

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 1, 2000/Phalgun 11, 1921 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM RUSSIA

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Gennady N. Seleznev, Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation and other Members of the Russian Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other hon. Members of the delegation are:

1. Dr. Anatoli I. Lukyanov
2. Mr. Kadyr Ool A. Bicheldei
3. Mr. Igor V. Lysyenko
4. Mr. Francis A. Saifullin
5. Mr. Nikolai I. Travkin
6. Mr. Valery A. Shituyev
7. Mr. Rafael I. Gimalov
8. Mr. Oleg A. Finko
9. Ms. Irina M. Hakamada

They arrived in Delhi on Tuesday, 29th February, 2000. They are now seated in the special box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Acting President, the Prime Minister, the Parliament and the friendly people of the Russian Federation.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you assured us that you would reconsider our notice under Rule 184 to discuss RSS issue. We are still awaiting your response...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After the Question Hour, I will hear you. Please understand.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 81. Shri Rattan Lal Kataria.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to the hon. Members that after the Question Hour I will hear you. Please understand.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After the Question Hour, I will allow you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, you said that you are reconsidering it...(Interruptions) We did not disturb the Railway Budget. We did not disturb the General Budget. Now, there must be some reciprocity. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir; you said that you would reconsider your decision ... (Interruptions) This issue cannot just be brushed aside. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Madhavraoji, we have not listed this subject in today's business also. Generally, in the Question Hour Members want to ask question and the Ministers are supposed to reply to them. So, I will hear you after the Question Hour. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, there has to be some give and take. There has to be a solution to this issue first. It cannot be brushed aside. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, they are not allowing the House to conduct its business. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have already allowed Shri Kirit Somaiya to initiate the discussion under Rule 193.*... They are holding the

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

House to ransom. They are holding the nation to ransom. They should all be suspended from the House. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, they have nothing new to say. They have been telling the same thing for the last four or five days. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am once again appealing to you all to please take your seats. Please allow the Question Hour to go on. I will hear you after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, they have been agitating since the beginning of the Session and they are not allowing the House to transact any business.**(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 81. Shri Rattan Lal Kataria.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate. I will hear you after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, they are not saying anything new. They have been telling the same thing for the last four or five days. You have already said that this matter would be discussed under Rule 193. ...*(Interruptions)* You have already allowed Shri Kirit Somaiya to initiate the discussion under Rule 193, day before yesterday. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)***

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Protection of Equality of Rights

*81. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are committed to provide equal rights for all in power, prosperity and dignity; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to protect the various constitutional rights of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes provided under the Constitution?

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

(b) The Constitutional guarantees for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are sought to be effectively

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

** Not recorded.

and meaningfully ensured through their educational, economic and social development. Special efforts are being made by the Government to improve literacy and access to education at all levels through affirmative action programmes. Increased economic opportunities are being developed through focused rural and urban poverty alleviation programmes and access to soft loans. Enhanced allocation of resources is made by States and Union Government to areas with concentration of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population through the Tribals Sub Plan and Special Component Plan strategies to improve infrastructure activities and accelerate development of these areas. Legislation has also been enacted to protect the civil rights of persons belonging to SCs and STs to prevent atrocities, abolish bonded labour and prevent land alienation. There is reservation of seats in Panchayati Raj institutions, local bodies, State legislatures and Parliament to provide for representation in public life in proportion to population as well as reservation in posts and services under the Central and State Governments for SCs and STs. Besides, under Article 338 of the Constitution, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been constituted to provide a high level independent body to monitor the safeguards provided to SCs and STs and also review and report on the issues concerning them.

Declaring Pakistan as a Terrorist State

* 82. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government had appealed to World's big powers to declare Pakistan as a terrorist State after the hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC-814 in December, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the response of each of these countries received by the Government ;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the statement made by the US that its Government had no evidence that Pakistan was involved in hijacking of Indian plane;

(e) whether any diplomatic efforts have been made by the Indian Government on this front;

(f) if so, the details of efforts made by the Government to mobilise international opinion in support of India's stand at various levels including at U.N. level ; and

(g) the extent to which success has been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (g) Government have appropriately brought to the notice of the international community Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism, of which the hijacking of IC-814 was the most recent manifestation. The facts regarding Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism have been brought before several international fora and have also been raised at high level bilateral discussion with world leaders. The international community now openly recognizes Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India, and the impact this has on the security of our country and the region. This greater awareness is being reflected in the statements by official spokesmen of several Governments and also in the international media coverage on Pakistan.

Government have seen the remarks of the US Government on the hijacking and have made known its views to the US side about Pakistan's role in the hijacking and that of Pakistan based terrorist organizations. Government has also noted that US Government spokesmen have said that in general there were support and ties between agencies of the Government of Pakistan and terrorist groups operating in Kashmir. India and the United States have also set up a Joint Working Group to intensify their cooperation in combating all forms of terrorism. India has also proposed an International Convention on Terrorism and the next meeting of the UN General Assembly will discuss this proposal in September 2000.

[Translation]

Citizens of Indian Origin in Thailand

*83. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:
DR. SANJAY PASWAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of citizens of Indian origin residing in Thailand;
- (b) the number of Indian citizens put into jails by the Thai Government while they were on a visit to Thailand on tourist visa alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for getting them released from the jails in Thailand?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) The number of citizens of Indian origin residing in Thailand is around 35,000 (Thirty five thousands).

(b) The number of Indian nationals in the immigration detention centres is presently 14. The reason for their detention is either illegal entry or overstay on tourist visa.

(c) The Indian Embassy in Thailand provides consular assistance, including necessary travel documents to help them to return to India.

[English]

Credibility of CBI

*84. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "CBI pulled up for hushing up case against sub-inspector" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated February 1, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of the matter reported therein;

(c) the details of cases in which the courts have passed strictures against the CBI in the last three years;

(d) whether in view of such strictures, Government have undertaken or propose to undertake review of the supporting evidence in cases pending before various courts including special courts; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to improve credibility of CBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter relates to the strictures passed by the Court of Additional Sessions Judge, New Delhi against the CBI in respect of filing of the Closure Report by the CBI in a case under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 against a Sub-Inspector of the Transport Department of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(c) During the years 1997, 1998 and 1999, out of 380, 407 and 498 cases disposed of by courts, 232, 292 and 249 cases respectively resulted in conviction. In cases resulting in acquittal, where strictures are passed by the

court, the CBI takes up regular review of the judgements and, where considered appropriate, files a petition in the High Court under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for expunging the strictures. In cases where the strictures of the court are considered justifies, departmental action is initiated against the concerned officials. Departmental action has already been initiated by the CBI against its officials in three cases and is being contemplated in three other cases, besides their deciding to file petitions in the High Court against strictures in two cases, during the last 3 years.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Government had constituted the Independent Review Committee in September, 1997 to, *inter alia*, examine the structure and functioning of the CBI. The report of the Committee was considered by the Supreme Court in the Vineet Narain case and the Court in its judgement dated 18.12.1997 gave certain directions for improvement of the functioning of the CBI. The Government has decided to implement the aforesaid judgement and action has been taken accordingly.

C.T.B.T. Issue

*85. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have included the issue of signing the C.T.B.T. Agreement in the proposed agenda to be discussed during the proposed visit of U.S. President;

(b) whether the Government have decided to sign on C.T.B.T. agreement;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to consult all major political parties before signing this agreement; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to evolve a common consensus on this issue before the U.S. President's proposed visit to India in the present international situation to do so with the details of its outcome, if any, thereof indicating how far a consensus has been reached in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No Sir. India and the United States agree that the visit of the US President to India is to lay the foundation of a forward looking and qualitatively new relationship between the two countries. Towards this end, the two sides will discuss all bilateral and

international issues of mutual interest, including political and security matters.

(b) to (e) India's position on the CTBT was articulated by the Prime Minister in the UN General Assembly in September 1998 and in Parliament in December 1998. This was reiterated by the External Affairs Minister at the UN General Assembly in September 1999. The priority of our meeting the country's national security concerns having been addressed, the Government believes that we now need to convey reassurance to the international community and, in this regard, desire to develop a national consensus. The Government is encouraged by the constructive response to its efforts to build a consensus on the issue of the CTBT and intends to pursue this exercise.

[Translation]

Unemployed Persons

*86. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of opportunities of employment created in the organised sector during each of the last three years till date;

(b) the number of unemployed persons as on January, 2000 in the country, state-wise;

(c) the number of the skilled unemployed persons provided jobs in the country during each of the last three years, state-wise;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide employment to the unemployed persons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (e) As per the latest Economic Survey 1999-2000, the growth rates of employment in organised sector in 1996, 1997 and 1998 were 1.51, 1.09 and 0.46 percent respectively.

State-wise number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the Live Register of the Employment Exchanges in the country as on 30.11.99 (latest available) is given in enclosed Statement-I.

Total number of technically qualified persons (diploma holders, and graduates in science, engineering, agriculture, medicine, veterinary sciences, law, education) ITI qualified persons and persons trained

through Apprenticeship Training, provided employment through the Employment Exchanges, State-wise for the year 1994, 1995 and 1996 (latest available) is given in enclosed Statement -II.

The primary objective of the Ninth Plan is to generate greater productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive in regions characterised by higher rate of unemployment and under employment. The Ninth Plan recognised the high incidence of unemployment and increasing casualisation of labour and adopted a Nationwide Employment Assurance Scheme. A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia, Member Planning Commission has been set up to look into the employment generation taking place and suggest measures to generate at least one hundred million jobs in period of 10 years (Ten million in each year).

Statement-I

Number of Job-seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 30.11.1999

S.No.	State/Union Territories	(In Lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32.04
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.15
3.	Assam	14.94
4.	Bihar	31.76
5.	Goa	1.07
6.	Gujarat	9.37
7.	Haryana	8.15
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8.62
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.63
10.	Karnataka	18.84
11.	Kerala	40.32
12.	Madhya Pradesh	26.32
13.	Maharashtra	41.85
14.	Manipur	3.84
15.	Meghalaya	0.37
16.	Mizoram	0.93
17.	Nagaland	0.36
18.	Orissa	9.84
19.	Punjab	5.56
20.	Rajasthan	8.51
21.	Sikkim*	
22.	Tamil Nadu	43.60
23.	Tripura	2.83

1	2	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	26.10
25.	West Bengal	56.43
26.	A & N Islands	0.27
27.	Chandigarh	1.05
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.04
29.	Delhi	9.56
30.	Daman & Diu	0.07
31.	Lakshadweep	0.10
32.	Pondicherry	1.17
Total		405.70

* No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.

N.B. - Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.

Statement-II

Employment provided through Employment Exchanges under technical category

(In thousands)

S.No.	State/Union Territories	1994	1995	1996
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.6	1.9	3.1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	@		
3.	Assam	0.1	0.2	0.4
4.	Bihar	0.5	0.1	0.2
5.	Goa	@	@	@
6.	Gujarat	2.1	2.1	2.8
7.	Haryana	0.9	1.1	1.7
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.5	0.4	0.9
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.1	@	0.1
10.	Karnataka	4.2	1.4	2.0
11.	Kerala	3.6	3.4	3.5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2.3	1.9	2.6
13.	Maharashtra	3.2	3.3	3.6
14.	Manipur	@	@	@
15.	Meghalaya	@	0.2	@
16.	Mizoram	@	@	@
17.	Nagaland	@	@	@
18.	Orissa	1.1	1.2	0.9
19.	Punjab	0.8	0.3	0.9
20.	Rajasthan	3.3	4.3	5.2
21.	Sikkim*			
22.	Tamil Nadu	3.0	2.4	2.8
23.	Tripura	@		@
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0.9	1.9	0.9

1	2	3	4	5
25.	West Bengal	0.5	1.1	0.9
26.	A & N Islands			
27.	Chandigarh	0.3	0.2	0.1
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli			
29.	Delhi	1.2	3.0	0.9
30.	Daman & Diu	@	@	@
31.	Lakshadweep			
32.	Pondichery	0.1	0.1	@
Total		34.3	30.5	33.6

* No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.

@ Less than fifty.

N.B. - Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.

[English]

Year of Old

*87. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

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

(a) whether the year 2000 has been declared as the year of old;

(b) whether the Government propose to bring any comprehensive pension and welfare scheme for the elders in this years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the number of such old persons in the country;

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

(f) the details of the financial burden likely to be on the Union Government and whether State Governments would be asked to share the burden proportionately?

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

(b) and (c) At present there is no proposal to bring any new pension or welfare scheme during the year.

(d) and (e) The 1991 Census collected information on the number of older persons. A Statement showing details is enclosed.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Persons aged 60+ by sex and residence, India, States and Union Territories, 1991

India/State/U.T.	Rural			Urban			Combined		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
India*	23,034,918	21,243,920	44,278,838	6,328,807	6,073,995	12,402,802	29,363,725	27,317,915	56,681,640
States									
Andhra Pradesh	1,793,240	1,773,480	3,566,720	444,866	499,343	944,209	2,238,106	2,272,823	4,510,929
Arunachal Pradesh	19,615	16,284	35,899	962	899	1,861	20,557	16,983	37,560
Assam	591,417	479,308	1,070,725	67,804	55,931	123,735	659,221	535,239	1,194,460
Bihar	2,646,247	2,204,960	4,851,207	305,633	251,789	557,422	2,951,880	2,456,749	5,408,629
Goa	22,571	30,106	52,677	132,166	16,664	29,830	35,737	46,770	82,507
Gujarat	892,267	959,535	1,851,802	380,980	405,021	786,001	1,273,247	1,364,556	2,637,803
Haryana	528,013	482,482	1,010,495	127,723	129,523	257,246	655,736	612,005	1,267,741
Himachal Pradesh	209,161	186,436	395,597	13,081	11,325	24,406	222,242	197,761	420,003
Karnataka	1,159,539	1,171,852	2,331,391	401,232	410,085	811,317	1,560,771	1,581,937	3,142,708
Kerala	896,777	1,010,813	1,907,590	294,085	365,690	659,775	1,190,862	1,376,503	2,567,365
Madhya Pradesh	1,811,783	1,758,514	3,570,297	417,874	401,031	818,905	2,229,657	2,159,545	4,389,202

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Maharashtra	1,878,021	1,941,320	3,819,341	852,108	838,679	1,690,787	2,730,129	2,779,999	5,510,128
Manipur	42,580	35,766	78,346	16,959	15,800	32,759	59,539	51,566	111,105
Meghalaya	36,812	29,064	65,876	6,562	6,304	12,866	43,374	35,368	78,742
Mizoram	9,876	9,072	18,948	7,137	7,101	14,238	17,013	16,173	33,186
Nagaland	34,683	24,901	59,584	2,733	1,460	4,193	37,416	26,361	63,777
Orissa	1,040,155	1,023,504	2,063,659	112,935	104,362	217,297	1,153,090	1,127,866	2,280,956
Punjab	666,370	549,009	1,215,379	203,313	171,367	374,680	869,683	720,376	1,590,059
Rajasthan	1,136,979	1,098,981	2,235,960	264,182	267,728	531,910	1,401,161	1,366,709	2,767,870
Sikkim	9,968	7,428	17,396	640	472	1,112	10,608	7,900	18,508
Tamil Nadu	1,507,208	1,350,538	2,857,746	656,549	647,524	1,304,073	2,163,757	1,998,062	4,161,819
Tripura	84,358	79,651	164,009	13,581	15,705	29,286	97,939	95,356	193,295
Uttar Pradesh	4,520,341	3,549,181	8,069,522	821,927	655,494	1,477,421	5,342,268	4,204,675	9,546,943
West Bengal	1,455,871	1,436,066	2,891,937	650,830	572,806	1,223,636	2,106,701	2,008,872	4,115,573
Union Territories									
A & N Islands	4,548	3,093	7,641	1,149	756	1,905	5,697	3,849	9,546
Chandigarh	1,254	841	2,095	14,308	11,948	26,256	15,562	12,789	28,351
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2,523	2,997	5,520	203	217	420	2,726	3,214	5,940
Daman & Diu	1,190	1,658	2,848	1,347	2,132	3,479	2,537	3,790	6,327
Delhi	20,798	16,736	37,534	216,171	185,815	401,986	236,969	202,551	439,520
Lakshadweep	534	513	1,047	855	737	1,592	1,389	1,250	2,639
Pondicherry	10,214	9,831	20,045	17,908	20,467	38,395	28,122	30,318	58,440

* Excludes figures of Jammu & Kashmir where census could not be conducted due to disturbed conditions.

Source: Office of the Registrar General, India.

Fall in prices of Pineapples

[Translation]

*88. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pineapple growing farmers are facing deep crisis due to steep fall in the price of pineapples in the country particularly in Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Agriculture Ministry has not received any intimation about steep fall in the price of pineapples from any part of the country including Kerala.

National Commission on Labour

*89. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted Second National Commission on Labour; and

(b) if so, the stipulated time within which the Commission is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. STYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have set up a National Commission on Labour on 15.10.1999 under the Chairmanship of Shri Ravindra Varma. The Commission will submit its report within 24 months i.e. by 15.10.2001.

*[English]***Production of Milk during Ninth Plan**

*90. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for milk production during the Ninth Plan;

(b) whether there is any proposal to abolish Milk and Milk Products Order 1992 to remove the existing constraints in the way of private sector participation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Indian branded products of milk are not being exported;

(e) if so, the main reasons therefor ; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the exports of Indian branded milk products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The proposed milk production target by the Ministry of Agriculture for the Ninth Plan period is set at 87.62 million tonnes.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Indian branded milk products are being exported, though the exports are not significant.

(f) The Government has taken the following steps for boosting the export of Indian branded milk products:

1. Decanalisation of export of milk powder, ghee and butter with effect from 29.9.1993.

2. Removal of quantitative ceiling on export of milk powder and ghee.

3. Financial assistance to exporters through APEDA for various developmental and promotional activities.

4. Notification of Standard for export of milk and milk products under the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963.

*[Translation]***Arrested Indian Computer Programmers**

*91. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated January 23, 2000 under the caption 'hard time for software folk' ;

(b) whether forty Indian nationals working at a U.S. Air Force base as computer programmers in San Antonio, Texas were arrested by the U.S. immigration agents on January 20, 2000;

(c) whether the officials of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service a federal Government agency also handcuffed and paraded each of these Indian nationals like common criminals;

(d) whether all of them have valid travel documents as well as H-1 Visas;

(e) whether the Government have lodged any protest with the U.S. Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the U.S Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) On January 20, 2000, 27 Indian computer professionals working at Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas were arrested and 12 others detained, for alleged violation of their employment terms under their HI-B visas, by working for a company other than the one listed on their labour certificates. They were released the next day after the company that hired them—Frontier Consulting, Inc. executed bonds for their release.

(c) It is learnt that some of the computer professionals were taken in handcuffs.

(d) Yes Sir. The employer M/s. Consulting Inc. has informed the Ambassador in Washington as well as the Consul General in Houston that the software professional had valid HI-B visas for employment in Texas.

(e) Ambassador of India in Washington lodged a strong protest with the State Department over the arrest and handcuffing of the Indian nationals by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) authorities in San Antonio

and demanded immediate explanation for the action. The matter was also taken up with INS authorities in Washington as well as with the District Director of Criminal Investigation of the INS in Texas.

(f) The Assistant Secretary of State Department expressed deep regret on behalf of the US Government at the way the Indian nationals were treated and assured the Ambassador they would be given a fair and humane treatment. He also expressed similar sentiments to representatives of the media in Washington. Subsequently, all charges against the computer programmers has been dropped by INS.

[English]

Pak's Involvement in Hijacking of Indian Plane

*92. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have clear evidence of Pakistan's involvement in hijacking of Indian Airlines IC 814 plane;

(b) whether the Pakistan Government has protested against India's evidence;

(c) whether the main motive of the hijacking of Indian plane was to internationalize the Kashmir issue;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Indian Government propose to release a white paper on Pakistan's involvement on various subversive activities and grave threat to India;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether India had sought extradition of these hijackers from Pakistan;

(h) if so, the response received from the Pak's Government, so far; and

(i) if not, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (i) Government are aware of the role of Pakistan and that of Pakistan-based terrorist organizations in the hijacking of IC-814. These terrorist organizations are actively assisted and supported by the Government of Pakistan. Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan and reminded it

of its obligations under various international conventions, to which Pakistan is party and under which it is obliged to extradite the hijackers of India for due judicial process. The Government of Pakistan has undertaken to apprehend and prosecute any person or persons found on the territory of Pakistan or Pakistan occupied Kashmir who may be suspected of having committed such offences. Given Pakistan's involvement in the hijacking, this commitment is of little value.

Pakistan pursues terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India as a matter of state policy. Government have appropriately and effectively brought to the notice of the international community, Pakistan's support to cross border terrorism of which the hijacking of IC-814 was one additional example. The international community now openly recognizes Pakistan's state-sponsorship of terrorism and the impact this has on the security of our country and the region. This greater awareness is being reflected in the international media coverage on Pakistan and in the statements by official spokesmen of several Governments.

Sale of Fake Passports and Visas

*93. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN:
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that fake passports and visas are being sold and purchased by anti-social elements in the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government to curb such practices in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) From time to time concerned agencies e.g. police, emigration checkpoints etc. detect cases of fake passports and visas.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Improvements in the security features of Indian passports and visa stickers to minimize tampering are undertaken on a continuing basis. The concerned law enforcement agencies also remain vigilant to curb such practices in the country.

Fishermen in Pak Jail

*94. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:
SHRI VAIKO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding the fishermen from Tamil Nadu who are presently languishing in Pakistan jail;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these fishermen were sent to Saudi Arabia and subsequently were taken into custody by Iranian authorities;

(d) if so, the details of the fact thereof;

(e) whether these fishermen were subsequently dumped in Pakistani territory by Iranian authority instead of either handing them over to India or Saudi Arabia;

(f) if so, whether the Indian Government have lodged any official protest with the Iranian Government;

(g) if so, the details thereof and the response received from that Government; and

(h) the action proposed to be initiated for immediate release of these fishermen and the time by which these fishermen are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (h) On receipt of information that 19 fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu were in Pakistan custody, Government raised the matter in July 1999 with the Government of Pakistan and demanded that they be released immediately so that they could be repatriated to India. It was also learnt that these fishermen had gone to Saudi Arabia but, while fishing, had strayed into Iranian territorial waters. They were taken into custody by Iran and later the Iranian authorities pushed them into Pakistan. This matter was also taken up with the Iranian authorities through diplomatic channels on several occasions. They have assured that such incidents would not occur in future.

After repeated reminders by Government, the Government of Pakistan acknowledged the presence in its custody of the 19 fishermen in September 1999. Consular access to these fishermen was provided only on 3 January 2000. Discussions for their release as well as for the release of other Indian fishermen continue through diplomatic channels.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Handicapped Persons

*95. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated or propose to formulate any special action plan for social, economic progress and rehabilitation of blind, deaf and dumb persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a plan to provide rehabilitation services to the door steps of the handicapped;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the states areas identified therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) In order to reach maximum number of disabled persons in the country, we have formulated several schemes specifically for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. There are four National Institutes and two apex level institutes providing manpower training as well as services for rehabilitation of person with disabilities. The schemes also include six Composite Regional Resource Centres in different parts of the country to provide services for different kinds of disabilities as outreach extension centres of the National Institutes in the disability sector which include services for blind, deaf and dumb person; four Regional Resource Centres for persons with spinal injuries and orthopaedic disabilities as a centrally sponsored scheme with centre and state share on 90:10 basis; four Auxiliary Production Centres of Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) for easy availability of quality aids and appliances. The Government has also set up a corporation namely National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation for economic development of the handicapped persons. In addition, the Government is providing grants to NGOs working in the field of rehabilitation of blind and speech and hearing impaired persons.

The Government is already running a District Rehabilitation Centre (DRC) scheme in 10 States to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services at the doorsteps of the handicapped. There are 11 DRCs located in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Maharashtra, M.P., Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal. A new four tier scheme namely National

Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities has been recently approved in the state sector in order to create infrastructure at State/Districts/Blocks and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped. In addition 104 districts have been identified for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services at the doorsteps of persons with disabilities. Services identified include setting up of composite fitment and rehabilitation centres in partnership venture between the National Institutes/Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India/District Rehabilitation Centre under the Central Government and District administration/State Government.

Population below Poverty Line

*96. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether 80 per cent of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the country are living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposed to take any special measures for the upliftment of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country and particularly those of Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No Sir. As per the latest estimates of poverty among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes reported by the Planning Commission, it is observed that among the Scheduled Caste 48.11% in rural areas and 49.48% in urban areas and among Scheduled Tribes 51.94% in rural areas and 41.14% in urban areas lived below the poverty line in 1993-94.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Special measures are being taken. A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

1. Special Component Plan (SCP)

The concept of Special Component Plan (SCP) was introduced in 1979 to achieve overall development of SCs and to raise them above the poverty line. Special

Component Plan is designed to channelise the flow of outlays and benefits from the general sectors in the plans of States/UTs and the Central Ministries, at least in proportion to the population of the SCs both in physical and financial terms. It is an umbrella programme under which all schemes implemented by State and Central Governments are dovetailed for addressing different needs of the Scheduled Castes. At present 24 States/UTs having sizable SC population are formulating Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes. As per guidelines flow to SCP out of total State plan outlays should not be less than proportion to SC population in the respective States.

The strategy of special component plan at the Central Government level involve participation of central government ministries/departments in formulating specific plans for the scheduled castes under Annual Plans of respective Ministries/Departments. 13 Ministries/Departments have formulated the special component plans. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment maintains close liaison with Central Ministries/Departments and impressed upon them the need to formulate and implement comprehensive Special Component Plan.

2. Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes

2.1 Under a Central Scheme introduced in 1979-80, Special Central Assistance (SCA) is to be extended to supplement efforts of the State/UTs for ensuring rapid socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes. It is an additive to the Special Component Plan (SCP) of the States/UTs and is intended to augment the efforts of the States for the economic development of SCs. The underlying objective of the SCA which is a central grant to the States/UTs is that is should be used to give an added thrust to the development programmes for SCs with reference to their occupational needs for increasing the productivity of and income from their limited assets by taking up family oriented schemes for them. It is used to fill the critical gaps and provide the Central Government a leverage in directing flow of funds in areas critical to the development needs of the SCs.

2.2 SCA is released to the States/UTs implementing SCP giving weightage to SC population of the States/UTs(40%), relative backwardness of the States/UTs(10%), percentage of SC families in the States/UTs covered by composite economic development programmes in the Plans to enable them to cross the poverty line (25%) and Special Component Plan to the Annual Plan as compared to the SC population percentage in the States/UTs(25%). 10% of the total budget allocation for the scheme will be earmarked for the North Eastern States which implement SCP for SCs.

3. *Economic Schemes*

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/ Programme	Objective	Allocation for the year 1999-2000 (Rs. in crores R.E.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
3.1	Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Special Component Plan for SCs	SCA is provided to States/UTs towards supplementing their efforts for economic development of SCs.	437.00
3.2	National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents (NSLRS)	To provide financial assistance for training and rehabilitation of scavengers in alternative occupations. States/UTs have been suggested to implement the scheme by adopting innovative concept of 'Sanitary Mats' by forming cooperatives of 20-25 scavengers.	70.00
3.3	Assistance to Scheduled Caste Development Corporations (SCDCs)	To participate in share equity of SCDCs to the extent of 49% which act as guarantors and promoters for credit support and provide for margin and subsidy to target groups.	20.00
3.4	National Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)	To finance income generating activities of SCs and STs living below double the poverty line. NSFDC extends financial assistance through State SC/ST Finance and Development Corporations.	30.00
3.5	National Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC)	To extend concessional financial assistance for income generating viable projects as an alternate employment for Safai Karmacharis.	20.00
3.6	Scheme of Grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations working for the Scheduled Castes	To improve the educational and Socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes through voluntary efforts.	30.00
4. <i>Educational Schemes</i>			
4.1	Post Matric Scholarship for SC and ST students	Financial assistance to SC/ST students for pursuing recognised post matriculation courses in recognised institutions.	135.00
4.2	Pre-Matric Scholarship to children of those engaged in unclean occupations.	Financial assistance to children of scavengers, sweepers having traditional link with scavenging, flayers and tanners for pursuing education upto matriculation level.	7.56
4.3	National Overseas Scholarship for SC, ST etc. students.	Financial assistance to meritorious selected students for pursuing studies abroad in specified fields in Engineering, Technology and Science at Masters, Ph.d. and Post Doctoral levels.	1.00
4.4	Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST students	To upgrade merit of SC/ST students through remedial and special coaching in class IX to XII.	1.50
4.5	Books for SC/ST students	To provide books to eligible SC and ST students pursuing Medical, Engineering, Agriculture, Polytechnics, Law Chartered Accountancy, M.B.A. and Bio-Sciences.	2.50
4.6	Coaching and Allied Scheme for SC/ST students	Free coaching facilities are provided to SC and ST students through Pre-Examination Training Centres, for competing in various competitive examinations for central services, banking recruitment and railway services etc.	4.00

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
4.7	Construction of Boys and Girls Hostels for SCs	To provide central assistance to States/UTs for construction of hostels for SC boys and girls.	20.50 Boys 12.00 (RE) Girls 8.50 (RE)
4.8	Special Educational Development Programme for SC girls belonging to very low literacy levels.	To provide a package of educational inputs through residential schools for SC girls in areas of very low SC female literacy	0.70
5. Social Schemes			
5.1	Implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.	To provide central assistance towards strengthening of administrative/enforcement and judicial machinery, publicity, relief and rehabilitation affected persons.	25.00

6. *National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes*

The National Commission of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was set up in March, 1992 under Article 338 of the Constitution to provide a high level independent body to monitor the safeguards provided for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and also to review and report on issues concerning them. The Commission is required to be consulted on major policy matters that affect scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Article 338, clause 5 of the Indian Constitution confers upon the Commission wide powers to protect, safeguard and promote the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Under clause 8 of the said article, in certain cases the Commission has been conferred the powers of a civil court trying a suit and has the powers to summon and enforce the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath, receiving evidence on affidavits etc. According to clause 6 of Article 338, reports along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations of the Commission are to be laid before each house of the Parliament. The Commission has so far submitted four Reports besides a Special Report. Of these, three reports with Action Taken Memoranda have been laid before the Parliament and the others are expected to be laid in this session.

7. *National Commission for Safai Karamcharis*

The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis was constituted on 12th August 1994 under the provision of the National Commission for Safai Karamchairs Act, 1993 to promote and safeguards the interests and rights of Safai Karamcharis. The National Commission has, *inter alia*, been empowered to investigate specific grievances as well as of matter relating to implementation of

programmes and schemes for welfare of Safai Karamchairs. The Commission has so far submitted two reports and they are expected to be laid before the Parliament along with the Action Taken Memoranda in this session.

8. *Others*

8.1 *Dr. Ambedkar Foundation*

The foundation established in March 1992 has been entrusted the responsibility to manage, administer and carry on important schemes and programmes identified during Centenary Celebration of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. These include Dr. Ambedkar National Public Library, Dr. Ambedkar Chairs in Universities/Institutions for research on the thoughts and ideals of Baba Saheb, Dr. Ambedkar National Award for Social Understanding and Upliftment of Weaker Sections, Dr. Ambedkar International Award for Social Change, Harmony, Equity, Justice and Human Dignity for the exploited and the under-privileged. Publication of the Collected Works of Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar in Hindi and other Indian languages, Putting up Memorial for Dr. Ambedkar at 26, Alipur Road, Delhi, Various General Activities like organizing seminars, conferences, workshops, exhibitions and melas on Dr. Ambedkar, his life and mission.

8.2 *Convention of SC/ST Members of Parliament held on 5-7 December 1999*

The Drafting Committee constituted during the conference made 20 specific recommendations concerning various aspects of development of SCs and STs. These recommendations require action to be taken by concerned Ministries and Departments of Government of India as well as by States/UTs which have been addressed to take necessary action on these recommendations.

Welfare Schemes for Tribals

9. Tribal Sub Plan

The tribal Sub Plan (TSP) approach, adopted from the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan in 1974-75, has a two pronged strategy namely (i) promotion of development activities to raise the level of living standard of Scheduled Tribes and (ii) protection of their interest through legal and administrative support. The Tribal Sub Plan strategy applies to 18 States and 2 UTs where the Tribals are in a minority, but inhabit deprived areas where they constitute a sizable population. The TSP strategy is being implemented through 194 Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP), 259 Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) and 82 Clusters. The TSP has been an important element in the Governments strategy for the development and welfare of Scheduled Tribes.

10. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan

Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan is given to 20 Tribal Sub Plan States and UTs by the Government of India to supplement their efforts for tribal development. The Scheme of SCA to TSP was introduced in the Fifth Five Year Plan. Family oriented income generating schemes while giving adequate weightage to infrastructure incidental to such schemes are undertaken out of Special Central Assistance. The utilisation of funds under the scheme has been quite satisfactory. This is actually the only scheme under which ST families are assisted to cross the poverty line through gainful employment. Achievements in respect of utilisation of funds in some of the States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are not upto the expectation.

During the first two years of the Ninth Plan the utilisation of SCA was Rs. 329.61 crores in 1997-98 as against the allocation of 330 crores and Rs. 380 crores as against the provision of Rs. 380 crore during 1998-99 the allocation for 1999-2000 is Rs. 400 crores.

Schemes for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes

11. Educational Schemes

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/ Programme	Objective	Allocation for the year 1999-2000 (Rs. in crores R.E.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
11.1	Construction of Boys and Girls Hostels for STs	To provide central assistance to States/UTs for construction of Hostels for both ST Boys and Girls.	24.00 Boys - 12.00 Girls - 12.00
11.2	Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas	To provide educational facilities to the ST students through residential schools.	15.00
11.3	Educational Complex in low literacy pockets for development of women literacy in tribal areas.	The scheme covers 136 districts in the country, which had less than 10% literacy among ST women as per 1991 census. The objectives of the scheme are to improve education among these communities.	6.75
11.4	Vocational Training Centres	The primary objective of the scheme is to develop the scheme is to develop the skills of the tribal youth to help them in getting employment/self-employment opportunities.	9.75
11.5	Grant-in-aid to voluntary Organisations for the welfare of STs	The scheme covers a wide spectrum of activities including setting up of residential/non-residential schools, hostels, training on computer, shorthand & Typewriting training, setting up of libraries etc.	20.00

12. *Economic Schemes*

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/ Programme	Objective	Allocation for the year 1999-2000 (Rs. in crores R.E.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
12.1	Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)	SCA is provided to States/UTs for supplementing their efforts for economic development of the STs.	400.00
12.2	Assistance to Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation and others	To participate in Share equity of STDCs. Forest Development Corporation & Minor forest produce Federations to take up minor forest produce operations. Grant is given on 100% basis so that the States can utilise the same for strengthening the share capital base of TDCs, construction of scientific ware houses, establishing, processing, research & evaluation activities of the Corporation.	15.00
12.3	Price Support to Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED)	To ensure remunerative prices to tribal farmers for their produce due to unforeseen contingencies & losses due to price fluctuations.	5.00
12.4	Investment in the share capital of Tribal Corporation Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED)	The objective is to provide Marketing assistance and remunerative prices to ST communities for their minor forest produce (MEP) and surplus agricultural produce (SAP) and also to wean them away from exploitative tribal traders and middleman.	0.25
12.5	Grant under first proviso to Article 275(I) of the Constitution	Grants are provided to the State Governments for raising the level of administrative scheduled areas.	100.00
12.6	Schemes of Village Grain Bank	The objective is to prevent deaths of children in remote and backward tribal areas, which have been identified by the Central Planning Committee by providing safeguards against fall in national standards. One time grant for purchase of grains @ 1 quintal per family of tribals, storage facilities and purchase of weights/scales. The TRIFEDE is the channelising agency.	1.00
12.7	Development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)	100% assistance is given to Integrated Tribal Development projects, Tribal Research Institute & Non-governmental organisations for undertaking activities like generation of awareness, confidence building, training for the skill development of Tribal Youths Organisations existing scheme for the development and welfare of Primitive Tribal Groups.	10.00

13. *Social Schemes*

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/ Programme	Objective	Allocation for the year 1999-2000 (Rs. in crores R.E.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
13.1	Research and Training	Grants are provided to 14 Tribal Research Institutes. (TRIs) set up by the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerela, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Manipur, which conduct Research and evaluation activities apart from conducting training, seminar, workshops etc. The scheme also provides Research Fellowships annually to such students/scholars who intend to conduct research on various aspects of Tribal Development.	4.00

14. *Statement showing Central Assistance released to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for the development of Scheduled Castes*

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	(Rs. in lakhs)		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
14.1	Special Central Assistance to SCP	1922.45	2237.08	2321.45
14.2	Assistance to State/UT SCDC	25.47	4.77	--
14.3	National SC & ST Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)	--	--	--
14.4	National Safai Karamcharis Development Corp.	--	228.60	--
14.5	National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependants	2451.00	NIL	NIL
14.6	Post-Matric Scholarship for SC/ST	NIL	NIL	193.85
14.7	Pre-Matric Scholarship for children of those engaged in unclean occupation	9.73	90.22	86.05
14.8	Construction of Hostels for SC girls and boys	849.49	574.53	537.17
14.9	Book Banks for SC/ST	31.39	NIL	NIL
14.10	Coaching & Allied Scheme for SC/ST	43.12	82.94	66.09
14.11	Aid to Voluntary Organisations for the Welfare for Scheduled Castes	39.72	55.81	40.98
14.12	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989	500.85	682.06	732.96
14.13	Special Educational Development Programme for SC girls belonging to Very low literacy levels	6.08	315.22	17.01
14.14	Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST	21.45	55.74	39.15

15. Statement showing Central Assistance released to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for the development of Scheduled Tribes

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	(Rs. in lakhs)		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
15.1	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan	9207.83	9476.17	6472.72
15.2	Grants under first proviso of Article 275(1) of the Constitution	1262.50	2125.00	500.64
15.3	Assistance to Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation and Others	200.00	255.00	--
15.4	Educational Complex in low literacy pockets for development of women literacy in Tribal Areas	50.20	39.57	55.48
15.5	Vocational Training Centres	--	109.50	16.85
15.6	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes NGOs	8.88	22.23	32.50
15.7	Research and Training	49.96	49.39	2.61
15.8	Construction of Girls Hostels	--	100.00	--
15.9	Construction of Boys Hostels	--	100.00	--
15.10	Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas	--	100.21	--
15.11	Development of Primitive Tribal Groups	--	100.00	--

[English]

Post Bid Negotiations

*97. SHRI RAM SAGAR RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has taken a decision to stop all post-bid negotiations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether post-bid negotiations are being continued in the Government department, hospitals and Government sponsored co-operative institutions;

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

(e) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) vide its instructions dated 18th November, 1998, has banned post tender negotiations except with the L1 (lowest tenderer). Subsequently, on the references received from some of the organisations following clarifications were issued by CVC on 15.3.1999:

(i) The ban on the post tender negotiations would not affect the policy of the Government of India for purchase preference for public sector.

(ii) However the use of public sector as a shield or conduit for getting costly inputs or for improper purchases should be avoided.

- (iii) Where the quantity to be ordered is much more than L1 alone can supply, the quantity order in such cases might be distributed in such a manner that the purchase is done in a fair, transparent and equitable manner.
- (iv) Besides clarifying to individual institutions approaching Commission, the CVC vide communication dated 1st October, 1999 further clarified that its instructions would not be applicable to the World Bank Project and other international funding agencies such as IMF, ADB etc. However, the instructions will apply if purchases/sales are made by the departments within the country. The instructions will also apply if purchases are made with sources outside the country and if they are within the budget provisions and normal operations of the Departments/Organisations.

(c) to (e) The information is not centrally maintained.

Pak's Nuclear Threat to India

*98. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the Statement made by Pakistan's Military Chief Parvez Musharraf in an interview with CNN sometime in the first week of January 2000, holding out a nuclear threat to India;

(b) whether the Indian Government have brought this fact to the notice of nuclear big powers of the world;

(c) if so, the response received by the Government from these countries; and

(d) the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir, the reported interview has been noted.

(b) to (d) In our interaction with other countries, Government continue to highlight Pakistan's lack of restraint

on nuclear issues, which was also reflected in certain irresponsible statements made by Pakistan during the Kargil conflict. This is in contrast to India's stand of commitment to 'no-first-use' and 'minimum deterrence'. India's stand has been appreciated by the international community. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security in accordance with its own assessment of threats to our security.

[Translation]

Production of Agricultural Crops

*99. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any information is available with the Government regarding the maximum and minimum per acre production of wheat, rice, sugarcane, cotton, pulses and oilseeds in the country for the last three years;

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

(c) whether any possibility has been explored by the Government to reduce the huge gap between the maximum and the minimum rate of production per acre;

(d) if so, the extent to which the said gap is likely to be reduced by the Union Government;

(e) whether any future plan has been formulated by the Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) The maximum and minimum yield rates of wheat, rice, sugarcane, cotton, pulses and oilseeds in the country during the last three years are given as under:

(Yield rate in kg/hectare)

Crop	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wheat	4234 (Punjab)	771 (Karnataka)	3853 (Punjab)	473 (Karnataka)	4332 (Punjab)	819 (Karnataka)
Rice	3397 (Punjab)	993 (Orissa)	3465 (Punjab)	634 (Madhya Pradesh)	3443 (Tamil Nadu)	1013 (Madhya Pradesh)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sugarcane	99841 (Tamil Nadu)	39142 (Madhya Pradesh)	106731 (Tamil Nadu)	38574 (Madhya Pradesh)	134156 (Tamil Nadu)	39303 (Madhya Pradesh)	
Cotton	441 (Punjab)	139 (Madhya Pradesh)	356 (Gujarat)	95 (Maharashtra)	416 (Gujarat)	110 (Uttar Pradesh)	
Pulses	927 (Uttar Pradesh)	325 (Himachal Pradesh)	888 (Haryana)	330 (Andhra Pradesh)	835 (Uttar Pradesh)	357 (Orissa)	
Oilseeds	1478 (Haryana)	412 (Orissa)	1476 (Tamil Nadu)	452 (Orissa)	1579 (Tamil Nadu)	460 (Orissa)	

The State-wise/year-wise details of yield rates are given in enclosed Statements I to VI.

(c) and (d) For reducing disparities in yield rates, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System area, National Pulses Development Project, Intensive Cotton Development Programme and Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System. Under these programmes/projects, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and improved farm implements. In addition, field demonstration on farmers' holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Reduction of gap between maximum and minimum yield rates is largely dependent on agro-climatic factors, farm size, timely use of high quality inputs, development and adoption of package of improved practices besides level of investment and it is not possible to precisely state the extent to which the gaps can be reduced.

(e) and (f) Under the National Agenda for Governance, the Government has set priorities for doubling food production in next ten years, adopting originally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources. These strategies will go a long way to increase production and productivity levels in the country.

Statement - I

Productivity of wheat in major wheat producing States during 1996-97 to 1998-99

Yield : Kg./Hectares

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
Assam	1332	1300	1010
Bihar	2183	2337	1992

	1	2	3	4
Gujarat		2299	2373	2427
Haryana		3880	3660	3916
Himachal Pradesh		1487	1700	1700
Jammu & Kashmir		1671	1620	1530
Karnataka		<u>771</u>	<u>473</u>	<u>819</u>
Madhya Pradesh		1801	1573	1794
Maharashtra		1460	898	1289
Punjab		4234	3853	4332
Rajasthan		2741	2501	2487
Uttar Pradesh		2668	2495	2510
West Bengal		2390	2206	2117
All India		2679	2485	2583

Note: Bold figures indicate maximum and underlined figures indicate minimum yield rates.

Statement - II

Productivity of rice in major rice producing States during 1996-97 to 1998-99

Yield : Kg./Hectares

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	2601	2431	2781
Assam	1336	1359	1345
Bihar	1437	1395	1301
Gujarat	1474	1550	1633
Haryana	2964	2800	2239
Himachal Pradesh	1329	1397	1423
Jammu & Kashmir	1567	1992	2179

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	2364	2374	2529
Kerala	1958	1975	1891
Madhya Pradesh	1101	<u>834</u>	<u>1013</u>
Maharashtra	1789	1621	1664
Orissa	<u>993</u>	1380	1212
Punjab	3397	3465	3152
Rajasthan	1184	1164	1223
Tamil Nadu	2671	3050	3443
Uttar Pradesh	2121	2148	1958
West Bengal	2179	2243	2255
All India	1882	1900	1928

Note: Bold figures indicate maximum and underlined figures indicate minimum yield rates.

Statement - III

Productivity of Sugarcane in major Sugarcane producing States during 1996-97 to 1998-99

Yield : Kg./Hectares			
State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	75414	72607	78038
Assam	41513	41134	39987
Bihar	45081	45925	48547
Gujarat	68783	81735	69110
Haryana	55679	53169	55040
Karnataka	82859	91455	91199
Kerala	92898	92898	72571
Madhya Pradesh	<u>39142</u>	<u>38574</u>	<u>39303</u>
Maharashtra	80986	83042	88998
Orissa	56685	61176	65897
Punjab	63815	56746	59515
Rajasthan	48322	49944	47712
Tamil Nadu	99841	106731	134156
Uttar Pradesh	59390	65115	59019
West Bengal	72703	70764	74420
All India	66496	71134	72560

Note: Bold figures indicate maximum and underlined figures indicate minimum yield rates.

Statement - IV

Productivity of Cotton in major Cotton producing States during 1996-97 to 1998-99

Yield : Kg./Hectares			
State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	315	248	198
Gujarat	304	356	416
Haryana	393	301	255
Karnataka	237	246	239
Kerala	279	291	276
Madhya Pradesh	<u>139</u>	168	145
Maharashtra	173	<u>95</u>	139
Orissa	327	278	293
Punjab	441	220	180
Rajasthan	354	229	230
Tamil Nadu	222	267	301
Uttar Pradesh	159	157	<u>110</u>
All India	265	208	223

Note: Bold figures indicate maximum and underlined figures indicate minimum yield rates.

Statement - V

Productivity of Pulses in major Pulses producing States during 1996-97 to 1998-99

Yield : Kg./Hectares			
State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	519	<u>330</u>	487
Assam	572	547	545
Bihar	801	731	764
Gujarat	721	685	735
Haryana	827	888	827
Himachal Pradesh	<u>325</u>	361	366
Jammu & Kashmir	543	564	575
Karnataka	407	295	398
Kerala	716	798	788
Madhya Pradesh	705	655	709
Maharashtra	613	364	644
Orissa	343	364	<u>357</u>

1	2	3	4
Punjab	821	683	654
Rajasthan	491	600	526
Tamil Nadu	400	413	463
Uttar Pradesh	927	830	835
West Bengal	741	688	621
All India	635	567	622

Note: Bold figures indicate maximum and underlined figures indicate minimum yield rates.

Statement - VI

Productivity of Oilseeds in major Oilseeds producing States during 1996-97 to 1998-99

Yield : Kg./Hectares

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	803	548	827
Arunachal Pradesh	946	954	968
Assam	512	549	474
Bihar	660	737	699
Gujarat	1340	1312	1308
Haryana	1478	712	1279
Jammu & Kashmir	681	680	677
Karnataka	674	551	702
Kerala	615	692	738
Madhya Pradesh	855	917	912
Maharashtra	891	646	991
Orissa	412	452	460
Punjab	1322	1129	1193
Rajasthan	909	746	886
Tamil Nadu	1438	1476	1579
Uttar Pradesh	876	581	710
West Bengal	839	761	778
All India	926	816	944

Note: Bold figures indicate maximum and underlined figures indicate minimum yield rates.

[English]

Pension of Unorganised Sector

*100. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Parallel Pension scheme for unorganized sector mooted" appearing in *Economic Times* dated January 18, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the other recommendations made by the Dave Committee and Government's reaction thereon; and

(d) the time by which all the recommendations are likely to come into force?

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

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment commissioned a national project for Old Age Social and Income Security (OASIS) and nominated an 8 member expert committee to examine policy questions connected with old age income security in India and submit its recommendations to the Government. The need for such a study was felt on account of the increasing number of aged and the fact that the formal system of old age pension and security covered only about 11% of the working population. The Committee submitted its final report to the Government on 11.1.2000. The Report recommends the measures, which can help every worker to build up enough savings during his/her working life which could serve as a shield against poverty during their old age. The recommendations have a twin focus of further improving existing pension provisions and to devise a fresh pension plan for excluded workers. These recommendations of the report are being examined by the Government.

(d) The recommendations are presently under active consideration of Government and it is difficult to indicate an time frame.

Recommendation of Abid Hussain Committee

887. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the major recommendation of Abid Hussain Committee is Small Scale Industries;

(b) the number of recommendations implemented/to be implemented;

(c) whether the Government propose to dereserve more items in the small scale industry sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for dereserving these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The major recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee, *inter alia*, include enactment of a separate law for small enterprises, inclusion of service enterprises in the SSI fold, enhancement of investment limit for SSI units, promotion of technology development, further streamlining of the credit delivery systems and dereservation of items reserved for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector. The recommendations have been broadly accepted barring a few such as, enhancement of investment limit to Rs. 30 million and abolition of SSI reservation.

(c) and (d) The issue of reservation/dereservation of items for exclusive manufacture in the SSI sector is examined on a continual basis by the Advisory Committee on Reservation, which has been specifically constituted for this purpose under the provisions of the Industrial (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. Addition/deletion/change in nomenclature of items in the reservation list is made from time to time based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

Development of Khadi Industries

888. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce any Special Scheme for the development of Khadi industries in the country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT

OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir .

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Employment Exchanges for Women

889. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of women seeking jobs through employment exchange is increasing;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to open separate Employment Exchanges for women;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not , the reasons therefor ; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to provide jobs to the women particularly those registered with Employment Exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) There is no significant increase in the number of women job seekers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal to set up separate Employment Exchanges for women as the existing system is felt sufficient to take care of women job-seekers.

(f) The primary objective of the Ninth Plan is to generate greater productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive in region characterised by higher rate of unemployment and under employment. The Ninth Plan recognised the high incidence of unemployment and increasing casualisation of labour and adopted a National Employment Assurance Scheme. All these steps will also benefit women job-seekers.

Facilities /Employment to Handicapped Persons

890. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of handicapped persons residing in the country from 1.1.97 to 31.1.2000, State-wise;
- (b) facilities provided to these handicapped persons;
- (c) the persons who are considered to be handicapped and the definition of a handicapped person;
- (d) the number of handicapped persons provided with employment during the aforesaid period, year-wise;
- (e) the procedure to be adopted by these persons to register their names;
- (f) the number of handicapped persons likely to be provided with employment during the period from 2000 to 2002, year-wise;
- (g) whether the Government and concerned Department have received complaints that handicapped persons have to pay bribe for getting employment or loans from banks or registering themselves in Employment Exchanges;
- (h) if so, the number of complaints received during the said period; and
- (i) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) conducted National Sample Survey 47th Round: July-December, 1991 to collect information on the number of persons with disabilities. Based on sample survey, approximately 5% of the population is estimated to be suffering from some kind of disability.

(b) A number of concessions/facilities have been provided to persons with disabilities, such as, conveyance allowance, reservation in Government jobs, age relaxation, scholarship, petrol subsidy, concession for travel by rail, income tax concession, concessional loans from Public Sector Banks, etc.

(c) The definitions of various disabilities have been given in Section 2 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

(d) The number of placements effected by Special Employment Exchanges from inception till December, 1997; number of persons rehabilitated in Vocational Rehabilitation Centres from inception till December, 1998; and number of placements effected by Employment Exchanges in respect of persons with disabilities during 1996 and 1997 are given in enclosed Statements I to III.

(e) The procedure prescribed from time to time by the Directorate General of Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour for registration in Employment Exchanges is required to be followed by all who are desirous to get themselves registered including those with disabilities.

(f) No information on such projections is available.

(g) and (h) No such complaint has been received.

(i) Does not arise.

Statement - I

No. of Placements effected by the Special Employment Exchanges during the period from inception till 31.12.1997

S.No.	Special Employment Exchanges	Year. of Inception	Placement
1	Bombay	1959	6399
2	Delhi	1961	5175
3	Madras	1962	11047
4	Hyderabad	1962	3696
5	Calcutta	1963	2826
6	Ahmedabad	1963	6341
7	Bangalore	1963	3878
8	Ludhiana	1964	2706
9	Kanpur	1965	1336
10	Trivandrum	1970	4138
11	Jabalpur	1971	1277
12	Patna	1974	658
13	Jaipur	1975	1107
14	Chandigarh		
15	Bhubaneswar	1976	304
16	Shimla	1977	
17	Guwahati	1979	
18	Agartala	1979	163
19	Rajkot	1981	1139
20	Surat	1981	798
21	Baroda	1981	1380
22	Imphal	1982	28
23	Vishakhapatnam	1987	166
24	Mysore	1986	70
25	Kozhi Kode	1986	40
26	Kollam	1986	24
27	Ajmer	1997	6
28	Alwar	1997	10
29	Gorakhpur	1997	-
30	Aligarh	1997	13
31	Allahabad	1997	-
32	Agra	1997	1
33	Varanasi	1997	1
	Total		54526

Statement - II

Number of persons rehabilitated by the vocational rehabilitation centres from inception till December, 1998

Name of V.R.C.	Total
Agartala	1076
Ahmedabad	8963
Bangalore	6038
Bhubaneshwar	6583
Calcutta	8465
Chennai	9563
Delhi	6843
Guwahati	3507
Hyderabad	12182
Jabalpur	6340
Jaipur	2780
Kanpur	9015
Ludhiana	6912
Mumbai	11436
Patna	861
Thiruvananthapuram	8057
Vadodara	880
Total	109301

Statement-III

Number of placement effected by the Employment Exchanges in respect of physically handicapped persons during 1996 & 1997

S. No.	State/Union Territories	Number placed during	
		1996	1997
1	2	3	4
States			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	304	433
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
3.	Assam	5	12
4.	Bihar	4	4
5.	Goa	10	54
6.	Gujarat	346	456
7.	Haryana	128	83

1	2	3	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	46	26
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-
10.	Karnataka	372	547
11.	Kerala	737	650
12.	Madhya Pradesh	106	144
13.	Maharashtra	369	450
14.	Manipur	19	3
15.	Meghalaya	1	3
16.	Mizoram	-	-
17.	Nagaland	-	-
18.	Orissa	130	140
19.	Punjab	59	81
20.	Rajasthan	197	223
21.	Sikkim*		
22.	Tamil Nadu	912	894
23.	Tripura	1	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	70	70
25.	West Bengal	76	54
Union Territories			
26.	A & N Islands	-	-
27.	Chandigarh	7	11
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-
29.	Delhi	54	22
30.	Daman & Diu	-	-
31.	Lakshadweep	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	-	-
Total		3859	4450

Note: *No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.

Processing of Vegetables and Fruits

891. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal is under consideration of the Government for processing of vegetables and fruits in view of a large scale production of vegetable and fruits in the country;

(b) whether the farmers are forced to sell peas and tomatoes at cheaper rates in view of their excess production;

(c) if so, whether the production of vegetables and fruits can be increased by establishing agriculture based industry; and

(d) whether any plan has been formulated to provide remunerative price to farmers for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) The Department of Food Processing Industries provides support to facilitate overall growth of food processing sector including fruit & vegetable processing. Under its Plan schemes, the Department provides concessional finance to food processing industries. Besides, other agencies like National Horticultural Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) also provide assistance under their respective schemes. This sector has also been included as a priority sector for providing loan by Financial Institutions.

(b) There is no report from any State Government that farmers are forced to sell peas and tomatoes at cheaper rates due to excess production of these horticultural crops.

(c) There is lot of potential for increasing production of processed fruits and vegetables by establishing Agro-processing industries. Processing of fruits and vegetables is estimated to have gone up from less than 0.5% of the total production prior to 1988 to approximately 1.8% in 1997.

(d) Government of India is implementing a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for horticultural crops on specific request of concerned State Governments. The Scheme envisages procurement of pre-determined quantity of produce at an agreed price for a specific period to arrest downward trend of prices and to assure remunerative prices to the growers. NAFED is the Central Nodal Agency for procurement under Market Intervention Scheme. The losses if any, are shared on 50:50 basis between the Central & State Governments.

[English]

Remote-Sensing Satellite Programme

892. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost-benefit study of the remote-sensing satellite programme has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, time by which the study is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various studies have been carried out to assess the cost and benefits of remote sensing satellite programme. The use of the information derived from remote sensing in support of various developmental activities and derived societal benefit in watershed management, landuse planning, water resources utilisation, irrigation management, coastal management, command area development, urban development, disaster management support etc. has been amply proven in various projects/programmes undertaken in the country. Specific surveys done to qualify the societal benefits accruing from the use of remote sensing data has shown improvements in the natural resources conservation at the watershed level in various areas, specifically increase in ground water availability, double-cropping practices, optimization of landuse etc. It has also been estimated that the cost of the remote sensing data usage is about 3-5% in any overall developmental project cost. Further, the information generation capability of remote sensing, mainly through the various national mapping missions carried out, has been measured by comparing costs with conventional capabilities. The savings in cost attributable to the use of remote sensing data is estimated to be more than about Rs. 500 Crores. In a separate study undertaken by the Consideration of Indian Industry (CII), it is estimated that the potential benefit that could accrue to society by the proper use of remote sensing satellites in estimating crop acreage, irrigation management, watershed development, landuse change analysis forestry management and large scale mapping would not only cover the cost of the remote sensing programme but more than pay for the entire national space effort.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Contract Labourers

893. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of contract labourers in Government and Semi-Government in Delhi;

(b) the number of those labourers and their categories;

(c) the rules, service conditions for these contract labourers, the details of their salary, dearness allowances, leaves and other facilities being provided to them;

(d) whether the Government propose the abolish contract system on account of resentment of contract labour system in the country; and

(e) if so, the manner in which and the time by which it is likely to be abolished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (e) In central sphere, in Delhi, 70 licences were issued to contractors during the year 1998 and the number of contract labour covered by these licences was 7921. However, such data about the contract labour engaged in State sphere is not maintained centrally.

The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Central Rules, 1971 provides that the rates of wages payable to the workmen of the contractor shall not be less than the rates prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for such employment where applicable and where the rates have been fixed by agreement, settlement or award, not less than the rates so fixed. In case, where the workman employed by the contractor performs the same or similar kind of work as the workmen directly employed by the principal employer of the establishment, the wage rates, holidays hours of work and other conditions of service of the workmen of the contractor shall be the same as applicable to the workmen directly employed by the principal employer of the establishment on the same or similar kind of work. In other cases, the wage rates, holidays, hours of work and conditions of service of the workmen of the contractor shall be such as may be specified in this behalf by the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central).

The 'appropriate Government' is authorised, after consultation with the Central Board or State Board, as the case may be, to prohibit, employment of contract labour in any process, operation or other work in any establishment. The application seeking prohibition of contract labour in any job/process/work in any establishment is referred to the Board for examination and appropriate recommendation, in the context of the requirements as prescribed in Sub-section (2) of Section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. On recommendation of the Board, the 'appropriate Government' can consider the question for prohibition of contract labour system in those jobs. Thus, this is a continuing process.

[English]

Guidelines for Employment Assistance

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

(a) whether there is any policy or guidelines regarding employment assistance to the persons of Indian Origin coming from various countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the number of persons who have availed of this assistance during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The Guidelines regarding employment assistance to the persons of Indian Origin are governed by a "Resolution" of the Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms, Government of India, dated March, 1977 amended subsequently on 19th June, 1978.

(b) Persons of Indian origin who have migrated from Pakistan, Burma, Sri Lanka, East African countries of Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania (formerly Tanganyika and Zanzibar), Zambia, Malawi, Zaire, Ethiopia and Vietnam with the intention of permanently settling in India, are eligible for appointment to any Central Government post provided such candidates shall be persons in whose favour a certificate of eligibility has been issued by the Government of India.

(c) As different recruitment agencies are involved in making recruitments, such information is not maintained.

Information To CBI through Website

895. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the advertisement appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated January 30, 2000 inviting attention of the general public to seek their cooperation in providing specific information of corrupt public servants of the Central Government/Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the detail response of the public to the advertisement; and

(c) the reasons for CBI is not soliciting information about traders or suppliers at large and registered with Kendriya Bhandar, NCCF and Super Bazar as also the employees working in those agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The advertisement was released by the CBI to seek information on corrupt public servants of the Central Government and its Public Sector Undertakings.

(b) 10 e-mail messages from general public containing information of corruption in some Central Government Departments/Public Sector Undertakings have been received at the CBI Website till 23.2.2000.

(c) The advertisement seeks information on corrupt public servants of all Central Government Departments/ Public Sector Undertakings and therefore, covers corrupt practices in collusion with traders/suppliers by employees of any such Department/ Public Sector Undertaking.

[Translation]

Stabilization Fund

896. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Bihar Government for increasing the amount so allotted under Agricultural Loan Stabilization Fund Scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) No proposal from the Government of Bihar for increasing the amount of allocation under Agricultural Credit Stabilization Fund Scheme has been received so far. However, a proposal amounting to Rs. 21.60 crore for the release of central assistance under the scheme has been received from the Government of Bihar in the current financial year. The funds will be released after scrutinizing the proposal.

[English]

Immigration Law by Germany

897. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Germany has brought into force its new immigration law on the first day of new millennium;

(b) if so, the details of the changes brought in this law;

(c) the number of Indian likely to be eligible for German national after this law; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) A new Citizenship Law came into force in Germany on 1 January, 2000.

(b) The new Citizenship Law provides for citizenship by birth with certain conditions. The period of legal residence required for being eligible for naturalisation has been reduced from 15 years to 8 years. Additional criteria have been introduced which have to be fulfilled for naturalisation. The new law also has a provision for limited dual nationality.

(c) Nearly all the estimated 34,000 Indians, legally resident in Germany, are expected to be covered by the provisions of the new Citizenship law.

(d) The new Citizenship Law is an internal matter of Germany.

Non-Payment of Salaries

898. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees of Hindustan Steel works Construction Limited (HSCL) have not been paid their salaries for the last one year or so;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to release their salaries at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A Financial Restructuring-cum-Financial-Assistance Package has been approved for Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) in July, 1999. It is expected that with the implementation of this package, the financial health of the company will improve.

Khadi and Village Industry Commission

899. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages in the country where people have been engaged by the Khadi and Village Industry Commission in the village industries, along with the people engaged therein State-wise;

(b) the details of the village industries/institutions which have been registered;

(c) the details of villages wherein KVIC is making production, alongwith the details of workers employed;

(d) whether there is any programme under the consideration of Government with regard to expansion of such industries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) In 2.61 lakh village of the country, 58.29 lakh people have been engaged in Khadi and Village Industries. The State-wise break-up of employment in Khadi and Village Industries in the country is given in enclosed Statement - I.

(b) The details of registered Khadi and Village Industries/Institutions are given in enclosed Statement - II.

(c) All the 2.61 lakh villages covered under KVI programmes are engaged in production. The details of workers engaged in Khadi and Village Industries is as per Statement-I.

(d) No, Sir. The KVIC encourages setting up of all industries except for a small negative list.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement - I

State-wise Employment - 1998-99

S. No.	States/Union Territories	(No. in lakhs)		
		Khadi	Village Industry	Total
<i>I. States</i>				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.33	3.26	3.59
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	*	*	*
3.	Assam	0.27	0.98	1.25
4.	Bihar	2.54	1.26	3.80
5.	Goa	0	0.05	0.05
6.	Gujarat	0.46	0.55	1.01
7.	Haryana	0.52	0.39	0.91
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.14	0.69	0.83

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.35	0.88	1.23
10.	Karnataka	0.46	1.96	2.42
11.	Kerala	0.15	1.93	2.08
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.14	1.15	1.29
13.	Maharashtra	0.18	4.47	4.65
14.	Manipur	*	0.42	0.42
15.	Meghalaya	*	0.11	0.11
16.	Mizoram	0	0.15	0.15
17.	Nagaland	*	0.19	0.19
18.	Orissa	0.03	1.95	1.98
19.	Punjab	0.77	0.96	1.73
20.	Rajasthan	1.04	3.29	4.33
21.	Sikkim	*	0.06	0.06
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.62	10.54	11.16
23.	Tripura	0	0.23	0.23
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5.18	5.33	10.51
25.	West Bengal	0.63	3.42	4.05
Total-I		13.81	44.22	58.03

II. Union Territories

26.	A & N Islands	0	*	*
27.	Chandigarh	0	0.03	0.03
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
30.	Delhi	0.03	0.15	0.18
31.	Lakshadweep	0	*	*
32.	Pondicherry	0.01	0.04	0.05
Total II		0.04	0.22	0.26
Grand Total- I + II		13.38	44.44	58.29

*Less than 500.

Statement - II**State-wise Registered Institutions as on 31.3.1999**

S.No.	State & Union Territories	No. of Registered Institutions
1.	Andhra Pradesh	284
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2
3.	Assam	35
4.	Bihar	86
5.	Goa	21
6.	Gujarat	35
7.	Haryana	362
8.	Himachal Pradesh	60
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	22
10.	Karnataka	312
11.	Kerala	38
12.	Madhya Pradesh	135
13.	Maharashtra	967
14.	Manipur	17
15.	Meghalaya	1
16.	Mizoram	-
17.	Nagaland	5
18.	Orissa	77
19.	Punjab	152
20.	Rajasthan	110
21.	Sikkim	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	131
23.	Tripura	5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2098
25.	West Bengal	183
26.	A & N Islands	-
27.	Chandigarh	-
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-
29.	Daman & Diu	-
30.	Delhi	10
31.	Lakshadweep	-
32.	Pondicherry	1
Total		5149

Utilisation of Funds

900. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Member of Parliament from Punjab sent any complaint regarding not utilising funds properly provided by the Union Government and some other external bodies for promotion irrigation facilities in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Pesticides

901. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of brands of pesticides which have been banned in other countries are in use in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any research has been made during the last three years to assess their harmful impact ; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Some pesticides which have been banned/restricted in other countries, are in use in india. List of such pesticides is enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) Three of these pesticides namely Carbosulfan, Fenpropathrin and Linuron are registered during last three years for use in India by Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968 only after evaluating various data generated globally on their harmful impacts. There is a process of continuous evaluation of these pesticides by Expert Committees. Eleven pesticides were got evaluated by an Expert Committee earlier and on their recommendation, the Government has banned two hazardous pesticide formulations viz. Methomyl 12.5%L and Phosphamidon 85% SL with effect from 26.3.2000 and allowed continuous use of nine pesticides. The recommendations of another Expert Committee for continuance or otherwise of the remaining twenty-six pesticides in the country, as given in the enclosed Statement, is under consideration.

Statement

List of Pesticides which have been banned/severely restricted in some countries but are being used in India

Sl. No.	Pesticide
* 1.	Alachlor
2.	Aldicarb
3.	Aluminium Phosphide
* 4.	Benomyl
5.	Captafol
6.	Captan
7.	Carbaryl
8.	Carbofuran
9.	Carbosfan
10.	Chlorobenzilate
11.	DDT
12.	Dicofol
13.	Dieldrin
14.	Dimethoate
* 15.	Diuron
16.	EDB (Ethylene Dibromide)
17.	Endosulfan
* 18.	Fenarimol
19.	Fenpropathrin
20.	Lindane
21.	Linuron
22.	Malathion
23.	Maleic Hydrazide
24.	MEMC
25.	Mothomyl
26.	Methyl Parathion
* 27.	Monocrotophos
* 28.	Oxyflourfen
29.	Paraquat Dichloride
30.	Phorate
31.	Phosphamidon
32.	Pretilachlor
33.	Sodium Cyanide
* 34.	Thiometon
35.	Thiram

Sl. No.	Pesticide
* 36.	Triazophos
37.	Tridemorph
38.	Trichloroacetic acid
39.	Zinc Phosphide
* 40.	Ziram

*Continuous use allowed.

Small Scale Industries in Arunachal Pradesh

902. SHRI JARBOM GAMLIN : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any special scheme to promote small scale industries in the country particularly in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated for the purpose during the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The developmental programmes of the Ministry are common throughout the country and are implemented through organisation like the SIDO, NISC, SIDBI, the PPDCs.

In order to boost the growth of the small scale sector in the North Eastern Region, including Arunachal Pradesh, the following extra benefits have been introduced :

(i) The IID Centres become tax-free zones for purpose of income tax and excise duty for a period of 10 years.

(ii) An interest subsidy of 3% on the working capital loans is provided for a period of 10 years after the commencement of production.

(iii) Comprehensive Insurance Scheme for industrial units set up after 24.12.1997 has been put in place.

(iv) Under the Capital Investment Scheme, subsidy @ 15% of the investment in plant and machinery subject to a ceiling of Rs. 30.00 lakhs is available.

(v) Transport Subsidy Scheme has been extended by 7 years upto 31.3.2007. The amount is disbursed through the North-East Development Finance Corporation.

(vi) A Tool Rom & Training Centre is being set up at Guwahati at a total cost of Rs. 13.28 crores.

(vii) An Entrepreneur Development Institute at Guwahati has been set up to cater to the needs of North-East Region.

(viii) Relaxation of age and income limit for eligibility under the PMRY Scheme has been given for the north-eastern states.

(c) In the Ninth Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 4304 crores has been allocated by the Union Government for development of the small scale and cottage industries sector in the country. Funds are allocated Scheme/ Programme-wise and not State-wise.

[Translation]

Policy to Promote Food Processing Industries

903. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to promote setting up of food processing industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of food processing industries which have received assistance from the Union Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) The task of formulating an exclusive national policy on food processing industries is under way at the preliminary stage. However, the policy initiatives already taken by the Government to promote the growth of processed food sector in the country include the following:

(i) Automatic approval for foreign equity up to 100% is available for most of the processed food items.

(ii) Food processing industries have been included in the list of priority sector for bank lending.

(iii) Most of the processed food items have been exempted from the purview of licensing under Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951.

(iv) Excise and Custom Duties for food processing items have been rationalized.

(v) Close interaction with Nodal Agencies of the State Government is maintained.

Under the Plan Schemes of the Department of Food Processing Industries, financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant is provided to private Industries, Public Sector Undertakings, Non-Governmental Organisations, Cooperatives, Human Resource Development Organisations and Research & Development Institutions etc., for the development of processed food sector. These schemes are project-oriented and not State specific. The Department does not set up any unit directly in any State

(c) During the period 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (till February), financial assistance has been extended to 316 units, which is in addition to the assistance provided for Research & Development, Quality Control Facilities and Seminars/Workshops etc.

[English]

Upgradation of Ispat Hospital

904. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to upgrade the Ispat Hospital Rourkela by setting up a Medical College there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Expansion of Tarapur Atomic Power Plant

905. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the units-III and IV of Tarapur Atomic Power Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the displaced persons, caused by expansion of unit-III and IV have been rehabilitated/compensated adequately;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the measures taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) At Tarapur, TAPS -1&2 (2x160 MWe) have been in operation since 1969. Presently, 2x500 MWe project (TAPP-3&4) is under construction at the same site adjacent to TAPS-1&2.

(c) to (e) For setting up of TAPP-3&4, about 206 Ha. of land is required. Out of this about 160 Ha. is private land in two villages (Akkarpatti and Popharan) and balance is Government land. Rehabilitation of 1167 families in Akkarpatti and Popharan is involved and so far no family has been displaced. Government of India/NPCIL is ready to provide necessary funds for payment of compensation and for the rehabilitation packages approved by Government of Maharashtra.

Industrial Disputes Act

906. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of industrial units closed down during 1997-98 and 1998-99 without giving notice to the Government of India under the Industrial Disputes Act; and

(b) the total number of industrial units which have given notice to the Government under the said Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) No case has been brought to the notice of the Government on closure of industrial units in the Central Sphere during 1997-98 and 1998-99 without applying for permission under the Industrial Disputes Act.

(b) The total number of Industrial units in the Central Sphere which have given notice to the Government for closure under the Industrial Disputes Act during 1997-98 and 1998-99 are as under:

Year	No. of Industrial Units
1997-98	12
1998-99	07

Mite Infestation

907. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of strong chemicals to combat mite infestation in coconut plantations is causing damage to the accompanying plantation crops like pepper, arecanut, coffee etc.;

(b) whether the ICAR or other concerned research bodies have studied the whole problem and the best ways to use pesticides without causing damage to the agronomy ; and

(c) if so, the specific steps taken by the Government to involve research institutions to attend to the problem of damage to coconut plantations by wrongful use of pesticides like Dycophol, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Chemicals, like monocrotophos, triazophos, and dicofol are effective against coconut mites. Though dicofol is effective, presence of 0.1% DDT (an organochlorine compound) in dicofol may lead to accumulation of DDT in the ecosystem. Hence, dicofol is recommended only in continuous plantations and its use is discouraged in places where mixed cropping is followed.

(b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Kerala Agricultural University have conducted residual analysis of the chemicals used in management of mites. A safe waiting period of 45 days is recommended to be followed after application of pesticides to harvest the nuts.

(c) As an alternative to chemical pesticides Central Plantation Crops Research Institute and State Agricultural Universities have recommended spraying of eco friendly plant products like neem formulations containing 0.1% Azadirachtin, Wettable sulfur, an eco friendly acaricide, has also been recommended.

On biological control of coconut mites an entomofungal pathogen, *Hirsutella thompsoni* has been isolated from mite colonies and is being evaluated for its pathogenicity.

ICAR has sanctioned a project under National Agricultural Technology Programme to be implemented by five agencies at an outlay of 145 lakhs to intensify research on eriophyid mite with special emphasis on eco friendly control measure.

*[Translation]***Food Processing Industries**

908. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to promote the setting up of food processing industries in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of food processing industries provided assistance during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) The task of formulating an exclusive national policy on food processing industries is under way at the preliminary stage. However, the policy initiatives already taken by the Government to promote the growth of processed food sector in the country include the following:

(i) Automatic approval for foreign equity up to 100% is available for most of the processed food items.

(ii) Food processing industries have been included in the list of priority sector for bank lending.

(iii) Most of the processed food items have been exempted from the purview of licensing under Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1915.

(iv) Excise and Custom Duties for food processing items have been rationalized.

(v) Close interaction with Nodal Agencies of the State Government is maintained.

Under the Plan Schemes of the Department of Food Processing Industries, financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant is provided to private industries, Public Sector Undertakings, Non-Governmental Organisations, Cooperatives, Human Resource Development Organisations and Research & Development Institutions etc., for the development of processed food sector. These schemes are project-oriented and not State specific. The Department does not set up any unit directly in any State.

(c) During the period 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (till February), financial assistance has been extended to 316 units, which is in addition to the assistance provided for Research & Development, Quality Control Facilities and Seminars/Workshops etc.

*[English]***Minority Status to Hindus**

909. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commission for minorities wanted the Hindus to be given Minority status in States like Kashmir;

(b) if so, the reasons for not including Hindus in minority list in some of the North Eastern States where too they are in minority; and

(c) the number of States where the Government had disbanded the Minority Commission and the reasons thereof?

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

(b) The question as to who constitutes a minority is *sub-judice* under a Writ Petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The further action on provision of minority status will be taken based on the decision of the Supreme Court.

(c) (i) The Maharashtra State Minorities Commission was established through a State Government Resolution of 17th February, 1992 with a tenure of 3 years for its Chairman/Members. Through a subsequent Government Resolution issued in June, 1995 the Government of Maharashtra did not reconstitute the State Minority Commission on the ground that as per its policy all citizens are equal and there should not be any discrimination of Minority-Majority. By virtue of this resolution of June, 1995, State Minority Commission was not reconstituted subsequently.

(ii) The Government of Uttar Pradesh amended the Uttar Pradesh Commission for Minorities Act, 1994 to reduce the tenure of Chairman and Members of the Commission from 3 years to one year which came into effect from 10.5.99. This was also applied to the then existing Commission, which had already completed one year of their tenure. The Government of U.P. have not reconstituted the Commission since then.

Labour Laws

910. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need for change in the Indian Labour laws to remove deficiencies;

(b) if so, whether the exploitation of labour in every field is increasing; and

(c) if so, the strategy or plans formulated by the Government to make the various labour laws more effective to check exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) Review/update of Labour Laws is a continuous process and amendments/fresh legislation are made depending on the results of the review. The Government have also recently set up the Second National Commission on Labour which would comprehensively review the Labour Laws to ensure both consistency of Labour Laws with the general changes taking place in the economic policy and also to provide for greater welfare to the working class.

Haj Pilgrims

911. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Haj pilgrims failed to perform the pilgrimage as their applications were rejected at the last moment;

(b) if so, the reasons for rejection of their applications; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to accommodate all the applicants for the Haj pilgrimage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) No application for Haj pilgrimage is rejected by the State Haj Committees unless received after the last date for submission. In order to accommodate more Haj pilgrims Government of India persuaded the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to increase India's quota for Haj-2000 from 91,000 to 120,000 pilgrims. Further, for Haj-2000 Government has increased Central Haj Committee's quota from 66,000 to 72,000 in order to accommodate the excess number of applications received from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Delhi.

Prisoners of War in the Jails

912. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJI BHAI CHAUDHRI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of prisoners of war including the Kargil war are still languishing in Pakistani jails;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this issue with Pakistan Government for their release; and

(d) if so, the response of Pakistan Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) According to available information, 45 Indian Prisoners of War (POWs) are believed to be in the custody of Pakistan. Pakistan has consistently maintained that no Indian POWs are in its custody. The matter has been taken up on several occasions with Pakistan at various levels including that of Prime Minister. During his visit to Pakistan from 20-21 February, 1999, Prime Minister raised this issue with the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the two sides appointed a 2 member committee at Ministerial level to examine humanitarian issues, including that of the missing POWs. The matter was also raised at the official level discussions held with Pakistan on March 5-6, 1999. The Pakistani side stated that there were no Indian POWs in its custody, but agreed to re-examine the matter afresh. Government will continue to purposefully pursue this matter with Pakistan.

Cotton Output

913. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the output of cotton for the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and to the extent to which it is likely to be more than that of the previous year;

(c) whether any plan has been drawn up to ensure full utilisation of additional output;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure good remuneration to the cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to advance estimates, the production of cotton during 1999-2000 is likely to be 121.3 millions bales of 170 kg each. Against this, the production during 1998-99 was 121.8 million bales. Thus, the production of cotton during the current year is expected to be marginally less than that of last year.

(c) to (e) Cotton is covered under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme. While finalising MSP, various aspects like the cost of production, the input-

output price parity, trends in market prices, inter crop price parity, international market price situation etc. are taken into consideration, so as to ensure remunerative prices. However, a watch is also kept on the demand and supply situation of cotton so as to take necessary remedial measures to prevent any imbalance between the two.

RBI's directives for Small Scale Industry Sector

914. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to boost the ailing Small Scale Sector by bringing about certain amendments in the regulations relating to the Reserve Bank of India's directives for the SSI sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government also propose to bring a comprehensive bill during the current Budget Session in this regard;

(c) whether the performance of Small Scale Sector is still lagging behind; and

(d) if so, the extent to which these initiatives are likely to help improving the Small Scale Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. The Small Scale Sector has recorded higher growth rates as compared to the industrial sector as a whole during the last three years.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Quota Restrictions

915. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Scale Industries will not be able to survive when India will be totally free from the Quota Restrictions (QRs) after April, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government contemplate to tackle such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The small scale industries in India have enough competitive strengths to withstand the impact of the phasing out of quantitative restrictions beyond April 2001. The Government is, however, laying specific emphasis on areas such as WTO sensitization, technology development, IT applications, standard and quality control, modern managerial practices and business-to-business cooperation at the domestic and international level for making our small enterprises globally competitive.

[Translation]

Pension Facilities

916. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of many Government instrumentalities are deprived of pension facilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Government does not deny pensionary facilities to any instrumentality including autonomous/statutory bodies and institutions. These instrumentalities, with the approval of the competent authority, can make their own rules including pension rules or adopt the rules of the Central Government or adopt the same with amendments as may be permissible within the legal framework governing such instrumentalities.

[English]

Decline in Gross Domestic Products

917. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to decline in the production of agricultural products, there has been decline in the gross domestic products as compared to that of the previous year in Northern States;

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

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir. According to the estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation, there is no decline in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) either at the overall level or in the Agriculture & Allied Sector comprising Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, during the year 1999-2000 as compared to the previous year. The overall GDP *vis-a-vis* the contribution of Agriculture & Allied Sector for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 at 1993-94 prices is given below:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	GDP Gross	Value Addition From Agriculture & Allied Sector
1998-99	1081834	290181
1999-2000	1145436	292643

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

E-mail Facility to Small Scale Industries

918. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide E-mail facility to small scale units in District Industrial Centres in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise particularly in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) the time by which the facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Government has launched a comprehensive web site 'laghu-udyog.com' for providing online information services to small enterprises. The web

site, *inter-alia*, contains e-mail facility for users to send their queries to the Small Industries Development Organisation. With a view to promoting the use of IT applications, including that by small enterprises, Government has permitted private Internet Service Providers (ISP) to extend internet facilities, including e-mail facilities to all categories of users, including small scale units, throughout the country. As a result of this, today there are several ISPs who are extending e-mail and other internet facilities at highly competitive and affordable rates, which could be availed of by small enterprises, including those in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Jobs through KVIC

919. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP :
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any specific plan through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission for creation of job opportunities for rural workers in the States particularly in Manipur during the years 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to create more jobs through Khadi and Village Industries Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) since 1995-96 in the entire country to create additional job opportunities. For the North Eastern Region, Margin Money is provided @ 30% as against 25% for the rest of the country for projects upto Rs. 10.00 lakhs. The beneficiary contribution required is 5% in the North East. Government and KVIC monitor the scheme regularly for effective implementation.

*[Translation]***CBI Cases**

920. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
DR. SUHSIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of corruption have been registered against various public servants by the Central Bureau of Investigation during 1997, 1998 and 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the culprits have been punished on the basis of the judgements given by the courts in these cases; and

(d) if so, the number of cases disposed of, persons acquitted and found guilty, the number of cases lying pending alongwith their duration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) During the last three years i.e. 1997, 1998, & 1999, the CBI registered 2565 cases of corruption against various public servants. Out of these, charge sheets have been filed in 688 cases and the remaining 1897 cases are still investigation. The various details of the cases in which chargesheets have been filed are as under:

	YEAR		
	1997	1998	1999
No. of cases in which charge-sheet filed	327	239	102
No. of cases disposed of from trial	17	13	-
No. of cases ended in conviction	10	12	-
No. of cases ended in acquittal	7	1	-
No. of cases pending trial	310	226	102

In all the cases pending investigation from the date of their respective registration, the law will take its course.

*[English]***Loans for Development under Central Wakf Council Fund**

921. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission for Backward Classes have sought more powers to monitor ongoing schemes for the benefit of backward classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the fresh initiatives taken/proposed by the Government for socio-ecomic emancipation and uplift of backward classes all over the country and action plan for 2000-2001, State-wise in general and Maharashtra in particular; and

(d) the details of current year review of schemes implemented for backward classes in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was constituted as per provision under the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993. As per provision under section 9(1) of the Act, the Commission is to examine requests for inclusion of any class of citizens as a backward class in the list and hear complaints of over inclusion or under inclusion of any backward class in such list and tender such advice to the Central Government, as it deems appropriate. The NCBC has not approached the Government for monitoring the schemes for welfare of Backward classes, on the ground that there is no nodal agency to coordinate and monitor various programmes implemented for welfare of the backward classes. As per the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 as amended, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the nodal Ministry for overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes of development for other Backward Classes. This Ministry Coordinates and monitors implementation of all schemes and programmes for welfare of the Other Backward Classes in consultation with the State Governments.

The Ministry is implementing the following schemes for welfare of the backward classes since 1998-99.

- (1) Scheme for Pre Examination Coaching for OBCs
- (2) Scheme for Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls
- (3) Scheme for Pre-Matric Scholarships for OBCs
- (4) Scheme for Post Matric Scholarships for OBCs for studies in India.
- (5) Scheme for Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Welfare of OBCs.

An amount of Rs. 103.03 crores has been provided for implementation of these schemes during 2000-01. Assistance under the schemes are extended to the State Government / NGO(s) on submission of complete proposals as required under the schemes.

Besides, the Nations Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) is extending institutional finance at concessional rate to the member of the backward classes through the state channelising agencies. Rs. 28.6 crores has been disbursed by the NBCFDC to Maharashtra so far.

[Translation]

Inhuman Treatment to Prisoners

922. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the inhuman treatment being meted out to the Indian prisoners kept behind bars in Pakistani jails;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have lodged any protest with Pakistan Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Pakistan Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails have complained to Government of ill treatment and lack of basic amenities. Government have, through the High Commission of India in Islamabad, at the time of consular access, taken up these complaints with the competent Pakistani authorities and have demanded that necessary corrective steps be taken to address these complaints. However until now there does not seem to be any improvement in the situation of Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails.

Digging of Tubewells

923. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the first phase of digging of tubewell scheme was implemented in Bihar with the assistance of World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the targeted tubewells of the first phase have not completed so far ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to complete all the remaining tubewells of the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Bihar Public Tubewells Project was implemented with World Bank assistance during April, 1987 to May, 1994 for installation of new tubewells, modernisation and rehabilitation of existing tubewells. Due to financial constraints faced by the Government of Bihar, against a target of installation of 500 new tubewells, modernisation of 1500 tubewells and rehabilitation of 3212 tubewells, the achievement was 89,1244 and 3197 tubewells respectively.

(d) The Government of Bihar has availed loan assistance under Rural Infrastructural Development Fund (RIDF) Phase-I Programme of NABARD for completing the balance works which are planned for completion by March, 2000.

[English]

Development Package for Bihar

924. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SMT. KANTI SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has announced a development package of Rs. 26000 crore for Bihar in a public meeting on December 24, 1999;

(b) if so, the details of the development programmes chalked out in this regard;

(c) whether any time bound action plan has been formulated for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) No Sir. Prime Minister has not announced any such development package of Rs. 26000 crore for Bihar on December 24, 1999.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

MPLADS

925. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first instalment of the amount under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme has been released during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to release the fund under the said scheme expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) The first instalment of the MPLADS funds for the current year viz. 1999-2000 has been released in all eligible cases, where the unsanctioned balance has been reported to be less than Rs. 50 lakhs by the concerned DC. The weekly statement of release of funds is sent to Parliament Library and the information is also available in internet at URL www.nic.in/dpi.

(c) MPLADS funds are released on receipt of an expenditure statement showing an unsanctioned balance of less than Rs. 50 lakhs. For this purpose, a proforma has already been circulated to all District Collectors. The District Collectors have also been advised to sanction all the works recommended by MPs as per their entitlement of funds without waiting for the receipt of funds from this Ministry and to send a report in the prescribed format so that funds may be released to the fullest extent. The MPs have also been requested to give recommendations for sufficient works to the concerned Collector for optimum utilisation of MPLADS funds as per their entitlement.

[English]

Trail against Hijackers

926. SHRI R.L. BHATIA :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the *Tribune* dated January 10, 2000 under the caption "Pak trained ultras active worldwide;

(b) whether Maulana Masood Azhar, who is Pakistani Muslim cleric freed by India in return for hostages has vowed to recruit half a million men to fight Indian rule in Kashmir;

(c) whether the Pakistan Government has stated that the hijackers would be tried as per international law;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to curb the activities of Pakistan militant in Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have seen reports about the hostile propagandist statements against India made by leaders of Pakistani terrorist organizations.

(c) and (d) Government have raised the matter of the hijacking with the Government of Pakistan and provided evidence to them of the involvement of their nationals in the hijacking. Available evidence with Government strongly points towards the presence of the hijackers in Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan, in its response, has reiterated its general position that it would undertake to apprehend and prosecute any person or persons found on its territory or the territory of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir who may be suspected of having committed such offences related to hijacking. As they have at the same time rejected the evidence provided to them by Government, Pakistan's general commitment has to be assessed accordingly.

(e) Government remain firm in their resolve to combat terrorism and continue to take all necessary steps to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Officials in CVC Net

927. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names along with the details of IAS, IPS and other senior bureaucrats found involved in corruption and holding wealth disproportionate to the known sources of income;

(b) the action taken/proposed to be taken against them as recommended by CVC; and

(c) the details of officers against whom corruption charges were registered during the last three years, the number of officers out of them against whom disciplinary action was taken and thereafter the nature of punishment inflicted upon them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AD PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The Central Vigilance Commission has displayed on its web site 83 cases of IAS officers against whom it had recommended criminal/major penalty action for corruption. Out of the 83 cases against IAS officers, 11 cases, pertain to possession of assets disproportionate to known sources of income. Out of the 11 cases, sanction for prosecution has been accorded in ten cases. The list of bureaucrats belonging to certain other services have also been put up on the Commission's web site. The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions is the cadre controlling authority in respect of the Indian Administrative Service and the Central Secretariat Service (Gr. I and above) only. This information in respect of the other services is not centrally maintained in this Ministry.

With regard to the Officers' of Indian Administrative Service, the power to deal with the case of corruption against a Member of the Service also vests with the respective State Governments in connection with whose affairs the member of the service is serving for the time being. Thus the Central Government as well as the State Governments as the case may be, are competent to take action against an officer belonging to Indian Administrative Service. Information in respect of State Governments is not centrally maintained or monitored.

During the last three years, sanction for prosecution for various offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 has been granted by the Central Government against IAS officers including those working in connection with the affairs of various State Governments, in 27 cases. Against 6 IAS officers, major penalty proceedings have also been initiated for the misconduct committed while serving in connection with the affairs of the Central Government. In 10 departmental cases against IAS officers, penalties have been imposed by the Department of Personnel & Training in the last three years.

Global Terrorism

928. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI SURESH KURUP :
SHRI BHIM DAHAL :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and United States have set up a Joint Working Group to consider ways and means to counter international terrorism;

(b) whether this proposal is an outcome of several high level talks between the two sides and the understanding reached between India and US;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which both the countries will contemplate inter-check terrorism;

(e) whether the first meeting of Indo-US Joint Working Group on counter-terrorism held in Washington in February, 2000;

(f) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcome thereof ; and

(g) the measures considered by both the countries to check the global terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. India and the United States announced the constitution of a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism at the conclusion of the last round of Indo-US Security Dialogue, held in London on January 18-19, 2000.

(b) and (c) The two countries agreed to institutionalise their co-operation to combat terrorism following extensive consultations on this issue. Officials from the two countries met in Washington on September 2-3, 1999 and in Delhi on September 17, 1999 to share information and assessment on the threat of terrorism and the means to counter it. The issue of terrorism was also discussed extensively during the talks in London on November 17-18, 1999 and January 18-19, 2000 when the two sides met to continue their ongoing dialogue on security, non-proliferation, disarmament and related issues.

(d) to (f) The first meeting of the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism took place in Washington D.C. on February 7-8, 2000. The two sides expressed concern at the growing menace of international terrorism extremism, and drug trafficking. The two sides unequivocally condemned all acts, methods, and practices of terrorism regardless of the motives that may be invoked to justify them. The two sides agreed to discuss specific measures for implementing the U.S. offer of Anti-terrorism Assistance Programmes. The group also decided to convene a meeting of each side's legal experts in April to discuss the Indian-proposed UN Terrorism Convention.

The two sides agreed to intensify their joint cooperation to ensure that the perpetrators of the hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight 814 are brought to justice, as part of their joint efforts to combat international terrorism.

(g) The two countries agreed also to enhance co-operation to combat international terrorism and as part of this process, the two sides would share experience, exchange information, and co-ordinate approaches and action.

Sickness in Small Scale Sector

929. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing sickness in the small scale sector;

(b) if so, the steps taken to identify these sick units;

(c) the steps taken to revive these units;

(d) whether the Government propose to announce any rehabilitation package in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government is fully seized of the incidence of industrial sickness amongst SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries, which *inter-alia*, includes institutional mechanism in the form of State Level Inter Institutional Committee, special rehabilitation cells in banks and State financial institutions and, elaborate guidelines issued by RBI for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units.

Pending Irrigation Projects

930. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of irrigation projects worth more than 10 crore rupees and were prepared during the Eighth Five Year Plan period but could not be implemented, so far, due to financial constraints;

(b) whether these projects are likely to be undertaken during the current Five Year Plan period;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement these projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) Project reports of 47 major/medium irrigation projects costing more than Rs. 10 crores were submitted during the Eighth Plan by various State Governments to Centre for appraisal. Of these, works on 20 projects have already been undertaken by the States.

(c) and (d) Irrigation being a State subject, the irrigation projects are investigated, planned, executed, and funded by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their priorities.

[Translation]

Weapons with Hijackers at Kandahar Airport

931. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of weapons with the hijackers increased after its landing at Kandahar airport;

(b) whether the code messages of the hijackers have been recorded outside the plane by India;

(c) if so, the details of sources through which hijackers received weapons in Kandahar and the persons from whom they were getting instructions through code messages thereof ;

(d) whether any investigations have been made in this regard;

(e) if so the details thereof;

(f) the action taken or being taken by the Government for the prosecution against the hijackers who were released and launch campaign to arrest them as per the international laws and treaties; and

(g) whether the Government have investigated to ascertain the country along with the location in which hijackers/released dreaded terrorists are taking shelter ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. The debriefing of the released crew and passengers of the hijacked aircraft has revealed that the weapons available with the hijackers increased in both quantity and quality after the aircraft reached Kandahar. It was also clear to our officials in Kandahar that the hijackers were communicating with the controllers outside the aircraft.

The terrorists whose release from Indian custody was secured by the hijackers have reportedly since made their appearances in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. With regards to the hijackers themselves there are grounds to believe that the hijackers are currently in Pakistan. All aspects of the hijacking are being investigated by the CBI.

Facts regarding Pakistan's complicity in the hijacking of IC 814 have been brought to the international community through the relevant international fora. Government have also taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan and reminded it of its obligations under various international conventions, to which Pakistan is party, and under which Pakistan is obliged to extradite the hijackers to India for due judicial process.

The International Civil Aviation Organization has also been provided with the details of the hijacking and has been requested to follow up the matter with Pakistan with respect to the apprehension and extradition of the hijackers and their accomplices.

[English]

Production of Wheat

932. CH. TEJVEER SINGH :
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and achievement made for the production of wheat during each for the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to increase the area of land under the production of wheat for the year 1999-2000;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the Central assistance proposed to be provided for the production of wheat to the State particularly in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) The National Targets for production of wheat fixed by this Ministry during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 were 65.0 million tonnes, 68.5 million tonnes and 70.0 million tonnes, respectively. A Statement indicating the break-up of State-wise targets and achievements made during last three years is enclosed.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Area under wheat crop is governed by favourable climatic behaviour particularly late rains received in the end of September or early October. During last four years the area under wheat has shown an increasing trend which is as follows:

Year	Area (Million ha.)
1995-96	25.01
1996-97	25.89
1997-98	26.70
1998-99	27.40

(d) For increasing the production and productivity of wheat in the country, Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems areas are being implemented in the country. The State of Bihar is covered under Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice). Besides this, in order to bring larger coverage of area under high yielding varieties and adoption of improved Crop Production Technology, a Central Sector Scheme of Wheat Minikit Demonstration Programme is also being implemented in all wheat growing States including Bihar.

Statement

Target fixed and achievement made for the production of wheat during each of the last three years

S.No.	State/UT	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.01	0.090	0.01	0.060	0.06	0.069
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.10	0.061	0.10	0.057	0.08	0.044

(Lakh tonnes)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	1.00	1.171	1.00	1.101	1.20	0.905
4.	Bihar	44.00	45.607	45.00	48.487	47.50	41.808
5.	Gujarat	12.00	13.360	11.50	16.470	13.50	17.026
6.	Haryana	73.50	78.260	77.00	75.540	79.00	85.680
7.	Himachal Pradesh	5.50	5.310	6.00	6.413	6.00	6.414
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.50	4.126	4.00	3.965	4.50	3.650
9.	Karnataka	1.50	1.903	2.00	1.185	2.20	2.199
10.	Madhya Pradesh	71.00	77.932	75.00	72.202	76.00	83.442
11.	Maharashtra	11.10	11.670	12.50	6.710	12.50	13.085
12.	Meghalaya	0.06	0.069	0.06	0.069	0.06	0.069
13.	Nagaland	0.01	0.025	0.01	0.030	0.01	0.094
14.	Orissa	10.50	0.066	1.00	0.66	1.00	0.044
15.	Punjab	135.50	136.720	136.00	127.150	137.0	144.600
16.	Rajasthan	56.40	67.820	62.00	67.010	65.50	68.798
17.	Sikkim	0.20	0.148	0.20	0.140	0.20	0.064
18.	Tamil Nadu	-	Neg.	-	0.001	-	Neg.
19.	Tripura	0.07	0.039	0.10	0.044	0.05	0.021
20.	Uttar Pradesh	225.50	240.496	242.02	228.339	244.64	231.695
21.	West Bengal	7.45	8.390	8.00	8.105	8.50	7.781
22.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	Neg.	-	0.012	0.003	0.003
23.	Delhi	1.10	0.239	1.50	0.294	0.50	0.294
All India		650.00	693.502	685.00	663.450	700.003	707.785

Workers of Organised and Unorganised Sector

933. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Conference of State Labour Ministers was recently held at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed;

(c) the details of major policy decisions taken on problems concerning workers in organised and unorganised sector particularly agricultural workers; and

(d) the action taken to eradicate bonded labour system prevailing in some parts of rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A State Labour Ministers' Conference was held on 18.1.2000 in New Delhi to discuss the draft legislation for agricultural workers.

(c) The proposal for a central legislation for the welfare of agricultural workers is being re-examined on the basis of the views/comments received in the said Conference.

(d) The bonded labour system has been abolished throughout the country w.e.f. 25.10.1975 under Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance, 1975 subsequently replaced by an Act of Parliament. The Act is being implemented by the State Governments. The Government has issued detailed guidelines to the State Governments

for effective implementation of the Act. With a view to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in rehabilitating the released bonded labourers, the Ministry of Labour is operating a Centrally Sponsored Scheme since 1978 under which financial assistance upto the ceiling limit of Rs. 10,000/- is given for the rehabilitation of each released bonded labourer.

Development of Information Technology

934. SHRI BHIM DAHAL :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost information technology during the Millennium year at National/State levels;

(b) whether the Government propose to give infrastructure status to this sector;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received proposals from State Government to open Information Technology Institute for advance computer and communication technology at the National level;

(e) if so, the areas identified therefor; and

(f) the time by which such institutes are likely to be opened and made operational in the country State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Telecommunication as backbone for IT sector already enjoys the status of infrastructure. The Software Technology Parks have also been given the status of infrastructure for the purpose of investment and corporate tax.

(d) to (f) Government has received proposals from State Governments to provide assistance for setting up of Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITs). The Government through funding from the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has so far set up an Indian Institute of Technology and Management in Gwalior in 1996 and at Allahabad in 1999. State Government of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have also set up a IIIT at Hyderabad and Bangalore respectively.

Statement

Initiatives taken for the growth of Information Technology (IT)

The Government of India has set up the Ministry of Information Technology on 15.10.1999 to facilitate all initiatives in the IT sector including Internet, e-commerce, IT education and IT based education.

2. The Government has accepted the first report of the National IT Task Force outlining 108 recommendations of the IT Action Plan. These recommendations suggest measures and policies covering a wide spectrum of issues relating to telecommunication, finance, banking, revenue, commerce, electronics, HRD, defence and rural development to enable India to emerge as an Information Technology super power within the next ten years. A target of software export of US\$ 50 billion by the year 2008 has been set. The Task Force has also recommended a goal of "IT for All" by 2008 in India. The second and third report of the Task Force address the issues and strategy for development of hardware industry, R&D in the area of IT, manpower training and education.

3. All Government Departments are required to spend 2-3% of their budget towards implementation of IT. To induce more investment in R&D in computers, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or institution or a scientific research association for the purpose of scientific, social or statistical research has been provided.

4. Many States of India have drawn up comprehensive IT plans and have come out with IT policies which will help in creating a conducive environment for high growth of high-tech industries.

5. Government of India has also formed a Rs. 100 crores National Venture Capital Fund in association with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) for the IT industry particularly for small and medium enterprises.

6. Penetration of Personal Computers (PC) in the country at present is slightly more than 3 per 1000 persons. The target is to increase the PC penetration to 20 per 1000 by the year 2008. To push the demand of PCs in the country, depreciation on computers has been increased to 60%.

7. Government has implemented Internet Service providers (ISPs) Policy. ISPs are allowed to set up International Gateways and hire bandwidth on foreign satellites. Public and private sectors have been licensed to provide internet services in the country. No licence fee is payable for first five years and a nominal fee of one

rupee is to be paid after five years. The internet policy approved by Governments provides inter-connection of networks and setting up of international gateways by the internet service provider independent of VSNL. The infrastructure for Internet is proposed to be upgraded as below:

(a) Department of Telecom Services (DTS) is setting up national internet backbone in the country.

(b) Internet Service Providers are allowed to set up last mile linkages freely by fibre optic or by radio communication.

(c) The Internet access is also allowed through authorised cable TV.

8. The tariff for internet access has been recently reduced. DTS have recently offered 20% concession on rental for leased lines taken and used for internet applications. Students are being given one time concession on internet accounts by DTS. Access to internet on local call basis from the nearest internet node has been provided throughout the country except in Andaman and Nicobar Island and Leh (J&K). The existing departmental Public Call Operators (PCO) and Subscriber Trunk Dialling ((STD) booths are proposed to be upgraded to public tele-info/cyber centres. These centres will provide multi-utility services such as internet, e-mail access and internet libraries.

9. To provide the legal framework for transaction on Internet and e-commerce, Information Technology Bill, 1999 was introduced in the last session of the Parliament. Such a legal framework will facilitate and give a fillip to the e-commerce activities in the country.

Supply of Mini-Kit

935. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to implement Mini-kit Seeds programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Union Government propose to provide free of cost such mini kit seeds to those peasants who are below poverty line and are having appropriate identity in respective blocks as a part of Member of Parliament Local Area Agricultural Development Programme (MPLAD)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Central Sector Scheme of seed Minikits Programme of Rice, Wheat and Coarse cereals including Maize is already being implemented in

the country on 100 percent assistance from Government of India. Seed Minikits of Oilseeds and Pulses crops are also being provided to the farmers and expenditure is being shared on 75:25 sharing basis between Government of India and State Governments.

(c) No, Sir.

Foreign Policy on Hijacking of IA IC-814 Plane

936. SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of circumstances under which Government has to send the External Affairs Minister duly accompanied by the released militants in the same aircraft to Kandahar during hijacking settlement drama of IA Aircraft with its justification thereof;

(b) the decision to strike hazardous deals of exchange of the most dangerous prisoners for hostages in a foreign land (Afghanistan) in bewilderment;

(c) whether the Indian Government received any offer from the military regime of Pakistan to resume bilateral talks between both the countries ;

(d) If so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether the Government propose to review its foreign policy of not having talks with the present Pakistan's Government;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Minister of External Affairs decided to go to Kandahar so as to ensure that the termination of the hijacking, the smooth release and safe return of passengers and crew took place without any last minute hitch, also that should need arise, prompt decisions could be taken on the spot. The Minister's presence in Kandahar and on board the aircraft on which the passengers returned home, provided solace to all the released passengers who had been held hostage for over a week. His travel on the same aircraft as the three terrorists was solely on account of logistical compulsions brought about by the limited infrastructure facilities at Kandahar airport, and its incapacity to handle any more aircraft simultaneously.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g) Government are of the view that, in order to create a conducive environment for meaningful dialogue, Pakistan needs to halt its cross border terrorism against India and cease hostile propoganda.

Water Management

937. MAJ. GEN. (RETD) B.C. KHANDURI:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch any action plan to harness the immense rainwater potential in the country, State-wise, particularly in the hilly area of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the other alternative arrangement made by the Union Government for harvesting rain water to solve the irrigation and drinking water problems of the people of the hilly area of Uttar Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) At present there is no proposal before the Government to launch any separate action plan to harness rainwater potential, particularly in the hilly areas. However, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in association with the State Governments have taken up a Central Sector Scheme on Artificial Recharge to ground water through the construction of recharge structures on an experimental basis in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, etc. The scheme has been extended to cover water scarcity areas in other States also. Besides, Ministry of Agriculture operates a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR) for treating both arable/non-arable lands and natural drainage lines in the rainfed areas for in-situ moisture conservation associated with diversified farming systems for improving production and productivity. The project *inter-alia* also provides for a suitable institutional framework for promoting people's participation, help of such watershed/village based institutions as Mitra Krishak Mandals, Self-help Thrift Groups, etc. and involvement of NGOs, Panchayats and other rural institutions.

Development of Agro and Rural Industries In Kerala

938. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
DR. BALIRAM:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the investment made by the Government for the development of agro and rural industries in the country, till date, State-wise;

(b) the details of agro and rural industries entitled to various benefits/concessions and loans in the State of Kelala;

(c) the total number of beneficiaries and the total amount of loans granted under each category, State-wise; and

(d) the number of applications still pending, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Statement showing the State-wise disbursement by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission in the Khadi and village industries sector during 1998-99 is at Statement-I.

(b) All benefits and concessions extended by the KVIC under its Margin Money Scheme are applicable to all village industries, except for a small negative list.

As per the Scheme, 25% margin money of the project costing upto 10.00 lakhs and 10% of the balance cost, over and above Rs. 10.00 lakhs but upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs is being provided as margin money.

(c) The statement showing the State-wise beneficiaries (employment) under agro and rural industries and loans granted under each category is at Statement-II and I respectively.

(d) Under the Rural Employment Generation Programme, loans for village industries are released directly by the banks. Information in respect of loan applications pending with banks is not maintained centrally.

Statement - I**State-wise disbursement under Budgetary source during 1998-99**

		(Rupees in lakhs)					
S.No.	States and Union Territories	Khadi		Village Industries		Total	
		Grant	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant	Loan
<i>I. States</i>							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	275.35	19.76	340.75	31.10	616.10	50.86
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	59.79	10.79	2.22	2.00	62.01	2.79
4.	Bihar	1196.53	53.83	33.96	7.02	1230.49	60.85
5.	Goa	-	-	10.36	1.55	40.36	1.55
6.	Gujarat	2554.96	43.34	268.56	29.13	2823.52	72.47
7.	Haryana	652.94	2.10	185.23	8.88	838.17	10.98
8.	Himachal Pradesh	76.51	6.52	272.94	4.33	349.45	10.85
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	182.50	6.61	352.13	0.52	534.83	7.13
10.	Karnataka	1008.73	102.75	1228.32	61.58	2237.05	164.33
11.	Kerala	205.45	35.48	395.94	13.68	601.39	49.16
12.	Madhya Pradesh	178.49	8.18	1319.02	12.11	1497.51	20.29
13.	Maharashtra	310.59	7.62	308.97	41.96	619.56	49.58
14.	Manipur			266.93	0.34	266.93	0.34
15.	Meghalaya	2.36		49.93	0.86	52.29	0.86
16.	Mizoram	0.02	0.10	344.39		344.41	0.10
17.	Nagaland	5.37		396.94		102.31	
18.	Orissa	172.53	6.10	87.02	8.31	259.55	14.44
19.	Punjab	345.73	11.45	605.12	1.21	950.85	12.66
20.	Rajasthan	1490.71	19.70	461.80	23.60	1952.51	43.30
21.	Sikkim						
22.	Tamil Nadu	2690.76	42.27	414.10	37.41	3104.86	79.68
23.	Tripura	0.50			2.20	0.50	2.20
24.	Uttar Pradesh	4201.30	332.88	1454.00	188.90	5655.30	521.78
25.	West Bengal	595.10	36.28	20.49	48.54	615.59	84.82
	Total I	16206.22	735.76	8849.12	525.26	25055.34	1281.02
<i>II. Union Territories</i>							
1.	A & N Islands						
2.	Chandigarh						
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli						
4.	Daman & Diu						
5.	Delhi	669.27	1.65	30.84	10.11	700.11	11.76
6.	Lakshadweep	0.39		34.64		35.03	
7.	Pondicherry			2.23	1.29	26.23	1.29
	Total II	669.66	1.65	91.71	11.40	761.37	13.05
<i>III. Departmental</i>		752.48		7707.43	7.67	8459.91	7.67
Grand Total I, II & III		17628.36	737.41	16648.26	544.33	34276.62	1281.74

Statement I ... (Contd.)

*State-wise Disbursement under Consortium of Bank
Credit during 1998-99*

		(Rupees in lakhs)
S.No.	States and Union Territories	Grand Total
<i>I. States</i>		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	660.42
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-
3.	Assam	1.52
4.	Bihar	4.01
5.	Goa	1.65
6.	Gujarat	275.78
7.	Haryana	384.20
8.	Himachal Pradesh	256.45
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	295.07
10.	Karnataka	3661.51
11.	Kerala	874.52
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1473.96
13.	Maharashtra	602.60
14.	Manipur	583.69
15.	Meghalaya	97.43
16.	Mizoram	734.46
17.	Nagaland	1.57
18.	Orissa	199.48
19.	Punjab	1255.50
20.	Rajasthan	238.08
21.	Sikkim	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	95.47
23.	Tripura	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2672.81
25.	West Bengal	-
Total - I		14370.18
<i>II. Union Territories</i>		
1.	A & N Islands	6.91
2.	Chandigarh	-
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-
4.	Daman & Diu	-
5.	Delhi	71.10
6.	Lakshadweep	75.04
7.	Pondicherry	68.35
Total - II		221.40
Grand Total		14591.58

Statement-II

State-wise Employment - 1998-99

		(No. in lakhs)		
S. No	States/Union Territories	Khadi	Village Industry	Total
<i>I. States</i>				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.33	3.26	3.59
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	*	*	*
3.	Assam	0.27	0.98	1.25
4.	Bihar	2.54	1.26	3.80
5.	Goa	0	0.05	0.05
6.	Gujarat	0.46	0.55	1.01
7.	Haryana	0.52	0.39	0.91
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.14	0.69	0.83
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.35	0.88	1.23
10.	Karnataka	0.46	1.96	2.42
11.	Kerala	0.15	1.93	2.08
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.14	1.15	1.29
13.	Maharashtra	0.18	4.47	4.65
14.	Manipur	*	0.42	0.42
15.	Meghalaya	*	0.11	0.11
16.	Mizoram	0	0.15	0.15
17.	Nagaland	*	0.19	0.19
18.	Orissa	0.03	1.95	1.98
19.	Punjab	0.77	0.96	1.73
20.	Rajasthan	1.04	3.29	4.33
21.	Sikkim	*	0.06	0.06
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.62	10.54	11.16
23.	Tripura	0	0.23	0.23
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5.18	5.33	10.51
25.	West Bengal	0.63	3.42	4.05
Total - I		13.81	44.22	58.03
<i>II. Union Territories</i>				
26.	A & N Islands	0	*	*
27.	Chandigarh	0	0.03	0.03
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
30.	Delhi	0.03	0.15	0.18
31.	Lakshadweep	0	*	*
32.	Pondicherry	0.01	0.04	0.05
Total - II		0.04	0.22	0.26
Grand Total - I+ II		13.85	44.44	58.29

* Less than 500.

*[Translation]***National Fishermen Welfare Fund Scheme**

939. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fisheries Department of Bihar Government has sent a proposal of National Fishermen Welfare Fund Scheme for housing of the fishermen of Bihar to the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken regarding the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Fisheries Department of Government of Bihar had sent a proposal under Development of Model Fishermen Villages component of the Centrally Sponsored National Welfare of Fishermen Scheme involving release of Rs. 26.85 lakh as Central share towards 50 per share of Central assistance.

(b) An amount of Rs. 10 lakh has been released to the State Government as first instalment of Central share against the above proposal of the State Government. Release of balance amount would be on receipt of utilisation certificate and physical and financial progress report from the State Government.

*[English]***Review of Steel Sector**

940. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the performance of Steel Industry in public and private sector in terms of targets sets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of major policy, decision taken in the recent past/under consideration to boost the sagging performance of steel sector; and

(d) the details of progress and investment made/proposed to be made for modernisation of steel PSUs, PSU-wise in general and structural revamp for SAIL in particular ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The Government have recently reviewed the performance of Steel making PSUs viz Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL). The actual production of saleable steel of SAIL during April-September 1999 was 99% of the MOU target. The production of saleable steel of RINL during the first quarter of the current financial year was 95.5% of the MoU target. As far as the private sector is concerned, no review is being taken for them.

(c) The Government have taken several policy decisions in the recent past to boost the performance of steel sector. These include:

- Orienting product-mix to suit the market requirements and adjusting production in tune with change in the market demand.
- Developing and nourishing long term customers relationship by entering into MOUs/supply arrangement with the customers.
- A 'Steel Exporters Forum' has been set up to help steel exporters to overcome bottlenecks in exports.
- To boost the demand and consumption of steel, the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCI&S) has launched a National campaign for increasing the demand for steel, especially in non-traditional sectors such as rural and agro based industrial sector.
- Rationalisation of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for steel exports have been carried out to boost exports.
- An Empowered Committee has been set up to examine & assist specific Research & Development Project to improve technology for Steel making & enhance quality of Indian Steel.

(d) The modernisation of SAIL plants has just been completed and RINL is a modern plant. Government has approved the financial and business restructuring package for SAIL, which includes waiving of loans of Steel Development Fund, extending guarantees for raising of funds by SAIL for meeting expenses on Voluntary Retirement Scheme and for meeting repayment obligation on past loans, initiation of the process of disinvestment and conversion of IISCO into a joint venture with SAIL.

Water Management

941. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the average annual rainfall in the country, particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka;

(b) the total irrigation and hydro-power potential of each State and the potential utilised by them during the current financial year;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in these States, recently to increase irrigation and hydro-power potential;

(d) if so, whether any Central assistance is likely to be provided to these States for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) Average annual normal rainfall in the country is 1192 mm and in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka 908 mm and 1172 mm respectively.

(b) Status of development of Irrigation potential and hydro-power potential in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka is as under:

States	Irrigation Potential (Thousand hectare)		Hydro-power Potential (MW)	
	Assessed Ultimate Potential	Potential Created as on 31.3.97	Assessed	Developed
Andhra Pradesh	11260	5947	2909	1402
Karnataka	5974	3197	4347	2204

(c) to (e) As the State Governments conceive, plan and execute projects for irrigation and hydro-power development, information regarding any survey conducted recently by the State Governments is not available with the Centre. However, the Union Government has been providing Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 to selected ongoing Major & Medium Irrigation Projects to facilitate early completion of the projects.

Protection of Indian Space

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

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a legislation to protect Indian Space and also frame cyber laws ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As far as the cyber laws are concerned Government has formulated the Information Technology Bill 1999 to provide for legal framework to facilitate electronic commerce and electronic transaction. It aims to recognise electronic contracts, prevention of computer crimes, electronic filing/

documentation etc. The bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 16.12.1999 and is presently with the Standing Committee. As the space, beyond the air space, is not subject to any nation's sovereignty according to international law, Government of India has taken up formulation of policies to protect India's interests in satellite remote sensing, satellite communications and other applications.

(c) Does not arise.

Behavior of the Taliban Authorities on Hijacking Issue

943. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY :
COL (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the *Hindustan Times* dated January 24, 2000 under captioned "Taliban laid out red carpet for Azhar Masood";

(b) if so, the reaction of the Taliban authorities at that time when he reached Kandhar Airport with three criminals; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Taliban were clearly told by us that as they exercised jurisdiction in Kandahar, the released terrorists would be brought by us to the Kandahar Airport and would thereafter be under Taliban control. It was expected that in the case of both the hijackers and the released terrorists, the Taliban would act in conformity with their law. The decision taken by the Taliban to allow the hijackers and the released terrorists ten hours to leave Afghanistan was their alone. The Taliban authorities, while adopting an attitude of correct facilitators, consistently had their sympathies with the hijackers, the released terrorists and their other supporters.

Visit of UK Army Chief to Pakistan

944. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the press news item captioned "UK Army Chief's visit to Pak upsets India" appeared in *The Hindustan Times* dated January 12, 2000;

(b) whether the Government have obtained the information about the purpose and outcome of the visit in terms of improvement in UK-Pak relations;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the UK Government's senior-most army officers visit to Pakistan would have any impact on the relation with UK; and

(e) if so, the manner in which it is likely to influence the peace and security of this region?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The British Government had informed us, in advance, about the visit of General Guthrie to Pakistan.

(b) and (c) The British Government has stated that the purpose of General Guthrie's visit to Pakistan was to send a clear message to the present regime in Pakistan, with regard to the need for a clear time-table for restoration of democracy in Pakistan. Pakistan was also urged to ensure that support to cross-border terrorism in Kashmir is discontinued.

(d) and (e) The Government is of the view that all efforts aimed at restraining the Pakistani regime from pursuing the policy of cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and to seek the early restoration of democracy in Pakistan should contribute to promoting peace and stability in the region.

Annual Property Returns

945. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is mandatory for the Ministers to file their annual property returns; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Change of Chinese attitude against India

946. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAOTALA:
COL.(RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI KAMAL NATH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Jiang Zemin ridicules India" published in the *Hindustan Times* dated January 31, 2000;

(b) whether it is the failure of our Foreign mission in Beijing or is the repercussion of our Defence Minister's accusation that China is a bigger potential threat than Pakistan or clean chit given by our Foreign Minister from Chinese soil; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The subject matter of the news item has been taken up with the Chinese authorities. They have reiterated their desire to develop friendly, good-neighbourly and co-operative relations with India.

[English]

Strike in Public Sector Undertakings

947. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers of the Public Sector Undertakings all over the country went on a one-day strike on February 2, 2000 responding to a call of the major Central Trade Unions; and

(b) if so, the details of their demands and the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to avert the strike and with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Workers of some Public Sector Undertakings observed a one day strike on February 2, 2000 in response to a call by three Central Trade Unions, viz. All India Trade Union Congress, Centre of Indian Trade Unions and Hind Mazdoor Sabha.

(b) The Strike notice of the trade unions was against all forms of privatisation and disinvestment, non-revival and closure of sick PSUs, non-payment of wages in many PSUs, guidelines of DPE on wage revision, alleged attack on trade union rights and labour laws. The Minister of Labour met all the aggrieved Central trade unions on 29.1.2000 and 1.2.2000 and appealed to them not to go on strike. The issue was also discussed at the highest level in the Government and a Group of Ministers was constituted to go into the demands of the unions.

[Translation]

Labour Laws

948. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether insecticide producing companies are violating present labour laws and safety measures;

(b) if so, the State-wise names of such companies against whom action was taken during the last three years; and

(c) whether a review has been undertaken by the Government regarding the procedure adopted by these companies for answering proper implementation of present labour laws and safety measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Diversion of Relief Funds

949. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the substantial portion of Central and voluntary funds for calamity and drought relief work have been diverted by the State Governments for other purposes;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any appraisal to know the extent of diversion of such funds by the State Governments;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) to (d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to undertake relief measures, in the wake of natural calamities, from the assistance provided to them under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), in accordance with the guidelines issued to them from time to time. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, in the Report for the year ended March, 1998, has brought out irregularities like diversion of funds, expenditure in

excess of norms, misappropriation and embezzlement committed by some States in the disbursement of assistance provided to them under CRF. These have been brought to the notice of the State Government concerned for suitable necessary action, as the expenditure out of CRF is controlled by the respective State Governments.

Tatkaal Passport Scheme

950. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
DR. SHRIMATI C. SUGUNA KUMARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced a Tatkaal Passport Scheme for issue of out of turn passport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the category of persons eligible for availing of this scheme; and

(d) the number of passports pending/issued by the Regional Passport Offices so far under the above scheme alongwith its impact on the applicants on general category region-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Tatkaal Scheme has been implemented with effect from 1.1.2000 in recognition of the genuine need of some passport applicants for out-of-turn issue of passports. Under this Scheme, for an additional fee, passports will be issued on an out-of-turn basis to eligible applicants who can be issued passports on post police verification basis provided such cases are certified by an officer not below the rank of Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

(c) Applicants who are eligible to get passports under this scheme should have a valid reason for urgent travel abroad and include minors upto 15 years of age, cases of re-issue and duplicate passports where there is no change in address of applicant; all cases where a verification certificate from an authorized official is available; and all employees of Central/State Government, Public Sector Undertakings, Armed Forces and their spouses where NOC from the Head of Department is available.

(d) The total number of passports issued by all the Passport Offices under the Tatkaal Scheme upto 15th February, 2000 is 7065. There is no pendency under Tatkaal Scheme.

There has been no noticeable impact on the applicants of the general category on account of issue of passports under the Tatkaal Scheme.

*[Translation]***Unemployed Youth**

951. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI :
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :
SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of unemployed youth has been drastically increased in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]***C.T.B.T. Signatory Countries**

952. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that besides CTBT document, Big Five nations have signed side agreements, memoranda of understanding and exchanged other classified documents;

(b) if so, whether these powers have given special rights to each other under these side agreements;

(c) if so, whether these countries have under these agreements defined the permissible experiments and tests which they alone can conduct;

(d) if so, whether they have signed unto themselves, the role of permanent members of the Executive Council of CTBT Organisation;

(e) if so, whether the Government still contemplating of signing the CTBT; and

(f) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Comprehensive Nuclear Test ban Treaty (CTBT) prohibits nuclear explosive testing, an obligation that applies equally to all states parties. However, there exists an understanding that activities relating to development, non-explosive testing, production and safe maintenance of nuclear arsenals are permissible though no definition has been provided in the CTBT. Non-nuclear weapon-states party to the NPT cannot undertake permissible activities because of their obligations under the NPT. India is not a party to the NPT, yet is a nuclear weapon state; as such India can undertake the full range of activities subject to its own technical capabilities.

(d) Under the CTBT, 1/3rd of the seats on the Executive Council are to be filled in on the basis of indicative criteria of number of monitoring facilities, expertise in monitoring technologies and contribution to budget. This is assessed as providing countries such as the Unite States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China an India with the possibility of continuous membership. As is the practice in multilateral groupings in international forums, regional groups under the CTBT are free to enter into understanding on rotation of seats on the Executive Council. Accordingly the US for example has reached an understanding with the states of the North American and Western Europe region, as defined by the treaty, providing that the US would always have a seat on the EC.

(e) and (f) India's position on the CTBT was articulated by the Prime Minister in the UN General Assembly in September 1998 and in Parliament in December 1998. This was reiterated by the External Affairs Minister at the UN General Assembly in September 1999. The priority of our meeting the country's national security concerns having been addressed, the Government believes that we now need to convey reassurance to the international community and, in this regard, desires to develop a national consensus. The Government is encouraged by the constructive response to its efforts to build a consensus on the issue of the CTBT and intends to pursue this exercise.

*[Translation]***Decline in Cultivable Land**

953. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a decline in the cultivable land due to cultivation of cash crops and excessive use of fertilizers during the last three years;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to impose ban on the use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) According to the latest available data, the cultivable area, consisting of net sown area, fallow lands, culturable waste land and land under miscellaneous tree crops, has shown a decline during the three years from

1994-95 to 1996-97 as seen from the Table below:
(Area in '000 ha.)

Year	Net sown Area	Other cultivable land	Cultivable land (2) + (3)
1994-95	142980	37481	180441
1995-96	142197	37945	180142
1996-97	142819	37159	179978

Area under cash crops forms a part of net sown area and hence a part of cultivable land. While there is no declining trend in the Net Sown Area, the major decline in the cultivable land is due to decline in 'Other cultivable land' consisting of Fallow Land, Culturable Waste Land and Land Under Miscellaneous Tree Crops.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Agriculture have been impressing upon all the States and Union Territories to protect agricultural land being diverted for non-agricultural purposes. A National Land Use Policy Outline which *inter alia* envisages restructuring of urban policy to ensure that high productive land is not taken away for non-agricultural uses, has been formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture and recommended to the States for adoption.

[English]

Meeting of Eight Central Trade Unions

954. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have called meeting of eight Central Trade Unions recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said unions have submitted charter of demands with special emphasis on revision of wages;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have taken any decision thereon; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (f) The Government met eight major Central Trade Union Organisations (CTUOs) on 29.1.2000 and 1.2.2000 and appealed to them not to proceed on strike on 2.2.2000. The Unions had submitted a charter of demands against privatisation and disinvestment, non-revival and closure of sick PSUs, non-payments of wages in many PSUs, guidelines of Department of Public Enterprises on wage revision, etc. The demands of the CTUOs were discussed at the highest level and a Group of Ministers has been constituted to consider and give recommendations with respect to some of the main demands.

Plan Allocation

955. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the plan allocations during current plan for Agriculture has fallen as compared to that of previous plan period;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) :

(a) No, Sir. There has been an increase in public sector outlay to agriculture and allied activities (including irrigation and food control) from Rs. 54992.50 crores during the Eighth Five Year Plan to Rs. 97882 crores during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Implementation of Recommendations of Sixth World Hindi Conference

956. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of recommendations made by the Sixth World Hindi Conference held in London during September, 1999;

(b) the steps taken to implement these recommendations so far;

(c) the reasons for delay in implementing these recommendations; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to remove the bottlenecks coming in the way of implementing the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) In the Sixth World Hindi Conference, the following resolutions were passed:

- (1) Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University should be developed as an International Centre for assimilating information pertaining to Hindi from all over the World.
- (2) World Hindi Secretariat should start functioning at the earliest.
- (3) Hindi should be made as one of the languages of the United Nations.

(4) Information Technology in Hindi should be developed and Standardized.

(5) Modern gadgets of Hindi should be liberally distributed.

(b) Government are taking necessary steps for implementing these resolutions. They include the following:

1. The Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University is looking at ways to develop as an international centre for assimilating information on Hindi.

2. The action regarding establishment of World Hindi Secretariat has already been initiated. Suitable office premises has been identified for the Secretariat to be temporarily located. As regard construction of Secretariat Building, action for identifying a suitable plot of land has been initiated.

3. The question of introduction of Hindi as one of the official languages of the UN has received the attention of the Government. At present, the UN has six official languages viz. English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese. The introduction of an additional official language is governed by the established rules of procedure of the Organization and would require the approval of a majority of the Member States of the UN. An important consideration in getting adequate support would be the number of national delegations who use the language, and the additional financial implications for the Member States of the UN of such a move. The introduction of an additional official language would involve significant expenditure from the regular budget of UN which is solely financed by assessed contributions of its Member States. Article 17(2) of the UN Charter provides that "the expenses of the Organization shall be borne by the members as apportioned by the General Assembly". The matter is, however, under consideration of Government to see how far this is feasible, especially in the light of the financial crisis facing the UN.

4. Necessary action with regard to development of Information Technology in Hindi is being initiated.

5. Hindi Software and CD ROM are being supplied to Indian Missions located in those countries where a large number of people of Indian origin and Hindi lovers are residing.

(c) and (d) World Hindi Conferences are organized by voluntary Hindi Organizations and Hindi lovers settled abroad. The resolutions adopted therein are only recommendatory in nature. However, so far there has not been any delay or bottleneck in the implementation of the resolutions, passed in the World Hindi Conference.

[English]

Issue of Passport from Bareilly Passport Office

957. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applicants from Bareilly and Moradabad in comparison to other towns issued passports at the Bareilly Passport Office during each of the last three years, separately;

(b) whether any Passport Office is being considered to be opened at Moradabad;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) The number of applicants who were issued passports during the last three years from Bareilly, Moradabad and other districts under the jurisdiction of the Passpost Office, Bareilly is as follows:

Year	Bareilly	Moradabad	Other Districts
1997	2825	4202	37003
1998	2582	3688	37987
1999	2616	3406	49922

(b) At present, opening of a Passport Office at Moradabad is not being considered.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Average number of applications received per annum during the last three years from Moradabad was 4356. The opening of a new passport office is governed by certain criteria such as the location of existing offices, volume of applications from a particular region and the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament of External Affairs that there should be at least 50,000 applications per annum from an area for a new passport office to be opened. In view of this, opening a passport office at Moradabad is not being considered.

Passport Under Tatkaal Scheme

958. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Passport Offices across the country have been issued instructions to be more stringent while issuing passport on priority basis under the Tatkaal Passport Scheme;

(b) if so, whether a large number of agents of ISI got their passport under the said Scheme and misused them;

(c) if so, the details of facts thereof and the total number of persons to whom passports issued during each of the last three years under the said Scheme;

(d) whether the Government propose to adopt a fool-proof system so that only genuine Indian residents can get passport and review the Tatkaal Passport Scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the mechanism adopted by the Government to ensure the genuineness of the passport seekers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) The Tatkaal Scheme for issue of out of turn passports is only for eligible applicants who can be issued passports on post police verification basis provided such cases are certified by an officer not below the rank of Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

(b) and (c) The Tatkaal Scheme was launched on 1st January, 2000 only and no case of a passport having been issued to any ISI agent under the Tatkaal Scheme has come to the notice of the Government. The total number of passports issued under the scheme upto 15th February, 2000 is 7065.

(d) and (e) All passports are being issued only after due police verification which *inter alia* establishes the Indian nationality of the applicant. Only short validity passports of an urgent nature can be issued on post police verification basis under the Tatkaal Scheme and on the strength of a verification certificate issued by an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

Screening Committee

959. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons whose land and houses had been acquired for Indo-Bangladesh Border Fencing and Road Project in West Bengal during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999;

(b) whether any screening Committee has been constituted for employment assistance to the affected persons;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of persons to whom the Committee recommended for employment assistance during the above period and number of those to whom this assistance has been provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds for S.S.I.

960. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of funds allocated by the Union Government for development of small-scale industries in Bihar during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government of Bihar has adopted the policy of cooperation with the Union Government for development of small-scale industries; and

(c) if so, the number of small-scale industries to which assistance has been provided by the Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) In the Ninth Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 4304 crores has been allocated by the Union Government for development of small scale and cottage industries sector in the country. Funds are allocated Scheme/Programme-wise and not State-wise.

(c) The number of small scale industries in Bihar to which assistance of various kinds has been provided by the Government of India through its institutions/offices during the last three years are 11945 by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), 200 by National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), 4357 by Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) and around 8140 under the PMRY Scheme for setting up micro enterprises.

[English]

Relation with Pakistan

961. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in *Pioneer* dated January 8, 2000 under caption "Act or perish, ISI tells Kashmir militants";

(b) if so, whether Pakistan's ISI has asked several militancy groups operating in J&K to form 'fiyadayan Groups' to carry out subversive activities against security forces;

(c) if so, whether the Government still are of the view that diplomatic relations with Pakistan should continue;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Pakistan continues to pursue its policy of sponsorship of cross border terrorism in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere in India.

Government have seen reports regarding the induction into Jammu & Kashmir of suicide squads of Pakistani terrorist groups to raise the level of violence. While we wish to establish a relationship of peace, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan, this can be possible only in a conducive environment for which Pakistan needs to abandon its sponsorship of cross border terrorism and its hostile propaganda against India.

Government also remain firm in their resolve to take all measures necessary to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

[Translation]

Financial Irregularities

962. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHIR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some major steel companies are committing financial irregularities in the name of modernisation;

(b) if so, the names and number of such companies;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct inquiry against such companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action likely to be initiated against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No case of financial irregularities, in the name of modernisation, by any major steel company in the Public sector, has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

ISI Activities from Nepal and Bangladesh

963. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISI has set up a branch office in Kathmandu from where the hijackers boarded the Indian Airlines flight No. IC 814 and that they were clearly helped by the employees of local Pakistan's Embassy;

(b) whether ISI is carrying on its activities in Bangladesh also;

(c) if so, whether the Indian Government has taken up the matter with these Governments; and

(d) if so, the response received from these Governments so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) The Government of India is aware and concerned about the ISI misusing the Nepales territory and the open India-Nepal border for activities inimical to India's interest. Reports received by the Government indicate evidence of the complicity of the local Pakistani Embassy in Kathmandu in facilitating such activities. These have also been reports suggesting that the hijackers of the Indian Airlines flight No. IC-814 were helped by the Embassy. The nature and extent of Pakistani Embassy's involvement in the hijacking incident is currently under investigation.

(b) to (d) The Government of India is also aware of the ISI indulging in activities directed against India across the India-Bangladesh border. Measures have been taken to enhance cooperation with Nepal and Bangladesh in this regard. Joint Working Groups have been set up with both countries for enhancing cooperation for effective border management. The problems faced in the management of the India-Nepal an India-Bangladesh borders have been discussed with the Nepalese and Bangladesh authorities respectively at various levels.

As far as the India-Bangladesh border is concerned, a series of measures are also being taken internally to enhance security. These include, *inter alia*, raising of additional battalions of the Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on land and the riverine border, and an accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing.

As regards the India-Nepal border, historically, this has been an open border with a visa-free travel regime. In view of the misuse of this open border for staging anti-India activities, the concerned agencies of His Majesty's

Government of Nepal and the Government of India remain in regular touch, both directly and through bilateral institutional mechanisms, such as the Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary level talks. Periodic meetings between the two sides are also held to review the situation and jointly coordinate measures, including stepping up vigil along the contiguous border districts of India and Nepal, to counter activities directed against India.

The issue relating to the curbing of ISI activities from Nepalese territory and management of the open Indo-Nepal border was raised during the State Visit of His Majesty the King of Nepal to India in January 1999, and also during the visit of our External Affairs Minister to Nepal in September 1999. Shared concern on this matter was evident from the determination expressed by both sides to take urgent necessary steps to control misuse of the open border between the two countries. On their part, His Majesty's Government of Nepal have assured that territory would not be used for activities inimical to India's interest and have been extending their cooperation to the Government of India in this regard.

[Translation]

National Watershed Development Scheme for Rainfed Areas

964. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work under National Watershed Development Scheme for Rainfed Areas (NWDRA) of Baramulla has been started in the State of Jammu and Kashmir during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details of the targets fixed and achievement made during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. STYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. The work under National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR) was started in 1994-95 in Baramulla of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) An area of 1365 ha. has been treated against the target of 2000 ha.

[English]

Statistical Data

965. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether statistical data and details regarding the programme implementation are not kept updated even after computerisation in the Government offices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (c) As a nodal agency for monitoring projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above, 20-Point Programme, Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme, the Programme Implementation Wing of the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation prepares all its reports with the help of computers available in the Ministry and keeps records of past data on computerised files. The major projects costing Rs. 100 crores and above are monitored on monthly basis through the flash report system. The flash report system gives advance warning as soon as a project starts indicating substantial delays in achievement of targeted milestones, which may affect the ultimate completion date and the cost of the project. The records of these projects can be accessed through the computer system of the National Informatics Centre by all the concerned Ministries. The yearly data on projects and programmes monitored by this Ministry is also kept on the web-site of the Ministry.

Fisheries in Karnataka

966. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote fisheries and especially shrimp farming in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the assistance extended to State of Karnataka for the purpose;

(c) the achievement made in this regard during the last three years; and

(d) the specific drawn up and target fixed for first farming in that State during Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. A vast scope exists in Karnataka for promotion of fisheries and aquaculture. The State has an area of about 8000 ha suitable for shrimp culture.

(b) and (c) The assistance extended to the State of Karnataka for promotion of fisheries and aquaculture during the last three years and the achievements thereon are given in enclosed Statement.

(d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Development of Freshwater Aquaculture" it is proposed

to cover about 13000 ha water area in Karnataka under scientific fish farming during Ninth Plan period.

Statement

Year	Assistance given for Karnataka (Rs. in lakhs)	Area covered under brackish-water aquaculture (in ha.)	Area covered under freshwater aquaculture (in ha.)	No. of boats covered under diesel assistance (Nos.)	No. of boats motorised (Nos.)
1996-97	75.64	700	3903	about 1500	97
1997-98	155.92	500	2994	-do-	200
1998-99	173.30	600	3634	-do-	315

Hijacking of IC-814

967. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI BASU DEV ACHARIA:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI SUBODH ROY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are satisfied with the attitude of US Government in the matter of hijacking of Indian Airlines plane;

(b) if not, whether the Government are of the view that US Government had let down the country and not actively co-operating to terminate the hijacking at Dubai itself;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken up the matter with the US Government and the U.N.;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the US Government and the U.N. in this regard;

(e) whether the behaviour of UN Secretary General who kept mum during the whole period and is otherwise very vocal when any US National is victim of terrorist actions; and

(f) if so, the details justification for such satisfaction thereof?.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Government was in touch with a number of friendly countries, including the US, during the hijacking of IC-814, keeping in view the sensitive nature of the situation, a number of friendly countries, including the United States, offered all assistance possible under circumstances. The US also contacted other Governments including that of UAE to render all assistance to ensure the safety of the hostages. The US condemned "in the strongest terms" the hijacking of IC-814 and has repeatedly called on all countries to co-operate in a full investigation aimed at apprehending and prosecuting the hijackers.

(c) and (d) During the last meeting of the ongoing Indo-US Security Dialogue in London on January 18-19, 2000, and in the first meeting of the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism on February 7-8, 2000, the hijacking of IC-814 was discussed extensively. The two sides agreed to work together to ensure that the perpetrators of the hijacking are brought to justice.

The Government also took up the matter with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), which is the concerned UN agency dealing with such matters. ICAO has reported the hijacking of IC-814 in a working paper submitted to its council.

(e) and (f) The Government had contacted the United Nations to assist in ensuring the safety of the hostages and to help in providing humanitarian assistance to the hostages, including food and medical supplies. In pursuance of this objective the UN Secretary General sent his Humanitarian Co-ordinator for Afghanistan, Mr. Eric de Mul to Kandahar.

Setting up of Nuclear Power Plants

968. SHRI B.V.N. REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Nuclear Power Plants during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal to set up a Nuclear Power Plant in Bihar has been pending with the Government since long;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(e) the time by which the clearance is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Apart from starting commercial operation of the 220 MWe Kaiga Atomic Power Project Unit-2 which has been synchronised to the Southern grid on 2.12.99 and 220 MWe Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Unit-3 which has achieved criticality on 24.12.99, and completing and commissioning the ongoing projects of a total capacity of 440 MWe comprising of the Kaiga Atomic Power Project Unit-1 and the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Unit-4, proposals for nuclear power development in the Ninth Five Year Plan include commencement of work on two unit 3 & 4 of the Tarapur Atomic Power Project (TAPP) (2x500 MWe), Kaiga Units-3 & 4 (2x220 MWe), besides the commissioning of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the 2x1000 MWe Nuclear Power Station at Kudansulam in Tamil Nadu with Russian assistance and the commencement of preliminary work on the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) (1x5000 MWe) towards the end of the Ninth Plan.

(c) to (e) In the Ninth Five Year Plan, there is no proposal to commence work on nuclear power project in Bihar.

Reservation to Financially Weakers

969. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plan to provide reservation to the financially weakers of the general category in Government jobs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Statement

State-wise total area affected due to floods/heavy rains for the last ten years (1990-1999)

S.No.	State											(Million Hectare)
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Average
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.000	0.022	0.344	0.000	0.00	0.000	1.128	0.183	1.675	0.000	0.335
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.000	0.00	0.119	0.070	0.000	0.004	0.007	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.020
3.	Assam	0.488	1.000	0.231	1.249	0.053	1.309	0.571	0.753	1.324	0.293	0.727

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Flood Control

970. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large area of the country is affected by the floods and heavy rains every year;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to identify these rivers causing devastating floods and excessive soil erosion in order to utilise excess water being wasted by flow of these rivers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the estimated expenditure is likely to be incurred in its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A large area of the country specially the areas lying in Ganga and Brahmaputra basins are affected by the floods and heavy rain every year. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal are the predominant flood affected States in Ganga basin and Assam and West Bengal in Brahmaputra basin. The details of State-wise areas affected in past ten years are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The rivers causing devastating floods and excessive soil erosion can be controlled to some extent after storage reservoirs are constructed in upper reaches of these rivers. Investigations for large reservoirs in Brahmaputra have been taken up. Similarly Union Government has also taken up joint investigation with Nepal for storage dams.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
4.	Bihar	0.870	0.980	0.076	0.415	0.601	0.926	1.189	1.471	2.512	0.740	0.978
5.	Goa	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
6.	Gujarat	0.484	0.188	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.822	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.249
7.	Haryana	0.086	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.032	0.801	0.068	0.010	0.000	0.000	0.100
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.375	0.000	0.345	0.299	0.254	0.235	0.000	0.151
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.000	0.000	0.248	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.000	0.017	0.000	0.000	0.034
10.	Karnataka	0.000	0.276	0.000	0.298	0.128	0.005	0.069	0.019	0.000	0.000	0.080
11.	Kerala	0.000	1.279	0.441	0.076	0.233	0.008	0.055	0.000	0.190	0.000	0.228
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.041	0.010	0.000	0.000	0.377	0.000	0.000	0.022	0.000	0.000	0.045
13.	Maharashtra	0.270	0.001	0.045	0.017	0.062	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.005	0.000	0.040
14.	Manipur	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
15.	Meghalaya	0.000	0.003	0.000	0.008	0.000	0.011	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.002
16.	Mizoram	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.000
17.	Nagaland	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.009	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.001
18.	Orissa	0.780	1.095	0.062	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.775	0.000	0.000	0.271
19.	Punjab	0.004	0.000	0.024	0.788	0.000	0.253	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.107
20.	Rajasthan	1.799	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.267	0.591	1.088	0.000	0.159	0.000	0.390
21.	Sikkim	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.024
23.	Tripura	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.005
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2.208	0.811	0.696	1.444	0.985	1.279	1.124	0.349	2.523	0.053	1.147
25.	West Bengal	2.268	0.679	0.118	0.458	0.000	0.443	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.397
26.	A & N Islands	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
27.	Chandigarh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
29.	Daman & Diu	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
30.	Delhi	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.006
31.	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
32.	Pondicherry	0.000	0.012	0.001	0.008	0.014	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.004
INDIA		9.298	6.357	2.645	5.268	2.752	6.111	7.420	3.855	8.623	1.086	5.342

Note (i) "O" Indicated that figures under verification (ii) Figures from 1993 to 1999 are tentative.

[English]

Small Industries Development and Regulation Act

971. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representatives from small scale industries and trade unions have urged the Government to promulgate a Small Industries Development and Regulation Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Various Small Industry Associations have demanded a separate comprehensive legislation for the SSI sector. It is proposed to constitute a High-powered Committee for exploring the possibilities of putting in place a single comprehensive legislation for the SSI sector. Further, the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad has been assigned the task of making a comparative study on the investment and inspection procedures obtaining in various States in respect of Small Scale Industry administration and making recommendation for simplification of these procedures by way of a draft model legislation.

Exchange of Enclaves between India and Bangladesh

972. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are provision under article 12 of the Indo-Bangladesh Agreement concerning the demarcation of land boundary executed on May 16, 1974, the Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and Bangladesh enclaves in India should be exchanged expeditiously;

(b) if so, whether any progress has been made towards exchange of enclaves with Bangladesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the Government are serious enough to expedite the process of exchange; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the process of exchange is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) Article 1, sub-para 12 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh concerning the demarcation of the land boundary between India and Bangladesh and related matters, provides that " the Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and the Bangladesh enclaves in India should be exchanged expeditiously".

There are 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladesh enclaves in India, records pertaining to all of which have been reconciled by the survey authorities of the two countries.

Foreign Trawlers

973. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign trawlers are permitted to operate in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that more than the permissible foreign trawlers are in operation in the country;

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

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interests of Indian fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) As per the decision of the Government on the recommendations of the Committee to review Deep Sea Fishing Policy, foreign fishing vessels under Lease Policy of 1991 are permitted to operate in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the country. Presently, five companies with 26 valid permits are in operation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) To conserve, develop and optimally exploit the fisheries resources within the EFZ and to safeguard the interest of all groups of fishermen, Government has set-up an Expert Group to formulate a comprehensive Policy for Marine Fisheries.

[Translation]

Duration of Courses

974. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Minister held a meeting with the striking students of B.Sc. (Hons) P.T/O.T. of Jan Vikalang Sansthan, New on December 12, 1998;

(b) if so, whether a request was made to the Secretary, Indian Rehabilitation Council and Vice Chancellor, Delhi University to increase the duration of said courses from three and half years to four and half year and to take decision regarding running of Bridge Course and Post Graduate Courses;

(c) if so, the result thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that non-implementation of the decisions taken in the said meeting has compelled the students to resort to the strike once again; and

(e) if so, the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) The Institute for the Physically Handicapped (IPH) has developed new format of courses with four and half years durations and is following up the matter with the university of Delhi. The Bridge Courses are already being run by the Rehabilitation Council of India.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Uranium Deposits

975. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is self-sufficient in Uranium deposits to meet its requirement for the nuclear programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which new deposits found in Gulbarga are likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) of the Department of Atomic Energy has identified uranium deposits at various locations in the States of Bihar, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. Of these, the deposits at Jaduguda and Narwapahar in Bihar (East Singhbhum district) are being mined to produce enough uranium to meet the current fuel requirement of the operating nuclear power reactors, based on the pressurised heavy water reactor technology.

(c) Exploratory mining is in progress at Gogi in Gulbarga District of Karnataka to establish the extent and depth continuity of the uranium deposit there. Further studies are required to establish the economic viability of this deposit.

Recognition to India as a Nuclear Power

976. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether United States has outlined a two step plan to strip India of its nuclear weapons and opposed any recognition to India as nuclear power;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether India is under pressure of U.S. to sign on C.T.B.T.; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government have seen reports to this effect quoting a US official. Such statements are completely unrealistic and untenable. US is fully aware that India is a State possessing nuclear weapons and committed to maintaining a minimum credible nuclear deterrent. After the May 1998 nuclear tests, the Prime Minister declared "India is a nuclear weapon State. This is a reality that cannot be denied. It is not a conferment that we seek; nor is it a status for others to grant."

(c) and (d) No Sir. Government's approach on the CTBT is guided solely by India's national interest and the building of a national consensus in this regard.

Matching Grant for Development

977. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of applications for matching grant for development received from the Government of Kerala under Central Wakf Council Fund;
- (b) the amount sanctioned under this scheme for the last three years;
- (c) application pending disposal and the present status thereof; and
- (d) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Under the existing scheme, applications for matching grant are required to be sent only by the concerned State Wakf Board. No such application has been received from Kerala Wakf Board during the last three years.

- (b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Welfare Schemes for Agricultural Labour

978. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some States have sent new proposals for the welfare of Agriculture Labour to the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon; and
- (c) if not, whether the Union Government propose to prepare any scheme for the upliftment of Agriculture labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) A proposal to enact a comprehensive legislation is under consideration of the Government to regulate employment and conditions of service and to provide certain welfare measures to agricultural workers.

Fall in the prices of Cotton, Chilly and Onion

979. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the farmers have suffered a heavy loss due to steep decline in the prices of cotton, chilly and onion recently;

(b) if so, whether most of the farmers who had taken loans from moneylenders are finding it difficult to get back the principal amount invested by them;

(c) whether the Kharif crop has also been damaged due to rains and cyclone; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for providing assistance to cotton, chilly and onion growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) There has been decline in prices of cotton, chilly and onion this year as compared to last year. However, there are no reports of heavy losses to the farmers.

(c) There have been some reports of damage to Kharif crops of cotton, chilly and onion in certain areas due to adverse agro-climatic factors.

(d) In order to protect the interests of the cotton growers' the Cotton Corporation of India, the central nodal agency, is undertaking procurement of cotton both commercial and under Price Support Operations. Besides, Technology Mission on Cotton has been launched to give support to the farmers. To help the onion growers, the Government has permitted export of 2 lakh MTs of onion. As regards chillies, the Government is implementing various programmes to assist the chilly growers. These include production of nucleus seeds, distribution of minikits, assistance towards area expansion programme, supply of polythene sheets for drying chilly under hygienic condition and assisting growers in constructing cemented drying yards in farmers' fields for drying chillies, etc.

Additional Financial Assistance

980. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total additional financial assistance sought by the Gujarat Government during the last three years;

(b) the total amount of funds allocated by the Union Government year-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) the reasons for not providing the additional assistance sought by the State in full in each case;

(d) whether the additional financial assistance sought during the current financial year has been provided;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (c) During the year 1996-97, the Government of Gujarat sought additional financial assistance amounting to Rs. 282.01 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR). However, no amount was released since the National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) examines each case for assistance from NFCR in the light of set procedures. The quantum of assistance from the NFCR depends upon the severity of the calamity.

During 1997-98, the State Government sought additional financial assistance of Rs. 664.33 crore from the NFCR and an amount of Rs. 86.90 crore was released by NCRC. Besides, the State Government also requested for additional financial assistance of Rs. 440.00 crore for purchase of Turbo Generator sets by Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) authorities. The State Government was informed that the SSP is a State Sector Project and it is for the participating States (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh) to fund the same out of their respective State Plans.

For the year 1998-99, the State Government submitted a memorandum to the NCRC for relief amounting to Rs. 810.65 crore. Rs. 55.35 crore were released. In addition to this, the State Government also sought assistance of Rs. 10 crore for the construction of Raj Bhavan at Gandhinagar. The State Government was informed that since the construction of Raj Bhavan was in the nature of plan expenditure, it should be a part of the State Plan.

(d) to (f) The request of the Government of Gujarat of assistance of Rs. 817.23 crore from the NFCR in the wake of cyclone and drought during the current year (1999-2000) is under process in accordance with the procedure.

[English]

Development in Fishing Sector

981. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance/achievement under fishing sector over the past three years in terms of the targets financial and physical set and achieved by various States, State-wise during the past three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of standard assessment norms in general and Maharashtra in particular, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for integrated development of sea and inland fishing in Maharashtra both for domestic consumption and for exports; and

(d) the details of export earnings made the last three years from fish exports along with projections for next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The performance/achievements under the fishing sector are reviewed during Annual Plan preparation and by the Committee of Officers appointed by Ministry of Agriculture. Fish production, traditional crafts motorised, water area and beneficiaries covered under aquaculture, fish farmers trained, etc. are used for assessing the statewide performance including that of Maharashtra.

(c) The following Centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented in the State with the objective of developing fisheries.

1. Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries through
 - (i) Motorisation of Traditional Crafts
 - (ii) Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD oil purchased by mechanised fishing vessels of length below 20m
2. Integrated coastal Aquaculture
3. Development of Freshwater Aquaculture
4. Fishing Harbours at Major and Minor Ports

Apart from the above, the Government of Maharashtra has taken steps to stock fingerlings/fish seed as per optimum requirements in ponds/reservoirs to enhance the inland fish production. The breeding ground in inland sector are also being protected. In marine sector, the Maharashtra State is implementing Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1981 to ban fishing by mechanised fishing craft during the monsoon season (1st June, to 15th August or Narti Poomima whichever is earlier) to protect/conservé the marine fisheries.

(d) The export earnings during the last three years are given below:

Year	Value (Rs. crores)
1996-97	4,121.36
1997-98	4,697.48
1998-99	4,626.87

Targets for export earnings for the next three years are being finalised.

Visit of Indonesia Delegation

982. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indonesian delegation visited India during February, 2000 ; and

(b) if so, the details of the deliberations arrived at thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mr. Abdurrahman Wahid, President of Indonesia, accompanied by a high powered delegation visited India on February 8-9, 2000. Discussions covered political, economic and cultural relations between our two countries. An Indian proposal for joint exploration of Liquid Natural Gas in Indonesia was positively received and a decision was taken to establish a Joint Commission at the Ministerial level which would facilitate regular exchanges on this and other matters of bilateral interest. It was also decided to set up a vocational training centre for construction technology in Indonesia under the ITEC Programme. Possibility of selling electric locomotives to Indonesia was discussed and an MOU on Tourism was signed by respective Ministers. Separately, MMTC and KADIN-Indonesia signed an MOU on counter trade arrangement while IRCON and Mitra-Jaya Group entered into an MOU for executing railway projects in Indonesia.

C.T.B.T.

983. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought clarifications from the US and other principal signatories to CTBT as to how far signing of CTBT is compatible with maintenance of N-deterrent by the signatories;

(b) if so, the response of the US in this regard;

(c) the main reasons for refusal of the US Congress to ratify the CTBT;

(d) whether the US and other Big Powers have indicated their willingness to allow India and Pakistan to retain the nuclear deterrent;

(e) if so, the precise position taken by them; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) only prohibits underground explosive nuclear testing; other activities relating to development, non-explosive testing, production and safe maintenance of nuclear arsenals are not restricted. Thus the CTBT is entirely compatible with the maintenance of a nuclear deterrent by those States which have already conducted nuclear tests.

(b) The US shares the Government's assessment indicated in (a).

(c) The two main reservations expressed by the US senators voting against the CTBT related to lack of trust in maintaining the integrity of the US nuclear weapons stockpile without further explosive testing and doubts regarding the verifiability of the treaty.

(d) to (f) India's bilateral dialogue with key interlocutors, including the United States, is based on the premise that India is a state possessing nuclear weapons and will maintain a minimum credible nuclear deterrent in accordance with its own assessment of its national security requirements. The US and other countries with whom India has been engaged in talks on this issue acknowledge India's position.

[Translation]

Kalpasar Irrigation Project

984. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Gujarat to construct Kalpasar Multipurpose Irrigation Project in the State;

(b) if so, the estimated cost, water and power generation capacity of the proposed project;

(c) the total land to be irrigated and power generation capacity to be achieved after the completion of the project; and

(d) the extent to which the Central assistance is likely to be provided for the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (d) No such project by the name Kalpasar has been received from the Government of Gujarat.

Modern Agricultural Equipment and Seeds to Farmers

985. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to make modern agricultural equipments and better seeds available to the farmers at cheaper and concessional rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has formulated various crop specific schemes to make modern agricultural equipments and better seeds available to the farmers at cheaper and concessional rates. A Statement showing the details thereof is enclosed.

(c) The question does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Norms of assistance on agricultural equipments	Norms of assistance on seeds
1.	National Pulses Development Project (NPDP).	<p>(i) Implements - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1500/-.</p> <p>(ii) Plant protection equipment</p> <p>(a) Manually operated - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 600/-</p> <p>(b) Power operated - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1500/-.</p> <p>(iii) Sprinkler sets</p> <p>(a) 90% of the cost limited to Rs. 25000/- per set for small, marginal, SC&ST and women farmers.</p> <p>(b) 70% of the cost limited to Rs. 25000/- per set for other farmers.</p>	<p>(i) Certified seeds - Rs. 300/- per quintal</p> <p>(ii) Mini kits - free of cost.</p>
2.	Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP)	-do-	-do-
3.	Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP).	<p>(i) Manual/bullock driven - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1500/- per implement per farmer.</p> <p>(ii) Power driven - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 5000/- per implement per farmer.</p>	<p>(i) Certified seed - Rs. 400/- per quintal for Hybrids/HYVs released/notified within 10 years.</p> <p>(ii) Rs. 40 per mini kit of 2 kg of maize varieties and Rs. 50 per mini kit of 2 kg of Hybrids. 10% of the cost to be charged from the farmers.</p>
4.	Intensive Cotton Development Programme.	(i) Sprinkler Sets - 50% of the cost for SC&ST, small and marginal and women farmers, 33% of the cost to other farmers limited to Rs. 1000/- per ha up to 2 ha.	Certified seed - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1000/- per quintal of varieties notified during the last 15 years.

1	2	3	4												
		<p>(ii) <i>Plant protection equipment-</i></p> <p>(a) <i>Manual</i> - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 700/-.</p> <p>(b) <i>Power operated</i> - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1500/-</p> <p>(c) <i>Tractor operated</i> - 25% of the cost limited to Rs. 4000/-.</p> <p>(iii) <i>Drip Irrigation System</i> - 50% of the cost of SC & ST, small, marginal and women farmers, at 35% of the cost to other the farmers with the limit as under:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">State farmers</th> <th style="text-align: left;">SC/ST, S/M Women Farmers</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Other and</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>(a) Fully developed</td> <td>22500/-</td> <td>16000/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) less 18200/- developed</td> <td>28000/-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(c) Hilly region</td> <td>28500/-</td> <td>20000/-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	State farmers	SC/ST, S/M Women Farmers	Other and	(a) Fully developed	22500/-	16000/-	(b) less 18200/- developed	28000/-		(c) Hilly region	28500/-	20000/-	
State farmers	SC/ST, S/M Women Farmers	Other and													
(a) Fully developed	22500/-	16000/-													
(b) less 18200/- developed	28000/-														
(c) Hilly region	28500/-	20000/-													
5.	Integrated Cereals Development Programme - Rice.	<p>(i) <i>Manual/Bullock driven</i> - 50% of the cost limited to RS. 1500/- per implement per farmer.</p> <p>(ii) <i>Power tiller</i> - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 30000/- per unit.</p> <p>(iii) <i>Sprinkler sets</i> - 90% of the cost or Rs. 25000/- per ha., whichever is less, for small and marginal, SC&ST and women farmers. 70% of the cost or Rs. 25000/- per ha. whichever is less to other farmers.</p>	<p>(i) <i>Certified seed</i>:Rs. 200/- per quintal on HYV of rice, wheat and barley.</p> <p>(ii) Rs. 400/- per quintal on millets and Rs. 500/- per quintal on Hybrid rice seeds (Restricted to the varieties notified during the last 10 years.</p>												
6.	Integrated Cereals Development Programme Wheat.	<p>(i) <i>Manual/Bullock driven</i> - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1500 per implement per farmer.</p> <p>(ii) <i>Multicrop Power threshers</i> - 25% of the cost limited to Rs. 5000/- per unit per farmer.</p>	<p>(i) <i>Certified seed</i> - Rs. 200/- per quintal on HYV seeds of rice, wheat and barley.</p> <p>(ii) Rs. 400/- per quintal on coarse cereals (except maize).</p> <p>(iii) Rs. 500/- per quintal on Hybrid</p>												

1	2	3	4
			seeds of varieties notified during last 10 years.
7.	Integrated Cereals Development Programme Coarse Cereals.	<p>(i) <i>Manual/bullock driven</i> - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1500/- per implement per farmer.</p> <p>(ii) <i>Multicrop Power threshers</i> - 25% of the cost limited to Rs. 5000/- per unit per farmer.</p> <p>(iii) <i>Sprinklers set</i> - 90% of the cost for small, marginal, SC & ST, and women farmers limited to Rs. 25000/- per set and at 70% of the cost limited to Rs. 25000/- per set for other farmers.</p>	Rs. 1000/- per quintal for Hybrid jowar/bajara and Rs. 500/- per quintal for Hybrid rice. On varietal replacement Rs. 200/- per quintal for wheat, rice and barley and Rs. 400/- per quintal for millets.
8.	Special Jute Development Programme (SJDP).	(i) <i>Manual/bullock driven</i> - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 250/- per unit on handwheel hoe and at 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1500/- per unit on multirow seed drill.	(i) Rs. 600/- per quintal on seeds.
9.	Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS).	<p>(i) <i>Manual/bullock driven</i> - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1500/- per unit</p> <p>(ii) <i>Tractor drawn</i> - 25% of the cost limited to Rs. 10000/- per unit.</p> <p>(iii) <i>Drip irrigation</i> - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 25000/- per ha.</p>	---
10.	Use of Plastics in Agriculture.	(i) <i>Drip irrigation</i> - 90% of the cost for small, marginal, SC & ST and women farmers and at 70% of the cost for other category of farmers limited to Rs. 25000/- per ha. in both cases.	---
11.	Development of Commercial Horticulture.	---	<p>(i) <i>Floriculture Bulbous variety</i>- 50% of the cost of seed limited to Rs. 20000/- per unit of 0.2 ha.</p> <p>(ii) <i>Grafted variety</i>- 50% of the cost of seed limited to Rs. 15000/- per unit of 0.2 ha.</p> <p>(iii) <i>Seeded variety</i>- 50% of the cost of seed limited to Rs. 4000/- per unit of 0.2 ha.</p>

1	2	3	4
12.	Integrated Development of Spices.	(i) <i>Plant protection equipment - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 750/- whichever is less.</i>	—
13.	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among Small Farmers.	(i) <i>Tractors of upto 30 PTO HP capacity at the rate of 30% of the cost limited to Rs. 30000/- per tractor, with matching implements not exceeding three in number, to all category of farmers, individually or in their groups, Registered Cooperative Societies, Multi Purpose Agricultural Farming Societies, Agricultural Credit Societies.</i>	
14.	Oil Palm Development Programme.	<i>Drip irrigation - 90% of the cost for small, marginal, SC&ST and women farmers and at 70% of the cost for other farmers limited to Rs. 25000/- per ha. in both cases.</i>	<i>Planting material- 75% of the cost limited to Rs. 5440/- per ha.</i>
15.	NOVOD Board's Scheme for Development of Oilseeds in new/non-traditional areas/seasons.	Assistance is available to small and marginal farmers as under: (a) <i>Groundnut Decorticator- 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 10000/-</i> (b) <i>Seed drill - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 5000/-</i> (c) <i>Soyabean harvester/ reaper - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 20000/-</i> (d) <i>Multicrop thresher - 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 15000/-</i>	(i) <i>Minikits - at free of cost.</i>

Decline In Production of Foodgrains

986. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Anaj Utpadan Main Bhari Girawat Ki Ashanka' appearing in the daily '*Dainik Jagaran*' dated February 4, 2000 ;

(b) the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reasons for the inordinate decline in production of foodgrains; and

(d) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The statistics reported in the news items are based on the advance estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation. These in turn, were based on the assessment of crop condition made sometimes in January, 2000. Prolonged dry spell in several parts of the

country adversely affected crop condition in several States. However, good rainfall since mid January, 2000 in the country has improved prospects of foodgrains. As per latest assessment, if agro-climatic conditions remain favourable, there is not expected to be any inordinate decline in production of foodgrains during the year 1999-2000.

(d) Review of production is a continuous process. To increase production and productivity of foodgrains in the country, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Area, National Pulses Development Project etc. Under these programmes/project, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and use of improved farm implements. Research is also being continuously undertaken to develop improved technologies so as to enhance the productivity and production of foodgrains in India. Field demonstrations on farmers' holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers is being organised for effective transfer of technology.

*[English]***Employees Provident Fund**

987. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that a large number of employees, who have retired during the period from April 1, 1993 to November 15, 1995 are not entitled to pension under the Employees Provident Fund Pension Scheme; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to amend the rules of EPF Pension Scheme and make them effective from April 1, 1993 so that the employees retired w.e.f. April 1, 1993 are entitled for pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The employees who were members of the ceased Family Pension Scheme, 1971 and who retired during the period from 1.4.1993 to 15.11.1995 are eligible for pension as provided under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

(b) No, Sir.

*[Translation]***Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited**

988. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inquiry has been conducted by the Central Commission for irregularities in the Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd.;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the company has discriminated against some firms in giving contract; and

(d) if so, action taken against those who are responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (d) Various complaints were received through the Office of Prime Minister as well as the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and other sources on the irregularities committed in the award of contracts etc. including favours shown to some firms in raw Materials Division (RMD), SAIL, Colcotta. An inquiry was conducted by the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of SAIL. The reports submitted by the CVO, SAIL were further examined in this Ministry in consultation with CVC.

On the basis of the advice given by the CVC, following actions have been taken:

(i) The former Director, RMD/SAIL, Colcatta who had subsequently joined as MD, IISCO has been suspended and RDA for major penalty has been initiated against him.

(ii) RDA for major penalty has also been initiated against all other found responsible for the same.

Selection of Haj Pilgrims

989. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a list of Hajis from various States has been prepared to send them for Haj to Saudi Arabia during this year.

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

(c) the number of persons who applied for going on Haj and the number of applicants selected and rejected among them with the reasons for their rejection, State-wise;

(d) the criteria followed for selecting Hajis; and

(e) the number of Hajis selected and sent during 1998 and 1999 separately, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) For Haj - 2000, Government increased the quota for Central Haj Committee (CHC) from 66,000 to 72,000. The details of the quota distributed by CHC to various State Haj Committees are given in Statement-I.

(c) and (d) According to Central Haj Committee, 74,490 applications for Haj - 2000 were received. In case the number of applications received is more than the number of seats allocated, then the State Haj Committees conduct 'qurrah' (lottery) to select the pilgrims.

(e) Statements II and III give number of Hajis selected to perform Haj during 1998 and 1999.

Statement-I**HAJ - 2000**

State	Original Quota	App'l's Recd.
1	2	3
Daman & Diu	37	27
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	37	30
Goa	55	25
Gujarat	2174	8428
Madhya Pradesh	1979	3819
Maharashtra	4599	10117
Chandigarh	56	21
Delhi	536	3391

1	2	3
Haryana	461	865
Himachal Pradesh	46	13
Jammu & Kashmir	2485	
Punjab	145	131
Uttar Pradesh	14534	14550
Rajasthan	2125	4062
Andhra Pradesh	3571	3721
Karnataka	3155	4544
Andaman Nicobar	55	37
Lakshdweep	111	208
Pondicherry	55	61
Kerala	4092	7275
Tamil Nadu	1840	3736
Assam	3904	650
Bihar	7709	1662
Manipur	81	137
Orissa	349	248
Tripura	119	11
West Bengal	9691	2295
Govt. Quota	2000	
Total	66000	74490

*The 6000 seats increased by the Government on 28.1.2000 and 1000 seats, which have become available due to cancellations till that date, have been distributed amongst the following three States to accommodate their pending applications.

Maharashtra	2263
Gujarat	3600
Delhi	1137
Total	7000

Statement-II*HAJ - 1998*

State	Original Quota	Total Appl's Received	Total Pilgrims Proceeded
1	2	3	4
Daman & Diu	37	17	12
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	37	34	34
Goa	55	13	13
Gujarat	2174	6155	5630
Madhya Pradesh	1979	4225	3933

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	4599	11202	10340
Chandigarh	55	2	2
Delhi	536	2320	2173
Haryana	461	1082	1040
Himachal Pradesh	46	11	11
Jammu & Kashmir	2485	3807	3656
Punjab	145	154	151
Uttar Pradesh	14534	14495	13789
Rajasthan	2125	3590	3422
Andhra Pradesh	3571	2099	1935
Karnataka	3155	4105	3820
Andaman Nicobar	55	11	11 ^a
Lakshdweep	111	148	143
Pondicherry	55	59	52
Kerala	4092	5687	5361
Tamil Nadu	1840	3571	3309
Assam	3904	642	596
Bihar	7709	972	906
Manipur	81	134	116
Orissa	349	191	185
Tripura	119	6	5
West Bengal	9691	1799	1711
Govt. Quota	2000	1252	1216
Total	66000	67783	63572

Statement-III*HAJ - 1999*

State	Original Quota	Total Appl's Received	Total Pilgrims Proceeded
1	2	3	4
Daman & Diu	37	12	12
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	37	35	33
Goa	55	27	27
Gujarat	2174	5658	5310
Madhya Pradesh	1979	3798	3604
Maharashtra	4599	11258	10517
Chandigarh	56	4	4
Delhi	536	2563	2422
Haryana	461	888	855
Himachal Pradesh	46	26	24

1	2	3	4
Jammu & Kashmir	2485	3339	3252
Punjab	145	127	126
Uttar Pradesh	14534	15677	15064
Rajasthan	2125	3211	3119
Andhra Pradesh	3571	2568	2406
Karnataka	3155	3760	3606
Andaman Nicobar	55	15	15
Lakshdweep	111	241	234
Pondichery	55	35	34
Kerala	4092	4369	4192
Tamil Nadu	1840	2777	2661
Assam	3904	487	472
Bihar	7709	1277	1212
Manipur	81	176	170
Orissa	349	159	152
Tripura	119	22	21
West Bengal	9691	2011	1916
Govt. Quota	2000	659	640
Total	66000	65179	62100

[English]

Fake Currency Racket on Nepal

990. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: -

(a) whether India propose to take up ISI backed fake currency racket issue with Nepal;

(b) if so, whether both the countries have shown a great concern about the Pakistani intention of exploiting Nepal against India ;

(c) whether both countries have agreed to jointly undertake investigations and curb the activities of Pakistani ISI in Nepal;

(d) if so, whether all the suggestion made by India have been agreed upon by the Nepali Government;

(e) if so, the details of agreement reached between both the Governments thereof ; and

(f) the extent to which the activities of ISI in Nepal have been checked?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Government of India is aware and concerned about ISI involvement in the circulation of fake Indian currency in Nepal. The matter has been taken up with His Majesty's Government of Nepal. Shared concern on this issue is evident from the determination expressed by both sides to take urgent necessary steps to prevent the misuse of Nepalese territory for activities directed against India.

(c) to (f) Measures have been taken to enhance cooperation with Nepal, particularly with regard to implementing effective border management, to counter such activities by the ISI. The concerned agencies of the two Governments remain in regular touch to coordinate efforts to tackle this problem. There are also bilateral institutional mechanisms, such as the Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary level talks, which have been evolved to specifically develop cooperation on security matters and to address these concerns. In pursuance of the decisions taken in these meetings, both sides have agreed to jointly coordinate measures to prevent misuse of the open India-Nepal border, or for activities directed against India. On their part, the Government of Nepal have assured that their territory would not be used for activities inimical to India's interest and have been extending their cooperation to the Government of India.

[Translation]

Change In Foreign Policy In view of Hijacking of IA Plane

991. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any possibility of any change in the foreign policy of India in view of recent hijacking of passenger plane and changing world opinion;

(b) the reasons for not achieving required success in improving our relations with neighbouring countries;

(c) whether Samjhauta Express train and Delhi-Lahore Bus-services are proposed to be continued in future;

(d) whether the Government would make special efforts to strengthen the foreign policy ; and

(e) whether the USA would exert pressure on Pakistan to restore friendship with India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) India's foreign policy is based on well-known and articulated principles that include the building of peaceful and friendly relations with all countries and peoples. We remain committed to this policy. The hijacking of the Indian Airlines aircraft has

only served to strengthen our resolve to combat terrorism, which is also an important aspect of our discussions with various countries. Government's policies have resulted in the forging of friendly and cooperative relations with our neighbouring countries, such as, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Maldives. The support received by us during the hijacking crisis further underlined the appreciation and support for our foreign policy that has remained consistent through the years. In respect of Pakistan, that country's policy of compulsive hostility towards us has prevented the formation of fruitful bilateral relations. While we remain committed to developing ties of peace and friendship with Pakistan, this needs to be facilitated by Pakistan abandoning its cross-border terrorism and propaganda against us.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration by Government for the termination of the Samjhauta Express or the Delhi-Lahore bus service.

(d) Foreign policy by its very nature is not a static. Special efforts are constantly being made to further strengthen our policy in reaction to events in a constant changing global scenario while always keeping in sight the nation's interests and the basis principles of our foreign policy.

(e) Government takes every opportunity in bilateral and multilateral forums to bring Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism and its hostile attitude towards India to the attention of the international community, including the United States. There is growing international acknowledgement, including in the United States, particularly after the armed intrusion in Kargil, of the role of Pakistan in sponsoring cross-border terrorism. Government is also engaged in a dialogue with a number of countries on the means to combat terrorism. As part of this process, India and the United States have set up a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism to intensify their cooperation in this area.

[English]

IAS Officers posted in Economic Ministries

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

(a) the number of IAS Officers working in various economic Ministries including Planning Commission and Ministry of Defence;

(b) the number of specialists/professionals working in these Ministries; and

(c) steps taken by the Government to increase professionals/specialists in these Ministries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There is no precise and adopted definition for distinguishing the economic and non-economic Ministries. However, based on the common perception of regulatory nature of work performed by certain Ministries and excluding the posts in those Ministries, information on the posts obtaining in other Ministries as well as in the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Defence has been compiled. As on 23.2.2000, 401 IAS officers were working in such Ministries/Departments, including the Ministry of Defence and the Planning Commission.

(b) and (c) The posts of specialists/professionals are got sanctioned by the concerned Ministries/Departments in accordance with their requirements. On the basis of available information, 2129 professionals/specialists were working in those Ministries/Departments.

[Translation]

Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee

993. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal by the Government of Bihar for revival of Centrally sponsored scheme for the development of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees is under consideration of the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) No proposal for revival of Centrally Sponsored scheme for Development of Agricultural Markets has been received from State Government of Bihar.

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

[English]

Modern Food Industries (India) Limited

994. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has signed an agreement with Hindustan Lever Limited, as a first efforts towards strategic sale of Government equity in Modern Food Industries Limited;

- (b) if so, the details of the agreement so reached;
- (c) whether interests of works have been kept in view while signing this agreement;
- (d) if so, the details of steps taken to protect the interest of workers; and
- (e) the ratio of stake of Government and HLL in Modern Food Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) The Government has signed Agreement with M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited (HLL) thereby disinvesting 74 per cent of its equity holding in Modern Food Industries (India) Limited to HLL.

(b) The salient features of the Agreement are given in the Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The provisions in the Agreement for protection of employees, interest in MFIL are at part (f) (i) to (iv) of the Statement. Besides this, the Strategic Partner envisages appropriate plans keeping in mind the best interest of the Company, its employees and the shareholders.

(e) The ratio of equity holding in Modern Food Industries (India) Limited by the Government and HLL will be 26:74.

Statement

The salient features of the Agreements between the Government, M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited (HLL) and Modern Food Industries (India) Limited are as under:

(a) The Government has disinvested 74% of its equity in MFIL to HLL. M/s Hindustan Lever Limited (HLL) has paid an amount of Rs. 105.45 crores to the Government and has further infused an amount of Rs. 20 crores in Modern Food Industries (India) Limited (MFIL) for securing 74 percent of Government equity holding in MFIL in such a way that the shareholding of HLL in MFIL remains restricted to 74 per cent.

(b) The Agreement *inter alia* provides for post-closing adjustments on account of receivables/payables; purchaser's loss; tax liability and litigation in respect of cases for the pre-closing period from 1.4.1999 to 31.1.2000.

(c) MFIL will be managed by its Board of Directors and all decisions of the Board will be taken by majority vote. However, approval of Government of India Director is necessary on certain matters such as transfer of shares, sale of all or substantially all assets of the company, winding up, merger/amalgamation and issue of additional shares.

(d) Presence of one Government Director is necessary for purposes of quorum for Board of Directors meeting.

(e) In terms of the Agreement, the Government shall have the right to nominate two (2) Directors on the Board of MFIL so long as it holds 25% or more of MFIL shares and one (1) such Director shall be the Chairman of the Board who will preside at all the meetings of the Board and the Shareholders of the Company. HLL shall have the right to nominate not more than five (5) Directors and one of such Directors shall be the Managing Director of MFIL.

(f) The Agreement *inter alia* provides for protection of the interest of the employees as under:

(i) In the Recital to the Shareholders Agreement "that the parties envision that all employees of the Company on the date hereof will continue in the employment of the Company."

(ii) Through the 1st anniversary of the date of the Agreement, any dismissal or termination of employees of the company from their employment may be undertaken only in accordance with the applicable staff regulations and standing orders of the Company or applicable law; provided, however, that no retrenchment of an employees through the 1st anniversary of the date of this Agreement shall be undertaken unless the affected employee is given benefits that are equal to or exceed the Maximum Benefit which shall mean employee benefits which are higher of (a) Voluntary Retirement Scheme offered by the Government of India to employees of the Company as of the date hereof or (b) the benefits available to an employee under applicable law.

(iii) The breach of obligations relating to the employees would constitute an Event of Default inviting penal action in terms of buying Strategic Partner's shares in MFIL at 25% discount or sell all the Government owned MFIL shares to the Strategic Partner at 25% premium. This right is without prejudice to the Government's right to seek remedies at law or in equity against the Strategic Partner.

(iv) Notwithstanding the above, the Agreements shall be governed in accordance with the laws of the land and as such the interest of employees will also be governed under the Provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

(g) The Agreement also provides for the eventualities which would be construed as Event of Default rendering the defaulting party liable to penal action besides the representations and warranties of each of the parties.

Combat Terrorism

995. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to explore ways to combat terrorism;

(b) if so, whether the Government are in touch with other countries to deal with terrorist activities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have signed an agreement with USA to find out areas of co-operation to fight against the threat of terrorism;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether such cooperation was sought by the Government from big powers at the time of hijacking of Indian Aircraft in December, 1999; and

(g) if so, extent to which India is likely to be benefitted?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) Government of India continues to attach the highest priority to combating terrorism. With this in mind, India has been at the forefront in generating international consensus to explore ways and means to combat the menace of terrorism. The Government has been in touch with several countries in the matter and they have offered cooperation in our fight against terrorism.

(d) and (e) No such agreement has been signed with USA. However, in the first meeting of the Indo-US Joint Working Group on counter-terrorism, which took place in Washington this month, the two countries agreed on a range of measures to enhance cooperation to combat international terrorism, and as part of this process, the two sides would share experience, exchange information, and coordinate approaches and action.

(f) and (g) Soon after the hijacking of the Indian Airlines aircraft in December 1999, the Minister for External Affairs personally contacted several of his counterparts within the international community, including those in neighbouring countries, member countries of the UN Security Council and of Governments with nationals aboard the hijacked aircraft. The Foreign Secretary also spoke to several of his counterparts and heads of diplomatic missions in New Delhi. In all instances, pledges of support and cooperation were received. This was further elaborated in statements of condemnation issued by several foreign Governments, which saw the hijacking as an unacceptable act of international terrorism.

[Translation]

Subsidy for Drip Irrigation

996. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been providing subsidy to the farmers for the implementation of drip irrigation system and for buying tractors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total area being irrigated through the drip irrigation system at present in the country, State-wise;

(d) the amount of subsidy distributed to the farmers so far, and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Use of Plastics in Agriculture and Oil Palm Development Project, assistance for drip irrigation is being provided @ 90 per cent of total cost to the Small, Marginal, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes & Women farmers and 70 per cent of the total cost to the other category farmers subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 25,000/- per hectare for both the categories. Similarly, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization among Small Farmers, assistance is being provided @ 30 per cent of total cost limited to Rs. 30,000/- per tractor. The assistance is available to all categories of farmers including individuals and groups, Registered Cooperative Societies, Multi-purpose Agricultural Farming Societies and Agricultural Credit Societies for the purchase of tractors up to 30 Power Take Off (PTO) Horse Power capacity together with their matching implements.

(c) A Statement-I indicating the total area being irrigated through drip irrigation in the country is enclosed.

(d) and (e) A Statement-II indicating the funds released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Use of Plasticulture to the State Governments during the last three years and the allocations for the current year is enclosed.

Statement-I*State-wise area covered under Drip Irrigation*

State	(Area in ha.)
	Area irrigated under drip irrigation (ha)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	32476
Arunachal Pradesh	160

1	2	1	2
Assam	38	Orissa	1948
Bihar	0	Punjab	1384
Goa	407	Rajasthan	4554
Gujarat	7700	Sikkim	148
Haryana	1899	Tamil Nadu	38216
Himachal Pradesh	1995	Tripura	0
Jammu & Kashmir	143	Uttar Pradesh	1543
Karnataka	49574	West Bengal	9
Kerala	5472	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3
Madhya Pradesh	2383	Daman & Diu	24
Maharashtra	142347	Delhi	4
Manipur	199	Lakshadweep	0
Meghalaya	16	Chandigarh	0
Mizoram	64	Andaman & Nicobar	0
Nagaland	250	Pondicherry	60
		Total	293016

Statement - II*State-wise assistance provided under Plasticulture Scheme*

(Rs. in Lakh)

S. No.	State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Outlay)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	1460.00	1070.00	1410.75	1277.50
2	Arunachal Pradesh	19.61	0.00	40.00	42.20
3	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.90
4	Bihar	50.00	0.00	0.00	34.70
5	Goa	22.52	3.00	19.00	22.30
6	Gujarat	0.00	100.00	141.49	230.20
7	Haryana	100.36	44.00	155.42	96.70
8	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.40
9	Jammu & Kashmir	543.42	570.00	262.00	483.30
10	Karnataka	1854.95	2234.00	2995.00	2372.80
11	Kerala	242.95	304.00	415.65	365.40
12	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	80.00	183.10	221.10
13	Maharashtra	2011.28	2447.00	3194.13	2703.90
14	Manipur	24.81	24.00	63.00	30.10
15	Meghalaya	19.81	0.00	45.00	34.20
16	Mizoram	32.33	38.00	88.00	38.10
17	Nagaland	36.35	70.00	96.60	41.80
18	Orissa	168.71	125.00	0.00	14.80
19	Punjab	116.41	0.00	93.00	98.50
20	Rajasthan	50.25	287.00	270.00	309.70

1	2	3	4	5	6
21	Sikkim	15.00	38.00	45.32	43.20
22	Tamil Nadu	826.94	515.00	1095.00	1052.25
23	Tripura	19.16	0.00	0.00	26.50
24	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	115.59	234.67
25	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.40
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	8.50	5.00	5.50
27	Daman & Diu	10.33	8.50	5.00	5.80
28	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.10
29	Lakshadweep	0.00	4.50	5.00	5.80
30	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	Pondichery	9.80	0.00	0.00	1.80
Total		7634.99	7970.50	10744.05	9850.52

[English]

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust

997. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prohibited certain categories of contract labour in Jawahar Port Trust in Nhava-Sheva;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust have implemented the said order;

(d) if so, since when these are being implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has vide notification No. S.O. 1000(E) dated 01.10.1999, prohibited employment of contract labour in tugs, pilot launches and mooring launches of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Mumbai.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Employees State Insurance Corporation

998. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether ESIC has an office in Hyderabad for the whole region;

(b) if so, its functions and work;

(c) whether proper surveys are being done by ESIC;

(d) if so, to what extent has ESIC improved health care for workers;

(e) the details thereof;

(f) whether ESIC has studied the need of a super-speciality hospital in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main functions of the Regional Office relate, *inter-alia*, to coverage of factories/establishments under the ESI Scheme, collection of contributions, prosecution of defaulting employers, disbursement of cash benefits, coordination with the State Government with regard to administration of medical care etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (g) The responsibility for administration of medical care under the ESI Schemes vests in the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations except in Delhi and NOIDA where it is being administered directly by the ESIC. The ESIC has prescribed norms/guidelines for staffing and equipments in the ESI hospitals/dispensaries. However, recently in order to improve health care facilities in ESI hospitals/dispensaries, the ESIC has formulated an Action Plan and forwarded the same to State Governments including the Government of Andhra Pradesh for implementation. The Action Plan includes *inter-alia* provision of modern equipment system in hospitals, availability of basic equipment in dispensaries, establishment of regional trauma centres, establishment of super speciality services, blood banks, cancer treatment centres, development of indigenous system of medicines, development of tie-up arrangements with reputed medical institutions etc.

Foreign Minister's Visit to Moscow

999. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had lately paid a visit to Moscow for talks on long term collaboration in defence, trade and economic affairs; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) I paid an official visit to the Russian Federation from May 23-25, 1999. During the visit, I had a telephonic conversation with then President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Yeltsin. I also met Deputy Prime Minister Valentina Matvienko, then Secretary of Security Council of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, then Spacial Envoy of the Russian President to the Balkans Viktor Chemomyrdin and the Mayor of the City of Moscow Yuri Luzhkov. I had a detailed exchange of views on bilateral, regional and international issues with my counterpart, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. During these discussions, both sides underlined that Indo-Russian relations were time-tested and based on continuity, trust and mutual understanding. Our interaction with the Russian Federation is comprehensive and multifaceted. Further measures to strengthen and develop out bilateral cooperation in all areas were touched upon. It was agreed that a Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation would be signed at the next Indo-Russian Summit.

Srilankan Coast Guards attacks on Indian Fishermen

1000. SHRI P. D. ELANGOVA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the attacks made on Indian fisherman by the Srilankan Coast Guards during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the Indian fishermen arrested by the Srilankan Coast Guards during the above period;

(c) the steps taken by both the Central and State Governments with regard to get them released; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to protect the Indian fishermen suffering heavily from the indiscrete attack by the Srilankan Coast Guards?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Details are being compiled. The information will then be placed on the Table of the House.

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

[Translation]

Employment Generation Programmes of KVIC

1001. SHRI P. R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the districts of Madhya Pradesh particularly the 'SC/ST/Adivasi/Backward areas', in which employment generations programmes of Khadi and Village Industries Commission are being implemented;

(b) the criteria fixed to adopt districts under aforesaid programme by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(c) whether there is any proposal to include more districts under this programme during the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) All districts of Madhya Pradesh are covered under the Rural Employment Generation Programme of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

[English]

Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana

1002. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received the proposal from the State Governments for increasing the Central contribution in respect of payments required to be made to the farmers affected with crop failures under the Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal received from Maharashtra and other State Governments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some States, including Maharashtra, have suggested changes in the financial implications including pattern of sharing between the Central and State Governments under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). These are:

1. The sharing pattern between Government of India and State Government should be continued as 2:1 as against 1:1 under NAIS.
2. The creation of Corpus Fund is not justifiable and may be dropped.
3. Administrative expenditure for implementation of the scheme should be borne by the Government of India.
4. The expenditure on crop cutting experiments and other incidental expenditure should be shared between Government of India and State Government in the ratio of 2:1.

5. The sunset arrangements for taking away the benefit of subsidised premium to small and marginal farmers need reconsideration.

(c) The suggestions given by the State Governments would be considered at the time of review of the scheme.

Prior Knowledge of I.A. Plane Hijack

1003. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Pakistan had a prior knowledge of Indian Airlines plane hijacking;

(b) if so, whether contents of the Nepali inquiry into the hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight from Kathmandu to Delhi have been received by the Government;

(c) if so, the main points mentioned in the inquiry report;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the matter; and

(e) if so, the outcome of this inquiry report ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Government is aware that the Pakistan pursues terrorism as a matter of State policy and the recent incident of hijacking of IC 814 was an example of terrorism directed against India.

(b) and (c) His Majesty's Government of Nepal had constituted a five-member high-level committee headed by former Inspector General of Police, Hem Bahadur Singh, on December 25, 1999 to investigate security-related issues at the Tribhuvan International Airport following the hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC-814 on December 24, 1999 from Kathmandu. The committee submitted its report on January 24, 2000. The Government of India is yet to receive the committee's report since it has not been made public so far.

(d) and (e) The inquiry into the hijacking incident has been entrusted by the Government of India to the CBI and the investigation is currently in progress.

Issue of Passports of Hijackers of I.A. Air Plane

1004. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated January 26, 2000 under caption "False passports";

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

(c) the details of *modus operandi* adopted by Ibrahim Athar, the leader of the gang that hijacked IC-814 to Kandhar, who managed to easily secure the passports in a matter of two days from the Bombay Passport Office;

(d) whether the employees of the Bombay passport office those have involvement in issue of passports been identified ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ;

(f) the action taken against them; and

(g) the steps taken to tighten the grip of the law on the unscrupulous and unwanted people in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the concerned investigating agencies an alleged Pakistani national Ibrahim Athar separately applied for two passports at RPO, Mumbai from different addresses and under two different names. The two passport applications were processed in a routine manner as followed for all applications including verification by the police. There was no expediting or out of turn processing of the two applications.

(d) to (f) The investigating agencies have arrested three employees of the Regional Passport Office, Mumbai.

(g) The Government remains committed to be vigilant against the unscrupulous and undesirable elements in the country.

[Translation]

Koshi High Dam Project

1005. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the steps being taken by the Union Government for expeditious execution of Koshi High Dam project which is under active consideration of both the Governments of India and Nepal for number of years;

(b) the estimated irrigation and hydro power generation potential likely to be achieved after completing the project; and

(c) the time by which the execution work on the project is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) Water resources development project, namely, Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project (SKHDMP) is under consideration of both the Governments of Nepal and India for a number of years. A Joint Team of Experts (JTE) of India and Nepal was constituted in 1992 to finalise the modalities of investigations and the methods of assessment of benefits for joint studies/investigations of SKHDMP. JTE has so far met twice on February, 1992 and January, 1997. As per outcome of the meetings, an inception report to be prepared by HMGN and to be accepted by JTE would provide the guiding principle for investigations and preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) jointly for which joint field works/surveys investigations are to be carried out first. Recently, a revised inception report enlisting the objectives of the projects, scope of field investigations, project formulation, methodology of assessment of various project benefits in terms of power, irrigation, flood control, inland navigation, etc. has been received from HMGN. This revised inception report is to be agreed in principle by both the countries/to be accepted by the JTE. Thus, the project is still under preliminary stage of discussion so far as execution of the project is concerned.

(b) The details about the estimated irrigation and hydropower generation potential likely to be achieved after completing the project would be known only after preparation/finalization of the joint DPR of the project proposal.

(c) It is premature to indicate the time by which execution work of the project is likely to be commenced.

List of IAS/ IPS Officers

1006. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has prepared list of corrupt officers of IAS, IPS and other officers particularly posted in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government against the said officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Central Vigilance Commission has not prepared list of corrupt officers of

IAS, IPS and other officers particularly posted in Delhi. However, the Commission has put on its web-site lists of officers of the organised services against whom it has recommended "criminal prosecution" or "major penalty action" during the last ten years.

(b) and (c) This Ministry exercises the powers of the Central Government under the relevant Discipline and Appeal Rules, in respect of officers belonging to the Indian Administrative Service and Central Secretariat Service Grade I and above only. In respect of the 83 cases against IAS officers displayed by the CVC, two cases have been closed on the demise of the delinquent officers. Except in 10 cases, further necessary action has been taken after obtaining the advice of the CVC.

Similar information in regard to other services is not maintained centrally.

[English]

Child Labour Laws

1007. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.N. Committee on rights of the Child in its report has requested to the Union Government to take steps to amend Child Labour Laws;

(b) if so, the details of the report/recommendations made by the U.N. Committee; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) UN Committee on Convention on the Rights of the Child met in Geneva in January, 2000. In its final observations the Committee has noted the amendments to the schedule to the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. It stated its concern at the large number of working children and against non enforcement of minimum age standards for employment. It recommended ratification of ILO Convention No. 138 concerning the minimum age for admission to employment and No. 182 concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of Child Labour. Steps have already been initiated towards ratification on ILO Convention No. 138 and 182.

Rules Framed by Instrumentalities

1008. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether instrumentalities of the Union Government are free to frame rules and regulations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) An instrumentality of the Government can make rules in accordance with the provision of the statute or charter of its constitution. With the approval of the competent authority, it can make its own rules or adopt the rules of the Central Government or adopt the same with suitable amendments as may be permissible within the legal framework.

It is the responsibility of the administrative Ministry/ Department to ensure compliance with the provisions of the statute and rules framed thereunder in respect of an instrumentality of the Government.

Sickness in Small Scale Sector

1009. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enact any new legislation to tackle the problem of sickness in Small Scale Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to grant statutory status to the State level Inter-Institutional Committees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) The High Level Committee on Credit to Small Scale Industries (Kappor Committee) that was set up by RBI, *inter alia*, recommended grant of statutory powers to State Level Inter Institutional Committees for the enforcement of decisions made in respect of the rehabilitation of potentially viable SSI units. The above recommendation is under examination.

*[Translation]***UK Visa Bond Proposal**

1010. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
 SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
 SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
 SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
 SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
 SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Britain moots 10,000 pounds threat to prevent visitors from other States" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated 31.1.2000 and news item captioned "India may retaliate to UK visa bond proposal" appearing in *Hindustan Times* dated 1.2.2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government have lodged their protest against the proposal and taken up the matter with British authorities for further clarification;

(c) whether the Government have discussed this matter with British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs during his recent visit to India;;

(d) if so, the response of the British Government thereto;

(e) whether the Government proposes to take reciprocal action against UK visa bond proposal;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the further steps being taken by Government to save the Indian people from such harassment?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government have taken up this matter with the British Government and also with Mr. Keith Vaz, the British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who visited India from 31 January - 5 February 2000.

(d) The British Government have stated that the proposal is still under consideration. It has not taken a decision about the location for implementing the pilot Financial Bond Project. Indians can continue to apply for British visas with the usual documents, as per the prevailing rules of British visa services.

(e) to (g) The Government reserves the right to take reciprocal action in the event that such rules and guidelines are changed for issue of visas to Indians by the British Government.

*[English]***Discussion on Karmapa Issue**

1011. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
 SHRI KRISHANMRAJU:
 SHRI R.L. BHATIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether China has sought information from Indian Government about Karmapa Lama's visit to India;

(b) if so, whether India had also requested China to provide full details about how Karmapa Lama left the Tibet and let it know the circumstances under which the 17th Karmapa Ugyen Trinley Dorje managed to travel the long arduous route to Dharamsala;

(c) if so, whether both the countries have agreed to discuss this issue amicably;

(d) if so, whether India and China are working together about this episode and there is a clear understanding between India and China on this issue; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Following the arrival in Dharamsala on January 5, 2000 of Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji, recognised by his supporters as the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa, the Chinese Government requested the Government of India to provide information regarding his whereabouts.

(b) The Chinese side has been requested to share with us details regarding the circumstances of his departure from Tibet for India.

(c) to (e) India and China have been in touch through diplomatic channels. The two sides have noted with satisfaction the improvement and development of bilateral relations on the basis of Panchsheel.

Discharge of Effluents in the Noyyal River

1012. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to heavy discharge of effluents in the Noyyal river in Tamil Nadu, water of the surrounding wells particularly oralthu palayam reservoir get contaminated and land of the area also getting barren day by day;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) No such matter regarding discharge of effluents in the Noyyal River has been reported by the Government of Tamil Nadu to the Ministry of Water Resources.

Cross Border Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir

1013. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the considerable rise in the cross border terrorism and violent activities of the militants in the State of Jammu and Kashmir the Union Government have taken any step for global support against terrorism in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response received by the Government from the world community in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Tackling terrorism is a priority issue for the Government and India has been in the forefront of efforts to generate international consensus on the need to combat terrorism. International response to India's initiatives has been encouraging. At the multilateral level, the 54th session of the UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, which calls upon States to refrain from financing, encouraging, providing training for or otherwise supporting terrorist activities. The General Assembly also decided to commence negotiations on India's draft of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism by September 2000. The Security Council also adopted a resolution in October 1999 condemning terrorism and urging all States to cooperate in combating it. At the bilateral level too we have received encouraging response from key countries.

[Translation]

Agricultural Workers

1014. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Welfare Fund to provide financial assistance to the agricultural workers to raise their standard of living;

(b) whether some State Governments have opposed the proposal;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken any decision to implement this proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) A proposal to enact a comprehensive Central legislation for agricultural workers is under consideration of the Government which *inter-alia* includes creation of a Welfare Fund for providing certain welfare/social security measures i.e. financial assistance in the case of death or injury, payment of group insurance premium, health , maternity benefits, old age pension, housing and children's education etc. to these workers. There were certain reservations expressed by some of the State Governments on some of the components of the draft legislation. As it is the endeavour of the Government to reach a consensus, a Conference of the State Labour Ministers was held on 18.1.2000 in New Delhi when views of the State Governments were obtained. The proposal is being re-examined on the basis of the views/ comments of the State Governments.

[English]

Social Security for Senior Citizens

1015. SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned 'Social security for aged must get top priority' appearing in *Hindustan Times* dated February 5, 2000;

(b) if so, facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the suggestion of the Council of Economic and Social Research has been examined by the Government;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the time-frame worked out to implement the recommendations thereof ?

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

(b) A two day workshop was organized, by Help Age India, a Non-Governmental Organisation on 3rd and 4th February, 2000 at New Delhi. In this workshop, Council for Economic and Social Research (CESR) presented a paper titled "An Approach to a Security Net for the Aged", as a draft action plan for implementation of National Policy on Older Persons. The main thrust of the paper is on provision of financial security for the elderly poor.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Torture of Staff Member of Indian High Commission

1016. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a staff member of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad was abducted by the Pakistani Police in Islamabad in January, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the staff member of the Indian mission was mentally and physically tortured;

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

(e) whether a protest has since been lodged with the Government of Pakistan in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the response of Pakistan thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (g) Shri P. Moses, staff member of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad was abducted by the Pakistani police authorities on 16th January, 2000. While in custody, he was mentally and physically ill-treated. He was coerced into reading a confession in front of the media, including Pak TV to the effect that he was involved in aiding and abetting terrorist activities. This so-called 'confession' was later telecast on PTV. He was released in the early morning of 17th January, 2000.

Government strongly condemned this incident. A strong protest was lodged with Pakistan about the abhorrent behaviour of the Pakistan authorities with Shri Moses. Government also rejected the false and baseless allegations made by the Government of Pakistan against Shri P. Moses and reminded it that such action was grossly violative of Pakistan's international and bilateral obligations.

Agreement with Bangladesh/Mangolia for Development of Agriculture

1017. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAULTALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement has been signed by India with Bangladesh and Mangolia for cooperation in the field of agriculture;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(c) the time by which the said agreement is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the field of Agriculture was signed between India and Bangladesh on 22nd January, 2000. As per the terms of the MOU both countries shall promote development of cooperation in agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro processing through joint activities, programmes, exchange of scientific materials, information and personnel. The joint activities may include areas of agriculture research, animal husbandry, fisheries, agriculture extension, seeds production etc. The MOU provides for Biennial Work Plans to be drawn up by mutual agreement between the two countries to give effect to the objectives of the MOU and a Joint Agricultural Working Group to provide guidance, and review the progress of activities under the Memorandum. The MOU came into effect on 22nd January, 2000.

An Agreement for cooperation in the field of agriculture between the Government of India and the Government of Mangolia was signed on 16th September, 1998. The Agreement provides for Scientific, Technical and Economic cooperation in various areas of agriculture. The Agreement also provides for Work Plans to be drawn up by mutual agreement containing specific proposals/activities to be taken up for implementation under the Agreement. A Work Plan for cooperation in the field of agriculture between the Government of India and the Government of Mangolia was signed on 28th January, 2000. The Work Plan contains proposals for exchange of seed samples, training of Mongolian Specialists in India, study visits of Indian Specialists to Mongolia, setting up direct contact between agricultural research institutes of the two countries. The Work Plan has come into effect on 28th January, 2000.

Reservation for Handicaps in Private Public Sector

1018. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide reservation to handicapped persons in the services in private sector;

(b) if so, the percentage of reservation likely to be provided in the said sector;

(c) whether the Government have provided reservation to the handicapped persons in the Public Sector also;

(d) if so, the percentage thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that the posts reserved for handicapped persons in public sector have not been filled up till date;

(f) if so, the facts thereof ; and

(g) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken for immediate filling of vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to amend the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, provides for not less than 3% of vacancies for persons with disability of which one percent each shall be reserved for persons suffering from (i) blindness or low vision; (ii) hearing impairment; and (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy, in the posts identified for each disability, in the establishments of every appropriate Government.

(e) to (g) According to information available as on 30.6.1998 the position in regard to Group 'C' and 'D' is given in enclosed Statement. The Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have been directed to launch vigorous drive to identify the vacancies available for persons with disabilities and recruit persons with disabilities against these posts so that the minimum reservation of 3% as envisaged in the Act is achieved as quickly as possible.

Statement

(As on 30.6.1998)

No. of PSUs from which information received	No. of vacancies, including backlog vacancies, available for persons with disabilities		No. of vacancies filled up	
	C	D	C	D
	576	616	57	29

* In case of Group 'C' 53
In case of Group 'D' 42

[Translation]

Reservation for SC/ST

1019. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a number of requests to review the reservation for SCs/STs afresh in proportion to present their population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to make amendment in the ratio of reservation to this class by considering year 2000 as base year;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) The Government has received a number of requests to review the reservation for SC/ST. However, the nine-judge Constitution Bench judgement dated 16.11.1992 of the Supreme Court in the case of *Indira Sawhney Vs. UOI* has observed that Clause 4 of Article 16 (which empowers the State to provide reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs) speaks of adequate representation and not proportionate representation. The Apex Court has further observed that it is not possible to accept the theory of proportionate representation though the proportion of population of Backward Classes to the total population would certainly be relevant. Therefore, the power conferred by clause 4 of Article 16 should be exercised in a fair manner and within reasonable limits so that reservation under Clause 4 of article 16 does not exceed 50%. Presently, reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs provided under Article 16(4) is already 49.5% and 50% in the case of direct recruitment by open competition and direct recruitment otherwise than by open competition respectively and any further increase in reservation percentage for SC/ST in proportion to their population is not feasible in terms of the aforementioned Supreme Court judgement.

[English]

Talks Between Indo-China on Outstanding Issues

1020. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any talks are going on between India and China regarding outstanding issues between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) We remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues with China. There is an on-going dialogue with China at various levels. The Foreign Office Consultations with China were held in Beijing on February 25-26, 1999. The 11th meeting of the Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question was held in Beijing on April 26-27, 1999. The 7th meeting of the Expert Group of Diplomatic and Military Officials was held in New Delhi on November 24, 1999. I visited China on June 14-15, 1999 and subsequently met

the Chinese Foreign Minister in Singapore on July 25, 1999. There was agreement on promoting CBMs, having a security dialogue, expanding economic and trade relations and jointly celebrating the forthcoming 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations (April 1, 2000). Our Minister of Commerce and Industry visited China for the Sixth Meeting of the India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations and Trade, Science and Technology, held in Beijing on February 21-22, 2000. During the meeting the two sides agreed in measures to enhance bilateral trade.

Promotion/Application of Information Technology

1021. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DWATHE:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a high powered Group to chalk out strategy for proliferation/development of information technology in tune with the emerging global scenario;

(b) if so, the composition thereof and the time by which the panel is expected to submit its report;

(c) the details of the major policy decision taken and implemented for promotion of software information technology at Central/State level;

(d) whether the Government plan keep role of this sector free from its interference; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) The Committee is an Advisory body only. No specific report is envisaged to be submitted presently. The details are given in enclosed Statement.

(d) The role of meeting of Information Technology primarily is to be a proactive facilitator, promoter and motivator. This will ensure speedy spread of IT to masses and speedy IT led development. Highest priority will be accorded to Human Resources Development which is critical for growth of IT sector.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Members of Advisory Committee of Ministry of Information Technology for Development of IT Industries

1. Minister of Information Technology	-	Chairman
2. Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology	-	Member
3. Shri F.C. Kohli, Deputy Chairman, Tata Consultancy Services	-	Member
4. Shri N.R. Narayana Murthy, Chairman & CEO, Infosys Tech. Ltd.	-	Member
5. Shri Azim Premji, Chairman, Wipro Corporation	-	Member
6. Shri Subhash Chandra, Chairman, Essel Group of Companies	-	Member
7. Shri B. Ramalinga Raju, Chairman, Satyam Computers Services Ltd.	-	Member
8. Shri R.S. Pawar, Chairman, NIIT Ltd.	-	Member
9. Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, CMD, BPL Telecom Business Group	-	Member
10. Prof. V. Raju, Director, IIT, New Delhi	-	Member
11. Shri Dewang Mehta, President, NASSCOM	-	Member
12. Shri Satish Kaura, Chairman, Samtel India Ltd.	-	Member
13. Shri G.P. Goenka, President, FICCI	-	Member
14. Shri Rahul Bejj, President, Confederation of Indian Industry	-	Member
15. Shri L. Lakshminarayanan, Joint Secretary, M/o Info. Tech.	-	Convener

2. The Committee shall—

- (a) Identify thrust/emerging technology areas and suggest measures/policies, actions for building expertise, human resource development and fostering Research and Development activities with the objectives of creating wealth, accelerating economic growth and generating employment opportunities so as to make India a super power particularly in the area of Information Technology.
- (b) Suggest measures for rapid development and spread of IT applications such as E-Governance, E-Commerce, Distance learning, Digital library etc.

3. The Committee will meet once in two months and may co-opt any person as special invitee.

Meeting of Joint Working Group on Border Management

1022. SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three day meeting of a Joint Working Group on Border Management was held recently between India and Nepal officials; and

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The third meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Working Group on Border Management was held from February 1-3, 2000 in Kathmandu. Concrete measures and cooperation on security issues were discussed, reviewed and followed up at the meeting. The two sides reiterated their determination not to permit the use of their respective territories for activities directed against the other. They reviewed the developments since the last meeting of the Joint Working Group and had a useful exchange of views on modalities for more effective management and regulation of the India-Nepal border. They agreed to strengthen cooperation to control undesirable activities and the movement of terrorists, criminals and other undesirable elements across the border. It was reiterated that the privilege of unimpeded access across the open border enjoyed by the nationals of the two countries should not be allowed to be misused by anyone, including third country nationals. The need for intensified and coordinated patrolling at sensitive border points, including the deployment of Central and

State Police Forces on the Indian side, was discussed with the objective of enhancing security and preventing misuse of the open India-Nepal border, while ensuring that the facility remains available for legitimate users.

[Translation]

People Below Poverty Line

1023. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Government to conduct census of the people living below poverty line;

(b) the criteria formulated by World Bank for conducting census of people living below poverty line at the international level;

(c) the number of persons living below poverty line in the country during the Ninth Five Plan as compared to the initial years of the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the details of the measures being taken by the Government to improve the living standard of the people living below poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The Census of the people living below the poverty line commonly known as BPL Census is conducted at two stages. First, on the basis of certain exclusion criteria some families are excluded. The exclusion criteria are as follows: if the family operates more than two hectares of land, has pucca house, if any resident member of the family has annual income from salary/self-employment exceeding Rs. 20,000 per annum (Rs. 1,700 per month), or if the family possesses a Television set, Refrigerator, Ceiling Fan, Motor Cycle/ Scooter, Three-Wheeler, or if the family owns a Tractor, Power Tiller, Combined Thresher/Harvester, then the family is excluded from the BPL group.

Among the remaining families, the total consumption, both purchased from the market and home grown, are divided by the total number of persons in the family. If this amount falls below the poverty line expenditure which is worked out at State level using the methodology contained in the report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee), then the family is considered to be in BPL group.

(b) The World Bank criteria for conducting the census of people living below the poverty line at the international level are not known. However, the Bank publishes the percentage of people living below the poverty line computed by the Member countries using their own methodologies. It also computes the percentage of persons living below international poverty line set by the World Bank of one US dollar a day, measured at 1985 international price and adjusted to local currency using the Purchasing Power Parity conversion factor.

(c) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). These percentages are applied on the estimated population in order to arrive at the number of persons living below the poverty line. The large surveys of consumer expenditure by the NSSO are conducted at an interval of approximately five years. The last such survey was conducted in 1993-94. The next large survey on consumer expenditure is being conducted during period July, 1999 to June, 2000. As such, the estimates of percentage of people living below the poverty line during the Ninth Five Year Plan which covers the period 1997-2002 are not available. The latest estimate of poverty available for the year 1993-94, from the NSSO large sample data on consumer expenditure. This may be treated as the initial year of Eighth Five Year Plan as the Eighth Plan covers the period 1992-1997. In 1993-94, 35.97% of the persons lived below the poverty line.

(d) There is three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are (a) acceleration of economic growth, (b) human and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (c) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.

[English]

Sardar Sarovar Project

1024. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVT:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have urged the Union Government to reduce the height of Narmada Dam (Sardar Sarovar Dam) to 19 metres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) The Government of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have not approached the Government of India for reduction in height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam.

However, during hearing of the Writ Petition filed by NBA in the Supreme Court the Government of Madhya Pradesh has pleaded for reduction in the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam from 138.68 m. to 132.89 m. on the plea that it will reduce the submergence area and the number of project affected families. A complaint from Government of Madhya Pradesh under Section-3 of the Inter-State-Water Disputes Act, 1956 and a request to refer to Tribunal for adjudication of the dispute with regard to the use, distribution and control of the Waters of the Inter-State River Narmada was also received on 23.3.1998 wherein the Government of Madhya Pradesh had sought readjudication through a new tribunal on various grounds including reduction in FRL from 138.68 m. to 132.89 m. among others.

However, in the opinion of Government of India the application received from Government of Madhya Pradesh was in contravention to the provisions contained in the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 and therefore untenable. The Government of Madhya Pradesh was informed accordingly on 30.3.1999.

[Translation]

Loan Under PMRY

1025. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the Government for sanctioning loan under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of beneficiaries whose business are functioning at present and the number of those whose business have been wound up;

(c) whether the Government propose to review these cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the number of proposals sanctioned and referred to banks an outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Statement indicating State-wise number of applications received under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for the last 3 years i.e. 1996-97; 1997-98 and 1998-99 is enclosed.

(b) As per the sample study conducted under All India evaluation of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for the year 1994-95 success rate was 99.3% (i.e. 15002 units were set up out of 15098 cases of loans disbursed).

Physical verification shows success rate of 92.59% for the year 1997-98 and 91.79% for the year 1998-99 as reported by the State/UTs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of part (c) above.

(e) 1507052 applications were referred (sponsored) to banks for sanction of loan for the last 3 years i.e. 1996-97; 1997-98; and 1998-99 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana. Of these, loans were sanctioned in 797220 cases and disbursements were made in 583996 cases, as reported by the Reserve bank of India.

Statement

State-wise applications received under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99

(As reported by the States/UTs)

Applications Received (Numbers)				
Sl. No.	State/UT	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	110521	88509	84484
2.	Assam	58714	58011	67358
3.	Bihar	58714	39591	32962
4.	Delhi	5121	7751	4836
5.	Goa	639	423	494
6.	Gujarat	26272	27341	29850
7.	Haryana	21386	14157	17610
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5880	4829	4700
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6713	8114	7862

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Karnataka	58046	64804	71327
11.	Kerala	69946	63214	46918
12.	Madhya Pradesh	84759	71963	73609
13.	Maharashtra	71482	78971	70231
14.	Manipur	NIL	15504	20297
15.	Mizoram	2213	2615	3470
16.	Orissa	46290	38632	35503
17.	Punjab	22918	21152	21529
18.	Rajasthan	35430	33964	35763
19.	Tamil Nadu	45310	44976	45756
20.	Tripura	4413	2780	3534
21.	Uttar Pradesh	706984	111276	119266
22.	West Bengal	30793	20467	16212
23.	Andaman & Nicobar	177	212	406
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	771	750	1215
25.	Chandigarh	528	512	433
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	295	109	89
27.	Daman & Diu	180	174	108
28.	Nagaland	1556	1395	2565
29.	Lakshadweep	75	92	108
30.	Meghalaya	1557	1793	1771
31.	Pondicherry	1246	1438	1483
32.	Sikkim	303	161	137
Total		879232	825480	821886

[English]

Write Off Loans

1026. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Colcotta High Court has ruled that the Union Government is fully competent to write off loans given by the Steel Development Fund (SDF) to Steel Authority of India Limited and other Steel Companies in private sector;

(b) if so, the details of the loans extended to the steel plants from the SDF; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government in regard to the ruling of the Colcotta High Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The Colcotta High Court in its judgement dated 3.2.2000 has ruled, *inter-alia*, that Steel plants/industries in public sector can be treated differently than the plants/industries in the private sector, including the matter of loan advanced from the Steel Development Fund (SDF). In case of Public Sector Industries (SAIL) Government can waive the interest or even can write off the loan itself.

(b) Details of loans extended to the main producers from the Steel Development Fund (SDF) as on 31.3.1999 are as under:

(i) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)	Rs. 4761.44 crores
(ii) Tata Iron & Steel Company Ltd. (TISCO)	Rs. 905.10 crores
(iii) Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd. (IISCO)	Rs. 44.68 crores

(c) The Government accepts the judgement of the Court.

Launching of INSAT-3B

1027. SHRI VAIKO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised launching of INSAT-3B communication satellite;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the cost of launching the satellite and the objectives thereof;

(d) whether the Government are exploring the possibility of launching the satellite from our own space station;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) INSAT-3B satellite will be launched on Ariane-5 launch vehicle from Kourou, French Guyana in the 3rd week of March, 2000.

(c) The cost of the launch of INSAT-3B satellite is US \$ 63.5 Million. INSAT-3B satellite carries 12 Ext-C band transponders, 3 Ku-band transponders and one Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) transponder. With the launching of INSAT-3B, the space-segment capacity for VSAT services, Training and Development Communication and Mobile satellite service in the INSAT system will be further augmented.

(d) to (f) India has built the capability to launch 1 Tonne class polar satellites by our own Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from Sriharikota Range. PSLV also has the capability to launch 3 Tonne payload into low earth orbit from Sriharikota. Development of Geostationary Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) to launch INSAT class satellites is in progress.

Investigation of Hijacking Issue of IA IC-814 Plane

1028. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he accompanied with the released terrorists upto Kandahar;

(b) if so, the rationale for such a visit with terrorists;

(c) whether the Government have investigated the reasons for the recent hijacking of Indian Airlines Plane; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of such investigations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Minister for External Affairs Minister decided to go to Kandahar so as to ensure that the termination of the hijacking and the smooth release and safe return of passengers and crew took place without any last minute hitch, also that should need arise, prompt decisions could be taken on the spot. The Minister's presence in Kandahar and on board the aircraft on which the passengers returned home, provided solace to all the released passengers who had been held hostage for over a week. His travel on the same aircraft as the three terrorists was solely on account of logistical compulsions brought about by the limited infrastructure facilities at Kandahar airport and its incapacity to handle any more aircraft simultaneously.

(c) and (d) The Central Bureau of Investigation are investigating the hijacking case.

Deepening of Rivers

1029. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the storage capacity of the rivers in the country has been going down as their deepening work is not being undertaken for the last so many years;

- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government have assessed the storage capacity of the rivers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government have formulated any schemes to increase the storage capacity of the rivers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) No such studies have been carried out.

- (d) to (f) Does not arise.

Pension Scheme

1030. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to bring unorganised sector under pension scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the industries in the unorganised sector proposed to be brought under purview of the pension scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Govt. has already introduced a pension scheme namely the Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 for the industrial workers. The scheme is applicable to the employees engaged in 177 industries/classes of establishments employing 20 or more persons. The scheme does not make any discrimination between organised and unorganised sectors. Many unorganized sectors like bidi, brick, katha, agarbatti, building construction, coir, agricultural farms, cattle-breeding, poultry farming, chutni industries, etc. are already covered under the Employees' Pension Scheme 1995.

[Translation]

Instrumentalities in Union Government

1031. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Instrumentalities of the Union Government are fully financed;
- (b) if so, whether these Instrumentalities are competent/authorised to sanction various types of facilities for their respective employees; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof and the specific laws in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The instrumentalities can be fully or partly financed by the Union Government.

- (b) The instrumentalities can sanction facilities to the employees in accordance with the provisions of their rules.

- (c) The information is not centrally maintained.

Skilled and Unskilled Labourers

1032. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) the minimum wages fixed for killed and unskilled labourers in the country;
- (b) whether many industrial units in the country do not pay the prescribed minimum wages to their labourers;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to ensure that above labourers do get their full minimum wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) A Statement indicating the rates of wages fixed by Central/State/UT Governments for skilled and unskilled workers is enclosed.

- (b) to (d) Under the Minimum Wages Act both the Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum wages in respect of scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions. Whenever any complaints are received for non-payment or less payment of minimum wages, the enforcement authority takes necessary action against the defaulter in accordance with provisions of Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Periodical inspections are also conducted in industrial establishments to ensure compliance of provisions of the Act.

Statement*Minimum rates of Wages (Rs. /day) Fixed by Central/
State/UT Governments*

(As on 1.1.99)

S.No.	State/UTs.	Category of Workers	
		Unskilled	Skilled
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27.00 to 63.19	40.76 *
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	35.60 to 37.60	44.60 to 46.60
3.	Assam	32.80 to 55.80	65.70
4.	Bihar	38.61 to 51.00	62.30
5.	Goa	21.00 to 125.00	70.00 * *
6.	Gujarat	58.80 to 79.20	59.50 to * * 62.10
7.	Haryana	70.12 to 73.12	66.28 * *
8.	Himachal Pradesh	26.00 to 45.75	59.12
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	30.00	48.00 to 60.00
10.	Karnataka	26.00 to 74.00	59.53 to 75.80
11.	Kerala	30.00	NA
12.	Madhya Pradesh	49.46 to 56.46	63.57
13.	Maharashtra	9.23 to 85.92	29.26 to * * 57.29
14.	Manipur	44.65 to 49.50	51.65 to 54.65
15.	Meghalaya	35.00	45.00
16.	Mizoram	48.00	90.00
17.	Nagaland	25.00	NA
18.	Orissa	42.50	58.50
19.	Punjab	54.07 to 62.96	63.65
20.	Pondicherry	19.25 to 65.00	75.00
21.	Rajasthan	32.00 to 44.00	50.00

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
22.	Tamil Nadu	22.40 to 82.72	NA
23.	Tripura	17.70 to 36.00	65.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	42.02 to 64.21	52.12 to 73.85
25.	West Bengal	36.55 to 79.99	36.76 **
26.	A & N Islands	50.00 to 86.76	72.00**
27.	Chandigarh	52.09 to 71.93	77.87
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	38.00 to 44.00	55.00
29.	Delhi	90.30	106.60
30.	Daman & Diu	50.00 to 60.00	70.00
31.	Lakshadweep	41.40	51.46
Central Sphere		46.22 to 84.12	71.33 to 92.12

N.A.- Not Available.

Note: Rates of minimum wages include VDA wherever provision exists.

* Figure pertains to the year 1996.

** Figures pertain to the year 1997.

*[English]***Pressure on Hijackers**

1033. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government succumbed to the pressure of the hijackers who had hijacked Indian Airline plane on December 24, 1999;

(b) if so, the consequences thereof; and

(c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to counteract them?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The hijacking incident has highlighted to the international community evidence of Pakistan's continued sponsorship of terrorism. The international community now

better recognizes Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism and the impact this has on the security of India and the region.

Government remain committed to taking all measures necessary to preserve the security and maintain the territorial integrity of India.

[Translation]

Fund for SAIL

1034. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated by the Government to various subsidiary companies of the Steel Authority of India Limited to execute Community Development and other development works during the last three years and in current year;

(b) the details of development works executed by each subsidiary company from the allocation made; and

(c) the norms laid down to execute developmental works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No Budgetary support has been provided by the Ministry of Steel to Steel Authority of India Limited or its subsidiary units for

execution of Community Development and other development works during the last three years and in current year.

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

Foreign Assistance for Irrigation Projects

1035. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount of financial assistance provided for the implementation of irrigation projects in the various States by the Asian Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank separately during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the present status of each project as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) No financial assistance is being provided by the Asian Development Bank and the International Monitoring Fund for implementation of irrigation project in India. The details of financial assistance received from the World Bank during the last three year for implementation irrigation projects in the country is indicated in the enclosed Statement .

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Date of Commencement/ Completion	Assistance Amount (US\$ Million)	Amount of Assistance received during the last three years upto 31.01.2000 (US \$ Million)	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Upper Krishna Irrigation Project Phase-II	Karnataka	16.06.1989 30.06.1997	325.0	5.9	Completed
2.	Punjab Irrigation and Drainage Project	Punjab	09.06.1990 30.06.1998	150.0	27.89	Completed
3.	Haryana Water Resources Consolidation Project	Haryana	19.04.1995 31.12.2002	258.0	73.00	Ongoing
4.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project	Orissa	05.01.1996 30.09.2002	290.9	93.40	Ongoing
5.	Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project	Tamil Nadu	05.01.1996 31.03.2002	282.9	64.08	Ongoing

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Andhra Pradesh III Irrigation Project	Andhra Pradesh	03.06.1997 31.01.2003	325.0	75,436	Ongoing
7.	Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project	Andhra Pradesh	04.06.1999 31.03.2004	142.0	30.00	Ongoing

Selection of Representatives of World Hindi Conference

1036. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of resolutions passed by the Sixth World Hindi Conference held in London during September, 1999 and view of the Union Government thereon;

(b) whether any efforts has been made by the Government till date in regard to the insistence of World Hindi Conference that Hindi should be made an optional language at United Nations Organization; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) In the Sixth World Hindi Conference, the following resolutions were passed:

1. Mahatama Gandhi International Hindi University should be developed as an International Centre for assimilating information pertaining to Hindi from all over the World.
2. World Hindi Secretariat should start functioning at the earliest.
3. Hindi should be made as one of the languages of the United Nations.
4. Information Technology in Hindi should be developed and standardized.
5. Modern gadgets of Hindi should be liberally distributed.

(b) and (c) The question of introduction of Hindi as one of the official languages of the UN has received the attention of the Government. At present, the UN has six official languages viz. English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese. The introduction of an additional official language is governed by the established rules of procedure of the Organization and would require the approval of a majority of the Member States of the UN. An important consideration in getting adequate support would be the number of national delegations who use the

language, and the additional financial implications for the Member States of the UN for such a move. The introduction of an additional official language would involve significant expenditure from the regular budget of UN which is solely financed by assessed contributions of its Member States. Article 17 (2) of the UN Charter provides that "the expenses of the Organization shall be borne by the members as apportioned by the General Assembly". The matter is under consideration of Government to see how far this is feasible especially in the light of the financial crisis facing the UN.

[English]

Right to Information

1037. SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce the Bill on Right to Information in current Session of Parliament;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Bill;

(c) whether the Bill contains restrictions to check the misuse of statutory rights by the public; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) With a view to introducing greater transparency and openness in the functioning of Government and public bodies, and Government had, in January, 1997, constituted a working Group on "Right to Information and Promotion of Open and Transparent Government" under the Chairmanship of Shri H.D. Shourie. The report of the Group has been processed and a Bill for Freedom of Information has been drafted. The Bill is presently under examination for introduction in Parliament.

Diplomatic Relation with Afghanistan after Hijacking Plane

1038. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the nature of cooperation extended by Afghanistan Government to resolve the hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC-814 at Kandahar;

(b) whether the Afghanistan Government have asked for diplomatic relations with India; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Taliban authorities in Kandahar who permitted that hijacked Indian Airlines flight IC-814 to land at Kandahar Airport, provided food and other facilities to the passengers and the aircraft. While adopting an attitude of correct facilitators, they consistently had their sympathies with the hijackers and their other supporters.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Security Cover to Karmapa Lama

1039. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided appropriate security cover to 14 year old Karmapa Lama and his six other entourage on his arrival in India in January 2000;

(b) if so, the purpose of visit of Karmapa Lama; and

(c) the details of circumstances under which the security cover had been provided to them by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Following the arrival in Dharamsals on January 5, 2000 of Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji, recognised by his supporters as the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa, the State Government of Himachal Pradesh

provided him with security cover. In his public statement on arrival, Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji said that he had come to India to practice Dharma and perform his religious duties freely. Considering all aspects appropriate security cover has been provided.

Promotion of Livestock and Poultry

1040. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sponsored any scheme for the promotion of livestock and poultry in the country;

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

(c) the funds allocated and measures adopted during the last three years to promote livestock and poultry;

(d) whether the Government propose to review implementation of livestock development and dairy development schemes/projects in the country according to the potential of the each State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government have been implementing various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for supplementing the efforts of the State Governments for promotion of livestock and poultry. These schemes are implemented in all States and UTs. Under these schemes assistance is provided to the States/UTs on the basis of viable proposals of the State Governments. The scheme-wise allocation and releases during 3 year are indicated in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The State Governments are responsible for identifying the potential areas for development of livestock and dairy sectors in their respective States.

Statement

Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Department Allocation & Expenditure during 3 years

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
		Alloc.	Releases	Alloc.	Releases	Alloc.	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>A.H. Sector</i>							
1	Extension of Frozen Semen Technology and Progeny Testing Programme	5.50	6.06	26.50	26.70	30.90	6.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	National Bull Production Prog.	5.00	3.98	5.00	5.00	10.00	0.08
3	National Ram/Buck Production Programme	2.75	2.50	3.00	2.55	3.00	1.17
4	Assistance to States for Integrated Piggery Development	2.00	2.00	4.00	4.00	5.00	4.00
5	Assistance to States for Poultry/Duck Farms		Not started	0.10	0.00	5.94	0.00
6	Assistance to States for Fodder Development	4.15	3.71	5.00	3.70	5.40	3.50
7	Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases	8.10	5.98	11.50	7.62	13.50	5.19
8	Professional Efficiency Development	1.30	1.29	2.00	1.45	5.00	1.00
9	National Project on Rinderpest Eradication	35.79	25.08	41.00	9.38	36.00	2.52
10	Improvement of Slaughter Houses/ Carcass Utilisation Centre	7.00	5.80	20.00	10.00	20.00	6.85
11	Integrated Sample Surveys for Estimation of Production of Livestock, Products	2.10	2.43	2.50	2.47	3.50	2.64
12	Assistance to States for Preservation and Development of Pack Animals	0.50	0.50	1.00	0.68	1.00	0.05
13	Animal Husbandry Extension Programme <i>Dairy Development</i>		Not started	8.00	2.87	2.00	1.19
14	Integrated Dairy Development Projects in Non-Operation Food, Hilly and Backward Areas	20.12	20.12	25.00	23.40	25.60	21.27

Horticulture and Floriculture Development

1041. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh is a leading State in the horticulture and floriculture development;

(b) if so, the details thereof and total production made by Andhra Pradesh in this regard during the last three years;

(c) the total financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the State of Andhra Pradesh for increasing cold storage facilities during the same period;

(d) whether the agenda adopted at the National Horticulture Conference in November, 1998 has been fully implemented by the Union Government so far;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Andhra Pradesh is one of the leading States in the Production of fruits and flowers though horticulture includes fruits, vegetables, flowers, spices, mushroom and plantation crops etc. The details of production of fruits and flowers during the last three years are given below:

Year	Fruits (in MT)	Flowers
1996-97	5657729	22848
1997-98	5899112	32900
1998-99	4300747	32000

(c) Government of India, through the National Horticulture Board (NHB), has provided the financial assistance amounting to Rs. 115.00 lakh to various organizations located in Andhra Pradesh under its scheme namely, "Integrated Project on Management of Post Harvest Infrastructure of Horticultural Crops" (PHM) in the form of soft loan during the same period and

Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has set up a Cargo handling and cold storage at International Airport, Hyderabad, at a cost of Rs. 160.00 lakhs.

(d) to (f) The agenda adopted in National Horticulture Conference held in November, 1998 had focused on programme for Integrated Development of Onion & Potato; additional cold storage capacity in the country for perishable horticultural crops; promotion of tissue culture and bio-technology for production of good quality planting material, new initiative for North Eastern region and hilly and tribal areas. The recommendations made in the Conference have been implemented by the Union Government as under:

1. Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for creation of 12 lakhs tonnes of new cold storages, 8 lakh tonne of expansion/modernisation of cold storages and 4.5 lakh tonnes of storages have been approved and being implemented.
2. the tissue culture and bio-technology have been promoted through the Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Scheme in Ninth Plan for the production of quality planting material.
3. The Scheme— "Integrated Development of Horticulture in Hilly and Tribal Areas" with an outlay of Rs. 10 crores has been approved and is being implemented in Six States including Andhra Pradesh.
4. A Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture has been formulated wherein all the issues of horticultural development are addressed under four Mini Missions with emphasis on synergy and convergence.

Pancheswar Dam

1042. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Nepal and the Government of India have signed a treaty to construct proposed Pancheswar Dam on the confluence of Mahakali and Saryu rivers at Indo-Nepal border;
- (b) if so, whether some NGOs have protested the construction of the dam;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the reaction of the Union Government and decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) Government of India and Government of Nepal have signed a treaty on Integrated Development of the Mahakali river including Sarda barrage, Tanakpur barrage and Pancheswar Project on 12.2.1996. The centrepiece of the treaty is Pancheswar Multipurpose project for which both countries are to prepare a joint Detailed Project Report (DPR). The proposed location of the Pancheswar dam is below the confluence of Sarju with Mahakali (Sarda in India). Joint Project Office - Pancheswar Investigation (JPO-PI) has started functioning at Kathmandu w.e.f. 10.12.1999. JPO-PI is to prepare the Joint Detailed Project Report under the overall supervision of Joint Group of Experts.

(b) Ministry of Water Resources is not aware of any protest by NGOs about construction of Pancheswar dam project.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Relations with Singapore

1043. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any proposal to improve bilateral relations with Singapore;
- (b) whether the Indo-Singapore talks were held in this respect when the Prime Minister of Singapore visited New Delhi last;
- (c) if so, the details of the offer made by the Prime Minister of Singapore;
- (d) the response of the Indian Government thereto; and
- (e) the various steps taken by both the countries to improve Indo-Singapore bilateral relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Prime Minister of Singapore during his visit to India from 17-22 January, 2000 expressed interest in stepping up bilateral cooperation in various fields particularly in the areas of Information Technology, Finance and Trade.

(d) The Government of India has also expressed its keen desire to expand bilateral relations with Singapore in various fields.

(e) India and Singapore have decided to set up two Joint Task Forces for stepping up cooperation in the fields of Information Technology and Finance.

Modernisation of SAIL

1044. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Voest-Alpine may let SAIL pay for upgrade with steel" appearing in the *Economic Times* dated February 5, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steel Authority of India Limited has reported that at present there is no proposal from M/s. Voest Alpine Industrieanlagenbau GmbH (VAI) to take up the job of modernising the Cold Rolling Mills of Steel Authority of India Limited, in lieu of buy back of steel.

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

Software/Hardware Exports

1045. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any strategy to increase and achieve the software and hardware export target by 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the action plan is likely to be implemented and expected increase in the software/hardware export due to this action plan?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) The action plan which has been drawn up aims at achieving export target of US\$ 60 billion (US\$ 50 billion for software + US\$ 10 billion for hardware) by the year 2008 from a level of US\$ 2.7 billion in 1998-99. Various incentives have been given from time to time and the details in this regard are given in Statement - I. A Statement - II is giving some of the key initiatives taken by the Ministry of IT for the growth of this sector.

Statement - I**Incentives to IT Sector**

1. A Special Advance Licensing Scheme for export of Electronics products has been notified vide DGFT Public Notice No. 41 (RE-98)/1997-2002 dated 16.9.98. The imports under the scheme

shall precede export and the licences under the scheme shall be issued with the positive value addition. The Designated Officers of the Ministry of Information Technology (MIT) have been entrusted with the task of verifying the relevance/usability of inputs in the export product as well as the quantity required.

2. As a major step to encourage production and exports, the facility to import capital goods under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at zero duty with the reduced threshold limit of Rs. 1 crore was extended to the electronics industry w.e.f. April 14, 1998. For Software Sector this limit was reduced to Rs. 10 lakhs. The export obligation required to be fulfilled is 6 times CIF value of CG on FOB basis or 5 times CIF value of CG on NEF basis, over a period of six years.
3. A separate procedure for consideration of EPCG applications pertaining to the electronics and software sectors has been notified vide DGFT Public Notice No. 15 (RE-98)/1997-2002 dated 8.6.98, whereby these applications are considered by the Licensing authorities on the recommendations of the Designated Officers of MIT instead of being placed before the EPCG Committee. DGFT have also issued a Public Notice No. 29(RE-98)/1997-2002 dated 1.9.99, as per which units in electronics and software sectors will have option to apply for EPCG Licence to the competent authority on the basis of self-declaration regarding the nexus between the CG to be imported with the items to be exported.
4. Foreign investment of upto 100% is permitted in units set up solely for exports. Various incentives are available for export-oriented units, which include duty free imports of capital goods, raw-materials, components and other inputs, tax holidays against export and access to the domestic market. Such units can be set up under any of the scheme viz., Electronics Hardware Technology Parks (EHTP), Software Technology Park (STP), Export Processions Zone (EPZ) and 100% Export Oriented Units (EOU). The EHTP scheme has been designed to meet the specific requirement of a globally-oriented electronics sector. Software Technology Park Scheme is an export oriented scheme for the development and export of computer software using data communication links or in the form of physical media, including export of professional services.

5. EHTP and STP schemes are implemented under the aegis of the Ministry of Information Technology through a single window mechanism of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC).
6. Powers of approval of the Designated Officers of MIT for implementation of STP/EHTP schemes have been further enhanced, vide Para 9.37 of the Ministry of Commerce Handbook of Procedures (Vol. I), 1997-2002 (incorporating amendments made upto 31.3.99). They can now approve setting up of STP/EHTP units where foreign exchange required for capital goods (net of taxes) is upto US\$ 10 million.
7. A special stock option scheme for Indian Software Companies linked with ADR/GDR offerings by these companies, as an instrument to enable these companies to provide incentives to retain their highly skilled professionals, has been notified vide Reserve Bank of India (RBI) A.D (M.A.) Circular No. 25 dated 7.8.98.
8. RBI has framed Guidelines dated 8.8.98 for sanction of working Capital finance to information technology and software industry.
9. Government has approved setting up of a National Venture Fund for Software and IT Industry (NFSIT) with a corpus of Rs. 100 crores, out of which MIT shall contribute Rs. 30 crores.
10. Provision for issues of Sweat Equity by companies has been introduced in the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999.
11. In the EXIM Policy, 1997-2002 (incorporating amendments made upto 31.3.99), DTA access up to 50% of the FOB value of export has been permitted for electronics hardware units under EOU/EPZ/EHTP schemes and the software units under EOU/EPZ/STP schemes. Broad banding has been permitted in the DTA sales of Hardware manufactured by EHTP units for items covered in the Letter of Permission.
12. The procedures for operation of the units in the EHTP/EOU/EPZ/STP schemes have been simplified considerably and a number of operations have been permitted on the basis of self certification, as per Chapter 9 of Ministry of Commerce Handbook of Procedures (Vol.I), 1997-2002 (incorporating amendments made upon 31.3.99).
13. Procedures for sub-contracting of production process in DTA has been made simpler for EHTP/EOU/EPZ/STP units in terms of Department of Revenue Notification No. 44/98- Customs dated 2.7.98.
14. Manufacturers - Importers of Electronics goods having investment of Rs. 3 crores and above and units in EPZs/EHTP and STP are eligible for fast-track clearance of goods imported by them vide Ministry of Finance (CBEC) Circular No. 56/98 dated 3.8.98.
15. Value addition norms for Rupee exports to Russia reduced from 100% to 33% under Advance Licensing Scheme, as per Para 7.10 of the EXIM Policy, 1997-2002 (incorporating amendments made upto 31.3.99).
16. The Depreciation on Computers has been allowed @ 60%.
17. In the 1999-2000 Budget, Customs duty on Computers and Peripherals has been reduced from 22% to 20%. The Customs duty on all storage devices, integrated circuits and microprocessors has been made uniform at a level of 5% and Customs duty on parts of computers has been brought down from 10% to 5%. The customs duty on Data display tubes and Deflection components of colour monitors is @ 5%.
18. Information Technology Software has been exempted from Customs Duty.
19. EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units have been exempted from payment of Corporate Income Tax for 10 years.
20. Profits from export of computer software are eligible for Income Tax deduction in terms of Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act.
21. Definition of Computer Software, as in Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act has been widened to include transmission of data.
22. Benefit of Section 80 HHE has been extended to supporting software developers.
23. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) has been extended to the IT sector.
24. Computer systems have been made freely importable, vide EXIM Policy, 1997-2002, applicable w.e.f. 1.4.999.
25. The Donation of computers, imported duty free by EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units to recognised non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, etc., two years after their use by the said units has been permitted vide Ministry of Finance Notification No. 47/98- Customs dated 16.7.98.

26. The second-hand computers and computer peripherals donated by an outside donor to Government schools have been exempted from customs duties, vide Ministry of Finance Notification No. 18/99-Customs dated 11.2.99.
27. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income.
28. Under the Employee Stock Option Scheme, income tax payable on income from GDRs purchased in foreign currency by a resident employee of IT software and service companies, shall be at a concessional rate of 10%.
29. The expenditure incurred to make the existing computer systems Y2K compliant shall be treated as revenue expenditure and hence will be eligible for deduction in computing the income of the business.
30. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific Research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research has been provided.

Statement - II

Initiatives taken for the growth of Information Technology (IT)

The Government of India has set up the Ministry of Information Technology on 15.10.1999 to facilitate all initiatives in the IT sector including Internet, e-commerce, IT education and IT based education.

2. The Government has adopted the first report of the National IT Task Force outlining 108 recommendations of the IT Action Plan. These recommendations suggest measures and policies covering a wide spectrum of issues relating to telecommunication, finance, banking, revenue, commerce, electronics, HRD, defence and rural development to enable India to emerge as an Information Technology super power within the next ten years. A target of software export of US\$ 50 billion by the year 2008 has been set. The Task Force has also recommended a goal of a "IT for All" by 2008 in India. The second and third report of the Task Force address the issues and strategy for development of hardware industry, R&D in the area of IT, manpower training and education.

3. All Government Departments are required to spend 2-3% of their budget towards implementation of IT. To induce more investment in R&D in computers, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or institution or a scientific research association for the purpose of scientific, social or statistical research has been provided.

4. Many States of India have drawn up comprehensive IT plans and have come out with IT policies which will help in creating a conducive environment for high growth of high-tech industries.

5. Government of India has also formed a Rs. 100 crores National Venture Capital Fund in association with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) for the IT industry particularly for small and medium enterprises.

6. Penetration of Personal Computers (PC) in the country at present is slightly more than 3 per 1000 persons. The target is to increase the PC penetration to 20 per 1000 by the year 2008. To push the demand of PCs in the country, depreciation on computers has been increased to 60%.

7. Government has implemented Internet Service Providers (ISPs) Policy. ISPs are allowed to set up International Gateways and hire bandwidth on foreign satellites. Public and private sectors have been licensed to provide internet services in the country. No licence fee is payable for first five years and a nominal fee of one rupee is to be paid after five years. The Internet policy approved by Governments provides inter-connection of networks and setting up of international gateways by the internet service provider independent of VSNL. The infrastructure for Internet is proposed to be upgraded as below:

- (a) Department of Telecom Services (DTS) is setting up national internet backbone in the country.
- (b) Internet Service Providers are allowed to set up last mile linkages freely by fibre optic or by radio communication.
- (c) The Internet access is also allowed through authorised cable TV.

8. The tariff for internet access has been recently reduced. DTS have recently offered 20% concession on rental for leased lines taken and used for internet applications. Students are being given one time concession on internet accounts by DTS. Access to internet on local call basis from the nearest internet node has been provided throughout the country except in Andaman and Nicobar

Island and Leh (J&K). The existing departmental Public Call Operators (PCO) and Subscriber Trunk Dialing (STD) booths are proposed to be upgraded to public tele-info/cyber centres. These centres will provide multi-utility services such as internet, e-mail access and internet libraries.

9. To provide the legal framework for transaction on Internet and e-commerce, Information Technology Bill, 1999 was introduced in the last session of the Parliament. Such a legal framework will facilitate and give a fillip to the e-commerce activities in the country.

Hot Rolled Coils

1046. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL is contemplating to increase production of flat products especially, hot rolled coils;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the demand of the above product has been increased in the international market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the volume of profit likely to be increased as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of flat products including HR Coils from four integrated steel plants of Steel Authority of India Limited

(SAIL) is planned to be increased next year, as given below:

Product	(Unit '000 tonnes)	
	Actual Production (April-Jan. 2000)	Production Plan (Tentative) 2000-01
HR Coils/Skelp for Sale	1380	1994
Total Flat Products	3840	5490

(c) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Child Labour Exploitation

1047. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases have been registered against those who have engaged the children in hazardous industries during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children in occupations and processes listed in the schedule to the Act. Employers violating provisions of the Act are liable for prosecution. State/UT Governments furnish information to the Central Government on implementation of the provisions of the Act. As per available information, the State-wise position of violations detected and prosecutions launched under the Act, for the last three years is given in Statement.

The enforcement of the labour laws is reviewed from time to time to identify gaps and take remedial steps.

Statement

Name of the State/UT	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Violations Detected	Prosecutions launched	Violations detected	Prosecutions launched	Violations detected	Prosecutions launched
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	41	22	551	270	493	553
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	77	0	178	3	0	0
Bihar	1172	31	987	81	279	97
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi	109	109	12	12	10	16
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	2	3	0	13	0	0
Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kerala	5	1	-	-	0	2
Karnataka	-	-	-	-	153	2
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maharashtra	97	2	605	389	1913	17
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orissa	186	2	353	9	127	128
Punjab	15	12	22	24	8	5
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	-	-
Rajasthan	0	16	0	891	0	601
Tamil Nadu	18	34	5	69	242	241
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	264	249	-	-	-	-

Recession in Steel Sector*[Translation]*

1048. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- whether steel sector is still in recession;
- if so, the reasons therefor;
- whether Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry has urged the Government to set up a body to promote the steel sector;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) After a demand slow down and sluggish growth for about 2 years, the steel sector has started showing signs of recovery. During the period from April, 99 to January, 2000 the production of finished steel has gone up by 11.3%, and apparent consumption by 6.4% as compared to the corresponding period last year.

(c) Ministry of Steel has not received any formal reference from FICCI for setting up a body to promote steel sector so far.

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

Water Management

1049. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rain water harvesting can slak India's thirst" appearing in the '*Business Standard*' dated January 11, 2000;
- if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and
- the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has seen the news-item which appeared in a section of the Press under the caption 'Rain water harvesting can slake India's thirst'. The news-item refers to the usefulness of rain water harvesting for drinking and irrigation purposes specially in the drought prone areas. It is also refers to the public's contribution in promoting the rain water harvesting.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to promote rain water harvesting include :

- Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies artificial recharge to ground water. Under the scheme, experimental studies to harvest rain

water are being carried out in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, NCT of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh.

- (ii) Circulation of a "Manual on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water" and "Guide on Artificial Recharge" to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to harvest rain water.

- (iii) Organising mass awareness programmes.

[English]

Karmapa Origin

1050. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Chief Secretary of Sikkim issued a firm statement on the 17th Karmapa Rinpoche, who escaped to India in January, 2000 from Tibet, has Indian origin;

(b) if so, whether the Chief Secretary has made this Statement with the approval of the Government of Sikkim or the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in the matter which is sensitive and affects the Indo-China relations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Government are not aware of any such statement made by the Chief Secretary of Sikkim.

(b) to (d) The question does not arise.

Scheduled Castes Status to Dalit Muslims

1051. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a demand for grant of Scheduled Caste status to Dalit Muslim from All India Backward Muslims Morcha to enable them to avail of equal opportunities as available to dalits of other religions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action proposed to be taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The matter regarding grant of Scheduled Castes status to Dalit Muslims is being examined.

(c) Does not arise.

Loans for Development under Central Wakf Council Fund

1052. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received for loan for development activities under Central Wakf Council Fund ;

(b) the number of applications disposed of and the amount allocated on this count;

(c) the number of applications pending for disposal; and

(d) the amount allotted to institutions in Kerala under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) 195 Complete applications have been received seeking loan for developmental activities under the Central Wakf Council Fund.

(b) 185 loan applications have been sanctioned out of this 173 cases amounting to Rs.-21.72 crores has been disbursed up to 15.02.2000.

(c) 10 Nos. of applications are under consideration.

(d) Rs. 168.95 lakhs have been released to 11 Wakf Institutions in Kerala.

[Translation]

Self-Reliance in Production of Seeds

1053. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is self-reliant in the production of seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to become self-reliant in the field of seeds production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Certified/quality seed availability situation in the country is satisfactory. It is being regularly assessed by this Department with the State Governments/concerned organisations through the Zonal Conferences. The certified/quality seed requirement and availability position during the last 3 years, i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is as under:

Year	(Qty. in lakh quintals)	
	Seed Requirement	Seed Availability
1997-98	78.55	99.75
1998-99	85.18	104.39
1999-2000	89.79	104.95

*[English]***Production of Cash Crops**

1054. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the production of cash crops in the country, State-wise during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of financial assistance provided by Government under this scheme, State-wise during the said period so far for the current year; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the production of cash crops in the country particularly, in the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The production of Cotton, Sugarcane, Jute/ Mesta and Tobacco in different States during last three years is given in Statement I, II, III and IV respectively.

(b) and (c) To increase the production of above cash crops during Ninth Five Year Plan, three Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented in various States viz. Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP-Cotton), Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) and Special Jute Development Programme (SJDP).

Under these Scheme, assistance is provided for the transfer of production technologies through field demonstration and farmers training as well as for the use of critical inputs such as seed, implements, contingencies, Assistance for water saving devices like drip in cotton and sugarcane schemes, moist-heat-seed treatment unit in sugarcane and construction of retting tanks in jute scheme are also being assisted.

The funds released from 1996-97 to 1999-2000 to different States for the implementation of schemes on Cotton, Sugarcane & Jute are given in Statement V, VI & VII respectively.

Statement - I

The production in Cotton in Major States during 1996-97 to 1998-99

State	Production ('000 bales of 170 Kgs. each)		
	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1878.4	1320.4	1486.6
Gujarat	2657.7	3180.0	3935.0
Haryana	1507.0	1129.0	873.0

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	932.0	721.0	855.0
Madhya Pradesh	424.2	508.9	426.3
Maharashtra	3143.3	1753.1	2618.9
Orissa	30.2	36.0	50.0
Punjab	1925.0	937.0	595.0
Rajasthan	1363.3	867.5	872.0
Tamil Nadu	329.9	358.0	429.5
Uttar Pradesh	7.3	8.3	5.8

Statement - II

The production of Sugarcane in Major States during 1996-1997 to 1998-1999

State	Production ('000 tonnes)		
	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999
Andhra Pradesh	15030.0	13955.0	16684.6
Assam	1490.3	1287.5	1223.6
Bihar	5842.5	4959.9	5218.8
Gujarat	11404.3	11836.2	13566.3
Haryana	9020.0	7550.0	6880.0
Karnataka	23374.4	28332.7	28454.0
Madhya Pradesh	1761.4	1631.7	1973.0
Maharashtra	41804.8	38174.3	47151.1
Orissa	1332.1	1144.0	1469.5
Punjab	11040.0	7150.0	6130.0
Rajasthan	1290.2	1158.7	1078.3
Tamil Nadu	25918.8	30183.6	46872.8
Uttar Pradesh	125348.4	129266.7	116302.8
West Bengal	1810.3	1825.7	2001.9

Statement - III

The production of Jute & Mesta in major States during 1996-97 to 1998-99

State	Production ('000 bales of 180 Kgs. each)		
	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999
Andhra Pradesh	699.0	562.0	545.0
Assam	829.8	933.1	712.8
Bihar	1640.0	1463.1	671.0
Maharashtra	46.0	45.8	43.2
Meghalaya	53.7	56.3	50.2
Orissa	232.1	261.8	166.6
Tripura	36.0	37.0	25.3
West Bengal	7572.7	7638.7	7462.8

Statement - IV

The production of Tobacco in Major States during 1996-97 to 1998-99

State	Production ('000 tonnes)		
	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999
Andhra Pradesh	184.2	201.5	250.8
Gujarat	211.5	183.9	184.7
Karnataka	59.0	62.2	59.0
Maharashtra	10.8	12.0	7.7
Orissa	5.5	4.4	4.4
Tamil Nadu	17.6	11.9	9.7
Uttar Pradesh	105.5	136.2	163.0
West Bengal	9.1	6.1	6.7

Statement - V

State-wise funds released under Intensive Cotton Development Programme during 1996-97 to 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (till date)
Andhra Pradesh	152.00	100.00	103.00	207.97
Gujarat	53.00	92.00	56.00	52.98
Haryana	35.00	43.00	-	67.56
Karnataka	25.00	37.50	55.00	121.17
Madhya Pradesh	25.00	56.00	40.00	59.56
Maharashtra	292.00	284.00	213.00	357.69
Orissa	23.00	45.00	18.00	48.05
Punjab	102.00	186.00	173.00	375.48
Rajasthan	237.00	196.00	129.00	30.00
Tamil Nadu	166.00	251.00	112.00	196.71
Uttar Pradesh	29.00	28.00	23.00	60.27

Statement - VI

State-wise funds released under sustainable development of Sugarcane based cropping system during 1996-97 to 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Released so far)
Andhra Pradesh	77.00	-	148.00	58.18
Assam	-	-	-	5.00

1	2	3	4	5
Bihar	-	70.67	-	53.78
Goa	-	-	-	3.00
Gujarat	17.00	18.00	105.00	49.00
Haryana	25.00	75.00	71.00	33.00
Karnataka	50.00	100.00	127.00	60.31
Kerala	22.31	20.00	38.00	18.68
Madhya Pradesh	18.00	27.00	73.00	33.00
Maharashtra	299.70	348.50	580.00	271.63
Manipur	8.43	5.00	20.00	14.13
Mizoram	-	10.00	21.30	13.72
Nagaland	7.90	11.00	17.10	15.64
Orissa	18.00	40.00	27.00	33.00
Punjab	13.50	-	43.00	15.00
Rajasthan	10.00	12.00	69.00	24.00
Tamil Nadu	64.00	65.00	94.00	87.63
Tripura	-	3.00	-	5.00
Uttar Pradesh	578.82	256.00	91.00	236.30
West Bengal	-	6.00	24.00	9.00
Pondicherry	17.99	15.00	-	3.00

Statement - VII

State-wise funds released under Special Jute Development Programme during 1996-97 to 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (till date)
Andhra Pradesh	26.00	44.00	12.50	21.24
Assam	82.00	9.50	88.00	20.00
Bihar	-	2.00	-	6.47
Meghalaya	8.00	1.00	51.00	5.00
Orissa	52.00	66.00	68.00	33.49
Tripura	9.00	43.50	-	5.00
West Bengal	114.00	35.00	180.50	55.00
Uttar Pradesh	13.27	169.00	-	5.00

Special Package for Small Scale Industry During Ninth Plan

1055. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a special package for development of small scale industry during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, details of the major policy decisions and impact thereof;

(c) whether in 1977 the Government enhanced investment ceiling of Rs. 1 crores to Rs. 3 crores for SSI units to enable them to undertake additional investment for upgradation of plant/technology/R&D and Pollution Control Measures to be cost effective and globally competitive;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether the limit of investment ceiling for SSI units has again been reduced from Rs. 3 Crores to Rs. 1 Crores;

(f) if so, the rationale behind this move;

(g) whether any representation is received in this regard; and

(h) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) An allocation of Rs. 4304 crore has been made in the Ninth Plan for the promotion and development of the small scale and cottage industries sector. The major programmes and schemes in respect of small scale and cottage industries that are under implementation, *inter alia*, include setting up of Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres, Scheme for Technology Upgradation, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for self-employment of educated unemployment youth, Rural Employment Generation Programme, and development of rural clusters through National Programme for Rural Industrialisation. The implementation of these programmes and schemes has helped strengthen small and cottage industries in the country, resulting in sustained performance in terms of contribution to industrial production, employment generation and export earnings.

(c) to (h) The earlier limit of Rs. 60 lakh was raised to Rs. 300 lakh in December 1997, which was subsequently brought down to Rs. 100 lakh in December 1999. The decision to reduce the investment limit in plant and machinery is aimed at focussing on a more homogeneous group of small and tiny enterprises. However, based on representations received from certain industry-specific associations, Government is considering various measures to facilitate select export oriented sectors absorb modern technology to become internationally competitive.

Sanctions Linked with CTBT/Nuclear Test by U.S.

1056. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the latest progress between USA and India with regard to CTBT;

(b) Whether the Indian government has been asked by the US Government to expedite the CTBT Declaration or otherwise India will be deprived of certain support from U.S.;

(c) if so, whether it is linked with sanctions that have been imposed by U.S. after our nuclear test; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) India's position on the CTBT was articulated by the Prime Minister in the UN General Assembly in September 1998 and in Parliament in December 1998. This was reiterated by the External Affairs Minister at the UN General Assembly in September 1999. That remains the Government's position on the CTBT in its talks with key interlocutors, including the United States. After the rejection of the CTBT by the US Senate, the US administration has reiterated its commitment to its moratorium on nuclear testing and has pledged to continue to persuade the Senate to ratify the treaty.

(b) to (d) The US imposed certain restrictive economic measures on India following out nuclear tests, on the basis of US domestic law. In our bilateral discussions, we have conveyed that such measures are unjustified and all such measures should be lifted as these are counterproductive from the point of creating a positive environment.

Bilateral relations between India and US

1057. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to improve Indo-US bilateral relation;

(b) if so, the details of areas identified thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to improve bilateral relation between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Government has expressed its intention to improve relations with all friendly countries including the .US. President Bill Clinton is schedule to visit India from 20th March for five days. Both sides expect the visit to pave the way for a qualitatively new and closer relationship between the two countries.

(b) and (c) India and the US are engaged in an ongoing dialogue on security, non-proliferation, disarmament, regional development and related issues. The two Governments have also agreed to work purposefully, towards developing a broad-based relationship and intensifying mutually beneficial cooperation in trade and investment, energy and environment, science and technology, education and culture, counter terrorism and narcotics control, etc.

National Commission for SC/ST

1058. **SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:** Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any special report of National Commission for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe;

(b) if so, the recommendations made therein ; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for implementation of recommendations of the Commission?

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

(b) The special report of the National Commission for SCs and STs along with the Action Taken Memorandum on the recommendations was laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament in July, 1998.

(c) The recommendations contained in the Special report have been circulated to the concerned Ministries/ Departments and all the State Govts/UT Administrations for compliance.

[Translation]

Strikes and Lockout

1059. **SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of strikes and lockout reported from Gujarat, Delhi and other parts of the country during January 1, 1999 till date in Government departments of Railways, Public Sector Undertaking and industrial Sectors;

(b) the details of each lockout and strike alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the demands of the employees and charter of demand and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The information on strikes and lockouts both in Public and Private sector available with the Labour Bureau, Shimla for the entire country including Gujarat and Delhi during 1999 (Provisional) is as follows:

	No. of Strikes	No. of Lock-outs
Public Sector	85	73
Private Sector	352	283
GUJARAT		
Public Sector	21	Nil
Private Sector	71	10
DELHI		
Public Sector	Nil	Nil
Private Sector	1	9
Public Sector	No. of Strikes	No. of Lock-outs
Mining of Coal and lignite;	27	69
extraction of Peat		
Extraction of crude petroleum;		
production of natural gas	4	Nil
Manufacture of cotton textiles	3	2
Manufacture of basic chemicals and chemicals products (except products of petroleum & coal)	1	Nil
Manufacture of transport equipment and parts	1	Nil
Land transport	1	Nil
Banking activities including financial services	22	Nil
Public Admn. and Defence Services	17	Nil
Others	9	2

The reasons for strikes vary from case to case. There are, however, reports of workers going on strike on issues relating to wage revision, non-payment of bonus, job security etc.

The reasons for lockouts also vary from case to case. There are, however, reports of managements declaring lock-outs due to industrial unrest, demands for wage increase etc.

The Labour Ministry at the Centre and the State Labour Departments intervene as soon as they receive the strike notices to facilitate an amicable settlement between managements and workers' representatives.

Condition of Unskilled and Daily Wages Labourers

1060. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the Government till date to improve the condition of unskilled and daily wages labourers in the country;

(b) the efforts made by the Government for the compliance of labour laws;

(c) whether the Government proposed to make the labour laws more practicable by bringing new changes after reviewing all the labour laws, with a view to the changing circumstances;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to frame a clear policy in regard the recognition of labour Organisation/ Trade Unions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) There are a number of labour laws aimed at improving the working conditions, welfare, wages, etc. of the workers in the unorganised sector. The compliance of these laws is secured through enforcement machinery, both at Central and State Levels.

(c) and (d) Review/updation of Labour Laws is a continuous process and amendments/fresh legalisations are made depending on the results of the review. The Government have also recently set up the Second National Commission on Labour which would suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector and an umbrella legislation for ensuring minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sector.

(e) Ministry of Labour worked out Code of Discipline in 1958 by way of tripartite agreement for the verification of membership of Unions for the grant of recognition.

Pending Reservoir Scheme

1061. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals pertaining to reservoir projects received by the Union Government from the State Governments during each of the last three year particularly from the State Government of Bihar, till date, year-wise;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) The number of new proposals pertaining to reservoir projects received by the Union Government from the State Governments during each of the last three years from the State/Bihar is as under:

Year	Number of Projects received from	
	States	Bihar
1997-98	14	1
1998-99	8	1
1999-2000	7	1

Clearance of all the above projects is linked with the compliance of the observations of the Central Appraising Agency by the State Governments.

[English]

Food Processing Parks/Estates

1062. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food processing industrial estates/parks established in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total amount spent so far by the Union Government on development of these parks during the above period;

(c) the details of job oriented programmes being implemented in food processing sector during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to improve the functioning of the food processing industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) So far three Food Parks have been provided assistance. Out of these two are in the State of West Bengal and one in Kerala.

(b) The assistance provided by the Department is for creating common facilities in these food parks such as analytical and quality control laboratory, cold storage/modified atmosphere cold storage, warehousing facilities, supplementary pollution control facilities etc. The amount of assistance provided is as under:

Year	Rs. in lakhs
1996-97	50.00
1997-98	75.00
1998-99	275.00

(c) The Department is implementing the following schemes for manpower development in food processing industries:

- (i) Personpower development in rural areas (Food Processing and Training Centres of FPTCs)
- (ii) Personpower development in grain processing industries.
- (iii) Training of personpower in meat processing.
- (iv) Training of traditional fisherpersons.
- (v) Creation of infrastructural facilities such as library, laboratories, pilot plant etc.
- (vi) Training programmes sponsored by D/O FPI.

Entrepreneurs/organisations from all States can avail these schemes. A sum of Rs. 460.50 lakhs was provided as assistance to various entrepreneurs/organisations during the last 3 years for manpower development.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to boost the food processing industries are:

- (i) Automatic approval for foreign direct investment upto 100% is available for most of the processed food items.
- (ii) Food Processing Industries have been included in the list of priority sector for bank lending.
- (iii) Most of the processed food items have been exempted from the purview of licensing under Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951.
- (iv) Excise and Custom Duties for food processing items have been rationalized.
- (v) Close interaction with Nodal Agencies of the State Governments is maintained.
- (vi) Under the Plan Schemes of the Dept. of Food Processing Industries, financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant is provided to Private Industries/Public Sector Undertakings/Non Government Organisations/Co-Operatives/Human Resource Development Organisations and Research and Development Institutions etc. for the development of processed food sector.

Manisana Wage Board

1063. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Manisana Wage Board for Journalists & Non-Journalists has submitted any report;
- (b) if not, by when its report is likely to be submitted;

(c) whether the Wage Board has made any observation or recommendations about the induction of foreign press in Indian market under the liberalisation process; and

(d) if so, its main recommendations and observation made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The Wage Boards for Journalists & Non-journalists Newspaper and News-agency Employees under the Chairmanship of Justice Manisana Singh submitted tentative proposals on 21.12.99 giving wage structure of the newspaper employees including journalists. The tentative proposals were published in the Official Gazette in 30.12.99 for inviting the comments of interested parties. The Wage Boards have already commenced oral hearings, on the comments so received, w.e.f. 22.2.2000. After the oral hearings are over, the Wage Boards would hold meetings to finalise the recommendations. The final report is expected by March, 2000.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SC/ST percentage in Government service

1064. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country and the percentage of posts in class I, II and III of Union Government are held by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as on date; and

(b) the details of achievements of action plan launched in 1980 to fill up backlog vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) As per 1991 census figures, the percentage of population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country was 16.48% and 8.08 % respectively. As per information received from most of the Ministries/Departments, the representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Group A, B, and C Central Government services on 1-1-1998 was as under:

Group	SC(%)	ST(%)
A	10.38	3.21
B	11.73	2.68
C	15.99	5.95

(b) Action plan viz. Special Recruitment Drives for filling up the backlog of SC/ST reserved vacancies was launched in 1989 and not in 1980. In all, six Special Recruitment Drives to clear the backlog of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs were held between 1989 and 1996. A total of 1,35,453 posts reserved for SCs/STs were filled in through these Special Recruitment Drives.

Corruption

1065. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI VAIKO:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL:

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI RIZWAN ZAHIR:

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Corruption harming country like militancy" in the *Hindustan Times* dated January 5, 2000;

(b) If so, the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Government are aware that corruption in the country has reached at its maximum peak and various anti-corruption agencies set up by the Government have totally failed to check this evil practice; and

(d) if so, the immediate steps propose to be taken by the Government to eliminate corruption in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The news-items captioned "Corruption harming country like militancy" which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* dated February 5, 2000 refers to the deliberations of the Seminar titled "Corruption : A challenge of the 21st Century" organised in New Delhi by Capital Foundation Society. In the Seminar, *inter-alia*, causes and measures to prevent corruption in the country were discussed.

(c) and (d) The Government is fully alive to the need to provide clean administration and to eradicate the malady of corruption at all levels of public services. The drive against corruption in public services to check mal-

practices in administration is a continuing process. The policies formulated in this regard are modified from time to time in order to make them more effective and responsive to the changing environment. The Head of each Ministry/Department of the Government of India and its organisations is responsible for enduring probity and integrity in the respective organisation. All the Anti Corruption Agencies of the Government viz. Internal Vigilance set up in the Ministries/Departments, the Central Bureau of Investigation, a premier investigating agency of the Central Government and the Central Vigilance Commission are making all out efforts to curb corruption from public life. The Government has recently taken the following initiatives for eradication of corruption:

1. The Central Bureau of Investigation launched spacial drives, recently to detect cases of disproportionate assets, to organise traps to apprehend public servants while demanding and accepting illegal gratification and conduct surprise check at sensitive places.
2. The Central Vigilance Commission Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20.12.1999. The Bill stands referred to the Joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament on 21.12.1999 for consideration and its recommendations.
3. Lok Pal Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3.8.1998 to set up the institution of Lok Pal to look into the allegations of corruption against high public functionaries. The Bill, however, lapsed on the dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha on 26.4.1999. Steps are being taken to re-introduce the Lok Pal Bill.
4. The Government set up a Working Group on 'Right to Information and Transparency' in January, 1997 which submitted its report to the Government on 21st May, 1997. The report of the Group has been processed and a Bill for Freedom of Information has been drafted. The Bill is presently under examination for introduction in Parliament.
5. Besides, the Central Vigilance Commission has been vested power vide para 3(v) of Department of Personnel and Training Resolution No. 371/20/99-AVD. III dated 4th April, 1999 to exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration. The Commission has issued several instructions to reduce the scope of corruption such as creating a culture of honesty, greater transparency in administration, electronics clearance system and computerisation of banks, sensitising the public etc. The Central Vigilance Commission has also

issued special Chapters on vigilance management in public sector banks and public sector undertakings.

Visit of US President

1066. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:
DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:
SHRI RIZWAN ZAHIR:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed visit of US President Bill Clinton has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details of countries where he would visit during his south Asia tour;

(c) the details of issues likely to be discussed by the Government with the US President during his visit to India;

(d) the details of protocol agreement are likely to be assigned during this visit;

(e) whether any treaty for anti-terrorist activities is also to be signed between the two countries;

(f) whether any Joint Working Group is likely to be set up for working together on common interests, bilaterally and multilaterally; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) President Clinton of the United States is scheduled to visit India from March 20, 2000 for five days.

(b) The US Government has announced that the US President will also make a one-day visit to Bangladesh, along with his visit to India. The US Government has stated that no decision has been taken regarding any other stops during this visit.

(c) and (d) Both sides have expressed the view that the visit by President Clinton to India should pave the way for a qualitatively new, closer and more broad-based relationship between the two countries. Towards this end, the two sides will discuss all issues of mutual interests as well as measures for further increasing their understanding on political and security matters and intensifying mutual beneficial cooperation in trade and investment, energy and environment, science and technology, education and culture, counter terrorism and narcotics control.

(e) India and the United States have recently set up a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism to intensify bilateral co-operation in combating the menace of terrorism.

(f) and (g) In addition to the Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, the two sides are also in the process of setting up a Joint Working Group for cooperation in energy and environment sectors.

[Translation]

Production of Chemical Weapons by Pakistan

1067. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is engaged in production of chemical weapons with the assistance from China and other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the chemical weapons possessed by Pakistan as on date;

(d) the details of other hardware supplied to Pakistan by China;

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Indian Government to highlight the issues of transfer of technology and weapons by China to Pakistan; and

(f) the extent to which the Government have been successful in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) Pakistan is a state party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) which prohibits all states parties from developing, producing or otherwise acquiring, stockpiling or retaining chemical weapons. As per provisions of the Convention, Pakistan has filed a declaration stating that it had neither developed in the past nor does it hold any stocks of chemical weapons.

(d) to (f) Government closely monitors all developments related to research, development and acquisition of armaments, including weapons of mass destruction, by Pakistan. Government is also aware of transfers by China to Pakistan of missiles and missile technology, equipment and technology relating to nuclear weapons and cooperation in the field of conventional armaments. Government has in its bilateral dialogues with key countries conveyed its concerns regarding such transfers and their adverse impact on India's security environment. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perception.

*[English]***Monitoring of Rules and Regulations framed by Instrumentalities**

1068. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Governmental mechanism in existence which monitors/ascertains that the rules and regulations framed by its numerous instrumentalities, by and large are broadly comparable to the corresponding rules and regulations of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) An instrumentality of the Government can make rules in accordance with the provisions of the statute of charter of its constitution. With the approval of the competent authority; it can make its own rules or adopt the rules of the Central Government or adopt the same with suitable amendments as may be permissible within the legal framework.

It is the responsibility of the administrative Ministry/ Department to ensure compliance with the provisions of the statute and rules framed thereunder in respect of any instrumentality of the Government.

DMS Milk

1069. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI SAHIB SINGH:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the losses of Delhi Milk Scheme is increasing every year;

(b) if so, the losses incurred by DMS during each of the last three years;

(c) the years in which the price of DMS milk was hiked previously;

(d) whether the Government propose to increase the price of milk;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of the day-to-day demand and supply of milk in Delhi;

(g) whether the Government are aware that the Delhi Milk Scheme have failed to provide milk to the people of Delhi as per their requirement; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The losses incurred during the last three years are indicated below:

Years	Rs. in crores
1997-98	59.22
1998-99	73.00
1999-2000 (upto January 2000)	72.48

(c) 1992.

(d) and (e) The Government has taken a decision to enhance the sale price of milk marketed by DMS at par with Mother Dairy.

(f) The day-to-day demand and supply of milk in Delhi is approximately 30-32 lakh litres per day. DMS at present is supplying only 4.00 lakh litres per day to the citizens of Delhi. Balance demand is met by other dairies including Mother Dairy.

(g) and (h) Since the present sale price of DMS milk is far lower than the sale price of Mother Dairy milk, therefore demand for DMS milk is much higher. Once the sale price of DMS milk is brought at par with Mother Dairy milk, the pressure on demand will disappear.

*[Translation]***Lifting of Economic sanctions by US**

1070. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.S. Government has given any assurance to withdraw all sanctions imposed on India in the aftermath of Pokhran nuclear tests;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the time by which these sanctions are likely to be withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) In partial exercise of the waiver authority under the Defence Appropriation Act 2000, the US lifted restrictions on 27th October 1999, on US EXIM Bank, OPIC and TDA activities, International Military Education and Training Programme (IMET); the lending by US Banks to the Government of India; credit and financial assistance by Department of Agriculture to support the purchase of food; and, certain assistance for Wild Life Conservation and Environmental Projects. On 16th December, the US also removed 51 organisations from the list of over 200 Indian Government organisations, research institutions, public sector units and private companies—the so called the Entities List published in November 1998 - which were subjected to tighter export restrictions.

The US continues to maintain restrictions with regard to non-humanitarian lending by International Financial Institutions and on export of defence-related and dual use goods and technology.

(c) The US has not indicated the time frame for lifting the remaining restrictions. It is Government's view that all unilateral restrictions against India are counter-productive and should be completely lifted.

[English]

Oil Palm Development Programme

1071. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of the Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP);

(b) the funds allocated for (OPDP) during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the total area of wasteland likely to be utilized for the cultivation of Oil Palm in the country, State-wise particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the details of the estimated plan oil production in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu under the Oil Palm Development Programme during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP) is being implemented in States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Gujarat, Orissa, Assam, Tripura and Kerala with a view of encouraging cultivation of Oil Palm. Under OPDP subsidy is given to Oil Palm farmers for planting material, cultivation inputs and installation of drip

irrigation system. A new component for providing subsidy to oil palm farmers of installing diesel pumpset has also been introduced under OPDP with effect from 08.02.2000. Oil palm farmers are being trained at Eluru (Andhra Pradesh) and Palode (Kerala) stations of National Research Centre for Oil Palm. Including Central share of Rs. 137.99 crores a total outlay of Rs. 179.65 crores has been approved for implementation of OPDP during Ninth Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) Cultivation of Oil Palm is being promoted under OPDP in areas including waste land identified as suitable for cultivation of oil palm. Area identified as suitable for cultivation of oil palm and estimated production of palm oil during last three years in different States including Tamil Nadu and given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise area identified as suitable for cultivation of Oil Palm and estimated production of Palm Oil

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Identified area (in thousand ha)	Estimated Production of Palm Oil (in MT)		
			1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Andhra Pradesh	400.00	1,818	5,395	8,973
2.	Karnataka	250.00	432	567	536
3.	Tamil Nadu	30.00	0	0	28
4.	Gujarat	61.36	0	0	0
5.	Orissa	10.00	0	0	0
6.	Goa	10.00	33	61	119
7.	Tripura	5.00	0	0	0
8.	Assam	10.00	0	0	0
9.	Kerala	5.00	4,261	4,428	3,812
10.	Maharashtra	10.00	0	0	0
11.	West Bengal	10.00	0	0	0
12.	Andaman & Nicobar	1.59	1,426	1,284	1,142
Total		802.95	7,970	11,735	14,610

[Translation]

Education to Blind Children

1072. SHRI P.K. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any special scheme to provide education to blind children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States where these schemes are being implemented;

(d) the Central Assistance provided to the States for running Andh Vidyalayas and other institutions imparting education to the blind; and

(e) the number of blind children studying in these schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) No central assistance is provided by the ministry to the States for running Andh Vidyalayas and other institutions imparting education to the blind. However the ministry is assisting the non-governmental organizations including those working for the visually disabled under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities.

[English]

Extradition issue of Omar Saeed Sheikh taken up with UK Government

1073. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the freed hijackers of Indian Airlines Plane IC 814, Omar Saeed Sheikh is a British National;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken up the matter of his extradition with U.K Government; and

(c) if so, the response received from the U.K Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have not made any formal request to the British Government in this regard since there are, so far, no reports to suggest that Omar Saeed Sheikh is in the U.K.

(c) The matter has been discussed with the British Government which has assured us of their cooperation in the matter within the framework of the provisions of the Indo-British Extradition Treaty signed in 1992.

[Translation]

Non-availability of Milk to Children

1074. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an organisation named "Initiative" has submitted a report to the Government after conducting a study highlighting that milk is not available to 53% children in the country;

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

(c) the remedial measure being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the largest milk-producing country in the world at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The organisation named "Initiative" has submitted a study report to the Government, but there is no mention that milk is not available to 53% children in the country. However, it is stated in the report that 53% of Indian children under 5 are malnourished, in an age group where milk is a vital input for food and nutrition.

(d) India is the largest milk producing country.

[English]

Contaminated Ground Water in Delhi

1075. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:
SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per study jointly conducted by the Union Ministry of Water Resources, the Central Ground Water Board and the Central Pollution Control Board,

almost fifty per cent of ground water including that of river Yamuna in National Capital Territory of Delhi is unfit for drinking due to the overall impact of physio chemical contents;

(b) if so, the details of the chemical contents found in the ground water;

(c) the recommendations made by the study team for using the ground water for human consumption; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) As per study jointly conducted by the Central Ground Water Board and the Central Pollution Control Board using 303 samples from different depths and different areas of NCT of Delhi, 45.5 per cent samples of ground water have been found to be unsuitable for drinking based on physio chemical quality (including heavy metals).

(b) The block-wise details of the ground water contaminants are given below:

Name of the Block	Pollutants exceeding permissible limit
Alipur	Fluoride, Nitrate, Chromium, Iron
Kanjhawala	Fluoride, Nitrate, Lead, Cadmium, Iron
Najafgarh	Fluoride, Nitrate, Cadmium, Lead, Iron
Mehruali	Chromium, Iron
City	Fluoride, Nitrate, Chromium, Iron
Shahdara	Nitrate, Chromium, Iron

(c) The recommendations made by the study team include - registration of ground water extraction structures, testing and chlorination of water, painting the contaminated handpumps and wells in red to warn the public against its use, covering of open wells, laying of proper underground sewage system, monitoring of ground water quality, promotion of roof-top rain water harvesting, revitalisation of natural water bodies, construction of artificial recharge structures and maintaining minimum flow in river Yamuna and organising mass awareness programmes.

(d) The steps taken by the Government include - setting up of Central Ground Water Authority for control and regulation of ground water development and management, registration of ground water extraction

structures, monitoring of ground water quality, use of mobile chemical laboratory for analysis of ground water samples, notification of Nazafgarh and Mehrauli blocks in NCT of Delhi to regulate extraction of ground water taking up rain water harvesting pilot projects in NCT of Delhi and organising mass awareness programmes.

Provision for providing safe drinking water is planned, financed and implemented by the State Governments. The Central Ground Water Board provide technical services to the State Governments in this endeavour. Further, the Department of Drinking Water Supply in the Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Urban Development extend financial and technical support to the State Governments in their efforts to supply safe drinking water, in such areas.

Handover of Modern Food Industries Limited

1076. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to handover Modern Food Industries Limited to private sector company M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited;

(b) if so, whether the value of the machines, equipments and land etc. have been evaluated before handing over to the private hands;

(c) whether the Government have handed over the company at much lower rate than the expectation to M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited;

(d) whether the interest of workers has been taken into account before handing over the company to private hands; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The Government has disinvested 74 percent of its equity holding in Modern Food Industries (India) Limited to M/s Hindustan Lever Limited.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Agreements between the Government, M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited and Modern Food Industries

(India) Limited provide for protection of employees' interest as under:

- (i) It has *inter-alia* been stated in the Recital to the Shareholders Agreement "that the parties envision that all employees of the company on the date hereof will continue in the employment of the Company.
- (ii) Through the 1st anniversary of the date of the Agreement, any dismissal or termination of employees of the Company from their employment may be undertaken only in accordance with applicable staff regulations and standing orders of the Company or applicable law; provided, however, that no retrenchment of an employee through the 1st anniversary of the date of this Agreement shall be undertaken unless the affected employee is given benefits that are equal to or exceed the Maximum Benefit which shall mean employee benefits which are higher of (a) Voluntary Retirement Scheme ordered by the Government of India to employees of the Company as of the date hereof or (b) the benefits available to an employee under applicable law.
- (iii) The breach of obligations relating to the employees would constitute an Event of Default inviting penal action in terms of buying Strategic Partner's shares in MFIL at 25% discount or sell all the Government owned MFIL shares to the Strategic Partner at 25% premium. This right is without prejudice to the Government's right to seek remedies at law or in equity against the Strategic Partner.
- (iv) Notwithstanding the above, the Agreements shall be governed in accordance with the laws of the land and as such interest of employees will also be governed under the Provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

[Translation]

Review of OMs on Reservation

1077. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 1566 on December 8, 1999 regarding Office Memoranda on Reservation and state:

- (a) whether the exercise of review of above office Memoranda has been completed';
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which the work of review is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Consequent upon completion of review of one of the five office memoranda, the Constitution (Eighty - Eighth Amendment) Bill, 1999 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 23.12.1999. Review of the remaining four office memoranda has not been completed. No definite time frame can be indicated as the process involves examination keeping in view the legal & constitutional issues.

[English]

Fake Currency Racket

1078. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a number of cases of involvement of Pak Diplomats in Delhi and Nepal using fake currency notes have been brought to the notice of the Government;
- (b) whether cases of involvement of Pak nationals/ citizens in possession of fake currency notes have also been brought to the notice of Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government have taken up this matter with the Government of Pakistan;
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Pakistan Government in this regard; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government to curb such activities so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (f) Government is aware that a staff member of the Pakistan Embassy in Nepal was caught red handed in Kathmandu in January 2000 while passing off counterfeit Indian currency to an undercover officer of the Nepal police. Government of Nepal had asked the Pakistan's staff member to leave the country within 72 hours, on account of his involvement in an activity incompatible with his status.

Government is also aware of the investigation being carried out by the Delhi Police relating to a staff member of the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi allegedly using a

counterfeit Indian currency note. There are other reports, too, of the involvement of Pakistani nationals in fake Indian currency rackets.

Government remains vigilant about these activities.

Talks with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State

1079. SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had talks with U.S. Deputy secretary of State Mr. Strobe Talbott during his recent visit to London; .

(b) if so, whether the issues related to disarmament, non-proliferation, CTBT, Nuclear issues combat global terrorism and to declare Pakistan as a terrorist State were discussed during the talks;

(c) whether the UK and other big powers were also invited to join the Joint Working Group on terrorism;

(d) if so, the details of their response, country-wise;

(e) the details of other main issues discussed and outcomes of the talks thereof;

(f) whether any agreement has been signed during the talk;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to implement the decision taken during the talks?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The meeting with US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott, took place in London, on January 18-19, 2000 to continue the ongoing Indo-US dialogue on security, non-proliferation, disarmament and related issues.

(b) In addition to security, non-proliferation and disarmament issues, the two sides also discussed bilateral relations and regional developments including the recent hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC-814. The two sides also discussed ways to combat terrorism and agreed to establish a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism.

(c) and (d) The Joint Working Group is a forum for India and the United States to intensify their bilateral co-operation to combat international terrorism. It is not intended to invite other countries to join this bilateral forum. India is separately in touch with other major countries on this issue.

(e) to (g) In addition to the issues mentioned in [b] above, the two sides also agreed to hold the first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism in Washington in early February and to work together to ensure that the perpetrators of Indian Airlines flight IC-814 are brought to justice. The two sides also discussed arrangements to plan for the visit to India by President Clinton. Mindful of the goal of establishing a multi-faceted partnership between India and the United States, the two sides agreed on the need to intensify and broaden Indo-American discussions in areas such as trade & investment, science & technology, energy and environment.

(h) The first meeting of the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism took place in Washington D.C. on February 7-8, 2000. The two sides are also in the process setting up a Joint Working Group to intensify co-operation in the fields of energy and environment sector. President Clinton is scheduled to visit India for five days from March 20th.

Bring the ashes of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose from Japan

1080. DR. SANJAY PASWAN:
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the *Hindustan Times* dated January 24, 2000 under the caption "Government ready to help bring back Netaji's ashes";

(b) whether the Government have decided to initiate the process of bringing back the ashes of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose from Japan provided there is a consensus on the issue;

(c) if so, whether the Government have set up a Commission to probe into Netaji death;

(d) if so, the time by which the report is likely to be received from the said committee; and

(e) the progress made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) On 14 May 1999, the Government appointed the Mukherjee Commission to go into all the facts and circumstances related to the disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in 1945, and subsequent developments connected therewith. The present tenure of the Commission is up to 14 May 2000. The Commission has issued public notices and have sought information from the concerned parties. The initial date for furnishing such response was 5 February 2000 but has since been extended till 7 March, 2000.

Training Camps for Small Entrepreneurs

1081. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to train small-scale entrepreneurs in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if so, the extent to which such training caps has been useful;
- (d) whether any efforts have been made by the Government to have effective tie-ups with multinational and large companies for organising training camps for these entrepreneurs; and
- (e) if so, the linkages orchestrated by the Government between its training programmes and the larger players in the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government through various national level entrepreneurship development institute such as the National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, New Delhi; the National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training, Hyderabad; the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati; and the Integrated Training Centre, Nilokheri conduct various entrepreneurship development and management programmes for the small entrepreneurs. These training programmes help entrepreneurs set up as also run their enterprises successfully by adopting modern management practices.

(d) to (e) The Government is playing a pro-active role in creating linkage between small and large companies, including multinational companies, by organising general and sector specific vendor development programmes and buyer-seller-meets.

[Translation]

Guidelines for Departmental Promotions

1082. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the guidelines in regard to departmental promotion and provisions regarding preparation of the select panels of the vacancies being filled by the direct recruitment for the Government employees;

(b) whether these guidelines/provisions are also applicable to the employees of instrumentalities of the Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Promotions in the jobs of the Central Government have been linked to availability of vacancies in the higher grade except in the case of technical and scientific personnel where the Government of India introduced the Flexible Complementing Scheme. The promotion policy is based on the premise that the more competent amongst employees should get faster promotion. This has reflected itself in adoption of the Limited Departmental Competitive Examination as a mode of promotion, introduction of concept of "selection" in promotion against the predominant mode of promotion by seniority subject to rejection of unfit and the concept of "bench mark" for grading Confidential Reports for promotion purposes.

In case of direct recruitment in the Central Government, a list of selected candidates is prepared to the extent of number of vacancies and other persons found suitable are put on a reserve list, which is meant to be utilized, in case some of the persons on the list of selected candidates do not become available for appointment. The reserve list is operated in case a vacancy is created by a candidate resigning the post or in the event of his death within the period of six months from the date of joining the post, subject to other conditions stipulated in this regard.

(b) and (c) An instrumentality of the Government can make rules in accordance with the provisions of the statute or charter of its constitution, pursuant to which it was created/set up. The concerned instrumentality can also adopt the rules of the Central Government wholly or with suitable amendments as may be permissible within the legal framework governing such instrumentality. However, the rules framed by the Central Government, in any case, do not extend automatically to instrumentalities.

[English].

Central Provident Office

1083. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether large number of cases of provident fund dues are pending with Central Provident Fund Office;

(b) if so, the details of the cases pending in each State during last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for their early clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The cases of provident fund (PF) are handled/processed in the regional offices of the EPF Organisation.

A Statement showing the number of establishments having PF dues in each State is enclosed. Necessary legal/penal action as provided under Section 7A, 8B, 14, 14B of the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, and where necessary also under Section 408/409 of the IPC is already being taken to recover the PF dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments.

Statement

Name of State/ Region	31.3.97	31.3.98	31.3.99
1. Andhra Pradesh	1703	2088	1945
2. Bihar	655	771	778
3. Delhi	335	417	395
4. Gujarat	1853	1477	1142
5. Himachal Pradesh	0	0	118
6. Haryana	832	933	1116
7. Karnataka	967	889	753
8. Kerala	704	733	616
9. Madhya Pradesh	1746	1800	1497
10. Maharashtra	366	951	992
11. N.E. Region	203	185	208
12. Orissa	513	659	588
13. Punjab	1366	1155	842
14. Rajasthan	1725	1691	1755
15. Tamil Nadu	2698	2485	3172
16. Uttar Pradesh	2636	2313	1339
17. West Bengal	2620	2808	1902

[Translation]

Production of Foodgrains

1084. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the average yield of wheat, paddy, cotton, oilseeds, pulses and grains is lower vis-a-vis the average yield at the world level;

(b) if not, the average yield of these foodgrains at the world level; and

(c) the highest and the lowest yield rate of these foodgrains in the world alongwith the name of the respective countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) As per comparative data available in FAO Year Book, Production, 19997, the average yield of crops such as wheat, paddy, cotton, pulses and cereals in India in 1997 was lower than that of the world's average.

(b) and (c) The highest and lowest yield rates of various crops at World level alongwith names of respective countries is given in enclosed Statement. The average yield rates for these crops in India and at World level are also given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

The yield rates of wheat, paddy, sugarcane, pulses and oilseeds in India vis-a-vis world alongwith the highest and the lowest yield rates during 1997-98

Crop	(Yield rate in Kg/hectare)			
	1997-98			
	India	World	Highest	Lowest
Wheat	2485	2686	8373(Netherlands)	370 (Somalia)
Paddy	2850	3827	8244(Australia)	680 (Sudan)
Cotton	208	584	1679(Israel)	80 (Kenya)
Oilseeds	1040	1273	5789(Israel)	370 (Niger)
Groundnut				
Rapeseed & Mustard	668	1451	11821(Mexico)	190 (Sudan)
Soyabean	1079	2174	3750(Italy)	360 (Tanzania)
Pulses	567	806	4759(Bel-lux)	100 (Ghana)
Cereals	1775	2971	8127(Puerto-rico)	307 (Niger)

Source : Compiled from FAO's Year Book, Production, 1997.

Domestic Child Labour

1085. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in each of metropolitan cities by the Government regarding the number and the working conditions of domestic child labourers below and above the age of 14 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being contemplated by the Government to eradicate the system of child domestic help labourers from these cities during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 does not prohibit employment of children as domestic servants. The question of Government having conducted a survey of such children does not, therefore, arise. Government, however, is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms.

Relations between India and USA

1086. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to normalise bilateral relations between India and the USA;

(b) the terms and conditions of USA for providing loan for the present projects, project-wise;

(c) the last official dialogue between India and USA was held;

(d) whether the present project funded by USA have come to a halt; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to continue these projects?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Government is engaged in wide ranging dialogue with the US Government. The two Governments have agreed to work purposefully, towards developing a broad-based relationship and intensifying mutually beneficial co-operation. India and the US are engaged in an ongoing dialogue on security, non-proliferation, disarmament, regional development and related issues. This dialogue has resulted in some progress in mutual understanding on security matters. The two sides have also initiated fruitful consultation and dialogue on regional development and security, counter-terrorism and other global issues, as well as in sectors such as energy and environment.

US President Clinton is scheduled to visit India from 20th March for five days. Both sides expect the visit to pave the way for a qualitatively new and closer relationship between the two countries.

(b) Loans by US Banks and other agencies for projects in India are available at terms and conditions based on normal financial, commercial and development considerations. Bilateral projects through its US Agency for International Development are funded on grant basis.

(c) The last meeting of the ongoing Indo-US dialogue, on security, non-proliferation, disarmament and related issues was held in London on January 18-19, 2000.

(d) With effect from 1st December 1998 and further extended for an indefinite period on 27th October 1999, the US has removed most restrictions on funding by US agencies, including US Private Banks, US Export Import Bank, Overseas Private Investment Corporation and Trade Development Authority, for projects in India.

(e) Not applicable.

Review of the Performance of Co-operative Institution

1087. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to review the performance of co-operative institutions, as effective instrument for socio-economic change through direct involvement of community during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details of the objective assessment of cooperative movement particularly in the field of production economic activities, State-wise particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be strengthen and promote co-operative institutions network in the country;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating a proposal to have a separate Ministry for co-operation to be strengthen co-operative movement for faster economic growth through democratic process ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) There is no such formal proposal. However, the performance of the cooperative institutions is reviewed occasionally with the State Governments in meetings and conferences as cooperation is a State subject.

(c) It is proposed to frame a National Policy on Cooperatives to facilitate all round development of the Cooperatives and their economic viability. Under this

Policy, Cooperatives would be provided necessary autonomy to make them self-reliant and democratically managed institutions accountable to their members. This Department is considering activity to replace the existing Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 by a new Legislation based on the recommendations made by the Braham Perkash Committee in order to provide greater functional autonomy to cooperatives and to reduce unnecessary bureaucratic interference and to professionalise the management of the institutions.

(d) At present, there is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government of India.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Processing of Seeds

1088. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the seed processing units are very few in the country;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to set up high quality seed processing units in the country;

(c) if so, the number of such high quality seed processing units proposed to be set up in the country and their details State-wise;

(d) whether any private sector/public sector company have come forward with a proposal to set up seed processing units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) There are 1548 Seed Processing Units in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) and (e) No proposals have been received from private sector/public sector company to set up Seed Processing Units.

Representation to Central Trade Union Organisation

1089. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have evolved by formula for accepting representation to Central Trade Union Organisation on the various Committees constituted under the Ministry; and

(b) if so, whether the composition of all the tripartite Committees established by the Ministry are in accordance with such formula?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The representation of Central Trade Union Organisations in various Committees of the Ministry of Labour is determined, by and large, proportionate to the verified membership strength prevailing at the time of constitution of the Committees. It is always not feasible to accurately follow proportional representation and occasionally marginal adjustments are made especially when the size of the Committee is small.

Murari Committee

1090. SHRI VAIKO:
SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Murari Committee has submitted its report on fishing to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of terms of reference alongwith the name of members;

(c) the details of recommendations implemented/partially implemented;

(d) whether the Government have decided to appoint another Committee on fishing;

(e) if so, the terms of reference;

(f) whether the fishermen including the traditional fishermen are planning to start agitation throughout the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the preventive steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in Statement - I.

(c) The details are given in Statement - II.

(d) An Expert Group has been constituted for Formulation of a Comprehensive Policy on Marine Fisheries.

(e) The Terms of Reference are at Statement - III.

(f) This Ministry has no information about any proposed agitation.

(g) Questions does not arise.

Statement - I**Terms of Reference of the Committee**

- I. To review the potential and distribution of fishery resources in the Indian EEZ in consultation with experts and on the basis of available reports.
- II. To ascertain the present status of exploitation of marine fishery resources by various sectors, namely, traditional sector, mechanised boats sector and deep sea fishing vessels.
- III. To ascertain the present status whether the operation of vessels under the new deep sea fishing policy or under charter has affected the traditional fishermen and the marine ecology adversely.
- IV. To suggest the lines on which the future development of the deep sea fishing sector should be charted.
- V. To suggest measures for protecting the interests of traditional fishermen and for reducing the areas of conflict between traditional fishermen and deep sea fishing vessels.
- VI. The Committee would be required to take evidence from various associations of traditional fishermen, mechanised boat operators and deep sea fishing trawlers.
- VII. The Committee would submit its report by 30th September, 1995.

Statement - I (contd.)**Names of Members of the Committee**

- | | | | |
|--|----------|--|--------|
| 1. Shri P. Murari (Retd. IAS),
Advisor to President of FICCI,
New Delhi. | Chairman | 7. Dr. Kartikeswar Patra,
Member of Parliament | Member |
| 2. Shri S. N. Vekaria,
Member of Parliament. | Member | 8. Smt. (Dr.) Padma Nammalvar,
Member of Parliament | Member |
| 3. Maj. Sudhir Sawant,
Member of Parliament | Member | 9. Prof. Amal Dutta,
Member of Parliament | Member |
| 4. Shri Ram Naik,
Member of Parliament | Member | 10. Shri Harish Narayan Prabhu Zantye,
Member of Parliament | Member |
| 5. Shri Styandarayana Dronamraju,
Member of Parliament | Member | 11. Prof. K.V. Thomas,
Member of Parliament | Member |
| 6. Shri Oscar Fernandes,
Member of Parliament | Member | 12. Shri Manoranjan Bhakta,
Member of Parliament | Member |
| | | 13. Shri D. J. Tandel,
Member of Parliament | Member |
| | | 14. Shri John F. Fernandes,
Member of Parliament | Member |
| | | 15. Shri Rajubhai Parmar,
Member of Parliament | Member |
| | | 16. Shri Md. Salim,
Member of Parliament | Member |
| | | 17. Shri K. Rama Krishana,
Member of Parliament | Member |
| | | 18. Shri Ummadi Paidi Raju,
President,
Distt. Fishermen Coop. Society,
Visakhapatnam. | Member |
| | | 19. Shri P.C. Appa Rao,
President,
Andhra Pradesh Mechanised Fishing Boat
Operators Association, Visakhapatnam. | Member |
| | | 20. Shri Dilip N. Pagdhare,
Chairman,
Mahim Machchimar Vividh Karyakari
Sahakari Society Ltd., Mumbai | Member |
| | | 21. Shri Thomas Kocherry,
President
National Fisheries Action Committee
Against Joint Ventures, Kochi. | Member |
| | | 22. Dr. C. Babu Rao,
President,
Association of Indian Fishery Industries,
Visakhapatnam. | Member |
| | | 23. Shri P. Jairaj Kumar,
Vice President,
Deep Sea Fishing Industry Association,
New Delhi. | Member |

24. Shri Sunil Sud, IAS Jt. Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), New Delhi.	Member	38. Shri M.C. Mahapatra,, IAS Principal Secretary (Fy.), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.	Member
25. Smt. Promilla Issar, IAS Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI), New Delhi.	Member	39. Shri H.S. Sarkar, IAS Secretary (Fy.), Govt. of Orissa, Bhubneswar.	Member
26. Shri A. Kannan, Dy. Director General, DG of Shipping, Mumbai.	Member	40. Shri R.K. Tripathi, IAS Secretary (Fy.), Govt. of West Bengal, Calcutta.	Member
27. Shri K.B. Pillai, IAS Chairman, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Kochi.	Member	41. Dr. V.S. Somvanshi, Director General, Fishery Survey of India, Mumbai.	Member- Secretary
28. Ms. Ghazala Meenai, Dy. Secretary, Coast Guard (CG), Min. of Defence, New Delhi.	Member		
29. Dr. S.A.H. Abidi, Director, Dept. of Ocean Development (DOD), New Delhi.	Member	Statement - II	
30. Dr. P.V. Dehadrai, Dy. Dector General (Fy.) Indian Council of Agrucultural Research, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.	Member	<i>Recommendations of the Review Committee on Deep Sea Fishing Policy and action taken</i>	
31. Dr. V. Sriramchandra Murthy, Sr. Scientist, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi.	Member	<i>Recommendation No. 1:</i>	
32. Shri A.D. Desai, IAS Secretary (Fy.), Govt. of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.	Member	All permits issued for fishing by joint venture/charter/lease/ test fishing should immediately be cancelled subject to legal processes as may be required.	
33. Dr. S. V. Joshi, IAS Secretary (Fy.), Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai.	Member	<i>Action Taken:</i>	
34. Shri G. P. Sevalia, IAS Secretary (Fy.), Govt. of Goa, Panjim.	Member	Cases of Joint Ventures (JV) and Leasing, where violation of the Act, Rules or Terms and Conditions were reported, were referred to M/o Law, Justice and Company Affairs. On their Advice, permits for two vessels under leasing have been cancelled. Under the scheme of Charter, no permits are valid.	
35. Shri K.P. Pandey, IAS Secretary (Fy.), Govt. of Karnataka, Banglore.	Member	<i>Recommendation No. 2:</i>	
36. S/Shri Chandran, IAS, D. Ravi, IAS Secretary (Fy.), Govt. of Kerala, Thiruvananthpuram.	Member	No renewal, extension or new licences/permits be issued in future for fishing to joint venture/charter/lease/test fishing vessels.	
37. Shri M. Ahmed, IAS Secretary (Fy.), Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Madras.	Member	<i>Action Taken:</i>	
		No new permits/extension or renewal of permits/ permission under Joint Venture, Leasing, Test Fishing and Charter have been issued.	
		<i>Recommendation No. 3:</i>	
		All licences/permits for fishing may be made public documents and copy thereof made available for inspection in the office of the registered authority.	

Action Taken:

Fishery Survey of India (FSI), Mumbai has been designated as the authority to keep the copies of all valid permits/permissions under JV, Leasing and Chartering as public documents. The copies of permits/permissions were provided to FSI for the same.

Recommendation No. 4:

The areas already being exploited or which may be exploited in the medium term by fishermen operating traditional craft or mechanised vessels below 20 m size should not be permitted for exploitation by any vessels above 20 m. length except currently operated Indian vessels which may operate in the current areas for only three years subject to the recommendations 1 & 7.

Action Taken:

Action is being taken.

Recommendation No. 5:

Since the Indian mechanised boats below 20 m size have the capacity to fish in depths up to about 70-90 m on the west coast, the distance from the shore represented by 150 m depth line should be out of bounds for all vessel of more than 20 m length except vessels mentioned at para 4. Where the 150 m depth zone is less than 100 nautical miles from the shore, the distance up to 100 nautical miles should be reserved for Indian vessels less than 20 m length. On the east coast, starting from Kanyakumari, Indian vessels below 20 m size would have exclusive access up to 100 m depth or 50 nautical miles from the shore whichever is farther except relaxation in Para 4. The depth zone would also be defined by coordinated indicating distance from the shore. Distance will be determined by National hydrographic Office/Coast Guard/ Fishery Survey of India.

Action Taken:

Action has been initiated to define depth zones by coordinates.

Recommendation No. 6:

In regard to Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep groups of islands, a distance of 50 nautical miles from the shore would be reserved exclusively for Indian vessels below 20 m length with proviso at para 4. Further, if so required, the limit would be defined taking into account the need to keep waters between islands reserved exclusively for Indian vessels, even if some portions fall beyond the limit of 50 nautical miles.

Action Taken:

As under Recommendation No. 5 above.

Recommendation No. 7:

In the area open to the vessels above 20 m length, resource specific vessels for tuna and tuna like fishes, squids and cuttle fish, deep sea fin-fishes in mid-water or pelagic regions and oceanic tuna may be allowed for exploitation by tuna long lining, tuna purse seining, squid jigging and mid-water trawling, provided these are de facto Indian owned registered vessels. The Indian owners should account for at least 51% debt as well as equity.

Action Taken:

An Expert Group has been set up to formulate Comprehensive Policy for Marine fisheries. The terms of reference of the Expert Group *inter alia* are to suggest the number of resource specific vessels to be deployed in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the country.

Recommendation No. 8:

The fleet size for different fishing grounds may be fixed taking into account the maximum sustainable yield and the need for conservation of resources.

Action Taken:

As under Recommendation No. 7 above.

Recommendation No. 9:

In order to conserve fishery resources in our waters, to protect fishermen and to reduce conflicts in the sea, deep sea fishing regulations should be enacted by the Parliament after consulting the fishing community.

Action Taken:

Action has been initiated to formulate a legislation for regulation of fishing by Indian owned vessels in the EFZ.

Recommendation No. 10:

For preventing conflict between the traditional, small mechanised larger deep sea vessels strict vigilance to be exercised by the Coast Guard. To attain this objective the Coast Guard should be strengthened, expanded, upgraded technically with the state-of-the-art system of navigation, surveillance and weaponry and property tasked to prevent poaching by foreign vessels and observance of zone restriction by indigenous vessels. In case Coast Guard is not able to perform the task then by some other agency, State or Central, would be identified to ensure that these vessels excluded from specific areas do not violate prohibitions.

Action Taken:

The Coast Guard is being assisted under a Central Sector Scheme to procure communication equipment for monitoring operation of fishing vessels in the Indian EEZ.

Recommendation No. 11:

The Government should take active steps as well as make finances available for upgradation of technological skills and equipment used by the traditional fishermen, for mechanised boats and the Indian deep sea fishing fleet so that each can effectively fish in the areas reserved for it by law or in practice. Duty concessions and concessional finance should be made available for both navigational as well as fishing equipment aimed at competence upgradation to the state-of-the-art level to all the three categories with priority to the traditional sector.

Action Taken:

The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing Schemes for motorisation of traditional crafts by providing subsidy towards the cost of engines and reimbursement of central excise duty on HSD oil to mechanised boats below 20 m length.

Recommendation No. 12:

Traditional and small mechanised sector should be assisted by adequate regular supply of fuel and by providing HSD and kerosene and by providing subsidy taking into account the benefits given to deep sea fishing vessels.

Action Taken:

As under Recommendation No. 11 above.

Recommendation No. 13:

All types of marine fisheries should come under one Ministry. The Government should also consider setting up a Fishery Authority of India to function in the manner in which such authorities set up in other countries function and to be responsible for formulation of policies as well as their implementation.

Action Taken:

All subjects concerning fisheries, except processing, exports and education have been transferred to Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Recommendation No. 14:

The Fishery Survey of India should also be technically upgraded by induction of the modern technology and equipment so that it can identify and map the location of all types of fish, study impact of different technologies and ecological changes. There should be proper coordination and cooperation between the National Remote Sensing Agencies and the Fishery Survey of India for this purpose.

Action Taken:

The Fishery Survey of India (FSI) is being assisted through a Central Sector Scheme and action has been initiated on the proposal of FSI for acquisition of new survey vessels.

Recommendation No. 15:

The Government should give priority to the creation of the infrastructure needed for preventing wastage of fishery resources which is occurring through throwing away by-catch. This may be achieved by providing a chain of cold storage, ice factories, fish processing facilities, fish meal and feed manufacturing units for value addition to the products of fishermen and their cooperatives.

Action Taken:

The Department of Food Processing Industries is implementing schemes for creation of infrastructure for cold chain and processing of fish.

Recommendation No. 16:

Infrastructure facilities such as fishing harbours for the existing and modern upgraded craft along east and west coasts as well as in island groups of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands may be created on priority basis.

Action Taken:

The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing Scheme for construction of fishing harbours and fish landing centres. The entire coastline including that of the islands is covered under the scheme.

Recommendation No. 17:

Fishermen/fisherwomen and their cooperatives may be provided with financial assistance for upgradation and acquisition of larger vessels of marketing and other related activities.

Action Taken:

As under Recommendation No. 7 above.

Recommendation No. 18:

The Government should give priority to training fishermen/ fisherwomen in handling new equipment, larger vessels and new fishing techniques besides fish handling and processing aspects.

Action Taken:

The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme for providing training to fishermen and fisherwomen for skill upgradation.

Recommendation No. 19:

Government should take effective steps to tackle the menace of pollutants/effluents/sewage let out by industries which affects marine life adversely.

Action Taken:

The Ministry of Environment and Forests are taking care of this aspect.

Recommendation No. 20:

Government should take a decision on the recommendations of the Committee within a period of six months.

Action Taken:

Action taken on recommendations are at different stages of implementation.

Recommendation No. 21:

The deep sea fishing policy should be revised periodically say every 3-5 years.

Action Taken:

An Expert Group has been constituted to formulate a Comprehensive policy for Marine fisheries.

Statement-III**Terms of Reference of the Expert Group**

- i. To ascertain the present status of exploitation of marine fishery resources by the traditional (including motorised), mechanised and deep sea fishing vessel,
- ii. To formulate programmes for upgradation of the capabilities of the small-scale sector of fish in deeper waters,
- iii. To fix area-wise resource specific deep sea fishing fleet like tuna long liners, purse seiners, squid jiggers, pole and long line fishing etc.
- iv. To evaluate the capacity of the present fishing deep sea fishing fleet and suggest modifications an redeployment if necessary,
- v. To estimate and identify sources for meeting the investment requirements of the marine fisheries sector,
- vi. To assess the need for joint ventures, leasing, etc. with foreign fishing companies,

vii. To identify the human resource development needs of the marine fisheries sector and formulate programmes for meeting such requirements, and

viii. To suggest conservation measures taking into account the code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other global initiatives for sustainable development of marine fisheries.

Recharging of Ground Water

1091. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any centrally sponsored scheme to assist States in artificial recharging of ground water;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) the number of States where this scheme is going on at present stating the total amount of assistance provided by the Union Government to each States during the last three years; and

(d) the extent to which this scheme has been helpful in raising the ground water level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Research to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

1092. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have requested the Russian Government to open the archives to Indian scholars researching on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any response from the Russian Government in this regard;

(c) whether some of the documents concerning Netaji kept under the custody of the U.K. Government are still denied access to scholars;

(d) if so, whether the Government have moved the concerned authorities to open up such papers to those who would like to go through these papers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Attempts have been made at the official level to find out from the Russian Government whether there were documents pertaining to Netaji available with them. In response we were informed by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on January 8, 1992 that "according to the data in the Central and Republican Archives, no information whatsoever is available on the stay of former President of the Indian National Congress, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in the Soviet Union in 1945 and in subsequent years". Thereafter, on September 27, 1995, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation informed that "as a result of the investigations carried out at the Central Achival Collection of the Federal Security Service of Russia and the Russian Centre for Retention and Perusal of documents on Modern History, no information whatsoever has come to light on the stay of Subhash Chandra Bose on the territory of the former USSR in 1945 and in subsequent years". The State Achive Service of the Russian Federation informed on August 4, 1997 that "the Centre for Preservation of Historical Documental Collection does not have any information on Subhash Chandra Bose".

(c) to (e) The British Government have informed that "virtually all British records relating to Subhash Chandra Bose, which are more than 30 years old, have been released at the Public Record Office and at the British Library". The British Government have further informed that "the only papers which remain closed are: (i) a few papers in the files of the Intelligence and Security Agencies that do not add to the substantive account in the Indian Political Intelligence Organisation collection; and (ii) on paper from the Indian Political Intelligence Organisation collection which is retained on grounds of continuing personal sensitivity".

[Translation]

Regional Vocational Training Institutions

1093. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Vocational Training Institutions running in various parts of the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh and the assistance provided to these institutions during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there is any demand to set up more Regional Vocational Training Institutions;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the final decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The number of Vocational Training Institutions known as Industrial Training Institutes in the country is 4172 including 314 institutes in Uttar Pradesh. The financial assistance provided to States during the last three years i.e., 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 for schemes covered under the World Bank assisted Vocational Training Project is Rs. 3384.82 lakhs, Rs. 3056.32 lakhs and Rs. 3748.44 lakhs, respectively.

(b) Opening of new Industrial Training Institutes comes under the purview of the respective State Governments.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Sexual Harassment to Women

1094. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a Bill before the Parliament to check sexual harassment of women at work place ; and

(b) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 13.08.1997 in the case of Visakha and others versus the State of Rajasthan and others had laid down detailed guidelines for prevention of sexual harassment of women at work places. These guidelines have the force of law under Article 141 of the Constitution of India. Action has been taken to implement the guidelines of the Supreme Court in letter and spirit. There is, therefore, no proposal, at present, to bring a Bill in prevention of sexual harassment of women at work places before the Parliament.

[Translation]

Co-operation in Space Technology

1095. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether co-operation is proposed to be sought from China and Japan in the Space Technology Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed with these countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India would like to co-operate with China and Japan in the peaceful uses of space technology for mutual benefit. Possible areas include space sciences, remote sensing applications, satellite communications techniques, satellite based navigation, satellite based disaster management, training etc.

(c) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Government of India and the Government of People's Republic of China in December 1991 on co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

(d) The Memorandum of Understanding provides an umbrella for co-operative activities in different areas through joint experiments and research, exchange of information and visits, holding of workshops and symposia, etc.

[English]

Development of Information Technology

1096. SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched National Venture Capital Fund to facilitate the development in Information Technology Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the role of MIT and its arms NIC and NICNET to provide one point information disseminating and management facility;

(d) whether all the State capitals and district head quarters are connected with one control room through NICNET; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Information Technology, Government of India have set up a Rs. 100 crores National Fund for IT and Software Development in association with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Industrial

Development Bank of India for the development of IT sector in India. Rs. 60 crores as initial contribution has been collected initially from the above contributor including Ministry of Information Technology. The fund will be professionally managed by the Asset Management Company set up under the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) Ministry of Information Technology through its Attached Office namely, National Informatics Centre (NIC), is providing computer based support to Ministries and Departments of Central and State Government, District Administrations and other Government bodies for day-to-day functioning and planning. NIC has set up a Satellite based computer communication network called NICNET which provides various services including Internet, E-Mail and file transfer to users. NIC has developed informative web sites for various Government Departments including State Governments and Public Sector Units under its 'Indian Image' programme.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. NIC has set up a satellite based computer communication network called NICNET with master earth station at New Delhi and VSATs in various Central Government, State Government Secretariats and District Administration. All State capitals have VSATs.

ISI's Anti-India Activities from Nepal

1097. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government have asked to Government of Nepal to furnish evidence of ISI's anti-India activities being operated from Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response received from the Government of Nepal in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government of India have discussed from time to time with the Government of Nepal our concerns about the ISI misusing the Nepalese territory and the open India-Nepal border for activities inimical to India's interest. Reports received by the Government indicate increasing evidence of ISI using Nepal as a staging post for terrorist activities directed against India. The Nepalese Government have been sensitised on this issue.

The Government of Nepal have assured that their territory would not be used for activities inimical to India's interest and have been extending their cooperation to the Government of India in this regard. Measures have been taken to enhance bilateral cooperation, particularly

with regard to implementing effective border management. The concerned agencies of the two Governments remain in regular touch to coordinate efforts to tackle this problems. There are also bilateral institutional mechanisms, such as the Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary level talks, which have been evolved to specifically develop cooperation on security matters and to address these concerns. In pursuance of the decisions taken in these meetings, both sides have agreed to jointly coordinate measures, including stepping up vigil along the contiguous border districts of India and Nepal, to prevent misuse of the open India-Nepal border to counter activities directed against India.

[Translation]

Research Institutions

1098. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are running research and analysis institutes for the development of agriculture;

(b) if so, the names of those research institutes which are entirely dependent on the Government for financial assistance;

(c) whether any new invention has been made by these institutes with their research and analysis during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government so as to reach the benefits of these inventions to the farmers?

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

(b) As per Statement - I.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per Statement - II.

(e) There are 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country that are engaged in the process of technology dissemination. The Council have identified 53 districts to strengthen the existing Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) where there is no KVK to take up additional functions of KVK. The ICAR has also launched an Institution-Village-Linkage Programme for transfer of Technology. Frontline demonstration of technologies is another mechanism to transfer the agricultural technologies developed by the Research & Development institutes for the benefit of farmers. For effective

dissemination of information, the Council has sanctioned establishment of 40 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC). These will serve as a single window system with an objective to provide solution to problems and information dissemination. An inter-divisional effort between Crop Science and Extension Divisions of ICAR has led to formulation and development of a project on "Technology Evaluation and Impact Assessment" for faster dissemination of both knowledge and technology.

Statement - I

National Institutes

1. Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.
2. Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar.
3. National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal.
4. Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai.
5. Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair.
6. Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur.
7. Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal.
8. Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur.
9. Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering & Technology, Ludhiana.
10. Central Institute Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai.
11. Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture, Lucknow.
12. Central Institute for Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar.
13. Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, Kasaragod.
14. Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla.
15. Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad.
16. Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore.
17. Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack.
18. Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal.
19. Central Soil & Water Conservation Research & Training Institute, Dehradun.
20. Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry.
21. Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram.
22. ICAR Research Complex for Goa, Goa.
23. ICAR Research Complex for North Eastern Hills Region, Barapani.

24. Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi.
25. Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi.
26. Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore.
27. Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal.
28. Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut.
29. Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow.
30. Indian Lac Research Institute, Ranchi.
31. Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur.
32. National Institute of Research on Jute & Allied Fibre Technology, Calcutta.
33. Sugarcane Breeding Institute Coimbatore.
34. Vivekanand Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Shala, Almora.
35. Central Avian Research Institute, Izatnagar.
36. Central Inland of Capture Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore.
37. Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai.
38. Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi.
39. Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneshwar.
40. Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Hisar.
41. Central Institute for Research on Goats, Makhdoom.
42. Central Marnie Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi.
43. Central Sheep & Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar.
44. National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bangalore.
45. National Academy of Agricultural Research and Management, Hyderabad.
46. Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varansi.
47. National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi.
48. National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur.
49. National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal.
50. National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow.
51. Directorate of Cropping System Research, Meerut.
52. Directorate of Oilseed Research, Hyderabad
53. Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad
54. Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal.
55. Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore.
56. Project Directorate of Maize, New Delhi.
57. Directorate of Water Management Research, Patna.
58. Project Directorate on Cattle, Meerut
59. Project Directorate on Poultry, Hyderabad
60. Project Directorate of Soyabean Processing & Utilization, Bhopal
61. National Research Centre for Agro-forestry, Jhansi
62. National Research Centre for Arid Horticulture, Bikaner
63. National Research Centre for Banana, Tiruchirapalli
64. National Research Centre for Cashew, Puttur
65. National Research Centre for Citrus, Nagpur
66. National Research Centre for Grapes, Pune
67. National Research Centre for Groundnut, Junagarh
68. National Research Centre for Integrated Pest Management, New Delhi
69. National Research Centre for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Anand
70. National Research Centre for Mushroom Research and Training, Solan
71. National Research Centre for Oilpalm, Eluru
72. National Research Centre for Onion and Garlic, Pune
73. National Research Centre for Orchids, Gangtok
74. National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi.
75. National Research Centre for Rapeseed & Mustard, Bharatpur
76. National Research Centre for Sorghum, Hyderabad
77. National Research Centre on Soyabean, Indore
78. National Research Centre for Water Technology, Bhubaneshwar

79. National Research Centre for Weed Science, Jabalpur
80. High Security Animal Disease Laboratory, Bhopal
81. National Research Centre on Camel, Bikaner
82. National Research Centre for Coldwater Fisheries, Nainital
83. National Research Centre for Equines, Hisar
84. National Research Centre on Meat & Meat Products, Hyderabad
85. National Research Centre on Mithun, Kohima
86. National Research Centre on Yak, Dirang
87. N.R.C. for Agricultural Economics & Policy Research, New Delhi
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Statement - II

Invention during last three years

Achievements

1. Fruit Crops

A mango hybrid, CISH-M-2, a cross of Dashehari X Chausa performed excellently. This hybrid has good potential because of its sooty, mould free fruit surface even after exposure to heavy rains. The fruits are similar to those of Dashehari but mature 15 days after Dashehari.

Evaluation of mango hybrids at the IHR, Bangalore, indicated that Hybrid H 18 (Alphonso x Kensington) had better fruit quality. The evaluation of mango germplasm showed that "Pakhirwala" had maximum fruit weight (404 g). Xavier highest TSS (24.8° Brix) and Kensington had maximum pulp recovery (74%) .

Two guava selection, viz. CISH-G-2 and CISH-G-3 were found to be promising. CISH-G-2 has attractive fruits with crimson colour and white stripes with soft and few seeds. CISH-G-3 has attractive fruits with pink flesh. It is suitable for both table and processing purposes. The pink colour in the beverage remains stable for more than a year of storage.

A ber selection named as 'Gohah Kiriti' was developed at CHES, Godhra for cultivation in tribal belts of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. This is an early variety and escapes incidence of fruit borer and fruit fly.

A papaya hybrid H-39 (Sunrise Solo X Pink Flesh Sweet) was found better than Coorg Honey Dew. It is better than Sunrise Solo with regard to quality and yield. A hybrid line CP 81 (Coorg Honey Dew X CP85) was identified for high yield and quality. A promising hybrid from the cross of CO-5X Thailand was obtained and purified.

A pomegranate hybrid "Ruby" has been released. The fruit has red bold arils, soft seeds, red ring, good keeping quality and high TSS even during summer. Leaf nutrient standards were developed for Ganesh cultivar of pomegranate (0.40 to 2.20% N, 0.12 to 0.18%P and 0.61 to 1.59% K for fruit yield of 15.60 to 18.80 tonnes/ha.). In Bijapur district of Karnataka and Nasik district of Maharashtra, N,P and Zn were most limiting nutrients.

2. *Vegetable Crops*

In vegetable crops, 17 open pollinated varieties including 3 in brinjal (long) 2 in brinjal (small round), one each in brinjal (round) and brinjal (green), 2 in bitter gourd, 3 in Pea (mid season), one each in tomato (indeterminate), garlic, cowpea, onion and French bean and 11 F1 hybrids including 2 each in brinjal, chilli, cabbage, tomato, (determinate) and Okra and one in bitter gourd and one tomato variety BRH-2 resistant to bacterial have been identified for cultivation in different agro-climatic zones of the country.

A number of improved agro-techniques such as fertilizer application through basal, top dressing and foliar spray, spacing and herbicidal application have been worked out and recommended for different vegetable crops for different regions for higher economic returns. For pest and disease control, improved schedules and chemicals have been worked out/identified and recommended minimizing incidence.

In mushroom, two single spore strains NCS 100 and NCS 101 and one hybrid NCH 102 of white button mushroom (*agaricus bisporus*) have been released for commercial cultivation along with package of production of practices.

3. *Potato & Tuber Crops*

The CPRI, Shimla, has released Kufri Pukhraj and Kufri Anand, new potato varieties. Kufri Pukhraj is an early bulking, resistance to late blight and suitable for north Indian Plains and plateau areas, whereas Kufri Anand is suitable for cultivation in western and central Uttar Pradesh. Kufri and provides resistance to late blight, attractive, oblong tubers with fleet eyes and pale yellow flesh. Potato variety Kufri Giriraj, a substitute for Kufri Jyoti, which has become susceptible to late blight disease in hills has also

been released. Varieties Kufri Chipsona I and Kufri Chipsona 2, ideal for processing and resistant to late blight, have since been officially notified by the Central Variety Release Committee. A hybrid Kufri Thenamalai, resistant to both the species of cyst nematodes and late blight and suitable for cultivation in Tamil Nadu hills is likely to be released by the Tamil Nadu Government.

In Punjab, potato-onion-groundnut was found to be the most productive cropping system. In Bihar region, potato-bottle gourd-paddy and in western Uttar Pradesh, potato-bottle gourd-urd cropping system were found promising. Cropping sequences like Potato Jute-paddy at Kalyani in West Bengal and potato-tomato-spinach-radish at Srinagar in J & K were found remunerative.

In cassava, two varieties Sree Jay and Sree Vijaya with an average yield of 34 and 32 tonnes/ha respectively suitable for lowland cultivations as a rotation crop in a paddy-based cropping system, Sree Shilpa, a hybrid of *Dioscorea alata* with an average yield of 28 tonnes/ha and Sree Padma a selection of elephant-foot yam have been released for cultivation in Kerala state. Sweet-potato variety Sree Bhadra for the All-India release and colocasia varieties NDC 1 and NDC 2 for Uttar Pradesh and Kadma for Bihar Plateau have been recommended by the AICRP on Tuber Crops. The regional centre of the CTCRI at Bhubaneswar has released sweet potato varieties namely Gouri (19 tonnes/ha) and Sankar (14 Tonnes/ha) for cultivation in the eastern parts of the country. In Cassava, two short duration clones, namely CI 649 and CI - 731 with a yield potential of 25-30 t/ha in six months and a superior clone of *Amorphophallus*, AM/-15 with a yield potential of 42 t/ha were identified by CTCRI for release.

Biological Management of Sweet Potato Weevil was effective using braconid parasitoid, *Rhaconotus menippu* (@) 10 pairs/sq. in plot and *Metarhizium enisopliae* @ 3×10^6 sp/m at 50 DAP along with re-ridging at 65 DAP. It has 75% protection over check. The pheromone traps prepared by the BARC, Mumbai reduced the sweet-potato weevil damage on tubers considerably at Dholi, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Dapoli, Bhubaneswar and Thiruvananthapuram. Sweet-potato Sree Bhadra was identified as an excellent trap crop for the management of root-knot nematodes. The population of nematode declined to below detectable level in naturally-infested fields of Sree Bhadra over a period of 90-95 days.

4. *Floriculture & Medicinal Plants*

In rose, three new hybrids were developed at the IARI, New Delhi. One induced mutant of rose variety Paradise was promising of garden display

at the IIHR, Bangalore, and white-coloured mutant of *Sylvia* was promising at the NBRI, Lucknow. Rose variety Dr. B.P. Pal at the IARI, New Delhi and Sonia Meilad at the PAU, Ludhiana were suitable of the export purpose. *Rosa multiflora* was identified as the best rootstock in rose under Bangalore and Kalyani conditions, whereas *Rosa indica* var. *odorata* prove better for Tamill Nadu.

In gladious, nine new varieties, Anjali (bright orange), Achana (Scarle Pink with yellow dusting on wavy falls in the thoat region), Bindiya (yellowish-cream with fan-shaped red colouration at 2 side falls), Chandani (greenish-white), Chirag (orange-yellow), Sarang (puple red), Shweta (white with light yellow throat), Sunayana (pinkish red) and Vandana (bright orange), have been released by the IARI, New Delhi. Two varieties, namely, Rajani and Chandrani, have also been released from Kalyani.

Three improved varieties of *Chrysanthemum*, namely, white Charm from Lucknow, Basanti and KS 16 from Kalyani have been released. *Chrysanthemum* varieties, IIHR 6, IIHR 13, CO 1, CO2, Vasantika and Megami performed well at different centres. An induced mutant of *chrysanthemum* Kirti was promising for bedding and potting. At Lucknow, 3 flower colour mutants, (white, yellow and Brown) in Maghi and 2 mutants, (white and Dark Red) in Shyamal were isolated and multiplied. The centre has also released a new no-pitch no-stake variety as Mother Taresa which bears white small flowers of Argemone type. It blooms in early December and is highly suitable for pot culture. One attractive hybrid Punjab Gold has been developed for pot culture.

In carnation, cultivar Laurella at Ludhiana, Fambia at Pune and Arthur Sirn at Kodaikanal were promising.

In orchids *Epidendrum radicans* and *Spathoglottis plicata* flowered throughout the year, the largest flowers being in New Pink. Longest inflorescence was recorded in Jay Sweeding x Jaq. Concert at Vallanikkara. The *Dendrobium crepidatum* recorded maximum number of flowes/inflorescence (27.7) The *Phaius tankervilleae* showed longest stalks (84.5 cm) whereas *Cymbidium lowinumnum* produced largest flowers (11.5 cm) at Yercaud.

The marigold hynbrid MS-8 x Pusa Narangi Ganida, developed at the IARI, New Delhi, was promising. New marigold Pusa Narangi Gainda was significantly superior to local marigold at Pune.

Gerbera Presley gave best performance with regard to plant height (26.2 cm.), plant spread (1.15.8 cm²) and flower yield (21.8 flowers/plant) at Vellanikkara, wheras Polar recorded highest number of flowers (51 flowers/plant) at Pune.

In China Aster, Kamini, Poomima and Pure line B performed well at different centres.

5. *Plantation Crops*

Standardization of enzyme extraction and PAGE was done in leaf samples of Tall and Dwarf coconut varieties. A protocol for DNA extraction from newly emerged leaf of coconut has been standardized. A more efficient collapsible copra dryer has been fabricated. Descriptor for 26 cultivars of coconut and 16 indigenou accessions of arecanut have been completed. Coconut based cropping system continues to give increased net return per unit area. An auto irrigation system to overcome the problem of low voltage has been standardized.

6. *Spices*

In black pepper six hybrid lines and one cultivar have been short listed for high altitude areas of South India . Root knot nematode resistant variety 'Pournami' has been released. In ginger, IISR Varda has been released for Kerala but it is also found promising in A.P. and Orissa under AICRP on Spices. IISR Prabha and IISR Pratibha the two value aded turmeric varieties developed through open pollinated progeny selection have been released for Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Protoplasts were isolated from in vitro derived leaf tissue of crdamom, ginger and tumeric. Micro-calli were developed from protoplast of cardamom. Integrated disease management involving mixtures of Pytpthora tolerant pepeper lines, biocontrol and chemical control have been set up both under pure crop and mixed cropping system. Potassium phosphate in combination with *Trichodaria* was found to be very effective against foot-rot.

Sonali, a new tumeric variety resistant to rhizome rot, leaf blotch and scale insect was evolved. A new ginger accessions (V_1S_1-8) with 8.75% oleroresin content is identified. Cordinander (CC-748), cumin (c-147) and fennel (RF-125) having 0.45%, 3.0%and 2% volatile oil were identified. High density bush pepper ctivation was standardized.

7. *Post-Harvest Management*

CFB boxes both common as well as made from cotton stick pulp were suitable for transportation

and storage of Alphonso mango. Alphonso mangoes could be kept in good condition upto 34 days with minimum incidence of spongy tissue (5%0 if they are hydro-cooled in combination with bavistin treatment followed by storage at 12 ± 1 C with 85% Relative Humidity.

Modified Atmosphere Packaging (MAP) technology for mango, banana, pomegranate, guava and citrus fruits using various polymeric films and shrink wrapping showed promising results in their keeping quality even upto one month which could be extremely useful both for domestic marketing and export trade.

Several innovative processed products from fruits viz. Ber Candy, BEr Churah, Dried aonla shreds, Cherry Nectar, Osmotically dried apple rings and oil less aonla pickles have been developed and standardized. Technique for oil-less mango pickle preparation has been standardised. A prototype of hand operated fruit coring device was developed for removing cores from apple and pineapple fruits.

The raw mango processing machine has been developed at the IIHR, Bangalore. The industrial prototypes of raw mango processing machine having a capacity of 25 tones/day have been designed. The labour requirement is only one-sixth as compared with manual operation for slicing and cube cutting of mangoes into cubes of 10g. Weight for pickle-making.

8. Farm Implements and Machinery

A large number of Farm Implements and Equipments have been developed and evaluated for carrying out different farm operations as given below:

1. *Seed Bed Preparation*: Spiked clod crusher, Tractor operated hydraulically controlled wettand peddler, animal drawn lugged wheat puddler, multipurpose animal drawn equipment.
2. *Sowing and Planting*: Power tiller operated till planter, mustard drill, multicrop planter, pre-genninated paddy seeder, manual operated six row mat-type paddy transplantet, eight row self propelled rice transplanter, power tiller operated Jyoti Planter, Strip-till, drill, no-till-drill.
3. *Interculture and Spraying* : Power weeder, self-propelled boom sprayer and overhead sprayer.
4. *Harvesting*: Groundnut harvester, Sorghum harvester and heavy duty augur digger.
5. *Threshing*: High capacity multi-crops thresher, Groundnut Thresher, Sunflower Thresher.
6. *Transportation*: For transportation for farm produce an improved standard 2- wheel bullock cart has been developed.
7. *Ergonomics and Safety* : Ergonomics studies on power tiller, collection of anthropometric data of agricultural workers, accidents and ergonomical problems in agricultural and allied activities in Madhya Pradesh.
8. *Establishment of Computer aided design facility for designing of agricultural machinery* : Design refinement and preparation of production drawing and manuals of related equipment like tubular maize sheller, groundnut decorticator and 3-row animal drawn seed drill.
9. *Prototype manufacturing*: A large number of prototyper equipments have been developed and supplied to various centres and KVKs for large-scale adoption and popularization.

9. Post-Harvest Engineering & Technology

A large number of Post-harvest Technologies have been developed as given under:

1. *Grading* : Groundnut pod grader and weight based fruit grader.
2. *Shelling and Decortication*: Chili seed extractor, tamarind seed extractor and sheeter and stripping-cum-shelling machine.
3. *Horticultural Crops*: For fruits and vegetables equipments developed include a two stage evaporative cooler for fruits and vegetables. Studies on osmotic dehydration of fruits and vegetables and modified atmosphere packaging studies on hybrid cultivators of tomato, have been made.
4. *Honey*: For extraction of honey few equipments/gadgets have been developed such as tractor operated smoker, electrically heated stainless steel uncapping knife and stainless steel 8 - frame honey extractor.
5. *Cotton*: A two-step process for making pulp from crop residues has been standardized.
6. *Jute*: An improvised model of power ribboner has been developed. The method for retting of green jute ribbons has been standardized.
7. *Jaggery*: A sugarcane juice boiling furnace has been improved. A digital thermometer with a clamp on its probe was developed. A hardness tester was modified for solid jaggery.

10. Animal Sciences

Animal genetic resource evaluation and conservation through extensive surveys, genetic characterization using gene markers and of indigenous livestock and poultry breeds. Genetic improvement for milk, meat, fibre and draft in various livestock species through selection, progeny testing and MOET schemes. Improvement of poultry for Meat and Egg. Improvement in productive and reproductive efficiency by encouraging the efficiency of straw utilization, mineral nutrition, by manipulation of rumen fermentation pattern, feeding of by pass protein, protected fat and plane of nutrition was achieved. Buffalo breeds improved for high milk production. Studies on semen evaluation, breeding efficiency, lactation performance, thermo regulatory characteristics and endocrine profile, cryo-preservation of semen and embryos of various livestock species conducted. Haematological and biochemical parameters of Mithun; thermo adaptability, immunoglobulin pattern, different mineral and enzymes studies; reproductive behaviors and induction of lactation using 17 β estradiol and progesterone in Yak initiated. For the first time Yak was maintained at altitude less than 2000 m MSL and mithun was domesticated for in house maintenance. Urea-molasses black developed for 'better nutrition vis-a-vis production. Technology for indigenous milk product developed such as khoa, paneer, gulab jamun mix, cattor-milk halwa mix, mango milk shake mix shake mix etc. Technology for whey protein concentrate have been developed through applications of membrane tech. Equipments have been designed and fabricated for indigenous milk products. Technologies have been given to farmers an industries for better return to the farmers. Diagnostics and vaccines against various diseases like Brucella, leptospira, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis, infectious bursal disease, Avian leucosis complex, hemorrhagic septicemia, equine influenza, Foot and Mouth Disease, Equine infectious anemia, herpes virus, salmonella have been developed for the control of disease in livestock and poultry. It has been shown through empirical anaysis that cropse diversification through incorporation of legumes has enhanced the total factor productivity of rice-wheat based cropping system. Investment in livestock research gave returns. Expenditure must on irrigation, rural roads, rural electfication etc. for agricultural development. Action plan decided for private-public sector interface. Survey method developed for precise estimation of milk production at district level. Software developed to add, retrieve, and analysis the data

available in database on agriculture statistics. Crop yield estimate possible with the use of satellite data. Model developed to study spread of aphid population. National Information System on Agricultural Education (NISAGE) developed.

11. Fisheries

Major Innovations during last three years:

MAHIMA : The Shrimp Feed : Nutritional research on economical feed production and efficient feeding strategies resulted in the development of Mahima—a need based on farm shrimp feed production technology for the rural sector. Two formulations based on the nutritional requirements of commercially important shrimp *Penaeus indicus* and *P monodon* were developed by CMFRI and disseminated to rural women. The technology transfer has resulted in the establishment of three fully operational all-women manned small scale shrimp feed units. Mahima has prove itself to be highly efficient in terms of production both under laboratory and field conditions, giving feed conversion ratios (FCR)' of 1.5 (*P.indicus*) and 1.7 (*P.monodon*) respectively.

Seabass Breeding and Culture : The CIBA has achieved a major breakthrough, for the first time in the country, in the captive brodstock development, induced breeding and seed production of the Asian seabass *Lates calcarifer*. Hatchery-produced seabass seed were sold to progressive fish farmers.

CIFAPRA - Freshwater Prawn Feed : Feed is the major input in a prawn hatchery and grow-out operations and nutritionally balanced, cost-effective diets for various life stages of the prawn are vital for obtaining rapid growth, high survival and sustainable production levels. Formulated feeds for different life stages of the prawn have been developed and formulation is being popularise through demonstrations to aquafarming community.

CIFACA - Carp Baby Feed : A cost effective feed for carp spawn comprising groundnut cake, roasted soybean meal, fish meal, fice bran, mixture of vegetable and fish oils; Vitamin-mineral premix and probiotic supplement has been developed and being marketed in the rural aqua sector.

CIFAMA - Magur Baby Feed : Feed has been prepared using fish meal, roasted soybean meal, groundnut cake, tapioca powder, baker's yeast, vegetable oil, vitamin-mineral premix and an attractant. The formulation is in the process of commercialisation.

Seed Production of golden Mahseer *Top Putitora*: Establishment of flow-through mahseer hatchery and production of stocking material (fingerlings) of golden mahseer. To produce healthy stocking material of golden mahseer in captivity, efforts were made to grow juvenile of this species in nylon cage floated in himalayan lake, Bhimtal. The package of practices so evolved would be highly effective for in-situ conservation programmes of this endangered species in natural closed systems for replenishing their population and augmenting their production both for food and sport which in turn would help in hill/tribal area development.

Improved Rohu CIFA-IR: The genetically improved rohu variety has shown a 25% improved growth performance over local stocks. This improved rohu CIFA IR 1 - is being released to other region of the country to evaluate the performance in different agro-climatic zones as genetic characters are considerably influenced by the environment.

Collagen-Chitosan membrane - a boon to periodontist: The collagen-chitosan membrane developed by CIFT possesses haemostatic and healing properties. This is the first time that the membrane is being used for periodontal Guided Tissue Regeneration (GTR) applications. This new membrane can be an effective substitute for the synthetic Teflon, which is now the gold standard for GTR procedures. The membrane may find applications in plastic surgery also for repairing damages due to burns and wounds.

12. Crop Improvement and Management

Germplasm accessions of different crops have been evaluated and promising lines identified for major economic traits such as resistance to diseases and pests, drought, superior quality etc.

Package of practices have been developed for different crops to maximize yield from the improved varieties and hybrids.

Breeder seeds of different crops produced during the last 3 years is given below :

1996-97	29487.61q
1997-98	26486.53q
1998-99	23023.89q

More than 10 thousand germplasm accessions of various crops were collected from different parts of the country and more than 30000 accessions were added to the base collection for long term conservation in the National Gene

Bank at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi.

36 released varieties of barley and 35 released varieties of durum wheat were analysed for DNA finger prints. Besides this DNA finger printing was successfully achieved in 48 aromatic rice genotypes, 96 Indian wheat cultivars, 70 varieties of cotton and 30 varieties of tomato.

Biodeversity of natural enemies has been mapped catalogue of reference collection of natural enemies prepared and a notional Repository of Natural Enemies established.

Indigenous techniques have been evolved for multiplication of 60 host insects.

Superior strains (Bio C1 ad Bio C2, Bio Sc I Bio HI) of *Trichogramma chilonis* have been determined for cotton, sugarcane and tomato crops.

An efficient isolate of fungal antagonist, *Trichoderma harzianum* was found to manage wilt and root rot complex of chickpea.

An endosulfan tolerant strain of *Trichogramma chilonis*, an important egg parasitoid of lepidopteran pests has been evolved.

Large scale demonstration proved the effectiveness of natural enemies on rice, maize, sugarcane, tobacco, cotton, tomato, grapes, guava and other crops. Mass production and demonstration of the impact of *Trichogramma*, *Chrysoperla*, *Ha NPV* and *SINPV* has been successfully done in Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

Development of forecasting models is another important activity. In *Helicoverpa* forecasting module, collection of data from 5 centres across the country and preparation of data base undertaken and pestweather relationship through regression models was established.

13. Natural Resource Management

The data received through soil resource mapping programme were processed using Geographical Information System (GIS). This activity includes capturing, storing, analysing, displaying and managing spatial and non-spatial databases, in this process, soils maps of Arunachal Pradesh (1:250,000 scale) and Bankura district (1:80,000 scale) were digitized and analysed. The National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBS & LUP) has generated data for 23 States in digital format till date.

- Salt affected soils of different States have been mapped under the mission project 'Mapping saline/alkali soils of India' which is a joint venture of the NBSS&LUP and NRSA. The database of the NSSL&LUP served as ground truth for reconciling the soil salinity maps generated by the NRSA using remotely sensed satellite data.
- The results of AICRP on Long Term Fertilizer Experiments showed that N alone had a deleterious effect on soil productivity. The effects being more pronounced on Alfisols at Palampur, Ranchi and Bangalore. The NPK + FYM sustained high crop productivity and available pools of P, K and micronutrients and organic carbon.
- Integrated use of FYM and green manure (GM) with fertilizer N resulted in saving of 78 and 45 kg/ha fertilizer N respectively in the rice-wheat system. The average recovery of N in rice and wheat ranged from 49.6 to 33.7 and 46.2 to .26% respectively.
- The extent of micronutrient deficiencies in different soil orders of Gujarat using 28,252 surface soil samples were assessed. Overall 26 and 8% of these soil samples were found to be deficient in zinc and iron respectively.
- Fine grain rice variety CSR 13 of the CSSRI, Kamal was recommended for release, whereas CSR 21 (CSR 8871 R 1) and CSR 28 (CSR 881 R 1) were recommended for minikit trials for inland saline and sodic soils.
- Sulphitation pressmud and farmyard manure are promising components of integrated nutrient supply and 25% chemical fertilizer does of rice in rice-wheat cropping system can be curtailed safely with use of these organic sources.
- Keeping in view the control of *Phalaris* minor in what areas, experiments were carried out using new herbicides. The application of sulfosulfuron @ 45 g/ha at 1-3 leaf stage (25 DAS); fenoxaprop @ g/ha; metribuzin @ 300 g/h and tralkoxydim at 30-35 DAS were found to decrease the weed population.
- Under irrigated conditions of Hisar and ecosystem, intensive cropping of pearl millet-potato-tomato has been found feasible and more productive and remunerative than conventional pearl millet-wheat system.
- Promising new cropping systems under sub-humid climate are : mize-pea - potato at

Palampur, rice-potato-wheat at R.S. Pura, rice-berseem at Raipur, rice-tomato-okra at Chiplima and under coastal system are rice-groundnut and rice-rice sesame at Kariat.

- Aonla in degraded soils of Shiwalik foothills : Aonla-based horti-pastoral system was established on degraded land in Shiwalik foothills of Chandigarh. Average yield of aonla was 29 kg/tree as a sole crop as well as with pigeonpea. The yield on area basis was 12 and 14 tonnes/ha respectively with sole aonla and aonla with pigeonpea.

[Translation]

Water Management

1099. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a five day international workshop on irrigation, flood control, drainage of water and better utilisation of water resources held recently;
- (b) if so, the points discussed and suggestions made in the workshop; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to implement these suggestions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, a five day 8th International Drainage Workshop of International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) was held between 31st January to 4th February, 2000 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The main theme of the workshop was 'Role of Drainage and Challenges in 21st Century'. During this Workshop discussions took place on the following themes :

- (1) Global Drainage needs & challenges in 21st Century.
- (2) Regional Experiences.
- (3) Integration of Drainage, Flood Control & Water Management.
- (4) Socio-economic issues, Management and Participatory aspects of Drainage.
- (5) Disposal of Drainage waters; Recycling and Reuse.
- (6) Training and Research and a Special Session on Bio-Drainage.

The recommendations of the Workshop are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) The recommendations issued at the end of the 8th ICID International Drainage Workshop have been circulated to all concerned and the State Governments for necessary follow up action.

Statement

Recommendations of the 8th ICID International Drainage Workshop held during 31st January to 4th February, 2000

1. All Irrigation projects can be referred to as irrigation and drainage projects. An inter-disciplinary and integrated approach be insisted upon for all irrigation and drainage projects.
2. The data on water logging and salinity is not adequate and is out dated. There is a need to update the information using latest techniques like remote sensing and present it in form of a Relational Data Base Management (RDBM) using Georaphic Information System (GIS). Simulation modelling aided by crucial field observations would help in formulating data collection programmes as also in planning and designing.
3. Sub-Surface drainage project, in general improve environments in the area serviced by them, but, can also cause some undesirable impacts particularly in the downstream. Preparing environmental management plan and close monitoring are necessary.
4. In deltaic and tidal zones, integration of flood control, drainage and water management is necessary in view of the complex interactions.
5. Reuse of drainage waters wherever it is feasible needs to be encouraged.
6. A comprehensive integrated and multi-disciplinary planning for disposal of large quantity of saline water effluents after reclaiming water-logged areas is necessary. Regional cooperation needs to be available for the purpose.
7. Technologies for on-farm reuse of drainage effluents in monsoonal climate are available and can be used with reasonable success on a medium time scale. There is however, a need to assess the long term impacts of reuse on soil health through simulation/modelling.
8. Generic options for reuse and disposal at regional scale are known but have not been tested. Optimal mix of disposal technologies on regional scale need to be decided.
9. Bio-drainage could hold promising possibilities in controlling groundwater levels. Further research on bio-drainage and its impacts on salt balance is needed.
10. Involvement of end-users i.e. farmers, in formulation of schemes to create a sense of belonging among the farmers. Active involvement of women in planning and decision-making processes. Farmers may be involved in the monitoring of the water table for which simple devices could be suggested and may also be involved in the planning of drainage schemes right from formulation stage of the irrigation or multi-purpose projects.
11. The Institutional mechanism for participatory irrigation and drainage management could perhaps be combined. However, institutional models in this regard are not available, and documentation of experience is necessary.
12. Research need to be carried out in two stages viz. to establish a relationship between (a) drainage vis-a-vis soil status and (b) solid status vs crop yields.
13. Utilisation of remote sensing techniques and mathematical modelling facilities with the available data is necessary to enable effective design of drainage systems.
14. Human Resources Development strategies should also take into account (a) motivation and (b) training programmes as per the requirements.
15. Drainage technologies, needs to be included in the curriculum at under graduate level and also in the in-service training programmes.
16. Instruments and devices for rapid measurements of salinity, by techniques such as electromagnatic induction seem to hold considerable promise. The EM-38 instruments were discussed in this context. Networking among researchers developing applications of such devices is recommended.

[English]

Attack on Line of Control by Pakistan

1100. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in "*Hindustan Times*" dated January 24, 2000 under caption "Army attack on LoC linked to Clinton's proposed visit" ;

(b) the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that Pakistan intention to project entire Jammu and Kashmir area as a highly disturbed spot on the map of South Asia; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Government are aware that Pakistan indulges in unprovoked firing across the Line of Control and the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir, both to provide cover to infiltrating terrorists as well as to attract international attention so as to seek third-party involvement in India-Pakistan relations.

Government have appropriately and effectively brought the reasons for Pakistan's unprovoked firing to the notice of the international community. Facts regarding Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism in J&K and elsewhere in India have also been brought before the international fora and have also been raised at high level bilateral discussions with world leaders. The international community now openly recognizes Pakistan's state-sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere in India. This greater awareness is being reflected in the international media coverage on Pakistan, and in statements by official spokesmen of several foreign Governments.

Government remain firm in their resolve to take all measures necessary to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Adverse affect to Small Scale Industry

1101. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have held any meetings with representatives of the Small Scale Industry to chalk out policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the problems identified which has adverse impact on the growth of the Small Scale Industry in the country;

(d) whether the Government have taken steps to meet the challenge of globalisation and liberalisation to the Small Scale Sector ; and

(e) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (e) Government interaction with National and State-level Industry Associations is a continuous process based on which priorities for Government intervention are identified to make the SSI sector globally competitive. Steps taken in that direction include special programmes for modernization and technology upgradation, venture capital assistance, marketing assistance, fiscal incentives, creation of industrial infrastructure, including IT infrastructure, etc. The Government has recently launched a WTO sensitization programme under which sensitization workshops are being held at 26 different locations in the country to increase the level of preparedness amongst SSI units to meet the emerging challenges of globalization.

Bilateral Cooperation

1102. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the progress made on enhancing bilateral cooperation between Japan and India;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise, during the last three years, alongwith the progress made on ongoing projects;

(c) the details of projects of mutual interest and cooperation identified thereupon; and

(d) the perception and projection of Indo-Japan cooperation in the field of economic, culture and education etc.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) During my visit to Japan in November 1999, Foreign Minister of Japan and I agreed that our bilateral cooperation in various fields should be enhanced.

(b) and (c) The list of ongoing Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) assisted projects pledged/ committed during the last 3 years is given in Statement I to V.

(d) We are working together with Japan to expand our bilateral cooperation in diverse fields.

Statement I

List of ongoing OECF (now JBIC) assisted projects pledged/ committed during the last three years

(in Million Yen)

Name of the project	Loan Amount	Date of Signing/ Closing	Utilization as on 31.12.99
1996-97 Package			
1. Northern India Transmission System Project (IDP-116)	8497	3.6.1997/3.6.2006	179.6
2. West Bengal Transmission System Project (IDP - 117)	11087	29.5.1997/29.5.2004	440.7
3. Umiyam Hydro Power Station Project (IDP-118)	1700	10.6.1997/29.6.2004	15.7
4. Tulrial Hydro Electric Power Project (IDP -119)	11695	18.6.1997/18.6.2009	159.2
5. Simhadri Thermal Power Project (IDP-120)	19817	24.6.1997/24.6.2007	11315.7
6. Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (IDP-121)	14760	21.10.1997/21.10.2007	1126.7
7. Calcutta Transport System Project (IDP-122)	10679	29.5.1997/29.5.2004	891.6
8. Kerala Water Supply Project (IDP-123)	11997	3.6.1997/3.6.2006	0
9. Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project (IDP-124)	15968	29.5.1997/29.5.2005	4409.4
10. Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project (IDP-125)	13324	29.5.1997/29.5.2005	4069.2
11. Rajghat Canal Irrigation Project (IDP - 126)	13222	29.5.1997/29.5.2006	1135.7
1997-98 Package			
1. Simhadri & Vizag Transmission System Project (IDP - 127)	10629	12.2.1997/19.2.2003	0.2

1	2	3	4
2. Srisaillam Left Bank Power Station Project III (IDP - 128)	14499	12.2.1997/16.2.2003	4517.9
3. Dhauliganga HE Project - II (IDP - 129)	16316	12.2.1997/9.2.2003	0
4. Bakreswar Thermal Power Project - II (IDP - 130)	34151	12.2.1997/19.2.2003	19694.6
5. Tuticorin Port Dedging Project (IDP-131)	7003	12.2.1997/19.8.2003	4905.8
6. Punjab Afforestation Project (IDP-132)	6193	12.2.1997/16.2.2003	1068.5
7. Madhya Pradesh Sericulture Project (IDP-133)	2212	12.2.1997/5.2.2005	185
8. Manipur Sericulture Project (IDP-134)	3962	12.2.1997/28.7.2005	295.7
9. Rengali Irrigation Project (IDP-135)	7760	12.2.1997/5.2.2003	1660
10. Small Scale Industries Dev. Programme - VI (IDP-136)	30000	12.2.1997/24.12.1999	30000
1998-99 Package			
1. Bakreswar Thermal Power Station Unit-3 Extn. Project-(II) (IDP-137)	11537	24.3.1999/28.4.2004	3059.2

Statement - II

Commitment/pledge and Disbursement made under the JBIC Projects during the last three years

(In Yen billion)

Year	Commitments	Disbursement
1996-97	132.746	64.58
1997-98	132.725	66.44
1998-99	11.537	91.021

Statement - III*List of Ongoing JBIC (earlier OECF) assisted Projects*

Sl. No.	IDP N. and Name of the Project	Centre/State	Date of Signing/Closing	Loan Amount
1	2	3	4	5.
1.	IDP-40 Teesta Canal HEP	West Bengal	18.12.86/31.3.2000	8025
2.	IDP-53 Ghalghar Pumped Storage Project	Maharashtra	15.12.82/20.1.2003	11414
3.	IDP-66 Power System Improvement and Small Hydro Project	Centre	23.1.91/5.2.2002	24379
4.	IDP-72 Teesta Canal HEP II	West Bengal	23.1.91/31.3.2000	6222
5.	IDP-53 Indira Gandhi Afforestation	Rajasthan	23.1.91/5.2.2000	7869
6.	IDP-79 Urban city Water Supply Project	Centre	9.1.92/31.3.2000	6788
7.	IDP-80 Afforestation Project in Aravalli Hills	Rajasthan	9.1.92/31.3.2000	8095
8.	IDP-61 NH-2 Improvement Project	Centre	9.1.92/30.9.2000	4855
9.	IDP-82 Ajanta Ellora Conservation & Tourism Dev. Project	Centre/Maharashtra	9.1.92/30.3.2002	3745
10.	IDP-84 Yanuna Action Plan Project	Centre	21.12.92/19.4.2000	17773
11.	IDP-85 Srisaillam Power Transmission System	Andhra Pradesh	21.12.92/19.4.2000	3806
12.	IDP-88 Anprara 'B' Thermal Power Project Stage V	Uttar Pradesh	24.1.94/11.3.2001	17638
13.	IDP-90 Faridabad Thermal Power Station Project	Centre	24.1.94/11.3.2001	23536
14.	IDP-91 Bridge Across Rivers Yamuna near Naini	Centre	24.1.94/11.3.2001	10037
15.	IDP-92 Four laning of NH-5	Centre	24.1.94/11.3.2001	11360
16.	IDP-94 Srisaillam Left bank Power Project II	Andhra Pradesh	28.2.95/12.4.2001	22567
17.	IDP-95 Srisaillam Power Transmission System Project II	Andhra Pradesh	28.2.95/12.4.2001	9546
18.	IDP-96 Assam Gas Turbine Power Station Transmission Project II	Centre	28.2.95/12.4.2001	15821
19.	IDP-97 Bakreshwar Thermal Power Unit 3 Extension Project	West Bengal	28.2.95/12.4.2001	8659
20.	IDP-98 Purulia Pumped Storage Project	West Bengal	28.2.98/12.4.2003	20520
21.	IDP-99 Kothagudem 'A' T P S Rehabilitation Project	Andhra Pradesh	28.2.95/12.4.2002	5092
22.	IDP-100 NH-5 Improvement Project II	Centre	28.2.95/12.4.2002	5838
23.	IDP-101 NH-24 Improvement Project	Centre	28.2.95/12.4.2002	4827
24.	IDP-102 Madras Sewerage Renovation & Functional Imp. Project	Tamilnadu	28.2.95/12.4.2001	17098
25.	IDP-103 Lake Bhopal Conservation & Management Project	Madhya Pradesh	28.2.95/12.4.2002	7055

1	2	3	4	5
26.	IDP-104 Rajasthan Forestry Development Project	Rajasthan	28.2.95/12.4.2002	4219
27.	IDP-105 Industrial Pollution Control Project	West Bengal	28.2.95/12.4.2001	1525
28.	IDP-106 ICIC-Industrial Pollution Central Programme	Centre	28.2.95/12.4.2000	3000
29.	IDP-107 NHPC-Dhauliganga HEP	Centre	25.1.96/23.5.2000	5665
30.	IDP-108 Anpara Power Transmission Project	Uttar Pradesh	25.1.96/26.3.2000	12020
31.	IDP-109 Bangalore Water Supply	Karnataka	25.1.96/26.3.2004	28452
32.	IDP-110 Urban Water Supply & Sanitation Improvement Programme	Centre	25.1.96/28.6.2004	8670
33.	IDP-111Attapaddy Wasteland Development	Kerala	25.1.96/26.3.2005	5112
34.	IDP-112 Gujarat Forestry Project	Gujarat	25.1.96/26.3.2004	15760
35.	IDP-113 Kurnool Cuddapah Canal Modernization Project	Andhra Pradesh	25.1.96/26.3.2003	16049
36.	IDP-115 Pipavav Ship-breaking Development Project	Gujarat	25.1.96/26.3.2003	7046
37.	IDP-116 Northern India Transmission System Project	Centre	25.2.97/3.6.2006	8497
38.	IDP - 117 West Bengal Transmission System Project	West Bengal	25.2.97/29.5.2004	11087
39.	IDP - 118 Umiyam Hydro Power Station Renovation Project	Meghalaya	25.2.97/10.6.2004	1700
40.	IDP - 119 Tuinal Hydro Electric Power Project	Centre	25.2.97/18.6.2009	11695
41.	IDP - 120 Simhadri Thermal Power Project	Centre	25.2.97/24.6.2007	19817
42.	IDP - 121 Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project	Centre	25.2.97/21.10.2007	14760
43.	IDP - 122 Calcutta Transport Infrastructure Development Project	West Bengal	25.2.97/29.5.2004	10679
44.	IDP - 123 Kerala Water Supply Project	Kerala	25.2.97/3.6.2006	11997
45.	IDP - 124 Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project	Karnataka	25.2.97/29.5.2005	15968
46.	IDP - 125 Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project	Tamil Nadu	25.2.97/29.5.2005	13324
47.	IDP - 126 Rajghat Canal Irrigation Project	Madhya Pradesh	25.2.97/29.5.2006	13222
48.	IDP - 127 Simhadri & Vizag Transmission System Project	Andhra Pradesh	12.12.97/19.2.2003	10629
49.	IDP - 128 Srisaillam Left Bank Power Station III Project	Andhra Pradesh	12.12.97/16.2.2003	14499
50.	IDP - 129 Dhauliganga HE Project - II	MoP	12.12.97/9.2.2003	16316
51.	IDP - 130 Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Project - II	West Bengal	12.12.97/9.2.2003	34151
52.	IDP - 131 Tuticorin Port Dredging Project	MoST	12.12.97/19.8.2003	7003
53.	IDP - 132 Punjab Afforestation Project	Punjab	12.12.97/16.2.2003	6193
54.	IDP - 133 Madhya Pradesh Sericulture Project	Madhya Pradesh	12.12.97/5.2.2005	2212
55.	IDP - 134 Manipur Sericulture Project	Manipur	12.12.97/28.7.2005	3952
56.	IDP - 135 Rengali Irrigation Project	Orissa	12.12.97/5.2.2003	7760
57.	IDP - 136 Bakreswar Thermal Power Station Unit Extn. Project III	West Bengal	24.3.97/26.4.2004	11537

Statement - IV**Grant aid Projects implemented in the year 1997-98**

Name of the Project	Amount utilised in Jap. Yen Mill (Equivalent to Rs. in Crores)
1. Eradication of Poliomyelitis	554.1 (16.92)
2. Establishment of Planetarium at Tiruchy, Tamilnadu	50 (1.52)
3. Increase in food production	498.8 (14.82)
4. Project for improvement of equipment for the Institute of Child Health & Hospital for Children in Chennai	662.1 (20.20)
Grant aid Projects implemented in the year 1998-99	
1. Project for Construction of Dredger for fishing ports, Vishakhapatnam	1247.2 (Rs. 41.57)
2. Project for improvement of Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital, New Delhi	493.2 (17.54)
3. Aid for Increased Food Production, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh	195.6 (6.96)
4. India museum at Calcutta—Supply of video Camera	50(1.78)
5. Project for Eradication of Poliomyelitis	274.5 (9.78)

In the year 1999-2000 a Grant aid Project namely "Eradication of Poliomyelitis in India" was implemented by UNICEF for which an Exchange Note was signed between Government of Japan and UNICEF on 27.7.99 for Japanese Yen 909 million. Government of India was not signatory for this project and money was directly routed through UNICEF without Government of India's involvement.

Statement - V**Exchange Notes signed for Debt Relief Grant 1997-98**

Date	Amount
1. 13.6.1997	Jap Yen 134,546,000
2. 19.12.1997	Jap Yen 116,525,000

Exchange Notes signed for Debt Relief Grant 1998-99

1. 11.2.1999	Jap Yen 185,670,000
2. 23.3.1999	Jap Yen 22,131,000

Exchange Notes Signed for Debt Relief Grant 1999-2000

1. 17.6.1999	Jap Yen 51,137,000
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[Translation]

Loans to Small Scale Industries

1103. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-availability of loans to small scale industries is a major problem;

(b) if so, whether the Government have urged upon the Reserve Bank of India to monitor the availability of loans to small scale industries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number and names of districts selected for monitoring of advancing loans to small scale industries particularly those in Bihar; and

(e) the concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken to uplift the sick small scale industries during the year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) As per the report of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks/financial institutions are entertaining all viable proposals of small scale units and are extending adequate credit to the SSI sector.

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India monitors the performance of the banks by obtaining periodical data and by conducting special studies at selected branches.

(d) the Lead bank of each district, including those in Bihar, monitors the performance of the banks in extending credit to various sectors including the small scale sector. Reserve Bank of India monitors the performance of individual banks, as a whole.

(e) Measures taken to uplift the potentially viable sick small scale units include reduced rate of interest for rehabilitation, prompt viability studies/nursing programmes of identified sick units, getting up of cells at important regional centres and Head Offices of banks to deal with sick industrial units and provision of expert staff. State Level Inter-Institutional Committees exist under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Industries) in each State to consider revival of sick units.

[English]

Production of Soyabean

1104. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to excess rains particularly in the soyabean growing areas, the produce has been affected adversely both in terms of quantity and quality;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to help the farmers to fight the adversity;

(d) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government to relax the FAO- norms for procurement of the crop; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the decision of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Excessive rains in the month of October, 1999 in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan etc. which is the time of harvesting of soyabean crop, damaged the crop badly resulting in less production both in terms of quantity and quality particularly in the State of Madhya Pradesh. However, the estimated production of soyabean for the current year as well as that of last year (State-wise) is given as under :

Estimated Production (in '000 tonnes)			
Sl. No.	State	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16.8	20.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.4	—
3.	Gujarat	5.1	5.0
4.	Himachal Pradesh	0.2	—
5.	Karnataka	36.0	43.0
6.	Madhya Pradesh	4473.1	4454.0
7.	Maharashtra	1471.9	1448.0

1	2	3	4
8.	Meghalaya	0.8	—
9.	Mizoram	1.7	—
10.	Nagaland	13.0	—
11.	Orissa	1.0	1.0
12.	Rajasthan	894.5	491.0
13.	Sikkim	2.7	—
14.	Uttar Pradesh	21.7	35.0
15.	West Bengal	0.5	3.0
16.	Others	—	19.0
All India		6942.4	6519.0

(c) to (e) The affected produce of soyabean was of lower standard than FAQ having more moisture content and discoloured grains which resulted in market price of soyabean below the Minimum Support Price. In view of this there was a demand from farmers of Madhya Pradesh to relax the FAQ standards to that they could get the same price for this quality of soyabean as of FAQ varieties. As it was not practically feasible to procure one grade below FAQ, a technical sub-committee was set up in 1999 by the Government of India to review the parameters for FAQ specifications for procurement of Oilseeds including soyabean under Price Support Scheme. The sub-committee after many deliberations revised the parameters for adoption under Minimum Support Price Scheme in respect of soyabean which is as follows :

FAQ - Fair Average Quality

S. No.	Special characteristics	Maximum limit of tolerance (% by weight per Quintal)		
		Existing	Proposed	Recommended
		FAQ by Technical Committee		FAQ Standards
1.	Foreign matter & Impurities	1	2	2
2.	Shrivelled & Immature beans	3	5	5
3.	Damaged & weevilled beans	2	3	3
4.	Mechanically damaged beans (Split Broken & crack)	10	15	15
5.	Moisture content	12	12	12

Definitions

1. Foreign matter & Impurities includes dust, dirt, stones, lumps of earth, chaff, stem/straw or any other impurity.
2. Shrivelled & immature beans means beans that are shrunk, out of shape or are not fully matured or developed and are often discoloured.

3. Damaged and weevilled beans means beans or pieces of these which have sprouts or are internally damaged as a result of heat and moisture, insect or microbial action.
4. Mechanically damaged beans means the split, broken and crack seeds.

[Translation]

India's stand on CTBT

1105. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is firm on its nuclear policy in the national interest; and

(b) if so, the India's stand C.T.B.T. keeping in view the present situation ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India's position on CTBT was articulated by the Prime Minister in the UN General Assembly in September 1998 and in Parliament in December 1998. This was reiterated by the External Affairs Minister at the UN General Assembly in September 1999. The priority of our meeting the country's national security concerns having been addressed, the Government believes that we now need to convey reassurance to the international community and, in this regard, desires to develop a national consensus. That remains the Government's position.

[English]

Hijacking of an Indian Air Lines Plane

1106. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some terrorists had hijacked an Indian Airlines plane in December, 1999 and had forced to take the plane to Pakistan, Dubai and Taliban ruled Afghanistan and he had carried some terrorists with him to Taliban ruled Afghanistan, who were later freed to secure the freedom of the Indian hostages;

(b) if so, the details of the incident thereof;

(c) the demands made by the terrorists who hijacked the plane;

(d) the manner in which the demands were met and implemented; and

(e) the opinion and the reaction of the Indian Government, Pakistan, Taliban ruled Afghanistan and Government of other countries of the World, the print media and the hostages who were freed ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (e) Indian Airlines flight IC-814 was hijacked on 24 December 1999 while on a scheduled Kathmandu-New Delhi flight. The hijacked plane, after landing at Amritsar, Lahore and Dubai, arrived in Kandahar on 25 December 1999. A team of negotiating officials drawn from the relevant Ministries was sent to Kandahar to handle the situation that emerged after the landing of the hijacked IC 814 at Kandahar airport. The first formal demand made by the hijackers to our officials in Kandahar was the release of terrorist Massood Azhar in exchange for the release of 10 Indians and 5 foreign hostages. This piecemeal approach was rejected by Government. Both the Taliban and the hijackers were informed that until there was full and unambiguous detailing of demands, there could be no talks. The Taliban advised the hijackers to give their full demands, whereupon the hijackers demanded the release of 36 terrorists in our custody, the coffin of a dead terrorist, Sajad Afghani, and a sum of US \$200 million.

The Minister for External Affairs went to Kandahar so as to ensure that the termination of the hijacking and the smooth release and safe return of passengers and crew took place without any last minute hitch, also that should the need arise, prompt decisions could be taken on the spot.

The hijacking was yet another instance of Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorist acts against India. Government also brought to the attention of the international community the role played by Pakistan in the hijacking. There is now a much greater awareness in the international community of Pakistan's complicity in sponsoring cross border terrorism in India and the impact this has on the security of the country and the region. This awareness is being reflected in the official statements of spokesmen of several foreign Government as well as in the reporting on Pakistan by the international media. Several foreign Governments also condemned the hijacking as an unacceptable act of international terrorism.

The Government of Pakistan, with which the matter was taken up, have reiterated their general position that they would undertake to apprehend and prosecute any person or persons found on their territory or the territory of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir who may be suspected of having committed such offences related to the hijacking. However, since they have at the same time rejected our demarche, Pakistan's general commitment is of little value. The Taliban authorities, on their part, while adopting an attitude of correct facilitators, consistently had their sympathies with the hijackers, the released terrorists and their supporters.

[Translation]

Daily Wage Earners

1107. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of daily wage earners working in various Ministries/departments of Union Government as on date, Ministry-wise ;

(b) the scheme formulated by the Government to regularise their services in pursuance of the judgement of the Supreme Court in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the services of these daily wage earners are likely to be regularised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The various administrative authorities are themselves competent to engage persons on daily wage basis for performing a work of casual/seasonal/intermittent nature. The information in this regard is not centrally maintained.

(b) A copy of the scheme formulated by the Government in pursuance of the judgement dated 16.2.90 of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench in the case of Shri Raj Kamal and others Vs. Union of India is enclosed as Statement.

(c) As the regularisation of services of daily wage workers is dependent upon their fulfilment of certain conditions such as age, educational qualifications etc. and availability of suitable vacancies in the group 'D' cadre, no time frame could be prescribed for regularisation of their services.

Statement

Department of Personnel and Training, Casual Labourers (Grant of Temporary Status and Regularisation) Scheme

1. This Scheme shall be called "Causal Labourers (Grant of Temporary Status and Regularisation) Scheme of Government of India, 1993."

2. This Scheme will come into force w.e.f. 1.9.1993.

3. This Scheme is applicable to causal labourers in employment of the Ministries/Departments of Government of India and their attached and subordinate offices, on the

date of issue of these orders. But it shall not be applicable to casual workers in Railways, Department of Telecommunication and Department of Posts who already have their own schemes.

4. Temporary Status

(i) Temporary status would be conferred on all casual labourers who are in employment on the date of issue of this OM and who have rendered a continuous service of least one year, which means that they must have been engaged for a period of at least 240 days (208 days in the case of offices observing 5 days week).

(ii) Such conferment of temporary status would be without reference to the creation/availability of regular Group 'D' posts.

(iii) Conferment of temporary status on a casual labourer would not involve any change in his duties and responsibilities. The engagement will be on daily rates of pay on need basis. He may be deployed anywhere within the recruitment unit/territorial circle on the basis of availability of work.

(iv) Such casual labourers who acquire temporary status will not, however, be brought on to the permanent establishment unless they are selected through regular selection process for Group 'D' posts.

5. Temporary status would entitle the casual labourers to the following benefits :

(i) Wages at daily rates with reference to the minimum of the pay scale for a corresponding regular Group 'D' official including DA, HRA and CCA.

(ii) Benefits of increments at the same rate as applicable to a Group 'D' employee would be taken into account for calculating pro-rata wages for every one year of service subject to performance of duty for at least 240 days (208 days in administrative offices observing 5 days week) in the year from the date of conferment of temporary status.

(iii) Leave entitlement will be on a pro-rata basis at the rate of one day for every 10 days of work, casual or any other kind of leave, except maternity leave, will not be admissible. They will also be allowed to carry forward the leave at their credit on their regularisation. They will not be entitled to the benefits of encashment of leave on termination of service for any reason or on their quitting service.

(iv) Maternity leave to lady casual labourers as admissible to regular Group 'D' employees will be allowed.

(v) 50% of the service rendered under Temporary Status would be counted for the purpose of retirement benefits after their regularisation.

(vi) After rendering three years' continuous service after conferment of temporary status, the casual labourers would be treated on par with temporary Group 'D' employees for the purpose of contribution to the General Provident Fund, and would also further be eligible for the grant of Festival Advance/Flood Advance on the same conditions as are applicable to temporary Group 'D' employees, provided they furnish two sureties from permanent Government servants of their Department.

(vii) Until they are regularised, they would be entitled to Productivity Linked Bonus/Ad-hoc bonus only at the rates as applicable to casual labourers.

6. No benefits other than those specified above will be admissible to casual labourers with temporary status. However, if any additional benefits are admissible to casual workers working in industrial establishments in view of provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, they shall continue to be admissible to such casual labourers.

7. Despite conferment of temporary status, the services of a casual labourer may be dispensed with by giving a notice of one month in writing. A casual labourer with temporary status can also quit service by giving a written notice of one month. The wages for the notice period will be payable only for the days on which such casual worker is engaged on work.

8. Procedure of filling up of Group 'D' posts.

Two out of every three vacancies in Group 'D' cadres in respective offices where the casual labourers have been working would be filled up as per extant recruitment rules and in accordance with the instructions issued by Department of Personnel and Training from amongst casual workers with temporary status. However, regular Group 'D' staff rendered surplus for any reason will have prior claim for absorption against existing/future vacancies. In case of illiterate casual labourers or those who fail to fulfil the minimum qualification prescribed for post, regularisation will be considered only against those posts in respect of which literacy or lack of minimum qualification

will not be a requisite qualification. They would be allowed age relaxation equivalent to the period for which they have worked continuously as casual labourer.

9. On regularisation of casual worker with temporary status, no substitute in his place will be appointed as he was not holding any post. Violation of this should be viewed very seriously and attention of the appropriate authorities should be drawn to such cases for suitable disciplinary action against the officers violating these instructions.

10. In future, the guidelines as contained in this Department's OM dated 7.6.88 should be followed strictly in the matter of engagement of casual employees in Central Government offices.

11. Department of Personnel and Training will have the power to make amendments or relax any of the provisions in the scheme that may be considered necessary from time to time.

Rural Poverty

1108. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rural poverty rises by 3.42 per cent" appearing in *Business Standard* dated January 7, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report has stated some estimate of poverty ratio in rural and urban areas made from the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure collected in its 46th, 47th, 48th, 51th, 52nd and 53rd Round on the basis of Thin Sample and the estimate of poverty made by the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 from the large sample survey data on consumer

expenditure. The estimated poverty ratios reported therein are as under.

NSS Round	Year	Poverty Ratio	
		Rural	Urban
46th Round	July 90 - June 91	35.04	35.29
47th Round	July 91 - Dec 91	40.68	37.03
48th Round	Jan, 92 - Dec 92	46.43	38.52
50th Round	July 93 - June 94	37.27	32.36
51st Round	July 94 - June 95	38.03	34.24
52nd Round	July 95 - June 96	38.29	30.05
53rd Round	Jan 97 - Dec 97	38.46	33.97

The report also states that the estimates of poverty from the thin sample data on consumer expenditure of the National Sample Survey Organisation do not strictly follow the norms of the Expert Group whose methodology of poverty estimation has been accepted by the Planning Commission and that the Planning Commission estimates poverty on the basis of quinquennial consumer expenditure surveys.

(c) The Planning Commission after detailed deliberations accepted the methodology of poverty estimation as recommended by the Expert Group, according to which, the national level poverty is viewed as an average of State-level poverty and State level poverty is estimated from State level poverty line and State level consumer expenditure distribution obtained from the large survey of consumer expenditure of the National Sample Survey Organisation. In contrast, the estimates of poverty mentioned in the report are based on national level poverty line and thin sample data of consumer expenditure of the National Sample Survey Organisation. Hence no specific inferences should be drawn from comparison of these estimates with the official estimates.

[English]

Domestic Steel Production

1109. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the total domestic steel production during last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the production of steel;

(c) if so, the target fixed in this regard during the Ninth Five Year Plan; plant-wise;

(d) the guidelines issued to each public sector steel plants in regard to production of steel; and

(e) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a), (b) and (d) After liberalisation of the steel industry, the production of steel is driven by market forces and no guidelines are issued in this regard by the Government. The main producers of steel in the public and private sector plan their production based on their demand projection. The total domestic production of finished steel during last three years was as below :

(in million tonnes)			
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Finished Steel	22.72	23.37	23.82

(c) and (e) As per the projection made by the Working Group on Iron and Steel for the IX Five Year Plan set up by Planning Commission the production of finished steel will reach 38.01 million tonnes by 2001-02, the terminal year of IX Five Year Plan. To help the industry achieve the above targets, Government has taken several steps to boost the demand for steel which *inter-alia* include :

- Orienting product-mix to suit the market requirements and adjusting production in tune with change in the market demand.
- Developing and nourishing long term customers relationship by entering into MOUs/supply arrangement with the customers.
- A 'Steel Exporters Forum' has been set up to help steel exporters to overcome bottlenecks in exports.
- To boost the demand and consumption of steel, the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCI&S) has launched a National campaign for increasing the demand for steel, especially in non-traditional sectors such as rural and agro based industrial sector.
- Rationalisation of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for steel exports have been carried out to boost exports.
- An Empowered Committee has been set up to examine & assist specific Research & Development Projects to improve technology for Steel making & enhance quality of Indian Steel.

Cases in the Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals

1110. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of cases are pending in the Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals ;

(b) if so, the number of such cases together with the period of their pending, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for expeditious disposal of these cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) A Statement showing the number of cases pending and period of their pendency is enclosed.

(c) (i) Expeditious steps are being taken to fill up the vacant posts of Presiding Officers in Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts after observing all necessary formalities.

(ii) The need to reduce pendency of Industrial Dispute cases in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts is also impressed upon the Presiding Officers by talking up the matter with them from time to time.

(iii) A meeting of all Presiding Officers was held on 6-4-99 in which the need to dispose of pending cases was impressed upon.

(iv) Departmental manual of procedure for use of Presiding Officers in CGITs has been finalised. It is expected that this manual would be useful for the Presiding Officers to dispose of cases quickly.

Statement

Statement showing the number of cases pending and period of their pendency

Number of cases pending (as on 31-12-99)

S. No.	Name of the Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court	Less than 6 months	6 months to 2 years	2 year to 5 years	5 years to 10 years	More than 10 years	Total	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Asansol	282	20	6	1	—	309	
2.	Bangalore	43	172	109	94	23	441	
3.	Calcutta	11	68	32	51	22	184	
4.	Chandigarh	216	403	311	432	10	1372	upto 11/99
5.	Dhanbad-I	57	656	375	180	18	1286	
6.	Dhanbad-II	113	508	342	122	53	1138	upto to 11/99
7.	Jabalpur	*	*	*	*	*	1598	upto 31-8-97 * figures not available
8.	Jaipur	79	98	—	—	—	177	upto 10/99
9.	Kanpur	519	91	68	46	—	724	
10.	Lucknow	18	—	—	—	—	18	upto 11/99
11.	Nagpur	52	—	—	—	—	52	
12.	New Delhi	149	391	201	126	21	888	upto 10/99
13.	Mumbai-I	9	67	78	32	3	189	
14.	Mumbai-II	83	192	10	5	2	292	
Total		1631	2666	1532	1089	152	8668	

Disease amongst Female Workers

1111. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the female workers in the fish processing industries are not supplied with gloves and consequently they develop serious diseases;

(b) whether impotency is developing amongst them due to the posture in which they have to do work;

(c) if to, the details thereof alongwith the number of affected female in the fish processing industries in the country, State-wise;

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to give any compensation to the affected female workers to these industries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Schemes to Promote Agro and Rural Industries

1112. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have special schemes to promote agro and rural industries in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Margin Money Scheme is being implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to promote Village Industries which, *inter-alia*, includes Agro and Rural Industries in the country including Tamil Nadu. Under the Scheme 25% of the project cost for projects upto Rs. 10.00 lakhs is provided as "Margin Money". For

projects above Rs. 10.00 lakhs and upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs, the rate of Margin Money is 25% of Rs. 10.00 lakhs plus 10% of the remaining cost of the project. In the case of beneficiaries belonging to the weaker sections and for Hill, Border and Tribal areas, North Eastern Region, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Margin Money grant is given at the rate of 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10.00 lakhs and for the balance amount (upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs) it is 10%.

[Translation]

Increasing Terrorist activities in J & K

1113. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Apaharan to anzam dene mein Taliban-ISI ka hath" and "Kandhar pahochane par apaharankartaon ke pas aur hathiyar aa gaye the" and "Riha hone wale atankiyon ke chayan mein ISI ki mahatvapurn bhomika" appeared in *Dainik Jagaran* dated January 1, 2000;

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

(c) whether Pakistan has won this game and our diplomats have lost it badly; and

(d) if so, the step being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to draw the attention of international organisations in this regard and to check the infiltration of numerous suicidal terrorists of foreign missionaries viz. Lashkare-e-Toiba and Al-badar which Pakistan has sent after such activities intended to insult India in the international community and shameful defeat in Kargil ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government are aware of the role of Pakistan and that of Pakistan-based terrorist organisations in the hijacking of IC-814. These terrorist organizations are actively assisted and supported by the Government of Pakistan. In Kandahar, the Taliban while adopting an attitude of correct facilitator, consistently had their sympathies with the hijackers.

The hijacking has once again highlighted Pakistan's role in promoting international terrorism and has profiled Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism in Indian and elsewhere.

Government have appropriately and effectively brought to the notice of the international community, including in the case of hijacking of IC-814, Pakistan's support to terrorism and its continued attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of India. These have been brought before several international fora and have also been raised at high level bilateral discussions with world leaders.

The international community now openly recognizes Pakistan's state-sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere in India, and the impact this has on the security of our country and the region. This greater awareness is being reflected in the statements by official spokesmen of several Governments and in the international media coverage of Pakistan.

Government remain committed to taking all steps necessary to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

[English]

Criteria for allocation of Fund

1114. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has received any demand from the State Governments regarding the modification of criteria for allocation of Central Fund for Rural Poverty-Alleviation Programme;

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

(c) whether the Government have accepted demand of the States and proposed to set up a Task Force in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said Task Force is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (e) The Planning Commission has received representations from some States regarding modification of the criterion for allocation of funds under major rural poverty alleviation programmes. While some States have advocated that allocation of funds be based on the Task Force estimates for 1987-88 (Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh), others are in favour of adopting the Expert Group estimates of poverty for 1993-94 (Punjab, Kerala and Tripura). This issue was placed before the National Development Council (NDC). In pursuance of the decision taken in the meeting of the NDC held on 19.2.99, it was decided to set up a Committee of the National Development Council under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission with Members from both the Central Ministries and the State Governments to determine the criterion for allocation of funds under major rural poverty alleviation

programmes. The NDC Committee after discussing various criteria for allocation of funds under major rural poverty alleviation programmes recommended the continuation of existing criterion. The Committee also recommended that many important suggestions which relate to incentives for better performance in reducing poverty and additional funds for areas with extreme poverty and distress could be taken up when the work starts on the Tenth Plan. The recommendations of the NDC Committee would be presented for approval to the National Development Council.

Credit requirements in Small Scale Industry

1115. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any efforts have been made to institutionalise the credit requirements of the small scale industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether lack of adequate and timely credit has resulted in major problems for the small scale industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to prevail upon the nationalised banks to come forward and give liberal assistance to the small scale sector; and

(f) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to ensure that the credit bottleneck for the small scale industry is removed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) There already exists an institutional mechanism at the district level to address the credit requirement of small scale industries and incorporate the same in the Annual Credit Plan for the district. The Lead Bank is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the District Credit Plan. Government has taken various steps to enhance the flow of credit to SSI units, which, *inter alia*, includes earmarking 60% of SSI credit under priority sector lending for tiny sector units.

(c) to (f) There has been a steady increase in the flow of credit to the SSI sector, which has risen from Rs. 16,783 crore in March 1991 to Rs. 42,674 crore in March 1999 accounting for 17.3% of the net bank credit. The RBI issues elaborate guidelines from time to time for time-bound disposal of loan applications from small enterprises and closely monitors the disposal of loan applications by banks. The Government is also proposing to introduce a Credit Guarantee Scheme to further enhance the comfort level amongst banks to lend to SSI and tiny sector units.

UK help India to get back hijack swap Militants

1116. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of UK has agreed to help to get back hijack swap militants;

(b) if so, whether a number of countries have urged Pakistan that they should help in returning the hijackers to the Indian Government or they should be tried according to the international law;

(c) if so, whether the Indian Government have received any information from Pakistan or other country about these hijackers;

(d) if so, the details of these countries who have agreed to help India; and

(e) the latest position of these hijackers ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

1108 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

1401 hours

*The Lok Sabha reassembled at one minute past
Fourteen of the clock*

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

At this stage Shri Ramdas Athawale, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Dr. Ram Chandra Dome, Shri Rajo Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak from your seat. There is no use of speaking from here. Please go to your seats and say from there what you want to say.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go to your seat and speak from there.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Priya Ranjan Dasmunsiji, what do you want to say ?
...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Let the Prime Minister come the House and listen to us regarding the Motion under Rule 184. ... (Interruptions) Why is the Government lacking courage to accept this Motion ? ... (Interruptions) I request through you that let the Leader of the House, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, come to the House, listen to the discussion and find that the whole House is one on this issue. ... (Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Akhilesh Singh, please speak from your seat.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go to your seat and speak one by one and then listen to the ruling.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will listen to your point only when it is raised from your seat. You are not allowed to make your submission from here.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak from your seat. I will not listen to your point from here. Whatever you want to say in this House say from your seat.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak from your seat.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The Leader of the House should give an assurance in the House that this matter will be taken up under Rule 184. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your point will be recorded only when you make it from your seats.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request you to take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please make your point.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, it has been four days that we have been asking for a discussion under Rule 184 against the decision of the Gujarat Government to allow the Government employees to join RSS ...*(Interruptions)* The Central Government has failed to take any action against the decision of the Gujarat Government. A serious situation has arisen in the country, which is not in the interest of the country. This is against democracy. Sir, democracy only will be destroyed by this ...*(Interruptions)* We want to save this country from disintegration. The whole country will be divided if the Government employees are allowed to participate in RSS activities. We want that the discussion should be held under Rule 184 ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to his point first. Your point will not be recorded if you make it from the Well of the House. Your point will be recorded only when you speak from your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go to your seat and speak from there.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: According to Rules, submissions of only those MPs should go on record who speak from their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the harm in speaking from your seat. How the business of House can be conducted if Rules are not followed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no use of making submission from here.

...(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

1406 hrs.

[Translation]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 1998-99.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1328/2000]

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) on Ratification of ILO Convention No. 105 concerning Abolition of Forced Labour, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1329/2000]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1330/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, for the year 1998-99.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1331/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : On behalf of Shrimati Maneka Gandhi, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1332/2000]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (b) of item No. (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1333/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1334/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : On behalf of Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha :

Tenth Lok Sabha

- (1) Statement No. XLIII First Session, 1991

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1336/2000]

- (2) Statement No. XXXVI Second Session, 1991

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1337/2000]

- (3) Statement No. XXXVII Sixth Session, 1993

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1338/2000]

- (4) Statement No. XXXI Seventh Session, 1993

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1339/2000]

- (5) Statement No. XXXI Eighth Session, 1993

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1340/2000]

- (6) Statement No. XXIX Ninth Session, 1994

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1341/2000]

- (7) Statement No. XXV Eleventh Session, 1994

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1342/2000]

- (8) Statement No. XXII Thirteenth Session, 1995

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1343/2000]

- (9) Statement No. XIX Fourteenth Session, 1995

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1344/2000]

- (10) Statement No. XV Fifteenth Session, 1995

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1345/2000]

(11) Statement No. XIII Sixteenth Session, 1996
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1346/2000]

Eleventh Lok Sabha

(12) Statement No. XIV Second Session, 1996
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1347/2000]

(13) Statement No. XIII Third Session, 1996
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1348/2000]

(14) Statement No. XII Fourth Session, 1996
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1349/2000]

(15) Statement No. X Fifth Session, 1997
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1350/2000]

Twelfth Lok Sabha

(16) Statement No. VIII Second Session, 1998
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1351/2000]

(17) Statement No. V Third Session, 1998
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1352/2000]

(18) Statement No. IV Fourth Session, 1999
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1353/2000]

Thirteenth Lok Sabha

(19) Statement No. I Second Session, 1999
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1354/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : On behalf of Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayan Rao I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1355/2000]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Two Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1356/2000]

1410 hours

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

1411 hours

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

(i) I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held today, the 28th February, 2000, adopted the following motion in regard to presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 :

"That the time appointed for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 be extended up to the last day of the first week of the 190th Session of the Rajya Sabha."

(ii) "I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Small Industries Development Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1999, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd December, 1999, has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th February, 2000, with the following Amendments :

Enacting Formula

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fiftieth" the word "Fifty-first" be substituted.

Clause - 1

2. That at page 1, line 3, for the figure "1999" the figure "2000" be substituted.

Clause - 3

3. That at page 2, line 24, for the figure "1999" the figure "2000" be substituted.
4. That at page 3, line 14, for the figure "1999" the figure "2000" be substituted.

I am, therefore, to return herewith the said Bill in accordance with the provisions of rule 128 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha with the request that the concurrence of the Lok Sabha to the said amendments be communicated to this House."

1412 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
First Report

[English]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag) : I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

1412 ½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY
Thirty-third Report

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : I beg to lay on the Table of the Lok Sabha a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the 33rd Report of the Standing Committee on Industry on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in its 23rd Report on Demands for Grants of Department of Steel (1998-99)

1413 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
Seventy-First Report

[English]

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK (Mathurapur) : I beg to lay on the Table of the Lok Sabha a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Seventy-first Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Bill, 1999.

1413 ½ hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(I) Employees' State Insurance Corporation

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of Section 4 (i) of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, read with rule 2A of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, 1950, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, subject to other provisions of the Said Act."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That in pursuance of section 4 (i) of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, read with rule 2A of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, 1950, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, subject to other provisions of the Said Act."

The Motion was adopted.

(ii) Central Building and other Construction Workers' Advisory Committee

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN
JATIYA) I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of section 3(2) (b) of the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 read with Rule 11(2) of the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Central Rules, 1998, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves, to serve as members of the Central Building and other Construction Workers' Advisory Committee for a period of three years, subject to other provisions of the said Act and rules made thereunder."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The questions is :

"That in pursuance of Section 3 (2) (b) of the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 read with Rule 11 (2) of the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Central Rules, 1998, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves, to serve as members of the Central Building and other Construction Workers' Advisory Committee for a period of three years, subject to other provisions of the said Act and rules made thereunder"

The Motion was adopted.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request all of you to resume your seats. Please go to your seats.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The matter to be taken under Rule 184 is under consideration of the hon'ble Speaker. Please wait for his ruling.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Due to gross disorder the House now stands adjourned till 11 a.m. tomorrow.

1415 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday March 2, 2000/Phalguna 12, 1921 (Saka)

**CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATES
(ENGLISH VERSION)**

Wednesday, March 1, 2000, Phalguna 11, 1921 (Saka)

Col./line	For	Read
11 & 12/7 (from below)	132.166	13,166
27 & 28/4 (from below)	20.00	26.00
39/24	81735	71735
85 & 86/13	10.50	0.50
287/15	29.6.2004	10.6.2004

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