say like this.

Every Finance Minister tries to accommodate the demands of all Ministries and departments for the whole year in the main budget. Only when special circumstances or emergent situations arise and the Finance Minister cannot foresee some particular requirement, Supplementary Budget is prepared. Then the Finance Minister will be called a good Minister and the Budget presented by him could be called a good Budget. However, the announcements made in regard to the Defence Budget indicate that this Budget which has not been prepared with a deep thinking by taking care of all the needs and requirements of the departments for the

whole year. Today, there are contradictory statements being made from the Government's side whether China is our enemy number one. However, according to our hon. Prime Minister, China is not our enemy number one. If he does not consider China as enemy number one, then does he consider it our enemy? Even if they do not consider China our enemy, we are also not in a position to consider it as our friendly neighbour in view of such kind of irresponsible statements. Shri Jain was saying that the bastion of communism had crumbled and communism had been wiped out of the World. There is no sufficient ground to accept this argument. China is also a communist country and the economists of the whole world including the economists of the USA, have prophesised that in the coming years i.e. by 2021 or 2022, China will be almost at par with the USA which is the number one economic power today. Even the American people have started speculating that China could emerge as the number one superpower after 2021. Such a situation may also arise. This is the assessment of some of the economists who think that when we cannot make them our friendly country, then it is the responsibility of the Government of India to apprise this country as well as the whole world of the defence preparedness that this country requires to deal with the situation. However, following the nuclear tests and while replying to the debate on nuclear tests, our Home Minister's tone and tenor sounded as if it were not China but Pakistan was our enemy number one. And if it is Pakistan the fact should be highlighted that it spends 7.5 per cent of its GDP on defence. On the other hand how much do we spend on this account? We ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund) :
The Home Minister did not call Pakistan as our enemy number one. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : No, I did not say that he said so. But what he said sounded like that, the implication and tone and tenor of his statement cannot but lead to such a conclusion. This is what I made out of this statement. If it is not so, it is all right. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka) : It is not proper to infer such a conclusion from the Home Minister's statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : It is a sensitive matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : What I mean to say is that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : What you mean to say it is all right. Mr. Chairman, Sir, these words should be expunged from the proceedings. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Mohan Singh ji, it could be your view. But the views expressed by the Home Minister was not like this. It did not have this shade or tone. He did not mean to say this, rather it should be put this way that these are Shri Mohan Singh's expressions and these cannot be attributed to the Home Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not proper to attribute it to the Home Minister. These words should be expunged from the proceedings. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Ail right, I am not going to say this. I only want to know whether I do not have the right to draw a conclusion from his speech? I want to know this much as to what percentage of the GDP of the countries, with which we are striving to compete being spent on defence and what is the percentage of expenditure being met by us on this account. With this meagre expenditure on Defence how do we think of becoming one of the great powers of the world. However, the Government are trying to take the credit with this false notion. I want to say and I would also like to urge the Finance Minister that he should keep in mind two aspects regarding the defence of the country. Either he should improve relations with the neighbouring countries, which previous two Governments have done. We had declared to the world that we do not have any dispute with our neighbouring countries. Even if there is any dispute we want to resolve it through dialogue and not by creating terror and war like frenzy through military force. Either this situation be created and pursued, otherwise if this is not going to be done, create a war like frenzy in the whole country and in the subcontinent. Under the situation we shall have to make India a strategic power and a strong nation. We should strive for this but no such reflection has been made by defence budget.

Along with this I would like to say that the Finance Minister has tried to give many incentives to Non-Resident Indians and has said many things about them in this Budget but the Non-Resident Indian irrespective of their adopted countries, are quite different from the other non-residents of the world. Today business in the entire east Asian countries whether it is Singapore, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia and Malasia and even in Hong Kong though now annexed to China has been captured by Non-Resident Chinese and they make use of their capital

not only in their adopted country but also try to take profit to their own country which is a testimony of their patriotism.

China is fortunate enough to get Hong Kong, the wealth of which has been developed by the capitalists over last 100 years. India will not be that fortunate. Lot of concessions have been given in this Budget. There is a proposal to issue special cards to the NRIs. But who will be those fortunate NRIs, would be decided by the Government. I have not been able to understand as to what is the intention behind this. Efforts have been made to make discrimination in this regard. We want that the Government should clarify as to who would be treated as real NRIs who can invest here.

It has also been stated that the NRIs who will invest here would be allowed to transfer the profits and earnings to their respective countries. I am against such a concession being given to the NRIs. If this is allowed, it may result in avoidable economic crisis and may also lead to tension and pressure on the economy. Our situation may become similar to that of Malaysia. Two-three years back Malaysia was emerging as a big economic power in the East Asia and the world powers were thinking that it would become the strongest nation in this region within a short span of time. But this was not to be, as during the last one year, their economy collapsed, capital investment crumbled, their currency devalued and the country was in deep crisis. The economic condition of Indonesia turned so bad that there was revolt in the country and power changed hands. The Finance Minister has stated that there has been devaluation of currencies in these countries also. But the fact is that there is resentment among the people there against the rulers. Does the Government in our country also want such a chaotic situation to arise here and things to turn so bad here. I would like to give a few suggestions to the hon. Minister in this regard.

For the last many years a demand has been made in the House on several occasions to raise the ceiling of income tax limit to Rs. 60,000. It has been stated in the manifesto that the Government would raise this limit to Rs. 1 lakh and an hon. Minister of this Government had announced in Surat that the income tax limit would be raised to Rs. 60,000 in this budget. I fail to understand why such announcements are made prior to the budget by the Minister. I would like to demand that the ceiling of income tax limit which has been proposed at Rs. 50,000 should be raised.

21.00 hrs.

Secondly, excise duty has been raised on many goods. It has been raised on tea and branded butter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you concluding?

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Sir, I would conclude within 5-7 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, please conclude within 5-7 minutes.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has said that as the common man does not consume butter, the tax has been raised on it and it will not affect the inflationary trend also.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Butter is used in politics.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : When he was told by the media that branded butter has been taxed, he replied that it is not being consumed by the poor. The dairy owners are agitating against this hike in excise duty. They say they would incur loss due to imposition of duty on their machinery. Tea is a common man's item but in this Budget, it has been treated as a luxury item. Is it possible that even though excise duty is imposed on daily necessities of life, the inflation will not increase? In my opinion this is far from reality. Many a expert have forecast that in the next couple of months the inflation would touch double digits. Therefore, I would urge the hon. Finance Minister that he should seriously think over this matter and withdraw the increased excise duty on essential commodities.

A lot of hue and cry was raised throughout the country for over 4-5 hours when confusion prevailed about the price of petrol. Since 1988 the price of petrol and diesel were always kept apart from the General Budget. The administered price of petrol and diesel used to be announced before the budget. The United Front Government had made a provision that it was not the responsibility of the Government to meet the oil pool deficit and the oil companies were free to make necessary arrangements for it. Therefore, there was no burden on the public exchequer. But this year, while presenting the Budget, the price of petrol was included in it. An announcement was made in the Budget and a cess of Re. 1 per litre was imposed on petrol. But the oil companies took benefit of this and in several parts of the country, the price of petrol was raised by Rs. 4 to 5. When this matter was raised in the House, a lot of hue and cry was made here, the Government admitted that there was some confusion. The Petroleum Minister said in a T.V. interview that there has been some lapse on the part of the Government. If a Minister says that

because of Government's fault, crores of rupees have been swindled, the people of a vigilant country are not going to forgive. Such a thing is possible only in this country. I would urge the Government to revive the old practice of meeting the oil pool deficit by the oil companies and not through the Budget. This would help the oil pool become completely independent by the year 2001 A.D. Therefore, nothing should be done which would create a hindrance in this regard.

A lot has been said about the urea prices. At least before presenting the Budget, the Government should have consulted all the coalition partners. The two supporting parties which are in power in Haryana and Punjab and their Chief Ministers have given a statement that the urea prices should not be increased. Another leader of a major party in Tamil Nadu said that they would not accept the increased urea prices. This should not have been raised according to them. This is the opinion of the Samata Party and Mamata Banerjee also. If the coalition partners do not work in tandem, it would be difficult for the Government to function. It would also bring bad name to the Government.

I would request that in future if the Government brings forth such financial proposals, it is expected that the Government would ensure financial discipline also. This has been done under some pressure because generally the prices of goods are raised in terms of quintals and tonnes but the price of urea has been raised by Re. one per kg. The very next day, it was reduced by 50 paise. I would like to ask as to why this increase of 50 paise has been made. I would request the Government to withdraw this hike immediately. This Government should speak collectively and with authority before this House and the Nation. This would reflect discipline in the functioning of the Government. If this is done the Government will not have to face embarrassment as it had to face in this case and the Finance Minister will not be directly responsible for it.

With these words, I conclude and strongly oppose this Budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 A.M.

21.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, June 11, 1998/Jyaishta 21, 1920 (Saka).