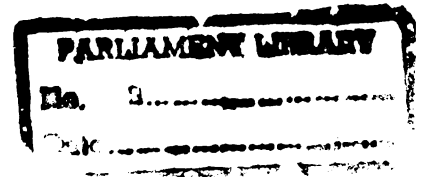


LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Second Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IV contains Nos. 21 to 30)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, July 22, 1998/Asadha 31, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 502. Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : You ask in Zero hour.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising a very important question. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I shall allow you during Zero Hour. Please try to understand. I shall give you chance during Zero Hour, not now.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a provision in the rules that hon'ble Members be heard after the suspension of the Question Hour. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. You should not disturb during Question Hour. During Zero Hour I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring a very important matter in the knowledge of the House . . . (Interruptions) I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the news item published today on the first page of Statesman . . . (Interruptions) I have given notice that Question Hour should be suspended and it has also been a tradition in the House to listen to the Members after having suspended Question Hour. Therefore, you must listen to us . . . (Interruptions) There is a news item published in the newspaper that Lalu and Mulayam has sent more than 200 criminals here. This is a conspiracy against our two big leaders . . . (Interruptions) The Chief Minister of Delhi says such a serious thing . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Singh, I am appealing to you to please take your seat. You raise it during Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Singh, please take your seat. I shall allow you during Zero Hour. There is a time to raise such matters. Please try to understand.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Singh, you are a senior Member. Please understand the position.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Singh, you have given a notice and it has been listed for the Zero Hour. Please take your seat now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mohan Singh ji, is not good.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sahab Singh Verma ji, the Chief Minister of Delhi, has levelled this serious allegation . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. This is Question hour. I shall allow you during Zero Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Why should we keep silence? We have been called criminals . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please try to understand. I shall allow you during Zero Hour. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you to please take your seat. I shall allow you during Zero Hour. This is Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have admitted your notice also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a news-item published in Statesman to this effect that . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate with the Chair. What is this? This is not Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh, I am appealing to you that I will allow you in Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is Question Hour. How can you disturb it? I will allow you in Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker Sir, it has been the practice in the House that we should be listened having suspended the Question Hour . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, Please understand. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. Please resume your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Let the Question Hour go on. In the meantime, the Government may gather

information about whether the Chief Minister has really said it or not.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pilot, I have already said that we will take up this matter in Zero Hour, What is this?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The Government should find out whether the Chief Minister has said it or not. It has appeared in the newspaper. The Prime Minister may find it out. Let the Question Hour go on. After Question hour, they can arise it. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : The Chief Minister himself has said it . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The Prime Minister will reply.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Prime Minister Sir, this is an attempt of our murder . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : We want justice from the Chair.

[Translation]

The Chief Minister himself has given this statement . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lalu, what is this? This is not good. You are a Senior Member.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want justice from your goodness.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is a time to raise matters like this. I will allow you in Zero Hour. What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lalu, Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you in Zero Hour. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : What else can be more important than this matter . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. Ask your Members also to take the seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you please take your seat?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : When I am on my legs, it is your duty to take your seats. Please take your seats. Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (Bikaner) : Will the Prime Minister say something about this?

[Translation]

Will the Prime Minister say something about this, he should come up after enquiring from the Government of Delhi . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : No matter other than this can be more serious for us. One Chief Minister has noted criminals word for us . . . (Interruptions). This was said that the crimes are being managed in the capital . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We have nothing to do with the proceedings. We have nothing to do with the House. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am once again appealing to you to please take seats. I will allow you in Zero Hour. I have already received your notice.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Our demand is that we want justice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot disturb Question Hour like this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : What is the logic behind our sitting down, why should we listen to somebody. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : You go through it and see.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 502. Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand that the Prime Minister should say something on this matter. It is not a good thing that a Chief Minister uses such words for our Hon'ble Members. After consulting them please tell us that you will solve this issue. Say something like this . . . (Interruptions)

PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 502.

(Interruptions)

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (Periyakulam) : This is Question Hour. How is this possible? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Senior Members must also understand the position.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : You are always crying cauvery, cauvery. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore) : They always say something . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 502. Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir. . . (Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir. . . (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Laluji, please understand the position. You are a senior Member. What is this? Everytime you are disturbing the House. How can you disturb the House like this?

(Interruptions)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER : There are other Members also who want to participate. You cannot disturb the House like this always.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : How can you disturb the House everytime? There are other Members also who want to participate. You are not understanding the position.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There are some procedures. You must follow the procedure.

(Interruptions)

11.11 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav (Jhanjharpur) and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please go to your seat. This is not a good practice.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Is this the way to represent the matter? I am asking you : is this the way to represent the matter? You please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Is this the way to represent the matter? You please go to your seat first.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you think this is the way? Do you think this is the proper way to represent the matter?

(Interruptions)

11.12 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav (Jhanjharpur) and some other hon. Members sat on the floor near the Table.)

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I once again appeal to the hon. Members to please resume their seats. This is not good. Please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

11.14 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav (Jhanjharpur) and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a serious allegation against a very responsible Member of the House. I think, it is the responsibility of the Prime Minister to verify whether it is factually correct and then he should brief the House.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier also I stood for giving clarifications but you have not allowed me to speak. I can understand your excitement. I have also read something published in one English newspaper. It will have to be enquired from the Chief Minister that what he has said and what has been published. If what he has said is true, then it is very serious. Chief Minister should not have given such a statement. There is no need that criminals come in Delhi from outside because Delhi is already flooded with large number of criminals.

11.15 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

US President Visit to China

[English]

+

*502. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has watched the developments in China after the visit of the US President;

(b) if so, whether the ties between the two countries have improved;

(c) to what extent the cooperation between USA and China will have an impact on our relations with China and Pakistan; and

(d) the steps the Union Government proposes to take to meet the challenge posed after the US President's visit to China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

US President William Jefferson Clinton visited China on 25 June - 3 July 1998. This visit followed President Jiang Zemin's visit to the US on 26 October - 4 November 1997.

At the Joint Press Conference in Beijing on 27 June 1998, President Jiang Zemin said "the successful exchange of visits between the two heads of States of China and US marks a new growth for China - US relations". He said the two sides had reached agreement on further increasing exchanges in co-operation between China and the United States in all areas of bilateral relations. He said both sides believe they should continue to work together to promote peace and security in the world and the Asia-Pacific in particular, to ease and eliminate all kinds of tensions and to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to strengthen the efforts in protecting the environment, combating international crime, drug trafficking and international terrorism. President Clinton said "a stable, open, prosperous China shouldering its responsibilities for a safer world is good for America". US and China had agreed to "shore up stability in Asia, Korean peninsula and the Indian sub-continent". He welcomed the joint commitment against providing assistance to ballistic missile programme in South Asia. To the areas of co-operation mentioned by President Jiang Zemin, President Clinton added scientific co-operation, health, rule-of-law programmes, training of lawyers and judges. On other issues like China's admission to the WTO and human rights, the two sides have said that they will continue to exchange views. US and China issued three Joint Statements on : South Asia, Biological Weapons Convention and Anti-Personnel Land Mines. They agreed not to target nuclear missiles at one another.

It is for the United States and China, as two sovereign countries, to determine the kind of relations and the extent of bilateral co-operation they wish to develop. However, any effort by any country/countries arrogating to itself/themselves joint or individual responsibility for preserving peace, stability, and security in South Asia is unacceptable. Co-operation, bilateral or multilateral, which does not take into account India's legitimate security interests, or the record of clandestine proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and delivery systems in our neighbourhood, cannot contribute to peace, stability or security. We seek a relationship with

China in which both sides are responsive to each other's concerns even as we remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding differences.

The trend in South Asia is towards greater regional co-operation and economic integration. We have traditionally enjoyed close and cordial relations with our neighbours in South Asia. With Pakistan, we are committed to developing friendly, peaceful and co-operative relations. Shimla Agreement provides the basis for dialogue and resolution of all outstanding issues. We reject any third party involvement in India-Pakistan relations.

Government remains vigilant and will take all necessary steps to safeguard India's interests.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all know in the month of June, the American President visited China and had discussions with the Chinese President. They all do know that India is the biggest democratic country in the world. We have also got respect for the United States and they also recognise the sovereignty of our country. China is also a very important country. In the interest of the world peace, there should be good understanding among these three countries, viz., India, China and America. But when the discussion between America and China took place, an impression was given to the peoples of the world that China is being given a special significance by the U.S. to interfere in the internal affairs of its neighbouring countries. It is wrong as per the international law. Of course, I am happy that the Prime Minister and the Ministry of External Affairs had reacted and said that it was an unwarranted statement. Even the former Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral had also reacted very sharply. No body can give a challenge to the sovereignty of the country. The U.S. Deputy Secretary of State was here.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Subbarami Reddy, we have already wasted 15 minutes of the Question Hour. Please ask your question directly.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Have you communicated to Mr. Talbott the feelings of the people of India and your Government and that there should be good relationship between India and the United States? Have you also communicated to them that we take strong objection to the joint statement made by the U.S. President and the Chinese President? May I know what action have you taken and what is the result of that?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : As far as United States-China communique was concerned, last week in Parliament, the Prime Minister spoke about it. We had strongly criticized it. We completely agree with you on this.

As regards their arrogating responsibility to themselves, we completely reject the idea of any country, singly or jointly, arrogating to itself, individually or jointly, the responsibility for the maintenance of peace, stability and security in the region. This approach of apportioning spheres of influence is completely unacceptable. We agree with you there also.

As far as the talks are concerned, Mr. Talbott had left yesterday for Islamabad. It may be recalled that in the wake of the nuclear tests, there was a hostile reaction from the U.S. and they did take a lead in convening meetings of bodies like, P-5 and the G-8. The atmosphere since then has improved considerably. We have been discussing a wide range of issues. One of the principle objectives is to ensure that the rationale of our nuclear tests and the fact that the decision was based on our legitimate security concerns and interests, are clearly understood.

The issues relating to India's security requirement as well as larger issues of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation have been discussed. As a result of these talks, there is a greater clarity on each others' concerns and the actions required to address them. The talks are continuing and the next round of talks will be held in Washington in the month of August.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : On this question, I would request our hon. Prime Minister to give the reply. On 29th of this month, there is going to be a historic Conference, that is, the SAARC Conference. Though my question is not directly concerned with the developments in China, the people of India and this August House are very anxious to see that the Prime Minister shows his mettle, and will definitely get good results from the discussions with the Prime Minister of Pakistan. We will be very happy if the hon. Prime Minister makes an inspired and spirited statement that he is going to definitely achieve great results because the Indian economy depends on the good relationship with the neighbouring country. In fact, the people of India and the people of Pakistan were always brothers and friends and there is a good affection between them. But politically, logically, idiomatically and aesthetically, there is always a difference.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no supplementary. I call Prof. Kurien now. There is no supplementary. Please ask your supplementary. This is not a supplementary.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I am asking the hon. Prime Minister to give an answer to my question, that is, what action he is going to take with reference to his meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 29th July.

MR. SPEAKER : This not a supplementary but a complimentary.

[Translation]

PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon'ble Member . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : Sir, the hon. Member had asked his question in English and, therefore, we expect the answer in English.

MR. SPEAKER : No, Shri Sathiamoorthy.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : In the coming Conference of SAARC. I will have an opportunity to talk with the Prime Minister of Pakistan. We hope that the talks disrupted earlier, will be resumed and the relations between the two countries will improve and strengthen.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, it is well-known that China was supplying nuclear technology to Pakistan in a clandestine way, and in spite of having adequate evidence, the United States was just swinging at it and not taking cognizance of that. Recently, we have also seen the statement of the Chinese Ambassador that Kashmir is a disputed territory. We read in newspapers that America is more soft to Pakistan, and yesterday's newspaper reports say that they are allowing the IMF loan. Seeing all this, it appears that there is a U.S-sponsored nexus between China and Pakistan.

My first part of the question is, what is the perception of this Government about this kind of U.S-sponsored nexus between China and Pakistan? If it is true, what is the perception of the Government about the change of threat perception due to this new U.S-sponsored nexus between Pakistan and China?

We read in newspapers, I do not know whether it is correct or not, that the Government has agreed to dilute the consensual stand on CTBT, if I am wrong, you can correct me, subject to certain conditions. Please take this House into confidence if you have agreed to dilute the consensus on this CTBT. If there are some conditions, we would like to know what are those conditions. This House has to be taken into confidence because a discussion on this was held quite recently, and Mr. Talbott, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, had left. So, my second part of the question is, whether you have agreed to dilute the consensus on the CTBT; if so, what are the conditions attached to them?

The third part of my question is something which is agitating my mind and I think of the other hon. Members

also. One of our leading scientists, Dr. Chidambaram was denied visa. Has the Government taken note of this? We gave royal reception to the Deputy Secretary from the US, but our scientists have been denied visa. What is your reaction to this? Are you just accepting what I am saying?

My question has three parts. I would request you to reply to all the three parts of my question.

MR. SPEAKER : Three-in-one.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : As far as the first question is concerned which is China's assistance to Pakistan on the nuclear and missile programmes, we are very much concerned regarding China's assistance to Pakistan and Pakistan's weapons and missiles programme. This has been made known to the Chinese side at the very highest level. China has said that it does not support or assist other countries in developing nuclear weapons. It has denied having assisted Pakistan in the development of missiles. We would like to see a greater transparency in Chinese military cooperation with Pakistan including in the weapons' transaction and in the technology transfer relating to the weapon systems.

The second question is about the Chinese Ambassador to New Delhi making some accusations. We have very simply articulated our concern about this, and this has been made known to the Chinese side at various levels. The Government policy is to develop friendly, cooperative, good neighbourly and mutual relationship with China. They are our largest neighbour. We see our relationship as one in which the two sides will be responsive to each other and we remain committed to the process of dialogue in order to settle all the outstanding issues.

As far as CTBT is concerned, immediately after the underground nuclear tests, the Government declared a voluntary unilateral moratorium on any further tests. We also declared our willingness to move towards a *de jure* formalisation of the declaration and this meets the requirements of the CTBT. The Government had declared that India can consider adhering to some of the undertakings of CTBT. We made it clear, however, that this cannot be done in a vacuum and will depend on reciprocal responses. The discussions with interlocutors have been initiated on this basis and these are continuing. We have also made it repeatedly clear that we will consult all political parties.

As far as denial of visa to Dr. Chidambaram is concerned, it is a matter of sovereign right of the countries concerned. The Government does not agree with any targeted policy of denying visas, particularly those that come in the way of scientific exchange and interaction. This has been pointed out to the US delegation. Dr. Chidambaram is the Vice-President of the International Crystallography Union and he was going to USA to attend

a meeting of that Organisation. We understand that the same Union of Crystallography has also expressed concern at the denial of visa to Dr. Chidambaram.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I want to ask a pointed question. Does the Government of India know that some days back the Ambassador of China to India had said in an interview that Aksai Chin belongs logically to China? I just want to know the reaction of the Government of India.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : They have been claiming this for a long time. We do not accept this.

SHRI VAIKO : The United States of America heavily condemned Lopnar Nuclear test in China and imposed sanctions and deplored the Tianenmen Square episode as the massacre of human rights and enacted a ridiculous paradox of giving the Most Favoured Nation status to the same country, China.

By making a joint Statement, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Jiang are emphasising that both the countries have shared interests in creating a peaceful South Asia and both the countries agreed to shore up stability in South Asia, the Korean Peninsula and the Indian Sub-Continent. By this fact, the two countries have already arrogated to themselves joint or individual responsibility for the maintenance of peace, stability and security of the region. Does it not imply and indicate that both the United States and China are planning to play an interventionist role in South Asia? When I commend this Government for readily reacting to the joint statement as hegemonistic and reflection of the mentality of the bygone era, I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether this Government would launch a fresh diplomatic initiative, a diplomatic offensive to express our reservation about the joint statement of both the countries.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : I have just gone over this. This is completely unacceptable to us. I have also outlined the initiative that we are taking *vis-a-vis* China as well as America . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Sir, first of all, I thank you for the opportunity given to me. I do not know whether my supplementary will be appreciated by the Treasury Benches or not. But I want to know whether it is true that our Prime Minister has written a letter to the American President stating that India was compelled to conduct the Pokhran-II nuclear blasts because of the threat from China.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : The letter has been printed in the newspapers. Everybody knows about it. We have moved beyond that stage. We are now in a very constructive dialogue with the United States as well as with China . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Why was that done? . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Prime Minister is sitting here. I would like to tell him that America has denied to give Visa to Dr. Chidambaram, on the contrary you and your party have launched 'Swadeshi' movement. I am happy on it because from the very beginning it has been our movement. America has imposed sanctions on us and it is doing all this just to ruin our economy. Their Leader having the capacity of Deputy Minister has arrived here and he is deliberating with a high level leader of India, Shri Jaswant Singh. America is hampering Swadeshi movement. You have already given a statement to cope with everything. Whether you are ready to ban Multinational biscuit company, chips company and cold drink companies?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I expected from the ex-Minister of Defence that he will ask the question related to the main question. America has imposed sanctions and we are facing those sanctions. India is a powerful and fully self-reliance country and it is not going to change its policies under any pressure.

[English]

Tarapur Atomic Power Project

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*503. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have adopted any policy to provide employment to the persons whose land has been acquired for Tarapur Atomic Power Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of affected families to whom employment has not been provided till date; and

(d) the time by which the employment is likely to be provided to the affected families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Project Affected persons (PAP) are given preference in fresh recruitment to posts in the groups C and D, in the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) subject to their fulfilling the criteria for selection. If a sufficient number from the PAP do not fulfil the requisite norms, recruitment to these categories would be done from the local area and through the district employment

exchange. Only after all these channels are exhausted, recruitment through open advertisement is resorted to. For this recruitment, the policies of the Government of India on reservation etc. in different categories are followed. A clause is inserted in all the contract documents that the contractors deployed and working for TAPP - 3 & 4 will give preference to the PAP for employment. In general, the policies and rehabilitation packages determined by the State Govt. are followed.

(c) There are five affected families to whom employment has not been provided till date.

(d) Until recently there was a ban on recruitment for the TAPP - 3 & 4 project. Fresh recruitment is likely on starting work on the main plant. The above mentioned policy takes into consideration the case of the affected families.

[Translation]

SHRI VITHAL TUPE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when Central Government and the State Government acquire land for any project, an assurance is given that they will give land in place of land or give employment for land. But after acquiring the land it is said that there are some norms and we cannot provide employment. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that whether the Government will make changes in the related law or terms of conditions where it is being envisaged that at least one member of the affected family may be provided employment. My second point is that employment to the members of how many families have been provided employment in Tarapur Thermal Power Project and the number of persons to whom employment has yet to be given and the time by which it will be materialised? You have written in your reply that employment to illiterate persons will be given through contractors. I would like to know that what facility will be provided in agreement for employment without contractors.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Mr. Speaker Sir, the question of the hon'ble Member is focused on three points. First, what is the employment policy of the Government for the persons whose land has been acquired under Tarapur Atomic Power Project; Secondly the number of affected persons to whom employment has been given and thirdly, the time by which employment will be provided to the rest of the persons. First of all I would like to say that detailed information has been given in the reply that there is selection criteria for the posts of category C and D and if the affected persons follow that than they are recruited immediately. 1.6 hectare of land has been acquired till date. Seven families are affected and employment to members of two families has already been given. Employment to one family member will be provided as per norms which has been completed. Employment to one member of each

family will be provided on acquiring the entire land. Finally the affected persons will be around 1160. I would like to tell you little more about selection. Land upto 1.6 km radius of land around Atomic Power Project is called exclusive zone and people cannot be rehabilitated here. Besides this five kilometer Sterilisation Zone is there and people cannot settle in it also and ultimately as a result 206 hectare of land will be acquired. There is need to acquire 65 hectare of additional land in the first phase.

[English]

Application for land acquisition has been filed with the Revenue Department of Maharashtra Government.

[Translation]

It is under process. As far as recruitment is concerned, the local persons, PAP, who meet candidates requisite norms are employed through employment agency. After that persons are employed through open advertisements. I have just told you about the clause inserted under which contractors also prefer PAP families. Moreover, I would like to say that our government to Maharashtra Government want to give full assistance in rehabilitation package, NPCIL and we will extend full support. As far as funds are concerned, these are available with Government through NPCIL.

SHRI VITHAL TUPE : Sir, I demand that when land is acquired for any project then employment should be provided to one member of each family whether they meet norms or not. What facility could be provided by you in this regard? You are taking the land of illiterate people and sending them to contractors for employment. Do you know that contractors could remove them wherever they would like. That time they will be jobless. What steps are being taken by you to include such persons in the Project.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Sir, everybody would accept in principle that arrangements should be made to rehabilitate the displaced persons, they should be employed with in the same Project and the Government have similar policy but sometimes it is not possible due to practical reasons. Particularly for labourers we have to look for appropriate jobs for them. A contract has been made with contractors that they will provide employment to the displaced persons. You have to get work done through contractors, you cannot remove them in between. Affected persons will not be left to their mercy, care will be taken and one or other means of employment or livelihood will be made available to them.

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Sir, I would like to know whether the Government propose to provide land to those persons whose land has been acquired under various Projects.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : It falls under the jurisdiction of State Government. The amount, which was required to be given by NPCIL to them, has already been given and we are preparing to give them more money. The Central Government will support that project and rehabilitation package in every way.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, the lands of farmers are acquired for such projects but today rate is very low. I am to ask whether Government is ready to provide them compensation as per market rate or not? The Government is required to take decision in this regard.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, I am sure that the State Government will take adequate and necessary steps to go about this. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Sir, I would like to request the Prime Minister that it is a matter of principle. It is not a question of one project but it is the question of many projects. There is also a question of the future of persons who are displaced and I understand that they are also freedom fighters like those who have participated in the freedom struggle. They are displaced to other new places, therefore, same respect should be given to them. I have seen many cases. For example, disturbance is taking place in case of Narmada. You have installed a Thermal Plant near Surat Garh in Rajasthan but you did not provide land to those people. My submission is that if you acquire the land, it will be a good thing if you provide better land than the land acquired we respect them. You should make such principle that arrangements will be made to provide houses and livelihood to those whose land is to be acquired or who are to be displaced because it causes a lot of pain. Wherever I have seen, I have been stunned. Therefore, I would like to submit that principally, this work should be done by formulating a policy and those persons, who have not been provided with land so far should be provided with land.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker Sir, it has already been accepted principally that those persons should be rehabilitated who are displaced due to projects and development projects. Efforts are made to provide them land in lieu of the land acquired and Jakhhar Sahib himself is aware of the circumstances. Some times, it is not possible to provide land in lieu of land, then arrangements are made to provide alternate employment. But we will be happy if we are able to provide land in lieu of land acquired in all the cases. Principally, there is no difficulty to accept it but practically it is very difficult and State Governments have to deal with cases. Broadly, it is correct that the persons who are displaced, should be rehabilitated.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they give land but not lease. They are kept pending. You will have to take care of it.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Jakhar, during your tenure, the compensation of Rs. 16 lacs was given in Delhi at the rate of one anna per yard. Now compensation is being given at the rate of Rs. 16 lacs per acre.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Today its market rate is Rs. 3 crores.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Mr. Speaker Sir, the projects or industries, for which the land of farmers are acquired, are not started in time. The valuable land of farmers was acquired in Gujarat to launch projects and industry but the same was sold at higher prices to the people as they changed their objective of acquisition and could not launch the industry in time. I request that it should be banned. The contractors provide short time employment in the schemes launched. Although, the Prime Minister has given an assurance, I would like to say that the contractors provide short time employment and thereafter they remove them from the job. Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to request the Minister through you that the company should provide employment directly in their schemes without involvement to contractors. Whatever the Minister would like to issue any guidelines to all state Governments of the country in this regard?

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : I think the Prime Minister has just clarified this issue. This is a matter that would be immediately concerning the State Government. I am sure this will be conveyed to them.

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 504, Prof. Saifuddin Soz.

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : This project is from my district. I should be allowed to put a question.

MR. SPEAKER : Next time I will allow you.

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : That will not be from my district, what is the use of it?

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot allow all of you, please understand.

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : It directly concerns the people of my district. You should allow the person who is directly concerned. . . . (Interruptions)

Water Management

*504. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that water resources are shrinking rapidly in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct a survey on All India basis for augmentation and harnessing the water resources in the country; and

(d) if so, the time by which the survey is likely to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) On an average the total water resources availability in the country remains the same. However, per capita availability of fresh water is shrinking due to increase in population, rapid industrialisation and urbanisation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : As a nation we have become oblivious to the needs of generations that have to come. The present generation has the responsibility of looking into the needs of the future generations that will come. But what is happening? India has a situation of mega bio-diversity. There is no law on that. This is no occasion to raise that wider question because many people are not interested in the questions on environment and future needs of Indian society.

Coming to water resources, I have raised a question. In parts (a) and (b) of that question I have asked whether water resources are shrinking, and what are the reasons for that.

The Prime Minister has ably answered (a) and (b) parts of my question saying : 'Yes, Fresh water resources are shrinking due to population explosion, due to urbanisation and industrialisation.' But, I raised a question, 'What is the correlation? What are the figures on fresh water, which is shrinking and what is the correlation between fresh water which is shrinking and the population explosion and industrialisation?'

I have done a survey as Minister of Environment and Forests, privately for my enlightenment. I want to seek enlightenment here. My figures show me that after a decade, Delhi will experience a situation where there will be no drinking water and people will move out of Delhi. I do not know whether the migrant population will move out of Delhi or the original population.

My first supplementary question is this. What is the correlation between the shrinking fresh water and the population explosion and industrialisation?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member had been a Minister of Environment and Forests and his concern is about the availability of fresh water; and the reduced availability is well known. He himself had conducted a survey. For the kind of correlation which he is seeking, such a survey has not been conducted.

The hon. Member is right in one sense. A national water policy having regard to all the parameters has not been formulated. The water policy in the Ministry of Water Resources remains confined to the flow of rivers; watershed management is with two or three other Ministries; and a comprehensive water policy treating water as one national entity and one asset, wherever it occurs, needs to be formulated.

So far as availability is concerned, he is right. In 1955, the *per capita* water availability in India was 5,300 cubic metres per annum; in 1997, it has got reduced to 2,200 cubic metres; and by 2025, it is likely to be 1,500 cubic metres and the scarcity condition is defined as less than 1,500 cubic metres. Some of the river basins - at least six of them - are classified as scarce river basins. A policy needs to be formulated to take care of them, keeping in mind the water availability and according to the requirements.

No such survey has been made to establish a correlation between shrinking of fresh water resources and urbanisation and industrialisation so far.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : In Shri Sompal, the hon. Prime Minister has a very able second-in-command, lieutenant. So, I expected a very good answer to parts (c) and (d) of my question. I raised a question whether an all India survey will be conducted to find out how these water resources are shrinking. The answer is : 'No. The survey would not be conducted.'

[Translation]

Whether the Prime Minister would answer it in his fluent Hindi? Whether he would conduct survey at all places in India in future? This Government is the Government of whole of India. There is scarcity of water in other States also. He should assure in Hindi language that what he is going to do in this regard? Why an all India survey could not be conducted in this regard? You have to look into that in future how much population would increase, how many factories would be opened, how much urbanization would take place and how much scarcity of fresh water would be there? Whether the Prime Minister would conduct an all India survey in this regard or not?

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Soz Saheb has expressed his desire to hear the beautiful Hindi of our Honourable Prime Minister but I would not be able to speak such chaste Hindi . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : He has become very much disheartened. You should pay attention to his remarks.

SHRI SOMPAL : I would not be able to speak in such chaste Hindi, but because he has expressed his desire to hear the answer in Hindi. I would like to answer in Hindi only. This is a fact that such a survey has not yet been conducted, but this is not the issue . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Why has it not been conducted? The Prime Minister can assure in this regard. This is an essential matter.

SHRI SOMPAL : I would like to say that Ministry of Water Resources is continuously keeping the information regarding the availability of water at all places in the country, the mode of its availability, how that is being used and how much of it would be required. Such a chain is being established by Central Water Commission where in the data regarding water is continuously being recorded and collected.

[English]

Monitoring of water and the hydrological data collection of about 570 key hydrological observation stations including 245 sediment observation stations of various inter-State rivers in the country is continuously carried out by Central Water Commission. The computerisation of gauge and discharge data in respect of 215 sites have been completed upto water year ending in 1992. So, we do have information. I have given the projected requirement data as well as the projected water availability *per capita* and also the definition of scarcity which we have not reached and which we are not likely to reach up to the year 2025.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : What is the harm in conducting a fresh survey?

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL : At present what is being done continuously need to be strengthened.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, for some people the relation of water resources is upto their bathrooms only and extends upto Mumbai, Delhi and Madras but really it is related with irrigation by peasants of villages of the country also. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the survey of water resources all over India may not have been conducted that where the water level is going down but

the survey in regard to the most fertile region of the world has been conducted and that is the basis of Ganga-Yamuna. It is unfortunate that minimum yield is received from this region today. Through you I would like to know from the honourable Minister that whether he has prepared any plan for the most fertile land of the world giving minimum yield and which extends from Haridwar in Uttar Pradesh to Bihar . . . (Interruptions) This is a very important question.

MR. SPEAKER : We do not have the time.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether Government have formulated any plan for the irrigation of unirrigated land. If you have, by what time this plan would be implemented?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since India have become independent three modes of irrigation - large scale project, Medicine scale project, and small scale project have been used. So far as the question of potential is concerned, 1135 million hectares of land can be irrigated by all the water resources of India. By large and medium projects, 58.5 million hectares of land can be irrigated.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, This answer is not related to my answer.

SHRI SOMPAL : I am telling that all the projects prepared so far are related with it. In all 366 projects have been prepared. So far as northern plain is concerned, i.e., the irrigation facilities in Ganga-Yamuna basis is better than other States and it is irrigated by Canals, small irrigation development scheme and National watershed Development schemes.

[English]

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted that the National Water Policy is yet to be formulated.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow half-an-hour discussion on it. It is an important subject.

MR. SPEAKER : How many half-an-hour discussions would be held?

[English]

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : While there is a scarcity in some parts of the country, there is a wastage of water also.

12.00 hrs.

There is water shortage also. For example, in Godavari river, 70 percent of water is going waste. As a matter of,

fact, earlier Governments thought of linking the rivers. Is there any proposal with the Government to link Godavari, Krishna and also Ganga with Cauvery? That is my question.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Inter-Basin Water Transfer Plan had been formulated. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

I am telling but nobody is ready to listen. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You may please conclude.

SHRI SOMPAL : Preliminary technical feasibility reports in regard to 17 rivers in the Southern Peninsula and 14 rivers of the North have already been formulated; and six in the North and five in the South are underway.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Agricultural Institutions

*505. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Agricultural Universities in India;

(b) whether any Indian Agriculture University has to its credit any exclusive research achievement of its own; and

(c) if so, the name of such university and the details of research achievement to its credit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) There are twentyeight State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), one Central Agricultural University and four deemed to be Universities (DUs) in India.

(b) and (c) The ushering in of green revolution is mainly on account of contributions made by the SAUs and DUs resulting in an increase in foodgrain production from 51 MT to 193 MT during 1997-98 and becoming number one in fruit production and number two for vegetable production in the world. SAUs have also contributed significantly towards White and Blue revolutions. Each SAU has been involved in developing, assessing, refining and dissemination of technologies for different agroclimatic conditions in the country. Brief details of their significant achievements are given in the enclosed statement.

Based on the Impact Reports received from SAUs, it is observed that almost all of these SAUs have given zonal research recommendations which cover a variety of crops

like rice, wheat, barely, sorghum, pearl millet, maize, groundnut, soybean, pulses, vegetables etc. A good number of crop varieties have been released and existing agronomic practices refined. Indications are that most of these recommendations are being increasingly adopted by local farmers. There are many useful findings relating to moisture conservation in rainfed areas; use of paddy straw, forage and fodder crops for animal nutrition; design of new and modification of existing animal drawn implements; water management in rice and equitable water distribution in river command areas, post-harvest technologies and value addition, biotechnology etc.

Statement

Some Examples of Research Achievements of SAUs.

Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner has developed and released, moth variety RMO-40, clusterbean M-83 (vegetable type), Urd RBU-38, Cowpea RCV-7 (vegetable type), Foxtail millet SR-16, pearl millet RHB-90, cotton RB-423.

C.S.A. University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur has developed wheat varieties K88, K9107 (Deva), K8962 (Indra) for late sown rainfed, user-1 and Ashwani of paddy, varsha of jowar, Bhawani of Toria, Chitra, Kaushal and Amber of groundnut, Neelam and Gaurav of linseed, Rachna and Shikha of field pea, T-21 and T-17 of pigeon pea, Azad T-3 and T-1 of tomato, and Azad P-1, P-2 and P-3 of vegetable peas.

Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli has evolved many high yielding varieties of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, spices and fruits including first parthenocarpic hybrid mango variety 'Sindhu' and a regular bearer with good quality fruits free from spongy tissue mango hybrid variety 'Ratna'. It has developed and released three high yielding varieties of cashew viz., Vengurla-4, Vengurla-5 and Vengurla-6. It has also made significant contribution in producing planting material on commercial scale.

Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur has released Ja-3 variety of arhar, JS 90-41 and JS 335 of soybean, JG315(WR) of gram, and JKH-1 and JKH-2 of cotton.

Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Raipur has developed rice variety Kranti, Ruchi, Abhaya, Shyama'la, Mahamaya, Poornima, Madhuri-9, and Madhuri-11, R-552, Kiran and Sheetal varieties of linseed, RUM-1 of mung and RLS-1 of lathyrus.

Central Agricultural University, Imphal has developed CAU Rice-1 and CAU Rice-2 varieties of rice and has launched a model farmers' participatory watershed management project in Singda Watershed.

University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has developed the first interspecific cotton Varalakshmi hybrid and the first sunflower hybrid (BHS-10) in the country. It has developed and released URBO-1 and 2 and IBB-83 broiler birds followed by dual purpose Giriraja bird. Its work on medicinal plants is also well recognized.

Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa has introduced rice variety 'Gautam' and 'Prabhat' and 'Turanta' for contingency crop planting for flood affected area of the state. It has developed Rajendra-1 and Rajendra-2, late blight resistant varieties of potato and also introduced Rajendra Sonia variety of turmeric. Its work on arhar, maize and fruits is also impressive.

Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai has developed along with participating institutions techniques for prawn culture and technology for higher marine fish production including measures for disease control.

Dr. Y. . Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan has developed technology for growing of kiwi in Himachal Pradesh which has brought higher income to farmers. It has also developed technologies for higher production of apple, peach and apricot. The work relating to apiculture has shown potential for export of honey.

C.C.S. Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar has developed a number of varieties of wheat rice oilseeds, forages, cotton and pulses. Surgical techniques for treating cases of diaphragmatic hernia in buffalo have been developed. Its work on tissue culture of datapalm is of considerable significance.

G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar has developed a number of varieties of rice, wheat, pulses, and sugarcane. The ecofriendly and ecosustainable technologies developed by the university have transformed from sustenance agriculture to commercial agriculture. Also technologies for dense planting of mango developed and zero tillage seeddrill has been evolved for rice-wheat cropping system.

Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar has developed technique of growing cashew in Orissa for first time and farmers are adopting the technology. The water management techniques developed are helping in conservation of water and maximising water use efficiency. Its work on vegetables and flowers is also well acknowledged.

Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar has developed vaccines for foot and mouth disease and other diseases. It has also contributed significantly in increasing livestock production.

National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal has contributed several technologies for processing of milk & milk products. Dairy biotechnology work has also been developed. New strains of cattle have also been evolved.

Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Science University, Chennai has developed diagnostic kits for identification of emerging microbial protozoan and parasitic diseases. It has also developed technology for control of fish diseases. Biotechnology research is aiming at development of synthetic vaccines.

Kerala Agricultural University, Trichur has released Vyttila-3 (culture 4-4) rice variety for the Pokkali farming situation suitable for the saline conditions and varieties Pavizham and Karthika for Kuttanad farming situation. Also technologies for plantation crops and fish and poultry as well as piggyery farming developed.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore has released Paiyur-1 tomato hybrid (Pusa Ruby X Co-3) for rainfed conditions and Paiyur-1 dwarf statured with compact canopy mango variety suitable for high density planting under rainfed conditions. Its work on cotton, minor millets, sorgham, bajra and vegetables has also been appreciated by the Farmers. Work on fruits and plantation crops is also well recognized.

Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana has released several high yielding varieties of wheat, rice, maize, oilseeds, and pulses. It has also released improved sugarcane varieties CoJ-84 and CoP-211 resistant to red rot for general cultivation. Improved practices like planting of cane in autumn season, intercropping with raya/potato/winter maize/wheat and use of press mud, a waste product of sugar industry, were introduced.

Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi has developed more than 50 high yielding varieties of wheat. The main varieties have been Kalyan Sona, Arjun, Sonalika and HD 2329. Presently, variety HD 2329 occupies the highest area under cultivation. It has played a major role in ushering green revolution. Basic work has led to development of biopesticides from neem. It has released a somaclone Bio-902 for commercial cultivation as 'Pusa Jaikisan' in mustard, Brassica Juncea. Bt gene has been introduced into cabbage, cauliflower, tomato and brinjal for insect resistance.

Gujarat Agricultural University, Sardar Krushinagar has released improved varieties of bajra, maize, fodders, cotton, groundnut and bidi tobaccos. It has also developed technique for raising true potato seed (TPS) at Deesa

research station. University has also done good work on agro forestry and medicinal plants.

Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad has released Black gram LBG-17, a high yielding shiny, light black seeded, powery mildew resistant variety for rabi season. It has also released rice variety Swarna (MTU-7029) as a better substitute for existing variety Mahsuri.

Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat has developed three high yielding lines of deep water rice (LPR) 96-10, LPR 95-2 and LPR 56-49) by crossing Pankaj X local floating rice Negheri bao. To escape ravages of flood, two short duration varieties Luit and Kapilee have been developed. It has been doing good work on tea research and processing and also on fruits and vegetables.

[Translation]

Multinational Food Processing Companies

*506. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several Indian companies are collaborating with multinational companies in the field of food processing;

(b) if so, the details of the companies alongwith their annual turnover during the last year;

(c) whether the Government are providing incentives to these companies in setting up of cold storages; and

(d) if so, the details of incentives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The total number of (i) foreign technical collaborations and (ii) foreign investment-cum-technical collaborations (irrespective of level of equity) approved in the food processing sector from July, 1991 to March, 1998 is 689. The yearwise details of such approvals is attached as statement. However, the data regarding annual turnover of such companies is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The Ministry under its plan Scheme for development of infrastructural facilities provides financial assistance for development of post-harvest cold chain infrastructure such as pre-cooling, cold storage, refrigerated transportation etc. The assistance is available to public sector undertakings, Joint/assisted/private sector companies, non-government organisations and co-operatives.

Statement

Yearwise details of (i) foreign technical collaborations and (ii) foreign investment-cum-technical collaborations (irrespective of level of equity) approved in the food processing sector.

Year	Number
1991-92	7
1992-93	63
1993-94	136
1994-95	148
1995-96	127
1996-97	129
1997-98	79
Total	689

[English]

Small and Marginal Farmers

*507. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the PR:ME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of small and marginal farmers in the country;

(b) to what extent the specific problem of small and marginal farmers have been solved through various Five Year Plans; and

(c) the special measures taken by the Union Government to improve the conditions of small and marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The number of small and marginal holdings, as per the latest Agricultural Census (1990-91), is 20.1 and 63.4 million respectively.

(b) and (c) The Government have been striving to achieve all round development of agriculture through successive Five Year Plans by launching various developmental programmes/schemes with due emphasis on the problems of small and marginal farmers.

Presently, a host of schemes/programmes are being implemented with special concessions/subsidies on specific components to small and marginal farmers. These include subsidies/concessions in respect of sprinkler and drip irrigation systems, improved farm implements, crop insurance, credit, land levelling and ground water development. The setting up of Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium will also help generate income and employment for small and marginal farmers.

Brahmaputra Board

*503. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Brahmaputra Board has formulated any master plan for the scientific water management in Assam and other North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the present status of the Master Plan;

(c) whether the expenditure involved in the implementation of the Master Plan has been updated;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures to be taken by the Government to mobilise the resources for implementation of this plan?

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

(a) Brahmaputra Board has formulated Master Plans for flood management in the Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys in the North-Eastern Region which includes integrated development of water resources of Brahmaputra and Barak rivers.

(b) The Brahmaputra Board has prepared Master Plans in three parts namely, Master Plan Part-I for main stem of Brahmaputra, Master Plan Part-II for Barak river and its tributaries and Master Plan Part-III for Thirty Nine tributaries of Brahmaputra and eight rivers of Tripura. The Master Plan Part-I and Part-II have already been approved by the Union Government and sent to the States for adoption. Draft sub-basin Master Plans for Part-III have been circulated by Brahmaputra Board to the concerned North Eastern States for their comments.

(c) and (d) Expenditure involved in the implementation of Master Plans Part-I and Part-II have been updated upto 1994 and they are Rs. 91,000 crore and Rs. 4,230 crore respectively.

(e) Short term components of the Master Plans are being implemented in phases by the State Governments from the Plan funds allocated to them by the Planning Commission.

Oilseeds Research

*509. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent for research and development of oilseeds in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the research has been carried on in different oilseeds institutes presently in the country;

(c) if so, the details of the outcome;

(d) whether any long-term policy has been prepared regarding research and development of oilseeds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) An amount of Rs. 2376.44 lakhs under Plan and Rs. 853.17 lakhs under Non-Plan was provided for research on nine oilseed crops namely, groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, sunflower, safflower, soybean, linseed, sesame, niger and castor during the last three years as per details given in Statement-I.

In addition, an amount of Rs. 1750 lakh was provided by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India through ICAR to different research and developmental institutions in the country for breeder seed production and frontline demonstrations.

An amount of Rs. 26788 lakhs was also provided by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation under a centrally sponsored oilseeds production programme to different states for purchase of critical inputs and the cost is shared by the Centre and State Governments on 75:25 basis Statement-II.

(b) Yes, Sir. Research for the improvement of oilseed crop is carried on at Directorate of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad, National Research Centre on Groundnut, Junagarh, National Research Centre on Soybean, Indore and National Research Centre on Rapeseed Mustard, Bharatpur. In addition, research is also conducted under All India Coordinated Research Projects on different oilseed crops at over 100 centres in State Agricultural Universities.

(c) As a result of intensive research in different oilseed crops, a number of improved varieties and hybrids have been developed and released for cultivation in different areas and situations.

Appropriate crop production and plant protection technologies have also been developed to realise maximum yield potential of improved varieties.

As a result of these research efforts the total oilseed production has more than doubled during last one decade from 11.27 million tonnes in 1986-87 to 24.96 million tonnes in 1996-97 Statement-III.

(d) and (e) The long-term objective is to achieve self-sufficiency in oilseeds and edible oils through improved production and processing technology and establishment of marketing and storage facilities. The production from the 9 traditional oilseeds is contemplated to be supplemented through exploitation of non-traditional oilseeds like rice bran, cotton seed, tree-borne oilseeds and development of oilpalm.

Long-term perspective plans for the year 2020 has been prepared for all oilseed crops by ICAR with a view to assess the new and emerging trends in oilseed production with respect to changing cropping systems, increasing disease and pest complexes, concern for quality, post harvest problems, competitiveness in the world market etc.

Considering the likely world scenario in the next 20 to 25 years thrust areas of research have been identified to meet the future challenges.

It is envisaged that insect pest complex is likely to be more serious in future due to enhanced cropping intensity, therefore efforts are under way to develop effective Integrated Pest Management through use of biological control methods, application of bio-pesticides and adoption of suitable cropping system approaches.

In future, advancement in production has to be realised by raising the productivity of the crops. Therefore, development of superior hybrids in crops like sunflower, sesame, castor and safflower has been identified as priority area.

Insulation of varieties with higher level of resistance to serious diseases and pests will continue to be the major thrust of research in oilseeds.

Demand for quality produce and value added by-products is likely to rise. Keeping in view to improve the quality of oil and oilmeal of oilseed crops, special network projects have been formulated to improve the quality of oil and oilmeal. To augment the oil availability in the country in medium to long run, potential perennial oil crops like, oilpalm has been identified for promotion. A National Research Centre on Oilpalm has been established at Eluru, Andhra Pradesh during VIII Plan period for intensification of basic and applied research on oilpalm.

National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oil Development (NOVOD) board has been established in 1983 for promotion of oilseed crops. The board acts as precursor for Technology Mission on Oilseeds in opening new areas for promotion of oilseed cultivation.

Statement-I*Funds Provided for Oilseeds Research during the last 3 years**(Rs. in lakhs)*

Institute/AICRP	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		Total	
	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	*NP
Directorate of Oilseeds Research and AICRP on Oilseeds	141.16	101.99	161.58	134.99	469.56	190.00	772.30	426.98
National Research Centre on Groundnut	79.99	66.08	91.87	71.34	92.37	99.11	264.23	236.53
AICRP on Groundnut	57.22	-	53.20	-	57.17	-	167.59	-
National Research Centre on Rapeseed and Mustard	74.06	-	69.44	-	92.00	82.61	235.50	82.61
AICRP on Rapeseed and Mustard	57.62	-	58.19	-	58.97	-	174.78	-
National Research Centre on Soybean	91.79	28.38	99.44	37.98	49.54	40.69	240.77	107.05
AICRP on Soybean	28.35	-	27.49	-	55.00	-	110.84	-
Hybrid Research on Oilseeds	56.18	-	59.41	-	55.12	-	171.35	-
A.P. Cess Fund	22.88	-	65.08	-	151.12	-	239.08	-
Total	609.25	196.45	685.70	244.37	1080.85	412.41	2376.44	853.17

* NP = Non Plan

Statement-II

Funds provided by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture for Development activities (Rupees in lakhs)

Purpose	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Total
Funds to ICAR for Breeder Seed Production and Frontline Demonstrations	920	330	500	1750
To State Governments under oilseed production programme	9400	8469	8919	26788
Total	10320	8799	9419	28538

Statement-III

All India Area, Production and Productivity of Oilseed Crops

Year	Area (M. Hects)	Production (M. Tonnes)	Yield (Kgs/Hect.)
1	2	3	4
1985-86	19.02	10.83	570
1986-87	18.63	11.27	605

	1	2	3	4
1987-88		20.13	12.65	629
1988-89		21.90	18.03	824
1989-90		22.80	16.92	742
1990-91		24.15	18.61	771
1991-92		25.89	18.60	719
1992-93		25.24	20.11	797
1993-94		26.90	21.50	799
1994-95		25.30	21.34	843
1995-96		26.35	22.43	851
1996-97		26.81	24.96	931

M.V. Karamat

*510. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a ship named M.V. Karamat owned by a Dubai based Shipping company disappeared together with five crewmen including Keralites while sailing from Dubai to Iraq;

(b) whether the Government conducted any enquiry to reveal the mystery behind the disappearance of Indian crewmen;

- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the stage at which the enquiry stands at present; and
- (e) whether the Government consider to entrust the investigation to interpol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (e) In May 1997, Government was apprised of the disappearance a few months earlier in the Gulf region of a ship 'M.V. Karamat' reportedly carrying five Indian crew members. Government has made every effort since then to locate both the missing ship and its Indian crew. The matter has been taken up with the Governments of the Gulf countries, with the US Government and with the Multinational Interception Force based in Bahrain. These efforts are being supplemented by those of the representative of the shipping company, who is himself trying to trace the ship and its crew.

2. Enquiries so far have revealed that the ship 'M.V. Thani-I' also known as 'M.V. Karamat' carrying 5 Indian and 1 Iranian crew members had arrived from Iran at the port of Ajman in the UAE on 16th November 1996 and sailed out from Ajman on 28th December 1996 with cargo ostensibly destined for Iraq. Neither the ship nor its crew members have since been seen.

3. Efforts are continuing to trace the missing vessel and its crew. Assistance has been sought from the Governments of the Gulf countries as well as from the Multinational Interception Force based at Bahrain.

Fertility of Soil

*511. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government have taken any specific actions to save the fertility of the soil from being eroded due to excessive unbalanced use of fertilizers in the soil by the farmers of the country; and
- (b) the specific reasons for the low yields of the per hectare noticed in the Eastern Regions of the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) It cannot be said that there is over use of fertilisers in India. Since fertiliser consumption in India gives economic response and higher yield, agricultural scientists recommend higher doses of fertiliser nutrients.

The average fertiliser consumption in India during 1997-98 is estimated to be 87.45 kg. in terms of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium (N, P, K) per hectare. A comparison with other countries reveals that there is much higher

fertiliser consumption in Pakistan (113 kg.), Bangla Desh (135 Kg.), the Netherlands (643 Kg.) and China (371 Kg.).

Government has promoted integrated plant nutrient systems and given a substantial concession on phosphatic and potassic fertilisers resulting in improved balance in the use of fertilisers.

There are many reasons for the low yields in some of the Eastern States of the country. These are :

- (i) Dependence of crops on monsoon rains and damage due to moisture stress conditions.
- (ii) Drainage congestion in low lying areas, limiting the choice of crops and preventing the adoption of improved production technologies.
- (iii) Slow popularisation of high yield varieties of crops particularly in problem areas of rainfed uplands, low lands, saline-alkali soils and coastal saline areas.
- (iv) Low fertiliser consumption in high risk drought and flood prone areas.
- (v) Low use efficiency of applied nutrients particularly in low land, waterlogged and flood prone areas.
- (vi) Severe damage to rice and other cereal crops due to attack of insects-pests and diseases especially in kharif season crops.

Production of Pulses

*512. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have reviewed the production trends of pulses during the last three years in terms of targets set, State-wise, extent of domestic requirements actual imports made and projections of production and imports during the next three years;
- (b) if so, whether specific steps have been taken during the Eighth Five Year Plan period to improve production and productivity of pulses;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved;
- (d) the details of the investment made under the special special package R & D projects;
- (e) the details of new strategies worked out under consideration for self-sufficiency in Dal production in the country; and
- (f) the details of international collaboration under consideration for increasing Dal production to meet our growing requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The State-wise information in respect of targets set and production achieved during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement. According to the Working Group on the IX Plan constituted by the Planning Commission, the domestic requirement at the end of the VIII Plan i.e. during 1996-97 has been estimated at 15.50 million tonnes. The extent of imports during the last three years is given below :

Year	Import of pulses (in lakh tonnes)
1995-96	4.91
1996-97	6.54
1997-98	6.59

The working Group on the IX Plan has also worked out the projections of production at the end of the IX Plan i.e. 2001-2002 at 19.5 million tonnes. No projections have been made about imports which should depend upon the demand and supply position.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Under the Centrally sponsored National Pulses Development Project, Specific steps had been taken during the Eighth Five Year Plan namely production and distribution of improved seeds, use of rhizobium culture and phosphate solubilising bacteria (PSB), integrated pest management, improved farm implements and use of sprinklers for irrigation. As a result of these efforts, the production increased from 12.82 million tonnes in 1992-93 to 14.46 million tonnes in 1996-97.

(d) The investment made by the ICAR under Research and Development for pulses during the Eighth Five Year Plan has been Rs. 2022 lakhs.

(c) A two-pronged strategy of increasing the area under pulses cultivation and maximising the present levels of yield has been worked out for increasing the production of pulses in the country. Under area expansion, in addition to pure cropping, mixed and inter-cropping of pulses with other crops, coverage in new and non-traditional areas and cultivation of pulses in summer season under irrigated conditions is being resorted to. To maximise the yield, the use of improved seeds, greater investment for different components under the National Pulses Development Project, use of rhizobium culture/PSB, application of sulphur, control of pod borer in arhar and gram through use of NPV and life saving irrigation in rabi pulses through sprinklers has been introduced for increasing the production of pulses.

(f) Close links are kept for the advancement of scientific research in pulse crops, exchange and training of scientists and literatures with international organisations like International Crop Research Institute for Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Area, Syria and Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Australia. A Lentil Network Project in collaboration with Australia is presently in operation at Indian Institute for Pulses Research (IIPR), Kanpur.

Statement

Targets and Achievements of Pulses During Last Three Years

S.No.State/U.Ts		(Lakh Tonnes)					
		1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
1	2	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.50	7.71	7.80	7.68	7.50	5.62
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.06	-
3.	Assam	0.80	0.57	0.65	0.68	0.60	0.73
4.	Bihar	9.00	5.61	8.37	6.13	8.40	6.66
5.	Goa	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.08	0.10	-
6.	Gujarat	7.00	4.57	6.95	6.63	6.20	7.81
7.	Haryana	7.00	4.12	5.35	3.43	5.05	4.40
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.20	0.10	0.15	0.11	0.14	0.33
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.30	0.16	0.25	0.17	0.24	0.22
10.	Karnataka	6.40	6.88	6.95	6.69	7.80	4.85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Kerala	0.30	0.15	0.40	0.15	0.30	0.19
12.	Madhya Pradesh	31.00	30.98	34.95	37.15	35.00	33.76
13.	Maharashtra	20.00	16.39	22.49	20.37	22.00	13.81
14.	Manipur	0.12	-	0.12	-	0.12	-
15.	Meghalaya	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	-
16.	Nagaland	0.03	0.12	0.04	0.11	0.13	-
17.	Orissa	11.30	4.31	5.20	2.99	7.00	3.84
18.	Punjab	1.50	0.84	0.95	0.81	0.95	0.97
19.	Rajasthan	16.50	14.56	16.50	18.76	17.50	19.08
20.	Sikkim	0.10	0.06	0.13	0.06	0.10	-
21.	Tamil Nadu	5.00	2.33	6.06	4.10	3.55	3.91
22.	Tripura	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.06	-
23.	Uttar Pradesh	28.70	21.89	24.90	26.64	25.25	22.31
24.	West Bengal	2.00	1.41	1.50	1.56	1.70	1.73
25.	A & N Island	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.04	-
26.	Delhi	-	0.003	0.02	0.001	0.01	-
27.	Others	-	0.14	0.08	0.14	0.18	0.53
Total		155.00	123.09	150.00	144.59	150.00	130.75

Fissile Materials Cut Off Treaty

*513. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US-Administration has hailed India's decision to participate in the negotiations on an international treaty to cut off the production of fissile materials; and

(b) if so, what further development have since taken place in this direction towards signing of the contemplated treaty?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Consultations in the 61-member Conference on Disarmament are taking place with a view to reaching agreement on commencing negotiations on an FMCT.

[Translation]

Solar Energy

*514. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details regarding the Research and Development of solar energy and bio-gas in the country;

(b) the details of special achievements made by the Government in the field of solar energy and bio-gas during the last three years; and

(c) the present position of Integrated Rural Energy Development Programme in the country and the measures being taken by the Government to promote 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) Government has been supporting research and development projects in solar energy technologies at a number of research laboratories, universities, IITs and industries. The main objectives of the R & D programme are the development of new technologies and designs and reduction in the cost of solar energy products. The programme has resulted in the development and commercial manufacture of a number of solar energy devices.

Research and Development (R & D) projects are in progress in the following areas of biogas technology and its utilization, at seven institutions in the country :

- (i) Efficient biogas production at low and high temperatures;
- (ii) Field trials on leafy biomass based biogas plants; and
- (iii) Survival of pathogens in night-soil based plants.

(b) In the period from 1995-96 to 1997-98, 1.42 lakh solar lanterns, 40,000 home lighting system, small power plants of 195 KW aggregate capacity and 1876 solar pumps have been installed in different parts of the country under the subsidy programme of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. Soft loan scheme for the purchase of solar water heaters and solar cookers has been introduced. Another scheme to provide finance for institutional users of solar thermal systems, has been introduced through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). Ten solar shops have been opened in different cities. About 1,30,000 square metres of solar thermal collectors and about 87,000 solar cookers have been installed during the last three years. Nine grid interactive solar photovoltaic power projects with 610 KW capacity have been commissioned in five States.

Under the Central Sector Scheme - National Project on Biogas Development, a total of over 5.24 lakh family type biogas plants have been set up in different States and Union Territories during the last three years, i.e., 1995-96 to 1997-98. In addition, a total of about 970 community, institutional and night-soil based biogas plants have been set up in the country during the same period. Highlights of the achievements made in the field of biogas technology and its utilization through R & D projects sponsored by Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) during the last three years are (i) development of a plug flow type digester for processing of leafy biomass; (ii) designing a low cost fixed dome biogas plants made of ferro-cement; and (iii) development of a process for using digested slurry in vermi-composting.

(c) The Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) which is being implemented in selected Blocks in all the States and Union Territories in the country, aims at meeting the energy needs for subsistence and development through the most cost effective mix of different energy options with particular focus on renewable energy options, in the IREP Blocks. IREP has been extended to cover 860 Blocks in the country.

[English]

Deep Sea Fishing

*515. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :
SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of foreign deep sea fishing companies operating in Indian waters;

(b) whether the Government have prescribed any guidelines for those companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the encroachment by foreign fishing vessels/trawlers is increasing in the country; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop such encroachment in the country particularly in Goa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) There are no foreign deep sea companies operating in Indian waters. However, nine Indian companies have been permitted to operate 37 foreign deep sea fishing vessels on lease, of which 19 are in operation at present. The details of such companies are given in the enclosed statement. Operation of the leased vessels is governed by the provisions of the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981, Rules/Orders thereunder and terms and conditions of the permits.

(d) and (e) The Government of Goa and the Coast Guard Organisation have both reported that there is no increase in encroachment by foreign fishing vessels/trawlers. Coast Guard ships and aircraft carry out regular patrols to prevent foreign fishing vessels from encroaching into Indian waters. The Coast Guard Regional Headquarters at Chennai, Mumbai and Port Blair also launch special operations in coordination with Customs and State Police authorities in the EEZ to check poaching/illegal fishing.

Statement

No. of Valid Permits and Vessels in Operation Under Lease as on 18.7.1998

S. No.	Company	Valid Approvals (No. of Vessels)	Vessels in Operation
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s Port Blair Manish-A-Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	10	3
2.	M/s Srikumaran Fisheries, Chennai	4	Nil
3.	M/s Sovin Sea Foods Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	2	2
4.	M/s Adaman Marine Products Dev. Co., Port Blair	3	3

1	2	3	4
5.	M/s Balaji Sea Foods, Vishakhapatnam	2	Nil
6.	M/s Andaman Fisheries Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	3	3
7.	M/s Simla Marine, New Delhi	1	Nil
8.	M/s A.K. International, New Delhi	5	1
9.	M/s Moon Marine India, Chennai	7	7
Total		37	19

[Translation]

Co-Operative Milk Societies

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

(a) whether the Government propose to open one lakh new rural cooperative milk societies in the country during Ninth Five Year Plan,

(b) if so, the number of Co-operative societies constituted so far; and

(c) the number of the societies likely to be constituted and the time by which the remaining societies would be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (c) The Government proposes to extend financial assistance for establishing 35,000 new dairy Co-operative Societies during the 9th Five Year Plan.

(b) A total of 82,384 societies have been created so far.

[English]

Reservoirs

*517. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals of reservoir schemes received by the Union Government from different State Governments during the last three years;

(b) the details of the schemes accepted and rejected by the Union Government during the period, State-wise;

(c) the number of such proposals pending with the Union Governments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) 23 reservoir schemes were received in Central Water Commission during the last three years (from 4/95 to 30.6.98). Of these three projects namely Veligonda Project (Andhra Pradesh), Mewat Canal Project (Haryana) and Sina Kolegaon (Maharashtra) were returned to the State Governments with a request to prepare the reports as per Central Water Commission guidelines. The remaining reports are at various stages of examination including three projects which have been found acceptable by Technical Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources namely Kar Project (Maharashtra), Dhanragoth Project (Orissa) and Gararda Project (Rajasthan). Clearance of these projects will depend upon the time taken by the State Governments for compliance of observations made by various Central appraising agencies.

US Senators Visit to India

*518. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
DR. SAROJA V. :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a two-member team of US senators visited India recently;

(b) if so, the objective behind their visit to India;

(c) whether these US Senators have been conveyed that the US Administration's China policy does not take into account India's security interests; and

(d) if so, their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir. US Senators Sam Brownback, Chairman and Charles Robb, Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Sub-Committee on Near East and South Asia, visited India from June 28-30, 1998. The Senators called on the Prime Minister, Home Minister and the Defence Minister and held discussions in the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) The Senators conveyed that the purpose of their visit was to meet representatives of the Government of India and to gain first hand knowledge of the situation. They also conveyed that US Congress wanted to move on the issue of restrictions under the Glenn Amendment and to introduce greater flexibility in US laws.

(c) Discussions were held with the Senators on a wide-range of subjects including Indo-US bilateral relations and India's security concerns. In that context, their attention was drawn to continuing nuclear and missile cooperation

between Pakistan and China. Their attention was also drawn to government's reaction in response to the US-China "Joint Statement on South Asia". The Statement of the Official Spokesman categorically rejects the approach of the Joint Statement as unacceptable in the present day context.

(d) On their return, both the Senators commented positively on their meetings during the visit. Subsequently, on July 16, 1998, the two Senators alongwith others moved an amendment in the US Senate which confers the authority on the President of the US to waive, for a period not exceeding one year, some of the provisions of the Glenn Amendment.

[Translation]

Clearance to Irrigation Projects

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

(a) whether the Union Government are proposing to take necessary action against the State Governments which delay the implementation of irrigation projects, resulting in increase of the estimated cost of the projects and keep such projects pending;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such irrigation projects in the country particularly in Bihar pending due to their non-implementation by the State Government;

(d) whether inspite of that, fresh irrigation projects of such states have been accorded approval; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Irrigation being a state subject, irrigation projects are taken up for implementation by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources as per their own priorities. The completion period of a project depends on various factors such as its size, availability of land, clearances, geological conditions etc. Equally important are the funds allotted by State Governments to individual projects. Large number of projects approved by Central Government are at different stages of construction, all over the country including Bihar.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. During the last 5 years, 13 major and 13 medium projects have been accorded investment clearance by Planning Commission.

Milk Schemes

*520. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the milk schemes being undertaken by the Union Government in the country;

(b) the steps taken to extend the benefits of these schemes in each and every village;

(c) the area covered under these schemes in Bihar so far;

(d) whether the Government propose to launch any new schemes in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the names of the places where it is to be launched in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Union Government is implementing the following schemes :

- (1) Operation Flood - since ended in 1996.
- (2) Integrated Dairy Development Project for non-Operation Flood, hilly and backward areas.
- (3) Technology Mission on Dairy Development.

Under Operation Flood more than 77,000 co-operative societies have been formed. The villages in the Operation Flood Districts, which were left out, are proposed to be covered under a new scheme called New Primary Dairy Co-operatives.

(c) In Bihar, under Operation Flood the districts of Patna, Nalanda, Begusarai, Samastipur, Darbhanga, Madubani, Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Rohtas, Bhojpur, Gaya, Nawada, Munger, Bhagalpur, Saharsa, Madhepura, Khagana, East Champaran, Sitamarhi, Saran, Siwan and Gopalganj, were included. Besides Jamshedpur, Bokaro and Ranchi were covered for milk marketing where processing facilities were created.

Under the Integrated Dairy Development Project, West Champaran, Purnea, Katihar, Kishanganj, Araria, Deogarh, Godda, Giridin, Dumka and Madhubani districts and Kaimur are covered.

Under the Technology Mission on Dairy Development, Frozen Semen Stations have been strengthened in Patna and Ranchi.

(d) and (e) The Government proposes to launch the following three new schemes for the development of dairying;

- (i) Assistance to Co-operatives
- (ii) New Primary Dairy Co-operatives
- (iii) Vidya Dairies

The places where these schemes will be implemented and other details have not been finalised.

[English]

Percentage of Reservation

*521. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether orders have been issued on July 2, 1997 by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions to all Ministries/Departments to reduce the percentage of reservation for SCs/STs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith 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, REVENUES AND INSURANCE (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Soft Drinks

5058. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has made any indepth study regarding the soft drink industry in the country;

(b) if so, estimated number of soft drinks produced during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(c) whether any multi-national companies are producing soft drinks;

(d) if so, the estimated number of soft drinks produced by each company during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98?

(e) whether any study has been made by the Government about the employment potential of the soft drink manufacturing units; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Estimated production of soft drinks during 1996-97 and 1997-98 is as follows :

1996-97	4450 million bottles
1997-98	4920 million bottles

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Three multi-national companies have been permitted to produce soft drinks in the country (M/s. Coca Cola, USA, M/s. Pepsico Inc., USA and Cadbury Schweppes, UK). However, only of them are producing soft drinks directly, viz., Coca Cola and Pepsico. Details of soft

drinks produced by these companies are enclosed in the statement.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

Statement

Details of Soft drinks produced by multi-national companies

	1996-97	1997-98
1. Britco Foods Company Ltd. (A wholly owned subsidiary of Coca Cola)	716222 (Cases of Cans) 2693680 (Cases of PET Bottles)	2301433 (Cases of Cans) 6235692 (Cases of PET Bottles)
2. Pepsico India Holdings Ltd.	1996 38663000 (Cases)	1997 45222000 (Cases)
3. Cadbury Schweppes	They are not producing soft drinks directly.	

[Translation]

Sugarcane Growers

5059. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any section plan has been formulated by the Government for the sugarcane growers;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons for non-implementation thereof; and

(c) the heads under which assistance was rendered by the Government to these farmers during the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System Areas from 1995-96. The expenditure under the scheme is mostly shared on 75:25 basis between Government of India and State Governments.

Under the Scheme, assistance is provided for the transfer of technology through field demonstrations and training of farmers. Besides, incentives are given for seed production, supply of farm implements/drip irrigation system, establishment of tissue culture laboratories, heat treatment plants etc.

[English]

Irrigation Projects

5060. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of irrigation projects which were proposed to be constructed during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the number out of them completed during the period;

(c) the targetted irrigation potential and the actual achievement made by the Government during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the percentage of irrigation potential utilised during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) A Details of irrigation projects (*) proposed for completion and irrigation projects completed during the VIII Five Year Plan.

S.No.	Item	Units	Major	Medium	ERM**	Total
(i)	Projects proposed for completion during VIII Plan	Nos.	38	100	46	183
(ii)	Projects completed during VIII Plan (Provisional)	Nos.	10	30	9	49

(*) The irrigation projects mentioned above do not include Minor irrigation projects, as the details of construction of Minor irrigation projects are not maintained at the Union Government level.

(**) ERM=Extention, Modernisation and Renovation Projects.

B. Details regarding creation and utilisation of irrigation potential through Major and Medium irrigation projects and minor irrigation schemes during the Eighth Five Year Plan are as under :

(i) Targets for creation of irrigation potential during VIII Plan	15.80 Million hectares
(ii) Irrigation potential created during VIII Plan (provisional)	8.35 Million hectares
(iii) Utilisation of irrigation potential created during VIII Plan (Provisional)	7.84 Million hectares
(iv) Percentage of utilisation with respect to created irrigation potential during VIII Plan	93.8%

[Translation]

Grants to Agriculture Universities

5061. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the existing criteria adopted for providing grants to agriculture Universities of various States by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR);

(b) whether the grants are provided on the basis of geographical area or on else ground; and

(c) the details of grants provided to agriculture Universities during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The following criteria is adopted for providing development grants :

- (i) Need based infrastructure support to strengthen educational programme.
- (ii) Intake capacity of the students.
- (iii) Number of programmes offered.
- (iv) Number of Agricultural Universities in the State. Single state gets more weightage.
- (v) Proportionate support from the respective State Government(s).
- (vi) Evaluation of educational programmes and regularization of academic calendar.
- (vii) Innovation made in Educational Technology.
- (viii) The assessment of the requirements by committees constituted.
- (ix) Guidelines from the Accreditation Board.

(b) No, Sir. The grants are provided on the criteria as indicated in (a) above.

(c) Given in the attached statement.

Statement

The grants provided/released to 33 Agriculture Universities (State Agriculture Universities, Deemed Universities and Central Agricultural University) State-wise during last three years.

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State and University	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh					
1.	Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University Rajendranagar Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)-500030.	-	146.00	85.00	231.00
Assam					
2.	Assam Agricultural University Jorhat (Assam)-785013.	88.76	-	270.00	358.76
Bihar					
3.	Rajendra Agricultural University Pusa, Samastipur Bihar-848125	20.24	30.00	70.00	
4.	Birsa Agricultural University Kanke, Ranchi (Bihar)-834006	-	146.74	95.00	361.98
Gujarat					
5.	Gujarat Agricultural University Sardar Krushinagar Banaskantha (Gujarat)-385506	128.86	56.04	85.00	269.90
Himachal Pradesh					
6.	Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya Palampur (Himachal Pradesh)-176062	80.00	64.00	62.00	463.26
7.	Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry Solan (Himachal Pradesh)-173230	81.00	77.26	99.00	
Haryana					
8.	CCS Haryana Agricultural University Hissar, (Harayana)-125004.	73.00	35.00	71.00	179.00
Jammu and Kashmir					
9.	DURING WINTER (NOV. TO APRIL) Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agril. Sciences and Technology Railway Road Jammu Tawi (J & K) 180004	10.00	108.78	80.00	198.78
	DURING SUMMER (MAY TO OCT.) Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agril. Sciences and Technology Shalimar Campus Post Box-262, Srinagar (J & K)-190001.	10.00	108.78	80.00	198.78
Kerala					
10.	Kerala Agricultural University Vellanikkara Thrissur (Kerala)-680654.	57.83	15.24	70.00	143.07
Karnataka					
11.	University of Agricultural Sciences Post Bag No. 2477 Bangalore (Karnataka)-560065.	17.93	49.31	80.00	337.60
12.	University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad (Karnataka)-580005.	24.99	105.37	60.00	
Maharashtra					
13.	Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth Dapoli (Maharashtra)-415712.	18.61	56.71	75.00	668.30
14.	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth Rahuri (Maharashtra)-431722	66.45	49.80	72.00	
15.	Marathwada Agricultural University Parbhani (Maharashtra)-413722	55.00	30.53	68.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth Krishinagar Akola (Maharashtra)-431402	85.25	33.95	57.00	
Madhya Pradesh					
17.	Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)-482004	90.00	115.36	108.00	
18.	Indira Gandhi Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya Krishinagar Raipur (Madhya Pradesh)-492012	43.67	36.28	69.00	462.31
Orissa					
19.	Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology Bhubaneswar (Orissa)-751003	221.00	-	70.00	291.00
Punjab					
20.	Punjab Agricultural University Ludhiana-141004	-	57.00	70.00	127.00
Rajasthan					
21.	Rajasthan Agricultural University Bikaner-334002	39.25	51.00	150.00	240.25
Tamil Nadu					
22.	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)-641003	17.93	57.69	55.00	
23.	Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University Madras (Tamil Nadu)-600007	15.00	61.00	60.00	266.62
Uttar Pradesh					
24.	Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)-208002	78.22		63.00	
25.	Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology Pantnagar (Uttar Pradesh)-263145	62.00	49.70	95.00	
26.	Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology Faizabad (Uttar Pradesh)-224001	-	58.00	55.00	460.92
West Bengal					
27.	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya P.O. Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya Mohanpur, Nadia (W.B.)-741252	45.10	153.55	61.00	
28.	West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences, Belgachia Calcutta-37 (West Bengal)	-	25.00	60.00	344.65
Deemed Universities					
29.	National Dairy Research Institute Karnal-132001	80.00	25.00	48.00	
30.	Indian Agricultural Research Institute Pusa, New Delhi-12	8.00	25.00	32.00	
31.	Indian Veterinary Research Institute Izatnagar-243122	25.00	25.00	30.00	381.90
32.	Central Institute of Fisheries Education Seven Bungalows, Versova, Bombay-400062	20.90	25.00	38.00	
Central Agricultural University					
33.	Central Agricultural University Imphal (Manipur)-795001	300.00	360.00	500.00	1160.00
Grand Total					6946.30

[English]

Titlagarh Irrigation Project

5062. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total estimated cost of the Titlagarh irrigation Project in Orissa, funded by NAGARD;

(b) the funds released and spent on this project, so far upto March 31st, 98;

(c) whether the Government of Orissa has diverted the funds provided for this project to undertake other projects in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government against the Government of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The latest estimated cost of the Titlagarh Irrigation project is Rs. 6.03 crores.

(b) Anticipated expenditure on this project up to March, 98 is Rs. 4.47 crores.

(c) Centre is not aware of any diversion of Funds by the Government of Orissa.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

20-Point Programme

5063. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jahanabad) :
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the Implementation of 20-Point Programme in Bihar during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) whether the Government have made any assessment of the said programme;

(c) the additional financial assistance sought from the Union Government for the implementation of the 20-Point Programme during the said period, State-wise; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMANTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) The details of the progress made in the implementation of 20-Point Programme (TPP) in Bihar during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given in the attached statement.

(b) TPP was initiated in 1975 and has been restructured twice - once in 1982 and thereafter in 1986. It is, however, reviewed as and when necessary.

(c) and (d) No separate funds are allocated under TPP as the TPP consists of items both from plan and non-plan schemes being implemented by States/UTs.

Statement

Progress of the Implementation of the Twenty Point Programme in Bihar during 1996-97 and 1997-98

Item Code	Item Name	Unit	1996-97			1997-98		
			Target	Achievement	%-age Ach.	Target	Achievement	%-age Ach.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
01B	Jawahar Rozgar Yojana	NOS.	48925000	46002000	94	54664000	53304000	98
05A	Distribution of Surplus Land	ACRES	3300	1841	56	3720	1087	29
07A	Drinking Water Problem (Vlg./Habitations)	NOS.	17621	12573	72	16467	13714	83
08A	Community Health Centres (CHC)	NOS.	40	0	0	40	0	0
08B	Primary Health Centres (PHC)	NOS.	150	0	0	150	0	0
08D	Immunisation of Children (DPT. POLIO & BCG)	NOS.	3018000	1371047	45	3025100	1077158	36
09C	ICDS Blocks Operational (CUM)	NOS.	323	323	100	323	323	100

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
09D	Anganwadis (CUM.)	NOS.	31164	21980	71	31164	21980	71
11A	SC Families Assisted	NOS.	240000	165584	69	240000	113654	47
11B	ST Families Assisted	NOS.	126000	78758	63	126000	93797	74
14C	Indira Awaas Yojana	NOS.	151453	133125	88	109982	103506	94
14D	EWS Houses Provided	NOS.	4200	0	0	4200	2542	61
14E	LIG Houses	NOS.	2100	0	0	2100	220	10
15	Slum Improvement	NOS.	11000	1295	12	16000	2350	15
16A	Tree Plantation on Private Lands	NOS.	50000000	7850000	16	50000000	11033000	22
16B	Area Covered Public & Forest Lands	HECT.	40000	9296	23	40000	5315	13
19A	Villages Electrified	NOS.	325	38	12	330	7	2
19B	Pumpsets Energised	NOS.	1300	1066	82	1700	746	44
19C	Improved Chullahs	NOS.	60000	20294	34	20000	2878	14
19D	Bio-Gas Plants	NOS.	2815	682	24	1500	930	62

[English]

Drought in Kerala

5064. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the fact that several districts in Kerala were affected due to the drought recently; and

(b) if so, the assistance provided to Kerala State to overcome this serious situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala had submitted a Memorandum seeking additional assistance of Rs. 537.50 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of drought in the State. The State Government has been requested to supply some more information for considering their request and the same is still awaited.

An allocation of Rs. 61.44 crore has been made to the State under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1998-99. The first and second instalments of Centre's share of CRF amounting to Rs. 23.04 crore have already been released to the State for immediate relief work.

Trade with Bangladesh

5065. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal forwarded by N.E. States for opening border trade with Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government of Bangladesh to this proposal?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At the 5th Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting in March 1997, both sides discussed the question of trade in local produce between areas in India and Bangladesh at selected points contiguous to the border between the two countries and agreed to set up a group of experts to examine and make recommendations on the modalities of border trade.

SSC Examinations

5066. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether appointments of a large number of successful candidates in Stenographer Grade 'D' Exams. 1996 have been held up by the Staff Selection Commission on the plea of forged signatures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken so far to verify the signatures of these candidates;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being initiated to give appointment to all the successful candidates speedily and the time by which it is likely to be done?

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) No, Sir. Only cases of three suspected candidates have been referred to the appropriate Government agency for verification and report.

(e) Offer of appointment to successful candidates is issued only by the user offices after completion of the necessary pre-appointment formalities.

Mini/Micro Hydel Projects

5067. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa had undertaken survey and investigation of mini and micro hydel projects and submitted the projects for the approval of his Ministry;

(b) if so, the names of the projects and its location along with the estimated cost of the projects;

(c) the policy formulated by the Government for approval, funding and other related issues thereof;

(d) whether the private sector and joint venture is permitted for such projects;

(e) the list of projects approved so far; and

(f) the time by which the remaining projects are likely to be cleared?

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 Orissa have identified 109 small hydro (up to 3 MW capacity) potential sites aggregating to 67.95 MW. They have undertaken survey and investigation of these projects. Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources has so far approved 8 projects received from Government of Orissa under the capital subsidy scheme. Details of these projects are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (f) The State Government have announced, on 15th May, 1998, its policy for the development of micro, mini and small hydro projects. As per the policy, the private sector and joint sector are permitted to set up small hydro power projects in the State.

The State Government have offered small hydro power sites for development by the private/joint sector, through an advertisement. The allotment/approval of the projects has to be made by the State Government after receipt of the offers.

Statement

Details of Projects in Orissa Under MNES Capital Subsidy Scheme

Sl. No.	Name of the project	District	Capacity in KW	Estimated cost in Rs Lakhs
1.	Andharibhangi	Subarnapur	1 x 325	97.15
2.	Badanala	Rayagada	2 x 325	208.77
3.	Harabhangi	Gajapati	2 x 1000	526.56
4.	Biribati	Cuttack	2 x 325	266.12
5.	Kendupatna	Kendrapada	2 x 250	285.16
6.	Barboria	Cuttack	2 x 325	353.92
7.	Potteru I	Koraput	1 x 3000	407.09
8.	Potteru II	Koraput	1 x 3000	410.09

Attack on Iraq

5068. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken note of United States recent attack on Iraqi site;

(b) if so, details of the said attack;

(c) Government reaction thereon; and

(d) steps taken by the Government to bring its reactions to the notice of the international community?

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

(b) According to US official spokesmen, British Tornado aircraft, accompanied by US F-16 aircraft, while patrolling the southern no-fly zone in Iraq, near Basrah, found from their cockpit instrumentation panel that they had been illuminated by Iraqi radar and were being tracked by an SA-3 surface-to-air missile. The accompanying F-16 aircraft, which had also picked up the tracking, fired a high speed anti-radiation missile (HARM) at the radar site. All the UK-US aircraft returned to base and further patrolling over the no-fly zone continued normally.

(c) and (d) India's position is that while Iraq should comply with the relevant UN resolutions relating to the detection and elimination of weapons of mass destruction, use of force should not be resorted to for settling differences. This position has been conveyed in commu-

nications to the leaders of the principal countries concerned and reiterated at all appropriate fora.

[Translation]

Pending Scheme of U.P.

5069. SHRIMATI USHA VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the various schemes of Uttar Pradesh Government are pending for clearance with the Union Government;

(b) the action taken thereon by the Union Government so far; and

(c) the time by which the pending projects are likely to be cleared?

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 scheme of Uttar Pradesh is pending for clearance with the Planning Commission.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

IAS on Deputation

5070. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a big number of IAS officers are deputed in various Government owned institutions/organisations outside the Central Ministries for more than three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons of their stay after the expiry of deputation period;

(c) whether these officers on deputation can get themselves absorbed in the offices where they are on deputation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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) Some IAS officers are deputed in various Government-owned institutions/organisations. These appointments are made in accordance with the provisions of the recruitment rules of each post. If the Rules provide for or permit appointment of an IAS officer to a post and if the appointment of an IAS officer is considered expedient and in the public interest, such an appointment is made. The tenure and other service

conditions, including the possibility of permanent absorption in the organisation, of an IAS officer appointed to such posts are governed by the provisions as contained in the Recruitment Rules governing the post concerned.

Management Election of NAFED

5071. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the election of the management of National Agriculture Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) has been postponed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the elections of NAFED is likely to be held?

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

(b) Some of the members of the Board of Directors of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) represented that the election of Board scheduled to be held on 24.05.98 would be illegal since the provisions of the rules had not complied with.

After careful consideration of these representations, decision to postpone the election was taken for strict compliance with the rules.

(c) Now, the election of Board of Directors of NAFED would be held on 22.08.98.

Package for Vidarbha Region

5072. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vidarbha Cotton Growers Agitation Committee has urged the Government to grant package of special economic relief to the farmers of the region who have been hit hard due to failure of crops and heavy indebtedness;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) In their communication addressed to the Prime Minister, the Vidarbha Cotton Growers Agitation Committee had mentioned about the suicides by the Farmers in the region due to repeated hailstorm and long spells of unseasonal rains, resulting in near total loss of two consecutive crops and requested for waiver of interest on old dues and release of fresh loans, etc.

Considering the large scale crop loss in certain districts of Andhra Pradesh, the RBI/NABARD decided to provide

a package of several measures of relief for the affected farmers, which include :

- (i) Rescheduling of bank loans.
- (ii) No recovery of either principal or interest of an agricultural loan for a period of two years and amounts not collected during these two years will be rescheduled for a period of 7 years.
- (iii) Immediate disbursal of credit by banks for fresh crops on the enhanced scales of finance recently revised by the District Level Committee.
- (iv) Reduction of rate of interest to 4% for small and marginal farmers who are eligible under Differential Rates of interest scheme.
- (v) No compounding of interest in respect of rescheduled loans; no levy of penal interest and waiver of penal interest, if charged.

Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) has been requested to extend similar relief/concession to other States where similar situations are obtaining. The Government of Maharashtra is also reported to be taking steps for the welfare of the affected farmers.

Public Sector Projects

5073. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government have set up a panel under the Chairmanship of Bimal Jalan to decide the fate of 35 public sector projects;
- (b) if so, the details of projects referred to the panel and terms of reference;
- (c) whether the panel has submitted an interim report;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the time by which the final report is likely to be submitted?

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 (f) No, Sir. No panel has been set up by the government under the Chairmanship of Dr. Bimal Jalan to decide the fate of 35 public sector projects. However, the Government has set up a Central Empowered Committee (CEC) under the chairmanship of Member Secretary, Planning Commission which examines projects on a continuous basis with the following terms of reference functions :

- (i) To consider proposals for dropping/shelving or transfer to the private sector/joint sector the central sector projects which are unable to make progress.
- (ii) To reprioritise central sector projects costing Rs. 50 crores and above and which were due for completion during the Eighth Plan period but are slipping into the Ninth Plan.

[Translation]

Knowledge of Hindi

5074. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BAINDA :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of officers and employees in the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Embassies at present;
- (b) the number out of these employees who have basic knowledge of Hindi;
- (c) the number out of these at least 25% work in Hindi originally;
- (d) if the above 25% work is not being done in Hindi, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the concrete steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) There are 4438 officers and employees working in the Ministry of External Affairs at Headquarters and Missions abroad.

(b) and (c) All officers of this Ministry have basic knowledge of Hindi as they undergo a training programme in Hindi during their probation conducted by Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry. The training in Hindi is also given to the staff detailed on foreign assignment. Officers, particularly those working at Headquarters often use Hindi in their notings and drafting.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of External Affairs is concerned with implementation of foreign policy abroad. It deals primarily with foreign countries and officials, hence much of its work is done in English. Ministry of External Affairs make every effort to inspire its officials to use Hindi in their official work. Ministry and Missions/Posts are making all efforts for popularisation and progressive use of Hindi abroad. Ministry is propagating Hindi by providing Hindi Books, study material and audio-visual cassettes to our Missions abroad. In order to increase efficiency, computers with bilingual facilities in English and Hindi are being progressively installed in the Ministry and Missions abroad.

To encourage usage of Hindi, the Ministry gives increments, cash awards and prizes to officers and staff. 10 officials were assigned to learn Hindi under the Hindi Teaching Scheme of the Department of Official Language. Ministry is also encouraging employees to learn Hindi through correspondence course run by the central Hindi Directorate.

[English]

MPLADS

5075. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of cases have come to the notice of the Government under Members of Parliament Local Areas Development Scheme that some officials delay the projects intentionally;

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to compensate the increase in the cost of projects; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against those officials found guilty?

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) Some complaints of delay in implementation of works under MPLADS have been received.

(b) and (c) There is no provision in the guidelines on MPLADS to compensate for the increase in cost of project due to delay in implementation. However, whenever specific case of delay in implementation of projects under the scheme is brought to the notice of the Government, the matter is taken up with the concerned Administration/ State Government for appropriate action against the concerned officials causing intentional delay.

Sweet Poison

5076. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the synthetic milk is being produced in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the enquiry conducted in this regard alongwith the nutrition value thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to make random check on milk suppliers to ensure its purity and retention of its nutritional value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) No specific

case of adulteration in milk with foreign substance has been brought to the notice of concerned authorities during 1998.

(c) Sale of adulterated milk is prohibited and is punishable offence under the provisions of PFA Rules, 1995. The Food (Health) Authority of States/UTs have been advised to set-up surveillance measures to ensure quality to milk.

Atomic Power Station in Private Sector

5077. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to examine possibility of establishing new Nuclear Power Station, in private sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Government of India are open to specific offers for participation by private firms, Indian or foreign, in the nuclear Power sector. However, the Government have not received any concrete proposals from the private sector so far for setting up nuclear power plants in the country. Such offers, when received, have to be considered on the basis of technical suitability, economic attractiveness, the regulatory requirements of our country and the conditions attached to the offers.

Incentives to Scientists

5078. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI SATYAPAL JAIN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of scientists involved in the recent nuclear test at Pokharan;

(b) whether any additional incentives are proposed to be given to these scientists;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

(d) whether the Government have a proposal to undertake post-shot drilling at the nuclear test site at Pokharan; and

(e) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) A number of scientists from the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Defence Research and Development Organisation were directly involved alongwith the personnel of the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force in the recent Nuclear Tests at Pokharan. In addition, a large number of scientists played an indirect

role. It is difficult to identify their exact numbers in view of the varying types of roles played by different individuals and therefore, to give additional incentive to all of them.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Drilling Operations have commenced recently and it would take some time to obtain the necessary information.

[Translation]

Commercial Flower Development Scheme

5079. SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUIJ BISEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Regional Commercial Flower Development Scheme is being implemented in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the amount provided by the Union Government to Madhya Pradesh for implementing this scheme during 1997-98;

(c) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has demanded increase in the allocated funds for 1997-98; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Commercial Floriculture in the State of Madhya Pradesh since 8th Five Year Plan. The Government of India have released Rs. 5.20 lakhs during 1997-98 to Madhya Pradesh.

(c) and (d) No request has been received for allocation of additional funds during 1997-98. However, keeping in view the potential of the state for floriculture development, the Government of India have sanctioned a Model Floriculture Centre to Madhya Pradesh to be set up in Indore area at a cost of Rs. 52.50 lakhs during 1998-99. Total allocation under the Scheme for the current year is proposed at Rs. 61.50 lakhs.

[English]

Promotion Policy

5080. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether office Memorandum of Department of Personnel and Training regarding service matters, including promotion, encadrement, isolated posts etc. is binding on all other departments;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Fifth Pay Commission has recommended in Chapter on Promotion Policy. (Para 22.41 and Annexure 22.1) the Dynamic Assured Career Progression for the isolated officers;

(d) whether the Government propose to accept this recommendation; 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 Department of Personnel and Training issues policy instructions on a number of subjects concerning conditions of service of the Central Government employees. These instructions are to be implemented by the Competent Authorities in various Ministries/Department who are required to abide by them. It is the responsibility of the Ministries/Departments concerned to ensure the implementation of these instructions.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended the Dynamic Assured Career Progression Scheme in case of isolated posts.

(d) and (e) These recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

Propaganda in Foreign Countries

5081. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received reports and information about propaganda in foreign countries that the imposition of sanctions by USA, Japan, etc. and the statements made by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank authorities in the wake of the nuclear tests conducted by India in May, 1998, has created panic in the Indian Missions abroad that the economic development and the ongoing projects and also those projects in the pipelines are likely to be adversely affected thereby;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to combat the propaganda and to create confidence in the Indian Missions abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The Government has no reports of any panic in Indian Missions abroad due to the imposition of restrictive economic measures by some countries.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of External Affairs in conjunction with its Missions and Posts abroad have briefed opinion and decision makers in foreign countries about India's point of view. Special efforts have been made to engage key interlocutors in a dialogue in the context of India's National Security concerns and our willingness to contribute fully towards global peace and security. Indian Missions have tailored their approaches to the local milieu and focussed their efforts wherever applicable on the following segments :

- (a) Government authorities
- (b) Members of Parliament
- (c) The print and audio visual media
- (d) Business and industry
- (e) Academia and think-tanks
- (f) The Indian community
- (g) Cultural personalities
- (h) International organisations and,
- (i) The diplomatic community

2. Further, MEA and its missions have put out relevant information on Internet, the Spokesman has issued Press Releases and Statements on the nuclear issues, and the local as well as International media has been briefed on India's perspectives and policies. 29 foreign journalists have been facilitated in India by the XP Division since May, 1998 and the Prime Minister has given 23 interviews to the media during the same period. The outcome of these efforts has been positive and the rationale behind India's nuclear policy is understood better both domestically and internationally.

Harnessing of N.C.E.S. in Jammu and Kashmir

5082. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to harness the potentiality of non-conventional energy sources in the State of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) 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) Yes, Sir. In order to harness the potentiality of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, the government is implementing a wide range of programmes such as biogas, improved chulha,

biomass gasification and briquetting, integrated rural energy programme, solar photovoltaic lighting, water-pumping and village level power plants, small hydro power, wind power, geo-thermal energy and energy from urban and industrial wastes, throughout the country including in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The details of potentials and achievements under various Non-Conventional Energy programmes as on 31st March, 1998, in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of Potential and achievements under various Non-Conventional Energy Programmes in the state of Jammu and Kashmir

Sl. No.	Name of Programme	Potential	Achievements (As on 31.3.1998)
1.	National Project on Bio-gas Development (Nos.)	128000	1493
2.	National Programme on Improved Chulha. (Nos.)	1175000	329000
3.	Biomass Gasifier (Kw)	-	120
4.	Integrated Rural Energy Programme (No. of blocks covered)	-	28
5.	Small Hydro Power (MW)	111.52	8.37 (Installed) 13.31 (under installation)
6.	Solar Photovoltaics	-	
	(i) Solar Lighting Systems (Nos.)	-	919
	(ii) Home Lighting Systems (Nos.)	-	6430
	(iii) Solar Lanterns (Nos.)	-	4525
7.	Solar Photovoltaic Water Pumping (Nos.)	-	16
8.	Solar Water Heating Systems (m ² collector area)	-	1834
9.	Solar Cookers (Nos.)	-	345

MW = Megawatts.

Kw = Kilowatts.

Investment of Nuclear Science

5083. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether investment by the Government for Nuclear Science has been stepped up;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stand of countries/agencies on such investment which are aiding India?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The Government of India has been providing financial support to make the country self-reliant in the field of Nuclear Science and Technology. The total budgetary support for the Department of Atomic Energy has been enhanced from Rs. 2161 crore in the Eighth Plan to Rs. 6000 crore in the Ninth Plan.

(c) Since investment in any field is the prerogative of the government, the question does not arise.

Bhartiya Vidhya Bhawan

5084. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the funds released to Bhartiya Vidhya Bhawan in Mexico during last three years;

(b) the amount actually utilised by the Bhawan; and

(c) the activities of this Bhawan in Mexico?

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

(a) The Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan in Mexico (known as La Casa de La Cultura de la India) was established in 1993 as a branch of the Mumbai Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan. The Mexican Centre of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan is a private non-government organisation active in the dissemination of information about Indian culture and fostering cultural bonds between India and Mexico. It is partially funded by the Grants-in Aid from the Government of India. The funds released during the last three years as Grants-in Aid are as follows:

1994-95	Rs. 3,00,000/-
1995-96	Rs. 3,00,000/-
1996-97	Rs. 3,00,000/-

(b) The amounts sanctioned as Grants-in Aid were actually utilised by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan in Mexico.

(c) The Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan in Mexico organises programmes of Indian classical dance, concerts of Indian classical music, workshops on Indian classical music, workshops on Indian classical dance, course of Odissi dance, Hindi language course, seminars and conferences about India.

[Translation]

Ground Water Level in U.P.

5085. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any scheme from the Government of Uttar Pradesh to raise the level of ground water in the State;

(b) if so, the latest position thereof;

(c) whether this scheme is likely to be implemented in other states of the country;

(d) whether the Government have mobilised additional financial resources for implementing this scheme; and

(e) the time by which the scheme is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh had submitted a proposal on 30.1.93 for financial assistance for investigative pilot studies on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water in 5 districts of Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 50 lakhs. After examining the proposal, the State Government had been informed on 7.4.94 that the Ministry of Water Resources was not having any programme under which the proposed studies could be funded and therefore, the State Government would have to make its own arrangements for financing the scheme. It was further informed that the Central Ground Water Board would continue to provide technical guidance to the State Government for implementation of the scheme.

(c) Water being a State subject, implementation of such schemes depends on the State Governments.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Missile Threat from Pakistan

5086. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pakistan ready to Test-fire Ghauri-II, Tarmuk : CIA" appearing in 'Times of India' dated 1st June, 1998;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to counter this threat?

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

(b) and (c) Government closely monitors all developments including those relating to Pakistan's missile programme. India is concerned over Pakistan's missile programme and its impact on the region's security. Government is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

Soft Drinks

5087. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that indigenous soft drink industry has virtually been wiped out due to marketing of multi-national for their soft drink products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) In view of liberalization of our economy, Multi-National Companies have also come to operate in the soft drink sector. They have established concentrate manufacturing units and have also entered into franchise agreement with large number of Indian bottlers for bottling of their brands. These bottling units are operating as per terms and conditions of the agreement entered between the MNCs and the owners of the Bottling Plants.

Export of Wind Turbines

5088. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of wind turbines exported during the last three years;

(b) the countries to which wind turbines were exported;

(c) the total foreign exchange earned;

(d) whether there is great demand for the wind turbines from various countries; and

(e) 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) to (c) One wind turbine of 230 KW was exported to Australia by an Indian manufacturing company in March, 1998. The total value

of the export order was about DM 450,000, equivalent to Rs. 90 lakhs.

(d) and (e) Opportunities for export of wind turbines to neighbouring and other developing countries are being actively explored by the Indian wind turbine companies. Initial contacts have been made in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Bolivia and Argentina. In addition, Rs. 12 crore of foreign exchange was earned from export of wind turbine components to Europe during 1997-98.

[Translation]

Construction of DAM

5089. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to construct a dam over the river Pawati to provide better irrigation facilities to the farmers of Rajasthan;

(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) No, Sir, Irrigation being a State subject, it is for the Government of Rajasthan to construct a dam over the river Pawati for providing irrigation facilities to its farmers.

[English]

Information Technology Market

5090. SHRI M. RAJAI AH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether growth rate in the information technology market is declining;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for slow growth rate; and

(c) the measures proposed to develop the information technology sector?

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. There has been increase in the growth rate of the Information Technology sector during last 3 years as mentioned below :

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Growth rate	28%	40%	41%

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has set up a National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development to formulate the draft of a National Informatics Policy. The Task Force has submitted its 1st Report covering both bottlenecks area and broad promotional measures that are crucial for boosting IT in India. The recommendations cover a wide spectrum of issues relating to telecommunications, finance, banking, revenue, commerce, electronics, human resource development, defence and rural development. They address critical national needs in the areas of information infrastructure, Internet access, software development and exports, hardware manufacture, electronic commerce, R & D in IT, manpower training and education. The Government of India has also announced in the Parliament on 15th July, 1998 various tax incentives for the IT sector based on the recommendations of the Task Force.

Remote Sensing Agency

5091. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the activities of Remote Sensing Agency;
- (b) the achievements of this Agency so far; and
- (c) the success achieved in utilising the data provided by this Agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) The main activities of National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) are : (i) satellite data acquisition, processing and dissemination; (ii) application services for management of the natural resources; (iii) aerial survey services; (iv) imparting training in remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) applications and (v) development and transfer of related technology to private industry.

(b) Major achievements of this Agency include :
(i) regular generation and dissemination of satellite data products to end-users (about 150,000 data products supplied over the past 10 years); (ii) aerial photography of about 300 towns and geophysical survey of about 70% of country's geographical area; (iii) training of about 5,400 personnel; (iv) carrying out a number of major remote sensing application projects in the areas of agriculture, forestry, water resources, geology, integrated land and water resources development, urban planning, marine resources survey, Environmental Impact assessment, disaster monitoring, etc.

(c) The major success achieved in utilising the data provided by this Agency include : (i) biennial

monitoring of forest cover of the country on 1:250,000 scale; (ii) nation-wide mapping of land use/land cover, district-wise, on 1:250,000 scale, for agro-climatic zone based regional planning; (iii) mapping the types and extent of wastelands on 1:50,000 scale, for 241 districts with more than five per cent of their geographical area under wasteland; (iv) mapping saline/alkaline soils of the country on 1:250,000 scale, towards planning their management/reclamation; (v) command area management with increased water use efficiency in selected large irrigated commands; (vi) sustainable development of selected watersheds (through implementation of locale-specific land and water resources development plans - generated under the Integrated Mission for Sustainable Development (IMSD); (vii) pre-harvest Crop Acreage and Production Estimation (CAPE) for major crops; (viii) planning relief operations during drought and flood events; (ix) identification of prospective ground water zones (for identifying drinking water source in about 1.6 lakh problem villages under the National Drinking Water Technology Mission); (x) development planning for metropolitan regions of Mumbai, National Capital Region and Bangalore; (xi) generation and dissemination of Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) forecasts to about 287 Maritime Fishing Centres in the country; etc.

Besides, NRSA has also developed 23 remote sensing data analysis equipment and transferred their technology to private industries for regular production.

UPSC Examination Centre

5092. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHRY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the UPSC propose to open new examination centres for exams in Jodhpur and other parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) 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) No, Sir.

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

(c) The present arrangement has been found to be adequate.

Seed Growing Programme

5093. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :
SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount provided by the Union Government to the Government of Maharashtra for the seed growing programme in Government agricultural farms during the last two years;

(b) the amount of assistance proposed to be provided to the Maharashtra and Bihar Governments for the said programme during the year 1998-99; and

(c) the total number of Government agricultural farms running under losses in Maharashtra and Bihar?

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

(a) Year	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1996-97	30.00
1997-98	21.00

(b) There is no proposal so far from the Governments of Maharashtra and Bihar for central assistance during 1998-99.

(c) State	No. of farms running under losses
Maharashtra	50
Bihar	220

[Translation]

Construction of Bridges over Canals

5094. SHRI DATTA MEGHE Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Irrigation Department of Maharashtra is not repairing the damaged bridges constructed over various canals in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount spent by the Union Government on the repair of these damaged bridges, during the last three years; and

(d) the concrete-steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Irrigation is a State subject. Irrigation structures are maintained by State Governments out of their own funds and as per their own priority.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Seed Act and Insecticide Act

5095. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought amendments to the Seed Act as well as the Insecticide Act to check exploitation of poor farmers by people selling fake seeds and fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the steps likely to be taken by the Government to amend these two acts and to provide punishment to all those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal from the Government of Karnataka to amend the Seeds Act and the Insecticides Act. However, Government of Karnataka has made some suggestions with regard to amendments in Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 relating to the classification of offences; and inclusion of gypsum and sulphur in the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985. The two Acts already have provisions for punishment that who commit any offence under the Law.

Bio-Technology Programme for Dry Land Agriculture

5096. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Netherland have prepared a scheme to assist farmers of Nalgonda and Mahbubnagar in the use of bio-technology for dry land agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the allocation of funds to be provided; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) The overall objectives of the Scheme is to contribute to poverty alleviation, food security and environmental protection through Biotechnology. The specific objectives are:

- * to promote application of biotechnologies relevant to small scale agricultural producers and procesors in Andhra Pradesh in such a way as to contribute to sustainable agricultural production taking into account in particular the position of target groups such as women and poor farmers.
- * to develop appropriate technologies through research activities that focus on identified priority problems.
- * to conduct supportive activities required to ensure development and adoption of biotechnologies including training, transfer of technology

activities, workshops and information dissemination.

- * to strengthen the capacities of local organisations in Andhra Pradesh to develop and transfer biotechnologies through research activities and conduct analysis in the field of technology assessment, and
- * to promote discussions on biosafe measures and to contribute to discussion on issues of intellectual property where appropriate. The budget for this programme is 8 million Netherlands Guilders which is approximately Rs. 18.00 crores.

(c) The programme is for a period of five years starting from 1996 to 2000 AD.

[Translation]

Bargi Dam

5097. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the work on the ambitious right bank canal of Bargi irrigation project is proceeding at a slow pace;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the work on the left bank canal of the project is being undertaken with loans from NABARD;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government propose to secure loans from some International Financial Institution for completion of this project; and
- (f) if so, the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. There has been delay in execution of Right Bank Canal under Bargi Dam Project due to low priority given by Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. NABARD has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 42.50 crores for a part of left Bank Canal system consisting of Khajuri Distributory, Kunwarpur Distributory and Hareri Branch Canal.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) The project was posed for financial assistance to Overseas Economic Co-operation fund of Japan, but it did not find favour with donor agency.

[Translation]

Development of Hilly Areas

5098. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Planning Commission propose to constitute a committee to monitor the developmental work in hilly/tribal areas;
- (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) Does not arise.

(c) Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, Planning Commission, through the Plan discussions, annually assesses the progress of the various schemes in the States. In view of the above, there is no proposal to constitute a committee to monitor the developmental work in hilly/tribal areas.

[English]

Hybrid Varieties of Sugarcane

5099. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the government have issued directions to conduct research work on the hybrid varieties of sugarcane;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the funds likely to be spent on the research work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The work on production of hybrid varieties of Sugarcane has been going since long in the country. The hybrid fluff (true seed) produced in the 'National Hybridisation Garden' located at Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore is supplied to different locations in the country for *in situ* selection of hybrid varieties of sugarcane. The *germplasm* collections

maintained at Sugarcane Breeding Institute Research Centre, Cannanore is being systematically exploited in the hybridisation programme. These hybrid varieties have helped in boosting the productivity of sugarcane from 33.7 t/ha in 1949-50 to 66.5 t/ha in 1996-97. More than 2500 hybrids of sugarcane have been selected for evaluation and commercial exploitation and this work is being carried at more than 20 centres under All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane and two Research Institutes of ICAR.

(c) An amount of Rs. 345 lakhs under plan during the year 1998-99 will be spent to conduct research work on sugarcane under All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane at 19 research centres, SBI Coimbatore and its regional centres.

C & AG's Report

5100. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several irregularities in the implementation of centrally sponsored MPs Local Area Development Scheme has been pointed out by C.A.G. in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to remove bottlenecks in the implementation of the scheme and propose to issue fresh guidelines; and

(d) 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) Yes Sir, C & AG has pointed out certain irregularities in the implementation of MP Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) in various Districts. These relate to works executed by District Collectors without recommendation of MPs, works executed on the recommendation of MPs' representatives, execution of works not covered under the scheme.

(c) and (d) All the Chief Secretaries/Administrators of States and Union Territories have been requested to examine the matter. In addition, all the District Collectors have been instructed to take necessary action and effective followup. There is no proposal for issuing fresh guidelines in view of the C & AG Report.

Imbalance in Food Processing Industries

5101. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing imbalance in the development of food processing industries in different States;

(b) if so, the State-wise position at present and the reasons for growing imbalance; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to reduce the regional imbalance?

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

(b) Food Processing is done both in the organised and unorganised sectors. The data regarding the number of units or production State-wise are not available. According to the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 1994-95 published by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO). Department of Statistics, there were 29,407 factories in the country as whole in the various sectors of food processing. Statewise number of factories is shown in the enclosed statement-I.

Food Processing Industries, specifically relating to the Fruits and Vegetables Sector are required to take licence from the Ministry of Food Processing Industries under the Fruit Products Order (FPO) promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act. There are 4932 Fruit and Vegetable Processing Units which have been licensed under FPO upto January, 1998. Their State-wise detail is in the enclosed Statement-II.

Growth of processed food industries like any other industry depends on a variety of factors such as availability of raw materials, infrastructural facilities, the viability of the project etc.

(c) For promotion of food processing industries in the country various policy measures have been provided by the Government. Besides, under the Plan Schemes of the Ministry, financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant is provided to cooperatives. Non-Government Organisations, Public Sector Undertakings, Private Sector Industries, Research Institutions etc. for promotion of the processed food sector. These schemes are project oriented and not State specific. Details of measures taken by the Government in this direction are in the enclosed statement-III.

In addition, the Ministry has identified Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, North-Eastern States, Islands and Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) areas.

Statement-I

State-wise Number of Food Processing Units in the Factory Sector as per Annum Survey of Industries (1994-95)

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of Factories
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10182
2.	Assam	734
3.	Bihar	433
4.	Goa	34
5.	Gujarat	1270
6.	Haryana	600
7.	Himachal Pradesh	46
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	69
9.	Karnataka	1221
10.	Kerala	1170
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1302
12.	Maharashtra	2420
13.	Manipur	9
14.	Meghalaya	3
15.	Nagaland	6
16.	Orissa	426
17.	Punjab	1196
18.	Rajasthan	515
19.	Tamil Nadu	3792
20.	Tripura	22
21.	Uttar Pradesh	2652
22.	West Bengal	1089
23.	Chandigarh	36
24.	Daman & Diu	5
25.	Delhi	125
26.	Pondichery	42
27.	Others	9
Total		29407

Statement-II

State-wise division of Fruits and Vegetable units licensed under the Fruit Product Order 1955 on 1.1.1998.

1.	Andhra Pradesh	300
2.	Assam	25
3.	Bihar	58
4.	Gujarat	260
5.	Haryana	151
6.	Himachal Pradesh	90
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	83
8.	Karnataka	253
9.	Kerala	387
10.	Madhya Pradesh	104
11.	Maharashtra	934
12.	Meghalaya	14
13.	Manipur	9
14.	Nagaland	5
15.	Orissa	43
16.	Punjab	309
17.	Rajasthan	110
18.	Sikkim	3
19.	Tamil Nadu	452
20.	Tripura	4
21.	Uttar Pradesh	494
22.	West Bengal	298
23.	Andaman and Nicobar	3
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
25.	Chandigarh	54
26.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	7
27.	Delhi	302
28.	Goa Daman and Diu	160
29.	Mizoram	3
30.	Pondicherry	14
Total		4932

Statement-III*Details of Measures taken by the Government*

- (i) Declaration of most food processing industries as high priority.
- (ii) Delicensing all 'food processing industries except brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for small scale sector.
- (iii) Promoting domestic/foreign/NRI investment.
- (iv) Providing fiscal reliefs by reducing or eliminating excise duties in many food products.
- (v) Providing duty relief in excise and customs for food processing industries.
- (vi) Networking with State Governments and assisting Nodal Agencies identified by the State Governments through Plan Schemes.
- (vii) Propagation of the concept of backward linkages.
- (viii) Extension of assistance for promotion of post-harvest infrastructure, cold chain etc.
- (ix) Extending assistance for establishment of Food Processing and Training Centres for propagating technology for developing entrepreneurship in the rural areas. Assistance extended so far covers 245 such centres.
- (x) Public and private sectors are viewed as complementary for all round planned development. Increasing emphasis is being placed on individual effort and private initiatives.
- (xi) Operating various plan schemes for promoting food processing industries.

[Translation]

Construction of Dam

5102. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to construct a dam across the Yamuna river near Palwal, Haryana;
- (b) if so, the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon and the percentage of the expenditure likely to be borne by the Union Government; and
- (c) the time by which the work on the project is likely to be commence?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Irrigation Projects in A.P.

5103. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the total funds sanctioned by the Union Government to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the irrigation development programme during the current financial year, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : So far no funds have been sanctioned in the current financial year.

Salinity of Soil

5104. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the area which has been adversely affected by salinity of soil in the country; and
- (b) the measures being taken by the Government to control this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) According to an estimate gathered from State Governments, about 50.52 lakh hectares area is affected by salinity.

(b) A new scheme has been proposed during 9th Five Year Plan for reclamation and control of Soil Salinity by this Department. Activities under the scheme include leaching of salts with provision of surface and sub-surface drainage network supplemented with cultivation of salt resistant crops and p 28 construction with cultivation of resistant crops and construction of dyke/embankments particularly in coastal areas.

The State Governments also undertake remedial measures under the land reclamation programmes.

[Translation]

Embassies and High Commissions

5105. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of countries in the world in which High Commissions and Embassies of our country are functioning;
- (b) whether requisite number of officials in these High Commissions and Embassies have since been appointed;

(c) the number of such High Commissions and Embassies where there has not been any head/incharge for the last two years; and

(d) the number of non-Indian Foreign Service officials posted in India's High Commissions and Embassies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) and (b) The names of countries where Indian High Commissions and Embassies are functioning is indicated in the attached statement. In addition, Cabinet approval has recently been obtained to open Missions in Armenia and Azerbaijan and to reopen the Mission in Fiji. The requisite number of officials in these High Commissions and Embassies have since been appointed.

(c) None.

(d) There are at present 123 non-Indian Foreign Service officials posted in India's High Commissions and Embassies abroad.

Statement

S.No.	Name of Country
1	2

EMBASSIES

1.	Afghanistan
2.	Algeria
3.	Angola
4.	Argentina
5.	Austria
6.	Baharain
7.	Belarus
8.	Belgium
9.	Bhutan
10.	Brazil
11.	Bulgaria
12.	Burkina Faso
13.	Cambodia
14.	Chile
15.	China
16.	Colombia
17.	Croatia
18.	Cuba
19.	Czech Republic
20.	Denmark

1	2
21.	Egypt
22.	Ethiopia
23.	Finland
24.	France
25.	Germany
26.	Greece
27.	Hungary
28.	Indonesia
29.	Iran
30.	Iraq
31.	Ireland
32.	Israel
33.	Italy
34.	Ivory Coast
35.	Japan
36.	Jordan
37.	Kazakhstan
38.	Korea (DPR)
39.	Korea (Republic of)
40.	Kuwait
41.	Kyrgyzstan
42.	Laos
43.	Lebanon
44.	Libya
45.	Madagascar
46.	Mexico
47.	Mongolia
48.	Morocco
49.	Myanmar
50.	Nepal
51.	Netherlands
52.	Norway
53.	Oman
54.	Panama
55.	Peru

1	2
56.	Phillippines
57.	Poland
58.	Portugal
59.	Qatar
60.	Romania
61.	Russian Federal
62.	Saudi Arabia
63.	Senegal
64.	Slovak Republic
65.	Spain
66.	Sudan
67.	Surinam
68.	Sweden
69.	Switzerland
70.	Syria
71.	Tajikistan
72.	Thailand
73.	Tunisia
74.	Turkey
75.	Turkmenistan
76.	U.A.E.
77.	Ukraine
78.	U.S.A.
79.	Uzbekistan
80.	Venezuela
81.	Vietnam
82.	Yemen
83.	Yugoslavia
HIGH COMMISSIONS	
1.	Australia
2.	Bangladesh
3.	Botswana
4.	Brunei Darussalam
5.	Canada
6.	Cyprus

1	2
7.	Ghana
8.	Guyana
9.	Jamaica
10.	Kenya
11.	Malaysia
12.	Maldives
13.	Mauritius
14.	Mozambique
15.	Namibia
16.	New Zealand
17.	Nigeria
18.	Pakistan
19.	Papua New Guinea
20.	Seychelles
21.	Singapore
22.	South Africa
23.	Sri Lanka
24.	Tanzania
25.	Trinidad and Tobago
26.	Uganda
27.	U.K.
28.	Zambia
29.	Zimbabwe

Reconstruction of Old Dams

5106. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any scheme from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for reconstruction of old dams in the State;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have given clearance to the scheme;

(c) if not, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the scheme is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Government

of Uttar Pradesh has submitted a proposal for the rehabilitation of their dams under distress for seeking World Bank Assistance. The proposal was forwarded to World Bank of Ministry of Water Resources through Department of Economic Affairs in January, 1995. However, the World Bank did not agree to include the State of Uttar Pradesh in the on-going Dam Safety Assurance and Rehabilitation Project.

Banasagar Dam

5107. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds allocated and spent on construction of dam, canal, power generation and to meet administrative expenses under Banasagar, Inter-State irrigation project in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, till date, separately;

(b) the funds allocated in the Budget of 1997-98 financial year for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Total funds allocated and spent on construction of the following during last three years are as follows :

Type of Structure	Funds Allocated	Expenditure Incurred
(i) Dam	339.0	168.23
(ii) Canal	40.00	34.07
(iii) Administrative expenses for Banasagar Control Board	0.36	0.15

Information regarding power generation is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The funds allocated in the budget of 1997-98 financial year for the purpose are as follows :

	(Rs. in Crore)
(i) Dam	85.00
(ii) Canal	14.00
(iii) Administrative expenses for Banasagar Control Board	0.10

(c) Likely completion date for dam is June, 2001 and Canals by 2012.

Financial Assistance to Floriculture

5108. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state ;

(a) whether the National Horticulture Board has stopped approval of financial assistance to floriculture units since November, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of exporters applied for financial assistance to the National Horticulture Board for the export of flowers after 1997; and

(d) the financial assistance provided by the said Board and the Agriculture Department during above period and the number of units engaged in export of fruits and flowers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The National Horticulture Board had temporarily suspended the approval of financial assistance to floriculture units at its meeting held on 2.1.1998 till a sub committee on Floriculture Project formulates a mechanism for determining normative cost and technical parameters for future appraisal.

(c) Four.

(d) Among the projects for which applications had been received before November, 1997, one floriculture project with soft loan component of Rs. 100 lakh was approved by the Board on 18.3.1998 based on project viability and financial records.

As per the information given by APEDA, number of exporters of fruits and vegetables (combined) is estimated at 123 and of flowers at 78.

[English]

Fall in Prices of Prawn

5109. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fishermen of coastal areas have abstained from fishing in protest against the sudden fall in the prices of the prawns; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken save the prawn industry hit by sanctions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the mechanised fishing boats operating off Mandapam and Rameswaram area in Tamil Nadu did not go for fishing from 25.5.1998 onwards till 5.6.1998 for a total of twelve days due to decline in the price of prawn. The District Collector, Ramanathapuram arranged for a meeting on 2nd June, 1998 with the representatives of the mechanised boat owners of Rameswaram, Mandapam and Ramanathapuram area, the Marine Products Export

Development Authority and the leading prawn procuring companies. The issue was accordingly settled in the above mentioned meeting when the prawn procuring companies accepted to enhance the prawn procuring rates. Subsequently, the Mechanised Boat Owners Association agreed to withdraw the strike.

Further, the prawn industry has not been hit by sanctions so far.

Production of Mushroom

5110. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage Mushroom cultivation as a part of the diversification programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) the States where Mushroom cultivation is being done at present; and

(d) the details of assistance provided to each State to promote Mushroom cultivation during the last three years, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government of India have introduced a Central Sector Scheme of Mushroom Cultivation for the first time in 8th Plan, with an allocation of Rs. 15.68 crores. The components of the scheme were (i) establishment of spawn production units (ii) establishment of pasteurised compost unit and (iii) provision of training to the farmers in Mushroom production techniques.

(c) and (d) Though Mushroom is being grown in almost all the states, it is extensively grown in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and North Eastern States. A statement indicating the release of funds to the states during the last three years is annexed.

Statement

Statement showing assistance provided to various States Under the Scheme of Commercial Floriculture during Last Three Years (1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of State	95-96	96-97	97-98
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	20.50	20.00	10.00
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	2.00	1.50
Assam	0.50	2.00	3.00

1	2	3	4
Bihar	0.00	2.00	0.00
Goa	8.00	3.00	0.00
Gujarat	7.50	2.00	0.00
Haryana	18.00	8.00	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	18.00	20.00	0.00
Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	39.69	14.50
Karnataka	10.00	10.00	19.50
Kerala	17.00	15.39	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	2.00	6.00	5.20
Maharashtra	0.00	25.00	0.00
Manipur	0.00	5.00	3.00
Meghalya	0.50	2.00	0.00
Mizoram	0.00	14.20	6.00
Nagaland	1.00	10.60	12.00
Orissa	0.00	4.00	12.00
Punjab	20.00	12.00	22.50
Rajasthan	23.00	8.00	9.00
Tamilnadu	35.00	12.00	0.00
Tripura	0.00	4.88	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
West Bengal	0.00	4.35	0.00
Sikkim	7.00	18.20	13.50
A & N Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chandigarh	0.00	6.00	0.00
Dadra & N Haveli	0.00	1.00	0.00
Daman & Diu	0.00	1.00	0.00
Delhi	5.00	6.00	12.00
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.64	0.00
Pondyicherry	0.50	2.00	3.00
Total	193.50	266.95	146.70

Setting up of a Commission

5111. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Commission set up to prepare an integrated plan for development of water resources during 1996 has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if not, whether any interim report has been submitted by the Commission to the Government;

(c) the time by which the Commission is likely to submit its final report;

(d) whether any other issue has been given to the Commission to examine other than the issues fixed at the time of its constitution; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan was set up in September 1996. However on account of various reasons the actual work could start only in 1997. The Commission is likely to complete its work in about two years time.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Pending Scheme of Orissa

5112. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the schemes of Orissa Government pending with the Union Government for their clearance;

(b) the present Status of each of them;

(c) the reasons for their pendency; and

(d) the time by which these schemes are likely to be cleared by the Union Government?

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 Scheme received from Government of Orissa is pending with Planning Commission for its clearance.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Wheat Cultivation in Paddy, Lentil and Peas Producing Areas

5113. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received proposals to promote wheat cultivation in paddy, lentil and peas producing areas in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details of the action being taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the time by which the said proposal is likely to be under-taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No proposal to promote wheat cultivation specifically in paddy, lentil and peas producing areas in Bihar has been received. However, to supplement the efforts of the State Government of Bihar in increasing the cereals production including the wheat, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice)" is already being implemented. Through the scheme incentives are being provided to the farmers, on the use of high yielding varieties seeds of wheat, paddy and millets, improved farm implements, sprinkler irrigation sets and power tillers, so as to motivate them to adopt improved crop production technologies. Besides, for the effective transfer of improved crop production technologies, field demonstrations and farmers' trainings are also being organised under the scheme.

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

[English]

Haj Pilgrimage

5114. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Haj Ministry of Saudi Arabia has allotted 25,000 Haj Visas to pilgrims travelling on International passpoort during Haj-1998;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any decision to increase the Haj quota from 80,000 to one lakh and to reserve 30% of the total quota for private Haj tour organisers; and

(c) the number of pilgrims visited Haj during 1998 and the number of them from Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (c) 94,602 Indian pilgrims performed Haj in 1998. Of this number, 63,574 pilgrims went on Pilgrim Passes issued by the Haj Committee, while 31,028 pilgrims travelled on regular Indian passports. From Karnataka, 5821 pilgrims went through the Haj Committee; the exact number of pilgrims from the State who performed Haj privately is not known.

(b) The quota for each country sending pilgrims for Haj is determined by the Government of Saudi Arabia on the basis of certain parameters. India's quota, and details

thereof, will be decided after talks with Saudi authorities later this year.

Loss in Milk Dairies

5115. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government run milk dairies are running in loss in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government propose to close them down and hand over them to Anand Pattern (Amul Dairy) co-operative movement managed by NDDB; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to widen the scope of NDDB all over the country?

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

(b) The State Government of Maharashtra which runs these milk schemes does not propose to close them down.

(c) There is no proposal before the Government to widen the scope of NDDB.

Utilisation of Funds

5116. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had convened a meeting of various leaders to ensure effective utilisation of funds for antipoverty programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of the meeting?

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. However, the Union Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment had convened a Conference of the State Ministers of Panchayati Raj, Rural Development and Rural Housing on 13th May, 1998 to discuss the programmes of Rural Employment, Rural Housing and Panchayati Raj.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

20-Point Programme

5117. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the progress made in the implementation of 20-point programme in each State during the 1995-96, 1996-97 and 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) : The details regarding the progress made in the implementation of 20-point Programme in each State during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 with reference to the items which are monitored on monthly basis, are available in the Annual Progress Reports of the 20-Point Programme for the said years. These published documents have been made available regularly to the Parliament Library.

[English]

Central Assistance for Agricultural Projects

5118. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent any proposal seeking Central Assistance for undertaking various agricultural projects in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) No proposal has been received from Government of Uttar Pradesh for seeking Central assistance for Agricultural Project in the State.

However, the State Government has sought Dutch assistance for Farm Women Training Project which is under examination

[Translation]

Koshi Dam

5119. SHRI ANUP LAL YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government for increasing the height of Koshi Dam and construction of a dam at Kotar in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the survey work has been completed;

(d) if so, the time by which the construction work of the dam is likely to be commenced; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) Preliminary surveys have been carried out for construction of a dam on Kosi river 1.6 km upstream of Barahakshetra in Nepal.

Negotiations are under way between Government of India and His Majesty's Government of Nepal for taking up detailed investigations. Kothar, located just down stream of Barahakshetra was also identified as a potential site which did not find favour because of technical considerations. Time by which construction work of the dam is likely to commence would be known after completion of detailed investigations and preparation of Detailed Project Report.

Construction of Embankment

5120.DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any scheme for construction of embankments on both sides of Adhwara river and tributaries in Bihar is pending with the National Water Commission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether despite of foundation stone for construction of a embankment laid on during the year 1988-89, no progress has been made so far; and
- (d) if so, the time by which the project is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Schemes for construction of embankments along Adhwara group of rivers in three phases were examined by the Ganga Flood Control Commission under the Ministry of Water Resources in 1986 for Phase-I and in 1990 for Phase-II and III and commented upon for compliance by the State Government of Bihar which has not yet been responded to by the State Government.

(c) and (d) Implementation of flood management works is the responsibility of the respective State Governments. Execution of this scheme would be possible after Government of Bihar submits a revised scheme in compliance with the comments of the Ganga Flood Control Commission.

[English]

Accommodation on Compassionate Ground

5121.SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the salient features of the policy of the Government regarding employment on compassionate ground in the Government;
- (b) whether the persons employed on compassionate ground are allowed to retain Government accommodation; and
- (c) 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) The extant scheme for appointment on compassionate grounds under the Central Government is contained in the Department of Personnel and Training O.M.No. 14014/6/86-Estt(D) dated 30th June, 1987 as amended from time to time. The salient features of the Scheme are indicated in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Request for regularisation/allotment of alternate accommodation to an eligible dependent is considered in case the dependent gets employment in an eligible office even after death of the officer, provided such an appointment is secured within a period of 12 months from the date of death of the officer. Normally, accommodation one type below the entitlement of the applicant is allotted, subject to clearance of all dues outstanding in respect of the premises in occupation of the deceased officer. However, delay up to one month in securing employment, beyond 12 months from the date of death of the parent may be condoned with the express approval of the Minister in-charge. The above concession of regularisation/allotment of alternate accommodation is not permissible in cases where the deceased or his/her dependent owns house/plot at the place of posting.

Statement

Scheme of Compassionate Appointment

1. Scheme of compassionate appointment under Central Government is contained in this Department's office Memorandum dated 30.6.1987 as amended from time to time. It provides that widow/widower/son/daughter/adopted son/adopted daughter of a Government servant who dies in harness or who is retired on medical grounds under Rule 38 of the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 or corresponding provision in the Civil Services Regulations before attaining the age of 55 years (57 years for Group 'D') is eligible for consideration for appointment on compassionate grounds to relieve the family members from the economic distress. Further, if the Government servant in question, was unmarried at the time of his death in harness or retirement on medical grounds and has others dependent on him, one of his dependent brothers/sisters will be eligible for consideration for appointment on compassionate grounds if he/she gives an undertaking

O.M. dt.
09.12.93

O.M. dt.
22.06.95

- L.S.Q.No.
3586 dt.
20-12-95
- to look after the other family members who were dependent on the Government servant in question. Mere death of an employee in harness does not entitle his family to such source of livelihood. The Government or the public authority concerned has to examine the financial condition of the family of the deceased, and it is only, if it is satisfied, that but for the provision of the employment, the family will not be able to meet the crisis that a job is to be offered to the eligible member of the family. This stand of the Government has been supported by the judgement of the Supreme Court dated 4.5.1994 in the cases of Shri Umesh Kumar Nagpal vs State of Haryana & Ors and Shri Anil Malik vs State of Haryana & Ors. Hence, no time-limit has been prescribed for making such appointment. Such request should not be rejected merely on the ground that the family has received benefits under various welfare schemes or on the ground of re-organisation in the Department.
- O.M. dt.
28.9.92
and dt.
25.1.93
- O.M. dt.
26.9.95
- O.M. dt.
23.12.96
- O.M. dt.
30.6.87
2. Compassionate appointments can be made up to a maximum of 5% of vacancies falling under direct recruitment quota in any Group "C" or Group "D" post and such appointee should be adjusted in the recruitment roster against the appropriate category viz SC/ST/OBC/General category depending upon the category to which he belongs. Such appointment can be made only if a vacancy is available for that purpose and this stand of the Government has been supported by the Supreme Court in its ruling in the cases of Himachal Road Transport Corporation Vs Shri Dinesh Kumar dated 7.5.1996 (JT 1996 (5) SC 319) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited vs Smt A Radhika Thirumalai dated 9.10.1996 (JT 1996(9) SC 197).
3. Applicants for compassionate appointments should not only be eligible as per relevant recruitment rules but should also be found to be suitable for the post in all respects. However, educational qualification can be relaxed temporarily for 2 years by the Department in exceptional circumstances for appointment at the lowest level i.e. Group "D" or Lower Division Clerk (LDC). In the case of widows appointed on compassionate grounds to Group "D" posts, she will be exempted from the requirement of educational qualification provided the duties of the post can be satisfactorily performed without it. The widow appointed on compassionate ground will be allowed to continue in service even after re-marriage.
- O.M. dt.
30.6.87
- O.M. dt.
17.2.88
- O.M. dt.
30.6.87
- O.M. dt.
30.6.88
- O.M. dt.
30.6.87
- O.M. dt.
30.6.87
- O.M. dt.
20.9.79
- O.M. dt.
31.10.97
4. Compassionate appointments are made in relaxation of normal recruitment procedure i.e. without the association of agencies such as SSC/Employment Exchange or clearance from Surplus Cell/Directorate General of Employment and Training (DGE&T). The Upper age-limit can be relaxed in such cases but lower age-limit cannot be relaxed below 8 years.
5. Belated requests i.e. cases where death took place long ago say 5 years or so, can also be considered taking into account the fact that compassionate appointment is largely related to the need for immediate assistance to the family of deceased Government servant. The very fact that the family has been able to manage somehow all these years should be adequate proof of show that it had some dependable means of subsistence and, therefore, such cases should be dealt with great deal of circumspection and decided at the level of Secretary only.
6. In deserving cases even where there is already an earning member in the family, compassionate appointment can be allowed if the secretary of the Department concerned is satisfied that it is justified having regard to the number of dependents, the assets and liabilities left by the deceased Government servant, the income of the earning member as also his liabilities including the fact that the earning member is residing with the family of the deceased Government servant and whether he should not be a source of support to the other members of the family. After appointment on compassionate grounds claim for compassionate appointment to higher post should invariably be rejected.
7. The power to make compassionate appointment has been decentralised and vests in respective Ministry/Department/Attached/Subordinate Office. As such, information in this regard is not maintained centrally.
8. Scheme of compassionate appointment is also applicable to the widow/son/daughter of members of Armed Forces who die during service or who are killed in action or medically boarded out and are unfit for civil employment.
9. The scope of the scheme has further been enlarged to cover cases of Government servants who are missing and their family members are facing economic distress. Compassionate appointments in such cases could be made subject to fulfillment of following conditions :

- (i) A request to grant the benefit of compassionate appointment can be considered only after a lapse of at least 2 years from the date from which the Government servant has been missing, provided that an FIR has been lodged and the missing person is not traceable, and the competent authority feels that the case is genuine;
- (ii) This benefit will not be applicable to the case of a Government servant :
- (a) who had less than two years to retire on the date from which he has been missing; or
- (b) who is suspected to have committed fraud, suspected to have joined any terrorist organisation or suspected to have gone abroad.
- (iii) Compassionate appointment in the case of a missing Government servant also could not be a matter of right and will be subject to fulfilment of all the conditions, including the availability of vacancy, laid down for such appointment under the existing scheme;
- (iv) while considering such a request the results of Police investigation should also be taken into account;
- (v) A decision on any request for compassionate appointment in such a case should be taken only at the level of the Secretary of the Ministry/Department concerned.

10. Compassionate appointment is not confined to the Ministry/Department concerned in which the deceased Government servant was last working. Such appointments can be made any where under Government of India subject to fulfillment of the conditions mentioned in the DOP&T Office Memorandum No. 14014/6/86-Estt(D) dated 30.6.1987 as amended from time to time.

Substandard Insecticides and Pesticides

5122.SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the manufacturers whose products have forced hundreds of farmers to commit suicide in several States due to the ineffective use of their substandard insecticides and pesticides;

(b) whether the Government have taken/propose to take any action against them;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government plan to instruct such manufacturers to compensate the crop losses of the farmers;

(e) whether the Government propose to bring a price-in-built-insurance scheme in sale of pesticides and insecticides to pay back crop losses in future; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Enforcement of the Quality Control and Prevention of use of substandard pesticides and insecticides under the various provisions of the Act 1968 is the responsibility of the States/U.Ts. As per the provisions of this Act, Insecticides Inspectors draw samples from the manufacturing premises, distribution sale points and get them analysed in the State Pesticide Testing Laboratories. Whenever the pesticides are found substandard, prosecutions are launched by the concerned State/UT authorities against the manufacturers/suppliers of such substandard pesticides.

(e) and (f) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Poor Quality Pesticides

5123.SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any legal measures to check the transaction of the poor quality pesticides in the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the Government have been successful in maintaining the quality of pesticides in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Enforcement of various provisions concerning the quality control of pesticides under the Insecticides Act, 1968 is the responsibility of the States/UTs. As per the provisions of this Act, Insecticides Inspectors draw samples from the manufacturing premises, distribution/sale points and get them analysed in the State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs). Whenever the pesticides are found substandard, prosecutions are launched by the States/UTs against the manufacturers/Suppliers of substandard pesticides.

(c) The statistics of samples analysed in the SPTLs across the country indicate that an average of 3.0% pesticide samples are found sub-standard. The details of number of samples analysed, found sub-standard, licence suspended/cancelled, prosecutions launched, judgements obtained, etc. during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

O.M. dt.
30.6.87

Statement

Number of Pesticide Samples Tested and Prosecutions Launched

S. No.	Year	Number of samples		Licence		Prosecution		
		Analysed	Sub-Standard	Suspended	Cancelled	Launched	Judgement Obtained	Convicted
1.	1995-96	46,700	1214	9	142	404	20	12
2.	1996-97	45,061	1673	72	142	324	77	42
3.	1997-98	35,606	1052	76	542	162	56	36

Wind Energy Generators

5124. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total capacity (MW) of wind energy generators installed in the country, State-wise;

(b) the share of the private sector investors therein;

(c) the growth rate for the last three years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(d) whether the Government are aware that a number of units engaged in the manufacture of wind energy generators have come to a grinding halt;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to make them functional; and

(f) the funds allocated for such units?

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) A total wind power capacity of about 970 MW has been installed in the country, upto 31.3.1998. Of this, the share of private sector projects is 917 MW. The State-wise break-up is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The capacities installed during the last three years were : 382 MW (1995-96); 169 MW (1996-97); and, 67 MW (1997-98).

(d) to (f) Production of wind electric generators at some of the manufacturing units has been affected during the last two years due to decline in demand on account of general economic recession. Several steps have been taken to boost the demand, both in the private and public sectors. The States have been requested to announce conducive policies for commercial projects and to take steps for allotment of land, speedy clearance of wind power projects, and creation of power evacuation facilities, etc. Financing norms of the Indian Renewable Energy

Development Agency (IREDA), which provides soft loans for such projects, have been made more attractive. Soft loans are also available to the manufacturing units. A number of fiscal incentives such as exemption/concessional customs duty, excise duty, sales-tax, etc. are also available. The wind resource assessment programme is being expanded to cover more States and new areas towards identification of potential sites for wind power projects. Business meets and publicity campaign are frequently held to attract investments to this sector.

Statement

State-wise installed capacity of Wind Power (As on 31.3.98)

State	Exhibited Projects	Private Sector Projects	(Megawatt)
			Total Capacity
Tamilnadu	19.355	687.940	707.295
Gujarat	17.345	149.565	166.910
Andhra Pradesh	3.050	52.740	55.790
Karnataka	2.575	14.435	17.010
Madhya Pradesh	0.590	11.700	12.290
Maharashtra	4.600	0.995	5.595
Kerala	2.025	-	2.025
Orissa	1.100	-	1.100
Others	0.465	-	0.465
Total	51.105	917.375	968.480

Unutilised Fund Under MPLADS

5125. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :
DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of MPs' Local Area Development Fund lying unutilised during the last three years;

- (b) the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) the reasons for the amount remaining unutilised and the effect thereof on development activities; and
- (d) whether the Union Government propose to inquire into the matter of non-utilisation of funds and to take steps to use the same immediately?

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) An amount of Rs. 2835.30 crores has been released to the MPs (LS & RS) under MPLADS from 1993-94 to 1997-98. Out of this an amount of Rs. 1286.30 crores is reported to be lying unutilised in the districts. The State-wise details

of funds released, expenditure incurred and amount unutilised is given in the Statement annexed. Year-wise details are not maintained as the funds are non-lapsable and unutilised funds of one year can be carried forward to subsequent years.

(c) Some reasons for low utilisation of funds are : application of Model Code of Conduct during elections of the Parliament, State Legislatures and Panchayat Raj Institutions, late receipt of recommendations from MPs, change in recommendations by MPs, red-tap in collectors Officers, non-availability of land etc. It may result in cost escalation and delayed development.

(d) Whenever a case is brought to the notice of the Department, the matter is taken up with the State Administration for corrective measures.

Statement

Summary Statement for Release/Expenditure of LS and RS MP's (as on 31/03/98)

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	1993-98			
		Release by G.O.I (Rs. Lakhs)	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. Lakhs)	%Utilisation over Release	Unspent Balance (Rs. Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21795.0	11430.4	52.4	10364.6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1065.00	620.6	58.3	444.4
3.	Assam	7555.0	3911.2	51.8	3643.8
4.	Bihar	27210.0	17115.3	62.9	10094.7
5.	Goa	1015.0	361.1	35.6	653.9
6.	Gujarat	13435.0	5453.7	40.6	7981.3
7.	Haryana	5425.0	3262.0	60.1	2163.0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2635.0	1186.0	45.0	1449.0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1350.0	312.2	23.1	1037.8
10.	Karnataka	15650.0	8130.9	52.0	7519.2
11.	Kerala	10495.0	4852.9	46.2	5642.1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	20875.0	12189.4	58.4	8685.6
13.	Maharashtra	25925.0	13792.3	53.2	12132.7
14.	Manipur	1215.0	792.4	65.2	422.6
15.	Meghalaya	1165.0	493.8	42.4	671.2
16.	Mizoram	760.0	638.0	84.0	122.0
17.	Nagaland	810.0	555.9	68.6	254.1
18.	Orissa	11350.0	5353.5	47.2	5996.5
19.	Punjab	7305.0	3551.9	48.6	3753.1

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Rajasthan	12525.0	6238.6	49.8	6286.4
21.	Sikkim	710.0	510.0	71.8	200.0
22.	Tamil nadu	21585.0	11844.4	54.9	9740.6
23.	Tripura	915.0	399.2	43.6	515.8
24.	Uttar Pradesh	45095.0	29104.1	64.5	15990.9
25.	West Bengal	19685.0	10301.6	52.3	9383.4
26.	A & N Islands	305.0	132.7	43.5	172.3
27.	Chandigarh	355.0	144.3	40.6	210.7
28.	D & N Haveli	355.0	164.6	46.4	190.4
29.	Daman & Diu	405.0	216.9	53.5	188.1
30.	Delhi	3645.0	1798.0	49.3	1847.0
31.	Lakshdweep	305.0	22.3	7.3	282.7
32.	Pondicherry	610.0	22.1	3.6	587.9
Grand Total		283530.0	154902.3	54.6	128627.7

Coconut Cultivation

5126. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the budget allocated to the Kayamkulam Coconut Research Centre during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether any proposal received from the State Government of Kerala is pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(c) If so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(d) whether any breakthrough has been achieved for treating rootwilt disease of the coconut;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the total coconut production in the State of Kerala during the last three years, year-wise; and

(g) the productivity of coconuts cultivation in Kerala as compared to other States and steps taken to increase the productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Budget allocation (in Rs. Lakhs) to Coconut Research Centre, Kayangulam during the last three years are as follows :

	Non-Plan	Plan
1995-96	84.60	22.50
1996-97	88.75	10.00
1997-98	104.13	16.00

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Not yet, however, in the severely infected gardens, eradication of coconut palms is recommended. In the moderately infected gardens, management practices like balance nutrition and prophylactic sprays of pesticides is advocated. Breeding programmes are also underway to develop tolerant lines for which field resistant parents have been identified from the disease prone hot spot areas.

(f) The total coconut production in Kerala in the last three years are as follows :

Year	Production (Million nuts)
1994-95	5335
1995-96	5908
1996-97	5759

(g) Productivity of coconut is low in Kerala as compared to States like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh but higher than many other states. Coconut Development Board is implementing following schemes to improve the productivity of coconut :

- (i) Production and distribution of quality planting material.
- (ii) Area Expansion.
- (iii) Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement.
- (iv) Integrated control of leaf eating caterpillar.

Food Processing Industrial Park in Kerala

5127. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned any grant to State Government of Kerala for establishment of a Food Processing Industrial Park in Malappuram district;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the locations where Food Processing Industrial Parks exist in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which Food Processing Industrial Park in Malappuram is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing has sanctioned one project for setting up of Food Processing Industrial Park at Kakkancherry in Malappuram district, in Kerala which is under implementation by Kerala Industrial Infrastructural Development Corporation (KINFRA), a statutory body of Government of Kerala. While the total cost of the project is Rs. 9 crores, the Ministry of Food Processing Industrial under its Plan Schemes has released Rs. 1.25 crores (in 1996-97 and 1997-98) out of its total share of Rs. 2 crores, as grant-in-aid.

(c) Modular Industrial Infrastructure Ltd. Calcutta proposes to set up a food Park at Dankuni in West Bengal at a cost of about Rs. 70 crores. The Ministry under its Plan Schemes has released grant-in-aid of Rs. 75 lakhs for this project in 1995-96 through Food Processing Industries and Horticulture Department of Government of West Bengal.

(d) The project is expected to be completed by the second quarter of 1999.

[Translation]

Mother Dairy Outlets

5128. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mother Dairy has set-up sales outlets of fruits and vegetables in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Fruit and Vegetable Project, Delhi has set up sales outlets in Delhi and NOIDA.

(b) Details of location of Fruit and Vegetables Sales outlets are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Booth	Location
1	2
101	KIOSK-AIIMS
102	KIOSK-ARJUN GARH
1002	GREATER-K-I
1004	KALKAJI
1005	CHITRANJAN PARK
1006	LAJPAT-NAGAR
1007	LAJPAT-NAGAR
1009	DEFENCE COLONY
1012	IIT CAMPUS
1014	HAUS KHAS
1015	SARVODYA ENCLAVE
1016	ANDREWS GANJ
1017	KRISHNA MARKET
1018	MALVIYA NAGAR
1019	PANCHESEEL PARK
1021	GOVIND PURI
1022	EAST OF KAILASH
1023	MOUNT KAILASH
1024	NAV-JEEVANVIHAR
1028	GULMOHAR PARK
1031	JANGPURA EXTN.
1034	MASJID MOTH
1036	SOUTH EX. PT-II
1037	PANCHSHEEL ENCLAVE
1038	FRIENDS COLONY
1040	SAKET
1042	DAKSHINPURI
1043	DAKSHINPURI EXTN.
1044	GIRI NAGAR
1045	M. B. ROAD
1050	SADI NAGAR
1053	G. KAILASH-II
1054	SUNLIGHT COLONY

1	2
1059	SHEIK SARAI
1060	SHEIKH SARAI
1063	M.B.ROAD III
1064	MADANGIR
1065	ALAKNANDA
1066	SHUKHDEV VIHAR
1067	SIDARTHA EXT.
1068	SARITA VIHAR
1069	SARITA VIHAR
1070	SAKET
1071	KHEL GAON
1072	KALKAJI EXTN
1073	SARITA VIHAR
1077	ALAKNANDA
1079	TIGRI ADJACENT
1104	R.K.PURAM SEC. IV
1106	R.K.PURAM SECTOR-8
1107	R.K.PURAM XII
1109	MUNIRKA
1112	VASANT VIHAR
1113	SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE
1117	SAFDARJUNG
1118	BLOCK C, VASANT VIHAR
1119	NANAK PURA
1120	DELHI CANTT
1121	DELHI CANTT
1122	SUBORTO PARK
1124	R.K. PURAM SEC I
1126	SOUTH MOTI BAGH
1127	R.K. PURAM SEC 9
1129	VASANT KUNJ
1130	MUNIRKA VIHAR
1131	C1 VASANT KUNJ
1132	VASANT KUNJ C 8
1133	D3 D4 VASANT KUNJ

1	2
1134	KATWARIA SARAI
1135	SEC B PKT 10 VASANT KUNJ
1138	JNU CAMPUS
1143	IAA COLONY
1201	LODHI COLONY
1202	KIDWAI NAGAR
1205	MOTI BAGH
1210	PANDARA ROAD
1211	BABA KHARAK SINGH MARG
1215	JOR BAGH
1217	BENGALI MKT
1218	SOUTH AVENUE
1220	LAXMIBAI NAGAR
1221	KAKA NAGAR
1222	GOLE MARKET
1223	BAPUR DHAM DELHI
1224	CHANAKYA PURI
1226	CURZON ROAD
1228	NETAJI NAGAR
1229	SAROJINI NAGAR MKT
1232	LODHI COLONY
1233	KALI BARI
1301	NARAINA VIHAR
1303	RANJIT NAGAR
1304	NEW RAJINDER NAGAR
1305	WEST PATEL NAGAR
1308	SOUTH-PATEL NAGAR
1309	OLD RAJINDER NAGAR
1319	RAMJAS ROAD
1320	INDERLOK
1323	SUBADHARS COLONY
1332	INDER PURI
1410	RAM NAGAR
1412	MINTO ROAD
1501	ASHOK VIHAR

1	2
1504	ASHOK VIHAR
1505	WAZIRPUR II
1506	B-2 LAWRENCE ROAD
1510	KISHAN GANJ
1513	KAMALA NAGAR
1515	MUKERJEE NAGAR
1516	MODEL TOWN
1517	GUJRANWALA TOWN
1518	RANA PRATAP BAGH
1520	TIMAR PUR
1521	DHAKA COLONY
1527	JEHANGIR PURI
1528	LAWRANCE ROAD
1536	ASHOK VIHAR
1537	SHALIMAR BAGH
1538	GULABI BAGH II
1541	B.N. BLOCK SHALIMAR BAGH
1543	SHALIMAR BAGH
1544	SU, BLOCK F. PURA
1545	PITAMPURA DAKHSHINI
1546	PITAMPURA UTTARI
1547	PRASHANT VIHAR
1548	PRITAMPURA VP BLOCK
1549	RAJSTHALI PITAMPURA
1560	ASHOK VIHAR PHASE 4
1601	RAJOURI GAREN
1602	MIG FLAT HARI NAGAR
1603	M BLK HARI NAGAR
1604	JANAKPURI
1605	JANAKPURI
1607	KIRTI-NAGAR
1611	TAGORE GARDEN
1614	MADIPUR
1616	RAJOURI GARDEN
1617	JANAKPURI C4-E

1	2
1622	SUBHASH NAGAR
1627	VIKAS PURI
1628	D-BLOCK VIKAS PURI
1629	LSC JUPITAR APART VIKAS PURI
1630	G BLOCK VIKAS PURI
1632	C2C JANAK PURI
1633	LSC BLOCK A PANKHA ROAD
1634	A3 JANAKPURI
1636	SHAKUR PUR
1637	MANGOLPURI D BLOCK
1638	MANGOL PURI
1639	MANGOL PURI
1640	SULTAN PURI
1643	RANI BAGH
1644	PUNJABI BAGH
1645	PASCHIMPURI C BLOCK
1646	JANAKPURI
1647	NANGAL RAYA
1648	RAGHUBIR NAGAR
1651	RAJOURI GDN J-BLOCK
1653	SARASVATI VIHAR
1652	PACHIM VIHAR
1655	R.B.I. COLONY
1656	PUSHPANJALI ENCLAVE
1657	LOK VIHAR
1658	ROHNI SECTOR 8
1659	ROHINI SECTOR VII
1660	ROHINI SECTOR 2
1661	AVANTIKA ROHINI
1662	ROHINI SECTOR 3
1663	VIKAS PURI
1664	KASTURBA APARTMENTS
1665	ROHINI SECTOR 3 DELHI
1666	SEC-4 ROHINI
1667	ROHINI SECTOR 5

1	2
1668	ROHINI SECTOR VIII
1669	ROHINI SEC-7
1670	SECTOR IX ROHINI, DELHI
1671	VIKAS PURI, A BLOCK
1672	GH-13 PASHIM PURI
1673	GH-5/7 PASHIM PURI
1674	CSC, CCIE, PASCHIM PURI
1675	MANGOLPURI, X BLOCK
1676	SULTAN PURI
1677	SUNDER VIHAR
1678	INDRA ENCLAVE
1679	GURU HARKISHAN NAGAR
1680	GH-9 PASCHIM VIHAR
1686	B BLOCK SEC-14 ROHINI
1687	CSC 2 SEC 13 ROHINI
1688	ROHINI SEC 15 F2F3 BLOCK
1689	POCKET 1/2 SEC 16 ROHINI
1690	CSC-2 SEC-9 ROHINI
1692	SEC-11 ROHINI
1696	CSC ROHINI SEC-15
1697	ROHINI SEC 15 G BLOCK
1699	ROHINI SEC-18
1702	GEETA COLONY
1706	VIVEK VIHAR
1710	B-BLOCK NAND NAGRI
1711	NAND NAGARI
1712	KHICHRI PUR
1715	KRISHNA NAGAR
1723	PREET VIHAR
1725	MAYUR VIHAR PHASE 2
1726	DILSHAD GARDEN
1727	NARWANA APPT. MANDAWALI
1728	CSC BALCO APARTMANT
1729	CSC 4, MANDAVLI, FAZA

1	2
1730	GAGAN VIHAR
1731	AGCR ENCLAVE
1732	YAMUNA VIHAR
1733	MAYUR VIHAR, PHASE 1
1734	ANAND VIHAR
1735	CSC, MANSAROVAR PARK
1736	DDA MKT. LONI ROAD SHAHDRA
1737	CSC SURAJMAL VIHAR
1738	PANDAV NAGAR
1739	MAYUR VIHAR
1740	MAYUR VIHAR, PKT 2, P
1741	CSC, SAMACHAR APART
1742	CSC MAYUR VIHAR EXT PH-2
1743	SWASTHYA VIHAR
1744	ANAND VIHAR 'D' BLOCK
1749	MAYUR VIHAR-3 CSC-1 PKT-A
1754	PSC VASUNDHARA

*Location wise details of sales outlets in
Noida (U.P.)-16 No.*

BOOTH	LOCATION
1801	NOIDA SECTOR XII
1802	NOIDA SECTOR XV
1803	NOIDA SECTOR XX
1804	NOIDA SECTOR IXX
1805	NOIDA SECTOR XXVII
1806	NOIDA SECTOR XXXVII
1807	SECTOR 21 NOIDA
1808	SECTOR 22 NOIDA
1809	SECTOR 26 NOIDA
1810	SECTOR 29 NOIDA
1811	SECTOR 55 NOIDA
1812	SECTOR 15 A NOIDA
1813	SECTOR 40 NOIDA
1814	BLOCK C SEC 22 NOIDA
1815	SECTOR 34 NOIDA
1818	SECTOR 30 NOIDA

*[English]***Mullaperiyar Dam**

5129. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala regarding sharing of water of "Mullaperiyar Dam" between Kerala and Tamil Nadu; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Additional Financial Assistance to Gujarat**

5130. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the additional financial assistance sought by Gujarat Government during the last three years;

(b) the details of the amount allocated by the Union Government, year-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) whether the additional amount sought by the State during current financial year has been released;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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) and (b) The State Government had not asked for any Additional Financial Assistance during the last three years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98.

(c) to (e) The Government of Gujarat have submitted a memorandum seeking Central Assistance of Rs. 600.65 crores from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of recent cyclone. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the affected areas in the State and has submitted its report. The report of the Central Team has been considered by the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG). The report of the Central Team and the recommendations of the IMG thereon will be shortly considered by the National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) for a decision on the quantum of assistance to be given to the State from the NFCR.

*[English]***Launch of SPY Satellite**

5131. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a recently launched US satellite will spy on India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether a report that a six tonne satellite code named 'Orion' was launched from Cape Canaveral on May 8, 1998;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto;

(d) whether India has opposed this move of the US Government and the satellite to spy on India; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The United States of America maintains a large number of satellites for communications as well as imaging and surveillance purposes.

A satellite named 'Orion' was launched from Cape Canaveral on May 8, 1998. Its foot-print or coverage is over China, India, Pakistan, Middle East and the two Koreas.

(c) The US, like other countries including India, has the right to launch its satellites into space.

Currently, there is no international convention under which a country can prevent other country from collecting information from space over its territory. The Principles Related to Remote Sensing from Outer Space adopted by United Nations in 1986 also do not prohibit any country from making observations over other countries from space.

(d) and (e) There is thus no occasion to react to or oppose such a move.

Non-Cadre (Gazetted) Staff

5132. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of provisions/rules of promotion for non-cadre (Gazetted) staff in Planning Commission;

(b) whether non-cadre gazetted staff have to come through UPSC every time for their promotion since there is no provision of promotion through Departmental Promotion Committee on seniority basis;

(c) if so, steps to be taken for promotion of departmental candidates on seniority basis; and

(d) number of departmental candidates promoted on the basis of seniority during the last 3 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) The posts at the level of Adviser in the Planning Commission are filled by promotion/transfer on deputation (including short term contract)/direct recruitment. The posts at the level of Additional Adviser, Joint Adviser, Deputy Adviser, Senior Research Officer and Research Officer are filled by composite method viz. promotion/transfer on deputation (including short term contract) failing which by direct recruitment and some percentage, in case of SRO's and RO's, on direct recruitment basis. The selection of Adviser/Additional Adviser is made by a Committee constituted by Planning Commission and for others through UPSC.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Departmental candidates have to come.

(c) and (d) through UPSC/ Selection Committee of the Planning Commission for promotions. Since these posts are of isolated nature, no action is contemplated for giving promotions only on seniority basis. Since almost all posts of non-cadre (Gazetted) are of isolated nature and do not have any feeder grade, as such for consideration, no action is contemplated for giving promotion only on seniority basis.

Subsidy on Fertilizers

[Translation]

5133. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the benefits of subsidy on fertilizers are not reaching the users;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any action plan to check these irregularities; and

(c) the time by which the action plan is likely to be formulated and brought into practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Government of India provide subsidy to manufacturers and importers of fertilizers to enable their sale to the farmers at reasonable prices. Urea is the only fertilizer which is under statutory price control. The maximum sale price of Urea, exclusive of sales and other local taxes is Rs. 3660/- per tonne. In the case of decontrolled phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers like Di-Ammonium Phosphate, Muriate

of Potash, Single Super Phosphate and Complexes Government have indicated the Maximum Retail Prices. There are no reports of sales of these fertilizers at prices higher than the maximum prices fixed or indicated by the Government.

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

5134. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :

DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA :

SHRI BHIM DAHAL :

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the report captioned "Milworm Bites BARC" appearing in the weekly news magazine Outlook, dated 22nd June, 1998;

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

(c) whether the Government have any plan to draw up a policy against hackers breaking into the computer systems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Immediately on receipt of newspaper reports regarding hacking of BARC computers, a Committee was appointed to investigate the matter. The Committee, after scanning through all the messages, confirmed that only the e-mail computer network was accessed and the hackers could not lay hands on any sensitive information. The information accessed by the hackers contained some simple e-mail messages and some basic research results which would any way be published in scientific journals. There is absolutely no possibility of accessing any sensitive information from the computers used for computations and other in-house information processing, as these computers have no *physical connection* to Internet or any other network outside BARC.

(c) and (d) It is well known that computers connected to Internet can in principle be accessed by clever hackers by breaking into security locks irrespective of the levels of software protection provided by various software packages. However, necessary steps are being taken by the Department of Atomic Energy to further strengthen the security on the e-mail computers and reduce the chance of unauthorised access to even public domain information available on the e-mail, not only at BARC but also at all DAE units.

Mining of Polymetallic Nodules

5135. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sought an international collaboration for seabed mining for polymetallic nodules in the Indian Ocean Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, a technical arm of the Department of Ocean Development (DOD) has entered into an agreement with University of Siegen, Germany, for collaboration for technology development in the field of deep seabed mining of polymetallic nodules.

The collaboration agreement entered in January 1998, envisages the following :

- (i) Refurbishing and modifying an existing crawler with necessary subsystems, control and lifting and other accessories to demonstrate shallow bed mining up to 500m depth in the open sea in the Indian sea water.
- (ii) Transfer of technology relating to seabed mining by generating a detailed technical report for establishing a deep seabed mining system of 25,000 tonnes/year capacity of polymetallic nodules from the potential mine site at Central Indian Ocean Basin.

The duration of the project is two years at an estimated cost of Rs. 16.09 crores.

(c) Does not arise.

Economic Understanding with Neighbouring Countries

5136. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the new trading bloc the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in addition to the already existing trading blocs like the European Economic Community and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) comprising the US, Mexico and Canada;

(b) if so, whether India and its South Asian neighbours are out of all these groups;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to forge a viable economic understanding among neighbouring countries especially the SAARC countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, unlike the European Union (EU) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), is not a "Free Trade Agreement", and open regionalism and liberalization on a 'Most Favoured Nation' (MFN) basis, is its basic premise.

(c) India has formally indicated its interest to participate in the activities of APEC since 1991 and has more recently participated as a Guest in its Regional Energy Cooperation Working Group.

The Fifth APEC Leaders' Meeting in Vancouver held in November 1997 decided on a "10-year period of consolidation" after which membership issues would be considered. Since this effectively stalls the admission of new members for a ten-year period, no immediate steps in this regard are contemplated. However, we have adequately conveyed our interest on this to APEC as we do believe that we can make a significant contribution to the grouping while ourselves benefiting from participation in the same. It is now upto APEC members themselves to recognize the potential of India's participation.

As regards EU and NAFTA, India cannot be a member of either grouping as it does not fulfil the geographical criteria currently prescribed for members of these organisations.

Government is, however, pursuing closer and stronger trade and investment relations and economic cooperation with members of these groupings.

(d) The Government has taken tangible steps to forge viable economic partnerships with countries in our immediate and extended neighbourhood. Both in the context of SAARC and SAPTA, as well as Dialogue Partnership with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Government is actively pursuing initiatives for regional economic cooperation in significant sectors like trade, investment, tourism, science and technology, etc. Similar efforts are also being made in the context of establishing linkages under the auspices of the BBNI-GQ (Bangladesh-Bhutan-Nepal-India Growth Quadrangle), the BIMST-EC (Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation) and the IOR-ARC (Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation).

**Intemperate Language Used by US
Government Spokesman**

5137. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the statement made in Washington on 20th May, 1998 by the US State Department spokesman, James Rubin in the Wake of Indian Nuclear Tests, using intemperate language against India and the Indian Home Minister;

(b) if so, the factual position thereof as ascertained by the Ministry of External Affairs;

(c) whether the Government has taken the aforesaid matter with the US Government at appropriate level;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved thereby; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Government conveyed its reaction to the remarks made by Mr. James Rubin, Spokesman of the State Department of the United States, in a Statement of the official spokesman issued on May 21, 1998.

The Statement points out that "such language is not used in allusion to senior political leaders of any country". It also stated India expected that this courtesy would be extended to India.

Border with Nepal

5138. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned "India, Nepal to step up vigil against ultras" appearing in "Hindustan Times", dated June 19, 1998;

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

(c) the steps taken by Indian Government to strengthen the border with Nepal?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The second meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Border Management and the Home Secretary level talks were held in New Delhi from June 16-18, 1998 between the two countries.

A Joint Working Group (JWG) on Border Management is presently engaged in developing mechanisms to prevent the soil of either country being used against the other and misuse of the open border by undesirable elements. It has held two meetings so far, in Kathmandu and New Delhi. At these meetings, a number of decisions with the objective of preventing misuse of the open border between India and Nepal by undesirable elements, were taken by the two sides. Home Secretary level talks were held in New Delhi on June 18, 1998 to review and further develop on the decisions taken by the JWG. Nepal has repeatedly affirmed its commitment not to allow its territory to be used for activities directed against or prejudicial to the security of India.

In 1991, India and Nepal had signed a Bilateral Agreement of Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade, which provides for effective border controls, exchange of information and periodic consultations with both sides to monitor and effectively combat drug-trafficking and smuggling activities across the open India-Nepal border.

Minimum Support Price of Paddy

5139. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the minimum support price of coarse variety of paddy is announced by the Agricultural Prices Commission in every Kharif season of the year;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments give bonus over and above the price fixed by the APC per quintal of paddy to encourage the farmers in the country; and

(c) if so, the mechanism evolved by the Government to ensure the payment of minimum support price to the farmers in order to stop the distress sale in the States particularly in the State of Orissa.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Government announces each season the minimum support prices (MSP) of major agricultural commodities including Paddy (Common and Grade A variety) on the basis of the recommendations of the CACP, views of State Governments and concerned Central Ministries as well as other relevant factors.

(b) The Central Government or any State Government has not given any bonus over and above the MSP of paddy fixed for the MSP of paddy fixed for the current kharif marketing season 1997-98.

(c) The Food Corporation of India in association with State Governments and their procuring agencies undertake procurement of paddy under price support scheme at MSP fixed by the Government. A wide network of purchase centres

is operated throughout the country to extend the benefit of price support scheme to the farmers and to avoid chances of distress sale. No report of distress sale of paddy conforming to prescribed specification has been reported from Orissa.

[Translation]

Imbalance use of Urea

5140. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
DR. RAVI MALLU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether imbalance in the use of urea and other fertilizer is increasing sharply in the country;
- (b) if so, the quantity of various fertilizers consumed during 1996-97 and 1997-98 separately;
- (c) the reasons for disparity;
- (d) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in 'Dainik Jagaran' of June 16, 1998 under the caption "Mahangi Padne Wali Hai Sasti Urea";
- (e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to bridge the gap in the consumption of various fertilizers; and
- (f) measures taken to educate the farmers on the balanced use of fertilizers and the role of electronic media therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The imbalance in the use of urea and other fertilisers is not increasing. On the contrary, there is improvement towards balanced use of fertilizers. Consumption of NP&K fertilizers in nutrient terms is as under :

		(Lakh Tonnes)		
	Year	N	P	K
(i)	1996-97 (Estt.)	103.02	29.77	11.29
(ii)	1997-98 (Estt.)	111.12	39.31	13.71

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government of India makes available P & K fertilizers at concessional rates to farmers in order to further improve their use.

(f) Besides making P & K fertilizers available at concessional rate, the Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers' promoting soil test based application of nutrients. Under the Scheme production and use of organic manure is also being encouraged in order to achieve

balanced availability of plant nutrients through supplementary sources. Balanced fertilizer use concept is also propagated through electronic media in the form of Krishi Darshan/Krishi talk.

Solar Energy

5141. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the progress made in the field of solar energy as on date along with the steps being taken by the Government;
- (b) whether the handpump and lamp run by solar energy are so costly that even after giving subsidy, the people are unable to make use of it; and
- (c) if so, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to ensure the availability of handpumps and lamps being run by solar energy at low costs to make it within easy reach of people in rural areas including the additional subsidy?

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) The Government of India is promoting the use of solar energy through the photovoltaic and thermal routes.

Under the Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Programme, subsidy is being provided on solar lanterns, home lighting systems, street lighting systems, water pumping systems and SPV power plants. The programme is being implemented through State Renewable Energy Development Agencies, State Electricity Boards, 'Aditya' solar shops and selected Non-Governmental Organisations. Soft loans are being provided for some items through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). It is estimated that SPV systems of about 32 MW aggregate capacity have been installed in the country for various applications.

Under the solar thermal programme solar cookers, water heating systems for domestic and industrial use, air heating systems and desalination systems are being promoted. Loans at subsidised interest rates are available through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and five commercial banks.

Under the programmes of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, the following solar energy devices and systems have been installed in the country as on 30.6.1998 :

Devices/Systems	Installed
Solar Cookers (nos.)	4,56,902
Solar water heaters (sq.m.)	4,20,000
Solar Lanterns (nos.)	1,82,045
Home Lighting systems (nos.)	73,616
Street Lighting systems (nos.)	32,707
Solar Photovoltaic Pumps (nos.)	2,519
Non-Grid connected SPV Power Plants/ Packs (aggregate capacity in kwp)	1,000
Grid connected SPV Power Plants (aggregate capacity kwp)	810

(b) and (c) The initial cost of solar photovoltaic systems is high compared to the conventional products. In the case of Solar pumps, a soft loan is also available to users. Financial intermediaries are generally able to offer the systems at a substantially lower cost by also availing of the 100% depreciation benefit available for solar products. Some non-governmental entities are also offering such products against payment in instalments.

[English]

Minimum Basic Needs

5142. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified minimum basic needs to be provided to the people;

(b) if so, the details of such basic needs;

(c) the funds allocated by the Government during last year to each state under various centrally sponsored schemes to provide the said basic needs of the people of their States;

(d) the details of funds utilized by each State till date; and

(e) the direction issued by the Government regarding utilisation of fund by the State Government?

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. The Chief Ministers conference held in July, 1996 identified certain Basic Minimum Services (BMS) for priority attention which were to be provided to all the people in the country in a time bound manner. In pursuance of the recommenda-

tions of the Conference, the Govt. launched the BMS programme both in the rural and urban areas of the country.

In addition to the provisions being made for the BMS in the Annual Plans of States/UTs and funds routed through the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the Central Government also provided Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for the BMS. While a sum of Rs. 2244 crore was provided as ACA for BMS to all States/UTs in 1996-97, this was enhanced Rs. 2970 crore during 1997-98. A State/UT wise allocation of ACA for BMS during 1997-98 is placed in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The seven basic services identified for the BMS programme are provision of safe drinking water to all, primary health care facilities, universalisation of primary education, public housing assistance to the shelterless poor, nutritional support to primary school children and other disadvantaged sections, connectivity of all unconnected villages and habitations and streamlining the public distribution system with a focus on the poor.

(c) and (d) The Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in the BMS sectors are the following :

Sectors	CSS
Primary Health Care	- Family Welfare Programme (Annex-II)
Safe Drinking Water	- Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (Annex-III)
	- Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (Annex-III)
Universal Primary Education	- Operation Blackboard (Annex-IV)
	- Non-Formal Education (Annex-V)
Nutrition	- Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day-Meal) (Annex-VI)
Public Distribution System	- Purchase of Mobile Vans/ Trucks (Annex-VII)
	- Construction of Godowns (Annex-VII)
	- Intelligence, Enforcement, Manpower and Training on PDS (Annex-VII)
Rural Housing	- Indira Awas Yojana (Annex-VIII)

Available information on allocations and/or release and anticipated expenditure under the above mentioned Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for the year 1997-98 are enclosed in the Statement II to VIII.

(e) The Central Govt. insists on expeditious utilisation of funds by the State Govts. under the various CSS. Release of funds under the CSS are conditional upon satisfactory utilisation of funds sanctioned earlier.

Statement-I

Allocation of Additional Central Assistance for the Basic Minimum Service Programme to the States/UTs for the year 1997-98

(Rs. in crore)

A.	Non-Special Category State	Additional Central Assistance 1997-98
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	170.59
2.	Bihar	364.07
3.	Goa	1.55
4.	Gujarat	72.58
5.	Haryana	19.08
6.	Karnataka	99.42
7.	Kerala	78.69
8.	Madhya Pradesh	210.00
9.	Maharashtra	132.23
10.	Orissa	147.45
11.	Punjab	25.59
12.	Rajasthan	132.98
13.	Tamil Nadu	119.80
14.	Uttar Pradesh	456.84
15.	West Bengal	203.57
Subtotal		2234.44
B. SPECIAL CATEGORY		
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	62.18
2.	Assam	163.80
3.	Himachal Pradesh	64.41
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	156.52
5.	Manipur	44.30
6.	Meghalaya	37.03

1	2	3
7.	Mizoram	36.87
8.	Nagaland	37.53
9.	Sikkim	25.65
10.	Tripura	46.37
Subtotal		674.66
C. UNION TERRITORIES		
1.	NCT of Delhi	14.20
2.	Pondicherry	6.13
3.	A & N Island	13.19
4.	Chandigarh	5.87
5.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.71
6.	Lakshadweep	2.27
7.	Daman & Diu	1.36
Subtotal		44.73
Grand Total		2953.83

Note: A total of Rs. 2970 crore was sanctioned for BMS in 1997-98 Rs. 2953.83 crore was allocated among States as stated above. Of the balance amount, Rs. 10 crore was Additional allocated to Punjab for the augmentation of Jalandar Water Supply.

Statement-II

Release made in cash and kind to the States for the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Family Welfare

1	2	1997-98		
		In Cash	In Kind	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8838.71	2387.25	11225.96
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	147.73	89.65	237.38
3.	Assam	3284.70	1165.61	4450.31
4.	Bihar	9894.51	2727.31	12621.82
5.	Goa	168.13	38.70	206.83
6.	Gujarat	9446.00	1877.12	11323.12
7.	Haryana	3521.84	722.46	4244.30
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1123.72	307.30	1431.02
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1873.62	264.16	2137.78
10.	Karnataka	5185.49	1275.84	6461.33
11.	Kerala	2981.46	937.70	3919.16

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6765.52	3227.78	9993.30
13.	Maharashtra	8289.64	2388.04	10677.68
14.	Manipur	452.95	132.90	585.85
15.	Meghalaya	300.91	96.13	397.04
16.	Mizoram	221.36	74.68	296.04
17.	Nagaland	209.05	59.19	268.24
18.	Orissa	4821.63	1337.46	6159.09
19.	Punjab	2451.93	1117.79	3569.72
20.	Rajasthan	7299.73	2176.96	9476.69
21.	Sikkim	218.87	46.00	264.87
22.	Tamilnadu	10835.89	1924.08	12759.97
23.	Tripura	411.50	161.28	572.78

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	19276.48	5797.10	25073.58
25.	West Bengal	5201.99	2505.16	7707.15
		113223.36	32837.65	146061.01

The funds allocated by the Department of Family Welfare to each State for the CSS (100% Centrally funded) of Family Welfare towards meeting the cost of infrastructure and manpower engaged in carrying out the FW programmes and assistance in cash and kind for operationalising the programme. The actual expenditure made by the State is reimbursed by the Department of Family Welfare in the form of arrears at a later year on the basis of audited statement of accounts submitted by the States. Audited statement of accounts for the last year is not available and the reimbursement of expenses incurred by the States has not been made. Therefore only information on the releases made in cash and kind to the States is given in this Table.

Statement-III

Allocations, Releases and Expenditure under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) in 1997-98

(Rs. in Lakh)

1	2	ARWSP			AUWSP*	
		Allocation	Release	Expend	Allocation	Release
3	4	5	6	7		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7964.00	8806.80	8782.10	0.00	0.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1444.00	2476.00	1959.20	21.16	21.16
3.	Assam	2438.00	2376.50	1001.80	140.00	140.00
4.	Bihar	9380.00	0.00	45.40	139.85	0.00
5.	Goa	227.00	196.50	328.30	17.42	0.00
6.	Gujarat	4987.00	5886.60	4441.80	149.35	0.00
7.	Haryana	2736.00	3259.20	3408.10	58.05	87.03
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1596.00	1709.00	1157.70	21.90	44.95
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4431.00	4694.00	2350.00	13.46	41.61
10.	Karnataka	7325.00	9937.70	9146.60	179.96	179.96
11.	Kerala	3724.00	3564.70	2773.70	64.39	64.39
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8817.00	8345.70	5112.80	417.98	417.98
13.	Maharashtra	10602.00	12087.20	10465.00	176.80	271.80
14.	Manipur	529.00	907.00	224.70	44.18	90.99
5.	Meghalaya	568.00	743.20	730.90	8.09	38.92

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	Mizoram	406.00	583.60	490.10	23.02	51.66
17.	Nagaland	422.00	211.00	211.00	11.20	34.36
18.	Orissa	4173.00	5038.40	3468.90	111.62	156.62
19.	Punjab	1330.00	1714.00	1784.30	60.95	0.00
20.	Rajasthan	11863.00	13783.20	10980.70	171.52	171.52
21.	Sikkim	372.00	435.60	435.60	3.11	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	6314.00	5834.40	7947.00	170.46	205.46
23.	Tripura	503.00	762.00	994.60	29.24	0.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	14775.00	15182.70	7403.10	676.57	776.57
25.	West Bengal	5704.00	4411.50	4422.40	89.72	0.00
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	D & N Haveli	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Daman & Diu	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	NCT of Delhi	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Lakshadweep	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Pondicherry	5.00	10.00	1.80	0.00	0.00
Total		112690.00	112956.30	90867.60	2800.00	2795.00

* AUWSP is for towns having population less than 20,000 inhabitants (as per 1991 Census) The States have furnished combined expenditure figures for Central and State sectors and therefore, separate figures for Central Plan expenditure are not available.

Statement-IV

Release of Funds During 1997-98

BE 1997-98 : Rs. 304.00 Crores

RE 1997-98 : Rs. 301.00 Crores

(As on 31.3.1998)

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	Salary	TLE	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	913.61	122.40	1036.01
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.20	62.75	64.95
3.	Assam	2441.64	1076.00	3517.64
4.	Bihar	-	1547.20	1547.20
5.	Goa	-	-	-
6.	Gujarat	-	3564.52	3564.52
7.	Haryana	7.79	21.60	29.39

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	392.75	617.60	1010.35
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1952.00	-	1952.00
10.	Karnataka	250.00	3282.00	3532.00
11.	Kerala	-	310.84	310.84
12.	Madhya Pradesh	-	3000.00	3000.00
13.	Maharashtra	2447.79	2299.05	4746.84
14.	Manipur	-	180.20	180.20
15.	Meghalaya	175.92	-	175.92
16.	Mizoram	-	39.52	39.52
17.	Nagaland	3.61	-	3.61
18.	Orissa	-	548.83	548.83
19.	Punjab	199.95	133.60	333.55

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Rajasthan	-	400.00	400.00
21.	Sikkim	-	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	725.00	-	725.00
23.	Tripura	112.15	175.00	287.15
24.	Uttar Pradesh	156.66	2124.00	2280.66
25.	West Bengal	-	203.82	203.82
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	18.00	18.00
27.	Chandigarh	-	-	-
28.	D & N Haveli	-	18.50	18.50
29.	Daman & Diu	-	20.25	20.25
30.	Delhi	113.60	96.40	210.00
31.	Lakshadweep	-	2.00	2.00
32.	Pondicherry	-	10.00	10.00
**	HUDCO Ltd.	-	-	1.25
	NIEPA	-	-	100.00
	Office Expenses	-	-	30.00
Total		9894.67	19873.48	29900.00
Say Rs. 299.00 Crores				

*There are no apriori allocations made to the States and UTs under the Scheme of Operation Blackboard. The release of funds under the scheme approximates anticipated expenditure.

Statement-V

Non-Formal Education (NFE) Programme Grants Released during 1997-98

(Rs. in Lakhs)		
Sl.No.	State/UT	Grants Released
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3128.96
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00
3.	Assam	528.53
4.	Bihar	3793.24
5.	Gujarat	66.04
6.	J & K	75.35

1	2	3
7.	M.P.	2554.21
8.	Manipur	311.26
9.	Meghalaya	17.35
10.	Mizoram	8.70
11.	Orissa	1205.48
12.	Rajasthan	1544.01
13.	Tamilnadu	254.94
14.	Tripura	13.49
15.	Uttar Pradesh	4252.50
16.	Chandigarh	0.14
17.	D & N Haveli	5.06
18.	Haryana	54.69
19.	Himachal Pradesh	22.16
20.	Karnataka	33.76
21.	Maharashtra	153.84
22.	West Bengal	103.36
23.	Delhi	23.38
Total		18150.45

*There are no apriori allocations made to the States and UTs under the Scheme of NFE. The release of funds under the Scheme approximates anticipated expenditure.

Statement-VI

Statement showing amount payable, claimed and reimbursed for transportation of foodgrains under the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education

1	2	Quantity lifted	Transportation charges	Amount* Claimed & Reimbursed
		(MTs)	(Rs. lakhs)	(Rs. lakhs)
		1997-98	1997-98	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	188652	943.26	369.76
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	489	2.45	1.17
3.	Assam	27801	139.00	36.98
4.	Bihar	76443	382.21	14.07

1	2	3	4	5
5. Goa		1470	7.35	0
6. Gujarat		24356	121.78	56.80
7. Haryana		38622	193.11	87.46
8. Himachal Pradesh		17098	85.49	0
9. Jammu & Kashmir		0	0	0
10. Karnataka		135767	678.83	55.29
11. Kerala		53795	268.97	0
12. Madhya Pradesh		161140	805.70	233.61
13. Maharashtra		215278	1076.34	45.41
14. Manipur		5650	28.25	6.99
15. Meghalaya		6218	31.09	1.88
16. Mizoram		2900	14.50	0
17. Nagaland		2608	13.04	0
18. Orissa		77049	385.24	7.67
19. Punjab		15416	77.08	.18
20. Rajasthan		92585	462.92	82.07
21. Sikkim		1077	5.38	5.41
22. Tamilnadu		108225	541.12	65.93
23. Tripura		11728	58.64	14.87
24. Uttar Pradesh		367483	1837.41	420.58
25. West Bengal		164028	820.14	84.54
26. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
27. Chandigarh	145	.72	0	
28. D & N Haveli	474	2.42	0	
29. Daman & Diu	265	1.32	.37	
30. Delhi	12055	60.27	18.25	
31. Lakshadweep	0	0	0	
32. Pondicherry	719	0	0	
All India		536016	9044.13	1609.38

*The amount reimbursed is based on anticipated expenditure.

Statement-VII*Centrally Sponsored Schemes under Public Distribution System*

State	Amount Released in 1997-98 under CSS for purchase of Mobile Vans	Amount Released in 1997-98 under CSS for construction of godowns	Financial Assistance under the CSS of Intelligence, Enforcement and Man-power Training Scheme	
	(in Rs Lakh)	(In Rs. Lakh)	(in Rs. Thousand)	
1	2	3	4	5
1. Andhra Pradesh	0.00	8.20	0.00	
2. Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3. Assam	97.66	168.66	0.00	
4. Bihar	0.00	0.00	75.00	
5. Goa	0.00	0.00	7.91	
6. Gujarat	0.00	183.30	0.00	
7. Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	
8. Himachal Pradesh	0.00	77.76	47.75	
9. Jammu & Kashmir	200.00	26.72	0.00	
10. Karnataka	0.00	0.00	8.75	
11. Kerala	0.00	0.00	179.24	
12. Madhya Pradesh	160.00	0.00	0.00	
13. Maharashtra	203.09	0.00	0.00	
14. Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	
15. Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	
16. Mizoram	0.00	112.44	0.00	
17. Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
18. Orissa	256.00	0.00	0.00	
19. Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	
20. Rajasthan	0.00	67.40	0.00	
21. Sikkim	0.00	0.00	30.00	
22. Tamil Nadu	33.24	0.00	57.50	

1	2	3	4	5
23. Tripura		0.00	83.02	24.00
24. Uttar Pradesh		0.00	460.50	0.00
25. West Bengal		0.00	0.00	91.59
26. Andaman & Nicobar Islands		0.00	0.00	0.00
27. Chandigarh		0.00	0.00	0.00
28. D & N Haveli		0.00	0.00	0.00
29. Daman & Diu		0.00	0.00	0.00
30. NCT of Delhi		0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
31. Lakshadweep		0.00	0.00	0.00
32. Pondicherry		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		949.99	1188.00	521.74

Note : Amounts released approximate anticipated expenditure.

* The total release under this Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) also includes Rs. 1436.8 thousand for the item Studies, Rs. 2558.14 thousand under the item of Other Admn. Expenditure and Rs. 150 thousand for the item NDA (Spl. Course for IASs), none of which have been included here since State/UT wise breakups are not given.

Statement-VIII

Indira Awaas Yojana

Financial Performance during 97.98

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State	O.B. as on 1.4.97**	Allocation			Centrai Release	State Matching Share	Availability		Expendi- ture
			Central	State	Total			Total	(Col.2+8)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pd.	6424.43	8970.34	2242.59	11212.93	9603.38	2400.85	12004.23	18428.66	14792.02
2.	Arunachal Pd.	201.74	80.71	20.18	100.89	103.21	25.80	129.01	330.75	210.49
3.	Assam	1366.52	2952.83	738.21	3691.04	2931.07	732.77	3663.84	5030.36	4174.96
4.	Bihar	3441.83	17597.09	4399.27	21996.36	15130.72	3782.68	18913.40	22355.23	21755.84
5.	Goa	100.59	87.63	21.91	109.54	51.46	12.87	61.33	164.91	85.67
6.	Gujarat	0.00	3292.97	823.24	4116.21	3424.02	856.01	4280.03	4280.03	4354.57
7.	Haryana	0.00	790.96	197.74	988.70	758.55	189.64	948.19	918.19	976.51
8.	Himachal Pradesh	19.67	276.72	69.18	345.90	467.78	116.95	584.73	604.40	452.00
9.	J. & K.	721.97	562.66	140.67	703.33	607.12	151.78	758.90	1480.87	968.16
10.	Karnataka	2072.92	6024.43	1506.11	7530.54	5820.36	1455.09	7275.45	9348.37	9206.40
11.	Kerala	322.89	2191.85	547.96	2739.81	2148.56	537.14	2685.70	3008.59	2975.78
12.	Madhya Pd.	5536.51	11368.58	2842.15	14210.73	11695.62	2923.91	14619.53	20156.04	17020.99
13.	Maharashtra	0.00	9779.75	2444.94	12224.69	9968.74	2492.19	12460.93	12460.93	16856.95
14.	Manipur	285.78	103.77	25.94	129.71	56.69	14.17	70.86	356.64	229.78
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	121.07	30.27	151.34	46.73	11.68	58.41	58.41	58.88
16.	Mizoram	0.00	50.73	12.68	63.41	54.47	13.62	68.09	68.09	66.54
17.	Nagaland	344.14	129.14	32.29	161.43	435.83	108.96	544.79	888.93	1933.00
18.	Orissa	2373.47	7277.74	1819.44	9097.18	7443.57	1860.89	9304.46	11677.93	8844.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
19.	Punjab	377.75	562.65	140.66	703.31	478.32	119.58	597.90	975.65	829.90
20.	Rajasthan	2129.72	4723.84	1180.96	5904.80	3888.40	972.10	4860.50	6990.22	5874.66
21.	Sikkim	0.00	47.27	11.82	59.09	41.21	10.30	51.51	51.51	86.52
22.	Tamil Nadu	1012.60	8110.20	2027.55	10137.75	8708.09	2177.02	10885.11	11897.71	20881.44
23.	Tripura	0.00	134.90	33.73	168.63	144.84	36.21	181.05	181.05	266.55
24.	Uttar Pradesh	4900.16	21863.19	5465.80	27328.99	22995.15	5748.79	28743.94	33644.10	19859.83
25.	West Bengal	5458.65	8039.87	2009.97	10049.34	4547.01	1136.75	5683.76	11142.42	7832.57
26.	A & N Islands	0.00	47.27	11.82	59.09	47.27	0.00	47.27	47.27	20.28
27.	D & N Haveli	19.54	25.37	6.34	31.71	11.63	0.00	11.63	31.17	14.18
28.	Daman & Diu	8.27	14.99	3.75	18.74	7.49	0.00	7.49	15.76	6.86
29.	Lakshadweep	28.05	24.21	6.05	30.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.05	12.52
30.	Pondicherry	76.29	47.27	11.82	59.09	93.85	0.00	93.85	160.14	125.96
Total		37223.48	115300.00	28825.00	144125.00	111711.14	27887.73	139598.87	176822.34	159806.42

*Provisional

**Opening Balance is tentative.

Hybrid Seeds

5143. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the places where hybrid seeds are being produced in the country;

(b) whether any co-operation is being sought from foreign institutions in this connection; and

(c) if so, the names of the countries and the duration for which the said co-operation is likely to be sought in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The details of States where hybrid seeds are being produced in the country are enclosed in the statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Details showing the States where Hybrid Seeds are being produced in the country

S.No.	Crop	States
1	2	3
1.	Hybrid Bajra	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

1	2	3
2.	Hybrid Jowar	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
3.	Hybrid Maize	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
4.	Hybrid Paddy	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal.
5.	Hybrid Castor	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan.
6.	Hybrid Sunflower	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
7.	Hybrid Cotton	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.
8.	Hybrid Vegetables	Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Punjab.

Mullaperiyar Dam

5144. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :
SHRI A.C. JOS :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has given clearance to the Government of Tamil Nadu for raising the height of Mullaperiyar Dam from 136 ft. to 152 ft.;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to protect the interest of Tamil Nadu unilaterally without taking into account the interest of Kerala in this regard;

(c) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu removed earth in front of the Spillway at Mullaperiyar Dam; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to protect the interest of Kerala in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Centre is not aware of any removal of earth in front of the Spillway of Mullaperiyar dam by Tamil Nadu. However, recently on 26.05.1998, in a meeting held in the Ministry of Water Resources, Central Government extended an offer to help the two states to resolve the issue through mutual understanding.

Production of Cotton

5145. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Changes sought in cotton crop forecasting methods" appearing in 'Business Standard' dated May 5, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government to the observations made; and

(c) the deficiencies in the present method along with distinct advantages in the new method proposed to be adopted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The news item captioned "Changes sought in Cotton Crop forecasting methods" appeared in the "Business Standard" dated 8th May, 1998. As per the news items, the estimates of the 1997-98 crop (October to September) has been revised downwards from 17.2 million bales made at the beginning of the season to 14.8 million bales, which is also subject to further revision.

The above observation is based on the advance estimates put up by the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) under the Chairmanship of Textiles Commissioner. The CAB had estimated the production of cotton at 16.9 million bales on 19.12.97 and revised it to 14.8 million bales on 6.3.98. The

CAB in their meeting held on 10th July 1998 have further revised the figure to 15.3 million bales. The revisions in advance estimates by CAB are based on the information furnished by its Members and as per latest information based on changing agro-climatic condition, etc.

No change in the method of estimation of Cotton production is contemplated by CAB.

[Translation]

MPLADS

5146. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any time-frame has been fixed for the implementation of the scheme recommended by Members of Parliament under MPLADS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have ascertained the reasons for tardy progress in the implementation of the above scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to set up a special cell at the district level to monitor and ensure the speedy implementation of the various schemes; 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 revised Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme stipulate that as far as possible all sanctions for works should be accorded within 45 days from the date of receipt of the proposal from the concerned MP. However, time-frame could not be fixed for completion of projects as various types of works are taken up under the scheme requiring varying duration for their completion.

(c) and (d) The progress of MPLADS works has been affected due to various reasons such as application of Model Code of Conduct due to various elections, late receipt of recommendations from MPs, change in recommendation by MPs, red-tape in collectors' Offices, non-availability of land, etc.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal to set up a Special Cell at the District-level to monitor MPLAD Schemes. However, the District Collector and other officers of district administration and implementing agencies are required to monitor implementation of these works regularly including visits to work sites.

[English]

Bilateral Relations

5147. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any negotiations between India and Nepal to improve bilateral relations and trade have taken place following the visit of the President of India to that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the agreements and protocols, if any, reached as a result thereof;

(c) the follow up action since taken in the light thereof;

(d) whether any disputes for sharing of river water and power between the two countries is pending; and

(e) if so, the stage at which they stand?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Following the President's visit to Nepal, the 2nd meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Border Management was held in Delhi from 16-17 June, 1998. At the meeting, a number of decisions with the objective of preventing misuse of the open border between India and Nepal by undesirable elements, were taken by the two sides. The meeting was followed up by Home Secretary level talks on June 18, which, inter alia, reviewed the decisions taken by the JWG.

The First Director General level talks on Customs Cooperation were held in New Delhi from 15-16 June, 1998 to discuss mechanism to monitor and effectively combat smuggling activities across the open India-Nepal border.

No formal agreements or protocols were concluded following the above meetings. Negotiations for the renewal of the Transit Treaty, the validity of which expires in December, 1998, are expected to commence in the course of the coming months. During the visit to Nepal, the President had conveyed our decision to agree to the Nepalese proposal for use of the Phulbari transit route to Bangladesh on all seven days of the week. Necessary notifications in this regard have since issued.

(d) and (e) A "Treaty concerning the Integrated Development of the Mahakali River, including Sarda Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheswar Project" was signed between India and Nepal in February 1996. The

Mahakali Treaty provides the framework of cooperation in water resources of Mahakali river and has laid down the broad parameters of such cooperation in sharing of river water and power between the two countries. The Pancheswar Detailed Project Report (DPR) is under preparation jointly by experts of both countries, and negotiations are continuing.

Joint working Group on Kashmir

5148. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pak Government has demanded to set up a joint working group on Kashmir with India;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on such demand made by Pak Government; and

(c) to what extent the question of Kashmir particularly Pak is to be solved by setting up the working group?

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

(a) to (c) In the context of the India-Pakistan Joint State-ment of 23 June, 1997, or otherwise, there is no proposal to set up a joint working group on Jammu & Kashmir.

Flood Control

5149. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI RAMVILAS VEDANTI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of States which have been adversely affected by the floods during the last three years;

(b) the assistance provided by the Union Government to the State Governments for flood control during the period, State-wise;

(c) the achievements made by the Union Government in exercise of flood control in the country; and

(d) the future plan of the Union Government in respect of controlling floods in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Most parts of the country are affected by floods out of which some parts are severely flood affected. List of states affected by floods during the last three years is annexed in the statement.

(b) Assistance provided by the Union Government to various states for flood control during the last three years is as under :

S.No.	State	Amounts (in Rs. Crore)		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	Bihar	11.0	2.36	3.26
2.	Assam	25.6	10.49	18.55
3.	West Bengal	0.5	-	0.95
4.	Punjab	1.9	20.0*	4.56*

* Includes an amount of Rs. 18 crore and Rs. 3.06 crore released to Punjab by Ministry of Home Affairs during 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively for construction of Flood Control Works on river Ravi and Sutlej.

(c) Various flood management measures such as embankments, drainage channels, town protection works, raising of villages and anti erosion schemes have been formulated and implemented by the state government in the successive five year plans. So far 16,200 km of embankments, 32,003 km of drainage channels, 906 town protection works and 4721 village raising works have been implemented providing reasonable degree of protection to an area of 14.374 million hectares out of country's flood prone area of 40 million hectare.

(d) The working group on flood management for ninth Plan has suggested judicious combination of structural as well as non structural measures as the strategy for alleviating the sufferings due to floods. The structural measures include storage reservoirs, detention basins, flood embankments, drainage channels and town protection schemes and non structural measures include flood forecasting, flood plain zoning disaster preparedness and flood proofing.

Statement

List of States affected by Floods during 1995, 1996 and 1997

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Assam
4. Bihar
5. Gujarat
6. Haryana
7. Himachal Pradesh
8. Jammu & Kashmir
9. Karnataka
10. Kerala
11. Madhya Pradesh

12. Maharashtra

13. Meghalaya

14. Orissa

15. Punjab

16. Rajasthan

17. Sikkim

18. Tamil Nadu

19. Tripura

20. Uttar Pradesh

21. West Bengal

[Translation]

Nuclear Education

5150. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of institutions and the Universities which are engaged in scientific work and research and higher education in Nuclear Sciences which have been provided financial assistance by the Government during the last three years alongwith the amount disbursed;

(b) the number of students who have been awarded scholarship during the last three years for studying scientific subjects in different universities and other institutions alongwith the scholarship amount;

(c) whether the Government have awarded scholarship or financial assistance to students going abroad for higher studies in the field of Nuclear Sciences; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Retirement Age

5151. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of IAS/IPS officers benefited by enhancing the retirement age from 58 to 60 years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State, Union Territory and central cadre-wise?

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) All the Indian Administrative Service Officers Indian Police Service Officers in service as on 1st May, 1998 except those who were on extension in service on that date, have been benefitted by the enhancement of the retirement age.

As per the details available with this Department, there were 4931 Indian Administrative Service Officers and 3092 Indian Police Service Officers who had not attained the age of superannuation on May 1, 1998.

[Translation]

Nuclear Tests

5152. SHRI VIJAY GOEL :
SHRI SURESH KURUP :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the politicians, Members of Parliament and diplomats of USA who have justified the nuclear tests conducted by India;

(b) the effect thereof on the USA Government;

(c) whether India is trying to make its stand clear by taking advantage of the opinion of these American supporters as part of its diplomacy; and

(d) the achievement made in this regard?

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

(a) Several members of the US Congress from both the Senate and the House of Representatives have expressed understanding of India's nuclear tests and have emphasized the need to maintain normal Indo-US relations in spite of the developments. These include amongst other, House Speaker Gingrich, Senator Mack, Senator Moynihan, Mr. Joseph Biden, Mr. Frank Pallone and others from the House of Representatives. Amongst other political figures who have expressed understanding are former President Jimmy Carter, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former National Security Adviser Breziznski.

(b) The reaction of the US Government has been very critical but subsequently, there has been greater understanding of India's position.

(c) and (d) Government is continuing its efforts to make its position better understood by our interlocutors. Government is in touch with all important countries. An intensive dialogue is currently in progress with the Government of the United States. Both India and the US have found this to be a positive and constructive dialogue.

AIBP in U.P.

5153. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned any fund to the Government of Uttar Pradesh Under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent another proposal to the Union Government for Central assistance; 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) and (b) An amount of Rs. 43.50 crores was released as Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for six irrigation projects of Uttar Pradesh during 1996-97 and Rs. 78.00 crores during 1997-98.

(c) and (d) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested CLA of Rs. 73.00 crores for their five irrigation projects already included under AIBP during 1998-99 against an allocation of Rs. 155.00 crores approved by the Planning Commission.

[English]

India Never Detonated Hydrogen Bomb

5154. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the report of speech by the Scientist Dr. Subba Rao regarding our nuclear tests published in 'Afternoon Despatch and Courier', Mumbai issue dated 24th June, 1998;

(b) if so, the main points made therein;

(c) the Government's reaction thereon; and

(d) the steps have taken by the Government to counter adverse publicity and publicise the true facts?

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

(a) and (b) Government have seen the report referred to. In it Dr. B.K. Subba Rao, Former Naval Officer, Nuclear Scientist and Supreme Court Lawyer, has claimed that the Indian Tests conducted in Pokhran on May 11 and 13 comprised only Low Yield Fission Devices and not a Thermonuclear Device (Hydrogen Bomb). Dr. Subba Rao

has based this claim on his interpretations of the seismic data issued by India and foreign seismic stations and postulates that the claims made by Indian Scientists are misleading.

(c) and (d) The conclusions drawn by Dr. Subba Rao are erroneous. It is not possible to determine the nature of an explosive device by looking at seismic data. Regarding determination of the yield, there are uncertainties by a factor of two or more from an analysis of the seismic data, if the tests are in sites which are not well characterised. Though the combined yield of the Pokhran Tests of May 11 - 15 KT fission plus 45 KT Thermonuclear - was underestimated initially by Western Seismologists, the latest reports on the basis of more reliable seismic data from 125 stations of the global seismic network of the CTBT gives a number closer to our estimate. For example, there is the following statement in the NEW SCIENTIST of June 13, 1998;

"Although India said it exploded 60 kilotons in its first test, the seismic stations recorded only 25 kilotons. However, Roger Clarke, a Seismologist at the University of Leeds, found that when data from 125

stations - closer to the number required by the treaty (CTBT) - are taken into account, the estimate is nearer to 60."

Import of Milk Powder

5155. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BAINDA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether milk powder is being imported from other countries;

(b) if so, the name of the countries from which milk powder has been imported during the year 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 and the quantity thereof imported from each country; and

(c) the details of the foreign exchange spent thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Details of countries, quantities imported and the equivalent of foreign exchange in Indian rupee are enclosed in attached statement.

Statement

Statement showing Import of Milk and Cream, Concentrated or containing added Sugar or other Sweetening Matter during 1995.96, 1996.97, 1997.98 (Upto August, 1997)

Item/Country	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Milk and Cream, concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter. In powder, granules or other solid forms of a fat content by weight, not exceeding 1.5%							
Skimmed Milk							
German F. REP.	445645	337.65	-	-	-	-	-
Netherland	62000	46.48	-	-	-	-	-
Poland	579950	401.06	-	-	-	-	-
USA	15393	22.45	-	-	-	-	-
Latvia	-	-	16000	9.22	-	-	-
Newzeland	-	-	222975	158.61	-	-	-
Singapore	-	-	15725	11.35	157500	88.68	-
UK	-	-	30000	17.22	-	-	-

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Belgium		-	-	-	-	399000	247.67
France		-	-	-	-	67000	46.24
Milk food for babies							
Others							
Australia		5608	4.47	-	-	-	-
USA		22000	28.03	-	-	-	-
France		-	-	-	-	2000	1.89
German F. REP.		-	-	-	-	500	0.21
In powder, granules or other solid forms, of a fat content by weight, exceeding 1.5% not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter.							
Belgium		254000	183.63	-	-	-	-
Finland		500000	380.16	-	-	-	-
German F. REP.		2050000	1435.03	-	-	-	-
U.K.		704020	514.21	1000	0.84	-	-
Other							
Whole Milk							
Milk for babies							
Belgium		8266	20.19	-	-	-	-
Denmark		-	-	103104	22.48	-	-
Netherland		-	-	8266	20.17	-	-
Belgium		-	-	-	-	11000	20.19
Other (e.g. Milk Creem)							
German F. REP.		308000	241.84	-	-	-	-
		4970844	3633.56	395070	239.89	637000	404.88
		Kgs.	or	Kgs.	or	Kgs.	or
			90.839 lakh		5.99 lakh		10.122 lakh
			dollars approx.		dollars approx.		dollars approx.

Agreements with Foreign Countries

1516. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) The salient features of the agreements/accords signed with various countries during the last six months country-wise; and

(b) the field in which the agreements signed?

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

(a) and (b) The details of agreements signed with various countries since January 1, 1998 are as under :

New Zealand

1. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT was signed in March 1998 between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Horticulture and Food Research Institute Limited of New Zealand, a New Zealand Crown Research Institute. The Agreement provides for cooperation in research and training in plant science and in improved plant and crop production techniques. An

exchange of scientists and technologists as well as information and technology is also envisaged. A Joint Committee formed under the terms of the agreement is scheduled to meet every two years, alternately, in India and New Zealand to prepare an agreed work programme for specific cooperative activities between the two institutions.

Azerbaijan

2. PROTOCOL ON CONSULTATIONS between the Foreign Ministries of India and Azerbaijan was signed during the visit of MOS (EA) to Azerbaijan on 23-24 June, 1998.

3. AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION to provide impetus and a framework for economic and technical cooperation with Azerbaijan, including arrangements under the ITEC programme and exchange of scholarships in various disciplines by the respective Ministries of Education was signed during the visit of MOS (EA) to Azerbaijan.

Myanmar

4. CREDIT AGREEMENT between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Union of Myanmar was signed on 29th March, 1998. Under the Agreement, the Government of India have agreed to make available a line of credit of US\$ 10 million to the Government of the Union of Myanmar for importing from India goods of Indian manufacture and services. The Government of the Union of Myanmar shall pay interest at the rate of fixed London Inter Bank Ordinary Rate (LIBOR) six months prevailing on the date of signing of the Agreement.

5. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Union of Myanmar on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors was signed on 25th April, 1998. Under the MOU, India and Myanmar have agreed to cooperate in the field of agricultural science and technology with the objective of increasing agricultural production. The two countries have further agreed to undertake joint activities in the areas of crop sciences, research, agricultural extension, sericulture, horticulture, jute, sugarcane, arid zone agriculture, cooperative farming, agriculture mechanisation, agricultural statistics, geographic information system (GIS) fertilizer and pesticides use and agricultural joint ventures, agro-based industries such as sugar, jute, cotton, tea processing industries, exchange of scientific information and germ-plasm rained farming, watershed development and water resources development, including irrigation.

France

6. AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS was signed in January, 1998. The agreement enables the two countries to combat crime and facilitate the bringing of fugitive offenders to justice. It reflects the shared concern of the two countries over the globalisation and internationalization of crime.

7. AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CIVIL MATTERS was signed in January, 1998. The agreement provides a juridical framework for the transmission and serving of documents, obtaining of evidence and recognition and enforcement of the substantial commercial and economic links between the two countries.

8. LETTER OF INTENT ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF BIOTECHNOLOGY was signed in January, 1998. It provides for implementation of joint projects in the field of Biotechnology.

Greece

9. AGREEMENT ON TOURISM was signed in January, 1998. The agreement will encourage cooperation in the tourism sector by simplifying tourism formalities, facilitating exchange of information on tourism matters, exploring possibilities of joint ventures in this sector and exchanging educators in the field of tourism vocational training.

Italy

10. AGREEMENT TO COMBAT TERRORISM, ORGANISED CRIME AND TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES was signed in January, 1998. The agreement provides the basis for bilateral cooperation in the field of combating terrorism, organised crime, drug trafficking and extradition with a view to counter the growing menace of terrorism.

11. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION BETWEEN SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES was signed in January, 1998. The MOU provides for cooperation for the development of Indian Small and Medium Enterprises with assistance from the Government of Italy with possibilities of enhanced financial assistance from the Italian side.

12. CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (1998-2000) was signed in January, 1998. The new Cultural Exchange Programme explores areas for development of linkages with Italian institutions of excellence, keeping in view the specific needs of art and culture, education, radio/

TV, mass media, etc., apart from both sides offering, annually, a certain number of scholarships to Indian and Italian students.

Marocco

13. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON FOREIGN OFFICE CONSULTATIONS between India and Morocco was signed on June 25, 1998. It provides for annual consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco to review all aspects of bilateral relations and to undertake exchange of views on international issues of mutual interest.

Egypt

14. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON TRADE PROMOTION between India and Egypt was signed on January 7, 1998. It provides for cooperation between the Egyptian Exports Development Centre (EEDC) and the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), including exchange of information, mutual assistance for organising trade exhibitions and seminars and exchange of trade delegations.

15. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COOPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL SCALE ENTERPRISES SECTOR IN EGYPT between India and Egypt was signed on 9th May, 1998. It provides for exchange of technical expertise of the institutions for the development of small scale sector in Egypt. The cooperation will include, among other measures, establishing the appropriate policy and regulatory environment and establishing an apex body for the promotion and development of small scale enterprises sector in Egypt.

Palestine Liberation Organisation

16. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between India and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation for the benefit of the Palestinian National Authority was concluded on 15th June, 1998. It provides for construction of a Library-cum-Activity Building for Palestine Technical College at Deir-Al-Balah Gaza Strip with India's financial assistance to the tune of US\$ 400,000/- under Indian Aid and Assistance Programme.

17. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between India and the Palestine Liberation Organisation for the benefit of the Palestinian National Authority was concluded on 15th June, 1998. It provides for construction of a Library Building for Al-Azhar University in Gaza with India's financial assistance to the tune of US\$ 400,000/- under Indian Aid and Assistance Programme.

Russia

18. PROGRAMME OF CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation for the years 1998-99 was signed on 16 January, 1998 in New Delhi. It puts in place a comprehensive framework for continued wideranging cultural exchanges over a two-year period (1998-99) between India and Russia, covering the broad areas of science and education, culture and art, mass media, sports and youth exchanges, etc. By it, both sides also agreed to hold "Days of Moscow" in Delhi in 1998 and "Days of Delhi" in Moscow in 1999.

19. SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGREEMENT DATED 20TH NOVEMBER, 1988, ON COOPERATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NUCLEAR POWER STATION IN INDIA between the Republic of India and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was signed on 21st June, 1998 in New Delhi. It is a Supplement to the above mentioned 1988 Indo-Soviet Inter-Governmental Agreement, and provides for cooperation between India and Russia in the construction of a 2 x 1000 MW Nuclear Power Station in Kudankulam, Tamilnadu.

Argentina

20. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON ANTARCTIC COOPERATION between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Argentine Republic was signed on 21 January, 1998. The MOU provides for exchange of scientific and bibliographical information, exchange of scientists, participation of scientists in national antarctic programmes, joint scientific conferences and workshops, joint scientific publications, training of scientific personnel, collaborative scientific projects.

Brazil

21. AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION between the Tribunal de Contas da Uniao of Brazil and the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India was signed on 6 April, 1998. It provides for joint efforts to promote systematic studies, establishment of professional education and improvement courses, seminars, exchange of audit reports, selection of works produced by both SAIs, dissemination of information of technical events and exchange of opinions and orientations.

22. IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENT IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE TO THE AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Federative Republic

of Brazil was signed on 5 May, 1998. It provides for cooperation in biotechnology, epidemiology, sanitary surveillance, management of Public Health Systems, Traditional Medicine, Pharmacology and Pharmaceuticals, Infectious Diseases and Para-sitology, Maternal and Child Health care and family planning, Occupational health and Tropical Medicine, exchange of information and delegations, organising workshops, transfer of technology and publication of scientific and technological information.

23. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DIPLOMATIC ACADEMIES of the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil was signed on 5 May, 1998. The MOU provides for establishment of an active information exchange programme, exchange of students, professors, conference speakers, experts and research scholars, exchange of publications and information of common interest.

Peru

24. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the National Commission on Aerospace Research and Development of Peru (CONIDA) was signed on 30 April, 1998. It provides for study of cooperative programme, studies related to satellite communication, operations of satellite ground stations and satellite missions management, organising training facilities and programmes and exchange of technical and scientific personnel.

25. WORK PLAN between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the National Agricultural Research Institute of Peru for the period 1998-2002 was signed on 30 April, 1998. It provides for scientific and technical cooperation in the fields of agriculture, dairy, pest management programme, live-stock feeding system, training methodology, exchange of germ-plasm etc. A short-term and long-term programmes including deputation of team of experts, exchange of scientists, exchange of scientific equipment and information.

[Translation]

Production of Maize and Peas

5157. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bihar have sent any proposal for increasing the production of Maize and Peas in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. The Government of India has not received any such proposal from Government of Bihar for increasing the production of Maize and Peas.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

[English]

Cultural Troups

5158. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of cultural troupes are likely to be sent abroad during the calendar year 1998; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the countries where they are likely to be sent?

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

(b) 1. Details of cultural troupes already sent from January to July, 1998 are attached in Statement-I

2. Details of cultural troupes proposed to be sent from August to December 1998 are attached in Statement-II

Statement-I

*Indian Council for Cultural Relations Outgoing Cultural Delegations
Activities under plan of action For 1998-99 from January 98 to July 98*

S.No.	Country	Name of the Group	Period	Particulars of Visit
1	2	3	4	5
1.	France	16-Member Kutiattam Group of Keral Kala Mandalam, Kerala	10th Jan. to 10th Feb. 98	To give Performances
2.	Pakistan	Pt. Jasraj (Vocal)	23-26th Jan. 98	To give Performances at the High Commission of India's Republic Day Functions Etc.

1	2	3	4	5
3.	U.K.	Smt. Kumudini Lakhia, Director "KADAMB", Ahmedabad	11th Feb. to 23rd March, 98	To Give Lecture Demonstration at the Invitation of SAMPAD (South Asian Arts Development) U.K.
4.	Madagascar, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Kenya, South Africa	Mrs. Suvra Mukherjee of Geetanjali Group X II and Smt. Sharmista Mukherjee (Kathak Dancer) x 6	12th Feb. to 3rd March, 98	To give Performances
5.	UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman	Ms. Sarla Kumari (Kuchipudi) x 6	17th Feb. to 10th March, 98	To give Performances
6.	Mauritius	Ms. Sumitra Guha (Vocal) x 7	20th Feb. to 3rd March, 98	To give Performances
7.	Australia	Karikudi Mani x 4 Percussion Ensemble Chennai	24th Feb. to 20th March, 98	To give Performances
8.	Swaziland, Mozambique, Botswana, Tanzania	Kuchipudi Group of Ms. Swathy Somanath x 6	26th Feb. to 10th March, 98	To give Performances
9.	Nepal	Pt. Ravi Shankar (SITAR x 7)	28th Feb. to 1st March, 98	To give Performances
10.	France	Travel Grant to Pt. Shivu Taralaghatti and His Tahbla Player (Chennai)	1st March to 5th June, 98	To give Performances
11.	Mexico, Panama, Surinam, Barbados, Guyana, Tanzania	Ms. Penaz Masani Group x 9	2nd March to 6th April, 98	To give Performances at the India Trade Promotion Exhibition and Chain Tour to the Region
12.	Mexico, El-Salvador, Panama, Venezuela, Surinam	Ms. Adidi Mangaladas (Kathak Group) x 6	2-29th March, 98	To give Performances at the Indian Trade Exhibition and Chain Tour to the Region
13.	Bangladesh	"JATRA" People's Little Theatre Group Led By Ms. Sova Sen	8-13th March, 98	To give Performances
14.	Sri Lanka	Ms. Joya Biswas (SITAR) X 4	12th March to 7th April, 98	To give Performances
15.	Mauritius	Ramleela Group of Shri Ram Bhartiya Kala Kendra	13-20th March, 98	To give Performances
16.	France	Shri Paban Das Baul Baul Singer x 4 (West Bengal)	18th March to 18th April, 98	To give Performances
17.	Morocco, Egypt	Shri Ganesh Mahato Purulia Chhau Group From West Bengal	20th March to 4th April, 98	To give Performances
18.	Reunion Island	Bharata Kalanjali Group Led By Shri V.P. Dhananjayan x 15	22nd March to 17th April, 98	To give Performances at Sant Denis at the Request of our Mission
19.	Israel, Syria, Cyprus, Italy Romania	Ms. Alarmel Valli x 6 (Bharatanatyam)	23rd March to 17th April, 98	To give Performances

1	2	3	4	5
20.	USA	Sh. M.S. Shashank (Carnatic Flute) x 4	23rd March to 14th April, 98	To Perform at the National Academy of Sciences and at the Getty Hall in Los Angeles
21.	Colombia	Theatre Group Led by Shri Bansi Kaul x 16	30th March to 9th April, 98	To give Performances in the VIth Iberoamerican Theatre Festival
22.	North Korea	Ms. Padmini Roy (Pop Group) x 9	10-18th April, 98	To Participate in April Spring Festival in Pyong Yang and Chain Tour
23.	Brazil	Cultural Groups 1. Pt. Hari Prasad Chaurasia x 5 (Flute) 2. Ms. Malavika Sarukkai x 6 (Bharatanatyam) 3. Kathak Group x 16 Choreo- graphy-Ms. Lakhia	1-20th May, 98	Festival of India in Various Cities during the Visit of the President of India to Brazil
24.	USA, Germany	Shri Atul Desai (Hindustani Vocal)x3	1st May to 30th August, 98	To give Performances
25.	Germany, USA, UAE	Gundecha Brothers (Dhrupad) x 4	8th May to 30th June, 98	To give Performances at the Invi- tation of Indo-German Societies
26.	Greece	Shri Hemant Chauhan Flok Singer From Gujarat x 6	14-26th May, 98	To Prticipate in the India Vision 98
27.	Japan, Philippines, Hongkong, Singapore	Ms. Malavika Sarukkai Bharatanatyam x 6 Ustad Shamim Ahmed Khan x 3, Mumbai (Sitar)	15th May to 2nd June, 98	To give Performances Being Organised by on Min-On Concerts in Japan and Chain Tour to the Region
28.	Barbados, Surinam Trinidad & Tobago	Folk Singer of Smt. Deep Mala Mohan (Bhojpuri) x 5	15th May to 14th June, 98	To give Performances at the Celebrations of "Indian Arrival Day" In Trinidad & Tobago and Other Countries in the Region
29.	Morocco, UAE, Hungary, France	Prof. Debu Chaudhury x 4 (Sitar Player)	23rd May to 15th June, 98	To give Performances at the Sacred Music Festival In the City of FES And Chain Tour
30.	Singapore	10-Member Percussion Ensemble, Panchavadyam and Thyambaka Group	30th May to 4th June, 98	To give Performances in the Singapore Arts Festival
31.	France	Smt. Gangubai Hangal (Hindustani Vocal) x 5	1-12th June, 98	Invitation for Performance at UNESCO, Paris
32.	USA	Shri Vempati China Satyam Kuchipudi Arts Academy x 10	3rd June to 29th Sept. 98	To give Performances
33.	U.K.	Feroz Khan's Theatre Mahatma Versus Gandhi	8th June 98	To give Performances at the Bloomberg Theatre

1	2	3	4	5
34-	Bangladesh	1. Ms. Kum Kum Dhar (Kathak) x 5	9-16th June, 98	To give Performances
36		2. Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (Mohan Veena) x 4	15-21st June, 98	
		3. Ms. Malini Rajurkar (Hindustani Vocal) x 5	21-27th June, 98	
37.	Singapore	Shri O.S. Arun (Carnatic Vocal) x 5	9-22nd June, 98	To give Performances in Singapore Arts Festival
38.	UK	Shri Anand Shankar & Shri Gopal Mishra, Calcutta	18th June/July	To Participate in the Indo British Music Project
39.	USA	7-Member Rajasthani Folk Dance & Music Group of Shri Nizammudin Langa & One Craftsman, Shri Jafar Ali (Brocade Weaver)	25-28th June' 98	To Participate in the Boise River Festival in the State of IDAHO-The Group is Also Visiting Portugal For World Expo'98
40.	Paris	5-Member Puppet Group Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandal from Udaipur	28th June to 5th July' 98	To give Performances at the invitation of the theatre En Tete In the Festival Sur I An De Inde Paris
41.	USA	Smt. Venkatachalam, Sitar Player/ Vocal x 3	28th June to 10th August' 98	To give Performances
42-	Portugal, Hungary,	1. Dancers Guild of Calcutta x 16	5-9th July' 98	To Participate in the World Expo '98 And Thereafter to the Region
45.	Denmark	Led By Manju Shri Chaki Sircar		
	Portugal, Italy	2. Shri Buddhadev Dasgupta x 3 (SAROD)		
	Portugal, Germany, Denmark, Hungary, Italy	3. Pung Cholan & Dhol Cholan x 10 (from Manipur)		
	Portugal, Hungary, Germany	4. Rang Bahar x 14 Folk Dance Group From Gujarat		
46.	Zimbabwe	Shri Probir Mitra, Tabla Teacher & Pt. Om Prakash Maharaj, Dance (Kathak) Teacher	8-15th July, 98	To give Performances in Harare at the request of our Mission
47.	South Africa, Zimbabwe Botswana, Tanzania	Harvinder Singh Bajwa, Bhangra & Giddha Group	10th July to 10th Aug, 98	To Participate in the Heritage Festival In Durban
48.	Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia	Ms. Leela Samson (Bharatanatyam) X 5	14th July to 10th August, 98	To give Performances
49.	Sudan, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania	Shri Jafar Hussain Qawwali Group	14th July to 10th August, 98	To give Performances
50.	USA	9-Member Nandikar Group from Calcutta of Prof. Rudhraprasad Sengupta	29th July to 25th Aug, 98	To give Performances & Joint Production of the Play Gotraheen at the New York International Friberg Festival by EPIC, Actor in New York

1	2	3	4	5
51.	Switzerland	Arya Vaidya Sala Kottakkal Mapapuram (Kathakali) Dist. Kerala x 10	10-15th July 98	To Perform at Fribourg
52.	Ethiopia, Djibouti	8-Member Composite Group of 5-Member Group of Ms. Vyjayanthi Kashi (Kuchipudi) and 3-Member group of Shri Johar Ali (Hindustani Violin)	13-19th July, 98	To give Performances
53.	Bangladesh	Ms. Usha Ganguli x 25 Theatre Calcutta	20-30th July 98	To give Performances
54.	USA	Smt. Pushpa Bhuyan Sattriya Dancer, Guwahati	July 98	To give Performances at the Invitation of the Indian-Forum Utah (IFU), Salt Lake

Statement-II

*Indian Council for cultural Relations outgoing cultural Delegations
proposed groups during August 98 to December 98*

S.No.	Country	Name of the Group	Period	Particulars of Visit
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bahrain & Chain Tour	Nina & Rajinder Mehta (Light Classical)	Aug. 98	To give Performances
2.	Israel, Greece, Cyprus	Ms. Uma Sharma (Kathak Group) x 6	Aug. 98	To give Performances
3.	Bhutan	Ms. Usha Uthup Pop Singer	Aug. 98	In Connection with the closing Ceremony of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of India's Independence
4.	Sri Lanka	20-Member Bombay Chamber Orchestra	Aug. 98	To Present joint concert with Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka to Commemorate 50th Anniversary Celebrations of India's Independence
5.	Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Azerbaijan	"Rangala" Bhangra and Giddha group from Ludhiana	Aug. 98	To Participate in Babylon International Festival in Iraq, Bosra Festival in Syria and Izmir Folk Dance Festival in Turkey
6.	Norway and Region	Ms. Kala Ramnatah (Hindustani Violin) x 3	Aug. 98	To give Performances
7.	St. Denis Mahe South Africa	Bihu group From Assam x 14	Aug. 98	To give Performances
8.	Qatar, UAE, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Kuwait Oman	Ms. Sreekala Bharath (Bharatanatyam) x 5 and Ms. Reena Jena (Odissi) x 5	Aug. 98	To give Performances

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Poland	Rang Puthli Puppet group from Karnataka	Aug. 98	To give Performances to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of India's Independence
10.	Kuwait	Bharatanatyam Dance	Aug. 98	To Present Dance Drama on the works of Kalidasa
11.	Madagascar Reunion Islands	Shri Partho Bose Sitar Player for a Jugalbandi concert with Mr. Rajery, an Artiste from Madagascar	Aug. 98	To give Performances
12-13.	Nigeria Ivory Coast Cameroon	Ms. Aruna Mohanty (Odissi) & M.N. Rao (Sitar)	Aug. 98	To give Performances
14.	Australia, Indonesia	Ms. Swapna Sundari (Kuchipudi) x 6	Aug. 98	To give Performances
15.	Malaysia	20-Member Bhangra & Giddha group	Sept. 98	To Participate "KL-98" Commonwealth Games Festival
16.	South Korea	Mohiniattam Troupe	Sept. 98	To give Performances at 98 Kyongu World Culture EXPO
17.	USA	Shri K.J. Yesudas x 7	Sept. 98	To give Performances
18.	USA	Smt. Vijayanti Mala Bali (Bharatanatyam) x 6	Sept. 98	To give Performances
19.	Malaysia & Region	Ms. Shovana Narayan x 8	Sept. 98	To give Performances
20.	Netherlands & Scandinavian, Countries	Ms. Anuradha Paudwal (Hindustani Vocal) x 5	Sept. 98	To give Performances at the Invitation of OHM T.V.
21.	Belgium	Ms. Shobna Rao (Light Classical) x 8	Sept. 98	To give Performances
22.	Malaysia	Shri Sachin Shankar Contemporary Dance group	Oct. 98	To Perform in the Music and Dance Festival
23.	Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, Argentina	Dance & Music Group x 8 (Astad Deboo)	Oct. 98	To Participate in Cervantino Festival and Chain Tour to the Region
24.	Germany, Sweden	Yakshagana Group of Late Shri Shiva Ram Karanth x 14	Oct. 98	To give Performances at the Invitation of Indo German Societies
25.	Italy & Europe	Various Cultural groups	Oct. 98	Festival of India in Italy, to be Followed by Performances in Other Countries in the Region
26.	USA	Smt. Shanno Khurana (Hindustani Vocal) x 5	Oct. 98	To give Performances at the Invitation of Ali Akbar College of Music, USA
27.	Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia	Charkula Nritya Avam Brij Lok Geet Manch from U.P.	Oct. 98	To give Performances
28.	USA	Shri Ulhas Kalshalkar (Vocal) Shri Partha Sarthy (Sarod) Shri Shubhendra Rao (Sitar)	Oct./Nov. 98	To give Performances on the request of the Centre for the Performing Arts of India

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Austria, France	Sanjoy Bandopadhyay (Sitar) x 3	Oct./Nov. 98	To give Performances at the request of Austria-India Association, Vienna (Austria)
30.	Syria, Turkey, Cyprus Greece	Ms. Vijay Lakshmi (Mohiniattam x Vandana Kaul (Kathak)	Oct./Nov. 98	To give Performances
31.	China, Hongkong	Shrilouis Banks, Indian Jazz Fusion Band	Nov. 98	To Participate in the Beijing International Jazz Festival
32.	France, Netherlands	Ms. Geetanjali (Kathak) x 5	Nov./Dec. 98	To give Performances at the Invitation of 'Mandapa' in Paris
33.	Australia, Newzealand	Ms. Chitra Visweswaran (Bharatanatyam) x 6	Nov./Dec. 98	To give Performances

Clearance to Irrigation Projects

5159. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of project a have been submitted by the Government of Karnataka to the Central Water Commission for clearance so far;

(b) the number out of them have been cleared by the Central Water Commission till date; and

(c) the details of remaining projects yet to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka submitted 76 projects to Centre for its approval. Of these, 54 projects have since been accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission.

(c) The details of remaining 22 projects is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of project :
1	2
(A)	PENDING MAJOR PROJECTS
1.	Upper Tunga Project
2.	Upper Krishna Stage II M.P. Project
3.	Markandeya Reservoir Project
4.	Singatalor Lift Irrigation Scheme
(B)	SENT BACK MAJOR PROJECTS
1.	Modernisation of Tungabhadra
2.	Yogachi

1	2
3.	Hospatna Lift Irrigation
4.	Harangi
5.	K.P. Sagar R.B. Canal Stage-I
6.	Hemavathy
7.	Bhima Flow Irrigation
8.	Bhima Lift Irrigation
9.	Varani
10.	Ramthal Lift Irrigation
11.	Hippargi Irrigation
(C)	PENDING MEDIUM PROJECTS
1.	Lift Irrigation Scheme at Basapur
(D)	SENT BACK MEDIUM PROJECTS
1.	Akravathy
2.	Swamavathy
3.	Kuduregundihala Res.
4.	Udunthora Hall Res.
5.	Iggaloor
6.	Changavadi Reservoir

Kashmir Issue

5160. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistani Prime Minister has called on the United Nations to play a role in search for a solution to Kashmir issue:

(b) whether the UN Secretary General has sent a team to visit India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka;

(c) whether India has made it clear to the United Nations that there is no scope for third party involvement of any nature in respect to India's relations with Pakistan and that India-Pakistan issues are purely bilateral, to be resolved through bilateral dialogue; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the UN Secretary General thereto?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The UN Assistant Secretary General, Mr. Alvaro De Soto, visited Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in the last week of June 1998.

(c) and (d) Government have reiterated that there is no scope for third party involvement of any nature whatsoever in respect of India's bilateral relations with Pakistan. India remains committed to building a relationship of trust, friendship and co-operation with Pakistan through the process of direct bilateral dialogue. The UN Secretary General, in his recent communication to the Security Council, has said that he had been encouraged by indications from both India and Pakistan of their readiness to enter into a dialogue.

Restructuring of Planning Commission

5161. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the complete structural overhauling of the Planning Commission is being considered;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have appointed any full time member to advise the Government to strengthen the technical base of the Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government for the proper functions of the Planning Commission?

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) It is proposed to bring in functional changes in the working of the Planning Commission in the context of implementation of the Economic Reforms so that the Commission could concentrate more on new emerging areas/trends.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Planning Commission exists as per the Government of India's Resolution of 15th March, 1950 and is discharging its assigned functions.

Investment in Food Processing Sector

5162. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any policy initiative to encourage investment in the food processing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response to those initiate by National and International Companies;

(d) whether the areas have been earmarked for small scale sector; and

(e) the latest position with regard to the export of processed food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Towards its goal of building up a balanced, rapidly growing and self-reliant processed food industry, the Ministry provides policy support for creating a favourable business environment for food processing industries, including fiscal and financial incentives, providing financial assistance through the Ministry's Plan Schemes for industrial investments in the setting up by public, private and joint sector companies involving both the Central and State Governments, Cooperatives, NGOs, of processed food plants, specialised technical infrastructure for the processed food industry including the Cold Chain from the farm to rural, semi-urban and urban consumers analytical quality control, safety and hygiene-related laboratories R & D, and technology development laboratories and projects, Human Resource Development for all sectors of the processed food industry, Total quality Management (TQM) including ISO-9000 and other quality assurance and control measures an marketing support.

(c) From August 1991 to March 1998; around 4500 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda involving an investment of setting up of food processing units. In addition 1071 proposals for Joint Ventures 100% Export Oriented Units in the Export Processing Zone involving a total investment of Rs. 18600 crores including foreign investment of around Rs. 9000 crores, have been approved by the Government.

(d) The industries in the food processing sector reserved for the small scale sector are Pickles and Chutneys, Bread, Pastry, Confection (excluding chocolates, toffees and chewing gum), Groundnut oil (except solvent extracted), Sweetened Cashew nut products, Ground and processed spices (other than spice oil and spice oleoresins) Tapioca sago, Tapioca flour, and Saccharin.

(e) The export of proceed foods during the last 3 years has been :

1995-96	Rs. 104'5 crores
1996-97	Rs. 10407 crores
1997-98	Rs. 11000 crores (provisional)

[Translation]

Identification of Backward States

5163. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD) : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated certain new guidelines to identify backward states in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the guidelines are 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) to (c) No guidelines have been formulated by Government of India to identify backward States. The present guidelines, however, allow a special treatment for Special Category States viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura as regards allocation of Central Assistance.

[English]

Beer Manufacturing Units

5164. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the locations of licensed beer manufacturing units functioning in the country;

(b) whether any of the beer units are run by any foreign companies; if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated output of these units per annum;

(d) whether the Government have made any study about the employment potential of these units; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Union Government propose to give licence to any companies to setup beer manufacturing units in the near future; if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) As per statement attached.

(b) No beer unit is being exclusively run by a foreign company. However, foreign collaboration approvals for joint ventures between foreign and Indian companies have been granted by the Government in favour of 9 foreign companies and 11 NRIs.

(c) Annual production is 425 million litres.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Statement

Locations of Beer Manufacturing Units

1.	Andhra Pradesh	East Godavari, Hyderabad Rangareddy
2.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh
3.	Daman	Daman
4.	Goa	Sakete, Ponda
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Solan
6.	Haryana	Sonepat, Faridabad, Rewari
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu
8.	Karnataka	Bangalore
9.	Kerala	Allepy, Palghat
10.	Maharashtra	Thane, Thona, Kolaba, Satara, Aurangabad
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal, Indore
12.	Orissa	Cuttuk
13.	Punjab	Ludhiana
14.	Rajasthan	Alwar
15.	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Meerut Cantt.
16.	West Bengal	Nadia, 24 Parganas

Ban on Anti-Personnel Land Mines

5165. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether 125 Nations signed a treaty to ban anti-personnel land mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the treaty; and

(d) to what extent it has been welcomed by India?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A treaty "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction" was opened for signature in Ottawa on 2 December 1997. 127 countries have signed this Convention also known as the Ottawa Convention.

(c) The Ottawa Convention calls upon each State Party to undertake (a) not to use, develop, produce, acquire, stockpile or transfer anti-personnel landmines; (b) to destroy or ensure the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel landmines in its possession, "as soon as possible but not later than four years after the entry into force" of the convention, and (c) to destroy or ensure the destruction of all APLs emplaced on its territory or on territory under its control "as soon as possible but not later than ten years after the entry into force". The Convention contains a compliance and verification mechanism, including reporting to the UN Secretary General on measures taken for compliance and a system of fact finding missions for verification.

(d) India has not signed the Ottawa convention as it does not adequately address its security concerns. India is, however, a party to the Protocol II of the Inhumane Weapons Convention which deals with APLs and which has been strengthened at the Review Conference held in 1996. India is deeply concerned about the humanitarian tragedy caused by the indiscriminate exports and use of APLs and follows a conscious policy of not exporting APLs. India is actively associated with demining activities undertaken under the aegis of the UN in different affected regions.

[Translation]

Agricultural Cooperative Banks

5166. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the sectors for which loan is provided by the Government through the Agriculture Cooperative Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the exploitation of farmers by these banks;

(d) if so, the number of such cases came to the notice of the Government so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Cooperative Banks provide loans as under :

(i) Short term loans for a period not exceeding 18 months for agricultural operations or the marketing of crops or the marketing and distribution of inputs necessary for agriculture or rural development and also loans to sugar factories/spinning mills/industrial cooperative societies, etc.

(ii) Medium term/long term loans are also provided towards investment credit for agriculture and rural development (upto 7 years/15 years respectively). The main purposes for which the loans are issued are minor irrigation, farm mechanisation, land development, poultry, fisheries, horticulture, etc.

(c) to (e) The Cooperative Banks are managed by a Board of Directors generally elected by the shareholders (farmers). While a majority of Banks are having elected Board of Directors, some are managed by Administrators. These Banks have a huge clientele. Complaints relating to the functioning of the management of these banks are dealt with by the State Governments concerned in terms of the regime of the Cooperative Legislation obtaining therein.

[English]

Aquaculture in Assam

5167. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

The steps taken the Government for the supply of quality seed, food and other inputs for creation of adequate infrastructure for storage, transportation, marketing and credit etc. for the expansion of aquaculture in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : The Government is providing first year inputs such as seed, feed, fertilizers, manures, etc. to the beneficiaries for taking up freshwater aquaculture under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes on "Development of Freshwater Aquaculture" through Fish Farmers Development Agencies in Assam. These agencies provide a package of technical, financial and extension support to Fish farmers for aquaculture. Assistance to State Government is also provided for setting up of infrastructural facilities such as, cold storages, ice plants, fish handling sheds, retail marketing outlets, insulated vans for transportation of fish, etc. under another ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Strengthening of Infrastructure for Inland Fish Marketing". However, the Government of Assam has not availed the Central assistance under this scheme.

Execution of Projects Under MPLADS

5168. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the projects sanctioned under MPLADS during the year 1994-95 have not yet been executed in the Bhadrak Parliamentary Constituency of Orissa State; and

(b) if so, the specific details thereof in each segment of the constituency and the total amount remain unutilised 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) Yes Sir. Some projects of 1994-95 under MPLADS have not been executed so far in Bhadrak Parliamentary Constituency. The details are as under :

Sl. No.	Assembly Segment	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lacs)	Remarks
1.	Bhadrak	Constn. of Drainage System in Asthal Village	0.50	Not executed due to site dispute and requires diversion.
2.	Bhadrak	Completion of District Headquarter Hospital Building	1.67	Fund sanctioned recently.
3.	Chanbali	Constn. of RCC Bridge over Salandi near Galagandapur	0.50	Due to inadequate fund, Construction work could not be taken up as reported by BDO.
4.	Basudevpur	Constn. of S.N. ME School Building, Kerasahi, Bedeipur.	0.10	Not executed due to land dispute.
5.	Basudevpur	Constn. of Seven Star Club Building, Bedeipur.	0.10	-do-
6.	Bhandari Pokhari	Completion of S.D.J. High School Building Balipokhari	0.90	Not executed due to recent sanction of funds.
Total			3.77	

Scheme for Backward/Tribals

5169. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned any scheme for the development of backward/tribals area during the past three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the year-wise allocation of fund made during the said period, State-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) : (a) to (c) Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The Central Government helps the States in this regard through weightage in the formula used

for the distribution of Central Assistance and through special area programmes, namely, Hill Area Development Programme, Border Area Development Programme, Tribal Sub-Plan, North Eastern Council etc. Planning Commission has not identified any area as backward perse.

The Special Central Assistance allocated/released to tribal areas under Tribal Sub-Plan during the last three years is annexed.

Statement

State-wise Allocation/Release of Funds under Special Central Assistance under Tribal Sub-Plan for the years from 1995-96 to 1997-98

Sl.No.	State	(Rs. Lakh)		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2140.32	2287.52	2581.54
2.	Assam	1546.19	1524.71	1460.00
3.	Bihar	274.22	3364.00	-
4.	Gujarat	3060.26	2642.95	2632.77

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Himachal Pradesh	541.62	622.44	521.89
6.	J & K	756.64	681.54	521.80
7.	Karnataka	659.99	569.50	500.00
8.	Kerala	181.20	153.71	196.12
9.	Madhya Pradesh	9579.66	7695.71	9207.83
10.	Maharashtra	2930.82	3160.78	3400.89
11.	Manipur	574.53	653.22	950.00
12.	Orissa	4958.10	4411.44	5576.27
13.	Rajasthan	2819.04	2467.32	2341.13
14.	Sikkim	100.19	138.41	60.00
15.	Tamil Nadu	274.44	238.81	243.71
16.	Tripura	564.97	594.48	885.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh	104.08	90.39	112.91
18.	West Bengal	1763.21	1558.07	1600.39
19.	A & N Islands	112.21	95.18	118.00
20.	Daman & Diu	59.31	49.82	50.75
Grand Total		33000.00	33000.00	32961.00

Special Envoy Visit

5170. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Special Envoy of Prime Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh who visited USA in the aftermath of India's N-Tests made in May this year, called on the Indian Community in the US through their Association or otherwise; and

(b) if so, the message conveyed to them and their response thereto by way of written memoranda or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) Yes, Sir. Shri Jaswant Singh met the Indian Community resident in New York and surrounding areas on Wednesday, June 10, 1998.

(b) Shri Jaswant Singh, in his address to the community, explained the rationale behind the nuclear tests conducted by us in May, 1998 and urged them to explain this to their American constituents, Congressmen and Senators. He described the present as a "decisive time" in the history of our nation, and urged the NRIs "to stand

up for India at this critical hour" and lend their whole hearted support to the country.

The speech was received enthusiastically by the Indian community totalling over 300 persons and comprising various community leaders resident in the area.

Banana Cultivation

5171. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the areas under banana cultivation;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard during Eighth Five Year Plan and the allocation of funds made; and

(c) the details of the specific schemes proposed to be implemented for the purpose during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Central Sector Scheme of Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits, being implemented by the Government, assistance is being provided for increasing the productivity and production of fruits including banana through various measures such as supply of quality planting material, rejuvenation of senile orchards, training of farmers besides area expansion. Allocations of Rs. 74.30 crores were made for the scheme during the Eighth Five Plan.

(c) The aforesaid Central Sector Scheme is proposed to be continued during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The State-wise details of funds allocated during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is given in the Statement at Annexure-I.

Statement

*Outlay under Fruits Scheme during 1997-98
and 1998-99*

Sl. No.	State	(Rs. in Lakh)	
		Outlay 1997-98	Outlay 1998-99
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	71.37	132.06
2.	Arunachal Pr.	26.60	37.27
3.	Assam	15.21	45.83
4.	Bihar	71.72	111.97
5.	Goa	4.01	11.90
6.	Gujarat	76.26	115.61
7.	Haryana	34.80	84.81

1	2	3	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	41.34	84.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	135.50	143.81
10.	Karnataka	83.59	179.17
11.	Kerala	53.64	94.16
12.	Madhya Pradesh	108.23	133.46
13.	Maharashtra	127.49	194.54
14.	Manipur	67.28	95.58
15.	Meghalaya	10.53	21.85
16.	Mizoram	7.62	22.13
17.	Nagaland	53.60	73.55
18.	Orissa	327.70	332.86
19.	Punjab	30.00	49.08
20.	Rajasthan	40.70	80.22
21.	Sikkim	10.30	16.79
22.	Tamil Nadu	80.06	133.03
23.	Tripura	15.35	31.90
24.	Uttar Pradesh	90.39	122.84
25.	West Bengal	83.96	93.10
26.	A & N Islands	11.30	14.69
27.	Chandigarh	11.00	1.00
28.	D & N Haveli	4.84	6.62
29.	Delhi	4.86	5.90
30.	Daman & Diu	4.87	8.20

1	2	3	4
31.	Lakshadweep	10.90	14.09
32.	Pondicherry	3.00	8.01
Total		1718.02	2500.03

I.C.A.R.

5172. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of frontline demonstrations conducted by ICAR under the Production Programme during 1990-91;

(b) the details of effect of these demonstrations in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether any evaluation studies have been carried out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) During 1990-91 a total of 3348 frontline demonstrations were conducted on oilseeds under Technology Mission on Oilseeds Production Programme (TMOP).

(b) The details of effect of these demonstrations in the country, state-wise are indicated in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, based on comparison of demonstration yield with the existing yield on farmers' plots the potentialities of increase in yield was found to be 103.19% in mustard, 33.33% in gobi sarson, 166.22% in linseed, 36.55% in groundnut, 44.79% in sunflower and 190.12% in sesame. The details are indicated in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Performance of Oilseed Front Line Demonstrations on different states during 1990-91

Mustard

State	No. of Farmers	Area (ha)	Average yield (q/ha)		increase in yield (%)
			Demonstration	Local Check	
Punjab	56	53.20	11.92	7.62	56.43
Himachal Pradesh	199	37.80	8.01	3.10	158.39
Uttar Pradesh	277	149.20	15.15	5.30	185.85
West Bengal	1005	130.6	12.44	8.51	46.18
Bihar	176	22.38	10.00	3.93	154.45
Orissa	149	43.10	10.57	4.52	133.85
Total/Average	1862	436.28	12.61	6.21	103.19

Gobi Sarson

State	No. of Farmers	Area	Average yield (q/ha)		increase in yield (%)
			Demonstration	Local Check	
Punjab	106	103.00	13.07	9.82	33.10
Himachal Pradesh	89	2.90	18.20	13.05	39.46
Total/Average	195	105.90	13.21	9.91	33.33

Linseed

State	No. of Farmers	Area	Average yield (q/ha)		increase in yield (%)
			Demonstration	Local Check	
Bihar	66	19.12	6.65	2.38	179.41
Madhya Pradesh	21	20.00	11.68	4.50	159.56
Total/Average	87	39.12	9.22	3.46	166.22

Groundnut

State	No. of Farmers	Area (ha)	Average yield (q/ha)		increase in yield (%)
			Demonstration	Local Check	
Andhra Pradesh	344	143.00	21.89	15.73	39.16
Orissa	270	67.00	18.67	14.43	29.38
Karnataka	112	91.60	17.10	13.80	23.91
Tamilnadu	110	84.00	17.20	11.10	54.95
Total/Average	836	385.60	19.17	14.04	36.55

Sunflower

State	No. of Farmers	Area	Average yield (q/ha)		increase in yield (%)
			Demonstration	Local Check	
Karnataka	83	89.00	16.90	10.60	59.43
Tamilnadu	17	15.00	15.10	10.60	42.45
Haryana	32	32.00	21.01	15.05	39.60
Punjab	50	33.00	18.86	14.98	25.90
Maharashtra	54	25.10	18.80	12.60	49.21
Maharashtra	23	10.00	9.80	5.00	96.00
Total/Average	259	204.10	19.93	13.76	44.79

Sesame

State	No. of Farmers	Area	Average yield (q/ha)		increase in yield (%)
			Demonstration	Local Check	
Orissa	84	18.30	8.82	3.72	137.10
Tamilnadu	25	15.71	8.10	2.00	305.00
Total/Average	109	34.01	8.49	2.93	190.12

[Translation]

Irrigation of Paddy Saplings

5173. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government have requested the Union Government to release cent-percent grant of Rs. 220 lakh to meet the expenditure needed for 27,50,000 litre diesel for the irrigation of paddy saplings; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent a proposal for providing the irrigation subsidy to the farmers for about 1.9 lakh ha paddy nursery area which is in the command of diesel operated tubewells and pumping sets. The State Government has asked for an assistance of Rs. 550 lakh to meet the cost of diesel @ 25 litre per ha per irrigation, for two irrigations.

(b) It has not been possible to provide assistance to the State for irrigation subsidy as no provision exists under the on-going Integrated Cereals Development Programmes in Rice & Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice & ICDP-Wheat).

[English]

Soil Conservation

5174. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BAINDA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount provided by the Union Government for the purpose of soil conservation in the country during the year 1997, State-wise; and

(b) the criteria adopted for allocation of funds to the States?

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

(b) The criteria adopted for the release of funds to the States depends on the intensity and severity of land degradation in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers, the shifting cultivation areas of North-Eastern States and other problem areas in the country. The release of funds to the States also depends on other factors such as (i) Performance of the State in programme implementation during the last three years, (ii) availability of infrastructure in the State to implement the programme, (iii) utilisation potential of the State and (iv) quantum of approved watershed programmes of the State.

Statement

Statement Showing State-wise Amount Released for Soil Conservation in the Country During 1997-98

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.No.	States/UTs	Amount Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1379.17
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	215.80
3.	Assam	166.46
4.	Bihar	449.37
5.	Gujarat	966.00
6.	Haryana	191.78
7.	Himachal Pradesh	783.30
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	571.70
9.	Karnataka	3057.60
10.	Kerala	507.30
11.	Madhya Pradesh	3349.65
12.	Maharashtra	3330.58
13.	Manipur	613.67
14.	Meghalaya	139.00
15.	Mizoram	533.46
16.	Nagaland	471.12
17.	Orissa	1304.00
18.	Punjab	246.90
19.	Rajasthan	4471.82
20.	Sikkim	90.00
21.	Tamilnadu	1509.55
22.	Tripura	268.40
23.	Uttar Pradesh	4730.80
24.	West Bengal	118.73
25.	Goa	9.00
26.	A & N Islands	25.00
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7.22
28.	Lakshadweep	4.78
29.	Pondicherry	4.00
30.	D.V.C.	400.00
Total		29916.16

Haj Pilgrimage

5175. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding various issues of Haj Pilgrims from the Andhra Pradesh?

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

(c) the total number of Haj Pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh allowed during 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A total of 1,966 pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh performed Haj through the Haj Committee during 1998; the number of pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh who went for Haj privately is not available.

Stall Work on UKP Stage-II

5176. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Working Group set up by the Planning Commission made a recommendation to stall work on UKP-II Stage being carried by the Karnataka Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has accepted or rejected the above recommendation; and

(d) 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) to (d) The project report of Upper Krishna Project (UKP) Stage-II is still under examination in the Central Water Commission for its techno-economic appraisal and, as such, the project has not so far been considered by the Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose projects of the Ministry of Water Resources. Consequently, the project is yet to get investment clearance from the Planning Commission. Also, this project involves inter-state issues which are subjudice in the Supreme Court. However, the State Government proposed outlays for this project for the Ninth Five Year Plan and the Annual Plan 1997-98. Considering the present status (i.e. unapproved) of this

project, the Working Group setup by the Planning Commission did not recommend any financial outlay for this project during the year 1997-98. It nevertheless, recommended an outlay of Rs. 1921.00 crore for the Ninth Five Year Plan but subject to approval of the project and the decision of the Supreme Court.

Foreign Secretary Level Talks

5177. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Foreign Secretary level talk was held between India and Bangladesh recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Foreign Secretary level talks were held between India and Bangladesh on 28-29 June 1998 in Dhaka. The talks covered bilateral relations as well as regional and international matters. Both sides expressed satisfaction over the continued close and friendly relations between the two countries. There was an emphasis on the need to accelerate economic cooperation in a constructive and mutually beneficial manner. Cooperation in other areas of bilateral interaction, including security matters, was also discussed. Both sides reiterated their commitment to working to develop SAARC as an effective forum for promoting greater regional cooperation.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment and Collaboration in Food Processing Sector

5178. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JAHANABAD):

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of foreign investment and collaboration available in the country in the food processing sector at present, productwise and State-wise; and

(b) the impact of this investment/collaboration in the field of employment generation and the development of food processing industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Since July, 1991 till March, 1998, foreign investment of Rs. 8756 crores have been approved in the various sectors of food processing. Sectorwise and Statewise details are in the attached statement I and II.

(b) The entry of foreign companies in the food processing sector is expected to help in better utilization

of the agricultural produce, generating employment, expansion of domestic as well as export market and increase in value addition.

Statement-I

State-wise details of foreign investment approved in the food processing sector (from July, 1991 to March, 1998)

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Sector	Foreign Investment
1.	Grain milling & grain based Products.	519
2.	Fruit & Vegetable, products	819
3.	Meat and Poultry Products	456
4.	Deep Sea Fishing, Fish Processing & Aquaculture	553
5.	Fermentation Industry	615
6.	Consumer Industry including soft drinks, confectionery/mineral water etc.	5176
7.	Milk and Milk Products	367
8.	Others including food additives, food colours, oleo resins	251
Total		8756

Statement-II

Statewise details of foreign investment approved in the food processing sector (from July, 1991 to March, 1998)

(Rs. in crores)

SNo.	State	Foreign Investment
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	234
2.	Assam	1
3.	Bihar	1
4.	Gujarat	289
5.	Haryana	220
6.	Himachal Pradesh	112
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	8
8.	Karnataka	106
9.	Kerala	25

1	2	3
10.	Madhya Pradesh	140
11.	Maharashtra	582
12.	Orissa	3
13.	Punjab	17
14.	Rajasthan	38
15.	Tamil Nadu	569
16.	Tripura	1
17.	Uttar Pradesh	451
18.	West Bengal	22
19.	Delhi	803
20.	Pondicherry	6
21.	Goa	11
22.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1
23.	Chandigarh	70
24.	Lakshadweep	1
25.	Daman & Diu	1
26.	Companies with Units located in more than one State	5044
Total		8756

[English]

Incremental Investment in Food Processing Industries

5179. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment in the incremental investment in the food processing industry over the past five years has been made by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the total investment in the food processing industry is expected to double from the present level in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken to improve further investment in the food processing industry; and

(f) the names of the countries shown keen interest in investment in the food processing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The yearwise investment in food processing industries during the past five years has been :

Year	Rupees in crores
1993-94	9518
1994-95	7774
1995-96	7496
1996-97	8365
1997-98	7263

(c) and (d) The investment in this sector is expected to increase significantly in the next years but the exact amount cannot be quantified.

(e) The Ministry in its promotional role in boosting investment in processed food sector provides policy support in creating a favourable environment for setting up of food processing units, and financial assistance through its Plan Schemes for establishment of infrastructural facilities, creation of processing capacities, Total Quality Management including ISQ-9000 and other quality control measures, Research and Development, Human Resource Development and Marketing Support.

(f) The largest foreign investments approved for the processed food sector are from U.S.A., Italy, Thailand, Canada and France.

Irrigation Projects in Orissa

5180. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for the execution of Bhajanagar, Sorada and Ghodahado irrigation projects in Southern Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds proposed to be allocated by the Union Government for these projects?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Decline in Production of Processed Fruits and Vegetables

5181. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is substantial decline in production of processed fruits and vegetables in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for the decrease in production; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to step up the production of processed fruits and vegetables in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) While there has been an increase in production of processed fruits and vegetables every year, from 3.60 lakh tonnes in 1991 to 9.60 lakh tonnes in 1996, there has been a decline in their production in the year 1997, to 9.10 lakh tonnes.

(b) Some of the factors that are likely to affect the status of production are availability and prices of raw materials, market demand and overall economic viability of products.

(e) In order to encourage processing of fruits and vegetables, Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides, under its Plan Schemes, financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant, for the creation of infrastructural facilities, cold storages, food parks, setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing industries, research and development projects etc.

Liberal Trade Terms with Nepal

5182. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Nepal has asked India for liberal trade transit terms along a new road across its Southern neighbour to Bangladesh;

(b) whether the former Prime Minister had agreed last year to let land locked Nepal use the 71 kilometres stretch of its territory as a new transit route to reach ports in Bangladesh;

(c) to what extent India has agreed to Nepal's request for liberal trade terms; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral's visit to Nepal in June 1997 the long standing Nepalese request for an additional transit route to Bangladesh via Phulbari was accepted. Operating modalities for the transit on the Kakarbhita-Phulbari-Banglabund route were accordingly worked out, and the route was operationalised from September 1, 1997.

(c) and (d) During a meeting between the Commerce Secretaries of the two countries held in New Delhi in March 1998, several relaxations of the operating modalities, requested by the Nepalese Government, were agreed to, to the satisfaction of both sides.

Brahmaputra Board

5183. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of flood Control-cum-power projects prepared by the Brahmaputra Board since its inception and the expenditure incurred thereon, project-wise;

(b) the present status of these projects including Subansiri, Dehand, Dibang and Tipaimukh;

(c) whether the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has suggested three small dams instead of one big dam at Subansiri dam project; and

(d) if so, the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Since inception in December, 1981, Brahmaputra Board has prepared Detailed project Reports for multipurpose projects on (i) Pagladiya in Assam, (ii) Tipaimukh at Manipur-Mizoram border, (iii) Dehang and Subansiri in Arunachal Pradesh. The expenditure incurred for preparing the Detailed Project Reports on above schemes in lakh of Rupees are : (i) 239.23 (upto March 1998), (ii) 647.80 (upto March, 1990) and (iii) 804.52 and 897.64 (upto March 1998).

(b) Pagladiya project has been technically cleared from all angles and is under process for investment clearance through Public Investment Board. Technical clearance was accorded to Tipaimukh Project during 1995, but its implementation is held up in the absence of agreement amongst the concerned States of Manipur, Mizoram and Assam. Investigations are in progress for multipurpose projects at three new alternate sites each on Dihang and Subansiri rivers, which are in addition to the single sites investigated earlier and on which Government of Arunachal Pradesh has expressed reservations on account of likely submergence of some important towns. Investigations for Dibang project is in progress.

(c) and (d) Government of Arunachal Pradesh is cooperating with the Brahmaputra Board in the investigation of moderately high dams at three alternate sites on Subansiri river.

Irrigation Projects

5184. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of major irrigation projects taken up by the Government for construction since the beginning of the Plan era, State-wise;

(b) the total number out of them has been completed so far, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for a slow progress, if any;

(d) the percentage of increase in the cost of construction of these projects due to delay;

(e) the details of the projects which have been identified as cost overrun and time overrun in the country, State-wise; and

(f) the time by which the remaining projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The State-wise details of Major Irrigation Projects taken up for construction and completed since the beginning of Plan Era is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (f) Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are taken up for implementation by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources as per their own priorities. The completion period and increase in estimated cost of a major project depends on various factors such as its size, availability of land, clearances from various appraising agencies, geological conditions etc. Equally important are the funds allotted by State Governments to individual projects. Large number of projects approved by the Central Government are at different stages of construction all over the country. The cost escalation of major projects interalia due to delay has been noted maximum upto 64 times.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Major Project	
		Taken up	Completed
1	2	3	4
States			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
3.	Assam	7	7
4.	Bihar	33	17
5.	Goa	1	-
6.	Gujarat	19	10
7.	Haryana	10	6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	-
10.	Karnataka	15	3
11.	Kerala	14	7
12.	Madhya Pradesh	26	9
13.	Maharashtra	57	10

1	2	3	4
14.	Manipur	3	1
15.	Meghalaya	-	-
16.	Mizoram	-	-
17.	Nagaland	-	-
18.	Orissa	13	6
19.	Punjab	4	4
20.	Rajasthan	8	2
21.	Sikkim	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	5	5
23.	Tripura	-	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	52	34
25.	West Bengal	4	1
Total (States)		292	130

Union Territories

1.	A & N Islands	-	-
2.	Chandigarh	-	-
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-
4.	Daman Diu	-	-
5.	Delhi	-	-
6.	Lakshadweep	-	-
7.	Pondicherry	-	-
Total (UTs)		-	-
North Eastern Council		-	-
Central Sector		-	-
Total (All India)		292	130

Irrigation Projects In Andhra Pradesh

5185. SHRI S.S OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the sources through which irrigation facilities are being provided in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the break up of irrigation potentials in the state;

(c) whether measures being taken to increase irrigation facilities in the States; and

(d) if so, the total area of land likely to be brought under irrigation during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Ultimate

Irrigation Potential in the State of Andhra Pradesh, source-wise is as under :

Ultimate Irrigation Potential (in thousand hectares)			
Source	Major & Medium	Minor	Total
Surface Water	5000	2000	7000
Ground Water	-	2200	2200
Total	5000	4200	9200

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The target for creation of irrigation potential in Andhra Pradesh during the Ninth Plan is 608.03 thousand hectares (provisional).

US-China Joint Statement

5186. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the US-China joint statement issued on South Asia in Beijing on June 27, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) and (b) The President of United States of America, William Jefferson Clinton visited China from June 25-July 3, 1998. During the visit, the US President and China's President issued a Joint Statement on South Asia on June 27, 1998.

The main elements of the Joint statement are :

- US and China would "continue to work closely together, within the P-5, Security Council and with others, to prevent an accelerating nuclear and missiles arms race in South Asia, strengthen international non-proliferation efforts, and promote reconciliation and the peaceful resolution of differences between India and Pakistan".
- The "recent nuclear tests by India and Pakistan and the resulting increase in tension between them, are a source of deep and lasting concern" to the two sides;
- They called "on India and Pakistan to stop all further nuclear tests and adhere immediately and unconditionally to the CTBT, to refrain from weaponisation or deployment of nuclear weapons and from the testing or deployment of missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

and to enter into firm commitments not to weaponise or deploy nuclear weapons or missiles capable of delivering them”;

- They stated “their firm commitment to strong and effective international co-operation on nuclear non-proliferation with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as its cornerstone”;
- Their goal was “adherence of all countries, including India and Pakistan to the NPT as it stands, without any modification”;
- Their position is that ‘notwithstanding their recent nuclear tests, India and Pakistan do not have the Status of nuclear weapons states in Accordance with the NPT’;
- They are determined to fulfil their “commitments relating to nuclear disarmament under Article VI of the NPT” and “commitment to assist, where possible, India and Pakistan to resolve Peacefully the difficult and long-standing differences between them, including the issue of Kashmir”;
- They re-affirmed their hope to “Jointly and individually contribute to the achievement of a peaceful, prosperous and secure South Asia”;
- They see their joint responsibility “as P-5 members, and States with important relationship with the countries of the regions” requiring them to “contribute actively to the maintenance of peace, stability, and security in the region” and to do all they can to “address the root causes of tension”;

They stated their commitment “to prevent the export of equipment, materials or technology that could in any way assist programmes in India or Pakistan for nuclear weapons for ballistic missiles capable of delivering such weapons”.

(c) Government categorically reject the notion of any country/countries arrogating to itself/themselves joint or individual responsibility for preserving peace, stability, and security in South Asia. Government will take decisions on nuclear weapon or missile development in accordance with our own national security requirements.

The trend in South Asia is towards greater regional co-operation and economic intergration. We have traditionally enjoyed close and cordial relations with our neighbours in South Asia. With Pakistan, we are committed to developing friendly, peaceful and co-operative relations. We reject any third party involvement in India-pakistan relations.

We seek a friendly, co-operative, good-neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China, our largest neighbour, on the basis of Panchsheel. We see our relationship with China as one in which both sides are responsive to each other’s concerns. We remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding differences.

It has been India’s long-term policy to work towards a good, stable relationship with the United States. Both sides are engaged in a broad-based dialogue to broaden and deepen our mutually beneficial relations and to build on areas of co-operation.

Construction of Dams

5187. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of major and medium dam projects which are under construction in the country at present;
- (b) whether there has been an inordinate delay in completion of these projects;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for their expeditious completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Statewise details of Major and Medium Dam Projects under construction in the country is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are taken up for implementation by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources as per their own priorities. The completion period of a project depends on various factors such as its size, availability of land, clearances, geological Conditions etc. Equally important are the funds allotted by State Governments to individual projects. Large number of projects approved by Central Governments are at different stages of construction, all over the country.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State	Major Projects	Medium Projects
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
3.	Assam	4	9
4.	Bihar	16	29
5.	Goa	2	1

1	2	3	4
6.	Gujarat	9	9
7.	Haryana	3	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	9
10.	Karnataka	14	15
11.	Kerala	7	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	25	32
13.	Maharashtra	36	66
14.	Manipur	2	2
15.	Meghalaya	-	1
16.	Mizoram	-	-
17.	Nagaland	1	-
18.	Orissa	6	14
19.	Punjab	1	1
20.	Rajasthan	-	6
21.	Sikkim	8	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	-	2
23.	Tripura	-	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	18	3
25.	West Bengal	4	17
Total		170	244

Sale of Super Computer

5188. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal of imposing restrictions on the sale of Super Computer to India by the USA has affected the computer programme in India;

(b) if so, the main reasons for stopping the sale of super computer of India;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken up the matter with the US Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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) Government of India has consistently opposed all ad-hoc and unilateral export restrictions imposed by U.S. and has repeatedly conveyed the same to U.S. Government authorities.

Infrastructure Development in Assam

5189. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some proposals were received by the Union Government from Various organisations and private entrepreneurs of Assam towards part of the capital cost of ice plants, cold storage etc. under the scheme of infrastructure development facilities for preservation and processing of fish during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether the proposals were not complete in all respect;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken steps to ensure that such proposals are made in such a manner in accordance with the Government norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINNISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) A reference was received from the Government of Assam in October, 1996 regarding setting up of 6 cold storage plants in Assam by the Assam Apex Cooperative Fish Marketing and Processing Federation Limited (FISHFED). In response to this, the Assam Government was requested to send a detailed project proposal along with the requisite information. Despite the matter being followed up actively by the Ministry the project proposal was received from the Government of Assam only in February 1998. After analysing that projects some clarifications were sought by the Ministry from the Government of Assam in February 1998., itself a reply from the State Government to this is still awaited.

(c) and (d) A booklet giving detailed information and guidelines about the Plan Schemes being operated by the Ministry has been sent to various State Government functionaries including the Secretary, Fisheries, Government of Assam.

[Translation]

Rebuilding of Jaffna Peninsula

5190. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India have received any proposal over the past three years for Indian assistance in rebuilding Jaffna Peninsula in Sri Lanka;

(b) whether the Government have made any contribution towards the rebuilding of Jaffna; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Based on requests received from the Sri Lankan Government, food assistance consisting of 1750 metric tonnes of rice was sent to Sri Lanka by the Government of India in October, 1996. Further, construction material consisting of 741 tonnes of zinc roofing sheets and 4125 tonnes of cement was sent by the Government in October, 1997 and over 2000 books were handed over to the Sri Lankan High Commission at New Delhi in January, 1998 for use in the Jaffna Library.

Bribes to CBI

5191. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have seen the newsitem appearing in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated June 18, 1998 under the caption "Rishwat mamley Me Apnae Afsar Ko Chod Diya, C.B.I. Nae"; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against the concerned employees/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) and (b) Yes, Sir. The contents of the news item relate to the CBI Case No. RC. 23 (A)/95-DL. On receipt of a complaint from the accused in this case, a detailed enquiry was conducted into the matter. In the enquiry, no evidence involving any personnel of CBI was found, hence no action is proposed against any employee/officer.

[English]

Cases With CVC

5192. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Vigilance Commission receives and examines cases of corruption/Departmental proceedings, against the non-gazetted officers besides gazetted officers of Central/State Governments;

(b) if so, the guidelines laid down in this regard;

(c) the details of cases received during 1996 and 1997 separately from the Government of Delhi; and

(d) the cases disposed of during the above period and the time by which the remaining cases are likely to be disposed off?

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) According to the extant guidelines, the cases of only Gazetted Officers and above are required to be sent to the Central Vigilance Commission for advice. The cases of Non-Gazetted Officers are decided by administrative authorities in consultation with their respective internal Vigilance set-ups. However, in cases where non-Gazetted Officers are also involved alongwith the Gazette Officers, the advice of the CVC is sought by the administrative Authorities in respect of all such suspect officials.

(c) According to the information furnished by the Central Vigilance Commission, the Commission received 41 cases in the year 1996 and 52 cases in the year 1997 from the Government of NCT Delhi involving Gazetted as well as Non-Gazetted Officers which were investigated by the CBI/Chief Vigilance Officer, Govt. of NCT Delhi. The number of NGOs involved in these cases was 19 in 1996 and 39 in 1997.

(d) All the cases mentioned in part (c) above have been disposed of by the Central Vigilance Commission.

India to Receive Un Team

5193. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Secretary-General of the UNO had written to his Ministry about the visit of UN team headed by the Assistant Secretary General of the UN, Mr. Alvaro de Soto, during the last week of June, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating inter-alia the purpose of the visit of the team;

(c) whether in response, the Government informed the Secretary General that India was not willing to receive the team in India; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) The visit of UN Assistant Secretary of State Mr. Alvaro De Soto was in the context of SG's ongoing efforts to encourage India and Pakistan to enter into a dialogue which were welcomed by the Security Council resolution 1172 (1998). Mr. Alvaro De Soto visited Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Mr. De Soto did not visit India. The Government reiterated that there is no scope for third party involvement of any nature whatsoever in respect of India's relations with Pakistan.

Posts Advertised by UPSC

5194. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- whether an interview of Medical Officer (Unani) was held on 9th and 10th December, 1996 and May 26, 1997 against the advertisement No. 1 of 1996, item No. 9 by the Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi;
- if so, the number of vacant posts filled up; and
- the name of candidates impanelled in the waiting list?

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) 3 (three)

(c) The reserve list is generally operated only for replacement vacancies and in cases where a vacancy is created by a candidate resigning the post or in the event of his death, within a period of six months from the date of his joining the post. Till such time the reserve list is treated as confidential.

Cases With C.A.T.

5195. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- the backlog of pending cases with the Central Administrative Tribunal as on date, Bench-wise;
- the number of cases filed and disposed off by CAT during the last three years; and
- the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for early disposal of these cases?

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) A statement showing, benchwise, the number of pending cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) as on 31.5.1998 is annexed.

(b) The number of cases filed and disposed of by the CAT during the last three years is indicated below .:

Year	Institution	Disposal
1995	25789	23668
1996	23584	20667
1997	23098	21981

(c) The Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 expressly provides that a Tribunal shall decide every application made to it as expeditiously as possible and ordinarily every application has to be decided on a perusal of documents and written representations and after hearing such oral arguments as may be advance. All the Ministries/ Departments were advised to ensure prompt handling of cases before the Tribunal so as to help in their speedy disposal. Efforts are also made to fill up the vacancies of Vice-Chairman and Members of the Tribunal as expeditiously as possible whenever such situations arise.

Statement

Benchwise pendency of Cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal (As on 31.5.1998)

S.No.	Bench	Number of Pending cases
1.	Principal	6364
2.	Allahabad	7135
3.	Ahmedabad	2393
4.	Lucknow	3234
5.	Bangalore	589
6.	Mumbai	3542
7.	Calcutta	5447
8.	Chandigarh	3178
9.	Cuttack	2825
10.	Guwahati	432
11.	Hyderabad	1710
12.	Jabalpur	2275
13.	Jodhpur	890
14.	Jaipur	1599
15.	Chennai	1861
16.	Patna	2208
17.	Ernakulam	1406
Total :		47088

Halal Meat

5196. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have made representation to CODEX in Rome to approve Halal meat, which is cruel method of killing, whereas a new awakening is gaining ground to have compassion for all living beings, and the European Union has also changed definition of animals from goods to sentient beings;

(b) if so, whether Western countries objected to India's proposal: and

(c) if so, the policy of the Government in this regard?

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

(b) India had not initiated any proposal in this regard.

(c) The Codex Alimentarius Commission in its 22nd Session held in Geneva from 23rd to 28th June, 1997 adopted the guidelines for the use of term "Halal" as defined under Islamic Law for the purposes of food Labelling to ensure fair trade practices.

Non-Availability of Food Processing Industries

5197. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the loss of fruits and vegetables every year due to non-availability of food processing industries in the country. State-wise details;

(b) whether the Government chalked out any scheme for optimum utilisation of fruits and vegetables in the country; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Although no survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries to assess the loss of Fruits and Vegetables, it is estimated that quality deterioration and loss in value that take place, is about 25 to 30% of some fruits & vegetables due to inadequacy of post-harvest infrastructure and perishability of the produce. The State-wise details are not available.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its Plan Schemes, provides financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant to Cooperatives, Non-Governmental Organisations, Public Sector Undertakings, Private Industries, Research Institutions etc. for creation of infrastructural facilities, cold storages, setting up of food parks, setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing industries, and Research and Development projects etc. Such activities would, inter alia, result in reduction of post harvest losses of horticultural production.

12.01 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Memorandum of Understanding Between the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 1998-99 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :-

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 1314/98]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Uranium Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 1315/98]

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Electronics Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 1316/98]

- (4) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Rare Earths Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 1317/98]

Annual Report and Review on the Working of Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneswar for the year 1998-99 etc.

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 section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1988-89.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1988-89

alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 1318/98]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1989-90.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1989-90 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 1319/98]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1990-91.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1990-91 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 1320/98]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rajasthan State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rajasthan State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 1321/98]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 1322/98]

(f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Six Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 1323/98]

Notifications under All India Services Act, 1951

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 Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Third amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 100(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 1998.
- (ii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Third Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 101(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 1998.
- (iii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Fourth Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 103(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 1998.
- (iv) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 102(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 1998.
- (xx) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Thirteenth Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 185(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 1998.

(xxi) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fourteenth Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 194(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 1998.

(xxii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Fourteenth (Second) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 195(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 1998.

(xxiii) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Tenth Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 210(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 1998.

(xxiv) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Tenth Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 211(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 1998.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 1324/98]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi, for the period from the 1st January, 1996 to the 31st December, 1996.

(ii) A copy of the Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for non-acceptance of the Commission's Advice.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in the laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 1325/98]

(4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act. 1956 :-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Semiconductor Complex Limited. S.A.S. Nagar, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Semiconductor Complex Limited. S.A.S. Nagar, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 1326/98]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the CMC Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the CMC Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(5) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 1327/98]

12.02 hrs.

[English]

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on Tuesday, the 21st July, 1998, passed the enclosed motion concurring in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The names of the members nominated by the Rajya Sabha to serve on the said Joint Committee are set out in the motion.

MOTION

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and resolves that the following Members of the Rajya Sabha be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee :

1. Shri Sangh Priya Gautam
2. Shri Vedprakash P. Goyal
3. Shri Adhik Shirodkar
4. Shri Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi
5. Shri M. Sankaralingam
6. Shri Ghufuran Azam
7. Kumari Nirmala Deshpande
8. Shri Barjinder Singh Hamdard
9. Shri Ashok Mitra
10. Shri Gaya Singh".

12.03 hrs.

[English]

MOTION RE : FOURTH REPORT OF
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) :
I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Fourth Report of
the Business Advisory Committee presented to the
House on the 21st July, 1998."

The Committee recommend the allocation of time to
following items of business as shown against each :

- 1) Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill : Four hours
- 2) Narcotic Drugs Bill : Three hours
- 3) The Navy (Amendment) Bill : Two hours

The committee also recommend that discussion under
Rule 193 on the following subjects may be held :

- 1) Food Situation in various parts of the country
- 2) Increasing atrocities on women

MR. SPEAKER : It is 'flood situation' and not 'food
situation'.

The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Fourth Report of
the Business Advisory Committee presented to the
House on the 21st July, 1998."

The Motion was Adopted.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up the 'Zero
Hour'. Shri Shailendra Kumar.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : Sir, I have given
a notice . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give a chance.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No this is not the procedure. Please
understand. During the 'Zero Hour', hon. Members can
raise the matters one after the other and not like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling the names of Members
from the list only.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am giving priority to those hon.
Members whose names are there in the list. Please
understand the position. Shri Shailendra Kumar.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, I will call you also.
Now, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will call all of you. Please take your
seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sailendra Kumar, please take
your seat for a minute. Shri Sharad Pawar.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Sir, one issue
was raised in this House yesterday regarding the
Maharashtra affair and there was a commitment from the
hon. Home Minister that he would make a statement today.
So, we would like to know when he would be able to make
that statement.

Secondly, when the House assembled at 11 o'clock
today, a very important issue was raised by Shri Lalu
Prasad and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav regarding some
accusations or allegations against both of them by the Chief
Minister of Delhi.

Of course, the Prime Minister accepted our suggestion
and said that he would collect the information and brief
the House about the factual position. Since it is pertaining
only to Delhi, I hope that he must have collected the
information in the last one hour's time. So, he may brief
the House on it. It is only from Delhi that he has to collect
information.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received a notice from the
hon. Home Minister regarding yesterday's incident in
Maharashtra. He has said that he would be making his
statement at 12.45 p.m.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I have given notice.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you later and not now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shailendra Kumar.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chief) : Mr. Speaker, Sir,
Allahabad University which is called the Oxford of the East,
was established in 1887 before about III Years . . .
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, let the list of Members be completed first. I will call you later.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, I have an important matter to raise here . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please see to it that you are not disturbing other Members when they are making their submissions.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Earlier, Allahabad was the Capital of the State. Allahabad University is the first University of the State. The then Lt. Governor, Uttar Pradesh, Sir Alfred Commins layal had established it. He was appointed first chancellor of this University. The Central Act was passed for the Allahabad University on September 23, 1987. The students, who attained their education in this university, have played significant role in the areas of education, politics and social life. Shri Madan Mohan Malviya, Shri Motilal Nehru, Shri Purshottam Das Tandon, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Acharya Narendra Dev, Saheed Padamdhar Singh, Former President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, Shri Vishwa Nath Partap Singh, Shri Chandra Shekhar, Shri Surya Bahadur Thapa, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant and many other big leaders have studied in the said university . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shailendra Kumar, you are not allowed to read everything in the 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : I request hon'ble Prime Minister and the Minister of Human Resources Development to grant Allahabad University the status of a Central University. Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Madan Lal Khurana and Minister of Human Resources Development were in the teaching profession there. I strongly demand from the Government that this university should be granted the status of Central University. I would like that hon'ble Minister, Shri Madan Lal Khurana should give reply to this. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please ask him to give reply, he has been in teaching profession there . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Khuranaji you please give some statement on Central University . . . (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am fortunate that I have been a student of Allahabad University. Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development is considering this matter whether Allahabad University should be brought under Central Government or it should be granted the status of Central University. I came to know about this fact from the discussions which I held with him.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Thank you, very much for this . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, when is the Government going to introduce the Constitution (84th Amendment) Bill in the House ? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Premajam.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, please your seat. I have called Prof. Premajam to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : Mr. speaker, Sir, this subject of 'Zero Hour' may be included in the record . . . (Interruptions) Sahib Singh should be sacked . . . (Interruptions) Shri Khuranaji should be throned in his place, the entire House is unanimous over this. The Government was functioning properly in Delhi during the tenure of Shri Khuranaji . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Laluji, we are to give chances to junior Members also.

[English]

There is frustration among the junior Members also. You Please understand it.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that this letter should be placed on the table . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to invite the attention of this august House to a burning issue as far as the State of Kerala is concerned. Though the support price has been declared by this Government in respect of coconut, the position has not improved because the support price is not fixed on the basis of reasonable grounds which ought to have been taken into account. The support price has been fixed by this Government without considering the cost of production. Hence, the price of coconut has not picked up. Moreover, because of the import policy of this Government, the prices

[Prof. A.K. Premajam]

of coconut and coconut oil have been going down and down and coconut growers in Kerala are in a very bad condition. This is one of the products which is the backbone of the economy of Kerala and also of some neighbouring States like Karnataka and Tamilnadu.

I would like to invite the attention of this august House that, recently, because of the Exim Policy, the hon. Minister of Agriculture has announced that palm oil will also be imported *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, please.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, the Chair had directed the Minister of Agriculture to have a discussion with the MPs from Kerala regarding the support price of copra *(Interruptions)* It has not been done . . . *(Interruptions)* This is a privilege of the House *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot compel the Minister on every issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that you cannot compel.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : There is a direction from the Chair *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, the Government is requested to look into the matter . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : There is a direction from the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no; please take your seat. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

12.13 hrs.

[Translation]

RE : LIFTING OF BAN ON COMMON SALT

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hazipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the important subject in regards to sale of common, natural salt in the country. You are aware that 12 to 14 lakhs of labourers are engaged in producing the salt in the country and Gandhiji started his satyagrah on salt in the British rule. Today it is unfortunate that ban has been imposed on common salt in the entire country resulting into non-availability of common natural salt at the cost of Rs. one or Rs. 1.25 per kg. and in its place iodised salt is being sold at the cost of Rs. 12 to 14 per kg.

Sir, it is right that some research was made and it was stated therein that use of common natural salt gives birth to goitre, and it is also right that when Minister will reply he will say that they have not imposed ban on the sale of common salt but the previous Government decided to impose ban, the notification of which was issued in the month of May, as a result of which common salt disappeared totally from the Market. My submission is that if the previous Government took a wrong decision at that time, due to which common people are suffering, that decision should be charged by the present Government.

Sir, there are two types of people in the country. One consists of such people who are able to use the salt irrespective of its cost and other consists of common, poor and labourer who have no money. They cannot afford to buy iodised salt. In such circumstances I would like to request you that imposition of ban on common natural salt and enforcement of rule making the sale and use of iodized salt mandatory is not good. A big mafia is working behind it. Each and every person in the country uses salt. If one person spends Rs. 25 per month on salt, you can estimate that bungling of Rs. 250 to 300 crore is taking place in a year which requires immediate check.

Sir, if the earlier Government has taken a wrong decision, I would like to request the Government of India to rectify it. It is not that the use of salt common or natural salt causes 'goitre' there are other reasons also. There is a need to conduct research provide treatment separately for this purpose. I request that the orders may be issued to sell both types of salt in the country and the ban imposed on the sale of common salt may be lifted so as to ensure the availability of both types of salt in the market.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, the common man is suffering.

Sir it is difficult to get the plain salt. The Government should take immediate steps to rectify this position so that the common people do not suffer. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, what is your point ?
(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I am also on the same point. . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to support of what Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has said. All Indians were taking plain salt over the years. It was ordered during the Government of Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji that only iodized salt would be sold. I would like to submit that poor people in India who were using common salt till now are facing difficulties in bying iodized salt. It has become difficult for them to live. . . *(Interruptions)* Moreover, Gujarat produces maximum salt. Due to this order it has become difficult for them to sustain their livelihood . . . *(Interruptions)* I would like to request the Government. . . *(Interruptions)* ban imposed on common salt should be lifted. . . *(Interruptions)* the poor who have been rendered jobless. . . *(Interruptions)* should be re-employed.

[English]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : Sir, the hon. Minister is not listening. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, Shri Radhakrishnan wants to say something on salt.
(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, this is a very serious issue. . . *(Interruptions)* what is happening in Gujarat.
(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, this is a very serious matter. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let her complete her submissions.
(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, what is happening in Gujarat . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, please.
(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : Sir, it is a very serious issue. In Ahmedabad. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you, please take your seat now.
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Minister is not listening. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE (Surendranagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gujrat is the largest producer of salt. . . *(Interruptions)* How long I will be standing ? . . *(Interruptions)* How will I speak in this manner. . . *(Interruptions)* Whenever a lady member wants to speak then you speak in between. . . *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 70% of salt is produced in Gujrat and the biggest industry of salt is in my constituency. Surendranagar. We are facing lot of problems there due to ban on common salt. This survey has been conducted that iodized salt is not necessary for all.

Those who do not need iodized salt we are putting pressure on them to consume iodized salt through this legislation. . . *(Interruptions)* If the ban on plain salt would continue then the all the workers of the salt industry who are called 'Agaria', will become unemployed and salt would become costly. I want to make a humble request you that the compulsion imposed legally regarding use of iodized salt may be abolished and the ban impose on plain salt should be lifted. The whole country does not require this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Harbinder Singh, please take your seat. You are a senior Member. How could you just stand up like this ? Please take your seat

(Interruptions)

12.18 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi.
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : She also represent the same area.
(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA (Nellore) : Sir, the people of my constituency are dependent on the manufacture of salt. It is a matter of concern for the common people as well. I would like to request the Government for an urgent action on modification and lifting of the ban on salt. I agree with the views expressed by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. I would like to request the Government to take action on this . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Rathagiri) : Mr. Chairman Sir, Hon'ble Speaker had told me to speak.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Chairman Sir, many hon'ble Members have expressed their concern over the question just raised by Shri Paswanji . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Chairman Sir, I also have to speak on this issue . . . (Interruptions)
[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I would also like to submit on this issue . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister is responding to the submissions made in regard to salt which has been raised by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, Shri Radhakrishnan has been waiting for an opportunity . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikulam) : Sir, It is the most important thing . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why. I want the Government to react to it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Recently, the Health Ministry has issued a notification that on health grounds, the common salt should not be used. That is a wrong notification.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Sir, the hon. Member is shouting. Please do not give him a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not shout

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I am only speaking. I am not shouting.

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : He is not shouting, Sir. That is the way he speaks.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : There has to be some system. You should follow a system . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, there is a notification issued by the Health Ministry that common salt should not be used. There is a total ban on the use of common salt. The reason put forward in the notification is that the common salt is injurious to health. I would say, that is not correct because the opinion differs.

I think using common salt is not at all injurious to health. We have been using the common salt for centuries together and nothing has happened. It has not affected our health. Someone found it recently that the common

salt is injurious to health and so it should not be used. It is being said that everybody should use iodized salt. The iodized salt is available at Rs.7 per kg. whereas the common salt costs only Rs.1 per kg. So, the poor man is affected.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. I wonder, why should people make long speeches.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I would request the Minister to withdraw the notification issued by the Health Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman Sir, Shri Paswanji has expressed his views about salt, I rise to speak about that . . . (Interruptions) Salt is produced by the people living in coastal areas. Salt is produced by most of the people in our western coast.

The ordinance issued during the tenure of last Government regarding use of iodized salt, has damaged the production of salt by those farmers. Those farmers who were producing salt, are today on the verge of starvation. We are using salt since many years so it is not correct that this disease is caused due to salt. I request the Government through you to take some steps to reconsider about the ordinance issued earlier regarding the use of iodized salt.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN (Vidisha) : Mr. Chairman Sir, the animals of our country also have to take iodized salt due to ban imposed on common salt. Therefore, I would like to request the Government through you that to rectify the mistake committed by Government of Shri Paswan ji, you withdraw that ordinance and remove the ban imposed on common salt. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh): You react about salt.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I am talking the same thing, let me speak. ... (Interruptions) Now, all of you have to speak one minute each. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur): Mr Chairman Sir, everybody were expressing concern over production of salt but nobody has expressed concern about workers engaged in production of salt. There are 14 lakh workers. Recently, many workers have become unemployed in Kandla and many of them have also died the Government should have concerned about that. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Paswan ji raised a question about iodized salt just now and every body expressed concern over that. Paswan ji has lightened my burden saying this that his Government have taken this decisions. Yesterday we had a meeting of BJP parliamentary party and every member expressed

concern on this issue in the meeting in the same way as they have expressed here in the House. But it was said that decision was taken but now it is being sent for legal advice to find out how it can be legally withdrawn. This Government is concerned about this and we are also co-partner in the concern expressed by you. I would like to say that we are considering that matter. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Chairman Sir, I might not raised this matter today but this matter has already been raised in the upper House on 3rd June. The Government had given this assurance there that we are going to take decision immediately on this issue. But today 15 days have elapsed so we have expressed our concern. Can you give any time bound that in how many days would be done? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I have already told you that we are seeking legal advice to withdraw the decision taken by your Government. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE (Thane): When the decision would be taken?

[English]

The Minister should announce the date by which the Ordinance will be cancelled. ... (Interruptions) We want a time bound programme.

SHRI K.YERRANNAIDU : Since times immemorial, we have been using common salt in our daily lives. What legal opinion is required in this? As a one time MLA and as an MP, I know that no legal opinion is required to do this. Crores of people have been using common salt since times immemorial. The States most affected by this Ordinance are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal. Lakhs of people are suffering because of this Ordinance, the industry is suffering, lots of people are suffering because of lack of employment. I would request the Union Government to withdraw this Ordinance within a week or ten days. I request the hon. Minister to make an announcement in the House to that effect right now.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Regarding withdrawal of notification Law Department is looking into this. I have said that. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: We have given notice, Sir.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am going to give you chance, Shri Jos.

Yesterday also many hon. Members could not get a chance to raise their issues during 'zero hour'. Today we have already started with a list. We will go by the list today. Everybody will get a chance provided hon. Members will cooperate with me in conducting the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH (Muzaffarnagar): Mr. Chairman Sir, Haridwar is very famous religious city of Hindus. Every year thousands of *Kanvarias* take holy Ganges water from there and offer this Ganges water in different temples. In the route between Muradnagar to Haridwar the G.T. road remains closed there for almost 15 days and all the people have to face acute problem due to this.

I request the Government through you that the foot path on Ganga Nahan between Haridwar and Muradnagar should be converted into 30 feet wide road so that it may become special road for *Kanvarias* and they could come direct from Haridwar to Muradnagar. Secondly, I would like to request that three special trains should run between Delhi and Haridwar for 15 days. ... (Interruptions)

DR. C.P. THAKUR (Patna): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to raise a question of kidnapping of two children in Samastipur district of Bihar. In one case son of a businessman was kidnapped and in other case son of a lawyer was kidnapped. He is not traceable since one month and all lawyers are on strike there due to this reason the Court was closed there for one month. The Government of Bihar could not do anything, but now I request the Central Government to find out the whereabouts of these two children and this should be ensured by the Central Government. When this kidnapping business in Bihar would come to an end.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the plight of lakhs of fishermen in Andhra Pradesh who have been denied the opportunity of inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Fishermen in many states like West Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kamataka and Kerala have been given this opportunity. But for the last 40 years, in spite of their fighting for the inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, they have not been given this opportunity. They have been leading a very pathetic life in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. Various Committees and Commissions have recommended that the fishermen of Andhra Pradesh should be included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The State Government have also recommended for the same but till now nothing has happened.

[Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy]

I request the Government to do justice for the fishermen of Andhra Pradesh. When we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence, poor fishermen of one State should not be denied this opportunity. Therefore, I request the Government that they must do justice as they had done to the fishermen of other States of the country.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh): Hon. Chairman, Sir, the atrocities are being committed on farmers by the forest officers of Rashtriya Udyan of Madhya Pradesh taking cover of Forest Act and the judgement given by the Supreme Court. The crops of farmers have been destroyed by extending the boundry live of Rashtriya Udyan upto five Kilometers more. There houses and villages have been desolated as a result of diamond and stone mines are closed. Fifty thousand workers engaged in these mines have been rendered jobless. The people are migrating from there. The Government revenue has also not been received due to closure of these mines. The farms have been destroyed and resentment is prevailing among farmers. It is my submission to Central Government to sustain the cultivation by stopping the artocities being committed by the forest officers. The land of the Department of Forest and the Department of Revenue has also been registered in the register of the Department of Forest. Therefore, the relief may be provided to the farmers by fixing the original boundry line.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) (Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House to the serious and important matter of law and order. I represent the Aurangabad district of Bihar. This area is badly affected by terrorism. The Superintendent of Police of Aurangabad district had convened a general meeting in Aurangabad in the name of peace committee. The resources of Government had been misused therein. He asked the militant organisations not to fight with each other. You assasin the so-called jeudalists. If police oppose you then attack on police station and constables. It is a very serious matter. In Aurangabad district where dozen of massacres have already taken place there Dalilchak Baghora like massacre also took place which was record in India. A few days before Bathe massacre took place in districts of Jahanabad breaking record of Dalilchak. I would like to draw the attention of the Government that Chief Minister and Ministers go there after massacre take place but I would like to alert the Government that they should take measures and understand the sericusness of the matter and takè strict action against such officers by suspending them.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is really a serious matter and attention should .be paid to words it.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal) : Mr. Chairman Sir, through you. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Health Services Centre in my Constituency. The Central Government and Planning Commission have prescribed some standards and norms to establish Health Service Centre and Hospitals. These standards are based on population. I would like to say that these are not at all justified in hilly areas because hospitals in these areas should be established on the basis of time taken to reach the hospital instead of population of that particular area in new of geographical condition. Today, children, old people, patients and pregnant women in Uttranchal have to walk eight to twelve hours to reach the hospital, only then they get primary health centre. It is my submission that the Government of Uttar Pradesh have sanctioned 95 primary health centres in Uttranchal but the approval from the Central Government is awaited I urge the Central Government that on the basis of separate norms for Uttranchal . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, we have given a notice . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get a chance. We will go as per the list.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, by calling the names from the list like that, the importance of the matter would be lost.

The matter is very serious. In Ahmedabad, in a missionary school, scme miscreants entered the school, attacked the teachers, torn the Bible and had said that Minorities' schools could not be conducted there. This is a threat to the minorities . . . (Interruptions) Sir, this is a very very serious issue. The Bible is supposed to be the most sacred Book of Christians of any denomination . . . (Interruptions) Sir, it is not a State issue. It is an issue of minorities . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jos, the hon. Member is on his legs. He has not completed so far. Let him complete first. You will get a chance after him.

[Translation]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI AVSM : Sir, I urge upon the Central Government to prescribe separate norms for health Services Centre in Uttranchal by relaxing the present norms. Secondly, the Government of Uttar Pradesh have accorded sanction to establish 95 health centre which are not getting clearance

from Planning Commission on the basis of prescribed standard, these should be approved immediately . . .
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly cooperate with the Chair. The hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs wants to react to the point raised by Shri Jos.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am coming to the list.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola) : Sir, you go according to the list. Those who have given notice should be given a chance first. It is not good that a person who is shouting should be given a chance first . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri, Ambedkar, I have allowed him because the hon. Minister wanted to react to him also. It is a very important issue, therefore I have given them a chance to raise it first.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, anyone of you may speak, please.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, I am not raising a matter which concerns only the hon. Members of this side. I am sure that this is a matter which concerns and worries every Member of this House. This country has a great tradition of respecting all religions. Of all the countries of the world, I would say that India is the one reputed for religious tolerance. That has been our ethos. In addition to that . . . (Interruptions) Please bear with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Shastri, let us hear him. Please do not interrupt.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : In addition to that, our founding fathers of the Constitution had found it necessary and essential to give protection to the minorities also. What has been reported in the Press is most shameful to the nation that the holy Bible has been torn off by some miscreants. I am not levelling allegations against anybody. I am sure that no party will subscribe to such vandalism and *goondaism*. I have no doubt about that. I want this Government to stop this kind of vandalism against the minorities and against the Bible or the Quran or the Bhagavad Gita or against any religion . . . (Interruptions) Shri Somnath Chatterjee says that it has been done by Bajrang Dal and the students wing of ABVP. If that is so, it is a very serious matter. The ruling party, their students organization and their frontal organization are resorting to such heinous crime . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your notice is taken note of. It is because all of you requested, he was given the floor. Please resume your seat.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, through you, I am requesting the Government to take immediate note of it and take a stern action against those who have brought this shame to the nation by burning a copy of the Bible which is a holy book for all the people . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not possible. There are 35 Members. He has already talked. Let him now react.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Sir, it is a very serious issue.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, I have given a notice on the same thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Thomas, let me tell you. This is not in the list. It is because he has said that it is an urgent and important matter, I have given the floor to him. Now the Minister is reacting. What about others?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ahamed, the Minister is reacting. The Government is reacting.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, I only want to add one thing. About three months back, a church was wholly demolished by the same party in Ahmadabad. I do not want to name the parties as it has already been said and reported in the *Hindustan Times* that they are the activists of Bajrang Dal and ABVP. It is a shame on the part of our secular and democratic principles that the institutions of minorities are attacked and holy books are destroyed . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Government is reacting on this. He is reacting on this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, I want to supplement to what Prof. Kurien has said . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is reacting. You please hear him.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please hear him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : It is a very serious matter. I have discussed it with the Prime Minister and the

[Shri Madan Lal Khurana]

Government disapproves it. It is a Secular Country and in our view the meaning of secular is not only religion less also but respect for all religions, it means we respect all religions ? If the feeling of any person who follows other religion are hurted, then Government would not tolerate it. The Bible is a religious and holy book for the entire world. The Government would collect the information and take action in this regard and present the report before the House.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, it is a general thing. That is not the answer which is to be given . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, what action is proposed to be taken by the Government? For everything, a general statement is made.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What did he say? I do not know whether you heard it or not. What he said is that the Government would collect the information and give it to the House. Please be fair to him.

(Interruptions)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have already dispensed with the Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHADA' (Almora) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, about 150 houses and shops were gutted in devastating fire in Pithorahgarh city in Uttar Pradesh during the night of 19-20 July and property of crores of rupees was destroyed in fire. Everything of lakhs of people was destroyed in fire due to which they have come to streets. Dozens of people were charred . . . (Interruptions)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : To say that, that our Government respects all religions . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. Nothing will go on record except Shri Bachi Singh Rawat's speech.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Shri Bachi Singh Rawat. No running commentary please.

*Not Recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' It has resulted a loss of more than rupees 10 crores. Two markets of Pithorahgarh i.e. Dharmshala and Ranichowk have been badly destroyed. The houses of about 150 families and shops below the houses have also burnt. There is a problem to rehabilitate them I, through you, urge upon the Central Government to inquire into the incident of devastating fire wherein 150 houses and shops have burnt and an advance special compensation of Rs. 50 lakh should be provided to them by the Centre.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHAUDHARY (Khagaria) : There is heavy flood in Bihar due to incessant rain for the last 14 days. Sixteen districts have been affected by it . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister of Home Affairs will make a statement.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAKUNI CHAUDHARY : Mungair, Khagaria and Banka are totally affected by it. The Central Government should in any case send its team to rescue the flood affected people . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Today there is discussion on it under Rule 193. So, you cannot raise it during Zero hour.

[English]

Nothing will go on record. Hon. Minister of Home Affairs is on his legs. Hon. Speaker fixed the time as 12.45 P.M. for the statement.

12.48 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re : Threats of Violence and Alleged Telephone Calls Threatening Former Ministers In Maharashtra

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): During 'Zero Hour' on the 21st July, 1998, some Hon. Members had expressed concern regarding threats of violence made to Shri Suresh Navale, the then Minister of State for Energy, Maharashtra and alleged phone calls threatening Shri Gulabrao Gawande, a former Minister in the State. I had assured this House that I would make a statement based on the report received from the State Government in this regard.

The matter was taken up with the State Government. The information received from the State Government is as follows:-

On July 19, 1998, Shri Gawande Lodged a complaint at Cuffe Parade Police Station that he was receiving threatening telephone calls. A case under sections 504 and 506(2) IPC was registered in this connection. Police personnel were also detailed for the protection of Shri Gawande. On July 20, 1998, information was received by the DCP, Zone-1, Shri Bishnoi, that some people might demonstrate in front of Shri Gawande's bungalow, Shri Bishnoi immediately visited the bungalow and beefed up security. 'Z' category security has also since been provided to Shri Gawande and the members of his family.

On July 20, 1998, Shri Navale stated in the Vidhan Sabha that about 250 persons had entered into his bungalow at 1130 hours on that day and that some of them had threatened to shoot them. He further stated that some of the persons who had entered into his bungalow were carrying fire arms. However, according to the FIR lodged by Shri Navale, a group of 15 to 20 men had entered into his bungalow office. On the complaint of Shri Navale, a case under sections 141, 143, 144, 147, 148, 149, 452, 506(2) of the IPC read with sections 37(1)(3) and 135 of the Bombay Police Act and section 3/25 of the Arms Act was registered. Two persons have been arrested in this connection. Efforts are being made to nab other culprits. Shri Navale has also been provided with 'Z' category security along with the members of his family at Mumbai as well as at his native place.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Yesterday, there have been further incidents of intimidation of independent MLAs. Has the hon. Minister of Home Affairs looked into those incidents? It is a continuous process. There is a serious break down of law and order. MLAs are not safe in Maharashtra . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, you would appreciate that this is a matter which cannot be pursued on a continuous basis in this House. Yesterday because it was taken up, therefore, I have responded . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : The intention of raising this issue in the House yesterday was to show concern about law and order situation in Maharashtra including security of Ministers. But the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has not answered the first part and has not commented on the law and order situation in Maharashtra, which was the prime concern. He should say something on that . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rajesh Pilot, in this House, any statement made by the Minister is not subjected to clarifications.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : But the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has to answer in reply to a question . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not as simple as it is.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : The issue was breakdown of the constitutional machinery . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : There should not be any clarifications on the hon. Minister's statement . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : After the statement of the hon. Minister, there is no clarification.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards that issue of Madhya Pradesh in which Central Government have taken important decision to form the Chhatisgarh as a separate state. To create enmity among the public, on the one hand, the Chief Minister of state has declared the Raipur as the capital and on the other, he said in Bilaspur that this matter is under consideration while the entire matter is under consideration of Central Government. A Bill in this regard is likely to be submitted. I would like to report the Central Government that this Bill may be introduced as early as possible so as to fulfil the feelings of the public of the region . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDERMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to say something on this issue . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No one has given his statement about Chhatisgarh. How will you raise this matter?

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Shri Ajit Jogi was raising.

MR. CHAIRMAN : His statement also will not go into the record. If House goes on like this, how will we conduct it?

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Minister of Civil Aviation through you towards my constituency Kanpur. The Kanpur is the biggest industrial city having

[Shri Jagat vir Singh Drona]

population of 40 lakhs. An airport was constructed here sometime in 1934. There were regular flights of Indian Airlines and Vayudoot for Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Calcutta and Delhi till the year 1992, but these were discontinued due to some reasons. I have raised this question in Lok Sabha many times that after discontinuing these air services, Kanpur has lost its industrial importance. Runway and night services may be improved there. I request the Central Government to regularize the flights once in a week for Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Calcutta on this route to save the deteriorating industrial state of Kanpur so that the problem of passengers and cargo can be solved.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you towards the construction of Thermal Power Station in Navinagar in Aurangabad District. The Government have approved the proposal for construction of the said Thermal power station but its construction work has not been started so far. You will be surprised to know that this is extremist prone area. There is no arrangements for employment. Therefore, I demand from the Government that Thermal Power Station should be constructed in Navinagar at the earliest in order to provide employment to the people of this area and also to resolve the problem of power crisis in Bihar State.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a very important issue. The nurses are on strike in Haryana State for the last 4-5 months. All the hospitals are closed in the State. The number of persons died has increased. But the Government does not pay any attention to this situation. A number of times demonstrations have taken place. All the four members of Parliament of our party and a delegation of nurses have called on hon'ble Advaniji. Today this is the situation that 950 nurses are imprisoned in Chandigarh jail. The Government is not taking any action and have adopted an attitude of dictator. Out of these 950 nurses, the services of 100 nurses have already been terminated Ladies nurses are being tortured. I demand from the Government that this serious problem should be resolved at the earliest.

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip) : Sir, this is a very serious issue and I also endorse it. More than three thousand nurses working in civil hospitals, dispensaries and other health centres all over Haryana have been agitating for the last several months for better pay-scales and allowances and for improvement of health service in Haryana. It is sad for us that the State Government has shown a very indifferent attitude towards the nurses and

is forcing the nurses on strike since 19th June, 1988. The health services in the State have gone from bad to worse. The Government, instead of calling the striking nurses for negotiations, are adopting a very indifferent attitude. I request that the Government should settle the matter immediately and fulfil the demands of the nurses. The Government is imposing ESMA on them and threatening them to terminate their service. I urge upon the Government to ask the State Government to start negotiations and settle the matter immediately.

Sir, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here. I would request him to respond to this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not reacting. How can I compel him?

DR. ASIM BALA : Sir, I request him, through you, to please respond.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If he does not react, how can I compel him?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY (Mohanlalganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a important issue. The General Manager of Power Grid Corporation in Delhi is exploiting Scheduled Caste Officers of the northern zone. It is very sad thing. This problem exists in our country even after so many years of Independence. I have received a letter from All India Federation of Scheduled Castes, Backward classes, Minorities Employees Welfare Association in which a complete list of those officers has been given who are being exploited. I would like to demand through you that these officers should be saved from exploitation.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Gaya district of Central Bihar is still in the grip of deep poverty and unemployment even after 50 years of Independence. There is nominal pace of development. The entire area is in the grip of extremism due to resentment. During the Eighth Five Year Plan the cast reservoir project was approved in Mohanpur Baracha for the development of this area and it was scheduled to be completed during the 8th Plan period itself. It would have irrigated the 85000 acre land of this area and have a target of 30 Megawatt power generation. But Ministry of Forest and Environment has imposed ban on this project though this project neither effects the area of Gautam Budha wild-life sanctuary nor causes any loss to wild animals. Rather the wild animals who go towards villages in search of water, are killed. I request you to ask the Ministry of Forest and Environment to lift the ban imposed on this project immediately so as to include this project in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

SHRI RAMJIDAS RISHIDEV (Araria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you towards Araria, Kisanganj and Katihar districts. Jute is cultivated on large scale in these districts but the farmers do not get proper support price for jute. Recently Jute Corporation has also been closed down there. When jute is cultivated by farmers and jute is produced then they do not get proper support price. I request the Government to raise the support price of jute from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500 per quintal.

[English]

SHRI M.C. DHAMOTHARAN (Cuddalore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards a grave situation, resulting in death of people due to contamination of drinking water in my constituency, Cuddalore. Cuddalore is a district headquarter and a municipal town. Yet, due to the negligence of the authorities, the drinking water supplied by the municipality got contaminated recently. The unsuspecting people of Padupalayam area who used it had to be rushed to hospitals for medical aid. Some people have already died.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI M.C. DHAMOTHARAN : Over 500 people have been hospitalised. Some people are in a serious condition. People of the town are scared to drink any available water.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Are you going to agree? I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, you are on a point of order. May I tell you. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The matter he is raising has already been attended to by the municipality of Caddalore. Shri Ko.Si. Mani, the hon. Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration has visited the area . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI M.C. DHAMOTHARAN : Sir, I am raising the problem which has arisen in my constituency.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : This is a problem relating to Cuddalore municipality and has already been attended to . . . (Interruptions) This is highly deplorable that the matter relating to a municipality is being raised here . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, let me tell you that these issues had been placed before the hon. Speaker. In his wisdom, he has given his consent to it and listed it here.

I think, Shri Baalu, you are questioning the authority of the Speaker. I do not want you to do that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I am not questioning the authority of the Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has listed it here.

SHRI M.C. DHAMOTHARAN : The entire Cuddalore is tense as if an epidemic has broken out . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : This is a State subject . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can take it up in the Business Advisory Committee. 'Law and order' is also a State subject, but we discuss it here. Many State subjects are discussed here. Shri Baalu, this is not an exception. Therefore, in the Business Advisory Committee, you take up this matter, for the House to strictly stick to the Central subjects.

SHRI M.C. DHAMOTHARAN : The entire Cuddalore is tense as if an epidemic has broken out. It is reported that the drainage water got mixed with the drinking water system. The people are in a state of severe shock, not knowing what to do.

They have lost faith in the local authorities. Therefore, I appeal to the Government to send a Central team comprising of experts from the Pollution Control Board to Cuddalore, to ascertain the reasons for contamination of water and suggest remedies. I also appeal to the Government to provide adequate compensation to the families of the deceased and other victims of contamination of water.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kumari Kim Gangte.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI KIM GANGTE (Outer Manipur) Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member is obstructing me. I have not disturbed anyone . . . (Interruptions) I do not think I am the conductor of this House. The Chairman has given me the time. So, let me speak please . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Madam, why do you not come to the front row. Please come to the front row.

KUMARI KIM GANGTE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House and all the hon. Members are aware of the economic problems that the North Eastern Region faces and also the State of Manipur.

[Kumari Kim Gangte]

I would like to bring to your notice the state of tourism industry in Manipur. Sir, due to the imposition of Restricted Area Permit there, tourism cannot be promoted. As a result of this, the State is facing economic problems to an extent as well as unemployment problem. So, I urge the Government to look into this matter and to remove this Restricted Area Permit so that more employment could be created and enhance the State's economy.

Sir, it is wrong to keep these people in a cage. Due to the imposition of Restricted Area Permit, we are not allowed to have interaction with the outside world and because of the communication problems and other restrictions we are not able to come out and go anywhere. If we are really a part of this great country, India, this is wrong. This Restricted Area Permit should be removed immediately so that others also can come from outside the country and that we should be allowed to go outside the country. The foreigners also should be allowed to come and have interaction. If we are really Indians, this restriction should be removed immediately . . . (Interruptions) Sir, I said it because of the imposition of this restriction and because of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act which has also been imposed there since 1958, we are suffering.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the restrictions may be there. That is a different issue. But they are Indians. The question of suspicion about their being Indian does not arise.

KUMARI KIM GANGTE : All right. Please see the reason why I said that.

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the expression used by the hon. Member "if we are Indians" is objectionable and that expression must be expunged from the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN If there is any objectionable expression, I will see.

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : It is highly objectionable.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I did not hear it. Anyway, if there is any objectionable matter, I will expunge those words.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Sir, she has as much right as anybody has.

KUMARI KIM GANGTE : All right. That is why I said 'if'. So, once this Restricted Area Permit and the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act are removed, then we can atleast be satisfied.

MR. CHAIRMAN : She has expressed her intention.

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharward South) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Railway Department has filed a suit against some citizens of Ranebennur and Haveri cities in Karnataka for their participation in the strike of stopping trains at their stations recently. The strike was conducted to get the stoppage of Train No. 1017, which is called Kurla Express, at Ranebennur and Haveri.

Haveri is a district place and Ranebennur is a fast growing commercial centre in the District of Haveri.

[Translation]

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I may also be allowed to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whether you have given your name to speak?

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If your name is there in the list then I will call you definitely. I am not making any change in the order of the list. I am calling names according to the approved list given to me by the Hon. Speaker. If your name is there then I will call your name certainly . Please have some patience.

[English]

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI : Their claim is just and reasonable in view of the business, educational and social connections.

Further this area was in the former Bombay State and this train is a very important link between Mumbai and Gujarat. There was a Kittur-Chennamma Express Train which was replaced by the Kurla Express. That was stopping at these two places.

Another point is the reservation facility to both these cities. It is provided at Hubli Station and hence the citizens' claim is just. Therefore, the cases against the striking citizens for their just claim deserved to be withdrawn and their demand be acceded to.

SHRI S. MALLIAKARJUNIAH (Tumkur) : Sir, the National Highway No. 4 comes under the exclusive control of the Central Government. The Central Government was kind enough to sanction rupees three crore about three years back. Now, as per the newspaper reports, the Karnataka Government has sanctioned Rs. 10 crore. But no effort is made by the Karnataka Government to widen this road. The machinery is in the hands of the State Government. But the financing authority is the Central Government. This road is very narrow. A number of accidents take place between Nellamangla and Tumkur. Almost every day, three-four accidents are taking place on this road. We have been urging the Karnataka Government

to take up the construction work for doubling of this road. But so far it is not heeding to our request.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to issue a direction for the construction work relating to doubling of the road between Nellamangla and Tumkur.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj) : Mr. Chairman Sir, the attitude of District Magistrate of Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh towards public representatives and the misbehavior being meted out by him is intolerable. We are busy here due to Lok Sabha session and he is holding all meetings regarding development works of district and drought and food relief in my absence and without my consent. Recently when I reached on 6th June to attend the meeting then a jeep was sent to receive me which was not in working condition . . . (Interruptions)

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Mr. Chairman Sir, I also agree with the view of Shri Ram Shakal ji . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down. if you remain standing, it will not be possible to conduct the business of the House.

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Mr. Chairman Sir, this matter should be taken seriously. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you remain standing in such a way, then how it could be taken seriously. You please sit down.

SHRI RAM SHAKAL : Mr. Chairman Sir, I was in Mirzapur on 18 June. I wanted to meet the District Magistrate in connection with public problems but she did not give me time to meet at her residence. Even though She was very much present there but I was told that she has gone to visit Farmer's Service Centres". When I sent my party workers then District Magistrate was present there. Therefore, Sir, I request through you that District Magistrate did not give me time to meet inspite of being present in Mirzapur and misinformed me that she was on tour. This incident should be investigated and she should be transferred immediately.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) : Mr. Chairman Sir, during these days lakhs of cusec water is being released in Yamuna river in Delhi from Tajewala by Haryana. Due to this. All villages and colonies are flooded with water. Every year loss to lakhs of rupees is caused due to flood.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Tiwari ji, this subject will come up for discussion today under Rule 193. You please participate in this discussion at that time.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI : I will speak only for two minutes. I would like to request through you that all arrangement should be made by making both the banks of the river strong enough and those Villages and colonies which are submerging should be shifted from there so that there would be no danger to their life and property.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to give a suggestion before announcement of zero hour, I am observing for the last two-three days that Members from parties of Shri Balu ji and Shri Muthaiya ji are sitting very close to each other. Due to this any incident can be happened any day. You make their sitting arrangement separate from each other. I am observing this for two-three days. This is not a good thing and it would also not be proper for the House.

I would like to say that employees of cotton and jute mill in Gaya district of Bihar are on strike from 10 July. There was an agreement in the year 1990-91 between Employees' Union and C.M.D. of Headquarter situated in Calcutta. Their 10 months arrears is due. When management did not make payment to the employees inspite of repeated notices then they went on strike on last 10th July. That mill is closed. National Textile Corporation has only one mill of cotton and Jute in Gaya district of Bihar. I request you that mill should be started immediately. The Textile Minister should pay attention towards this problem and after speaking to the Chairman of National Textile Corporation regarding demands of their employees and it should be fulfilled and jute mill should be opened immediately.

Besides, I would also like to say that you must separate their seats.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY (Khagaria) : Mr. Chairman Sir, it has been raining in Bihar continuously for 14 days. Sixteen districts have been fully devastated and thousands of houses have been collapsed. It is very deplorable . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This subject would be taken up for discussion under rule 193. I have told Tiwari ji just now.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY : I will speak for a minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. You please conclude your point in a sentence. Please do not give speech otherwise you will not get opportunity to speak in the discussion.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY : I request to the Government of India through you that a team of Government of India should be sent there. Sixteen districts viz Khagaria, Monghar, Bhagalpur, Banka etc. have been fully ruined there. You start relief work immediately after investigating that matter . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, the same matter is coming up for discussion under Rule 193 and you can participate in that. Under the Rule 193, we are going to discuss about the flood situation in the country and, at that time, you can discuss about the flood situation in Kerala.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI (Bansgaon) : Mr. Chairman Sir, this subject is also related to flood.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is also on flood situation.

SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : I will speak only for two minutes. Four assembly segments of my parliamentary constituency Bansgaon are completely submerged in water. Flood situation is so serious that in some places water is flowing above the dam on both banks of Rapti river.

MR. CHAIRMAN : When the discussion about flood will take place then you give your name from your party. You will get the opportunity to participate in that discussion.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I have given a notice on an issue pertaining to the agricultural producers in Kerala.

Sir, the price of coconut came down steeply, and the Government was pleased to declare a price which is far below the price that is available now. It is not based on the realities or on the cost of production. In the case of rubber also, it is said that the bench-mark price would be declared. I wish to point out that it should not be the bench-mark price but the minimum support price which has to be declared. The Government of India is under a wrong impression that it is the bench-mark price which has to be declared. If it is a bench-mark price, then there is a difficulty. If it goes above the bench-mark price, then they would release whatever has been procured and that would be against the interests of farmers. My submission is that it should not be the bench-mark price which should be declared but the minimum support price which should be declared taking into account the real cost.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want to Government to do?

In reply to a question in Parliament, the hon. Minister said that the cost of production was respectively Rs. 31.8 and Rs. 34.5. So, if that is taken into account, any price below Rs. 40 may not be declared and it cannot be like coconut where the price has been declared much below the prevailing price.

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : I strongly associate myself with the sentiments expressed by Shri

P.C. Thomas on this particular issue. A Number of farmers belonging to *Karshaka* Congress have come to Delhi and they are demonstrating outside Parliament about this particular issue. This is a very serious matter and the hon. Minister of Agriculture must come forward and he should definitely respond to the demands made by the farmers. This is my demand.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to put a serious question before this House. Today all the hospitals are closed in entire Delhi. Nobody is there to attend us in Annexe hospital. Today dozen of patients of my constituency were discharged from All India Institute. Patients are not being admitted in Ram Manohar Lohia hospital. Groups III and IV employees are on strike. Government of India is totally silent over this and are not finding solution for that. Patients come from all over India in All India Institute. Today patients were removed by employees of the hospital. Therefore, I want that Government take immediate steps for this and call off the strike . . . (Interruptions). Government of India is silent over such a serious issue and sitting idle. Patients are at loss. Government of India should take steps immediately and after calling off strike of the employees, make situation of the hospital normal immediately . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Mr. Chairman Sir. In Himachal Pradesh such an accident has taken place as had never occurred earlier. There is Saluni tehsil near our Chamba district. Four persons from there had gone to Doda, which is a part of Jammu & Kashmir to collect herbs. Three persons among them were killed by terrorists. The State Government has given some assistance to their family members. I would like to submit to the Government of India to make efforts to check the terrorism which is growing in such a way.

One more incident has happened with a dalit lady. First she was raped and then she was tied with a tree and after spraying oil on her, she was killed. This incident took place for the first time in Himachal Pradesh. When this Government has been formed then they should check such type of incident in Himachal Pradesh. Outsiders are going there and as a result of which terrorism is growing. In my constituency an 18 months girl has been kidnapped from tehsil Kasauli and her whereabouts is not known till date. I would like to say strongly that Government of India must provide assistance to Himachal Pradesh in recruiting two battalion and Prime Minister should pay special attention on this. The member of Police Force should be increased there so that law & order could become normal. There the police stations are based on old system. Now the population has increased and terrorism has spread so the Govt. should make efforts to check it . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, he has just now spoken on a issue and again his name has been called. He will again raise the another issue. We also give notice everyday.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I would like to submit a point which is very important . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Earlier, he has been asked to raise an issue . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Gupta, that was an issue which was not even listed. Even the Parliamentary Affairs Minister reacted to it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Gupta, he is the Chief Whip of the Party. This is not the way of functioning.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : If Shri Khurana seeks forth our views, they cannot object to that . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Gupta, his name is there. Shri Yerrannaidu's name is also there.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : What is this? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : This time he is speaking on his notice, what is this? . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : You cannot cow me down like this. You are not running the House. Please sit down. What are you doing? You behave yourself . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun) : When we will speak? Mr. Chairman Sir, I have to raise a very serious issue. I have given you notice but I will not get an opportunity. . . . (Interruptions) Who are you to say? You tell him, you can not tell me.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : You please sit down.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : Who are you?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sir, how can he speak directly . . . (Interruptions) No, you speak to chair, you can not tell me.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN : I have not given permission to you.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Shri Madan Lal Khurana, why can you not control your Members? . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have given him a floor so you please sit down.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna) : 60 percent Members are new in this House and 10 percent do not get time and those Members who are senior, they take more time . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : His name is included in the list because he gives notice before 10 A.M., if you have not given the notice then what is my fault in this? This is too much. I am going according to the list. It is very unfair on the part of Shri Chaman Lal Gupta to cast aspersions on the chair.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is very bad. What is this?

(Interruptions)

DR. RAVI MALLU (Nagar Kurnool) : Sir, this is our right to speak. We are not getting a chance at the mercy of the BJP Members. We are speaking here exercising our right . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Unnecesserily you have wasted the time of the House.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : All those remarks are not good . . . (Interruptions)

Sir, I crave your indulgence, Thank you very much for allowing me to speak Now, let me make it clear, Earlier, I intervened. This is the tradition in the House that when issues of national importance are raised during Zero Hour, party representatives would be allowed to speak. Today, at that time, I stood up to represent my party's view on an issue of national importance . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Kurien, I just take a minute. Even at that time, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister said that it was an important issue. They wanted to react. That is why, when Shri Jos was standing, he gave the floor to you. But Shri Chaman Lal Gupta has cast aspersions on the Chair. It is too unfair on his part. [Translation] That he calls twice to a person. What is this?

(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Appreciating the importance of the subject, the hon. Minister Shri Khurana reacted to it also. On such important issues, it is the convention of this House that party leaders are allowed to speak . . .
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Everybody know about this convention. You tell your point.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Kurien, now you come to the issue.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : This is a unfair. After having charged me saying that I am intervening unnecessarily, when I explained my position, they should listen to me . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Come to the subject.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Now I have stood up because I have given a notice to raise a matter under 'Zero Hour' and hon. Chairman has called me.

Having said this, I would like to bring an important matter which has already been raised in this House. Shri Khurana from the Government side has said that the final Report of the Jain Commission on the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi has been submitted. Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister of this country as also a leader of millions of people. Even today, and for ever people will revere him in their hearts. There is a conspiracy behind his assassination. The Jain Commission has looked into the conspiracy aspect of this case. It is reported that the Report of the Commission has been submitted to the Government. We want all the conspirators to be brought to book and exemplary punishments given to them. That is possible only if the Report along with the Action Taken Report is Tabled in the House. Hon. Shri Khurana has promised that he is going to place the Report on the Table of the House. My point is, if they place the Report on the last day of the Session, we will not get an opportunity even to go through it. Our request is that they place the Report along with the Action Taken Report, if possible, tomorrow or at least of Friday so that we get an opportunity to go through it and discuss it in order that the conspirators in that assassination are brought to book and punished. I would like the Minister to react to it.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM : (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Chairman

Sir, Hon'ble Member had raised this issue earlier also and said that lest the Report might be submitted in the last day of the session. I had said earlier also that Report would be submitted two-three days before last day of the session. I have talked to the Home Minister yesterday in this regard. We stick to our commitment in the regard. As you have said that Report should come tomorrow or on Friday, so I would like to say that it would come two-three days before the last day of this session. I want to repeat that I have talked to the Home Minister and we stick to the assurance given by us regarding action taken report.

SHRI NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA (Chandrapur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you towards an important issue. The reservation quota fixed for lakhs of handicapped students in the country for admission in schools and colleges and for job is three percent each. These students are not getting admission in Medical college in Nagpur. When these students went to the High Court then High Court made it clear in their judgement that whether it is Engineering College or Medical College or Post Graduate College they should get the reservation quota of three percent. Similarly, handicapped should get quota in services also. Today lakhs of handicapped in the country are craving for service. I would like to tell the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that notice should be given to the State Governments through Central Government that they should get the admission according to the quota fixed for them. I hope Central Government would take proper action through you.

[English]

DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA (Peddapalli) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House about the statements made by an elder brother Shri Arun Shourie in a newspaper article on July 3 which, I cannot quote here. It was crude and hurting the sentiments of women. The news is read by his mother, his wife, his sister and his daughter. When this august House is fighting and demanding for 33 percent reservation for women, statements like this are terribly disgusting and disgraceful and insulting to women.

It is insulting the Mother India -- a mother, a sister, a wife and a daughter. Through you, Sir, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to take immediate and necessary steps. He should be made to apologise to the Mother India and the womenfolk.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salempur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India through you towards a matter of public importance. In the entire country whether it is flood or question of electricity or power at the time of Kharif crop

is concerned, under this scenario Engineers of Uttar Pradesh have gone on strike. These people are on strike since 19th of July. Due to this the production of power has decreased in the entire Uttar Pradesh and darkness is going to over power. This is adversely affecting industry-trade also. I would like to request the Government of India through you that efforts should be made to call off this strike for public-interest by conducting negotiations between the employees and the Government.

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Sir, I would like to draw attention of the Union Government through you towards the negligence shown towards study and teaching of Sanskrit in Madhya Pradesh. Teaching personnel are being selected in Madhya Pradesh but there is no advertisement about Sanskrit subject. In the Joint Director's report it is said that there are 326 posts sanctioned for Sanskrit teachers and out of these 286 are lying vacant and conspiracy is being hatched there to demolish Sanskrit School and College. Besides B.Sc. and M.A. pass people are being recruited thereby depriving Acharya, Shastri, First and Second teachers and they are being designated as Acharayas. I would like to request the Government of India and the Minister of Human Resource Development to give directions to the Madhya Pradesh Government to fill up the vacant posts of Sanskrit teachers and should not show negligence towards study and teaching of Sanskrit.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am raising the most important issue regarding the construction of Almatti dam. It is pertaining to lakhs of farmers. The Central Water Commission and the Minister of Water Resources have given the permission to construct the dam at 512.2 metres height. Even the Karnataka Government had given a solemn assurance to the hon. Supreme Court of India that the State of Karnataka would not proceed with the erection of crest gates at Almatti dam till October, 1998. This was the assurance given on an affidavit filed before the hon. Supreme Court. But now, they plan to construct this at 524.25 metres height which is beyond the permitted level.

Considering the disastrous effects of higher storage at Almatti dam on the economy of Andhra Pradesh and the fact that the Government of India had to give their clearance to the construction of the dam at 524.25 metres height, it is requested that the Union Government should take immediate steps to stop the Karnataka Government from undertaking any further construction of Almatti dam beyond the approved height of 512.2 metres. It should be as per the approval given by the Central Water Commission, the Ministry of Water Resources, and the affidavit filed by the Karnataka Government before the hon. Supreme Court.

DR. RAVI MALLU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, our party is also taking it up. In this regard, we have submitted a memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister yesterday.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of entire country through you towards a very important issue. About Nine years ago 4 lakh Hindus were thrown out of Kashmir, who are now compelled to run from pillar to post. They are living not in a single camp but in many camps. At present Government is giving Rupees 1500/- p.m. to per family. You can well imagine that how one can survive with Rupees 1500/-. All these refugees or displaced people had also hoped that whenever this Government will change they will go back to their homes safely and respectfully. Not only the Union Government have made announcement about it but I think that our local State Government of Farooq Abdullah had also announced about it. But what is happening these days is that earlier people were displaced from Kashmir and now this has also started taking place in Jammu. You know that a few days ago 26 persons were murdered in Frankot, after that 13 people were murdered in Desa, 25 persons were killed in Chapnadi. This has resulted in displacement of people now from Udhampur and Doda districts. A lot of people have settled in Jammu and its adjoining areas.

Sir, I urge upon the Government of India that Concrete plan may be chalked out for the refugees or displaced persons and they may be sent back to their homes safely and respectfully. Sir, You can also well understand that without Hindus Kashmir will not be termed as Kashmir rather it would be something else. Therefore, return of Kashmiri Pandits is must. If we have to keep intact the secularism of our country then we must make efforts for it, the Government of India should consider to formulate scheme for these people, sent back to their respective homes . . . (Interruptions) Their property, which is being ruined, must be registered property, I would like to request this much only to you.

SHRIMATI USHA VERMA (Hardoi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thanks. In Dhana Bagoli, Tandiyavan of Ahrori Vidhan Sabha of my constituency Hardoi, Lok Sabha S.P. leader Mahendrapal, Sharafat Ali, Naresh Pandit were arrested by the police. When the local villagers asked about the reasons they were lathicharged by the police in which hundreds of people got injured. After registering a false case the police have started torturing common people, women, children and old aged people. Houses and shops of poor people were destroyed. Household goods were thrown out and hand-pumps were damaged. Women were insulted. Hundreds of rural people in Sikandarpur, Paharpur, Amertali, Taiwa, Bagoli village of Thana Bagoli

[Shrimati Usha Verma]

were escaped. Local police have worsened the situation more than that of emergency. Not only in Bagoli, Tandiyan but police have created a terror in the entire HarDOI district. This whole issue was raised by S.P. Legislators in Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha but no action has been taken so far . . . *(Interruptions)* The Minister of Home Affairs may please make a statement on this whole incident.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a decision was taken to enhance the retirement age of Government employees from 58 to 60 years by the Union Government a few days ago. . . *(Interruptions)*

It will be resulted in unemployment of atleast 2 lakh persons in our country. They have acquired power on the votes of unemployed but after getting the power they have tried to do injustice to unemployed people. I demand that the retirement age, which has been raised from 58 years to 60 years, be reduced to 55 years and the Government must consider to provide employment to unemployed in the country. If the Government is not going to consider it then we will have to start a big movement against the Government . . . *(Interruptions)* Justice must be provided to unemployed persons . . . *(Interruptions)* Sir, Zero Hour should also have to be telecasted by the Doodarshan.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not in the Notice, now you please sit down.

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA (Chandouli) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, district Chandouli and Varanasi comes under my Parliamentary constituency. In both these districts a programme of installing rural P.C.O. of M.A.R.R. was chalked out with very good intensions. Many P.C.O's have been installed and many more are being installed. But as per earmarked standard not even a single P.C.O. of M.A.R.R. has been installed. The P.C.O's which are being installed are not as per standard. Officers are doing everything at their own will. Corruption is prevailing there on large scale and rural people are facing hardships due to this. Four persons are provided with P.C.O's in a single village which create problems.

Secondly, there is no arrangement for the maintenance of all the P.C.O. of M.A.R.R. installed there and 80% of telephones are not working. I urge upon the Government to make proper arrangement for maintenance of rural P.C.O's installed there.

SHRI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government through you towards the large scale smuggling and killing of cows in the country. Cow is the religious and economic base of India but the way in which smuggling of cow is taking place for the last few years due to greed and bad

intentions and cows are slaughtered everywhere resulting in heavy loss of our National assets. I would like to place some data before you in this regard. In the year 1951 there were 426 cows per 1000 persons which came down to 278 in 1982, 216 in 1991 and only 176 in 1993. Animal Welfare Board have got conducted a survey in this regard, according to which if atrocities on cow and their slaughter continue like this then cows will be vanished from this country by the year 2010. Till date 6 Indian species of cows have been vanished and three are on the verge of being vanished. I urge upon the Government through you to frame a central law to ban killing and smuggling of cows so that this National asset can be saved.

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much.*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not mention all these things. It should not go on record. After all, the notices are to be listed and hon. Members are to be called according to the list. Your notice is listed at serial No.52, which means that 51 hon. Members have given their notices before you. They have been called accordingly. Therefore, you should not accuse either the Secretariat or those who are sitting here.

[Translation]

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is our right to demand protection from you . . . *(Interruptions)* Please allow me for a minute to express my point . . . *(Interruptions)* You are such a senior Member, you don't even allow to talk. Senior Member has no right to say directly that you should sit down. Mr. Chairman, Sir, if somebody wants to say something then he will say to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Alright, no Member has this right. You please speak.

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is Congress Government in Madhya Pradesh. The media of this country has greatly tarnished the image of Bhind area to which I belongs knowingly or unknowingly. Whenever there is any election the Congress Government encourages Dacoits. For the last one month backward, S.Cs./S.Ts./Jatavs, Brahmins are constantly being kidnapped and killed there and dacoities are taking place regularly. It seems that there is no District Administration and Government in Uttar Pradesh. Where such a situation has arisen . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want from the Government of India?

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : One of our friend was just now speaking about Himachal Pradesh. He said that

*Expunged as ordered by the chair.

such type of incident has happened in Himachal Pradesh for the first time but in Madhya Pradesh such incident happened everyday. The Government there do not express a little concern over these incident. They say that they give protection to the Harijans. Recently during last days Jatavas were kidnapped together in Akaha Village of Umari Police Station. Six Baghelas were kidnapped in Navalpura. After this three houses of Brahmins were looted by dacoits in the night in Dinpura and three persons brutally murdered in that incident. Day before yesterday three Brahmins were kidnapped. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want from Government of India?

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Six Baghelas were kidnapped from Naya Gaon Police Station of Gulalpura under Sagra Village. Congress Government is ruling in Madhya Pradesh. They talk about protection of backwards, harijans and jatavas. Our Government is only three months old but allegations are levelled against us for deteriorating the law and order situation. I request to the Hon'ble Home Minister through Shri Khurana Ji to pay attention towards this problem and give instructions to the Madhya Pradesh to improve the deteriorating law and order situation. Action should also be taken against the Madhya Pradesh Government.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mogra Irrigation Project on Shivnath river in Rajnandgaon district of Madhya Pradesh for generating additional irrigation capacity for 9000 hectre land is pending in Central Water Commission and Department of Environment for the last ten years. Madhya Pradesh Government have been failed in their efforts to clear this project. This project is proposed ten kilometre west from the tribal dominated Ambagarh Chowki Tehsil. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 92 crores and 24 lakhs. This could provide irrigation facility to 95 villages of Chowki and Dongar Village in addition to water supply to Rajnandgaon. In addition to irrigation facility Mogra Project can provide water supply to Bhilai Steel Plant, Durga city and Uranium plant. It is told that seven operating houses of Central Water Commission in New Delhi have accorded the sanction and it is expected from five operating houses. For the completion of survey work estimates of 238.53 lakhs have already been set again for administrative approval. Due to pendency of Mogra Irrigation project demand of irrigation is constantly increasing. It has caused great resentment among the farmers. A number of irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh are pending with Ministry of Environment and Forests which require clearance immediately.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Railways Kanpur metro city is famous industrial and

commercial city of North India. Its population about 40 lakh. and the population of rural area is 30 lakhs. Export is made on large scale from Kanpur but no train is running from Kanpur to Delhi and Bombay. All the trains start from previous stations in which only 25% reservation is available.

Most of the passengers are compelled to travel by bus for Delhi. Therefore, I request the Central Government and Minister of Railways that an Express or Mail train should be started from Kanpur to Delhi and to Bombay. Till the new train is not started, arrangements should be made to add two bogies in Paryagraj Express and two bogies 3 Tier Sleeper, one bogey 3 A.C. and two bogies of sleeper class in Unchahar Express. The quota earmarked from previous stations in Purshotam Express, North-East Express, Vaishali Express, Samta Express trains may be allotted from Kanpur to Delhi. According to increasing demand of Kanpur metro city, there is dire need to start a local train in Kanpur. For this purpose, a local train should be started from Panaki to Unnaw so as to provide facilities to passengers.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (Amroha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise this issue through you. Corruption and bribe are prevailing in All India Institute of Medical Sciences and all other Government hospitals in Delhi. I came to know only day before yesterday that Medical Suprintendent of All India Institute of Medical Sciences was caught while taking bribe. Prior to this, I had sent a patient in G.B. Pant Hospital who has been asked by the Doctor to give Rs. 2 lakhs for heart-operation. When the patient came to me, I talked to the Medical Suprintendent and Director and got the enquiry conducted. Thereafter he was operated upon after taking an amount of Rs. 20,000. Similarly, corruption is taking place at large scale in purchasing surgical equipments in Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital. The patients are being oppressed and they are being asked by the doctors to give money. The Government Officers are taking money from patients in these hospitals. I demand from the Government that this issue should be taken up seriously and a task force should be constituted in all Government Hospitals which will save the patients from oppression. Because the patients from all over the country who come to Delhi for their treatment have to face a lot of difficulties.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Even after 50 years of Independence, no law has been enacted for disposal of the cases of unorganized labourers. In this context, the unorganized labourers of Dhourabhadg Village of Distt. Bilaspur have been agitating for the last six months. Instead of doing justice with them, bullets were fired on them in which two persons were killed. Out of in these unorganized labourers, one pregnant lady and all other

[Shri Punnu Lal Mohale]

persons were unnecessarily sent to jail. No action has been taken against the persons who fired the bullets.

Therefore, I demand from the Central Government that a rule should be framed to solve the problems of these unorganised labourers and fair system should be adopted so as to do justice with these labourers. I also demand that State Government should be compelled by the Central Government to take action against the persons who fired the bullets.

[English]

DR. RAVI MALLU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to raise this very sensitive and an important issue that took place in Andhra Pradesh.

As you know, a lot of protection is being given to the women of the weaker section and particularly, to the Scheduled Caste women. Unfortunately, the other day, in Andhra Pradesh, seven women belonging to the Scheduled Caste went to collect leaves for their livelihood along with three men to the nearest forest. Suddenly, about 20 men attacked those seven women and gang raped them; they also beat those three men who were opposing the rape of those women. That was the worst possible incident that took place in Andhra Pradesh.

I would request the hon. Union Home Minister to send a team to find out the facts and book the culprits. There is a phobia prevailing among women of Andhra Pradesh and particularly, among the Scheduled caste women because there is no sense of confidence that they can live freely. Such acts are being committed by police people also.

14.00 hrs.

About two or three women were raped by the police. We had brought it to the notice of the administration and the Police Department.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want the Central Government to do?

DR. RAVI MALLU : I am bringing the bad situation to their notice. I want the Central Government to send a special team from the Home Ministry and see that confidence is created among the weaker sections of the society, particularly the Scheduled caste women of Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through this notice of 'Zero Hour' I would like to draw the attention of Government of India to the problem of

Landless Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes particularly of Tribals of Madhya Pradesh.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, acre or two acre land of the forest land of Madhya Pradesh was given on lease to these landless persons where they had been cultivating over the years during the seigme of Janata Party Government in 1977 to 1980 when Shri Morarji Bhai Desai was Prime Minister. But it is regretted that the land was given on lease to influential persons in Majukhana sub-Tehsil of Satna district where tribals reside during the last some years and the Tribals of Patna Kalan, Patna Khurd, Nayagaon (Chitrakut), village Kajra in Gram Panchayat Banka have been deprived of their land which was given to the influential persons. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Government of India that he should issue directions to Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh to give possession of the land to tribals of Madhya Pradesh which was given to them during their displacement from forest and rehabilitate them and the influential persons, who have occupied their land, should be evicted.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on the point of order. The entire House is empty. There is no quoram. Therefore, I beg to move that debate should be discontinued.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support what Shri Lalu ji has said. All the senior leaders leave the House after giving their statement and 60% Members who are new, do not get any opportunity to speak. You are, therefore, requested to make arrangements to provide 60% opportunity to new Members and to stop domination of 10-15 Members on the House, otherwise we also will fight after constituting an organisation of new members. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : The public of the country have sent all of us to sit in the House and listen each other's statement. If you ring the bell, the Members will run to this House from all sides. You should, at least, ring the bell for warning.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Laluji, You also have reached just now, I have seen.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3 P.M.

14.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fifteen of the Clock.*

15.05 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at five minutes
past Fifteen of the Clock.*

[SHRI KHAGAPATI PRADHANI *in the Chair*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up matters under Rule 377.

15.05¼ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to Set up a Heavy Industry in Public Sector in Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I through this House would like to draw the attention of the Government to my constituency Banaskantha that there is no heavy industry and Central Government also are not making any effort to set up any industrial unit in this area as a result of which my parliamentary constituency is industrially backward. The people of this area have to depend on agriculture for their livelihood and youth are fleeing from here to other States in search of employment. If the industrialists are given concessions in tax and provided with other facilities, a number of industries can be set up there.

Sir, I through this House request the Government to set up a heavy industry in this area and efforts should be made at centre level to encourage the industrialists to set up industries in this area.

(ii) Need to Ensure supply of Essential Commodities through PDS in ST Dominated District in M.P.

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE (Mandala) : Sir, rice, sugar, wheat and kerosene oil have not been supplied in Madhya Pradesh particularly in the tribal dominated rural area of Mandala in Madhya Pradesh, due to which the tribals of these areas are passing their lives without consumer commodities. The Commodities earmarked under PDS for these areas have been sold in other areas. I have informed the Government earlier also in this regard but no action has been taken so far. Therefore, I demand from the Central Government had immediate action should be taken against the officers responsible for this serious problem of tribals of these areas.

(iii) Need to look into the issue of denial of Visa to Prominent Atomic Scientists by Some Foreign Countries

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, It has come to know from the press reports that some countries have denied to provide visa to our atomic scientist only because they were associated with our Pokharan atomic tests and it has seriously hurt self-

respect and honour of our country. I would like to make following two requests to Government of India through this House :

1. By intervening immediately in this regard our all scientists who are associated with space and Atomic Programmes, should be provided with visa to visit foreign countries.
2. If the success is not achieved in it, we should cut off political relations with these countries immediately. We should recall our Ambassadors from these countries and send back their Ambassadors to their respective countries.

(iv) Need to Treat the Telephone Calls between Raskul and Birganj Situated on Indo-Nepal Border as Local Calls

[Translation]

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL (Bettiah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the telephone subscribers of my constituency Raksaul, Birganj which is situated on Indo-Nepal border, is merely one kilometre away from the border. But, the telephone calls made from Raksaul to Birganj are treated as international calls, and charged accordingly. The Sarisanva river divides both the cities and marriages between the inhabitants of both the cities also take place. Earlier, these calls used to be treated as local calls.

I through this House request that the telephone calls made from Raksaul to Birganj may be treated as local calls and charged accordingly so that the feeling of brotherhood may be continued to grow between the people of India and Nepal.

(v) Need to Provide Adequate Shipping Facilities for the People of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the sad plight of inter-island passenger services in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, more particularly about the Southern Group of Islands. Due to inordinate delay of annual survey work which more or less takes five to six months in the Shipping Department Dry Lock, only one sea worthy vessel operates from Port Blair to Campbell Bay and thereby the tribal and other population face much hardship. The difficulties faced by the men, women and children during embarkation and disembarkation in this rough weather, one cannot imagine. For the last few years, we have been requesting to provide

[Shri Manoranjan Bhakta]

another ship for operating from Port Blair to Great Nicobar either on charter basis or purchasing a second hand vessel but it could not materialise. In the meantime, the problems of the people have accelerated. Car Nicobar, Chaura, Teressa, Kondul, Pillow-Millow are some of the islands where the people are worst sufferers. As per the demarcation of responsibilities, it is the duty of the Central Government, Ministry of Surface Transport to provide adequate shipping services in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Time and again this matter was raised in various forum without any redressal.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to take immediate action to provide shipping facilities for the passengers who move from one island to another either by chartered vessel or by purchasing a second hand vessel immediately.

(vi) Need for uniform wages and allowances for Bidi-Cigar Workers throughout the Country

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE (Kopergaon) : Bidi workers in the country are facing serious problems these days. Their wages, D.A. and other facilities vary from State to State, particularly in Ahmednagar, Nasik and Pune districts of Maharashtra where the Bidi workers are being paid low wages in comparison to other States. Thus, there is need for a uniform wage and allowance policy for these workers throughout the country.

The major complaint of Bidi workers in Maharashtra is that they do not get their Provident Fund and pension amount through their bankers. They have to approach other banks which is very difficult task. They should be allowed to avail their Provident Fund and monthly pension from their banks. Other rules, like Gratuity, Pregnancy Leave and other regulations of Bidi-Cigar workers' Rules, are not followed. This results into another jolt to Bidi workers who are deprived of these facilities. This should be applied accordingly.

Bidi Workers Welfare Fund should be covered to provide House Loan, cancer treatment and other such emergencies to Bidi workers. This is the time that Government must take appropriate steps to help lakhs of Bidi workers in the country.

(vii) Need to Reconsider the Decision to Cancel/ Divert Express Trains Passing through Raichur Railway Station, Karnataka

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK (Raichur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, people of Raichur and Gulbarga Districts of Karnataka face a lot of difficulties in reaching Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore due to cancellation/diversion of more than 10 high utility, very important express trains-passing through

Raichur railway station. The specific trains which have been cancelled or proposed to be cancelled due to diversion of their routes are 6635/6636 (Kurla-Mangalore-Kurla), 7685/7686 (Kacheguda-Bangalore-Kacheguda), 6333/6334 (Rajkot-Thiruvananthapuram-Rajkot), 6337/6338 (Rajkot-Cochin-Rajkot), 6335/6336 (Gandhidham-Trivandrum-Gandhicham) and 7429/7430 (Rayalasila-Hyderabad-Tirupati). Most of the trains have been diverted to run via Konkan Railway. The net result of the diversion is non-availability of trains at Raichur railway station.

Raichur is a very important commercial centre lying in between Chennai and Mumbai on the broad gauge line connecting the East and West Coasts. Having been identified as one of the most backward districts in the State of Karnataka, an Industrial Growth Centre has been sanctioned for Raichur. Raichur is a big cotton market and large quantities of cotton are exported to cloth mills in South India. All the above trains have been serving travel needs of the people of the area. The sudden cancellation/diversion of trains away from Raichur has caused a lot of inconvenience to the travelling public of this region.

(viii) Need to take steps for revival of B.O.G.L.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in order to save BOGL, the Union Government should revive it in the greater interest of the country as well as of the workers. The policy of the Government should be changed to restrict the import of flint buttons. The plant was conceived with outdated technology. Subsequent efforts to replace the outdated process by continuous process technology to be procured from Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Calcutta also failed. Because of this, BOGL was referred to BIFR. Now BOGL is engaged in manufacturing ophthalmic flint buttons, which constitute 85 percent of total production of the plant for use in bifocal lens; optical glass (prisms), etc., for defence requirement (used in telescopic tanks); radiation shielding window glass used in reactors; and freight glass to be used by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.

BOGL is the only one of its kind in our country and is of national importance, particularly at a moment when our defence preparedness and progress of various projects in optical (prisms) and radiation shielding window glass following India's not signing CTBT.

In post-Pokhran scenario, to counter the effect of sanction imposed by U.S. and its allies, revival of BOGL has become more and more relevant to offset the adverse impact on BARC and defence requirements and to make our country self-reliant in this area by utilising the expertise and capacity of the plant.

In the revival plan of Rs. 15 crore prepared by WEBCOM, a reputed consultancy firm, and jointly i.e.,

management unions and Association operating in this plant submitted to the Ministry of Industry projected that the company can be viable and profitable in three years.

I urge upon the Union Government to sanction Rs. 15 crore for BOGL.

(ix) Need to Amend Finance Act 23/97 to Strengthen Rural and Urban Economy

DR. SAROJA V. (Rasipuram) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request the Government of India and the Finance Minister to reconsider the Finance Act 23/97.

People who are engaged in petty trades, middle class businessmen, farmers, small transport operators like to take advances as their needs are not met by either nationalised or scheduled banks. Their need is being fulfilled by the financial companies and these companies take deposits from those people who have faith in these companies.

Suddenly, as a bolt from the blue, Ordinance 2/97 was promulgated and Act 23/97 has now replaced it. The very existence of the financiers has been struck at the bottom and both the depositors as well as the borrowers have been hit. In fact, the whole economy of these people has been hit and we can see a number of people having become insolvents or have even committed suicide. Many people have lost their employment.

Even from the legal aspect, the Act may not stand the scrutiny by the court as the Act violates the provisions of the Indian Constitution.

(x) Need to Take steps to bring Back Money lying in General Bank of Netherlands Deposited by one Indian, Late Mohd. Mohsin in 1923

[Translation]

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY (Khagaria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, an Indian Mohammad Mohsin had deposited 210 million Dutch Mark (21 crore Dutch Marked) in Calcutta Branch of Alzimin Bank on 21 August, 1923 as a term deposit for one year for Amsterdam Head Office and in this context I would like to say that 210 million Dutch Mark (21 crore Dutch Mark) Indian Money deposited in Alzimin Bank, Netherland N.V. (General Bank of Netherland) may be returned to India. The annual rate of interest was 4.5 percent vide receipt No. 275 dated 21.8.1923. Before his death Shri Mohsin had nominated Shri Vaidyanath Mishra as a documentary owner on 7.1.1953 by accepting this deposit to be the property of the Government of India. Later on Shri Mishra through a registered deed nominated his brother in law Dr. Munindra Bhatt an equal share holder of this property on 25.2.1980. Since then, Dr. Bhatt and Shri Mishra have been trying to recover the said amount

of Government of India from the Bank. In the meanwhile Shri Mishra had died in April, 1996. The said bank has been trying to strike an under hand deal through its agents. Dr. Bhatt has said that since this is a national property and whatever settlement is arrived at should be with the consent of the Government of India.

So, I request the Government that an initiative should be taken at the level of the hon'ble Prime Minister or the Finance Minister of India to recover this Indian money exceeding Rs. 14,000 crore from the Netherland Bank.

(xi) Need to Bring Legislation to Create Separate State of Bodoland in the Current Session of Parliament

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Sir, I welcome the Government of India's move to grant statehood to the backward regions of 'Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chhatisgarh, and will always do so in regard to the implementation of the 'Smaller States Concept' in other deserving regions too. However, the most genuine, legitimate and long pending demand for a separate Bodoland State was kept aside while announcing recently the Cabinet decision in regard to creation of 'Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chhatisgarh' only.

The present Government of India should take a concrete policy decision on the long standing demand for a separate State of Bodoland too in order to bring about a lasting political solution to the most alarming Bodoland tangle, by granting Statehood on the lines of 'Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chhatisgarh' for the greater national interest.

Therefore, immediate creation of the long awaited separate State of Bodoland is the only lasting political solution for all round growth and development of the indigenous Bodo people and also to ensure their existence and survival and their safety security within their promised Bodoland State.

I therefore, strongly urge upon the Union Government to take a concrete and positive policy decision to create separate State of Bodoland through the introduction of the requisite Constitution (Amendment) Bill during the on-going Parliament Session itself on the lines of 'Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chhatisgarh' considering the gravity and seriousness of the situation mounting within the proposed Bodoland territory in particular, as well as in the entire North-Eastern region, for the greater interest of the national unity, integrity and security as well.

15.25 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Swarnajayanti Fellowships for Young Scientists

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : Science and technology have always been regarded as powerful tools for the economic and social development of a nation. It is recognised world over that long-term technological competence and international competitiveness can only come from a strong foundation of high quality basic research. In recognition of this, the Government of India, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of our Independence, have launched "Swarnajayanti Fellowships for Young Scientists" to enable them to attain world class levels in science.

The Swarnajayanti Fellowships are open to Indian scientists in the age group of 30-40 years with proven track record for outstanding research work exploring new frontiers in their field of expertise. These fellowships are scientist specific. the fellowship includes, in addition to an

1.	Dr. S. Bhattacharya	Indian Institute of Science	Bangalore
2.	Dr. P.P. Chakravorty	Indian Institute of Technology	Kharagpur
3.	Dr. A. Choksi	Indian Institute of Science	Bangalore
4.	Dr. D.V. Khakhar	Indian Institute of Technology	Mumbai
5.	Dr. T.P. Radhakrishna	University of Hyderabad	Hyderabad
6.	Dr. Mohit Randeria	Tata Institute of Fundamental Research	Mumbai
7.	Dr. Madan Rao	Institute of Mathematical Sciences	Chennai
8.	Dr. V.K. Singh	Indian Institute of Technology	Kanpur
9.	Dr. Subroto Sinha	All India Institute of Medical Sciences	New Delhi
10.	Dr. V. Srinivas	Tata Institute of Fundamental Research	Mumbai
11.	Dr. Jayant Udgoankar	National Centre for Biological Sciences (TIFR)	Bangalore

I wish to congratulate all these young scientists for receiving the Swarnajayanti Fellowships and would like the House to join me in supporting this initiative for the Swarnajayanti Fellowships for the young scientists in the years to come so that many more young scientists could join the programme and contribute towards making Indian Science Internationally competitive.

I have also a small information which I would like to share with this House. This morning we felicitated six young boys from India who had gone to participate in Mathematics Olympiad. All the six have received awards; three of them

attractive fellowship amount of Rs. 25,000 per month, research grant for equipment, manpower, supplies and consumables, travel including international travel and other special requirements for performing at the highest level. The duration of the fellowship is for a period up to five years.

The Swarnajayanti Fellowships have been widely announced both within the country as well abroad to attract good Indian scientists. A three-tier system for selection of candidates for the Swarnajayanti Fellowships has been adopted. This included sub-committees in six subject disciplines, a National Expert Committee with an eminent scientist as the Chairman with other experts and an empowered Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Science and Technology. The process involved was very rigorous in terms of initial screening by the sub-committees, followed by technical presentations in the sub-committees as well as in the National Expert Committee.

The entire process of the selection of the candidate for the Swarnajayanti Fellowships has now been completed and I am happy to announce on the floor of the House the names of the 11 young scientists who have been selected for awarding the Swarnajayanti Fellowships. They are :

have received gold medals and three silver medals. When the Olympiad in Mathematics was started, India was 25th in rank; today it is seventh in rank. This is how our young boys are doing. I request that the whole House should felicitate these young boys and encourage them for the brilliant work which they are doing.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : It is a very welcome step. I was just listening to the hon. Minister. I do not know whether the agricultural sector has been included. I have not heard it but not much focus has been made on it. Somebody from the agricultural sector also may be

included because at our IITs lot of good work is done. Agriculture is equally important for the nation and I think that sector must also be encouraged by including somebody who is doing agricultural research.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : This is one for the fundamental sciences and secondly it is divided into six or seven branches, like Earth Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Chemical Sciences and Engineering Sciences. So, this is the technology field. This also we are doing. If there is somebody who is working in agriculture or Bio-technology or in Chemistry which has an application for agriculture then he comes in it. But as a pure ICAR research that does not come in these seven branches.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : We have IITs and universities. But agricultural science comes at a different level. We welcome the very good initiative; we welcome it. India is after all an agricultural country, eighty percent of our people are agriculturists. So, please announce certain scholarships, or awards for agricultural sciences. They may be separate from these Swarna Jayanti Scholarships. That will be good.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I fully appreciate your sentiments and I am all encouragement for advancing the efforts of agricultural sciences. But it comes under the Ministry of my colleague Shri Sompal, neither under HRD nor under Science and Technology.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Only recently last week we have awarded 58 awards to various scientists and institutes for outstanding achievements.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We would like you to consider similar scholarships as the hon. Minister has announced.

SHRI SOMPAL : I will find out whether there is such a system already.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Do something good also. We will congratulate you also.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I will give all possible help to assist him, wherever I can in formulating and implementing the scheme.

15.34 hrs.

[English]

ELECTRICITY LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1998

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will now take up further consideration of the motion moved by Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam. Dr. V. Saroja was on her feet. She may continue further.

DR. SAROJA V. (Rasipuram) : Hon. Chairman, I am grateful to you for allowing me to continue my speech today on the Bill to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity Supply Act, 1948.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : We will continue this up to five O'Clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN : At four O'Clock we have to take up discussion under Rule 193.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : By that time we will forget what is spoken.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will complete this Bill and then go to discussion under Rule 193.

DR. SAROJA V. : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to continue my speech on the Bill to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

I understand that power system means all aspects of generation, transmission, distribution and supply of energy.

I congratulate the Ministry of Power for bringing radical reforms in tariff system. They have also decided to set up the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and the State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC).

In this connection, I would like to point out a few things before this august House.

The aim behind the establishment and operation of Regional and National Power Grids is to facilitate transfer of power within and across the Regions with reliability, security and economy on sound commercial principles.

I also understand that the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) has successfully negotiated the second World Bank loan worth \$ 450 million to strengthen inter-regional transmission links and upgrade its data-base systems.

In this connection, I only wish to point out that the supply and demand is equal in the Northern Region. However, in the case of Eastern Region, the production is 3,440 mega watts and demand is only 1,800 mega watts. There is an excess of 1,000 mega watts. The plant availability factor is 85 percent and the plant operational efficiency is also more. Moreover, hydro power generation is also more. The State Electricity Boards of the Eastern Region are well prepared to meet the regional requirements. The National Thermal Power Corporation fears that the State Electricity Boards of Eastern Region would slash the withdrawal.

As far as the Southern Region is concerned, the power plant production capacity is 6,000 mega watts, the production is only 2,000 mega watts, and is expected to produce 3,000 mega watts.

[Dr. Saroja V.]

I would like to know from the hon. Minister the modalities that the Ministry of Power have formulated to regulate this shortfall as well as the shortage which the Southern States are facing.

Sir, the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill was sent to the Select Committee. Now, it has come before this august House for discussion. However, I would like to suggest a few points for the hon. Minister's kind consideration.

The surplus power from the North-Eastern Region can be diverted to non-surplus areas of the Southern Region.

The infrastructure facilities for power sector in Southern Region should be improved.

Power should be supplied by the Government alone. In this way, the consumers will get the required quantity of power.

I also foresee the possibility of these projects being delayed because the appreciation in the price of land by private people will definitely undo the execution of the projects. Therefore, the scheme may be totally not being implemented in time.

Again, line loss is the major drawback in the transmission system. I would like to know the modalities that he has adopted to prevent this line loss.

The Bill also does not contain the modalities to fulfil the social objective of supply of free power to the farming community and also to Scheduled Castes and the downtrodden people.

I urge upon the hon. Minister to clarify all these doubts, but still I support this Bill.

Last but not least, on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu and on behalf of my Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi, I urge upon the Government and also the hon. Prime Minister to find a permanent solution to the Cauvery Water Dispute on 12th August, 1998.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, I am very happy that the hon. Minister has taken a renewed interest to control the leakages in the transmission of power. We all know that there is an acute shortage of power in the entire nation today. It is a known fact and I need not repeat that indirectly the entire industrial growth, the GDP growth, the control of fiscal deficit, everything depends on power generation. If power is not available, the entire country's progress will come to a standstill. This is a known fact.

For several decades we have been suffering and day by day the power shortage is becoming very acute. To control this, we need to make the generation, transmission

and also distribution systems very effective. In fact, in the Eighth Plan, we have miserably failed. Even though we were supposed to generate more than 30,000 MW of power, we could hardly generate 14,522 MW. In the Ninth Plan, we are dreaming to generate 40,000 MW, which is a welcome step, but I shall come to that point later. In the meanwhile, I am very happy that they want to achieve perfection in the transmission system through public or private enterprise. Two days back, several Members were objecting to privatisation. This is not correct. My point is, it is not a question of private or public, we want the best results for the country. We want the problems to be solved and to see that a perfect system is achieved. Today, when the entire world is progressing, if we still say that private sector is not good or public sector is not good, it is really very sad. We must have a philosophy of achieving a perfect goal which is most amicable, useful and gives good results to the country. Therefore, one of the reasons for moving this Bill is that they want to invite the private sector in the field of transmission. If we want to achieve the maximum goal in the field of transmission, certainly you need more than Rs. 30,000 crore, which the Government cannot afford. So, if good private international parties come forward through global system, that is a welcome step. They must boldly introduce this system in various parts of the country. They should also invite and inspire various parties from all over the world and give them opportunity to make the transmission system perfect.

It is a very sad news that in India, the transmission loss is 21-22 per cent, whereas in other countries of the world it is only 6-7 per cent. Actually, for the last 12-13 years, the losses have been going up, not coming down. So, I would like Shri Rangarajan to tell us how he is going to control this and what is his optimistic philosophical dream to minimise the transmission loss.

Besides transmission, distribution also is very important. There is perhaps nothing wrong in privatising the distribution system also if a full-fledged, competitive and also economical approach is available and if there are many people readily available to make the system more economical than today.

To achieve this, generation is the most important thing. Why have we failed in the Eighth Plan miserably? Of the target of 30,000 and odd megawatts, we got only 14,000 megawatts. In the Ninth Plan, we want to achieve the target of 40,000 megawatts. Due to red-tapism, no decision could be taken. There is no coordination. There is a delay in land acquisition and decision-making in respect of various matters. Then, there are problems relating to environment, entrusting various things to agencies and getting loans from various institutions. There are various problems. Even today, nothing is moving much.

In fact in the month of April, the Prime Minister had convened a meeting of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Energy and other concerned Ministries, I am happy to know about that. It is already given here.

A few days back, Shri Kumaramangalam had assured us that he would see that most of the projects were cleared and started. In fact, he had also committed in regard to the proposed project in my constituency that it would start immediately. Moreover, he gave a categorical assurance in this House that by the end of this month, he would be able to give guarantees and solve all the problems, and that the projects would be able to start. I hope that he will be able to achieve this. There are hardly ten days left. I shall be very happy if while replying, he once again assures the House and informs about the progress made in the Ministry of Energy in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and other concerned Ministries. This will be appreciated.

Lastly, I went Shri Rangarajan to dynamically achieve the greatest dream of the people of India to have the best systems in generation, transmission and distribution.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Energy has brought a bill to amend electricity Act 1910 and electricity Act 1948. This is certainly a commendable step. The Electricity Act, 1910 was enacted during the British rule. At that time all the system of generation, transmission and distribution of electricity was centralised at one place. At that time all the work was under private sector. In 1948, when this bill was amended, the system of transmission, distribution and generation was separated at that time.

It was a matter of great surprise for me that since many days process is going on to bring every corporation under private system or for nationalisation. When Smt. Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister at that time nationalisation was done with great fanfare. Banks, Coal industries and electricity were nationalised at that time. It was linked with nationalism. At that time all industries, corporation and other system were not nationalised but it was governmentalised. Now they have also become sick. Now we are discussing that the system of transmission should be separately . . . (Interruptions). It is required at that time when multinationals entire.

Rajeev Gandhi ji and Narsimha Rao ji had their own dream of 21st century. They were of the opinion that foreign companies should come to India. They had golden dream of America. Sometime we also used to see the dream of America. The process of liberalisation was started during the tenure of Narsimha Rao ji. At that time it was felt that all Government and family system would be liberalised.

Now process of privatisation is going on. After that we would discuss to notionalise the private system.

Chairman, Sir, I am not against privatisation but such a system should be evolved which could make our public life prosperous. Keeping this anxiety in his mind where the farmers in villages of our India are facing difficulty in getting electricity, our hon'ble Minister of Energy has brought this bill so that farmers could get electricity, they could do farming. Industries could run smoothly but for business class and industrial houses there is some other system of providing electricity. They have made some other system for farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this bill would be passed, law will also be enacted but Minister of Energy should be anxious about farmers. Today if payment of Rs. 500 for electricity is due on a farmer, he is sent to jail but the electricity bill of big businessmen are waived off. Today electricity bill of Rs. 20 crore is due on big industrialists. We were just now discussing here about theft in transmission of electricity due to which department suffers losses. But I would say that this is not loss but theft of electricity. Plant load factor is a technical word by which capacity of electric generation is measured. I want to say that that plant load factor is low because officers are involved in theft inconnivance with factory owners and say that electricity is low in transmission and there was loss of electricity. I request the hon'ble Minister of Energy to think over it before enacting any law. If this system may be included in the law, then it would be a great achievement.

We will support this bill, the entire House will support this bill and then it will become law. After enacting the law you will make arrangements distribution and you will see that how revenue is recovered. You are giving the system of making transmission line in private hands. When it will be ready? Till transmission lines are not completed, work will not start. Transmission which is made of public money should not go in their hands. Because we have seen under coal field in NTPC that things made of public money are used there. This fact would be taken care of. If transmission comes under the purview of private sector then we should invest money of private sector. The transmission line made by private sector should be used. If they use the transmission line made of public money then there should be provision in law that if they misuse it, they should be held culprit.

Chairman, Sir, I am going to finish my speech in very short time. It is unfortunate that whichever party's Government come in the centre line today B.J.P's Government is there, before this Government headed by Shri Gujral was there or before that Congress Government was then. The constituency from where Minister of Energy hails, he sets up more electricity houres in his constituency. Now South India will have more electricity houres.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : And Minister of Railway. . .

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Minister of Railway is from Bihar. Like Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was with you. . . . (Interruptions) I do not hate South India but all should be treated equally. This is the reason for my protest and anxiety.

ENERGY MINISTER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : It means this should go to Minister from South . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : I am giving you suggestion that what is the capacity of power generation in Northern Sector. Singrauli Thermal Power Station, Rihand Thermal Power Station, Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station, Anpara Thermal Power Station, Obra and Vehahar Power Station in Raibareli are situated in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. All of these are Thermal Power Stations. There is no proper line to transmit the quantum of electricity generated here. I was not a student of technical line but I have certainly learned through my experience. According to my information the reasons behind the wide network of transmission lines in South India is that the electricity generated here would be transmitted to South India. I want to say that you go through the comparative data in library, there you will find that the consumption and availability of electricity is more in South India in comparison to that of North India. A Farmer of Northern India whether he hails from Bihar or Uttar Pradesh, his production is decreasing due to unavailability of electricity. His cultivation is being destroyed due to lack of irrigation facility.

[English]

SHRI K. VIJAYABHASKARA REDDY (Kurnool) : It is not the question of South or North.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : This is the gap and this gap is on record. I am not giving my own opinion. I am saying with authenticity by record.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : There is bad condition is South.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : That is due to system but more transmission lines are there. Transmission lines are more than the generation of electricity. I have the record with me. You were also Minister of Energy so you also know about it. I will conclude my speech with a request that before enacting this law you add a line from my side in this law. I understand that the entire House will be unanimous that supply of free electricity should be ensured for the farmers of this country. This will

be a big achievement and you will also become a historical Minister of Energy. I conclude my speech with these words.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Power has great importance for the development of nation and founders of our democracy had, taken care of this fact. They had kept in mind that country should get sufficient power so that country could progress but it seems as that governments coming to power from time to time have linked it with their stability. Earlier, when there was of Congress in power, it remained in power for 40 years, the projects like hydro power were envisaged which were to be completed in 10-15 years. Subsequently, Governments remained in power for 5 years, so those projects were envisaged which were to be completed in five years. Hydro-Power projects were also envisaged at that time and now when Government runs for one and a half year then it is envisaged that projects should be completed during this period and that's why generation of napha based energy is felt.

16.00 hrs.

I would like to say that adhoesim is no solution to development of the country. For the overall development it should be considered in light of all circumstances and problems. When we think about power then we should ensure the transmission and distribution of the power generated and there should be electrification accordingly so as to avoid wastage of power. It should be viewed along with flood control and irrigation in the country because when we consider about the hydro-power project, where the subject of flood control and irrigation will automatically be included in it. According to accepted principle, generation, transmission, distribution and electrification of should be in the ratio of 4:2:1:1 and accordingly we should formulate our plan. You are provided with the facility of services of Planning Commission. Planning Commission should pay attention to it. I am happy that this Bill has been brought for transmission. A transmission line from Bihar Sharif to Mau is underconstruction I would like to suggest that instead of laying this transmission line directly from Bihar Sharif to Mau it should be laid via Muzafarpur i.e. North Bihar so that power supply could be made available to North Bihar is also. The demand of North Bihar is 400 K.V.A. and I think that if this transmission line is laid Via Muzafarpur in North Bihar then urgent demand of it would be met. But we cannot overlook the loss of electricity during its transmission. I was going through the answer of a question raised in Rajya Sabha.

[English]

"Q.No. 2382 to be answered in Rajya Sabha on 7.7.1998 regarding losses occurred due to demand and faulty transmission lines."

[Translation]

I was surprised to see the loss of electricity in transmission from DESU. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I through you, would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister to the answer of the question that the loss during the year 1991-92, was 24.35 percent, In 1992-93, 23.56 percent, In 1993-94, 31.79 percent, In 1994-95, 34.56 percent and it reached upto in 1995-96, 48.57 percent whereas transmission loss in other states is intact. I would like to say that actually it is not loss. In reply of the question Government had clarified.

[English]

"Including commercial losses such as pilferage etc."

[Translation]

How can we treat pilferage as loss when electricity is not available for common man, everybody feels the scarcity of electricity. See the farm houses of Delhi where theft of Power in large quantities is taking place. When we think about losses in terms of transmission we should consider it and check the same.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now. I would like to say about the sorry state of affairs in my State. 85 percent villages of the country have been electrified. Only 46 percent villages have been electrified on papers in Bihar but in reality only 32 percent villages have got electricity-i.e. 46 percent on record and 32 percent villages in reality have been electrified. Now, villages in Bihar, are not being electrified because Bihar Electricity Board is not financially sound enough, to take up rural electrification work. . . .
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh) : We have to take up discussion under Rule 193 at 4 O'clock after this. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : According to the Business Advisory Committee, the time fixed for discussion under Rule 193 is 4 p.m. But according to the hon. Minister of Power, a request has been made by him to extend the time for discussion of the Electricity Bill so that Discussion under 193 can be taken up after the disposal of Electricity Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, crores of people in the country are being affected by flood, people are dying and facing trouble. This Bill should be passed later on First, held discussion on flood.

[English]

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati) : This House stands by the decision of the BAC. It cannot be ignored.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Let us start Discussion under 193.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House to start Discussion under Rule 193 just now?

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Let us complete this discussion in another 15 minutes. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet) : Yesterday there could not be discussion on this. Let it be completed first. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you want Discussion under Rule 193 or do you want to continue with the discussion on this Bill?

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : You go by the decision of the BAC. Nobody can supersede decision of the BAC.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Nobody can supersede any decision. It is the House which can take the decision. It was the recommendation of the BAC that it should be taken up at 4 O'clock. I had made a request and the House then agreed. Obviously, at the moment, if the House has disagrees, I have no problem. We can have it tomorrow. If the hon. Members want to have Discussion under 193 today, I have no objection. But my request is that they should consider passing this Bill at least tomorrow because this is a Bill which has come about with unanimity of the Standing Committee. It is a very important Bill. Let it not be treated as irrelevant. That is all I want to say.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : This Bill can be discussed today after '193'.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the hon. Members agree to sit late? . . . (Interruptions)

The discussion on this Bill had been heard on Monday. We had Discussion under Rule 193 yesterday at 3 O'clock. So, the discussion on this Bill could not come up. Today we are having Discussion under Rule 193 at 4 O'clock. The discussion on this Bill is now being postponed.

Tomorrow, again, we will have another Discussion under Rule 193. It is as good as saying that let us not take up Bills. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : We want you to take up the Bills tomorrow. Today, let us take up the Discussion under Rule 193 . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Crores of people are dying due to flood. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first you get this Bill passed. . . . (Interruptions)
Then take up the discussion under Rule 193 . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think the House is divided.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister need not be apprehensive of getting the Bill passed. We assure that we will support him in passing the Bill. I say this with all responsibility . . . (Interruptions) Shri Kumaramangalam, we assure you that we will support you in passing the Bill. But some of our Members have given their names. They also want to express their views. It is only a question of giving time to them . . . (Interruptions) Let me complete it. If time can be given today, we can pass the Bill. Or, if the Chair desires that time should be given tomorrow, we can pass the Bill tomorrow. Nothing will happen. I assure you that it will be passed. . . . (Interruptions) Shri Kumaramangalam, today or tomorrow does not make much of a difference. I know about it. You are my good friend. Why are you apprehensive? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur) : The natural calamity is an urgent matter. It cannot be postponed . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have no problem. We can pass it tomorrow. We can hear everybody because every word of every Member is a great contribution, according to me. It is a very fundamental issue of power. So, I do not want to stop any Member or cut any Member from speaking. But my only worry is that if everyday we have a Discussion under Rule 193, this Bill will never be passed . . . (Interruptions) At least, tomorrow, give this item priority over the Discussion under Rule 193. At least tomorrow it should be passed . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. We will now take up Discussion under Rule 193.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : What about me? I have not completed it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will allow you time.

16.14 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Re: Floods in Various Parts of the Country

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Mohan Singh and Shri Ram Nagina Mishra to raise a discussion regarding

floods in various parts of the country. The time allotted is two hours.

Shri Mohan Singh.

[Translation]

16.14 ½ hrs.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today with heavy heart, I would like to discuss about the havocs of Flood due to which crores of people are in great distress. At this time when I am initiating discussion, crores of people in my Constituency have taken shelter on trees, terraces and dams leaving their houses and families. We are sorry that we are compelled to hold a discussion on flood havocs in every monsoon session in this House. Suggestions are given to Government. Governments come to power one after another, long lasting proposals are passed to keep away flood havocs, experts committees are appointed, their recommendations come and gather dust. We do not find resolve in the required magnitude in successive Governments to find a permanent solution to the problem. Every year we are in distress by the fact that there will be total scarcity of drinking water in coming ten years in the country. Today, the hon'ble Members of all parties expressed their concern over the continuous decline in the level of underground water during the question hour. The hon'ble Prime Minister had announced in the beginning of session of the House that third world war is not going to take place on any third issue but possibly in next century, the third world war would take place on water. We are fortunate enough to be surrounded by large water resources which could meet the drinking water needs of a vast populace and irrigational requirement of vast areas in the country. But due to lack of proper planning we are unable to generate hydropower, regular supply of water, its use in irrigation and drinking water in required magnitude due to which we are lagging behind and every year we have to face flood havocs resulting in destruction and distressing of crores of people and holding discussion in the House, expressing lip sympathy for those people and our responsibility is over with that. I would like that all the parties should be unanimous on this issue and should at least evolve a permanent national policy for solution of water crisis and total elimination of flood havocs which has to be completed within a definite time frame by spending the entire national resources. Then only I feel that we could prove today's discussion valid. I expect it from the Government, the hon'ble Minister and the House.

Simultaneously, I would like to say that it is for the first time that North Eastern U.P., Bihar and Haryana are experiencing flood before time for which Government and its administration were not ready. The entire Populace of

the country right from Assam to Kerala and Haryana to Bihar is ruling under severe flood. According to the figures presented by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in Legislative Assembly on 14 July crops of 72 lakh hectares were destroyed due to flood. According to figures presented in Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh about 750 villages became flood affected in first week of July. According to the estimates of Government of Uttar Pradesh about 8.50 lakh populace is in the grip of flood. I can say it with my personal experience, I was in my constituency on 17-18, Piprasi Dam on river Narayani, is maintained by the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar together, as the repair work was not done and it was not protected properly, according to the official information only four days before 90 metre long dam and as per my information 500 metre long dam was breached. As a result thereof hundreds of villages were about to drift away and a serious problem of flood and drinking water has arisen. Similarly, Tiyara Marathi dam in Rudrapur area also had the similar Breach of about 500 metre on 20th instant due to which 55 villages were flooded with water similarly breach of about 50 metre in Pipara dam in Kushi Nagar caused havoc in about 50 villages.

The nine districts of Uttar Pradesh i.e. Ajamgarh, Pratapgarh, Padrona, Sidharath Nagar, Deoria, Kushinagar, Basti are affected with havocs of flood as on today. But it is the beginning not the end. The maintainance of Dams, water supply etc. which should have been started in the months of May and June by the Administration was not done in time. I am sorry to say that district level administrative Officers were not present at the time when people were seeling under sufferings caused by the floods. All were present in the capital of the State find a way for their transfer, good posting or other reasons. The responsible officers of all the districts were not present in districts.

I am sorry to say that it is over a week that no food arrangements have been made for the people nor the administration has taken any steps to provide ration to the starving people of Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Kabirnagar, Siddarth Nagar, Deoria districts. During Calamities, Government announce postponement of recoveries from farmers but in this case Government had not announced such postponement of recoveries. Cabinet Ministers and Chief Ministers conducted only air survey of floods and their lip sympathy to affected people was limited to newspapers and the issue of statements in legislative Assambly in the capital. What action State Government is taking, which is the responsibility of State Government; I am categorically saying that State Government had failed to discharge its duty. When State Government fails on any account, the responsibility lies with the Centre. What assistance has

been provided by the Centre? We have raised this issue thrice in the House last week.

Last year, when there was heavy cyclone in Andhra Pradesh and when Gujarat and Rajasthan were stricken by it creating havoc in the last fortnight of the previous month of the current year, the Government of India while performing its duty sent a team of officers there and provided urgent possible relief. But the Government of India failed to perform its duties is making arrangements to provide facilities and relief to the affected persons while making proper evaluation in time by sending team to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. I would like to condemn and criticize it.

16.23 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

I am sorry to say that we raised the question of hailstorm in rest of the states in this very House. Midnapur was stricken by heavy cyclone and havoc was created, thrice in Uttar Pradesh by hailstorm and cyclone. We had raised this issue in this House. The Government of India provided relief to the other states in the name of assistance but it could not provide any relief of the lakhs of people of Uttar Pradesh affected by cyclone and hailstorm. I am sorry to say in this House that the Government of India did not show as much sensivity on the flood as it showed in case of hailstorm and cyclone.

With your permission, I would like to say that Government of India provide relief on its own behalf but relief is provided after much delay. Last year Bihar was stricken by the flood in the month of August and relief was provided by the Government in January and February, 1998. If the Government of India functions in this manner, how could a State Government with its limited resources come forward to help the poor.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to read the statement given by hon'ble Minister in Rajya Sabha. Some figures were given by him on July 9, 1998 in reply to a starred question, according to which the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal were stricken by heavy rains and flood in different ways during 1997. All the State Governments sought financial assistance and other things from the Central Government to help their people. The Minister categorically stated that Himachal Pradesh has sought Rs. 168 crores and the State Government of Bihar has sought Rs. 428 crores. The Central Government released an amount of only Rs. 10 crores in lieu of the demands made above which was released only on 14.1.1998. We criticize

[Shri Mohan Singh]

this thing. The damage of Piprasi dam in Bihar has ruined the people of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The Government of Bihar State has that stated that they had sought Rs. 428 crores from the Centre in the month of September for their survival and the Central Government released only Rs. 10 crores after six months in lieu of their demand. Similarly, the Central Government has given datas in respect of other states. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh sought assistance of Rs. 242 crores and 323 crores but the figures of the assistance provided to them was not given in the reply.

I would like to say that the Government of India has recently constituted its Finance Commission. According to hon'ble Finance Minister, the terms of references of this Finance Commission are the best among the terms of references of all previous Finance Commissions because these are the most progressive. I am sorry to say that no reference was made in these terms of references about the problems of drinking water rain and flood, due to which, our country is being ruined and we are going to face a big crisis in the coming century. I request to increase the terms of reference and importance should also be given to the solution of the drinking water problem.

I would like to give far-reaching suggestions regarding havocs of flood and solution of destruction caused by it. The Minister had given a reply in this House wherein he said that water of rivers of Himalaya, Vindhya and sea should be contained after making them three tier and it should not be allowed to flow into the sea. There is an expert Committee report on it and you replied in the House that Government of India require thousands of crores of rupees to deal with the situation. It is a matter of concern for Central Government to get such amount. But we cannot solve the problem of flood unless we implement the recommendation of this report. The flow of all Indian rivers should be straightened because they damage lakhs of hectares of land by their irregular flow. Their catchment area is on the increase which causes destruction of our crops. The agricultural and residential land of our country is being ruined with the increase of this catchment. area. Therefore, the course of the rivers should be straightened. Besides, they should also be deepened. There is an old project about water reservoir. We can store the water of the rivers in reservoirs which can help to protect us from flood. Thereafter, that water can be used for drinking or irrigation purposes. Hence, this ambitious scheme should be taken up. All the rivers oozing out from Himalaya flow to Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have time and again approached the Government of India to construct Karnali, Pancheshwar and Balu dam on the rivers coming from Nepal. To solve the

problems of power by generating hydro-power. In this way, we can remove the problem of flood and initiate ambitious irrigational programmes. The Government of India has talked with Government of Nepal many times in this regard and treaties were signed between India and Nepal in 1995, 1996 and 1997. The efforts were made to control these rivers effectively. But the Government of India is not implementing them. I would like to request the Government of India to complete the scheme of Karnali, Pancheshwar and Balu dam.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the major problem relating to Assam State. The people of Assam say that river Brahmaputra is a boon as well as a curse for them. I have read in newspaper that our country is likely to face a crisis due to this river. Our neighbouring country China is trying to change the flow of this river by using nuclear device to irrigate its desert land. I have read this newsitem in the newspapers. A special item was also telecasted on T.V. in this regard. How far it is true or false - the Government of India should be conscious in this regard. I would like to state that the Government of India should chalk out a plan to regulate the rivers flowing from Himalayas . . . (*Interruptions*) Also the people of Tehri Garhwal region are looking forward towards the completion of Tehri project for the last 30 years. There is problems of power and flood in this area. The people of this area have been expecting since 1974 that these problems will be solved after completion of this project. This question is raised in each session every year and Government of India state that it will be completed as early as possible but due to some problems, it has not been completed and the problem is *ibid*. The fact is that we can generate the hydro-power and make this area prosperous by making small springs and water sources on the rivers flowing from Nepal and Himalayas and exploiting this water. I request the Government of India to initiate for completion of this scheme. Construction of dams can not solve the problem of flood. We can solve the problem of floods by deepening the rivers.

Sir, I will conclude with one example, there is a village named Gaidas which is not only in my Parliamentary constituency for the last 20 years but also it was in my Legislative Assembly Constituency when I was Member of Legislative Assembly. From the time when I became Member of Legislative Assembly for the first time in 1977, to till date when I am Member of Parliament. I continued to persuade the Government to allocate Rs. 20 lakhs for the safety of this village. But recently, when I visited this village, I found that the entire village has been submerged in the stream of the river. Now, there is no existence of this village. We could not save this village even after spending Rs. 20 lakhs. I mean to say that the plans of

dam construction or arrangements of bolders to save the villages have proved inadequate, unscientific and sheer wastage of money. Therefore, I would like to state that major plans should be prepared which can only be permanent solution of this problem. Short term solution can not deal with this serious and permanent solution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, initiating the debate with these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, you have allowed to hold a discussion in the House on situation of flood. Atleast, it gave us an opportunity to express anguish of lakhs and crores of farmers who are in distress due to havocs of flood. The points which Mohan Singh Ji has said just now, I will not repeat those points. It is true that we hold a lot of discussion on floods every year but no solution is found out. Today situation is quite grim and grave. I am saying this without hesitation that havocs of flood came on 13th and we were making hue and cry in the House for two and three days from 14th. We heard that Hon'ble Minister would give a reply but his statement could not come even today.

Sir, I have got some press-cuttings. Nepai has released great amount of water in the Gandak river which has worsened the flood situation. The Piprasi dam at Kushinagar has given way as a result of which a number of people drowned in the water. Hundreds of people drowned in water in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. All the press cuttings are with me. It is true that there is flood all over the country and Uttar Pradesh is also in the grip of flood. According to official report, hundreds of people have died. The most grave situation is in Gorakhpur division. If you conduct an aerial survey there then you will find that Gorakhpur has become just like an ocean. Heavy water logging is there. Hundreds of villages are submerged with water. Instead of belonging from a ruling party. I can say without any hesitation that had the repairs of the dam been undertaken earlier, this situation would not have arisen. So far question of damage to Piprasi dam is concerned, it had happened last year also and hon'ble Minister had visited the site. It is unfortunate that dam is only 51 km long and only 10 km is part of Uttar Pradesh and 40 km comes in Bihar. That damaged part of the dam comes under Bihar. We had visited last year also. People from Bihar Government had also come but it was not repaired. They had been warned before 13th about crack in the dam. I had personally visited the spot. One good lady officer from Bihar had helped us but other junior officers turned a deaf ear to this problem. There was crack in the dam and water was flowing but only 23 labours from Bihar were there. When we asked them then they replied that last year's

wage was not paid to them so they are not working. We told the madam. Engineers present there were giving slips to labours to take their wages in January. Due to human error today lakhs of people are facing the problem of flood. This is an unprecedented flood. Many floods had come before this. Due to flood situation in other places some dams are damaged and in some places flood situation has arisen due to water logging. But in Kushinagar Piprashi dam has given way and as a result of this the flood situation has arisen here. I am giving you the previous data. It is impossible to tell anything about latest position. According to official report at 4 O'clock on 18.7.98 the discharge of water was 1 lakh 86 thousand cusec. At 8' O'clock on 19.7.98 this discharge of water increased to 2 lakh and 12 thousand cusec and on 19.7.98 at 4 O'clock it was 2 lakh 30 thousand and 5 hundred i.e. an increase of 17,300 cusec water. As a result of this water level increased to six inches. Villages having 76 thousand population submerged in water and 40 thousand people are living in flood water.

I am saying about the official report which has come just three-four day ago. I am not talking about my report. Though the official reports are very balanced. There situation is very pathetic. Thousands of people drowned in water and water is flowing on the road. People are in great distress. I also went there and people surrounded me and said that man could not save dam. This is natural calamity but you can protect our life people were craving for chivara and gram. All crops, grain and people are drowned in water there. I saw in Bansi that villages were submerged under water and snakes were biting people. S.P. was also with us. They do not have anything to eat and they do not have even water to drink. All School premises are vacated. They do not have place to live and they do not have any means for cooking. Our soul shudder to imagine about there.

Army has been called there. I admire the Soldiers of army. Had the Soldiers of army were no present there many people might have died. The Government of Bihar have also sent the army there and army has been sent from our state also. People are rescued by the PAC man to the safe place near dam but there is nothing to eat and they do not have even water to drink. There is no place to keep animals. Everywhere there is distressful commotion. I do not hesitate in pointing out the reason behind it. Shri Mohan Singh ji has just now said that when flood situation arises then some people are happy because they will get lakhs of ruppees so there is no harm to them due to flood. If we calculate then we find that billions of money have been incurred on it. Ministers and officers of Uttar Pradesh were with us. We asked the Officers of Irrigation department that had the work been done earlier then what would be the expenditure. They said that five lakhs were

[Shri Ram Nagina Mishra]

enough. Now very small ring is being prepared with Rs. 26 lakhs and that work is also not in progress. This is only an example of department's casual approach. Our Bihar Government is also unique. If you will go there then you will find that upto this point is Uttar Pradesh and after this point there is Bihar. Out of total 51 km 40 km is part of Bihar. By chance that is border of Bihar and U.P. structure of nature is such, Banshi river is situated many feet below Narayani river and breach in the dam is at that place and flow has gone straight towards south. I would request that this is joint matter of both the Government. Lakhs of people are facing the problem so either the Government of India take the charge of this dam under its department or give it to the Ganga flood Board. If this is not materialised then people would not live longer there. Always they will have to face the distress of flood. So Government will have to pay special attention towards this problem. If this cannot be done then this dam should be transferred to Uttar Pradesh with all fund so that they could made the dam more solid. This is not a matter of one year but it happened every year. This matter should either be given to Central Water Commission or Ganga Flood Board then this dam can be saved. The flow of Narayani river is diverting towards south and I want to say that when human being can not protect the dam then atleast life of lakhs of drowned people should be saved. They could not die. It is matter of sorrow that I am also a farmer. I rang up at Gorakhpur, Banaras and everywhere then people told me that they want boat and food but they are not getting these things. How ladies and innocent children could be rescued from flood water? They are wailing and wondering about. I would request to the Government of India to rescue people who are affected due to flood and they should be provided a more safe place. We will be grateful to you. We have just got the message that Nepal has also released water. More people have been affected by that. Government of India should atleast talk to Nepal Government. To release such a quantum of water at this time would pose great danger to Kushinagar and other districts of Uttar Pradesh.

The people whose foodgrains have submerged in the water, have no means at all. They have left nothing to cook food. They should provide Kerosene oil and stove so that they might cook 'kichdi' at least for their survival. This may save their life.

Sir, the biggest calamity is that on the one hand almighty, by inflicting heavy punishment on people is killing the people and on the other hand they are getting nothing to eat. My friends will think that I cry only for sugarcane. I would like to tell them that 18 crore rupees of Kathakuian, Padrauna is due. This is area where flood has taken place.

The people of that area surrounded me and they started saying that if they could get the price of sugarcane, perhaps they would have been able to sustain where do we complain? What guilt farmers have committed? They people are being destroyed due to flood. The hard-earned money of 1800 crore rupees of these people is yet due to recovered from somewhere. You can well imagine their plight. Who will manage this? Who is their guardian? Where we should complain? Is there any other forum bigger than this? I would like to draw the attention of the whole House towards the natural calamity.

Sir, other people are conducting aerial survey there but I have conducted on the spot survey. I visited each and every villages there. If I were not with them at this time of calamity people would have thrown me in the water. People think that what can Baba do? He is requesting with folded hand. The truth is that neither Mill owners are paying wages nor peasants are getting fair prices for their produce. I would like to ask to Union Government that there might be some law about it. We have provided them the goods worth 18 crore of rupees, but we have been starving for two years. We have been destroyed due to flood, our money is due to them. What we will do with one kilo of gram? I have said to give 500 rupees per family. I started distributing that money. An effort was made on the part of the government but there is no use to dig the well after the fire is on. This issue should be investigated. Due to the laxity adopted by those officers of the irrigation department, whether they belong to Bihar or Uttar Pradesh, whose mistake cause death of lakhs of people should also be punished so that they don't commit such mistakes in future.

The most serious problem there is a boats and of living place. The area which is submerged in water has no raised platform. It is a small place where there is no place for adode. People are being in rain. Atleast the persons who are trapped in the flood should be brought to a safe place and tents should also be provided to save them from rain which are not yet erected. This is a fact that one crore rupees have been given for the help of flood victim but it will not serve the purpose. The houses of those people have ruined, corps have destroyed, How the purpose of the farmers will serve by giving them just Rs. 150. Just now Shri Mohan Singh jee has also said this and I am also repeating it when ever there is flood and calamity occurs the government helps. But the victims of flood in Puruvanchal are crying. I am pleading before this House for past one week. Only when Ministers go to visit the areas of flood, the officers there become more active. Whether the Honourable Minister will help the peasants by arranging for them, immediate assistance from the government? Whether they would make any arrangements to avoid reoccurrence of such incidents in future? The biggest

problem is and you would be surprised to know our brother from Bihar may not be displeased.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to conclude now, you have taken 17 minutes, so many people have to participate yet.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Many people are dying there due to flood, can I not even tell about it? I want two minutes more. I belong to that area. Our area is badly in the grip of this calamity.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mohan Singh belongs to your district he has taken twenty minutes, you have also taken 17 minutes. I had given you an indication, now you have to conclude it. So many people have to speak yet. For this, we have allotted two hours time.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : I am concluding, In compliance with your order I would like to repeat to the point three or four thing. The first thing is that boats should be made available immediately to rescue lakhs of flood effected people, whether this arrangement is made by the state Government or the Union Government. Flood effected people should be provided with kerosene oil and stove to cook their food, All the foodgrains of the people have been submerged, ration should be arranged for them. Arrangement should be made to rescue those people who are submerged in water and tents should be erected by evicting schools and colleges. Epidemics have broken out there and there is no place for animals to live in. Therefore, places should be arrange for them. It is unfortunate that people belonging to the adjacent places of Bihar come here and steal away the hand pumps and pipes. Potable water is not available. This is a fact that police were also asked to come for rescue. People are being compelled to drink water from the river. Therefore, I demand from the Government of India that in this crisis.

SHRI PRABHU NATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir he has talked about Bihar.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prabhunath Singh jee, you will be given an opportunity to participate, than you can answer it. He is about to finish it.

SHRI PRABHU NATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he has talked about the people of Bihar. He is an honourable Member from the constituency adjacent to our border, I want to tell him that people in our area do not sleep at night because criminals from Uttar Pradesh even during this flood time come and steal away the articles.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have here also made the dispute of border.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Chairman, Sir our village comes under ring dam where from people of Bihar have taken away the hand pumps and piles. The

unfortunate thing for us is on the one hand our area is affected with havocs of flood and on the other hand 50 crore rupees of sugarcane are outstanding out of which 20 crore rupees belong to Kath Kuain, 16 crores rupees belong to Kaptanganj and 22 crore rupees belong to Sardar Nagar. Sir, atleast this favour can be done by your goodself that the price of sugarcane is given to peasants so that the later may sustain. Again I would like to request the honourable Minister that he should ensure the relief is given by the Government of India and the lives of the people are saved by arranging boats. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR : Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members, Shri Ram Nagina Mishra and Shri Mohan, for having raised a discussion on the flood situation in our country . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order please.

SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR : Sir, any discussion on the flood situation would not be complete without discussing the flood situation of Assam in particular and that of the North-Eastern region in general.

Sir, you are aware that the North-Eastern States are endowed with enormous water resources but due to lack of proper utilisation of the this huge water resources, the mighty Brahmaputra and the Barrak rivers, in their present perspective, have become more of a liability than of any help to the people of Assam.

Sir, when we were in schools, we used to read in our text books that the Hwang-Ho river was known as the 'sorrow of China'. But the Hwang-Ho river now has become the main source of prosperity in China. But Brahmaputra still has remained one of the main causes of misery for the people of Assam and the North-Eastern region.

Sir, before I come to the problem of flood, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the recent devastating flood which has affected almost half of the State of Assam, consequently affecting more than 70 lakhs of people. I think, standing crops spread over more than 50 hectares of land have been destroyed and more than 100 lives have been lost in the flood and in the resultant landslide.

Sir, I would like to name some of the districts where the situation is very grim. The situation in the districts of Dhomaji, Nalbari, Lakhimpur, Morigaon, Jorhat, Sonitpur, Darrang, Dhubri, Goalpara and Cachar is so bad that the civil administration had to take the help of the Army to rescue the marooned people from the affected areas. Lakhs of people are passing their days under the open sky without any provision for proper relief.

[Shri P.S. Ghatowar]

Sir, the main problem for these people has been the lack of supply of essential commodities, medical facilities and drinking water. The recent flood has washed away the roads and bridges and taken the lives of many persons. The National Highways have been submerged. That has disturbed the surface communication which is the lifeline of Assam in the North-Eastern region. This has resulted in a situation of scarcity of essential commodities. The prices of commodities are very high because a majority of the essential commodities are transported from these parts of the country. In some places, the railway lines have also got submerged. The overall situation in Assam is very grim.

Sir, according to one estimate, from 1956 till 1996, the State of Assam has lost about Rs. 4,500 crore due to floods. Every year, thousands of acres of land suffer erosion on account of Brahmaputra and Barak rivers. The 52 tributaries of these two rivers are creating havoc in the Brahmaputra and the Barak valley.

17.00 hrs.

Erosion is one of the major problems being faced by the people of Assam. The Government of India has to seriously look into this problem. Besides other problems, flood and erosion are the two main problems which are detrimental to the economic growth of Assam and North-Eastern regions.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards certain other important points. In pursuance with the former Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda's announcement, "New initiatives for the North Eastern Region" made in Guwahati on October 27, 1996, a high level Commission was appointed to critically examine the gaps in important sectors of infrastructure development in North-Eastern region. The Commission recommended Rs. 1194 crore for flood management measures upto 10th Five Year Plan with Rs. 500 crore during 9th Five year Plan.

17.01 hrs.

[SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY *in the Chair*]

During 1996, the Government of India constituted Regional Task Force 'B' for Flood Management in North-Eastern region, which reviewed various dimensions of flood management in this region and recommended to adopt a strategy of judicious mix of both short-term and long-term measures. The Task Force strongly recommended an amount at Rs. 600 crore under Central sector to implement long-term measures for flood control in the North-East during 9th Five Year Plan. It also recommended Rs. 1000 crore during 9th Five Year Plan to take up short-term measures including protection of Majuli Island in Assam.

These are the Reports of the Expert Committees constituted by the Central Government. I would request the Central Government that the recommendations made by this Commission and the Task Force should not be confined to papers alone but they should be implemented also. I think the Central Government has to take a serious view of these recommendations made by the Commission and the Task Force constituted by the Central Government.

Now, I would like to say about the Central Loan Assistance Scheme. There is a long-standing demand of the people of Assam to have a Central Loan Assistance Scheme. At present, the Central Loan Assistance Scheme is one-hundred per cent loan scheme and there is a demand that this should be converted into one-hundred per cent grant scheme in case of Assam. At present, the fund made available to the State Government is in the form of loan which is repayable with interest. The Central Government release the fund after deducting the earlier loan, the interest on it, and the balance amount is released to the State. If you see the figures, in the year 1992-93, the sanctioned amount under this scheme was Rs. 25 crore and the amount actually released to the State Government after deduction of principal and interest was Rs. 0.96% crore. Similarly, in 1993-94 out of the sanctioned amount of Rs. 2 crore the State Government actually got only Rs. 4.10 crore. I do not think this way the Central Government can give any relief to the suffering people of Assam. With the meagre amount available, the State Government is not in a position to take any proper step.

Every year there is flood in Assam because the mighty Brahmaputra and Barak rivers have to flow through a narrow valley and due to melting of snow from Himalayas, they always overflow. The Central Government has to take a long-term policy to solve this problem, otherwise, the people of North-Eastern region will always suffer due to flood. They will always be in difficulty due to flood.

The fund allocation by the Government of India under the Head, "2245-Relief and Natural Calamities", as per recommendation of different Finance Commissions is too inadequate in comparison with the gravity and magnitude of the perpetual huge flood damages. And after meeting the massive relief and rehabilitation costs, practically no fund is available for undertaking repair of the damaged roads, bunds etc.

I have a few suggestions to make to the Central Government. It is high time the problems of flood and erosion are recognised as national problems of high magnitude having inter-State and international ramifications. It is our earnest hope and desire that the Government of India would involve itself in a very serious manner in mitigating the ravages caused by floods. In the above backdrop and also as a gesture of honour to the

commitment of the former Prime Ministers, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda and Shri I.K. Gujral, the Government of India should effect an immediate change in the policy of converting the loan assistance to 100 per cent Central grant from the first year of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

In regard to outstanding debt burden on account of Central loan assistance for implementation of various flood control schemes, our humble submission is that the repayment of outstanding debt amounting to Rs. 237 crore or so, as on 31-3-1995 be waived. I urge upon the Central Government to allocate an enhanced flood relief fund to the State Government.

There are various programmes recommended by the Expert Committee to the Central Government. I want to draw the attention of the Government to the recommendations of the high-powered Shukla Commission relating to the flood control. The additional budgetary support of Rs. 500 crore during the Ninth Five Year Plan period, as committed by the then Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda, be provided to the State.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are many Members who wish to participate in the debate. Please conclude now.

SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR : Sir, I have taken only five minutes. People have taken 30 to 35 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken more than 10 minutes.

SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR : I will conclude in a few minutes, Sir.

There are various projects pending before the Central Government like Pagladia dam project, Tipaimukh dam project, Subansiri dam project, Dehang dam project, etc. If these projects are implemented, our country will become surplus in power generation. According to the estimates made by experts, the potential of hydroelectric power in the North-East is about 50,000 magawatt. All these projects appear to have been buried under the files. The Government of India have to dig out these files and implement these projects.

One of the main causes for occurrence of floods every years in Assam is that after the earthquake of 1950, the level of flood water went beyond the town, level. Along with this, deforestation in the higher reaches has been causing silting of Barahmaputra and Barak rivers. The river bed is coming up and with the amount of water flowing every year remaining the same, the flood situation is going from bad to worse. The Central Government has to look into this problem of silting of Brahmaputra and Barak rivers and take some concrete steps to prevent this and save Assam and the North-Eastern region from these devastating floods.

Last but not least, we request the hon. Chairman to advise the Ministry of Environment and Forests to evolve a strategy towards an integrated watershed management in the hilly terrains within the State of Assam, neighbouring States and neighbouring countries to avoid devastating floods and rising of river beds with huge sedimentation. Financial support for the watershed management and catchment treatment should be borne by the Government of India which will help stabilisation of the hilly and flushy river in the long run reducing floods in Assam.

As we witness floods in the North-East region every year, there should be some buffer stock of the essential commodities in the North-East region. When the floods come, they submerge the railway lines and national Highways. Everything from this side goes through the chicken's neck. This is a small strip through which all the essential commodities go to that region. Many of the hon. Members and many of the people outside the North-Eastern Region do not know that when we go home, we fly over a foreign country. Many of the top officials in the Government of India do not know the name of the Capitals of the North-Eastern States. When I came here, many people asked: Is Dibrugarh in Nagaland? This type of attitude is there with the people in power. I think, this is because of lack of knowledge. This will send a bad signal about Assam. All this is contributing to the secessionist tendencies in the North-East Region. We are not supporting them. Congress party has always been fighting secessionism. More than 600 people have laid down their lives to the bullets of terrorists to keep Assam in the national mainstream. The Central Government has to sincerely take all these problems into consideration and should try to solve them so that the people of that part of the country feel a sense of belonging.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI (Bansgaon) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I by associating myself with Shri Ram Nagina Mishra would not take more time of the House. I would discuss only in regard to my area. My parliamentary constituency Bansgaon is situated on the confluence of about eight rivers. It is affected mainly by the drains of Rapti, Caurret, ani, Rohin, Taraina and Fared drain. Due to the devastating floods at present excepting Rapti and Ghagra embankments of all the rivers have broken down. This has resulted fully submersion of four assembly areas of my parliamentary constituency. The Government of Uttar Pradesh is engaged in relief work with its resources but considering the seriousness of floods, the relief work undertaken is not sufficient. Therefore, through you, Sir, I have made four demands to the Government of India. My first demand is that the Government of India by giving special grant to Uttar Pradesh should arrange relief measures on war-footing.

[Shri Raj Narain Passi]

The second demand, if it is possible to fulfil it is that as published in the newspapers and the people of my constituency and our District collector have told us on telephone that because Nepal Government has opened the barrage the menace of floods is increasing. The flow of water of the rivers is continuing. In such a situation if the flow of water of the rivers will continue the embankments of Rapti will break down and as a result there of the houses of atleast 200 villages of my constituency will get submerged and heavy loss of life and property will take place.

Therefore, the Government of India in consultation with the Nepal Government should arrange the closure of that barrage. Arrangements may be made to get the low of the water through this barrage stopped till the level of water of the rivers is got down. My third demand is that floods usually used to come at the end of August or in the first week of September, by that time all the big crops are ripen. Now when the seeds were sown in the fields the floods hit the area. As a result there of paddy, bajra, maize and all other crops are destroyed, fodder for animal is also not available. The Prime Minister himself should inspect that area and with special assistance and force should provide security and safety to the embankment on Rapti river. So that it cannot breake because our communication with Gorakhpur has completely been cut off and the level of flowing water on main road which links Gorakhpur and Allahabad and goes towards Azamgarh, is five feet and completely closed for transportation. Similarly communications with district of Devaria, Azamgarh, Basti have completely been cut off. There has left no means of communication as there is no railway line, in our area, only the facility of road link was there. And that has also finished. I would request you that hon'ble Prime Minister himself and the Government of India should inspect and in consultation with Government of Uttar Pradesh should make arrangements to take the people to safer place. The fees of the students should be waived off, note books and books should be arranged for them and the lakhs of houses which have collapsed. Arrangements should be made to reconstruct them after the level of floods water is lowered down by giving special grant so as to boost up their morale and people get relieved of this menace.

With these words. I express my gratitude towards you as you have allowed me to speak.

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE (Raiganj) : Honourable Chairman, Sir, Shri Mohan Singh had started that discussing regarding flood, it seems that as our country passed through many seasons, in the same manner, every year in Parliament, we discuss about flood or drought. It has become our routine work, I don't know, how the country

can be benefited with this. You may say it is a natural calamity comes incidently. As if tycoon comes in Kutch of Bengal and it detriment, we can call it natural calamity. Recently, in Darjeeling district because of speedly falling down of water in large quantity from the hills on homes on roads and as a result thereof homes broke, roads broke, and loss of life and property. We can call it natural calamity but by calling natural calamity to flood and drought, we are misleading the people of our country. Such things should be avoided. If a malaria's patient is suffering from body's pain and fever, he went to the doctor and was given paracetamol or procin by using it his fever will definitely bring down but there will be no treatment for malaria. Therefore we require quinine to get ride of the malaria of our country i.e. flood or drought, in real manager, this malaria can be removed and we should pay heed to it.

Today morning, there was a discussion on water. Sh. Saifuddin Soz Saheb is not present here now. He had raised the question, our Honourable Minister Sompalji over ruled and scribbled it as it seems that the question of water is connected with drinking water only. I feel only three to four percent of total water is used for drinking purposes. We use three to four percent of the total water for drinking purposes. We do not adopt the right way by which the public conveniences are made available to the people. We are trying to give various excuses to the public by saying that the level of water is going down etc, etc. In right perspective, there is no shortage of drinking water in our country but shortage of water is absolutely there. Why there is a shortage of water because we are using three to four percent water for drinking purposes. We use 85% water for irrigation. Water is used in industries also. If we think from all these point of views in this matter then definitely we will reach on this conclusion that water is reducing. How we will think about its preservation. By only bringing drinking water in it. We try to avoid water problem in real sense. In the same manner, we want to say that it cannot be seen separately. We have to make a national programme by clubbing all these problems such as problem of water, flood, drought, pollution and power, with the help of which we can get rid of this for ever.

Recently, we have established a fund called natural calamity in this fund both central and state Govts. contribute. Just now, Mohan Singh ji was reading the answer of the Hon. Minister by quoting that I ask, whether that it is matching grant? As he told that the matching grant is 2.5%. We get only 2.5% assistance from centre against our requirement is it matching grant? Is it any assistance why we talk about this assistance. Can't we face the problem of flood and drought? We can stop the wastage of water and can fulfill the shortage of water and can face the problem of flood and drought if we succeed in our projects for dams, try to stop the pollution in rivers and

if we try to maintain the flow of rivers. Why don't we go there? We take loans of crores of rupees from World Bank and I.M.F. and spend on some other work. These projects will be left out if we don't spend on these projects. I am not talking about free service for all. I am not saying that you make free service for all like to face the problems of water, drought, planning for irrigation, face the problem of flood. We are taking loan from World Bank and I.M.F. and with the help of this loan we can complete the work on going projects of dams as early as possible. We can face the problem of flood and drought by bringing down the depth of river in right manner at right place. What we will spend on that work we can recover that expenditure from irrigation by putting surcharge on the farmers excluding marginal farmers, whether it will take 10 years or 5 years but we can recover our money. We will have to change our attitude. If we work with the intention of giving benefit to handful to people, we will shall never be able to counter such problems. If we work keeping in mind the problems of common man, we can surely solve these problems. My constituency is very important. During the last Lok Sabha elections, present Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the President of Congress Smt. Sonia Gandhi also visited there. Right now, our colleague was speaking about Assam. We hear daily about Assam. Our many relatives live there, so also we know about there the situation. Similarly the northern part of West Bengal under which my constituency comes, Jalpaiguri, Malda, Kooch Bihar, South Nagpur, Murshidabad district are also affected with flood. The Ganga Action Plan has been worked out there but my constituency is not included in that Plan. One after another villages of Bllaimadi, Manananda Tola Village-Panchayats under Ratuba police station are being submerged with water in my constituency. On the one hand, people are affected with flood and on the other hand soil erosion is taking place, as a result of which one after another villages are submerging under water. Some measures should be taken separately under Ganga Action Plan to prevent it, if that is not possible some other measures should be done by Irrigation Department. I want to draw the attention of the Government towards this issue.

At last, I want to say that till now you consider it as a natural calamity, but I am not ready to accept this. you have raised the question of matching grant about it. I want to say that if any state government needs Rs. 200 or 400 crore, any state government cannot spend so much of amount, therefore it asks for matching grant from Central Govt. as an assistance. If Union Government gives only Rs. 20-50 crores it will not help in controlling the situation. I want to say that half of the amount of matching grant should be released immediately and if it is not done it would be difficult to face natural calamity.

During the negotiation between Centre and State it is decided that how much amount is required and Central Govt. is compelled to give that amount but actually Central Govt. does not provide it. My request is matching grant should be given in time and entire amount should be given only than we can fight with drought and flood situation.

With these words, I conclude my speech and expect that our new government will surely consider to this problem and will think over how to save country from drought and flood.

SHRI INDRAJIT MISHRA (Khalilabad) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the government through you towards the destruction caused by flood in Poorvanchal. My constituency Khalilabad, Sant Kabir Nagar is situated at a place where on the one hand there is Parti river or between Ani and Kathianaiya is situated and one the south Ghaghra river flows. Continuous rain for three days has accumulated for 967 c.m. of rain fall through the record for whole of the rainy season is 900 c.m. rainfall. The result is that Ani river, Buddha river and Dasiya river have become one. Water is also released from Nepal and as a result there of the entire area from Ram Nagar to Khasraha, from Medawarat to khaililabad have submerged in water, Dasiya to Chandchoura, Didai to Velhar, Padia to Baghnagar, Naugon to Bhagwanpura and Feusi to Rasulabad, the entire area is submerged with rain water. In the meantime, cracks developed at some places in a distance of 15 K.M. banth from Vekuli to Ghurapati by the side of Rapti river. The result was that stampede caused in that area. The administration has made arrangement and people were made to stay in nearby schools and colleges. The cattle of that area were brought on the roads. As soon as the seeds were sown, the whole crop was destroyed because of flood. People were waiting for rain to stop, in the meantime 2500 people died and hundreds of cattle died. People had hardly feel relieved that water surged in Rapti river in Basgaon and Gorakhpur and people cut the bandh. Due to this water spread in that area and it submerged completely the nearby villages. When I want there, water has submerged on an average 40 homes in each village. At that time water was coming due to cracks in bandh in Dalhauti village. When I asked the employees of the flood control Department to rescue the people there, they said that our responsibility is only about bandh and not about ring bandh. People said that you co-operate with us, we will rescue the people S.D.M. was with me, I made an effort to send sandbags. In front of my eyes, one house was completely submerged in water. The situation is like this in my village. In order to save them, people are running away from Medaval to Basti, Delhan to Radhauli Marg, Medawal to Khalilabad. Those places are cut because of the flow of the water and communication has totally

[Shri Indrajit Mishra]

stopped. The honourable Minister of Agriculture of U.P. and honourable Chief Minister visited these areas but the state government is not at all in a position to meet the calamity of flood because of resource. I demand from the Union Government that in view of vagaries of flood, it should allocate atleast Rs. 150 crores to the Uttar Pradesh Government.

Sir, honourable Member Ram Nagina Mishrajee has told that four to five sugar mills of this area have not paid dues to sugarcane producers. The plight of the peasants of this area is that wheat and fodder remaining with them is getting rotten. On the one hand there is an order that recovery should be done but mills of anywhere of Khalilabad, Basti, Bhundarva or Gaur are not paying to the peasants. If farmers get the recovery now, they get some relief. Through you I demand from the government that it should arrange the things in this regard, whether it be done by state Government or by Union Government it must be done so that people may fight the calamity.

With these words, I thank you for the time you have given me to speak.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you gave me an opportunity to speak on the question of flood in the country raised by hon'ble Mohan Singh and Shri Ram Nagina Mishra under rule 193 . . . (Interruptions)

Sir, some hon'ble Members from Purvanchal have discussed about the flood but it seems from the views expressed by hon'ble Members the Government are unable to provide relief in right manner and to control the flood. No effective step has been taken by the Government to provide relief to the hundreds of villages which are in the grip of flood. When Shri Mohan Singh ji was expressing his views recently, at that time I saw that our hon'ble Minister gave his reply but it was also not satisfactory. The survey is conducted by hon'ble Ministers by helicopter or aeroplane at the time of flood while they should meet the peoples personally and Contact them. The hon'ble Minister should carefully consider their problems. We come to know daily from television, newspapers and radio hundreds of peoples have died due to flood.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards my constituency Curil, Allahabad and Uttar Pradesh which is called as Doaba also. My constituency is called as Doaba because on the one side there is river Yamuna and on the other there is Ganga and the middle area from Allahabad to Fatehpur is inhabited, Even otherwise, the entire Poorvanchal is stricken by the flood to day but hundreds of villages on the bank in my constituency are in the grip of flood. We have been requesting or warning

the district Magistrates of Allahabad, Kaushami and Fatehpur from time to time where hundreds of villages are situated in the middle area of these rivers. All of the these districts namely Allahabad, Fatehpur and Kaushanbi come under my constituency.

17.30 hrs.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Sir, I demand from the Government that the collection of land revenue from the farmers, whose crops in thousands of acres land have been destroyed and particularly of my constituency where the farmers cultivate along the banks of Ganga and Yamuna and which is a flood prove area should be suspended. The farmers should be given compensation under crop Insurance Scheme and they should also be provided loan on easy instalments. Students should be exempted from fee and proper assistance should be provided to them. It also affects some wholesaler and retailer who are engaged in the business of sand. When the villages get inundated by the water of small rivers and drains, the movement of all people of the village is disrupted. In such a situation, the Government should make proper arrangements for the movement of people by constructing temporary bridges. I also demand that since some villages are situated on the banks of all rivers and there are important 'Ghats' where there is a way for bathing, movement and cultivation, therefore, flood check parts should be set up there and arrangements of government beats should also made so that these flood check posts may take appropriate measures at the time when an unpleasant incident is occurred.

The people have to face a problem of fodder during the flood. Essential commodities are not provided to the people of flood prone area. Therefore, I demand that the Government should provide essential commodities to the flood affected area. There is no power in the entire state because engineers are on strike. There is also a problem of drinking water in hospitals. The water in the wells gets polluted during the rainy season, hence some medicine should be paured into wells.

I, through this House, would like to appreciate our army personnels who are helping the people in flood prove areas and also express my thanks to voluntary organisations which are rendering their services there. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I through you demand from the Government that appropriate arrangements should be made in flood prone areas in view of my above points.

When the request hon'ble Prime Minister or Chief Minister to provide help for natural calamities like arson or drowning of boats in the village under our constituencies, a written reply is received to the effect that it does not come under natural calamity. I, through this House, had

requested that relief should be provided to the families of deceased from the Prime Minister Relief Fund.

Regarding this, I would like to give a suggestion to the Honourable Minister in this regard that in each and every district of every State one Flood Division may be established. When the flood came some Honourable Members put their views. Our Government should hold talks with Nepal Government regarding water from Nepal. There is provision of water-gates on some river and due to opening of these gates our lower areas are filled up with water and effected by flood. With these words, I finish my speech.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, Mohan Singh Ji has started discussion about the situation of the flood and I would also like to state that every year the situation of floods is discussed here and suggestion are made and assurances are also given by the government. But I think the situation remains the same as: Whatever the Panchayat says is all right but the road remains at the same place. We have not given thought to any such solution by which we can save the people of our country from floods forever. Every year because of floods near about one lakh animals die, 1500 people die and crops on 4 million hectares of land are damaged in our country. The houses of people are destroyed causing losses of life and property. For this purpose a provision of 700 crores of rupees was made by setting up a Central Flood Control Board. It is necessary to know that how this money is distributed. In this regard whatever solutions were given thought of were only to control the floods. We have never thought how to get rid of the floods and if we have thought of in this direction, nothing has been done regarding its implementation. I would like to place few things before you to save this country from floods. The farmers of this country will be ruined if we don't save the country from flood and the economy of our country will be deteriorated.

As far as compensation is concerned it is swallowed enroute. After 50 years of independence, this country has not got rid from floods because the political will of the Governments never arose in this side. We hope that this Government will work in this direction. It has been announced in the national agenda of this Government to formulate National Water Policy. The Prime Minister had also told that 75% rainy water of our country is wasted, there is need to save it.

My first suggestion is that and agriculture scientists have also discussed over it and have given their suggestions. The land may be dug 5 metre deep where ever rain falls one thousand millimetre. 750 T.M.C. Water can be accommodated, if we dig ponds and make lakes

there. By this many areas can be saved from floods for ever. The depth of the rivers should be increased. Many rivers flow in a Zig-Zag way. These should be given shape of a canals. By this, they will cover less area. Because of depth these can be prevented from pollution, their capacity can be increased and their flow can be faster. Dams are build on rivers but they are 'Kacha'. The construction work of the dams is undertaken only in papers. Later they say that dams have been destroyed by flood. Rivers should be deepened. It will check corruption also. Small rivers are mingled into a big river. It had better to divert big rivers. The constant flowing of water in small river should be arranged. It will result into much safety. The rainy water of hilly area causes loss to plain areas. This water can be stored by constructing small dams in hilly areas. This water can be utilised for irrigation. I had drawn the attention of the Ministry of agriculture to this also. This time there is no rain in my constituency even then it was stricken by the flood. The rainfall is registered in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. This rainy water flew to my constituency. It has caused a great loss to three hundred or four hundred villages. In my constituency flood causes loss every year. There water is flown from hilly areas. This water is stored in Mustagabad and Saraswati lake by the people of Haryana. When the water is flown they open the gates. This stored water caused loss to Punjab. It has caused a great loss to the district of Patiala, Sangrur and Mansa. The dams should be constructed in hilly areas. The Government of Haryana have furnished a project Tangrir Markanda and Bagghar with the cost of Rs.365 crores. Barrage can be constructed near the Derabaji. The Central Government should provide amount for this purpose. The meeting of the Chief Ministers of the flood proven states should be obtained in this regard. The Centrai Govt. should provide the amount to save the states from flood for a long period. It can survive the country. The Central Government should make the arrangement for the amount for the sake of loss caused by flood in my constituency. It is a matter of national interest. Pakistan has constructed a dam on river Ravi. The water of Ravi being diverted. It will ruin the Punjab. It has constructed a dam on Rajasthan side also. A lake has been formed in Suratgarh which is the area of Rajasthan. It requires consideration. I conclude with these words.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Mohan Singh and Hon'ble Ram Nagina Mishra have started the discussion under rule 193. I would like to say about flood that various states of the country are striking by flood every year. We people discuss is seriously every year. The results of this discussion are discussed with the discussion of next year. Thus this discussion continues every year. The areas are stricken by flood from the time of creation of nature.

[Shri Moti Lal Vora]

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Minister of Agriculture to the fact that the Assam major part of the Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and some part of Madhya Pradesh are mainly in the grip of flood. The flood destroyed the crops on tripple two lakh acres of land during the last year i.e.1997

We have been requesting the Central Government that the relief should be provided for the flood calamity. I would like to express my thanks to hon'ble Minister of agriculture as he informed me through a communication that Rs.10 crore have been released for the flood affected people. An amount of Rs.2100 crore was sought for this purpose. The Minister says that only Rs.45 crore were kept in calamity fund. Therefore you will get only 10 crore rupees. The hon'ble Minister of agriculture is fully aware of the difficulties of the farmers and you know about the loss caused this year. We see the havocs of flood by aeroplane. The hon'ble Minister is a farmer himself and knows about the condition of a farmer in these circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, Sir my colleagues have told about flood in Uttar Pradesh. It has caused a great loss in U.P. Our Tihothar tehsil of Reva district in Madhya Pradesh has totally swept away by flood as water was released from dam in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh. When water is released from Nepal it flows through Uttar Pradesh. I mean to say that Govt. cannot solve this problem forever but we know that rainy season sets in mid June and there is flood in the month of July. Could it not be done that directions to all the state Governments should be given to get ready to avoid flood.

Due to flood in Brahmaputra river 100 persons have died in Assam, There has been great devastation in Uttar Pradesh, where 170 persons have died. Houses of people have been submerged, their grains have been submerged, animals are without fodder. Therefore I want to say that we can discuss about the flood which is prevailing in all these provinces, how these people are living in tents they have come on the roads, it is a tragic situation, only Rs.10 crores have been given from Prime Minister Relief Fund. You can imagine how much help can be provided from this amount. Our Central Study Team reaches late to conduct the survey of floods, that also goes after the rainy season.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know that there is very little time and many Members have to speak. So, my suggestions is that Honourable Prime Minister should discuss with the Chief Minister of every state and take a decision to give more money to face the flood havoc. Sufficient amount should be provided. Rs.5-10 crore would not suffice the purpose. My only suggestion is that the States which are affected by floods, survey teams should be sent there immediately and after taking stock of the situation full help would be given to these States only then the farmers of those States will be benefitted.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salempur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Respected Mohan Singh ji and Ram Nagina Mishra ji have raised the question of public importance. I would like to say one thing by associating my self with it. Our many friends have said that this flood is natural calamity and I don't agree that this flood is natural calamity. Cyclone is a natural calamity and which prevailed in different parts of the country and Minister of Agriculture of Government of India and a Central team had visited those areas, they saw pathetic condition and provided relief. This cyclone was a natural calamity. I think that this flood has been caused by the officers and Government or Nepal because this flood would not have come if the timely repair of the dams was done and the plan to deepen the rivers was formulated in time.

When I was in Legislative Assembly, our political guru was Ugrasenji who was a Member of this House, at that time, there was a discussion between Government of Nepal and Government of India about Panchmeshwari dam, Balu dam and Jalkundi dam. If Nepal does not release water after a dialogue with Government of India the inflow of water in all these rivers like Ghagre, Narayani, Chhoti Gandak, Rapti comes under Uttar Pradesh and Purvanchal and by that people get relieved but unfortunately the Government in Centre did not conduct any dialogue. As a result, many days before we cried and asked for help in this House from the Prime Minister of the Government to which we belong and the very next day Nepal released the water. Due to the carelessness of officials of Bihar Government, Piprasi, Dam wrecked and 50 villages submerged in it. After that Kusinagar Rig dam wrecked and when Nepal released water a districts of Purvanchal submerged into water. We are sitting in this House, But there people are sitting on roofs, trees and dams in rain. When there is speedy flow of water, the people and the animals who have been washed away with it, there is no figure or report about it. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh had conducted a survey by aeroplane, but the people who are submerged how they can be taken out? Army soldiers have been sent there Army soldiers are in Sidarth Nagar, Basti, Kushinagar and Piprasi, where can we take them? Today, we received a message from telephone that whole are of Salempur has been submerged due to the water released by Nepal. Recently Mishra Ji has said that the arrear of sugarcane of farmers should be given to them. It was to be provided by Government of India, but that is a different matter.

In this House at this time we should discuss about the rescue of the people who have been submerged in the water.

18.00 hrs.

How they have come in the picture. In between there is a matter of recovery. Honourable Minister is sitting here, we want to request you that recovery should be postponed

at least when people are submerging in water. There should be a way to save them. There is a cry for boats, they are going for boats from Allahabad to Faizabad, but boats are not available. Boats are not available because last time when flood came, the boats, which were engaged in work, were not paid for their service. These Engineers think that they will make the money when flood will come. Honourable Member of this House Shri Vora is sitting here. He granted Rs.65 lakhs to a village when he was the Governor of Uttar Pradesh. There is a dam one side of river Ghagra. There is no dam on the other. There is an erosion at this time. Number of villages have been washed away. We want that Government of India should immediately negotiate with Government of Nepal. Who is responsible for this flood to make necessary arrangements to stop the flood and an action should be taken against the people who have released the water.

My second point is that action should be taken against the Officers of Government of Bihar and Officers of Department of Irrigation of Government of Uttar Pradesh who are responsible for this flood, and recovery should be stopped there. Government should make such arrangements so that students should not pay their fee . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Piprasi dam has been collapsed. They don't you ask the Government of India to take the responsibility of the flood instead of Government of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh whose names have been mentioned by you . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we want to request you that Government of India should take the responsibility to construct the houses of the people whose houses have been collapsed and to make arrangements for their food . . . (Interruptions)

Why are you bothering. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Eating of fooder is a duty in your State . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : You tell the Central Government . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : I request the Central Government to make special arrangements for their food and rescue measures. Student's fees should be exempted specially a delegation headed by Honourable Prime Minister or Honourable Minister of Agriculture should visit the site to investigate the estimated loss. At last, I demand that a team should go there to make all these arrangements because flood water would remain there for a long time. With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now I want to take the sense of the House. The House may be extended up to one hour till the end of the discussion. Today we want to complete the discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, discussion is going on very serious issue.

[English]

SHRI SOM PAL : I would like to make a submission. Tomorrow I have get ten oral questions listed in my name in Rajya Sabha and if I sit here till late in the night, I do not have any time. This is the difficulty.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will sit late for only one hour up to 7 p.m.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOM PAL : Do you expect me to skip the ten questions? . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

ONE HON'BLE MEMBER : Please adjourn the House till tomorrow, we have to go today . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY (Khagaria) : There is very serious problem of flood so there should be complete discussion on this issue. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOM PAL : I am prepared to sit.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY : Sir, it seems that Hon'ble Minister is not serious on this issue (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOM PAL : Please do not make such a charge. This is not correct. This seriousness is not your property. That is not proper. This seriousness is not your monopoly . . . (Interruptions) You cannot say that I am not serious.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY : Hon'ble Minister Sir, you cannot speak like this . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please address the chair.

[English]

SHRI SOMPAL : You cannot say that I am not serious. you cannot say that. This is not the way to speak. My submission is that the import of all the speeches which you have listened and I listened here, most of the pinch which the hon. Members are expressing here relates to the domain of the State Governments. If they can be brief and come out with suggestions, we can complete it within a small time.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Sir, already, two hours' time has been completed. If you allot one more hour, the discussion can be completed. So,

[Shri Madan Lal Khurana]

my request to you is to extend the time by one hour. Each Member can be given five minutes. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Sir, you cannot couple us to sit late. We have to go for an urgent meeting. Kindly adjourn the House now. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The time is extended by only one hour.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the issue of flood is very important. Some states are in the grip of flood today and all hon'ble Members want to speak on this issue. So to extend the proceedings of the House only for one hour will not do. I feel that this discussion would not conclude before 9.00 P.M.

[English]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I would request you to adjourn the House now. The discussion can continue tomorrow so that every Member can be accommodated. All the BJP Members have to go for a meeting now. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur) : Sir, if you want to extend the time of the House, it must be intimated to us much in advance so that we can adjust our programme accordingly. But, all of a sudden, if you want to extend the time, it becomes very difficult for us to cooperate with you in conducting the proceedings. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : As I said earlier, my request to you is to extend the time by one hour because we have to complete it today. Otherwise, the Electricity Bill cannot be taken up. It has been pending for the last three days.

After passing the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 1998 by this House, we have to send it to Rajya Sabha also.

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly cooperate.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : We have an urgent meeting to attend. kindly adjourn the House now. Tomorrow you can have it. Almost all the BJP Members are expected to participate in that meeting . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Tomorrow, we have a lot of business to complete. Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, please understand it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The time of the House is extended by one hour. We can complete it within one hour. Shri Dhananjaya Kumar. please spare one hour.

Shri S.P. Yadav to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Speaker Sir, out of total destruction due to flood in the country, Bihar is alone responsible for 40 per cent destruction and people face great difficulty due to this.

Hon'ble Hari Kewal Babu was telling that Piprasi dam was damaged due to negligence of officers of Bihar Government. I want to tell that it is not so. Officers of Bihar Government are not responsible for this. Officers and State Government become helpless when there is heavy flood in the river, when situation is out of control, the officers cannot save the dam. You are not taking proper action to control flood. We are only discussing here the negligence of officers and Bihar Government, which is not proper.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I belong to that area of Bihar where Kosi river flows only two kilometers far from my village and Kosi is known as dreadful river of Bihar. To cause damage to the dam is very common, when devastating flood comes in Kosi, water flows five feet above the dam. When we remember havoc of flood of 1987, even today our heart comes to our mouth. No body tries to go behind the reason due to which this flood situation arises. So we have to find out the reasons of flood.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, not only people die but animals also die due to devastation of flood. Children wash away in flood water. Flood water enters into the village when people are sleeping in their houses. They are in unconscious stage. Later on we find that entire village washed away and many people and children died. In this situation who care for animals. It is impossible to estimate the heavy destruction caused to the crops. There is very much destruction to the crops due to flood. Flood destroys the roads which are the means of transport. The condition of roads and school buildings becomes deteriorated. School buildings are flooded with sand. I request the Government of India that Central Government should take the charge of flood control. This is beyond the control of State Government. State Government get very meagre amount. The State Government cannot fight with flood with that amount and cannot save people from havoc of flood. Therefore, I want to say that State Government could not solve the problem of flood. So the Central Government should take up the flood control work into his hands.

My second suggestion is that all rivers of the country should be connected with each other. if rivers would be connected with each other then the river which has the lack of water would get water from other river. . . (Interruptions). My third suggestion is that if Central Government would like to solve the problem of flood then the place from where Nepal's rivers originate like Kosi river originate from Basah. . . (Interruptions) Kamla river originate from Sisapani and Bagmati originate from Noonthar. . . (Interruptions) From these three origin places of river, water is coming out. . . (Interruptions) I want to say that Government of India should find out the solution of this problem by having negotiation with the Government of Nepal. Its real solution is that a high dam should be built at the place from where Kosi, Kamla and Bagmati rivers originate. . . (Interruptions) There is no question of water. And when there will be a drought, water could be taken by opening the dam . . . (Interruptions) The districts of Uttar Pradesh will get benefit from it. The electricity which will

be produced from the dam can be distributed in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other states. There is a proverb.

MR. SPEAKER : You kindly conclude now.

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV : There is a proverb a drop in the ocean . . . (Interruptions). The Government of Bihar had demanded an amount of Rs.28 crores from the Central Government but Central Government sanctioned only Rs. 10 crores . . . (Interruptions). This is only a drop in the ocean. I would demand from the Central Government to sanction the required amount to the Bihar Government . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV : My last submission is that Government of India should talk to the Government of Nepal so that proper solution of the problem of flood could be find out. If Central Government do not take this step immediately then the Government would be responsible for killing and destroying the lives of people . . . (Interruptions). And if you want to save the entire country, entire Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. . . (Interruptions). Today people are suffering because of Central Government. . . (Interruptions). I demand that Central Government should make proper arrangements in this regard. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (Domariaganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir Hon. Members, Shri Mohan Singh and Shri Ram Nagina Mishra have raised very important question before the House today. Many districts of East Uttar Pradesh like Basti, Sidharth Nagar, Kabir Nagar, Maharajganj, Devria, Gorkhpur, Pudreena, Kusi Nagar have come under the grip of disastrous flood. As has been mentioned by previous Speakers, these districts have been cut off from several other districts. The link of our district Sidharthnagar has been cut off from Headquarter, Bansi, Domariaganj and several other tehsils via road. Army has been called there and the whole district is reeling in flood. Every year this district comes under the grip of flood because there is a network of Rapti River, Kuda River and several other rivers and this district adjoined along with 58 km Nepal border due to which whenever there is excess of water in the rivers of Nepal that water comes into these rivers. Because of the heavy rainfall in this district for four five days continuously, houses are collapsing in all these villages, the situation is very dangerous.

I demand Central Government to send a team there to take stock of the situation and relief fund should be provided to them. A master plan should be prepared to check the flood. The level of rivers which has come up

should be deepened so that its level can be low. dams should be made strong so that these people could be saved from flood in future. Medicines should be provided for the epidemic which is spreading there, fodder should be provided for animal. Uttar Pradesh Government is doing rescue work, but demand from the Central Government to allocate funds to the Government of Uttar Pradesh so that rescue work could be completed.

I thank you very much for giving me opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the South-West monsoon has been very vigorous this year in Kerala. Due to heavy rains and storms, there were big landslides, landslips and extensive sea erosion. Due to all these calamities, 81 lives were lost and 3,015 houses got damaged and washed away. The PWD roads became untrafficable. Due to all this, the minimum loss was estimated at Rs.1,545 crore.

Sir, due to heavy rains and storms in Kerala, the crops like rubber, coconut, paddy and vegetables got severely damaged. There were landslides in Pathanamthitta, Idukki and Kannur. There was sea erosion in Kollam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Trichur, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Kasargod.

Due to all these calamities, we are in a very difficult state. Sir, you are aware about the land scape of Kerala. We lie in between the Western Gaht and Arabian Sea. During landslides and when the sea is eroded, the very existence of the State is threatened.

Sir, our State is already reeling under heavy odds due to crash in prices of rubber, coconut and spices. And now this heavy loss due to the natural calamities has occurred.

I request the hon. Minister for Agriculture to realise the difficulties that the tiny State is facing now. The normal Share of allocation for the purpose of dealing with natural calamities according to the Tenth Finance Commission will not suffice. Crops worth at least Rs.500 crore are lost. Poor people in the State have lost their houses. If it is impossible to give direct help just now, kindly send a team and please help us to the tune of Rs.500 crore, apart from the natural calamities fund allocation, according to the norms of the Tenth Finance Commission.

Permanent measures should be thought of to protect the State. All along the sea cost of some 700 kms., sea is being eroded every year. The State cannot bear all the expenditure to protect the sea walls. The Central Government used to assist till 1982. I do not know why it was stopped. After 1982 we are not getting any help for sea protection. Kindly revive it and help the State.

I repeat that our tiny State lies in between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea. With the sea erosion and the land slides from the hills, the very existence of the State of Kerala is in danger. I request the hon. Minister that he may look into all this and kindly help us.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" (Almora) : Honourable Speaker, Sir, the discussion being started by Shri Mohan Singh and Shri Ram Nagina Mishra about the havoc caused by flood in the entire country, is very contemporary. I would like to draw your attention and the attention of the House by relating myself towards the matter of concern at present especially the damage caused by flood in Uttranchal.

As mentioned by Shri Raghavan just now often it is presumed that loss caused by the flood only effect plains. Its havoc and its loss is not less in any way in hilly area. The rivers and the streams which come with speedy flow from the hills towards the valley damage the fertile land and link roads which comes in its way.

I would like to tell you about the two three major incidents which occurred in recent past. In the year 1993, a heavy damage took place in the valley of hilly area due to heavy rains and flood. About Rs.20 crore loss was suffered in the valley of Uttranchal Area on 11-12 December, 1993, its compensation was yet to be given when another flood came into Gauri river in 5th September, 1995 which destroy all the motor bridges, fields, houses etc. Which came in its way. This year the road which connects Kailash Mansarovar Journey, near Gunji there is a village called Pungdung, five people died there and 22 mules which had to take the luggage of the passengers were washed away due to speedy flow of river water. Not only this, the heavy rains which came in Kunjgarh river was called as cloud burst. Inspection and surveys were done but they could get benefit of flood relief. It is unfortunate that till now the damage caused by heavy rains or cloud burst during the rainy season in the hilly areas take place due to erosion of limited fertile land of the valley by speedy flow caused by landslides and no relief is granted to control it because it does not fall under the flood control relief. Only responsibility is handed over to Department of Land Conservation for next year which are different Departments under Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Forest. And the Cultivators and the people who have suffered a loss neither get any relief nor rehabilitation work is done. As the matter of hill area has been untouched, keeping in view the loss of that area, there is a need to pay attention over it. There is a great loss due to rising level of water near Alaknanda and Ganga River in Bayaj Valley, Chaukhatiya Valley, Surya Valley, Pungar Valley and in Uttranchal Area. People are repeatedly calling for mercy. My request is that a separate survey should be conducted for this loss in view of the hilly area because a discussion is going on the decision given by the Supreme Court on 12th December, 1996 in regard to protection Act thereafter a ban has been imposed on taking up sand and stones from the flood affected areas due to which silt is deposited in hilly areas. Due to depositing of silt, flow of water in not decreasing and it is floating towards plain areas. Therefore, there is a need to rethink over it and Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Forests should make arrangements for it, otherwise, the water and the silt which

is coming in plains from the hilly area, is increasing its water level and creating danger for a big area. Therefore, there is a need to consider over it and Ministries should co-ordinate with each other and a special survey should be conducted there for the loss in hilly areas so that relief can provided there.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Bagusarai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with this line of Tulsidas I want to join this discussion. I feel Honourable Minister has become some more serious. In Ramayana it is written by Tulsidas-'Parhit Charith Dharam Nahi Dooja' it means, there can not be great religion than to help others. It is also applicable on Government of India. From the last many years Government have constituted Ganga Flood Control Commission but it is dead-like. If it would have done its work properly then the things on which our Members are discussing and the motion which is moved by Shri Mohan Singh and Shri Mishra ji, there would have been no need to move it.

Hon. Minister comes from a farmer family. He is aware of the difficulty caused by the floods. Today the population of Bihar is nine crores and approximately three crore population is entrapped in flood. Recently on 18th, when I went to constituency Bagusarai, eight persons who were coming in the boats after cutting the grass drowned and all of them died. Our friends have said the water which come towards them, come from Nepal. In Bihar water come from both sides. On the one hand it comes from Bagmati, Kosi, Ganga from the Nepal side and on the other it comes from hill rivers, Chota Nagpur and area surrounding Orissa. It is right that river have become very shallow the depth of the rivers has become lesser due to which flood come even if a little water comes into it. There is a proverb in our area "Adra gaye teeno gaye, san, sathi aur Dhan", I think the same proverb will be in Uttar Pradesh also.

Floods have come in Adra. We, the farmers had sowed maize there, five-six feet water came there and the farming of farmers have been washed away. Mr. Speaker, Sir you hails from Hyderabad and you would have the knowledge through newspapers or through people but I want to tell you about the difficulty of our area. Had your constituency been affected by flood water, had the voters of your constituency been died of hunger, had they not been provided food and light for the last three days, had the women not been provided boats to go for latrine, then you would have imagined about the flood. Shri Mohan Singh ji has done a good job by raising the matter in regard to the problem of flood.

But now he is confusing the Honorable Minister by entrapping him. I know that Honorable Minister hails from Uttar Pradesh and Honourable Member is also a brilliant orator of Uttar Pradesh when Honourable Minister was the Member of Rajya Sabha he was the spokesman of his party and was very brilliant. Today when our one colleague said something, he got angry, Honourable Minister, please forgive him. He also hails from Bihar and belongs to Khagriya constituency. This area is also submerged. On 18-19 we were in our constituency. We went in boats but

we had to come back because people told us that flow of water is very speedy and the boat will submerge into it, so we could not go there. You kindly return back. Honorable Minister, I want to tell you that people of the flood prone area are not getting food. Doctor is not going to give medicine to the sick persons. They have no space to tie their animals, fodder is a far-fetched thing. There is no one to give them medicines. Handpumps which are installed there are under six feet water. These people are leading their lives, there only. Perhaps water level would reduce thereafter a week then cholera would spread there badly. This disease would cause more loss. The lives of these people are in danger. In these circumstances I want to request you, whether you belong to this party or that party, we cannot solve this problem by complaining about Uttar Pradesh or Bihar. They are sending Bills to us to amend this Bills or that Bill but they are not making amendments in relief code. Had you gone in any part of Bihar in the flood affected area as a local worker, you would have known about the relief being given by Government. Seven days old rotten wheat is being distributed there. Despite that, what Government can give. They are not getting even kerosene oil for light. While drawing your attention to all these things I would like to request you softly that I worship this House as a temple. I was in Legislative Assembly for 20 years. There, I used to come at ten o' clock in the morning and used to left Legislative Assembly in the last. Here also I came at quarter to eleven and I am the first person to enter this temple when it opens. I worship this House as a temple. I speak only when you give opportunity to me. Sometimes I tried to speak and my name was in second number, but there are great personalities in our party, there is one member who was a Chief Minister, another Member was a Governor and if I was not a Governor what is my fault in it. You do not see towards us. My seat should be in that side in second or third row, but I have given seat here. I was a Member of Legislative Assembly for twenty years, I was the Chairman of "APACT" I was Minister also, but I have been given the place here. I never defeated so far, from the beginning. I always won. There is no question of defeat but you have given me place here. I am sitting here as a student and I will greatly honour the order you will give me.

Sir, when flood come Honorable Minister undertake an aerial survey of that area in an aeroplane, therefore, he cannot see the effect of flood. If he will go by boat it will submerge, therefore, conduct a survey of Bihar by aeroplane . . . (Interruptions) you also survey the whole areas of Lakhisaria, Munger, Bagusarai etc. Once and then give the help you want to give them. The areas of Darbhanga and Madhubani have been declared flood prone area from the very beginning with these words, I thank you and request the Honorable Minister that if he want to help Bihar then make available more money for this state.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Honorable Speaker, Sir, the motion moved by Mohan Singh in regard to this flood is definitely causing anxiety and whenever this session starts, rainy season comes, we have been discussing about flood in this Houses. We have been in this House and always the problems of flood have been discussed in this House. The rivers are spread in all parts of the country and there is problem of flood in the areas from where we are elected. Every year, we discuss about it. When our government took power after independence in the very first Five year Plan this was the very first motion that the problem of flood should be solved and it should be diverted towards irrigation. . . (Interruptions). If that it done per acre yield would increase and peasants would be prosperous. I was studying the proceedings of the House of the last few days. It was related with Ghazipur from where Om Prakashjee is the Member and earlier Shri Vishwanath Gaharari jee used to be the Member of Parliament from there.

Sir, about the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh, about the problems of these areas and poverty prevalent there once he delivered a statement and after listening to that, Nehru, who happened to be the Prime Minister at that time, was forced to weep. The problem outlined by him was related with flood, drought, poverty and adversity. The question of Uttar Pradesh is similar to that of eastern districts. At that time patel Commission was constituted and in its report it has contended how the districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh could be developed Pandit Nehru has assured that the report of Patel Commission would be implemented. At that time, 14 districts belonged to eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar had also certain districts. Today, that has increased to 23-24 districts and in Bihar also many districts have been formed, Patel Commission has reported how the problem of flood could be solved. It includes the areas of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, Nehrujee had said that the report of patel Commission would be implemented in letter and spirit. I have to say this with regret that on personal level I raised this question in the House several times whether our party was in power or the opposition was in power that the Prime Minister of this country had given the assurance in this House that the report of the Patel Commission would be implemented in letter and spirit, but so far the report of the Patel Commission has not been implemented. As per my knowledge, you are the presiding Officer of this House, the guardian of our rights.

I request you that if you implement the Patel Commission report presented during the third Lok Sabha and a study team should be constituted, the flood problems of the three state will be solved and the irrigation problem

[Shri Virendra Singh]

of those people will also be solved. The situation of many states in North India is like this there are certain plain regions and certain hilly regions. The nature of flood problem of hilly areas is totally different that of plain regions. The nature of problem of hilly areas is such that if it rains for five hours, the drain plays havoc with the situation.

My Parliamentary constituency in Mirzapur Bhadoi. Two years back, heavy rain took place there. In that rain, 25 villages of our legislative constituency were washed away, roads were submerged and the houses and belongings of the people of coal caste living on drain sides were washed away. Flood lasted there only for five hours. The problems of flood are different in different areas. What type of problems of flood is in hilly areas and what type of problems of flood is in plain areas, if you constitute a study group for that the problems would be solved.

Dr. Lohia used to say that if the river beds of Ganga, Yamuna, Ghaghra and Saryu is deepened, the problem of flood would be solved and if their embankments are raised, the arrangements for irrigation and potable water may be made. But till today no government have shown such capacity which could solve the problem.

We may have political differences but on certain issues we must be unanimous and in the situation of calamity we should think together take initiative and government must take step in that direction, we have been the followers of the thinking of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya. He had said with conviction that if we make 'bandh' on rivers and drains of this country, 85% unirrigated land will be irrigated. Now all the water of rivers flows into the sea.

When people belonging to other countries look at the rivers and drains of the country, they say that why poverty prevails here? I want to say that if any government resolves to create embankments of rivers and drains, India shall be able to provide foodgrains to all the countries of the world and poverty would also be eliminated from our country.

I can tell you this with facts and figures. According to a survey report, Plain land near Ganga, is the most fertile area of the world but unfortunately, there is minimum production. The reason is that there is no arrangement of irrigation, water flows into sea and we are unable to use it for the purpose of irrigation. In the summer there is shortage of drinking water. Many times, we determine to make arrangement of drinking water for the whole country. We take it as a movement but when water comes it flows into sea, we are unable to reserve it for irrigation purpose.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether there would be our Government, Government of Raghuvansh Prasad, Government of Mohan Singh, Government of Om Prakash, Government of Somnath, Government of Bodo Land or the Government of Congress, the havoc of flood will continue of come. Who so ever be in the Government, we should gather at one point. This House should resolve once that the water which go waste, will be used for drinking, irrigation purposes, then we will stop the discussion of flood in this House forever. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to give my views regarding the flood situation Prevailing in our country. The two natural calamities, namely, flood and drought, have become very usual in our country and it has become the order of the House also to discuss these two issues during those seasons. It is quite dialectical to note that during the monsoon, we are having Plenty of water and during the drought season, we are lacking water. So, it indicates that there is no proper management of water resources in our country.

There is also lack of planning First of all, being a matter of common interest, I would like to say that our country needs a proper and better policy for water management. As far as the State of Kerala is concerned, there are 44 rivers in my State. We are well enriched with water resources. During the drought season, we are also suffering due to drinking water problem. There is no proper management of water all over the country. That is to be rectified. A proper policy and mechanism has to be enunciated so as to resolve this problem.

Regarding lack of planning, I would like to cite some other examples. We are having so many irrigation Projects in our State. Take the case of Kallada Irrigation Project. It was started a decade earlier. The total estimated cost in the Plan was Rs. 2.5 crore. After a decade, it has increased substantially. More than Rs. 550 crore have been expended. But it has not been completed and commissioned so far. We are depending on that sort of planning. Eighth Five-Year Plans are over. Now, we are in the second year of the Ninth Five-Year Plan. So, there is lack of planning. It means that there is a difference of crores and crores of rupees towards the cost of a project between the time when it is started and when it is commissioned. We are not able to complete the project within a stipulated period. Suppose irrigation projects connected with these 44 rivers are to be completed, for Kallada Irrigation Project, Muvattupuzha Irrigation Project and Karapuzha Irrigation Project, we seek the Central assistance. I think, the State

Government has so far expended Rs. 550 crore for the Kaliada Irrigation Project. But you have granted only Rs. 5 crore towards Central assistance. So, I seek much more grant from the Central Government to complete these Irrigation projects at the earliest. Then, these problems could be avoided.

Now, I come to the damages caused during the recent floods. Shri V.V Raghavan from my State has already mentioned that 81 persons died and 206 persons have been seriously injured during the recent flood, and 1,232 houses have been completely damaged. Many persons are still in the relief camps. There is a lot of damage to the agricultural crops. Rubber plantation, paddy, coconut trees, etc, have been severely affected. So, seek financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 500 crore. That has also been demanded by the State Government of Kerala. We hope to have a favourable response from the Minister of Agriculture.

Now I would like to speak about sea erosion. In the State of Kerala, the coastal area is more than 750 kms. There is a very serious problem as far as my State is concerned. The Central Government has been financing and assisting for anti-sea erosion projects up to 1993. According to me, the sea shore in the State of Kerala is the national boundary of this country. So, it is the primary duty of the Government of India to protect the national boundary. now, the national boundary is being taken away by sea erosion. I am representing Quilon constituency. From one end to another end, that is from Parvour to Azheekkal, it is coastal area. During the recent flood situation, there was much sea erosion. The State Government is spending a huge amount for construction of sea wall as well as for its maintenance. But we are not able to do this job up to the mark. Therefore, I seek financial assistance as far as the work relating to anti-sea erosion is concerned. It is to be restored to the position prevailing in 1993 because it is the duty of the Government of India to help the State to protect its boundary.

I would like to cite the example of Allapad Panchayat in my constituency. It is having a population of 15,000 persons. The distance between the sea and that village is two to three metres. At any time, that village will be eroded by the sea. From one end to another, it is 18 kms in length and having a population of more than 15,000 people. Who will protect those people? the State Government is having its limitations to protect those people because of financial constraints. So, I urge upon the Government of India to consider this very important fact and assist the State Government.

Once again, I request you to extend more help to the State by financing out of the Calamity Relief Fund. It has already been stated by me. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI ANUP LAL YADAV (Saharsa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our area is a flood affected area, flood has come in Kosi river. We also have to speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought that I would be called so that after speaking here I can talk over telephone with the people submerging in flood. Therefore I was in hurry.

SHRI ANUP LAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation is same in our area therefore I request you again and again to give me a chance to speak.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHWALE (Mumbai North-Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, flood come suddenly, many people die, it destroy the crops totally and spoil the land. This discussion has been started by our colleague, Shri Mohan Singh ji, under Rule 193.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, flood come every year, and to prevent it discussion is only held in the House. We were unable to save crops and lives of the people. I would like to suggest the Government that a flood study control corporation should be constituted for it. Study should be done at the place of flood. As has been told by Shri Mohan Singh that river flows Zig-Zag. The flow of the river can not be changed like the Government. Digging of rivers should be done for it. More water will come by digging of rivers. Dams can be built on those rivers. This type of use will be useful the people of areas where there is an apprehension of flood should be told by Engineers and technicians that their area is likely to be stricken by flood. A strong wall should be built at the place of flood. The people of the villages, which are at river banks, should be shifted to other safer places.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, sometimes flood comes in Krishna, Godawri, Bhima, Chandrabhaga and Tapti rivers of Maharashtra. As it is a new Government, it wants to do some work, therefore Government should think something to control the flood. When this government was in opposition it used to speak a lot. Now we have to see what this Government can do? What relief the govt. is going to provide by to the people who have been suffering a loss and where crops have been damaged due to flood? There is a need to conduct a study in this regard. Sometimes there is a discussion on drought in the House. It can be solved if we take this water to the drought prone area. It will solve the problem of drought. Similarly, Government of India should spend more and more money for irrigation. There is a need to strengthen the irrigation whether you take money from world Bank of some where else. There is a need to give more and more money for relief fund by changing rules and regulations.

[Shri Ramdas Athwale]

Therefore the important question, which Mohan Singh ji, has raised, Agricultural Minister of Government of India Shri Sompal ji should certainly think over it. He is also a farmer and he has experience also. Therefore, I request to Shri Sompal ji to give a good reply and we do not want traditional plan. There should be some improvement in it. You give a good reply to this point.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion started by Shri Mohan Singh ji and Mishra ji is of a great importance. Today on the one hand some states in the country are being ruined by the flood and on the other, some regions remain in due crisis for about several months in a year due to shortage of water. The entire rainy water through drains and fields flows to other areas and takes the shape of flood. Total 17 districts consisting of seven of Uttar Pradesh and eleven of Madhya Pradesh fall under the Bundelkhand region. The situation has become very dangerous there. The fertile soil flows to rivers due to not stagnating the rainy water and all this water create the problems by taking the shape of flood in the affected area of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Therefore, a plan was formulated by the Government of India and State Governments in a sitting that the villages water should be stored in villages itself by soil conservation Department and Ganga Command plan but we could not store the villages water in villages itself due to failure of this plan. Resultantly, the level of water in wells is going down day by day. The rainy water must be stagnated so as to check the flow of fertile soil, but the entire land is going to be barren because there is no arrangements to stagnate this rainy water. I would like to request you that the House should accept the suggestion of Virender Singh ji. The entire House should make the declaration to constitute a study team to go into the causes and report to the House to the effect that in one part we have been ruined with the havoc caused by the flood, and in the other part we are in the grip of severe draught due to shortage of water, we have no water for drinking and irrigation our fields. Today, only 13% sources of irrigation are available in 17 districts. There is no water in wells. There is no means to take the water to the fields and only this water flows to eastern part of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and creates the situation of flood there. It has caused a strange situation. Crores of rupees were sanctioned over the years to soil conservation department and Ganga Command Plan but we could not store the village water in villages itself and water of agriculture fields in the agriculture fields itself and all the fertile soil has flow to rivers. The depth of the rivers has become lesser due to deposits of fertile soil which has created the situation of flood. Mainly the flood situation arises only when the water is flown to other places through rivers.

19.00 hrs.

There is a need to constitute a study team to avoid wastage of water in rivers and to evolve the measures as to how this water can be stored. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I would like to make a request to you that I am elected from such a constituency where me pine for water for about eight months in a year. The water in our wells gets dried. Our fertile soil flows to the rivers which takes the shape of flood in Bihar. Therefore I demand from you to constitute a study team and this Study Team should submit its report within six months. Arrangements should be made to store the rainy water in villages so that it may not take due shape of flood and to take this water to our fields for irrigation and to use it to quench our thirst. We pass seven months with the drains water and stink water. The water in 18 districts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh produce stink smell even after filtering. We get such water. The entire water in my area flows into Ganga and Yamuna rivers which ultimately take the shape of flood. If this water is stored, no flood would ever occur in Gangaji. Today, I can say with confidence that if the water of 18 districts of Bundelkhand area is stored in Bundelkhand itself no flood would ever occur due to the water of Gangaji. The main reason of flood in Gangaji is that the entire water of 18 districts of Bundelkhand flows to the rivers like Betwa etc. Which take the shape of flood. Therefore I would like to say that a plan should be formulated to store the water of there 18 districts of Bundelkhand in order to check the flood in eastern part of Uttar Pradesh and provide water for irrigational and drinking purposes in Bundelkhand. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I would like to request you with folded hands in this regard and all the hon'ble Members of this House also should pass this resolution unanimously that a Study Team should be constituted which can make arrangements to check the flood and to provide the flood water for our use and to irrigate our fields. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There are only six Members more to speak. If each Member takes two minutes, we can complete the list today.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of flood is very serious our Honourable Minister is sensitive he would not hesitate to extend by half an hour . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU (Narsapur) : Sir, you either extend the sitting by one hour or adjourn it for the day. Half an hour will not suffice.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : Sir, we can continue with this tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, please extend by half an hour.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : I have no objection.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We can complete this in half an hour. Is it the pleasure of the House that the sitting be extended by half an hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : The sitting is extended till 7.30 p.m.

19.03 hours

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, and the learned Member of the House, I would like to draw your pointed attention to the highly sensitive and alarming flood situation which is prevailing in Assam, particularly in Bodoland territory. The Bodoland territory consists of ten Districts and two Sub-Divisions in total. In these ten Districts and two Sub-Divisions, there are a lot of big and small rivers and tributaries. These rivers and tributaries are main causes of the flood situation there in the Bodoland territory. Most of these rivers and tributaries are flowing down from the Bhutan kingdom and Arunachal Pradesh into the river Brahmaputra.

There is a Brahmaputra Flood Control Board the amount of money is negligible. Out of that being given by the Government of India for controlling floods in the area adequate money is not being spent for controlling the rivers and tributaries flowing down from Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh. That is why, I would like to appeal to the Government of India and particularly to the Union Water Resources Ministry to construct some multi-purpose irrigation projects, some multi-purpose hydel projects on those rivers. At least Rs. 1000 crore must be sanctioned as a direct Central grant for controlling floods and erosion within the Bodoland territory.

I would like to appeal to the Government of India, the Ministry of Water Resources, and the Ministry of Agriculture to create a separate Bodoland Territorial Flood Control Board. Otherwise we will not get justice from the existing Brahmaputra Flood Control Board. Even the North-East Council Fund is not being utilised for the well-being of this area. So, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to include all the North-Eastern MPs, as Members of the North-Eastern Council.

Further, I would like to appeal to the Government of India, the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture to allocate at least another Rs.500 crore for relief and rehabilitation of the affected people. Recently, particularly in two regions, namely, Bijni Sub-Division and Sidli Assembly Constituency, there was a very dangerous flood. More than 75 villages have been affected in Bijni Sub-Division and around 50 villages in Sidli Revenue Circle.

I think, you know about the multiple tragedy of the then undivided Lakhimpur district because of the dangerous character of the river Gal. This has totally damaged all the railway bridges, railway over-bridges and railway lines and bridges over the National Highway. Till today, the Ministry of Railways and the National Highway Authority could not reconstruct them.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have got the sitting extended by one and half hour by request and you are giving us only two minutes time. Atleast allow us to speak for ten minutes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the proposal under Rule 193, which has been brought by honourable Shri Mohan Singh ji in this House today, is very important subject about which the whole House is concerned today. Today we are showing concern about flood in this House today the people of flood affected area are in trouble due to havoc of flood and these are the people with whose hardwork whole country eats food and sleep comfortably. Today Delhi, Chennai or Patna cities are not affected with flood. Those villages are affected with flood in which farmers and labourers live and some such areas which are affected by this flood every year.

The area which is affected every year, we cannot call it natural calamity. If flood strikes suddenly somewhere then we can think it a natural calamity but there is a caste in our Bihar which request its God, the name of this caste is Mahapatra, when people die they get donation on the tenth day after death when rites are conducted. In the same way the officials of Irrigation Department request their God that how dam can snap so that atleast in the name of falling bolder, in the name of laying of iron fixtures and in the name of throwing sand after filling in bag without showing, the storey's of our building can increase. Therefore in some places flood come due to man's mistake. Therefore we want to say that due to lack of maintenance dam snap in some places. Sometimes mouse make a hole in the dam due to which water continues to ooze and due to oozing of water some where dam snap. This type of incident has occurred in Bakunthpur Police Station of Gopalgunj where dam snapped but due to Narayani river only after four hours one and a half feet water decreased, otherwise the situation

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

of district of Chapra and Sewan would be dangerous. Panapur sub-division of Musrak Constituency which come in the jurisdiction of our village is again submerged, our one area is such which regularly submerged in flood and rainy season. The place where Shri Jai Prakash Narain was borne, the name of that village is Shatabdiyar.

In the name of Shri Jai Prakash Narain various political parties earn their livelihoods.

We would like to tell you that if you look at the situation of that village it will be seemed strange. It is a village of 22 groups and is inhabited at the confluence Ganga and Guhar.. out of 22 groups. 6 groups have been submerged in flood and now 16 groups are left. They are not provided any facility from the Government of Bihar because it falls on the other side of the river Government of Uttar Pradesh also does not give it any facility. Government of Uttar Pradesh says that they are inhabitants of Bihar. But in regard to the dispute of birth of Shri Jai Prakash Narain government of Uttar Pradesh certainly says that Shri Jai Prakash Narain was born in Balia district of Uttar Pradesh. Government of Bihar says that Shri Jai Prakash Narain was born in Shatabdiyar which falls in Chapra district of Bihar. Government of Uttar Pradesh and Government of Bihar take the political advantage from this dispute but none of the governments pays attention towards the Shatabdiyar village. We would like to say you that neither there is a place to come down from dam nor the facility of electricity. The village consisting of 22 groups is submerged during the flood season. There is a need to make permanent arrangements.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Honourable Minister is present here. We request him to see the village of Shri Jai Prakash Narain. You send a survey group there. Its 6 groups have been submerged. Now 16 groups are left. If these 16 groups will also submerge then the land of Shri Jai Prakash Narain Babu will also be submerged. Therefore, we request you to see there. You will spend a lot of money there but you should save that village. You should save the village consisting of 16 groups by laying wire net and bolder. We will be grateful to the Central Government for that because it is beyond the control of Governments of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

We want to say something different from this subject because Honorable Minister is present here. I would like to say that Government of Uttar Pradesh is also your Government and we are also the partner of your alliance. My request is that as such no relief, work available there from the government of Bihar. Therefore you should ask the government of Uttar Pradesh to start relief work there. There is not a single pole of electricity, where as there is a dam in between the border. The existence of this

Shatabdiyar is on the both sides of the dam. There is a pole on both sides of the dam but here is no electricity line under the dam. These people are prepared to deposit the money. You ask the government of Uttar Pradesh to lay the electricity lines in the birth place of Shri Jai Prakash Narain. We will be grateful to you for it. The money which will be incurred on it, you should give it to government of Uttar Pradesh. With these words I conclude because it is your order and like a good student we obey your order. I thank you that you gave me the time to speak to the honourable Minister on the subject related to Shri Jai Prakash Narain.

SHRI OM PRAKASH (Ghazipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today flood is a grave problem of our country and it is necessary to think over it seriously. Even after 50 years of independence the people of our country have not taken it seriously. As stated by our previous colleagues that this work can be done honestly with determination and will power. But it still prevails as horrible problem due to lack of honesty. Therefore we can say that it is a national problem of the country. Our previous colleagues have told this rightly that in the name of flood, there is corruption in other places but the relief work which is done by Central Government and State Governments in the name of natural calamity, flood division, flood division which is in the Department of Irrigation they are posted in this division in the State Governments as earning son. The people working there are appointed in this division after giving lakhs of rupees. This work start at the time when flood comes there. We hails from Ghazipur district 80 percent of Ghazipur constituency was effected by the fury of flood. As stated by Bhai Virendra Singhji, planning should be made honestly for flood in addition to Patel Commission and solution of this problem should be found out as a package by selecting the sector.

It is not so that this problem could not be solved. In one district there are so many rivers, in which flood does not come at one time. Now the flood which has come in the area of Bhai Mohan Singhji, we feel that it has come earlier in July, the actual flood will come in September. It causes a great loss. After going to these villages it does not seems that we are the citizens of this country. The poor people and farmers who are the soul of this country, and from where 80-85 percent people are elected to the Parliament of this country have mostly been vitally struck by the flood. There is no arrangement for latrine, no arrangement for food, drinking water and sleeping, they spend, their night in a great difficulty. There is also a fury of snake and scorpion, Government says that the monthly income of these poor people, is Rs.600-700 but we feel that there income is not even Rs. 100-200. They will eat if they earn, if they not earn they will remain hungry.

We know the honourable Minister since very long. We will say it definitely that the money which you give to the State Governments, if not 100 percent at least 10-20 good people will be therein country's Parliament, a committee should be constituted by including those people so that robbery and snatching which is going on in the name of natural calamity, could be stopped. . . (Interruptions)

Today there is fury of flood, it will again come in September. We lived in that State, every year flood come there and some persons die there. I mean to say that by taking it seriously after constituting a committee and a technical committee of House, we will request that honourable Minister through you that villages which are called the soul of the country, honourable Minister also belongs to a farmer family, after 50 years of independence the financial condition of the farmer is very poor. Today farmer is committing suicide, nothing can be more shameful than this. Therefore I would certainly want that there is such land which we are not able to irrigate. There are some farmers who have two acres of land from which they earn their livelihood for the whole year, but due to flood they reached to a situation where they have no way to earn their livelihood. Therefore we will certainly request you that it is a serious problem, it is a national problem and there is a need to discuss it together seriously.

SHRI ANUP LAL YADAV (Saharsa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank you because you have called me at the last moment. Discussion is going on a flood. This has been possible because honourable Mohan Singh Jee has brought this resolution and you have allowed a discussion on it.

I have been a very restrained Member as you have might seen my anxieties. I would not say like Rajo Babu has said that I had been here for 30 years, Mr. Speaker, Sir, half of the population of my area fall under Kosi belt. At the time of Late Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru the flood which used to sweep through from Nepal was of such magnitude that if I describe that your heart will move with passion and pathetic scene would be created here. Earlier it used to flow from the east to near about Bengal, now it flowing is the boundary of Darbhanga and Saharsa. When this country got independence and he took over the charge of the Prime Minister thing of the country, the first this is that Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru did, was to build embankments on both sides to control Kosi. When survey was done in Nepal, a barrage was built out on the east side and west side of the barrage which is 13 Kilometer each and 60 Kilometer long embankment was built and Kosi was brought within its fold. That was known as flood-control that scheme was prepared by the Government of India and the latter borne the whole expenses involved in it i.e. to control Kosi. Today situation is that around 4.5 lakh

population lives on both sides of the embankments. Half of this population belongs to Saharsa region. If I talk about their plight, you will be surprised to know how people live on that side.

Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru is no more, but his speech is there in his speech he had said that the Government of India will always work to save the embankment and will make arrangements to inhabit the villages falling within this embankment. But today the bed of embankment of Kosi is full of sands. There is a great problem of siltation, of sand. . . (Interruptions) please give me some more time I donot know, honourable Sompal jee, what the people of that area would do but if press publishes some thing then the people of that area would certainly think over it and would say that some thing had been spoken about them. Therefore, I want some time, I want to say to honourable Minister, I request Sompaljee that since it is a scheme of Government of India, when the bed is full of sands the river flows on both sides over the embankments and we people who live on the outer side of the embankments are also attached by it. It damages as a lot. Now a days there is a huge flood. Only on 18th of this month, I had gone there. Three vilages have completely submerged and the level of flood water has crossed the dam. Nobody is there to look after, to give polythene or safety matches. So far as ration is concerned as Rajo Babu has said now what is given by the Government of Bihar is rotten wheat which people cannot eat. I request Sompaljee again and again that you look into that matter. The canal has been brought out both in east and west side. It used to irrigate most of land. But it has been so full of sands that both the canals have broken. It is doing no good to the people, instead it is harming them. The Minister of Government of India should go there and see the population of three to four lakhs. There has been an agreement between the Government of India and Government of Nepal to construct Kothar dam to weed out sand, which is likely to be constructed in three years. The people there demand that it should be completed. If it is constructed, it will surely eliminate the problem of silting.

With there words, I thank you and through you I request the Hon. Minister to have a glance of flood situation by aerial survey which you have got you go there and see the plight of the people. You say that we get the proposal sent by Bihar Government to get embankment built after weeding out sand. We shall do it. But we want that since it is the project of the Government of India the Government of India should look into it.

[English]

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to participate in the discussion.

The last wave of flood in Assam has been the most devastating in the living memory of us; almost all the districts like Kamrup, Nalbari, Lakhimpur, Sonitpur and Barrak Valley are the worst affected. In my area, of kamrup and Nalbari districts, the embankments of the Puthimari river have been breached at Sonapur and affected at least ten to twelve villages, and the embankments of Pagladia river have been breached at Havlakha and Hanapara. The entire Barbhag and Mukalmua area of Nalbari district, and Hajo area of Kamrup district have been affected. At least 69 persons have died, 2,650 villages have been submerged and more than 12,000 people have lost their homes. Almost the entire area of Assam and almost the entire population of Assam are reeling under flood and they are in a very sorrowful condition. Floods in Assam have become an annual ritual, but this year the losses have surpassed the previous years. The losses came to about Rs.500 crore and the affected villages, as I have said, are nearly 3,000 now. We have never gone through this type of situation in our living memory. However, up-till now, very little has been done for the affected people. So far, no relief has been provided to the people, leave apart the rehabilitation part. People are living in open air, dying without food. They are suffering from different diseases.

I am happy that the Central Government is considering to send a team to Assam, which can be short-term measure. A Central team should immediately visit Assam, assess the losses and see to it that the relief reaches there and the rehabilitation measures are taken at the earliest.

Another short-term measure that can be taken by the Central Government is to release immediate fund to the State Government so that it goes to the affected people and they are helped.

Lots of points have been suggested as permanent and long-term measures. Shri Mohan Singh has drawn the attention of hon. Minister to the river Brahmaputra. Although it is a beautiful river, yet it is a River of Sorrow for the people of Assam. It originates in China, where it is known as Tsang Po. Like the river Wang Ho in China which is known as the River of Sorrow, river Brahmaputra has become a River of sorrow for the people of Assam. Until and unless this river Brahmaputra is controlled, until and unless it gets priority, the problem of floods in the North-Eastern region can never be solved. For, that the Brahmaputra Board has been constituted but it did not have the desired effect which the people expected from this Board. Until and unless the tributaries of the river Brahmaputra are controlled, Brahmaputra cannot be controlled. I request the hon. Minister and the Central Government to take immediate measures in this regard. I know, controlling Brahmaputra is not an easy task. It

needs large funds of thousands of crores of rupees. But if we are spending thousands of crores of rupees on other schemes, why can we not spend another thousands of crores of rupees on this also, even by taking loan from the World Bank, and save that part of the country, save the people of that part of the country from this natural calamity? I request the hon. Minister to consider it as a national problem and solve it. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Now the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time left now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Actually two hours had been allotted for this and already we have taken three-and-a-half hours. Please try to understand.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has to reply now. You can speak on some other subject. Please cooperate. It is already 7.30 PM. Okay, only one minute each.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) (Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a serious discussion is going on in the House about the havoc of flood. Floods come every year and serious discussion is held in this House on that. Whenever flood comes, there is a discussion at that time. Through You I would like to draw the attention of the House and that of Honourable Minister on the thing that even when flood doesn't come at that time also the Commissions, which are constituted for it, should consider seriously that how floods can be stopped. There is also a discussion in the House to make the river bed more deep I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Bihar State, the price of sand has been increased in Bihar State and sand has become beyond the reach of common man. It is difficult for the common man to take out sand from rivers. I demand the Government, today in Bihar the price of sand of river is Rs. 200/- per truck, a common man cannot take it ...*(Interruptions)* The officers never want that flood does not come, because on the one hand flood is a curse for common man and on the other it is a boon for officers. Flood causes destruction for common people and a lot of benefit to the officers.

SHRI PARASNATH YADAV (Jaunpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are grateful to you that you gave us an opportunity to take part in the discussion on the problem of flood which is a burning problem and has been raised by honourable Shri Mohan Singh ji. India is a country of three seasons-

winter, rainy and summer. When rain starts, hill and rivers which are in India, the water which comes into rivers and streams from those hills flows in such a manner towards plains that our farmers, poor and our crops are damaged due to it and in these 50 years of independence we are not able to make any such plan that we can make arrangements of irrigation by stagnating the flow of flood water or save the people from flood it is the misfortune of this country. Today the people of Purvanchal in Uttar Pradesh are in trouble due to havoc of flood.

Sir, most of our honourable Members have placed their views before you. Jaunpur District where from we are elected is divided by Gomti river in two parts which are affected by the flood in Gomti river and the people goes on the verge of destruction. For this purpose the schemes are formulated every year. In May and June our officers from State Government met Central Government and talked to stop the flood. Meetings in regard to floods are held, we the representatives of people also go in that meeting but no permanent scheme has been formulated so far and we are in the striking range. After 50 years of independence Farmers and poor people are facing difficulties due to floods and drought. It is right that these people are passing their lives in such a manner that they do not go there again.

Sir, we would like to request the honourable Minister that Gomti River which divide Jaunpur in two parts, and transportation is cut off due to flood, there in the name of saving Gomti River from pollution Rs. 8 crores were released under Ganga Pollution Plan but nothing is being done in the name of pollution so far. For one plan the previous Government said that roads of city should not be destroyed by flood, for this a bridge should be constructed but no action has been taken on that so far. I would like to request the honourable Minister that there was a plan to construct a bridge over the river Gomti, it should be constructed and the Public should be saved from havoc of flood. Our area is in the grip of flood in Gomti, Sai, Barura and Basuhi river and thousands of acres of land is affected from flood, farmers are affected. My request is that a permanent arrangement should be made there so that they can be saved from flood. While expressing my thanks I conclude.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY (Khagaria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my constituency is Khagaria and it falls under Central Bihar. What are the reasons of flood in Bihar. There is a need to consider about it seriously. When there is shortage of water in Uttar Pradesh they take the water for irrigation from other places and when flood comes it releases all the water, since all the rivers flow from Bihar. These rivers fell into sea after destroying the whole Bihar.

In North, there is Himalaya mountain. You know that recently the destruction which was caused by sea storm,

was faced with determination by Government of India and the relief was provided to the people. On the one hand Himalaya mountain protects this country from Northern part, on the other it also causes loss. There is heavy rainfall and from there water comes in eastern parts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh from there it converts into flood and destroys the northern part of Bihar. This is not the position of one year but the position of every year. Whether congress ruled for 40 years or United Front or any other party and even the Irrigation Minister of that area even they did not pay attention to stop the water which comes from Nepal. ...*(Interruptions)* The result is that all the seven rivers whether it is Ganga, Ghagra, Kosi, Budi Gandak, all these flow in our area and destroy our area completely. The river Kosi can be diverted towards Ganga in upper hills. If it is diverted towards Khargia then it will not destroy the plains. These rivers can be diverted in upper hills. But now they flow speedily in their areas and you cannot stop the flood anywhere. It is a matter of great sorrow that the areas of South Bihar which never witnessed flood, this time due to heavy rains of 14 days, the districts of Bhagalpur, Munger, Banka have been destroyed fully. Thousands of houses have been submerged in water there ...*(Interruptions)* Through you, we would like that the 100 persons who have died in Banka and Munger, should be provided relief. Government of India should pay compensation separately for the construction of the thousands of houses which have been destroyed.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is flood every year and discussion is held in this regard in this House and Legislative Assembly but no concrete solution is come out of it. There are two or three main problems regarding flood. First, problem is how to check it? How to protect embankment already constructed where there is no embankment, new embankment should be constructed and if flood comes then relief work should be done properly.

I belong to Madhubani area of North Bihar. There flood comes in rivers of Bhuthi-Balan, Kamla-Balan and Adwara Group rivers. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the Ministry of Water Resources. A scheme to construct embankment on both sides of rivers of Adhwara is pending for a long time. The foundation stone was also laid in the year 1989. Rivers of Adhwara comes out from Nepal to Bihar. The foundation stone to construct embankment on it was also laid in the year 1989 but no progress could made in this regard. The matter is pending in Central Water Commission. I would like to urge you that suspended work should be started after negotiating the Department of Water Resources. The Government of India have constructed Barrage in Nepal but the behaviour of Government of Nepal is not good with the officers of Government of India at the time of flood. Therefore, I would

[Dr. Shakeel Ahmad]

like that Government of India may talk with Government of Nepal to provide such facilities which should be provided at the time of flood.

Finally, I would like to say one more point. You should amend the relief code. There is a provision in the relief code that if water enters into one's house, relief would not be given to him. The relief would be given to displaced persons only. It should not be like that. A person in whose house water enters is also like a displaced person. The relief should be provided to him also. You try to understand the sufferings of flood affected people. The people of our area suffers a lot at the time of flood. The assistance should be provided to backward and oppressed people. The goods which have been sent should be and it should be reach to the people. Embankment should be constructed where these are not constructed. The embankments made earlier should be strengthened Govt. should amend relief code and talk with the Govt. of Nepal.

SHRI H.P. SINGH (Arrah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, crisis of erosion has been arisen in villages of Kewria, Balua, Narkade, Piperpati, Salempur. I had asked the D.M of Bhojpur that these villages should be saved from being merged in Ganga this year also in the same manner in which these villages were saved from erosion last year by erecting bamboo sticks in Ganga. The expenditure of 30 to 50 lakh rupees will be incurred on it. I would like to urge that immediate arrangement should be made for it otherwise these village would be submerged with in 15 days. Medicines and food should be arranged for them. Students should be saved from flood and boats should be arranged for this purpose. 150 to 200 boats have been sought for each Legislative Assemble area. Their demand should be met. Boats should be arranged by seeking from other areas Permanent arrangement should be made for it. The area of both sides of Ganga has been the birth place of Great persons. It is a birth place of first President Rajendra Babu, Jagjivan Ram, Jai Prakash Babu, Shri A.P. Sharma, Shri Bindeshwari Dubey, Ramanand Tiwari. The Britishers cut down right hand of Vir Kunwar Singh and threw it in Ganga river.

The area falls under my constituency in Khauspur which was being discussed by Prabhu Nath Singh Ji and Virendra Ji. Its 22 villages were flown in erosion. Only 16 villages are remained its. On its one side there is Ganga and on other side. Jaya Prakash Narayan dam. A pit has been developed near dam. The people of Khauspur can neither climb on mounted place nor go to safer place at the time of flood. Their lives have become like a fish. I urge you that immediate relief work should be provided to them. Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav had made an announcement to construct a Pipa dam. The funds should be provided at the earliest to construct a dam so that their lives could be saved.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU (Narsapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have been kind enough to give me an opportunity to express a few problems being faced in the cyclone and flood-affected areas. We have experienced the sever cyclone and tidal effects at Machilipatnam in Krishna District in 1977. It was a very bad experience where thousands of lives were lost and, as per the records, we were told that such a thing had not occurred during the last 100 years. Similarly, in 1996, Mr. Speaker, Sir, both in your constituency as well as in my constituency, thousands of lives were lost in the cyclone affected areas. It was, again, a bad experience for us.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will conclude in a few minutes.

It is not that I expect the Govt. of India to compensate a State fully for the losses it has suffered. When God cannot help, how can we expect the Government of India to compensate for the total loss? Therefore, prevention is better than cure. So, what steps are you going to take to prevent the after-effects of floods? I request the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to kindly constitute a Committee of Members of Parliament to be assisted by the officials who are experienced in dealing with cyclone and flood-related problems.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, you are disturbing other Members also.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU : Please constitute a Committee to coordinate with the States and try to have a big programme. I do not expect everything from you as a Minister or your Government as a whole. You start with it, let us have a good plan, understand the problem in total and this Committee could prepare some kind of a programme so that something could be done in a decade or two. Let us try to prevent these kinds of flood-related problems.

As you rightly said, Sir, there is erosion. Several kilometres of land had already been lost due to erosion. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you come from East Godavari and I come from West Godavari. At both the ends, there is erosion in different pockets. It was estimated that we would require Rs.300 crore. But I do not expect the Government to straightaway give Rs.300 crore. However, you have to plan over a period of 10 years and try to do something. Today, in Assam, the people are starving.

I am proud to tell you that in 1986, as a Minister in the State Government, I started the scheme of giving 10 kilograms of rice, which was never done either by the Government of India or by any State. I have initiated that and it is being implemented throughout the country today. I am proud to mention that I started it and it is being continued.

Sir, I do not want the hon. Minister to convince us by his speech and say that everything is going to be all right. It is not like that, Please plan ahead for the future, Please take us into confidence and say what permanent measures are being taken. Please tell us about your experience and what you are doing for the future because the people are suffering very badly due to these cyclone and flood-related problems.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, you are the last speaker now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I am the last speaker among the Members present here but who has not spoken so far. The hon. Minister who has been present here all along was patient enough to hear all of us speaking. With due regards to him, I would like to say that the circumstances now available have already been explained. In the said circumstances, it is only just and proper that a Central team of officials may be sent to Kerala to assess the damages caused by the South West Monsoon in the State and get their report. Under the provisions of the Natural Calamity Relief Fund. I request you to grant a preliminary sum of Rs.500 crore for undertaking flood relief measures. Otherwise, the people of the State will be suffering very badly because of floods.

We have already started relief camps in schools. There were landslides in the hilly region and the schools are closed and the people in the locality are housed in those schools and the Taluk Tehsildar assisted by the villagers is conducting relief camps and the position is very serious.

So, I again request you to send the team immediately and at the first instance Rs.500 crore relief may kindly be sanctioned. This is my only request.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank all the honourable Members that from their experience relating to devastation by flood they have given the actual information to this House and the Government about the natural havoc which is called flood and the destruction of life and property in their areas caused by flood.

According to the available information received by Government of India so far, the reports sent by State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, these states have informed that there is a great loss of life and property in these states due to rains, flood, cyclone and landslide. This situation

existed after 1 June, 1998 when South-West Monsoon began. The details of this destruction are as follows.

92.2 lakh population and 2.33 lakh hectare irrigation area has been affected by this, 2.95 lakh houses or huts have been damaged, 1519 persons have been killed and 64,397 animals have been died. Before this, when monsoon had not occurred the wide area of Assam, Kerala, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal were affected by other type of natural calamities in which hailstorm, cyclone and sea-storm were included.

As far as the matter of finishing these calamities is concerned, It is again and again said in this House and I am again repeating it that originally it is the responsibility of State Governments. These difficulties have arisen again and again natural calamities have continued to come, on the basis of these experiences in 1995 Tenth Finance Commission had set up a new arrangement keeping in view the report which is sent to Central Government by these states, for review of that report and on the basis of that and delay in taking the decision to send central group to estimate the loss in the State. In that, a National Calamity Relief Fund was constituted in which some more money from Rs. 6300 crore was fixed for the years 1995 to 2000. An arrangement was made in that 75 percent subscription would be of central government and 25 per cent subscription would be of State Government.

20.00 hrs.

State Governments will not be required to go the Central Government repeatedly and they will be able to deal with that calamity with this amount. In spite of this, the Central Government and Finance Commission made this provision and in respect of these two provisions, National Development Council consisting of hon'ble Prime Minister, Deputy Chairman of Central Planning Commission and all Chief Ministers as its Members admitted this provision that a National Calamity Relief Fund should be constituted at national level. A provision of Rs.700 crores was made for this purpose. An additional amount of Rs.120 crores was added to this fund during 1996-97. If provided that if State Government is not able to compensate loss caused by the calamity and to deal with the situation and to provide relief with the amount allocated out of this fund and with the resources available under other plans, the Central Government can provide assistance from this National Calamity Relief Fund. But a procedure was laid down for this purpose. The first and foremost condition is that the affected State Government should send a report to the Central Government and immediately on receipt of the report or reminder, the Central Government is required to send a study group to assess the losses. It was also prescribed therein that amount out of this Central calamity relief fund will be provided only in case of rare severity.

Some guidelines have also been laid down for the Central Study Team to ascertain whether it is really rare severity or not. On the basis of it, Central Study Team goes there and submits its report after conducting study and thereafter its assessment about the loss is submitted to a sub-committee of National Development Council which is also known as National Calamity Relief Committee which consists of Ministers of Agriculture as its Chairman and two Central Ministers and Chief Ministers of five states as its Members. This time, two Central Ministers i.e. Minister of Finance and Minister of Health and Chief Ministers of five states i.e. West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya, Jammu-Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh, have been nominated to this committee. The report of Study Team regarding loss is submitted before that committee and then relief fund is provided to that state government according to some guidelines. Members repeatedly demand from Centre to provide money, it may be Central Government or State Government or any Department, undertaking or Ministry of State Government or Central Government, they are run under some definite system. They are supposed to work accordance with the pre-fixed provisions of budget estimates. They are not empowered to allocate funds arbitrarily for any work under any item. So far as this year and previous years are concerned, Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to inform that 19 reminders were submitted by 17 states seeking assistance from this National Calamity Relief Fund. 18 States Furnished 23 reports during 1996-97. During 1997-98, 25 letters were submitted by 16 states. 20 Central Team were constituted and sent to different states to conduct study during 1997-98. The details of the amount released from this National Calamity Relief Fund during these three years are as follows:

1995-96	Rs. 225.69 crores
1996-97	Rs. 268.08 crores
1997-98	Rs. 273.37 crores

Thus, total amount of Rs. 767.14 crores was released from this national calamity relief fund in which basically only Rs. 700 crores were available.

20.04 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

This difference could be met only when additional provision of Rs. 120 crores was made in the budget estimate of 1997-98.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as this year is concerned, the Kerala and West Bengal Governments have sent reminders seeking assistance on account of the losses caused by drought, hall storm and cyclone during 1998-99. The Members might have remembered that Prime Minister had asked me to go to see the tornado affected area in West Bengal. We went there to see that area. The

Central Study Team Found that it can not be construed as natural calamity of rare severity because according to norms available, it was found difficult to name it rare severity. So far as reminder of Government of Kerala is concerned, it is still under consideration. Besides these two states, Gujarat and Sikkim have also sought assistance. The Gujarat State have made a demand of Rs. 610.65 crores and Sikkim have sought an amount of Rs. 103.07 crores.

A Central team visited Gujarat during 25th June to 27th June. An inter-Ministerial Committee is constituted which is called as inter-Ministerial group, considered over it on 14th July. A Central team Visited Sikkim from 13th to 16th July. Their report is still awaited, it can be received here any time.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Assam and West Bengal have recently submitted their memoranda demanding an assistance of Rs. 287.75 and Rs. 103.87 crores respectively. In this regard a decision will be taken immediately that when the team would be sent there and then assessment will be made.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as National Calamity Relief Fund is concerned, there was a provision of Rs. 63,427 crores. The details of share of each state is very lengthy, if you say, I can read it out and if you would like. I can lay it on Table of the House. The amount provided to each state is also given in it. I would like to lay this statement on the Table of the House with your permission, wherein details of Central and state share is given in it. So far as calamity relief fund is concerned, wherever such situation arises and demand comes from State Government, fund is released from it to the affected State. Besides, one more step is taken in it that advance instalment is released i.e. advance instalment is given. Under this head advance amount was released to Gujarat on June 10 which was to be released on July 1st. Similarly, advance amount was released to Orissa on March 26th, which was to be released on April 1st, Sikkim on June 24th which was to be released on July 1st and West Bengal on March 26th which was to be released on July 1st, 1998.

Please don't worry, I'll mention about all, Right now keep quite. Mr. Chairman, Sir, now the question arises that there are some guidelines as to whom and how much amount of fund should be released from National Calamity Relief fund. As far as ex-gratia relief is concerned, Rs. 20,000 are provided to the dependent of the deceased Rs. 10,000 are provided to those who have lossed any part of the body and Rs. 5 per adult and Rs.3 per child per day relief is provided to his dependent on daily basis, So far as clothes and utensils are concerned, Rs. 250 each i.e. Rs. 500 are provided. Rupee one and paise 5 per day per person is provided for nutritive food. Small and Marginal farmers invest 25 percent to 33.25 percent per day for removing soil from their fields. Rs.500 per hectare will be

provided for expenditure involved in next crop. If their land has been damaged by flood, then Rs. 5 thousand per family is provided. Besides, some amount is provided under employment schemes. Some amount is provided on death of animals. Rs. 8 per day is provided for their fodder. Similarly assistance is provided to the families of fishermen. . . (Interruption). There is provision for it and that's why all is provided. . . (Interruption). The State Government checks it. . . (Interruption). I'll tell it later on. Thus, there are many things. I will lay the whole statement on the table of the House. I would like to say it again that primarily it is the responsibility of State Governments. There was a provision before 1989-90 for giving margin money to them which was converted into latest order by 10th Finance Commission and National Development Council, which is existing now. Now I would like to give Statewise details. So far as Arunachal Pradesh is concerned, some damage has been occurred due to rain and landsliding this year. Most of the landsliding occurred on 23 and 24th May 1998 and there was flood on 9th July, 1998. As far as details of damage is concerned, most affected districts are Lohil Darang, West Sciang and East Sciang. 52 villages had been affected and 19 persons died due to landsliding. 26 thousand people were affected and 330 houses were damaged 16 animals died. As far as calamity relief fund is concerned, Rs. 7.81 crore were provided to Arunachal Pradesh out of which the share of Central Government was Rs. 5.84 crore and that of State Government was Rs. 1.95 crore. . . (Interruptions).

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati) : Would you like to give the details of rest of the States?

SHRI SOMPAL : I'll give the details of all the States. Arunachal Pradesh has not given any memorandum to the Central Government, so there is no question of giving any amount from National Calamity Fund. Thus, heavy loss has been caused in Assam by heavy rain severe flood and landsliding.

So far as the incident of landsliding is concerned, it occurred on 3rd June and flood come on 10th June and after that. According to the report sent to me so far, 20 districts have been affected namely Bhimaji, North Lakhimpur, Tinsukiyia, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Shibsagar, Golaghat, Nawagaon, Marigaon, Mulbari, Sonitpur, Darang, Burpeta, Kanpur, Kachar, Karimganj, Bogaingaon, North Kachchar Hills, Dhubri, Gavalpada. 3443 villages have been affected in it. 77 persons have died and 75.27 lakh hectare area has been affected out of which the crop area is 1.51 lakh hectare. Total population of 25.46 lakh has been affected. 3466 houses have been collapsed. To tackle this calamity the Government of that area have opened 135 camps. So far as the calamity relief fund is concerned out of it an amount of rupees 55.47 was allocated to Assam during 1998-99 out of which rupees 41.6 crore is the share

of Central Government and rupees 13.87 crore is that of State Government. Central share of rupees 20.8 crore has already been given in two quarterly installments. So far as the question of assistance from National Calamity Relief Fund is concerned, a reminder from Government of Assam has been received on 15th July and they have demanded Rs. 287.75 crore, which I have already said that it is under consideration. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : You have talked about relief, the relief camps which have been opened, we do not agree with that. Relief camp was opened only for one day. This is only a number.

SHRI SOMPAL : In this connection I would like to request that the report related to it comes from State Government and we have to depend on it. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : We do not agree with that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may not agree, but the Government has to agree.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU : I requested you regarding constitution of a committee to study the overall situation.

SHRI SOMPAL : I will respond to you. I will respond to the queries of all the hon. Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If there is any such clarification to be sought, after the reply is over, it can be done. In between it will be very difficult.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, according to the information received after 9th July, the damage has been caused only by flood in Bihar, it has affected 15 districts namely Mujaffurpur, Shohar, Sitamani, East Champaran, West Champaran, Saran, Gopalganj, Darbhanga, Munger, Seharsa, Supoll, Banka, Madhepura, and Bhagalpur. . . (Interruptions) It is not in our central, the report comes from State Government. . . (Interruptions) Sometimes it happens. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI H.P. SINGH : There are all four-two of B.J.P and two of Samta. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Harpal Singh ji, if you want to ask any clarification, you can ask it after the reply is over. If you would speak in between, it shall remain incomplete. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you can ask for the report about the information given by him. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the collector of their district was drowned. Collector was washed away and he was taken out with the help of fishing net. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want any clarification, you can ask it after the reply of the Honourable Ministers is over if you will speak in between, it would be difficult. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : In it 44 development blocks, 270 Panchayat areas and 617 villages have been affected, three persons have died in flood, nearly 25,000 hectare land has been affected out of which 4,000 hectare agricultural land was under crop. According to the report sent by the State Government so far the loss of crops is to the tune of Rs. 3 lakh, a lakh population. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI H.P. SINGH : 9 lakh population and Rs. 3 lakh, you can yourself calculate that how it would be. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : Why do you interrupt again and again. It is the work of State Government, whether you understand it once or in fifty times the answer will be same. There will be no benefit from it. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The data which is given here is on the basis of the report received from State Government. If there is something like this in your area, you can write it to hon'ble Minister.

SHRI SOMPAL : One thousand houses have been ruined and public property of Rs. five lacs has been damaged. The Government of Bihar has organized 39 camps and managed 1158 boats in Sitamarhi, Saran, Gopalganj, Madhepura and Western Champaran districts to take the people to safer places, it has opened 29 health centres and established 35 centre for the treatment of animals, 55.73 quintal foodgrains was distributed in the districts of Bihar and Gopalganj so far as . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI H.P.SINGH : That is our main place of water there. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Harpal Singh ji, if the Minister yields, then you can get the opportunity to ask the question. If the Minister does not yield, I can not give you opportunity, therefore I have already said that if you are required to ask any question, you should ask after listening the entire reply.

SHRI SOMPAL : You are so senior Member. tomorrow, I am to reply 10 questions even then I am giving reply to the extent of your satisfaction. Its reply will be same that it would be provided by State Government, your repetition does not affect it quality. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, you please give entire reply. thereafter if any one would like to ask the question, he can ask (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : So far as the Relief Fund is Concerned, an amount of Rs. 57.63 crores was released to Bihar, out of which the share of Centre is 43.22 crores and as regards National Calamity Relief Fund, no letter has been received so far by the Center from the Government of Bihar, therefore no question has arisen so far to consider in this regards. Similarly, the entire details in respect of Gujarat is available, if you allow me, I can lay it on the table.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You lay it on the table.

SHRI SOMPAL : Would you like to listen about Kerala. . . (Interruptions). I lay it on the table Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. . . (Interruptions)

The heavy rainfall and land sliding have caused loss in Uttar Pradesh. The Information about two types of incidents is available. This Information regarding incidents of the heavy rainfall and land sliding relates to the period from 15th July till date. The total number of affected district is 16 which are following: Gorakhpur, Basti, Kushinagar, Siddharth Nagar, Tehri-Garhwal, Sant Kabir Nagar, Maharajganj, Bageswar, Khisi, Deoria, Balia, Partapgarh, Azamgarh, Muradabad, Pithoragarh and Faizabad. About 1610 villages have been affected, 57 people have died. The total area of 1.48 hectare has been affected out of which 67 thousand hectare is crop area. The total population of 9.97 lacs has been affected, 221 houses have been collapsed and 257 animals have lost their lives. The Uttar Pradesh Government have set up 154 check posts, established 35 Relief Camps and managed 545 boats to take the people to safer places and about 16,700 people and 900 animals have been taken to safer places from flood prone areas, An amount of Rs. 110.76 crores has been released from National Calamity Relief Fund during 1998-99, out of which the share of Central Government for this year is Rs. 104.07 crores. Out of this share two instalment of Rs. 52.04 crores have been released to them. No reminder has been received so far from them. . . (Interruptions). That will be divested, but amount can also be released in advance is case of necessity. No reminder has been received from them. We know the suggestions made by hon'ble Members . . . (Interruptions) No sir.

[English]

Some hon. Members from Kerala have raised the matter concerning the creation of Coastal Protection Zones. This scheme is yet to be prepared. Out of the nine maritime States and one Union Territory, only three States, namely Kerala, Kamataka and Gujarat have got their schemes cleared; Maharashtra and Pondicherry have not even submitted their schemes; Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Orissa,

Goa and Andhra Pradesh had to amend their schemes as per the suggestions made by the Central Water Commission and they are still awaited.

They have not submitted them. As soon as these schemes are received, a proper appraisal would be conducted and then the schemes would be finalised. There was one suggestion regarding the Ganga Flood Control Commission. Two or three hon. Members had given this suggestion.

[Translation]

This formation was set up in 1972. It had formulated 23 long term Master Plans to deal with the flood. These have been sent to all the states in the basis of Ganga for their adoption and implementation. The Ganga Flood Control Commission has no orders to implement these plans. This is state Governments task. Whenever Central Government is informed about the adoption of these plans by the State Government they will be allocated amount for the purpose. So far as prior information of flood is concerned as some Members have said the Government have set up 137 formations to inform the people such as a formation near Tajewala in Uttar Pradesh, a formation near Bhakhra Nagal in Punjab. Whenever the water flow from upper area or catchment area, the information in this regard is furnished and State Governments are also asked to take the people and animals to safer places. The people from the likely affected area should also be removed.

One scheme of Flood Plan Zoning has been formulated as Mohan Singhji has also told. State Governments were asked to make the likely affected areas by flood and ban should be imposed legally on settling up of rural or urban or Industrial basti there and Flood Plan Zoning law should be enacted and enforced in their respective State. But no information has been received from any State regarding its enforcement long term Plan to deal with flood in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is in effect from Eighth Five Year Plan. One and a half crores of rupees were granted to the Government of Bihar under this scheme during Eighth Five Year Plan. The Government of Bihar has not submitted the utilization certificate till date so it is not possible to grant further amount. It is proposed to extend this scheme to other States of Ganga basin which includes Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. There is a proposal to bring Orissa and Andhra Pradesh States also under this scheme.

So far as question of control over common rivers between India, Nepal is concerned, Mohan Singhji and all friends from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have said about its necessity in one voice. It was submitted to the Government of India after having discussion with them. I would like to inform the House that treaty was made with Nepal for Pandeshwar Scheme and Mahakali river. It is proposed to

prepare a comprehensive scheme report under that Deliberations were made on Kamali Project and I cannot say that how much progress is made in it but debate is going on because two countries are related with it. I am not in a position to say that how far the Government of Nepal would agree with it and the time by which this scheme will be formulated. It is said that there are some reservoirs in Nepal and more water will be released from them but it is not true because there is no reservoir in Nepal to release water.

I would like to give a information about Assam. Assam has been granted rupees twenty crore as loan.

[English]

They want it to be converted as 'one time grant'. This matter is pending with Planning Commission and as soon as they take a view we would inform the Assam Government.

[Translation]

Brahmpur Board has formulated a scheme wherein there is mention of Pagaldiya scheme and it would be presented before the public Investment Board during Ninth Five Year Plan. The steps would be taken to implement it if it get approval. Former Prime Ministerji had said about Rs. 500 crores and all the arrangements have been made for its distribution. The Planning Commission has received this scheme in 1997 and this amount would be allocated as soon as it got approval. The Government of India are apprised of diversion of water coming in Brahmaputra river from China. It was published in their newspapers and Government of India have information on its basis. The Government of India have no information from China in this respect. This scheme is for 25-30 year. The scheme is very expensive so it is not easy to implement it. In this regard I would like to inform you that the Government of India are aware of it and it has information about it.

While initiating the discussion Shri Mohan Singhji has said about time bound entire, Integrated National Flood Relief Scheme. There can't be two opinions in this regard. But as for as other type of assistance is concerned, I would like to say that it is under the jurisdiction of the State Government. As far as the point of releasing more amount is concerned, I have already said that it can be released under its prescribed procedure, norms and guidelines and it is being released accordingly. You have said about two schemes for north-south rivers. I have already said once or twice in zero hour in regard to it that there are 14 rivers in North India including Ganga-Yamuna and scheme has been formulated to divert water of one basin to another basin of these 17 rivers of South. Preliminary feasible report is ready but experts have different views in this regard. Some people have

[Shri Sompal]

said about diversion of natural flow. Many problems will arise by it, for instance there are roads, railway lines, canals and many area are submerged due to it. Discussion is going on to ascertain how to control the flood caused by this large quantity of water alongwith the names of the rivers and whether it is feasible or not. It's technical and primary feasibility reports both are ready and decision on it will take time. Expenditure to be incurred on it is beyond reach.

You have also said about Jalkundi scheme. It is an important thing. Benefit can be taken by constructing reservoirs in areas near river flow under this scheme. Flood water can be contained there. Pisciculture can be sustained. Water can be stored in underground water resources in months except rainy season. Government have watershed scheme in this regard. It is included in it and it should be taken up. It is a component of scheme for 25 years on national level.

The policy of Government regarding Tehri project has been changing. You know all background of it. Latest information in this regard is not available. It is true that a Project was formulated and the decision should be taken earlier so as to avoid the situation of uncertainty.

Shri Ram Nagina Mishra, Shri Pawan Singh Ghatowar, Shri Ram Narain Passi, Shri Subrata Mukherjee, Shri Indrajeet Mishra (Khalilabad), Shri Shailendra Kumar (Chail), Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra, Shri Motilal Vohra, Shri Hari Kewal Prasad Singh- our former President, Janta Dal, Shri Ram Pal Singh, Shri V.V. Raghvan from Kerala, Shri Bachchi Singh have said specific thing in regard to hilly areas during the discussion that it is not termed as flood. In my opinion there is a need to amend the rules Hon'ble Rajo Singhji (Bagusarai), Virendra Singhji have said more about irrigation system than flood but their suggestions are useful. Shri N.K. Prunchandran (Kerala), Shri Ramdas Athawale, who are not present here, had said that they don't want to listen a traditional reply.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What about the points raised by Shri Radhakrishnan?

SHRI SOMPAL : I am coming to them. We would have a detailed answer.

[Translation]

They said that they don't want traditional answer but flood comes in traditional way and we have got traditional heritage of Government and speech and thinking is also traditional so it is but natural that its reply will be traditional. Shri Rajendra Agnihotri has said very important

thing about Bundelkhand. We have marked Bundelkhand specifically in National Watershed Scheme because it receives low rainfall and lacks water from big water source and is drought prone area. Not only flood can be checked through water collection and rain water collection technique but permanent solution of the irrigation and drinking water problems can be found. Your suggestions are very important, it has already been contained in National Scheme. Shri Basimuthiari, Shri Prabhunath Singh have said about motherland of revered Loknayak Jaiprakash ji.

I will request you that in this regard you write an elaborate letter to me, I will recommend it and send it to Government of Uttar Pradesh and also to Government of Bihar . . . (Interruptions) for whom you will order, for whom you will say we will send it there, if you will ask to send it to centre we will send it there. Shri Om Prakash has said about corruption in Ghazipur. In addition to water during the flood, corruption also takes place, it is very sad thing because at that time citizens are helpless and they exploit them very barbariously but in this regard all responsibility is of State Government. Shri Anup Lal Yadav has said about taking out sand. Dredging was done in other, countries but due to some reasons it was stopped. How much it has effected the environment, it is to be estimated. In this regard Environmentalists have various opinions so we cannot reach at one view now.

Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita, Assam, has said about Brahmaputra Central Board, I have given reply of that. The seriousness of Shri Parasnath Yadav, Shri Shakuni Choudhary has perhaps taken them out. They used to say that we are non serious. Dr. Shakeel Ahmed has said about change in Relief Code. I agree with you because the existing norms i.e. one rupee, three rupee, five rupee or five hundred rupee per hectare daily does not matter but this is a question of resources and you are right that changes should be made in it. . . (Interruptions) Shri H.P. Singh and later former Speaker, Legislative Assembly of Kerala.

[English]

Shri Radhakrishnan has asked for a Central team. It is despatched only in respect of a memorandum submitted by the State Government. As soon as it is received and *prima facie*, if we find that it is a severe calamity, then we do despatch a team.

[Translation]

Sir, with these words I conclude and in the end I want to talk about permanent solution. No one has two opinions in this regard that there should be a permanent solution. Central Water Commission and various departments of Ministry of Water Resources are doing study in this regard.

A consolidated scheme should be made for them, Central Government is already sensitive in this regard and this type of scheme should be made definitely. With these words I express my thanks to all the honourable Members and to you and conclude.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Honourable Member has not given any relevant reply of any point. From his reply it seems that Government is not serious about solution of flood, therefore, we and our colleagues walk out from House in protest of the reply. . . (Interruptions)

20.41 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Mohan Singh and some other Members left the House.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman Sir, this Government has failed to save people from flood, therefore we boycott the House.

20.42 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and other Members left the House.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : Mr. Chairman, this Government has taken such an important question of flood very lightly, therefore, on behalf of Congress we boycott the House.

20.42½ hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad and other Members left the House.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the anti-sea erosion. Would the Minister consider the schemes which have already been submitted by the State Government regarding anti-sea erosion works? Why should he wait for the schemes from other States? That is why the delay is occurring now.

SHRI SOMPAL : I will find it out and respond to you.

[Translation]

SHRI H.P. SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my appeal is that there is emergency in hospital in the same way emergency should be supposed on this subject and rupees 30 lakhs to 50 lakhs should be sent for the people who have ruined by flood in our constituency of Bhojpur, through D.M. through Collector, through State Government or direct and flood affected people should be helped. If this would not be done all villages of that area will submerge in Ganga within 15 days.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, do you want to say anything about this clarification?

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, time and again, I have informed him that this is the responsibility of the State Government. They are already having funds from the Calamity Relief fund. From that only, they can give it.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir in Jammu and Kashmir Ravi and Uoz rivers are destroying heavily. There is an area of Pragwal the population of which is more than 20 thousand. Its three sides are surrounded by Chinab river and on its fourth side there in Pakistan, Erosion is taking place in that whole area. In the same way there is area of Ravi and Uoz whole Kathuwa district, 20 villages of Hiranagar have submerged in water. I do not know about report of State Government, as they have said that no report of Jammu and Kashmir has come. My opinion is that atleast you should seek the report and immediately give help to these areas. If dam would be constructed there, then whole area would be destroyed . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Alright, have you submitted your point. Mr. Minister, do you want to say anything?

SHRI SOMPAL : I will again say that until State Government sends its report, Central Government is unable to take any action.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Whether State Government would be so much callous?

SHRI SOMPAL : You have elected the Government, how can we ask it ?

[English]

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU : Mr. Chairman, Sir I expected the hon. Minister to give an answer but somehow he has failed to explain it to me. I said that neither he nor his Government alone were going to give a permanent solution. I wanted him to initiate something in concrete manner. I asked him to constitute a Committee of Members as well as experts in cyclone or experts in this entire thing, in coordination with the States, to understand the problems of the entire country. Is it difficult for him to constitute such a Committee to study the problem in future for the whole country? I expected a simple answer from him.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, I do not know which scheme the hon. Member is speaking about.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU : About the overall floods.

SHRI SOMPAL : The Government is a specialised Committee only. What the Government will do . . . (Interruptions) We can take up the thing, but why do we need a separate Committee?

PROF. P.J.KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, what he wants to say is that every year we have floods in our country and there is an *ad hoc* management of floods. Why do we not have a long term policy for managing floods? Earlier, there was some proposals regarding this that the devastating effects of the floods could be reduced if some of the rivers could be interconnected. Likewise, if there could be some long term planning so that the adverse impact of the floods could be reduced. That is what the hon. Member is asking.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, I have already informed the hon. House that there are two schemes for interconnecting the rivers and transferring water from one basin to another basin. One scheme is with 14 rivers of Northern India and 17 rivers of the Southern peninsula. A techno-economic feasibility study, on a preliminary basis has already been conducted. But a final view has not been taken because the amount of resources which is required for implementing this project plus the long term environmental and morphological effects and impacts which they are likely to have are being studied. These cannot be taken so abruptly. So, having regard to these things, the schemes are with the Government of India and a final view would emerge only after consultation.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU : But the constitution of a Committee would help matters.

SHRI SOMPAL : It is a process which is already going on.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU : It is not like that
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If I have understood the Minister correctly, he has said that the Committee itself is an expert Committee and that study is going on. The hon. Minister has already narrated all these things in detail in his reply.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Sir, I want to know only one thing. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, tomorrow I have to answer ten questions in the Rajya Sabha. We agreed to finish this. I do not think he is going to make any worthy suggestion . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

You are very senior Member. You know everything.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Due to flood in Kushinagar 51 kilometre long dam breaks down. 10 kilometre of this dam falls in Uttar Pradesh and 41 kilometre falls in Bihar, Government of Bihar is not able to repair this dam in case of its breaking down would you make some arrangements so that all funds. Can be given to Government of Uttar Pradesh to repair the dam the funds which are given to Government of Bihar for repairing this dam, may be transferred to Government of Uttar Pradesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN : These details are not available with the Honourable Minister. How can he answer that ?

SHRI SOMPAL : I had raised this point earlier also. Hon'ble Member has been Member of Parliament for a long time and he has been in State Government also. In this regard I will give the same reply that it is not within the purview of Central Government. Therefore we cannot do this. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : This is the matter of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are requested to write a letter to Hon'ble Minister in this regard . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 23rd July, 1998 at 11 a.m.

20.48 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, July 23, 1998/ Shravana 1.1920(Saka).

CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Wednesday, July 22,1998/Asadha 31,1920 (Saka)

<u>Col./Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
9,50/11	46	45
1,52/29	delete "10.00 108.78 80.00 198.78"	
55,56/8(from below)	12573	12673
57,58/4	78758	78768
9/12	97.15	97.51
33/2	6	5
141,142/14(from below)	61.33	64.33
141,142/15(from below)	21755.84	21755.8
155,156/17	704020	704000
109/6	(SHRI SIMPAL)	(SHRI SOMPAL)
271/8	ENERGY MINISTER	THE MINISTER OF POWER

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