

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, November 26, 2001/

Agrahayana 5, 1923 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at one minute past
Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our colleagues, Shri C.T. Dhandapani.

Shri C.T. Dhandapani was a Member of Fourth, Fifth and Seventh Lok Sabha from 1967 to 1977 and 1980 to 1984 representing Dharampuram and Pollachi Parliamentary constituencies of Tamil Nadu.

An active parliamentarian, Shri Dhandapani served as a member of various Parliamentary and Consultative Committees.

A banker by profession, Shri Dhandapani was an active social worker. He established night schools and libraries. He was instrumental in organising conferences for the enrichment of Dravidian culture and languages. He worked relentlessly for the eradication of caste system and promotion of inter-caste marriages, removal of economic disparities and upliftment of the down-trodden and weaker sections of the society.

Keen on the promotion of sports, Shri Dhandapani organised All India Football tournaments in Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu.

A widely travelled person, Shri Dhandapani was the member of the Executive Committee of the Indo-US Cultural Association, Coimbatore unit.

Shri C.T. Dhandapani passed away on 28 October, 2001 at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu at the age of 68.

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

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

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Social Security to Home Based Workers

*101. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has formulated a National Policy for providing social security to home based workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The formulation of a National Policy on Home Based Workers has been under the consideration of the Government and inter-ministerial consultations are in progress.

DR. V. SAROJA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement says that the formation of a National Policy on Home-Based Workers has been under the consideration of the Government and inter-Ministerial consultations are in progress.

Sir, the Home-Based Workers form a major category in the unorganised sector. The ILO had adopted the Convention Number 177 for the Home Based Workers in its 83rd Session of ILC in June, 1996.

The problems faced by the home-based workers are very complex because of absence of any direct master-servant or employer-employee relationship among them. The relationship between them and the organisations or people who they work for is ambiguous and indefinite. So, home-based workers are subjected to exploitation at various levels. Having thought of formulation of the National Policy, would the Minister categorically specify a time-frame within which the National Policy will be placed

on the floor of the House; and does the Government propose to set up a Commission for these unorganised workers?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Saroja ji has asked about home based workers. Not only in the world, but in our economy, too, the home based workers constitute the second strongest sector after agriculture. Home based workers are categorized into Handloom Workers, Beedi, tea plantation workers and papad makers, oil crushers, carpenters, black smiths, etc. During the last 54 years, various types of schemes have been implemented in India. As for policy guidelines in this matter is concerned, a motion was passed in Ireland in June, 1996. It has happened in small countries like Ireland and Finland whereas our country has been traditionally a country of artisans with magic in their fingers. After Mahatma Kabir, Mahatma Gandhi had used artisans as his most potent force in our freedom struggle. The hon. Prime Minister as well as my department is concerned about formulating a policy on it but it will take some time as it covers a variety of professions and people. More important of their problems are that of financing, providing them access to markets and to organise them. For centuries, half of the population of our country consists of artisans and home workers, be they barbers, oil crushers, blacksmiths, goldsmiths or carpenters—they never have to seek market. We have to strengthen them.

I agree that formulating a policy for home based workers is necessary if India is to emerge as an economically powerful nation. One problem with the formulation of policy is that it would involve a lot of debate and discussion. Another problem is that of organizing them with the help of N.G.Os. The work of organizing home based workers has also been done by all the parties be it the ruling party or the opposition. Some poverty alleviation based organizations have also worked to organize the largest section of unorganized workers such as agricultural workers, beedi and construction workers, tea plantation workers, etc. NGOs have also made efforts but they have not been fully successful. They still need to be organised. I agree with Saroja ji that the unemployed in India does not go to the Government to seek jobs. They are so important that formulating a policy for them would make India progress and be stronger. I am new to this Department. I am having a comprehensive consultation with NGOs, members of all parties and other persons concerned. There should be a safety mechanism to ensure that formulation of policy does not result in ruining of their professions.

MR. SPEAKER: Whether the Government intends to appoint any commission in this regard?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: There is no such proposal before the Government. Consultations are on. This is a big task. We do not want to create more problems for the people who are already distressed.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, social security, in its broader sense, is envisaged in the Constitution of India in terms of the Directive Principles of State Policy. It is envisaged under articles 39(a), 41 and 43 and these articles deal with social security of the workers in the unorganised sector. Here, social security means not only dealing with the wage problem, but it also includes medical care, sickness allowance, invalidity allowance, service benefits, etc. There are schemes, and laws enacted by the State Governments and also by the Government of India.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would insist on or give directions to the State Governments to set up special cells in the District Employment Exchanges concerned to that the people in the unorganised sector of the local areas could utilise that office not only to deal with the social security problem, but also for employment purposes. Secondly, may I also know whether the Government proposes to bring these home-based workers under Minimum Wages Act so that financial exploitation can be minimised or curbed?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: As I have already submitted, it is not so. There are a number of schemes for home based workers in ministries such as Textile, Rural Development and Finance. I agree with you that many times more workers need to be provided social security. It is a serious issue and Government is concerned about it. Some of the home based workers are covered under the schemes of textile, rural development and Finance Ministry but their main problem relate to land. I also agree with you that other workers who have been left out of it should be provided job opportunities.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know two things from the Government. Firstly, whether Government have any statistics on home based workers. Secondly due to globalisation the open market is leading to the ruin of our traditional occupations, such as pottery. What efforts Government are making to ensure the marketing of their products and to provide them jobs?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Shri Yadav has asked a good question. As per the survey conducted by the Government, out of total home-based workers, 45 lakh are beedi workers, 65 lakh are handloom workers, 48 lakh are artisans and 3 lakh are in food processing. Total comes to about 3 crore. But I don't agree with figures of survey. The number of home based workers should be not less than 7 crore. Their number is definitely more than that we want to update the earlier survey. We want to provide detailed figures by doing more work in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am certainly not very happy with the evasive reply of the Minister, especially when he replied with regard to the Government's intention to come out, within a specific timeframe, with the policy matter. I am also not happy with the phrase used, as the Government always does "It will take some time in bringing the policy. I want to draw the attention of the House that" almost 92 per cent of the work force is in the unorganised sector. They really toil hard. They enjoy no protection from the Government. In fact, they are not covered by the provisions of the Budgetary allocations except the social security and so on. In the unorganised sector there are hardly any laws and whatever laws are there, they are hardly implemented. Most of this section is left to fend themselves. There is hardly any machinery which works for their benefit.

The Government had appointed a Self-employment Commission and its report, called *Shram Shakti*, is lying with the Government. I am surprised to find that despite this report, the Government has not yet come out with a policy on unorganised labour and self-employed people. I would categorically like to know whether the Minister could state when exactly the Government intends to come out with the policy draft in this regard. All the information is available with the Government. It is only the question of attitude of the Department and the machinery. I do not think the task is that difficult. I also do not believe that the Government does not have the data regarding the NGOs and others. It can certainly organise meetings and have consultations. So, I would like to categorically know from the Minister as to when exactly the Government intends to come out with a policy.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to policy matter in June 2000 in the Cabinet. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member wants to have some categorical assurance.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I have clearly said that there is no law for their protection. There are many laws like Employment Assurance Scheme and National Social state policy.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: That is not a law but a scheme.

[*English*]

The Minister should categorically state as to when the Government, whether within six months, three months, a year or so, is coming out with a time bound policy.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: You are talking about policy, not about law. I sincerely associate myself with your feeling. As soon as possible we will try....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: It is not the question of sentiments. I had requested...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: It would be disastrous as I am going to be proved wrong again if I tell some date. I can only say that we have always given top priority to unorganised sector. We will bring the law but I can not say categorically as to when I am going to do so.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please try to do, what the hon. Member has asked for, as early as possible.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Yes, Sir.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Some States, particularly, West Bengal has already introduced one popular Provident Fund Scheme for the unorganised sector covering about

30 lakh of workers, lie the rickshaw-pullars and so on, including some workers in the employment sector. May I know from the hon. Minister, what sort of assistance the Central Government is ready to provide to such States for such schemes?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, West Bengal and Karnataka have launched very good schemes. When Hon. Member says, then certainly that scheme has been implemented in West Bengal. Karnataka has also a good scheme. Hence we will try to formulate the National Policy on the basis of schemes in both these States. So far as funds and assistance are concerned, I would have certainly made a submission to the Finance Minister for making some arrangement had he been present here.

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: The Constitution provides for compulsory education of children between the age of six and fourteen. But at this age only, the children of poor families go and become domestic servants. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, has any survey been conducted throughout the country of such children, especially in Tamil Nadu. What steps are being taken to ameliorate their sufferings? Instead of getting education, they are working as domestic servants. What consequential action is being taken by the Government in this regard?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, till now no survey about domestic servants has been done but as far the survey of home based workers is concerned, I don't think that it has been completed. If the domestic servants are also included in it then the number will certainly go up. I am also of the view that this survey is a difficult job. The issue of domestic servants can be dealt with later. I would be better if the Government and the entire House concerns over the producers and the foreign exchange earners.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards the reply given by the hon. Minister with regard to the labourers in the organised sector, I would like to say that this matter is being probed....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: The Minister's reply is not satisfactory. The Minister should state what steps he is taking to ameliorate the sufferings of these children...*(Interruptions)* It is our Fundamental Right.

The Constitution provides for compulsory education of the children.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Question I want to ask is whether the agriculture labourers have also been included in the category of unorganised labourers which is being looked into by the Group of Ministers? Today thousands of labourers have been migrating from one State to another in search of employment. Labour commission has already been constituted for it but it has failed to yield results. Whether the Group of Ministers has been working on some steps to check the large scale migration of the agricultural labourers so that the agriculture of the State may not get adversely affected due to it.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister has asked the question in regard to Group of Ministers I would like to tell him that this has not been constituted. As far his query in regard to the agriculture labourers is concerned, I would like to tell that the unorganised labourers from the largest group in the country and their number in unorganised sector is approximately 60-62 percent. Already a policy exist in this regard but no work is being done at ground level on it.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It also includes landless labourers.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it certainly comprises landless labourers besides agricultural labourers. The Government on its own have framed a scheme for unorganised labourers in agriculture sector by conducting a survey in this regard. It includes bidi workers, agricultural labourers, watermen and daily wagers etc.

The biggest question is to implement these schemes and biggest task is how to bring them under social security net.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: What about those people who are migrating from Bihar.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is not in my hands.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the NDA Government is enjoying the benefits of organised sector and not allowing the unorganised sector...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing the Minister to reply.

Purchasing of New Aircraft by IA and AI

+

*102. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey and surprise check on the over-aged passenger aircraft used in Indian Air Traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of new aircraft purchased by both Indian Airlines and Air India during each of the last three years, along with the types of aircraft and name of companies from which these have been purchased; and

(d) the total funds allocated and disbursed for such purchase and the total annual expenditure incurred thereon?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The aircraft remain in operation so long they are maintained in airworthy condition as per the maintenance procedures and norms prescribed by the aircraft manufacturers and approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). However, there is an economic design life of each aircraft in terms of its usage after which the cost of maintenance begins to increase. As the age of an aircraft increases, more intensive and

frequent checks are prescribed by the manufacturers and the DGCA. Regular surveillance and surprise checks of the aircraft of various airlines including their maintenance systems are conducted by the officers of DGCA to ensure compliance with the requirements laid down by the DGCA and the manufacturers. As and when any violations of these requirements are observed strict action as per laid down rules and regulations is taken against those responsible. It is to be noted that so far none of the accidents have been attributed to the age of the aircraft by the various inquiry committees.

(c) No new aircraft has been purchased by Indian Airlines or Air India in the last three years. However, Indian Airlines have taken two A-300 in May/June 1998 from M/s General Electric Capital Aviation Services (GECAS), USA and two A-320 in April/May 2001 on dry lease from M/s ORIX, UK. Further 4 more A-320 aircraft are in the process of being taken on dry lease from M/s ORIX, UK. Similarly, Air India have taken four A-310 aircraft on dry lease in 2000, of which two are from Singapore Airlines and two from M/s GECAS, USA. Further, Air India has plans to take two B-747-400 and three A-310-300 aircraft on dry lease.

In view of the disinvestment process, it was found desirable that the decision on capital investment and aircraft acquisition should be taken by the new management. However, as there is a delay in the process of disinvestment, Indian Airlines has been advised recently to formulate a specific proposal for acquisition of new aircraft for seeking Government approval.

(d) A token provision in the budget of Air India and Indian Airlines is made every year towards purchase of aircraft. As no aircraft was purchased by the airlines, no amount has been spent for this purpose in the last three years. However, an amount of Rs. 65.82 crores has been spent towards lease of aircraft by Indian Airlines since 1999-2000. Air India on the other hand, has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 26.86 crores towards the lease of aircraft during the last three years.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at a time when disinvestment of Indian Airlines or Air India is in process purchasing of new aircrafts and incurring expenditure on them does show that no disinvestment is about to take place, then why suggestions are being made to incur expenditure on purchasing new aircraft.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the process of disinvesting Indian Airlines and Air

India was started but two bidders for Indian Airlines were declared disqualified. Indian Airlines will be run and disinvesting process of Indian Airlines has to continue. There is also a need to increase the fleet of aircrafts also. Earlier the Ministry of Finance had frozen the purchase of new aircrafts. That's why no new air craft was purchased since 1994. Now the Finance Ministry has apprised us through a letter that new aircrafts could be purchased.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, several aircrafts have become over aged and it is being stated that checks of such aircrafts are being done very frequently. Do the Government propose to replace all these dangerous aircrafts instead of putting them on uneconomic routes?

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, aircrafts do not have any age...*(Interruptions)* An aircraft has economic age...*(Interruptions)* Please let me complete my speech. I have not yet completed a sentence...*(Interruptions)* If he can repeat what I said, I shall take back my words. I have said nothing. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not yet started my speech and objections have been raised. I am saying that aircrafts have economic age and our aircrafts are being checked very regularly. Aircrafts like Boeing 747, 737, airbus 300 VZ, A-300, A 310 and A-320 are in operation. These aircrafts have an economic design which has a limit. For example, a 747 has to undertake 60000 flying hours or flying round one take off, one landing 20,000 and its age is 20 years, in Boeing 737-51000 flying hours, 75000 flying rounds, in airbus 60000 flying hours, 48000 flying round in airbus A-300 60000 flying hours or 37000 flying rounds in Airbus A-310. 60,000 flying hours and 35000 flying rounds and a Airbus A-320, 6000 flying hours or 48000 flying rounds.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are having such types of aircrafts and I would like to explain in this regard so that hon'ble member understands the entire thing. Our B-737 aircrafts are over aged. Though a total of 929 such aircrafts are operating all over the world. Indian Airlines have 11 such aircrafts which are more than 20 years old. The number of old aircrafts which are in operation all over the world is 500 out of this there are 7 such aircrafts in our country. These aircrafts are in operation for the last 21 years. The number of such aircrafts in the age 21.3 years all over the world is 330...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: 14 years.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I am saying is correct. You must be aware that the maximum of flying hours of an aircraft is 92,671 all

over the world. In our country it is 47,986. For 737 aircraft maximum number of flying rounds are 96536 in our country this average is 55,559. Through you, I would like to tell the House that 175 Boeing 737 are flying in the developed countries like America and Canada whose age is more than the aircrafts of Alliance Air.

[English]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK: In view of the privatisation policy of the Government, will the hon. Minister be pleased to tell us whether they are going to modernise Air India and Indian Airlines, and if so, to what extent. How much money are you going to allocate for this purpose?

MR. SPEAKER: This is about purchasing of new aircraft.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK: Modernisation includes purchasing of new aircraft also, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier also I have stated that the Government provides no budgetary support to Indian Airlines or Air India. The process of disinvestment was going on and in 1994 Indian Airlines purchased Air.bus 320. The process in this regard was initiated in 1990 which continued till 1994. One of the airbus 320 met with an accident near Bangalore. Thereafter all such aircrafts remained grounded for 9 months which resulted in a huge loss.

The Kaleker committee was constituted in this regard. This committee made recommendation to provide Rs. 325 crores to Indian Airlines. When the Indian Airlines started the process and the Ministry of Civil Aviation placed the demand for funds, it was informed that funds would be given at the time of purchasing new aircrafts. As the process of disinvestment was on at that time, no new aircraft could be purchased because purchasing of new aircraft was banned. Therefore, providing Rs. 325 crore at that time was out of question.

I talked to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Disinvestment regarding this and we all three attended a meeting in the chamber of the hon'ble Minister of Finance. As Indian Airlines and Air India were facing problems for want of adequate number of aircrafts, Finance Minister accorded permission to purchase new aircrafts. The process in this regard has already started.

I would also like to tell that no compromise is done regarding the maintenance of aircrafts. And our aircrafts are in a good state.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: How did it fall in Bihar when the aircrafts are good?

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Our aircrafts are being maintained very well and all the aircrafts are thoroughly checked regularly.

[*English*]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: No new aircraft are purchased. There are no new schedules. There is no new business, and there are no new investments. We talk about only disinvestment.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: And still you are supporting them!

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Then how will this country run? The Minister wanted to disinvest. He is talking about disinvestment and that is why, he is not purchasing any new aircraft. And so, there are no new schedules. Yesterday, the flight from Hyderabad did not arrive here. This is the condition prevailing now. What does he mean by disinvestment? Does he want to sell away the routes or only the old aircraft?...(*Interruptions*) Ultimately, how is the country being run? Air transportation is vital for attracting investment into the country. We are not talking about investment. That is why, we have decided to sell away this business. And that is why, we are not buying any aircraft. So, let us travel by trains. They want to disinvest Railways also! Sir, this is not correct. You wanted to sell only the aircraft of Indian Airlines and Air India and not the routes. You may kindly allow other private companies to run on the routes so that the country does not suffer. Sir, this is not the correct way. How is the Minister going to tackle the transportation problem which is very vital for the country's development in the next few years?

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is right that new aircrafts have not been purchased but it is not that new aircrafts have not been inducted. We have taken aircraft on lease...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: There are only two aircraft which are not sufficient. You are not running new aircraft. For example, in Visakhapatnam, the schedule used to be seven days. Now it is in only for four days. We are not getting tickets. The other day, Shri Janardhana Reddy and myself had been wait listed. It used to run for seven days a week and now it runs only for four days. Sir, is

it going to run for seven days or not? Let him answer that point. Why has it been reduced to four days? Visakhapatnam is an important destination. It is an industrial town...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is Question Hour. Let the Minister answer.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister assure me that he will restore the flights for all the seven days in Visakhapatnam route? Let him answer that point first.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is aware of the reasons why the new aircrafts were not purchased. A detailed inquiry continued for long on the purchase of air bus 320 and CBI is still investigating the matter. It was during the Government which was in power in 1994, our Government came to power in 1998...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: You cannot stall India's business.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these aircrafts were not purchased at that time. The disinvestment process continued when our Government came to power in 1998. New aircrafts have arrived. We have taken 6 air bus 320 on dry lease. Thereafter two aircrafts have arrived. I am glad to inform the House that a new aircraft has arrived today only on dry lease. Several such agreements have been signed. Through you, I would like to tell the House that lease rates have come down after 11th September. It has proved profitable for us. The lease rate which was 3 lakh, 15 thousand dollar earlier has been reduced to 2 lakh 44 thousand dollar.

Rs. 72 crore were involved in it. Though after 11 September, all over the world the trade has suffered a loss. The aviation industry of entire world is facing problems but there is also other aspect of it. The aircraft which was earlier available at the rate of 3 lakh 15 thousand dollars is now available at the rate of 2 lakh, 44 thousand dollars. Though the deal for purchase of aircrafts was settled earlier. We have purchased them at lower rates. We are going to take four aircrafts on lease of 2 lakh 44 thousands. I am glad to tell in the House, as you said, aircrafts are not being purchased by us, but we are taking four aircrafts on dry lease. One plane has already come...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: When are you restoring the flights for seven days a week for Visakhapatnam? You have not answered that point...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is of schedule, timings of the flight, you please tell me separately about it, I will try to correct it.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: It is a direct question that if you have decided about disinvestment and suppose Ministry of Finance grants permission for it, then also are you going to purchase new aircrafts? Whether we cannot take them on lease or by some other way. So much money is going to be invested in a year or six months, that you are spending hundreds of crores of rupees on the purchase of new aircrafts. I would like to request that the original question which Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra had asked that if the decision about disinvestment has been taken. It is the question of time only. Now whether it happens in two months, four months or six months, are you going to make such a big investment for six months only? Another thing is that how can we spare planes for other routes. The Plan should be formulated in such a way that you should bring planes on lease for these routes. Have you formulated any scheme to run private or other planes over these routes?

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: The policy of the Government is very clear. The hon'ble Disinvestment Minister will give reply with full information about disinvestment policy but in this regard. I...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is not aware of what is happening in his department. The reply in this regard will be given by his colleague.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: You are not listening to my reply and are saying that I am not aware. My problem is that whenever I rise to speak, they decide that they will not listen to me, and will say I am not having any information. I am giving you entire information. I am saying that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, then also you have to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Even before I start speaking, they form an opinion about me. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a good reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you must also have some patience while giving the replies.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the Government's new policy, private airlines have never been disallowed over the new routes. We are giving permission to those who are willing to run their aircrafts, whatever number it may be. In reply to the question asked by him, I would like to tell that as per the Government's disinvestment policy regarding these aircrafts, disinvestment process is on. But airlines have to be operated and if new fleet is not taken, the airlines will shut down and their value will decrease. Therefore, its value will increase by disinvestment. The value of it will increase by purchasing new aircrafts, and it will get more money according to that time. In this way, this process is on.

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply stated that Indian Airlines has been recently advised to formulate specific proposals for acquisition of new aircraft. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that North-East has long been suffering due to shortage of aircraft. The Government is sitting tight over it, more than a decade, having done nothing significant to improve the air transport facilities of this region.

May I know from the Government whether priority in providing more aircraft will be given to the North-East connecting all the existing airports of the region to Guwahati on its way out to the rest of the country and making Guwahati the hub of all these new aircraft?

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am pleased to state that, we are very much concerned about north-east. We had a meeting with the hon'ble Minister, Shri Arun Shourie and we have decided to provide four out of six 50 seater aircrafts, which we are taking on lease, to improve the air transport facilities in the North-East region.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, this question is related to the safety and security of the air passengers. We are worried. Sometimes we are hearing about the proposals to disinvest Indian Airlines and sometimes we hear that decision would be dropped. So, it appears that

Government is a little bit confused. About flight A-300, A-310, or A-320, though the Minister is telling that he has replied it through hours, normally what all the passengers want to know is that how many years they are old. I would like to ask one or two specific questions. As the Minister has stated in the case of Boeing-737 that there are only seven such aircraft which normally flying the Alliance Airlines, in the case of A-300, A-310 and A-320 categories also, he should reply, as to how many aircraft are there and what was the last purchase made by the Government of these aircraft. Is the old age of the aircraft a threat to the safety and security of air passengers?

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said earlier the Indian Airlines have 54 aircrafts in total. Their average age is 14.1 years. Indian Airlines have six—A-300 planes and two planes are on dry-lease. Their average age is 21.2 years. They are of 248 seats. Similarly, Indian Airlines is having 32 A-320 planes, among which two are on dry lease. Their average age is 10.2 years and have 146 seats. Indian Airlines is having 11 Boeing 737 planes, their average age is 20 years. Indian Airlines is having three small decota 228 aircrafts. Their average age is 16 years. By this way 4 planes, out of 54 planes are on dry lease and Indian Airlines are possessing 50 planes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is asking about their conditions. He wants to know whether they are fit for operation or not from the safety point of view.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: They are in very good condition from safety point of view. They are regularly checked.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, normally after twenty years the aircraft become unfit for operation and that is the danger we are facing.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I wish good luck to the new Minister. He is my neighbour as his constituency is next to mine.

The hon. Minister has stated in his reply like this. I quote:

"In view of the disinvestment process, it was found desirable that the decision on capital investment and aircraft acquisition should be taken by the new management. However, as there is a delay."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, only a few days before in Mumbai, a Committee of Parliament had intimate interactions with Indian Airlines and Air India. I must acknowledge in the House that the present management of Indian Airlines and Air India, over the last one and half years, did an excellent job for their viability, stability and profitability. This is the time the Parliament should give total warming hands to both these managements for exploiting new routes and so on.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the Minister has referred to 11th September developments, I would like to state that I made my own study and reported it to the Committee that post-11th September strikes, the chosen Airlines in the sub-continent and in the whole world are Air India and Indian Airlines. This is the time the Minister can acquire aircraft either through dry lease or through new purchase and exploit the new routes. The question of disinvestment will never arise and even if it arises, the price would be so good that we would be in a better position to bargain than selling them like potatoes. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, since he has got the concurrence from the Finance Minister, what is the time limit to get the aircraft to exploit the new routes. That is my only question.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a lot of caution is required while purchasing aircrafts. First the board of Indian Airlines will hold a meeting and will send it to the PIB and then it will be sent to Cabinet.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: By then, it will be too late. You should do something by your own.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I would like to tell that I had a meeting with Shri Arun Shourie and the Minister of Finance. During that meeting this decision was taken. They have given the permission to purchase new aircrafts and we collectively have decided this. They will be brought here at the earliest. I cannot tell you the exact time, but the process of bringing it will be expedited.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have decided about it day before yesterday and it was published in yesterday's newspapers that aircrafts costing Rs. 9000 crore will be purchased

for Air India. Whether it is a fact and Government are aware of it?...*(Interruptions)* On one side disinvestment process is on and on the other side aircrafts worth Rs. 9000 crore are being purchased. Will the Government be pleased to state that whether this will benefit or make loss to the country?

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply has already been given to the question asked by Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji...*(Interruptions)* The fleet is of 40 planes. Indian Airlines has already proposed that planes cannot be purchased in a day, therefore, these planes will be purchased in 5 years and Rs. 9000 crore will be invested in it. Earlier also I have said that there will be no hurdle in the path of disinvestment process. If the cost of plane will be increased, new planes are introduced, only then somebody will be ready to purchase it.

[English]

Labour Reforms

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*103. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the existing labour laws with a view to bring reforms therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is strong protest from various forums of the society;

(d) if so, whether the Government have decided to set up a Group of Ministers/Secretaries to oversee the process of labour reforms proposed to be made; and

(e) if so, the broad features of the contemplated labour reforms and the terms of reference of the GoM/Secretaries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (f) Review/updation of labour laws is an ongoing process in order to bring them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs. Government's intention to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 has already been announced while presenting the Budget

for 2001-2002. Amendments to the other laws are under various stages of examination.

(c) The Central Trade Union Organisations have been generally opposing amendments in Labour Laws unless these are perceived as beneficial to the working class.

(d) and (e) A Group of Ministers on Labour Reforms has been examining this subject matter. Since these matters are still under discussions, it would be premature to disclose any further information in this regard.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Government whether the Government will consult the important trade unions before initiating the process of labour reforms...*(Interruptions)* I want the hon. Minister to clarify that before they decide upon the reforms, whether the trade unions are taken into confidence.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know whether the Government is going to contact the labour unions before taking a decision.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: The Ministry of Labour had called a meeting of the representatives of all the trade unions in this regard and it was chaired by the Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Taking into account the impact of the labour reforms in the context of WTO and the globalisation process, I want the Government to consider the opinions of the trade unions before initiating the process of labour reforms. Will the Government consult the trade unions in this regard?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a country wide debate is going on over the Industrial Disputes Act and Contract Labour Act and in response to the Question asked by the Hon. Member as to whether or not the trade unions will be consulted or not, I want to tell him that these have been consulted and will be consulted in future also.

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the proposed labour reforms have generated controversies. There are reports that the hon. Minister himself is against the reforms. In view of this, I would like to know whether

the Minister would categorically assure the House that unless there is a consensus, no such reforms would be introduced and the trade unions would be consulted before taking a decision. Already, the hon. Minister has replied that he has consulted the trade unions. What is their response? I want to know about it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question asked by the hon. Mandalji is very important. the debate over this matter is going on for quite long and certainly this matter is controversial also. Prime Minister has himself said that he will proceed on this matter only after consulting all the Chief Ministers. In response to the questions asked by hon. Member I would like to tell that certainly all the trade unions whether it is INTOC, CITU, AITUC, HMS, BMS. They do not favour of it. A group of Ministers has already been constituted in this regard. World is changing...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You are also against it.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: You are saying a peculiar thing. Mr. Speaker, Sir, a Group of Ministers has already been constituted. Certainly group of Ministers is not the final authority. The matter will go in the Cabinet and then will come in the House. Labour reforms cannot proceed and the persuaded without the concurrence of the Members. You have the final say in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Whether you are in NDA or in Northern Alliance, you keep on fighting.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: We are neither in Northern Alliance nor in Taliban. Confusion prevails in both as to what should we do. They themselves are under the illusion and are not in a position to judge which is right and which is wrong.

This will be seriously considered in the Group of Ministers. The Labour laws are being changed throughout the world. Certainly the interests of alliance workers, industrialists etc. will be taken care of while forming the laws. Our Ministry intend to take care of everybody's interests while doing so.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fertilizer plant at Gorakhpur has been lying closed and the workers are being retired under VRS but there are lot of workers among them who are still left with a service span of 10 to 20 years. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the government intend to provide them alternative means of employment?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, neither the question asked by the hon. Member is relevant nor do I have the knowledge in this regard.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: The workers form the largest group in the country. The factories are being forcibly closed. The proposed labour laws have been disapproved by the Trade Unions. I would like to know from the hon. Minister is to whether he will take the labour unions into confidence for evolving consensus before finalising the draft.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Sir, I have already said that the Labour Ministry also is not concerned about it. The Prime Minister has categorically stated that the opinion of all the parties and Chief Ministers will be sought. I certainly associate myself with the concern expressed by Mamtaji. Therefore, the Govt. of Ministers is already there. All the parties are being consulted. I cannot give any definite opinion in this regard. All things are in our minds. Afterwards the matter will be placed before the Cabinet and then in this august House. If this House does not approve it, we cannot proceed further. Labour Reforms can take place only when this august House gives its final decision over it and approves it after due deliberations.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, the owners as well as the Government owes a lot of money to labourers. I would like to know as to whether Government intend to bring a law to retrieve this money?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the suggestion of Shri Topdarji is certainly in our mind. Public sector has the maximum Government funds whether it is PF or other funds. All these funds are with government institutions.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mamataji has raised a very important question. It will be better if leaders of all the political parties are consulted before framing such an important law. I am of the opinion that it is better done before and not after the introduction of the Bill. What is the opinion of the Government on it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a good suggestion.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Patil ji has asked such a question that is not possible for me to reply alone...*(Interruptions)*. It would have been better if you had asked this question to the hon. Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a question but a suggestion.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I will certainly convey the suggestion given by him to the hon. Prime Minister.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Pollution in Metropolis

*104. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the order-wise names of most polluted cities of the country and their ranking in the list of polluted cities of the world;

(b) the existing level of pollution in each of the said city;

(c) whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct any survey in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the increase in pollution in metropolitan cities particularly Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No recent comparative studies giving reliable figures are available in this regard.

(b) According to studies conducted by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees in Union Territories the existing levels of pollution in the four cities are as under:

City	Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂)	Oxides of Nitrogen (NO _x)	Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM)
Micrograms per cubic metre (ug/m ³)			
Delhi	17.0	31.0	370
Kolkata	14.0	30.0	280
Chennai	8.5	16.0	105
Mumbai	9.7	30.0	241

(c) and (d) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees in Union Territories are regularly monitoring ambient air quality at 290 stations covering 92 cities/towns in 24 States and 5 Union Territories. The ambient air quality is being monitored for Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM).

(e) The steps taken by the Government to check pollution in metropolitan cities particularly Mumbai include the following:

- A comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution that lays Stress on both control and preventive aspects of pollution has been formulated.
- A network of ambient air (290) and water (507) Quality Monitoring Stations has been set up.
- Ambient air quality monitoring is being carried out at Sion and Mulund for Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM), Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x), Carbon monoxide (CO) and Hydrocarbons (HC) by Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board. Ambient air quality is being monitored at Mahim, Andheri and Wadala by Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation.
- Action Plans for control of pollution in Delhi and Mumbai are being implemented and similar action plans have been prepared for Chennai and Hyderabad.
- In Mumbai 22 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) dispensing stations have been put into operation.
- Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Low sulphur fuel (petrol and diesel) with 0.05% sulphur content maximum has also been introduced in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.
- In Mumbai (including Greater Mumbai) Bharat Stage II norms akin to Euro-II norms for registration of four wheeled private (non-commercial) vehicles were made effective from 1.1.2001. These norms have also been made effective for vehicles with GVW exceeding 3500 kg from 31.10.2001.

- Highly polluting industries have been identified. Defaulting Industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment on a time bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.
- Restrictive Industrial location policy is enforced in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) in Zone-I of the MMR and Thane Municipal Corporation area. No additional pollution generating activities are permitted.
- Environmental epidemiological studies have been initiated in different parts of the country to assess the impact of pollution.
- Effluent and emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.
- For control of water pollution from clusters of small-scale industries, subsidy has been given for 89 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs). CETPs have been installed at industrial estates at Tarapur, Thane-Belapur, Dombiwali and Ambernath.
- Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 is in force governing environmental appraisal of 30 specified categories of developmental projects.
- Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Department of the State Governments.
- A notification of control noise pollution emanating from various sources with the help of local authorities has been notified in February, 2000.
- Noise Standards for stationary diesel sets (15-500 KVA) have been notified in January, 1999.
- Noise standards for fire crackers had been notified in October, 1999.
- Noise limits for portable generator sets run with petrol and kerosene have been notified in September, 2000.
- Noise limits for vehicles have been revised and notified in September, 2000 effective from 1st January, 2003.
- Twenty-four critically polluted areas have been identified. Action Plans have been drawn up for restoration of environmental quality in these areas.

National Agriculture Insurance Scheme

*105. SHRI BAHADUR SINGH:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced a National Agriculture Insurance Scheme from the Rabi season 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of crop both cereals and commercial crops covered under the schemes;

(d) the number of farmers covered thereunder, State-wise;

(e) whether some State Governments including Haryana have requested to the Union Government and sent certain suggestions to implement the said scheme in their respective State;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government propose to extend the said scheme for the farmers of Dholphur, Bayana and Bharatpur in Rajasthan; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) has been introduced in the country from rabi 1999-2000. The details are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) The details of crops covered are given in the statement-II enclosed.

(d) State-wise details of farmers covered under the scheme are given in the statement-III enclosed.

(e) and (f) The States, including Haryana which are not implementing the NAIS, have not requested for the implementation of the scheme in their respective State. These States have however, suggested for reducing the financial liabilities of implementing States; State-wise maintenance of Corpus Fund, continuation of premia-subsidy to small and marginal farmers, coverage of perennial crops etc.

(g) State Government of Rajasthan has not opted for implemented of NAIS.

(h) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Salient Features of National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS)

The Government of India have introduced NAIS from Rabi 1999-2000 season by replacing the earlier Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS):

- Scheme is available to all farmers—loanee and non-loanee both—irrespective of their size of holding.
- Compulsory for loanee farmers and optional for non-loanee farmers.
- The scheme is voluntary for the States/UTs.
- Sum-insured may extend to the value of threshold yield of the area insured.
- Coverage of all food crops (cereals, millets & pulses), oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops in respect of which past yield data is available for adequate number of years.

- Among the annual commercial/horticultural crops, eleven crops namely cotton, sugarcane, potato, chillies, ginger, onion, turmeric, jute, tapioca, annual banana and pineapple are presently covered.
- Basically all-risk insurance scheme covering all yield losses due to natural, non-preventable risks.
- Premium rates are 3.5% for bajra and oilseeds, and 2.5% for other Kharif crops; 1.5% for wheat, and 2% for other rabi crops. In case the rates worked out on the basis of actuarial data are less than the prescribed premium rate, the lower rate will be applicable.
- In case of annual commercial/horticultural crops, actuarial rates are charged.
- Small and marginal farmers are provided subsidy of 50% of the premium charged from them. The subsidy will be phased out over a period of 5 years on sunset basis.
- To implement NAIS at lower unit of insurance *i.e.* Gram Panchayat within three years.
- It is proposed to set up a separate agency for implementation of NAIS.

Statement-II

Details of Crops notified (both cereals and commercial/horticultural crops) under NAIS

Cereals	Pulses	Oilseeds	Annual Commercial/ Horticultural Crops
Paddy	Pigeon Pea (tur/arhar)	Groundnut	Cotton
Wheat	Chick Pea (gram)	Sunflower	Potato
Maize	Black gram (urd)	Safflower	Sugarcane
Jowar	Green gram (moong)	Linseed	Onion
Bajra	Horse gram	Sesame (til)	Chilly
Korra	Lentil (masoor)	Castor	Ginger
Ragi	Pea (mutter)	Rape seed	Turmeric
Barley	Math etc.	Mustard	Jute
Kodo Millet		Niger	Tapioca
Kutki etc.		Soyabean etc.	Annual Banana
			Pineapple

Statement-III**Details of Number of Farmers Covered Under NAIS**

S.No.	State	Rabi 1999-2000	Kharif 2000	Rabi 2000-2001
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Not implemented	1771500	214908
2.	Assam	1401	1000	1189
3.	Bihar	Not implemented	166356	41845
4.	Chhattisgarh	(part of M.P.)	(part of M.P.)	5984
5.	Goa	79	953	213
6.	Gujarat	14832	1113435	32241
7.	Himachal Pradesh	217	266	1159
8.	Jharkhand	Not implemented	(part of Bihar)	1741
9.	Karnataka	Not implemented	313340	40739
10.	Kerala	22786	15573	21450
11.	Madhya Pradesh	186910	1531590	381598
12.	Maharashtra	120543	2533310	408353
13.	Meghalaya	Not implemented	675	1738
14.	Orissa	232836	627465	124202
15.	Tamil Nadu	Not implemented	16071	94137
16.	Uttar Pradesh	Not implemented	469430	510032
17.	West Bengal	Not implemented	Not implemented	196362
18.	Pondichery	336	373	1218
19.	A & N Islands	Not implemented	193	Not implemented
Total		579940	8561530	2079109

Shortage of Fodder

*106. SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of fodder due to serious drought situation in various parts of the country particularly in Southern States;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to strengthen Fodder Bank and Fodder Seed Production in the country; and

(c) the amount released out of the total allocations made to those States during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Some States including the southern States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have reported drought situation. However, no report on acute shortage of fodder has been received.

(b) and (c) The States of Maharashtra and Karnataka for the current year have been accorded permission to ban movement of fodder out of the State. Four memoranda during the current year have been received from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and

Maharashtra regarding drought. Assistance provided as Central share of Calamities Relief Fund to these States during the current year are: Andhra Pradesh- Rs. 155.97 Crore, Bihar- Rs. 26.37 Crore, Karnataka- Rs. 58.72 Crore and Maharashtra- Rs. 123.80 Crore. The State of Karnataka has been provided with 2 lakh MTs of feed grade grains for use as cattle feed. In addition Government of India implements a scheme "Assistance to States for Fodder Development" under which grant is provided for Fodder Banks and Fodder Seed Production through Registered Seed Grower on 75% : 25% Central : State share basis. The amounts released during last three years and current year is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Actual amount released during last three years and current year for Fodder Banks and Fodder Seed Production

(Rs. in Lakhs)

State	Fodder Banks & Fodder Seed Production			
	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02
Karnataka	21.00	—	10.50	—
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—

Employees Provident Fund Act

*107. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to effect some changes in the Employees Provident Fund Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Some changes in the Employees Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 are contemplated, so as to widen the scope and to streamline the implementation of the provisions of the Act. These proposals have been referred to Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund, for tripartite discussion.

No time frame for carrying out the amendments can be given at this stage.

Livestock Health Scheme

*108. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cross breeding and scientific development have led the livestock more susceptible to various diseases including infectious and non-infectious diseases;

(b) if so, whether non-implementation of livestock health scheme by the Government has led to morbidity and high rate of mortality;

(c) if so, the remedial steps taken in this regard;

(d) whether funds allocated for this purpose are not being utilized fully; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to make full utilization of the allocated funds?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The cross-breeds and exotic breeds of livestock are generally more susceptible to various infectious and non-infectious diseases than indigenous animals.

(b) and (c) It is not true that morbidity and mortality amongst livestock due to various diseases have increased over the years. As per the epidemiological data available with the Department, the incidence of major diseases have substantially reduced. This is due to the fact that the efforts of the State Governments in controlling the diseases are supplemented by way of extending financial assistance under Centrally Sponsored Schemes which are being implemented in all the States and Union Territories.

(d) and (e) Funds allocated for the schemes on livestock health are being provided to the State Governments on the basis of their demand in accordance to the approved pattern and guidelines of the schemes. Non-availability of State matching share is the major reason for under-utilization of allocated funds. For the effective implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the State Governments have been requested repeatedly to make available budgetary provision and matching share.

Projects for Tourism and Development

*109. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the Government to improve tourism infrastructures in the country to promote tourism;

(b) the details of the funds allocated and disbursed therefore, during 2001-2002, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have issued any guidelines to States to improve facilities for the use of domestic tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and the response of the States thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has a scheme to provide Central financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations every year in consultation with them for various projects prioritised for development of infrastructure and promotion of tourism in the country.

(b) The allocation for tourism infrastructure is Rs. 54.65 crores during 2001-2002 for all States including States of North East Region. An amount of Rs. 12.07 crores has been released to the State Governments. Projects are in the process of being received from the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Department of Tourism, Government of India has already formulated guidelines and issued to the State Governments/UT Administrations for grant of Central financial assistance to improve infrastructure facilities for domestic tourists as well as foreign tourists and they have been submitting proposals to the Department of Tourism under these guidelines. The Central financial assistance is provided for the schemes like Construction of Tourist Bungalows, Tourist Lodges, Yatri Niwases, Wayside Amenities, SEL Shows etc.

[*Translation*]

Air and Water Pollution Cases

*110. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether verdicts in more than fifty percent of cases filed by the Pollution Control Boards regarding air and water pollution have been given against the Board during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have made any review in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) During the last three years, decisions in 529 cases have been delivered under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 of which 278 decisions have been given in favour of the Pollution Control Boards and remaining 251 cases were decided against the Boards.

(c) and (d) The Union Government periodically reviews the enforcement of the various environmental laws. The last Ministerial level meeting was held at Coimbatore on 29-30 January, 2001 and official level meeting was held recently in New Delhi on 12th November, 2001.

Extinction of Species of Birds and Animals

*111. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) the details in regard to mode of census of birds and animals in the country;

(b) the names of species of birds and animals at present in the country;

(c) the details of species of birds and animals which have been on the verge of extinction during the last five years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save species of rare birds and animals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Estimation of population of birds and animals is done by following methods:

- i. Direct visual count.
- ii. Interpretations of evidences like droppings, pug-marks, number of calls, number of kills etc.
- iii. Photo-trap method.
- iv. Capture, release and recapture.
- v. Radio-telemetry.

(b) It is estimated that there are more than 89,451 species of animals including birds in the country. It is not possible to give the names of all these species. However, names of important species of animals and birds have been listed in the Schedules of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(c) No species has reached the verge of extinction during the last five years. However, there has been alarming decrease in the number of vultures in the country during this period.

(d) Steps taken by the Government to save the rare birds and animals in the country includes:—

- i. Hunting of all wild animals and birds has been banned under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ii. Crucial habitats of various species of wild animals and birds have been notified as national parks and sanctuaries. Some of the important wetlands have also been notified as Ramsar Sites and World Natural Heritage Sites.
- iii. Regular patrolling of the area to control poaching and illegal trade in wild animals and their products is done. Cooperation of other enforcement agencies and international organisations is also taken in this regard.
- iv. Management of the wildlife habitats is done on scientific lines for betterment of wildlife.
- v. Financial assistance is provided to State Governments for effective management of national parks and sanctuaries.
- vi. Scientific research for monitoring population status of various species and evolving strategies for in-situ and ex-situ conservation of various species.
- vii. Transfer of wildlife management technology to field managers through training and workshops.
- viii. Creation of awareness about the importance of Wildlife conservation.
- ix. Action to implement the recommendations of the international workshop on vultures has been initiated.
- x. Implementation of Coimbatore Charter arrived at the Conference of State Ministers of Environment

& Forests at Coimbatore on 29th and 30th to mitigate the problem relating to wildlife conservation.

[English]

New Agricultural Policy

*112. SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Agricultural Policy is being formulated;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the provisions made to safeguard the farmers from the adverse impact of WTO agreement;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any detailed action plan for its implementation;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the State Governments have been consulted before formulating the detailed action plan; and

(g) if not, the measures being taken to ensure that the requirements of States are taken care of?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Agricultural Policy was announced in July, 2000. The National Policy on Agriculture seeks to actualize the vast untapped growth potential of Indian agriculture, strengthen rural infrastructure to support faster agricultural development, promote value addition, accelerate the growth of agrobusiness, create employment in rural areas, secure a fair standard of living for the farmers and agricultural workers their families discourage migration to urban areas and face the challenges arising out of economic liberalization and globalization.

(c) The National Agricultural Policy provides sufficient safeguards against any adverse impact of WTO-Agreement on Agriculture and dismantling of quantitative restrictions. Emphasis is laid on boosting productivity and quality, thereby enhancing competitiveness of our commodities. The Policy envisages commodity-wise

strategies and arrangements for insulating the farmers against under price fluctuation in world market, by continuous monitoring of international prices and appropriate measures including tariff protection. Strategy for promoting exports through enhancing production and marketing is outlined.

(d) and (e) Besides various ongoing Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the Government has taken several initiatives to implement the National Agriculture Policy. Government has also enhanced import duties to protect interests of farmers and has initiated short and long term measures in the Exim Policy with mandatory regulations/restrictions to contain unguarded surge in imports and to promote exports.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Increase In Food Production

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

(a) whether the Government have drawn up an ambitious plan to double the food production in ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the crops identified thereunder;

(d) the fiscal incentives and other subsidies proposed to be given to the farmers under the scheme;

(e) whether any particular areas have been selected for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission have set up a target of doubling food production by the end of X Five Year Plan and the Action Plan year i.e., 2007-2008. However, food production does not mean only cereals or foodgrains but also other food items such as fruits & vegetables, milk, eggs, fish etc. In this regard the Planning Commission have suggested the following targets:

Food Items	Production Targets (Million Tonnes)		
	IX Plan (2001-02)	X Plan (2006-07)	Action Plan (2007-08)
Rice	99.0	124.2	130.0
Wheat	83.0	104.1	109.0
Coarse cereals	35.5	40.0	41.0
Pulses	16.5	19.4	20.0
Total Foodgrains	234.0	287.7	300.0
Oilseeds	30.0	42.7	45.0
Sugarcane	336.0	435.2	495.0
Fruits & Vegetables	179.0	307.2	342.0
Milk	87.0	121.5	130.0
Egg (Million Nos.)	3500.0	4928.6	5300.0
Fish	6.9	9.1	9.6

(d) A number of Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented by the Central Government to supplement the efforts of the State

Governments and Union Territories. Under these, financial assistance is being provided to the farmers in the form of subsidies on critical inputs including seeds and

implements etc. For implementing these schemes the following allocations were made by the Planning Commission to the Ministry of Agriculture during the IX Five Year Plan:

(Rupees in Crores)		
Sl. No.	Ministry/Department	Budget Support
1.	Agriculture & Cooperation	9153.82
2.	Agriculture Research & Education	3376.95
3.	Animal Husbandry & Dairy	2345.64
Total		14876.41

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Loss Making Airports

*114. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the name of loss making airports in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to handover these airports to the State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The details of loss-making airports, State-wise is as under:—

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR - Port Blair (Civil Enclave) (C.E);

ANDHRA PRADESH - Rajamundry, Cuddapah, Donakonda, Nadirgul, Tirupati, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Warangal;

ARUNACHAL PRADESH - Along (C.E), Daporizo (C.E), Passighat, Tezu (C.E.), Zero (C.E);

ASSAM - Dibrugarh (Mohanbari), Guwahati, Jorhat (C.E), North Lakhimpur (Lilabari), Rupsi, Shella, Silchar (C.E) (Kumbhigram), Tezpur (C.E);

BIHAR- Gaya, Jogbani, Muzzafarpur, Patna, Raxaul;

CHHATTISGARH - Bilaspur, Raipur;

CHANDIGARH - Chandigarh (C.E);

DELHI - Safdarjung;

GUJARAT - Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Dessa (Palampur), Jamnagar (C.E), Kandla, Keshod (Junagarh), Porbandar, Rajkot, Vadodara (Baroda);

HIMACHAL PRADESH - Kangra (Gaggal), Kullu (Bhuntar), Shimla;

JHARKHAND - Chakulia, Ranchi;

JAMMU AND KASHMIR - Jammu (C.E), Leh (C.E), Srinagar (C.E);

KARNATAKA - Belgaum, Hassan, Hubli, Mangalore, Mysore;

KERALA - Trivandrum;

LAKSHADWEEP - Agatti;

MADHYA PRADESH - Bhopal, Gwalior (C.E), Indore, Jabalpur, Khajuraho, Khandwa, Panna, Satna;

MAHARASHTRA - Akola, Aurangabad, Hadapsar, Nagpur (Sonegaon), Sholapur, Kolhapur;

MANIPUR - Imphal;

MEGHALAYA - Shillong (Umroi/Barapani);

MIZORAM - Lengpui (Aizwal);

NAGALAND - Dimapur;

ORISSA - Bhubaneshwar, Jharsuguda;

PONDICHERRY - Pondicherry;

PUNJAB - Amritsar, Ludhiana;

RAJASTHAN - Jaipur, Jaisalmer (C.E), Jodhpur (C.E), Kota, Nal (Bikaner) (C.E), Udaipur;

TAMIL NADU - Coimbatore, Madurai, Salem, Tiruchirapalli; Tuticorin, Vellore;

TRIPURA - Agartala, Kailashahar, Kamalpur, Khowai;

UTTAR PRADESH - Agra (C.E), Allahabad (C.E), Gorakhpur (C.E), Jhansi, Kanpur, Kanpur (C.E), (Chakeri), Lalitpur, Lucknow, Varanasi;

UTTARANCHAL - Dehradun, Pant Nagar;

WEST BENGAL - Bagdogra (C.E), Balurghat, Behala, Cooch-Behar, Malda, Asansol.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Airports Authority of India is technically and operationally better equipped to provide airport infrastructural services.

Privatisation of AAI

*115. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise Airports Authority of India (AAI);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Airports Authority of India is not willing to share the information made available from civil radars with Defence Authorities;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to issue directions to AAI for sharing information available from civil radars with Defence Authorities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to privatise Airports Authority of India (AAI) per se. However, it has been decided to restructure the Airports of AAI as and when found suitable through long term lease. At present, the Airports located at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata have been taken up for this exercise. The main reasons for this exercise are to bring the standard of services at par with international standards; to improve management culture, efficiency and

overall productivity; to unlock the potential for economic benefits arising out of well-managed Airports; and to attract private investment.

(c) Airports Authority of India is sharing information derived from Civil Radars with Indian Air Force.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Foreign Tours for Tourism Promotion

*116. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has visited China recently to promote the cause of India as a tourist destination;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome of the visit; and

(c) the name of other countries visited by him during the last two years and the details of the agreements signed during these visits alongwith the benefits accrued to the country, therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The visit to China was at the invitation of China National Tourism Administration to attend China International Tourism Mart (CITM). The aim of the visit was to promote travel and tourism for the mutual benefit of both the countries.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

S.N.	Name of the Minister	City/Country	Expenditure (in Rupees)	Dates of visit	Purpose of the visits and benefits to country
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Shri Ananth Kumar, Minister of Tourism & Culture	Paris (France) & Berlin (Germany)	Rs. 87,419/-	October 31 to November, 5, 1999.	Round Table Conference of Ministers of Culture on the overall theme of Culture and creativity in a globalised world - Paris (France) World Summit on Physical Education, Berlin.
2.	Ms. Uma Bharati, Minister of State for Tourism	London (UK)	Rs. 1,78,281/-	November 16-19, 1999	This visit was in connection with the participation in the World Travel Mart which is a prestigious international tourism related event

1	2	3	4	5	6
					held annually in London with overwhelming participation by representatives of national Governments, trade, hotels, airlines etc. from a large number of countries. It is an important forum for interaction with the International tourism community and provides impetus to tourism industry.
3.	Shri Ananth Kumar, Minister for Tourism & Culture	Berlin (Germany)	Rs. 1,25,130/-	March 10- 13, 2000	The visit was in connection with the participation in the international Tourism Bourse (ITB) the biggest tourism promotional fair in the world to be held every year in the month of March in Berlin. ITB is a platform where the tourist products of various destinations are promoted among the global travel trade as well as the international media. A large number of representatives from travel trade, major tourist generating and receiving countries, private airline, hotel, companies etc. participate in the exhibition. There has been a tremendous response to this event, and it has been attracting lakhs of visits from public, travel trade and media.
4.	Shri Ananth Kumar, Minister for Tourism and Culture	Asghabad (Turkemenistan)	Rs. 30,764/-	September 3-5, 2000	Inauguration of the days of Indian Culture in Turkemenistan.
5.	Shri Ananth Kumar, Minister for Tourism and Culture	Singapore	N.A.	Nov. 9-13, 2000	Accompanying the President of India (Pertains to Ministry of Culture)
6.	Shri Ananth Kumar, Minister for Tourism and Culture	London (UK)	Rs. 2,23,006/- —	15-20th Nov., 2000.	To attend the World Travel Mart, 2000. This visit was in connection with the participation in the World Travel Mart which is a prestigious international tourism related event held annually in London with overwhelming participation by representatives of national Government, travel trade, hotels, airlines etc. from a large number of countries.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Shri Ananth Kumar, Minister for Tourism and Culture	Paris (France)	Rs. 1,29,137/-	December 10-12, 2000	Round Table Conference of Ministers of Culture on 2000- 2010—Cultural Diversity.
8.	Shri Ananth Kumar, Minister for Tourism and Culture	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Singapore.	Rs. 1,02,938/-	April 9-13 2001	This visit was in connection with the participation in Annual Conference of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) is a recognized authority on Pacific Asia Travel and Tourism. Its public and Private membership includes nearly 100 government, state and city tourism bodies, 65 airlines and cruiselines, some 2,000 companies and organizations, and thousands of individuals and more than 80 PATA Chapters worldwide. An India Evening was organised by this Department to facilitate hosting of PATA Annual Conference in India in April 2002.
9.	Shri Jagmohan, Minister for Tourism, Statistics & Programme Implementation	Osaka, Japan	Rs. 85,425/-	September 28 to October 1, 2001	To attend 14th Session of the General Assembly of WTO. India elected a member of Executive Council of WTO. Also elected a member of the Committee on Marketing Intelligence and promotion and Programme Committee. Initiatives taken at the World Tourism Organisation meeting have wide ramification on Indian tourism and it is essential for a high level participation.
10.	Shri Jagmohan, Minister of Tourism, Statistics & Programme Implementation	Kunming Beijing	Rs. 1,80,000/-	November, 6-9, 2001	To attend China International Travel Mart and Motivate China to treat India as a "Preferred Destination" and tap the outbound tourism from China. General Consensus was reached that the India and China could sign a comprehensive tourism agreement including the provision of approved Destination status for India. Pilgrim tours and starting of air connections was another area of mutual discussion.
11.	Shri Jagmohan, Minister for Tourism, Statistics & Programme Implementation	London (UK)	Rs. 1,81,400/-	November, 12th-15th 2001.	To attend Travel Mart at London. World Travel Mart at London is an Annual Mart with International Participation—a prestigious

1	2	3	4	5	6
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international tourism related event held annually in London with overwhelming participation by representatives of national Government, travel trade, hotels, airlines etc. from a large number of countries.

Hijacking of Aircraft

*117. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state.

(a) the number of cases of hijacking of passenger aircraft reported during the current year in the country;

(b) the findings of enquiry committees set up to look into the causes of each such hijackings;

(c) whether some employees of the Alliance Airlines were found involved in the same;

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

(e) the measures taken by the Government to issue necessary directives to the pilot and the crew members in such exigencies?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (e) There has been no case of hijacking of passenger aircraft during the current year, though there was a false alarm of hijacking of Alliance Air flight CD-7444 operating on Mumbai-Delhi sector on 3.10.2001.

A high level committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs to examine in totality the situation arising out of the chain of events triggered by an anonymous telephone call regarding the imminent hijacking of flight No. CD-7444 operating on Mumbai-Delhi sector on 3.10.2001.

The Committee has *inter alia* recommended:—

(i) Revision of Contingency Plan, relevant manuals and guidelines to eliminate mismatch between flight crew and ground personnel;

(ii) Development of standardized phrases and words to avoid ambiguity;

(iii) To develop proper system of training and briefing of flight crew and cabin crew;

(iv) Fitment of close circuit TV cameras at appropriate points in the cockpit/passenger cabin;

(v) To provide Caller-identification as well as recording systems.

The Committee also recommended that the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security and Director General of Civil Aviation introduce new security and safety measures being considered by ICAO and aircraft manufacturers.

Alliance Air has been given instructions to take necessary action. Simultaneously a copy of the report along with recommendations has been sent to Director General of Civil Aviation, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, Indian Airlines and Alliance Air to initiate action on all points, concerning their organizations, raised in the report and for implementing the recommendations made by the Committee.

Losses Incurred by SAIL

*118. SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has reported a 35.58% increase in net loss in the first half of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of the last year;

(b) if so, the reasons for the such losses despite a big package of assistance given by SAIL; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to bring it out of red?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) During the first half of the current fiscal year Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has incurred a loss of Rs. 704.44 crore as against the loss of Rs. 520.11 crore in the corresponding period of last year. Thus there is an increase in loss by 35.4%.

(b) SAIL is incurring losses due to the following reasons:

- Continued stagnation in demand for steel due to general slow down in the economy;
- Low sales realization resulting from excess supply in the market;
- Sluggish exports due to anti-dumping action abroad;
- High Capital investment in the modernisation projects leading to increased expenditures on interest and depreciation;
- Higher manpower costs; and
- Financial support to loss making subsidiaries i.e. IISCO and MEL.

(c) Government has taken the following steps to bring SAIL out of red:

- (i) A Financial cum Business restructuring package had been approved for SAIL, which *inter-alia* included the following:
- Waiver of loans advanced from Steel Development Fund (SDF) amounting to Rs. 5073 crore and from the Government of India amounting to Rs. 381 crore.
 - Government of India guarantee with 50% interest subsidy for loan amounting to Rs. 1500 crore to be raised by SAIL for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and Rs. 1500 crore for payment of past loan of 1999-2000.
- (ii) Under the business-restructuring component of the revival package, SAIL is to concentrate on core business only whereby it is to enter into joint venture partnerships for the following non core/non-viable assets/units:
- Captive Power Plants-II of BSP, DSP and RSP, Captive Power plant-I & II of BSL.

- Oxygen Plant-2 at Bhilai Steel Plant.
- Fertilizer Plant at Rourkela Steel Plant.
- Conversion of IISCO in joint venture with SAIL holding minority share holding.
- Salem Steel Plant, Alloy Steel Plant and Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd.

(iii) The following other measures are being/have been taken to improve the profitability of SAIL:

- Intensive cost control drive, which envisages improvement of key techno-economic parameters.
- Introduction of a new Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in February, 2001 under which 6510 employees have been separated;
- Market oriented product-mix with emphasis on customers satisfaction, increasing sales network and focus on quality improvement.

Increase in Wildlife Crime

*119. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wildlife crimes are increasing in the country and the Union and State Governments have failed to check the same;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the extent of success achieved during the last three years as well as current year in controlling the wildlife crimes;

(c) whether the Union Government have been actively considering to set up a Wildlife Crime Intelligence Cell in the country;

(d) if so, the *modus operandi* of the proposed cell; and

(e) the extent to which it is likely to check wildlife crimes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Following co-ordinated efforts made by the Central Government, State Governments and Non Governmental Organisations for effective implementation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and special thrust given to tackling the problem of wildlife crime, there has been an increase in the number of cases of detection and seizure of wildlife products in the recent years. The details of major seizures in this regard are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) The Central Government has decided to set up a small cell within the Ministry to collect information, assist and coordinate with various enforcement agencies under the Central and State Governments for effective implementation of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Statement

The details of major seizures made during the last three years

S.No.	Items	Quantity/Number		
		1998	1999	2000
1.	Tiger skin/Whole body	14	38	39
2.	Leopard skin/whole body	28	80	201
3.	Leopard and Tiger bones	-	-	176kg.
4.	Tiger Skull	-	-	-
5.	Pangolin skin	-	3	-
6.	Otter skin	-	-	101
7.	Black buck skin	-	-	221
8.	Shahtoosh shawl	-	35	63
9.	Snak skin and article	1	47	2000
10.	Crocodile skin/article	-	1	5
11.	Monitor Lizard skin	-	11001	3
12.	Birds	4408	172	8692
13.	Butterflies/Moths	-	1.97 kg.	-

Deaths Due to Pollution in Atmospheric Air

*120. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the World Bank Report regarding death of 7 lakh 50 thousand persons in India every year due to pollution of atmospheric air;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government to contain the air pollution?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) According to the information furnished by the World Bank they have not been able to find any document which states the above figures relating to deaths due to air pollution.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The action taken by the Government to contain the air pollution include the following:—

- (i) Steps have been taken to control of pollution from 17 categories of highly polluting industries.
- (ii) 24 critically polluted areas have been identified and Action Plans have been prepared for all the 24 areas which are being implemented by the various State Pollution Control Boards under the supervision of Central Pollution Control Board.
- (iii) Environmental guidelines for siting and operation of industries have been brought out.
- (iv) Environmental clearance is made mandatory for 30 categories of developmental projects involving public hearing/NGO participation as an important component of EIA process.
- (v) Environmental audit in the form of environmental statement has been made mandatory for all polluting industries.
- (vi) Environmental Epidemiological Studies have been initiated in the different parts of the country to assess the impact of pollution on human health and suggest mitigative measures.
- (vii) For control of pollution from automobiles, stricter emission standards, introduction of unleaded petrol in major cities, installation of catalytic converters, introduction of low sulphur fuels and improvement in the fuel quality have been undertaken.
- (viii) Preparation of Zoning Atlas for siting of industries based on environmental considerations in various districts of the country has been taken up.
- (ix) A Network of Ambient Air (290) and Water (507) Quality Monitoring Stations has been set up throughout the country.
- (x) Effluent and Emission Standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act. for almost all categories of industries. Besides, standards for ambient air and water quality have also been notified.

- (xi) For reduction of vehicular pollution, emission standards and fuel quality standards have been notified. The manufacturers are now required to mention in their advertisements that their vehicles meet the prescribed emission norms as per the notification issued by MoEF.
- (xii) Power plants (coal based) located beyond 1000 kms. from the pit-head are required to use low ash content coal (not exceeding 34%) w.e.f. 1.6.2002. Power Plants located in the sensitive areas are also required to use low ash coal irrespective of their distance from the pit-head.
- (xiii) A Status Paper on pollution in Delhi and Mumbai with Action Plans for its control have been prepared and the same are being implemented.
- (xiv) 6 Environment Authorities have been constituted under the EPA, including the National Environment Appellate Authority.
- (xv) The Ministry is promoting environment management system (EMS) programme by the industry for continual improvement of environmental performance and encouraging voluntary compliance of standards. More than 250 companies in India have acquired ISO 14001 certification.

Horticulture Board, an autonomous body under the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation through National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakhs per project and @ 33.33% of the project cost up to a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakhs per project for North Eastern States. The Scheme is demand-based and the project proposal is to come from the eligible organizations. The above Scheme is operational throughout the country and is not restricted to any particular area/region.

Dumping of Industrial Waste into Indian Sea

1152. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial waste of other countries is being dumped into the Indian sea; and

(b) if so, the countries which have dumped their industrial waste into the Indian sea during the last three years and the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No incidence of dumping of industrial wastes by other countries into the Indian seas has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Assistance for Sea Erosion in States

1153. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the State Governments during the last three years for financial assistance to control sea-erosion in the States; and

(b) if so, the amount of assistance provided to the State Governments during the said period for the purpose?

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

(b) No central assistance to control sea-erosion has been provided by this Ministry to Coastal States/UTs during the last three years. However, on the request of the Government of Tamil Nadu, Planning Commission has approved an additional central assistance of Rs. 1.00

[Translation]

Construction of Cold Storage

1151. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a cold storage in each block in the country particularly in Pratapgarh, Purulia regions in West Bengal and Banaskantha region in Gujarat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Government do not construct cold storages. However, financial assistance is provided in the form of back-ended capital investment subsidy under the scheme entitled 'Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce' by the National

crore for the purpose of prevention of coastal erosion in North Chennai during the year 2000-01.

Indian Veterinary Research Institute

1154. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) the status of Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) and works undertaken therein;

(b) whether the IVRI developed Tissue Culture Rinder pest Vaccine to control the diseases and produced viable vaccine as per need;

(c) if so, whether rinder pest has provisionally eradicated the diseases which are epidemic and dreadful;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to convert IVRI into an Institute of Bio-technology; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) is a premier National Institute and has been conferred the status of Deemed to be University. The Institute is involved in research, training and extension education in health and production through different divisions/sections campuses/ regional stations.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Sero monitoring and Sero Surveillance alongwith vaccination programme were Helpful in eradication of disease and Office International Epizootic (OIE) has given provisional freedom from the disease.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Maskinala and Mallamari Irrigation Projects

1155. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the hurdles coming in the way of implementation of Maskinala and lower Mallamari Irrigation Projects in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the assistance likely to be given for the projects; and

(d) the time by which the said projects are expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The hurdle coming in the way of implementation of Maskinala and lower Mullamari Irrigation Projects is land acquisition for canal system.

(c) and (d) The latest estimated cost of Maskinala project is Rs. 41.30 crores and the expenditure till 3/2001 is Rs. 35.75 crores. NABARD assistance to the tune of Rs. 5.46 crores has been provided.

The latest estimated cost of Mullamari project is Rs. 115 crores. NABARD has so far provided an assistance of Rs. 32.20 crores. The balance cost is Rs. 18.79 crores.

The completion of the projects by State Government is linked to provision of adequate outlays to cover the balance cost.

[Translation]

Agricultural Labourers in Bihar and West Bengal

1156. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agricultural labourers in Bihar and West Bengal and the percentage they constitute of the total population;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for their welfare at the State and Centre levels separately; and

(c) the extent of work done in this regard during the last two years?

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]

Construction of by-Pass Tunnel

1157. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Narmada Project in Gujarat and Rajasthan is likely to get the supply of water for irrigation after the construction of a by pass tunnel; and

(b) if so, the quantum of water likely to be released to the States therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Narmada Project (Sardar Sarovar Project) would be able to supply water to Gujarat and Rajasthan for irrigation purposes only when the dam is constructed upto a level of 110.64 m (363 ft.) which is the Minimum Draw Down Level (MDDL). Water into the Narmada Main Canal for irrigation purposes is to be supplied through the Canal Head Power House (CHPH) only. Water will be drawn through Irrigation Bypass Tunnel (IBPT) from the Sardar Sarovar reservoir only when the Canal Head Power House cannot meet the demands of irrigation for Gujarat and Rajasthan. The quantum of water drawn through IBPT will vary accordingly.

Employment on Compassionate Ground in BCCL

1158. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of wards of deceased employees of the Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) are not being given appointment on compassionate grounds;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of applications pending with BCCL in this regard;

(d) the time by which the said applications are likely to be cleared; and

(e) the policy of the BCCL in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No Sir. Employment to the eligible candidates is not being denied. As reported by CIL, as many as 596 dependents of deceased have been provided employment since April 2001 to October 2001.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As on 31st October 2001, total 230 cases are in process for compassionate employment in BCCL.

(d) As soon as the complete documents are submitted by the dependents, the cases will be processed and cleared.

(e) The policy of the Company is to clear the eligible cases immediately on receipt of all required documents.

[*Translation*]

Agricultural Technology Information Centres

1159. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of places in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand where Agricultural Technology Information Centres have been set up, State-wise;

(b) the amount spent on these centres by the Union Government and the State Government, State-wise; and

(c) the details of activities undertaken by these centres by which farmers can get information about modern Agro-technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have sanctioned for establishment of 40 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC) including three in Uttar Pradesh viz., Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur; Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Faizabad; and Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar; and one in Jharkhand at Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi. The State-wise locations of these centres are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Rs. 15.15 crores have been released by the Council for the purpose. The State-wise details are given in Statement enclosed.

(c) As many as 1.49 lakh farmers have visited these centres. The activities include providing diagnostic services to 26,522 farmers, 11,324 quintals seeds of improved varieties, 6.55 lakhs of nursery plants of vegetables/fruits, 22.07 quintals of bio-fertilizers, 2.59 quintals of bio-pesticides, and 9,354 farm implements. The information material provided include 1.15 lakh leaflets, 360 audio/video cassettes besides computer-based information.

Statement*Funds Released to Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC)*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State	Centre	ATIC	
			Total	Grand Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad	39.42	39.42
2.	Assam	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat	39.42	39.42
3.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair	36.39	36.39
4.	Bihar	Rajendra Agricultural University, Samastipur	39.42	39.42
5.	Chhattisgarh	Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Raipur	36.39	36.39
6.	Delhi	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi	39.42	39.42
7.	Gujarat	Gujarat Agricultural University, Banaskantha	39.42	39.42
8.	Haryana	8.1 National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal	39.47	
		8.2 Chaudhari Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar	39.42	78.89
9.	Himchal Pradesh	9.1 Chaudhary Sarvan Kumar Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Palampur	39.42	
		9.2 Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan	39.42	
		9.3 Central Potato Reserach Institute, Shimla	36.39	115.23
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Shere-Kashmir University of Agriculture Sciences and Technology, Srinagar	36.39	36.39
11.	Jharkhand	Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi	35.59	35.59
12.	Kerala	12.1 Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur	39.47	
		12.2 Indian Institute of Spice Research, Calicut	39.42	
		12.3 Central Marine Fishries Research Institute, Ernakulam	36.39	
		12.4 Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, Kasargod	36.39	151.67
13.	Karnataka	13.1 University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore	36.39	
		13.2 University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	39.42	
		13.3 Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore	39.42	115.23
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Jawahar Lal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur	36.39	36.39
15.	Maharashtra	15.1 Marathwara Agricultural Univesity, Parbhani	36.39	

1	2	3	4	5
	15.2	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Rahuri, Ahmednagar	36.39	
	15.3	Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Akola	36.39	
	15.4	Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur	36.39	
	15.5	Konkan Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Dapoli, Ratnagiri	40.47	186.03
16. Orissa	16.1	Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar	36.39	
	16.2	Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar	35.59	71.98
17. Punjab		Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana	39.42	39.42
18. Rajasthan	18.1	Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur	36.39	
	18.2	Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner	39.42	
	18.3	Maharana Pratap University of Agricultural Sciences, Udaipur	35.59	111.40
19. Tamil Nadu	19.1	Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University, Chennai	36.39	
	19.2	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	39.42	75.81
20. Uttar Pradesh	20.1	Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur	36.39	
	20.2	Narendra Dev University of Agriculture & Technology, Faizabad	39.47	
	20.3	Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar	39.47	115.33
21. Uttaranchal		Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar	39.47	39.47
22. West Bengal		Bidhan Chand Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Nadia	36.39	36.39
Total			1515.10	1515.10

[English]

Upgradation of Amausi and Babatpur Airports

1160. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to modernise and upgrade Amausi and Babatpur airports to meet international standards;

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure proposed to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The anticipated expenditure for upgradation works at Amausi Airport (Lucknow) is Rs. 27 crores. The work for extension and resurfacing of runway to 9000 feet and installation of Category II lighting system has been awarded on 27-09-2001. Regarding Babatpur Airport (Varanasi) the anticipated expenditure is Rs. 75 crores. The works for extension and resurfacing of runway to 9000 feet, and construction of new terminal building, are likely to be awarded by March, 2002 and January, 2002 respectively.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Technology Mission on Cotton	66.77	57.87	147.56	67.00	45.00	120.20
II.	TMOP	315.00	225.00	396.65	282.11	219.00	324.03
7.	Oilseed Production Programme (OPP)	280.00	200.00	328.65	282.11	170.00	293.43
8.	National Pulses Development Project (NPDP)	35.00	25.00	68.00	0.00	49.00	30.60
9.	Accelerated Maize Development Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
III.	HORTICULTURE	342.06	245.93	262.88	233.57	97.38	225.72
11.	Integrated Development of Tropical Arid and Temperate zone Fruits	75.00	34.71	40.00	69.22	17.32	27.64
12.	Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds	5.99	4.50	13.50	11.99	0.00	3.00
13.	Development of Root and Tuber Crops	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Development of Commercial Floriculture	79.50	79.50	53.35	43.89	10.00	22.48
15.	Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	2.25	22.5	3.25	3.25	0.28	0.28
16.	Development of Cashews/including Cocoa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Integrated Programme for Development of Spices	70.90	38.97	85.78	56.98	21.65	84.62
18.	Development of Mushroom	3.00	3.87	6.00	0.00	3.00	6.41
19.	Use of Plastics in Agriculture	105.42	82.13	61.00	48.24	45.13	81.29
20.	Be Keeping	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
IV.	SEEDS	0.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.51
21.	Scheme for Foundation and Certified Seed Production of Vegetable Crops	0.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.51
V.	FERTILISER	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.64	0.00	7.70
22.	Balanced and Integrated use of Fertiliser	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.64	0.00	7.70
VI.	AGRI. MACHINERY	52.50	52.50	45.30	42.90	6.00	6.00
23.	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among small farmers	52.50	52.50	45.30	42.90	6.00	6.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
VII.	RFS	220.00	138.67	35.00	115.64	25.00	16.84
24.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR)	220.00	138.67	35.00	115.64	25.00	16.84
VIII.	NRM (SWC)	261.20	214.27	215.19	249.93	133.67	95.61
25.	Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers	218.00	124.36	80.00	160.77	60.00	16.91
26.	Reclamation and Development of Alkali (Usuar) Soil	27.77	85.19	130.00	88.50	70.00	70.00
27.	Strengthening of State Land Use Boards	15.43	4.72	5.19	0.66	3.67	8.70
IX.	CREDIT	0.00	100.00	0.00	1.39	226.00	226.00
28.	Assistance to Co-operative credit institutions in the under dev. states special Areas (Non Over due)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Agricultural Credit Stabilisation Fund	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	226.00	226.00
30.	Special Scheme for Scheduled Castes and Tribes	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.39	0.00	0.00
X.	COOPERATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Assistance to Weaker Section Co-operative	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Assistance to Co-operatives for Women	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
XI.	DTE of E&S	13.52	19.52	17.00	20.60	22.00	10.14
33.	Timely Reporting Scheme (TRS)	7.00	10.16	9.00	9.75	12.00	4.86
34.	Establishment of Agency for Reporting Statistics	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS)	6.52	9.36	8.00	10.85	10.00	5.28
XII.	POLICY & PLAN	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	916.28	802.40
36.	Macro Management	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	916.28	802.40
XIII	AGRICULTURE CENSUS	13.00	20.30	10.65	10.01	18.35	10.87
37.	Agriculture Census	13.00	20.30	10.65	10.01	18.35	10.87
Total		1634.97	1520.70	1648.80	1611.23	1833.74	2023.10

Statement-II

Details of Amount Released/Expenditure incurred under Various Centrally Sponosred Schemes during the last three years in the States

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		Allocation/ Releases	Expenditure	Allocation/ Releases	Expenditure	Allocation/ Releases	Expenditure (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6334.92	6327.03	6175.51	5312.24	3914.84	5260.57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	473.63	355.46	475.05	243.63	761.31	794.35
3.	Assam	540.19	189.04	386.91	456.97	1099.27	192.67
4.	Bihar	352.53	333.02	240.70	179.27	419.59	17.61
5.	Goa	233.92	179.23	202.06	60.46	49.12	156.13
6.	Gujarat	4533.67	3433.78	4789.31	4575.21	4713.47	3692.61
7.	Haryana	1634.97	1520.70	1648.80	1611.23	1833.74	2023.10
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1322.19	1264.02	1116.09	1326.06	1338.17	1269.07
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1054.35	939.18	1060.35	1018.90	917.87	434.45
10.	Karnataka	8476.45	8915.82	8159.30	6514.77	7180.52	5705.63
11.	Kerala	4071.73	2027.87	2571.59	2058.06	3724.72	538.71
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7692.98	6436.23	7696.70	8900.25	5506.69	6440.38
13.	Maharashtra	12378.62	9883.62	8324.33	8841.11	10633.31	8352.73
14.	Manipur	571.95	613.26	984.03	686.41	935.68	716.32
15.	Meghalaya	431.65	421.26	598.02	56.22	724.74	293.75
16.	Mizoram	961.45	796.16	894.94	740.23	1088.99	1010.77
17.	Nagaland	1142.08	1102.11	1223.07	990.76	1489.72	1416.60
18.	Orissa	3622.31	3546.21	4594.78	2562.70	1680.81	2664.25
19.	Punjab	1295.49	1014.93	1206.84	329.45	849.49	437.53
20.	Rajasthan	9268.88	8583.88	8470.36	7346.15	8133.23	8037.73
21.	Sikkim	475.81	492.26	541.89	330.36	825.29	755.17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22.	Tamil Nadu	5740.11	5737.76	5513.83	4430.36	5665.59	4323.58
23.	Tripura	570.09	565.84	951.07	779.39	817.25	1002.11
24.	Uttar Pradesh	8322.90	8594.61	7603.00	10122.21	7068.83	7436.80
25.	West Bengal	1285.97	959.21	1534.60	1255.56	1537.09	2094.72
Total		82788.84	74232.49	76963.13	70727.96	72909.33	65067.34

Sharda Project in Madhya Pradesh

1162. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to commission the Sharda project in Chindwara district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to commission some other new coal mines;

(d) if so, the time by which these mines are likely to be commissioned;

(e) the details of coal mine reserves in other districts of Madhya Pradesh;

(f) whether all these mines are deemed to be safe; and

(g) if not, the corrective steps proposed to be taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Sharda underground project could not be commissioned as project report was not found financially viable at planning stage itself.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. 5 new projects are proposed to be taken up in the State of Madhya Pradesh during X Plan period. While some of these projects are expected to start contribution during the X Plan period itself, others are likely to start contributing from XI Plan period.

(e) The details of reserves of coal mines in the districts of Madhya Pradesh are as follows:

District	Reserves (Million Tonnes)
1. Betul	- 40.19
2. Chhindwara	- 102.98
3. Umaria	- 52.03
4. Shahdol	- 268.94
5. Sidhi	- 1255.80

(f) All safety measures as per Mines Act and other statutory provisions are being taken in these mines.

(g) Does not arise in view of part (f) above.

Civil Aviation Projects from Bihar and Maharashtra

1163. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Civil Aviation projects received from Maharashtra and Bihar are pending with Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details of such projects received during the last three years;

(c) the number of projects out of them cleared so far;

(d) the number of projects pending for clearance alongwith the reasons for their pendency; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (e) The State

Government of Maharashtra has plans to develop a second international airport at Navi Mumbai. A Techno Economic Feasibility Report has been prepared in this regard by City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd. (CIDCO) which is under examination. There are no proposals from Bihar pending with the Government for clearance.

[*English*]

Migratory Birds

1164. DR. N. VEKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the number of migratory birds in the country due to Afghan war;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for attracting the said birds towards India?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No decline has been reported in the number of migratory birds visiting India as a result of Afghan war.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rehabilitation of Workers of Plastic Industry

1165. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

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

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from Plastic Manufacturers of India against the ban on use of plastic bags;

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

(c) whether a large number of workers are likely to become jobless as a result of the proposed ban on plastic industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate the workers of plastic industry?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The All India Plastic Manufacturers' Association submitted a memorandum on 6.8.2001 regarding conversion of the current restriction on use of plastic carry bags into a complete ban on the

manufacture, sale and use. A Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Ranganath Misra, Member of Parliament and former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to examine issues related to disposal of plastic wastes and other related issues. At present, there is no move to impose a total ban on the manufacture, sale and use of plastic carrybags.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Development of Food Processing Industries

1166. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering special incentive plan to develop food processing units in West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh specially for Banana, apple, mango, pineapple etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) and (b) Under the Plan Scheme of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries financial assistance for establishment and expansion/modernization of food processing units is provided to public and private sector undertakings, non-Governmental organizations, cooperatives, human resource development and research and development institutions etc. Assistance is project specific rather than State centric. While the Ministry does not set up any food processing unit on its own, priority attention in the shape of higher quantum of assistance is given to units located in difficult areas as defined by the Planning Commission. Under the Ministry's Plan Schemes, in order to give a thrust to the processing of local horticultural, agricultural produce, food parks have been sanctioned to many States including West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh as per request from the State Government.

[*Translation*]

Irrigation Projects of Bihar

1167. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of irrigation projects of Bihar are pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Four major irrigation projects of reorganized Bihar State have been received in the Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal. Out of these Punpun Barrage and Tilaiya Dhadar have been accepted by the Advisory Committee subject to certain conditions which are yet to be fulfilled by the State Government. The Kadwan Reservoir and Upper Mahananda projects are under correspondence.

(c) Clearance of these projects depends *inter-alia* upon the promptness of compliance of the observations of various Central appraising agencies by the State Government.

[English]

Conservation of Biodiversity of Satpura Maikal Region

1168. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Satpura Maikal region is one of the most dynamic Asian Landscapes that include the wide diversity of flora & fauna;

(b) if so, whether the Government have prepared any action plan to conserve the biodiversity and watersheds of the region;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In addition to the efforts being made by the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for protection and management of wildlife sanctuaries and National Parks falling in the Satpura Maikal region, action plans to conserve the biodiversity of the region are under preparation for Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh under National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Project.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Tuberculosis in Miners

1169. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of miners suffering from Tuberculosis in the country;

(b) whether the Union Government have taken any measures to save the lives of those miners; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The Directorate General of Mines Safety Dhanbad receives information about occurrence of cases of notified diseases in mines under Section 25 of the Mines Act, 1952. Tuberculosis as such is not a notified disease under the said Act. Directorate General of Mines Safety do not maintain the figures of miners suffering from Tuberculosis.

(b) and (c) The Mines Rules, 1955 provide measures for early detection and control of notified diseases by periodic medical examination once in every five years and by health surveillance of the workers exposed to dust hazards.

The Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 and Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961 also provide for the following control measures at the workplace:—

(a) Wet drilling and use of dust extractors in metal mines.

(b) Wet cutting and use of dust extractors in coal mines.

(c) Periodic monitoring of work Environment for:—

(i) Measures to keep respirable dust within permissible limit,

(ii) Monitoring of airborne dust through regular sampling and analysis,

(iii) Adopting of control measures where the permissible limits is exceeded,

(iv) Remote operation or job rotation where it is technically not feasible to reduce dust concentration within permissible limit,

(v) Use of protective equipment (dust respirator) where enforcement of job rotation/remote operations is not feasible.

Pending Devri Nalla Irrigation Project

1170. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Devri Nalla Irrigation Project is pending with the Union Government for the last many years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of villages affected as a result thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Detailed Project Report on Devri Nalla Irrigation Project has not been received in the Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal.

Water being a State subject, primary responsibility for planning, investigation, funding and execution of irrigation and flood control projects rests with the State Government including provision of requisite funds for works and establishment.

[English]

Wasteful Expenditure in Government Departments

1171. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of wasteful expenditure identified in various departments under his Ministry during each of the last three years; and
- (b) the steps taken so far by his Ministry to control/ stop such wasteful expenditure in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) There has been no wasteful expenditure incurred by the Ministry of Steel during the last three years.

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

Reservation for Handicapped/Disabled Persons

1172. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts reserved for disabled/ physically handicapped persons in his Ministry and subordinate departments during the last three years, post-wise/category-wise;

(b) the number of reserved posts lying vacant as on October 31, 2001;

(c) the number of persons given employment on such posts during the above period; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Welfare Schemes for Fishermen

1173. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes launched for welfare of fishermen;

(b) the steps taken for the safety of fishermen engaged in sea and deep sea fishing;

(c) the policy of the Government regarding deep sea fishing and the use of Trolleys;

(d) whether the interests of general fishermen are being considered when Trolleys are allowed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Centrally Sponsored National Scheme for Welfare of fishermen currently under implementation consist of:

(i) Fishermen housing scheme with a maximum subsidy of Rs. 40,000/- per beneficiary to be shared equally by Central and State Governments. In the case of Union Territories, the pattern of assistance is 100% by the Central Government;

(ii) Provision of drinking water facilities at the rate of one tube well for every 20 houses with a maximum subsidy of Rs. 35,000/- to be shared equally by Central and State Governments. In

the case of Union Territories, the pattern of assistance is 100% by the Central Government;

- (iii) One community hall for a village with at least 75 houses;
- (iv) A group accident insurance scheme for active fishermen with an insurance cover of Rs. 50,000/ against death or permanent disability and Rs. 25,000/- against partial disability caused while fishing operations. The premium is borne equally by the Central and State Governments, while in the case of Union Territories it is fully borne by the Central Government;
- (v) Saving-cum Relief Scheme implemented for both marine and inland fishermen wherein the beneficiary's contribution is of Rs. 600/- in the case of marine fishermen which is matched by an equal contribution shared by the Central and State Governments and distributed in four installments during the lean months. In the case of inland fishermen, the beneficiary's contribution is Rs. 450/- which is matched by an equal contribution by the Central and State Governments and distributed equally in 3 lean months. In the case of Union Territories, their share is also borne by the Central Government.

(b) The safety of coastal fishermen at sea is enhanced through broadcast/telecast, about weather warnings. Besides a shore to ship communication net work is implemented by the Government in the coastal States. The vessels above 20 m length engaged in deep sea fishing are required to comply with the provisions of sea safety as provided under Indian Merchant Shipping Act (1958) and its compliance is ensured through Mercantile Marine Departments functioning at various ports under Director General, Shipping; Ministry of Shipping.

(c) The policy of the Government in force is not to allow any new fishing permits for foreign fishing vessels and also not to renew any existing permits. There is no policy regarding the use of Trolleys.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Royalty on Coal

1174. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any comparative analysis of ex-pit value of coal produced in India vis-a-vis other major coal producing countries;

(b) if so, the result of such analysis;

- (c) whether royalty rate in India is the highest; and
(d) if so, the steps taken to streamline the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
(a) and (b) The average pit-head sale value of Indian coal is one of the lowest one per tonne basis in rupee terms when compared to the CIF price in the international market. However, the delivered price of Indian coal upon transportation over long distances to various consumption points including transportation cost, is substantially higher. The foreign coals are superior in terms of ash content and unit heat value. Therefore, Indian coal on per therm basis may be costlier in certain coastal locations.

(c) and (d) The royalty rate in India is on an average 12% of the sale value and the position of India among other coal producing countries of the World is given below:—

Country	Rate
Australia (NSW)	A\$ 1.70/tonne (equivalent to less than 10%)
Australia (Queensland)	7% of mine mouth value
Canada (B.C)	1% of mine mouth value plus 13% on net revenue
China	13% on sales
India	Average 12% of sale value
Indonesia	Negotiable to maximum 13.5% on gross sales
Poland	2% on sale value
Russia	1-2% plus 5% reserve replacement tax on gross sales
South Africa	By negotiation with mineral rights owner
USA Federal lands	None
USA State lands	13% on sales value

The royalty rates on coal are fixed by the Central Government taking into account the interests of the consumers, coal producing States and the interests of the economy as a whole independent of any consideration of the level of royalty rates fixed by any other country and therefore, the question of streamlining the royalty rates with international levels is not relevant.

Assistance for Soil Erosion in Coastal Zones

1175. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided any assistance to State Governments to control soil erosion in coastal zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware that Dakshin Kannada district in Karnataka is facing threat of erosion; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to control the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) No central assistance to control sea-erosion has been provided by this Ministry to Coastal States/UTs during the last three years. However, on the request of the Government of Tamil Nadu, Planning Commission has approved an additional central assistance of Rs. 1.00 crore for the purpose of prevention of coastal erosion in North Chennai during the year 2000-2001.

(c) and (d) Mangalore, Udupi & Kundapur talukas in Dakshin Kannada district in Karnataka are affected by Sea-erosion. Government of Karnataka and submitted 7 schemes costing Rs. 10.53 crore for inclusion in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, named "Critical Anti Erosion Works in Coastal & other than Ganga Basin State". Besides this, Government of Karnataka had also submitted the revised proposal amounting to Rs. 176.207 crore, which envisages construction of 23.875 Kms. of new sea walls and reformation of 11.005 kms of old damaged sea walls in critical reaches of Mangalore, Udupi and Kundapur talukas in Dakshin Kannada district and 25.00 kms of new sea walls and reformation of 6.60 kms of old damaged sea walls in critical reaches of Bhatkal, Honnavar, Kunta, Ankola and Karwar talukas in Uttar Kannada district for incorporation in National Coastal Protection Project (NCP). The aforesaid schemes have been examined in Central Water Commission and comments on the observations of Central Water Commission are awaited from the State Government.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Rain Water

1176. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether people are being made aware of the utilisation of rain water after harvesting on the roof of the buildings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the problem of water is likely to be solved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Government is promoting the use of rain water including roof top rain water harvesting and there is a lot of public awareness for utilisation of rain water harvesting on the roofs of the buildings. Provision of roof top rain water harvesting has been made mandatory for new buildings in NCT of Delhi and Chennai. The Central Ground Water Authority has organised training programmes in Delhi, Kolkata, Bhopal, Jaipur, Bhubaneshwar, Thiruvananthapuram, Bangalore, Chennai, Faridabad and Gurgaon with a view to create public awareness about roof top rain water harvesting. The technique is quite helpful in raising ground water level in an area and thereby improving water availability.

[English]

Production of Alumina and Aluminium

1177. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of Alumina and Aluminium in the country reported during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government and National Aluminium Corporation Limited (NALCO) to increase the said production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The details of production of Alumina and Aluminium in the country during last three years in respect of primary producers of Aluminium are as under:—

(In Metric Tonnes)

Year	Alumina	Aluminium
1998-1999	1919405	545705
1999-2000	1970510	617999
2000-2001	2082208	641253

(b) In order to increase the production of Alumina and Aluminium, Government have exempted the Aluminium Sector from the proviso of compulsory Licensing. National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is implementing an expansion programme to increase the capacity of its Alumina Refinery from 0.8 Million Tonnes per year to 1.575 Million Tonnes per year and its smelter capacity from existing 2,30,000 Metric Tonne Per Year to 3,45,000 Metric Tonne Per Year.

Representation of SCs/STs on Top Positions

1178. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group A) services stood only at 10.68% (SCs-08.41% and STs-2.27%) and in Class II (Group B) services only at 13.20% (SCs-09.68% and STs-3.52%) as against 22.5 quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs and 7.5% in respect of STs) as on 1.1.1998 under Central Public Sector Enterprises;

(b) if so, the total number of posts in (i) Class I (Group A) Category and (ii) Class II (Group B) and equivalents thereof under all (1) Public Sector Undertakings/Enterprises, (2) Statutory Organisations/Corporations (3) Autonomous Organisations, Attached and Subordinate Offices under his ministry; and

(c) the number of persons belonging to (i) General, (ii) SC, (iii) ST and (iv) OBC categories working against such posts and their respective percentages to the total posts?

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

Apex Body for Cooperative Sector

1179. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to set up an apex supervisory body for inspection and supervision of the cooperative sector is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

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

Amendments in Trade Union Act

1180. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any suggestions from Andhra Pradesh for making some amendments to the Trade Unions Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken in this regard so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) A proposal to amend Section 22 of the Trade Unions Act, 1926 regarding proportion of office bearers to be connected with industry, was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Government of India, Ministry of Labour has conveyed its no objection to the proposal of the Government of Andhra Pradesh on 15.10.2001.

Coloured Rains

1181. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the reports on the coloured rains in Kerala which show due possibility of algae contamination as reported in the *Times of India* dated November 5, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such rains are likely to be imported to the Capital for the Diwali season; and

(d) if so, whether any analysis has been made on the toxicity or safety of the coloured rains and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Centre for Earth Science Studies, Tiruvananthapuram has conducted studies on coloured rains occurring in Kerala and has opined that the red colour in rain was probably due to meteoric dust, and the chemical analysis of the samples collected showed that the material is largely biological and has been identified as fungal spores. The Centre for Earth Sciences has taken up detailed investigations in the matter.

(c) and (d) No such reports have come to the notice of the Government.

First-Aid Facilities in Flights

1182. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of passengers death during flights in Indian Airlines Aircraft have been reported;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last one year; and

(c) the efforts made to train air-hostesses with first aid measures and provide adequate first aid box in each flight especially to attend heart and asthma patients?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of passenger deaths during flights in Indian Airlines Aircraft from October, 2000 to October, 2001 is four. These deaths were not due to any accident or incident on board.

(c) The Cabin Crew (Airhostesses/Flight Stewards) are trained in first aid administration as per requirements in the Training Manual approved by DGCA to deal with the medical emergencies. Such training is imparted at the time of initial induction in the service and also through regular periodical refresher courses. The Cabin Crew are trained to attend heart and asthma patients also.

Each aircraft is equipped with prescribed number of first aid boxes and physician's kit (which can be used by any qualified doctor on board). The first aid boxes and physician's kit contain most of the life supporting medicines in compliance of instructions issued by DGCA.

[*Translation*]

New Compensation Policy

1183. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to form a new compensation policy for the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have invited suggestions from the State Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto and the time by which this new Compensation Policy is likely to be formed and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Not yet, sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Maintenance of Tourists Spots

1184. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor maintenance of the tourists spots all over the country without basic amenities; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to allot funds for those tourists places to have better basic amenities in order to cater the foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The tourist spots in the country require better maintenance. This is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories.

However, the Central Department of Tourism provides Central Financial assistance to the State Governments/ UT Administrations every year in consultation with them for the development of infrastructure facilities at tourist spots. The funds are sanctioned for providing basic amenities like Tourist Bungalows, Tourist lodges, Yatri Niwases and Wayside facilities etc. for tourists.

Rise in Standard of ITDC Hotels

1185. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have spent a lot of money on raising the standard of ITDC hotels to the international level during the last two years;

(b) if so, the break-up of funds spent on these hotels, hotel-wise;

(c) whether these hotels have risen to the international standards after spending money thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) During the last two years, ITDC has incurred a total plan expenditure of Rs. 16.91 crores on renovation/improvement of its existing hotels. Hotel-wise details of expenditure are given the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) It has been the endeavour of ITDC to keep the hotels competitive and up-to the desired standards.

Statement

Plan Expenditures incurred on Additions, Alteration and improvement on existing units during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Name of the Unit	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3
Renovation/Improvements in Existing Hotels		
Ashok Hotel	313.77	66.54
Indraprastha (AYN)	35.96	21.02

1	2	3
Janpath	30.98	17.05
Kanishk	174.55	75.94
Lodhi	0.00	9.00
Qutab	111.27	19.15
Ranjit	30.35	3.60
Samrat	90.00	27.91
Airport Ashok, Calcutta	60.70	38.06
Aurangabad Ashok	1.22	2.09
Bodhgaya Ashok	7.43	0.01
Kalinga Ashok, Bhubaneswar	12.51	21.30
Patliputra Ashok, Patna	6.21	12.66
Varansi Ashok	8.47	7.51
Agra Ashok	6.58	0.97
Jaipur Ashok	47.79	5.88
Jammu Ashok	10.19	8.75
Khajuraho Ashok	13.67	0.39
LVP Udaipur	82.10	60.66
Manali Ashok	0.00	2.26
Kosi Restaurant	0.00	1.30
Bharatpur Forest Lodge	8.49	1.40
Ashok Bangalore	39.56	10.95
Hassan Ashok	0.00	10.12
Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort	23.40	21.90
LMPH Mysore	4.88	0.92
Madurai Ashok	48.31	10.36
Temple Bay Ashok Beach Resort	47.32	17.23
Total	1215.71	474.92

[*Translation*]

Sardar Sarovar Dam

1186. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision recently to give compensation to all the displaced persons in lieu of acquisition of their land for Sardar Sarovar Dam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons not given any kind of compensation till-date in lieu of acquisition of the farmers land for Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat; and

(d) the estimated amount to be spent thereon and the ratio of the share of the Union and the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The issue related to compensation to all the displaced persons in lieu of acquisition of their land was considered by Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDI). The Tribunal, in its Final Order of 1979, stipulated that "Every displaced family from whom more than 25% of its land holding is acquired shall be entitled to and be allotted irrigable land to the extent of land acquired from it subject to the prescribed ceiling in the State concerned and a minimum of 2 hectares (5 acres) per family, the irrigation facilities being provided by the State in whose territory the allocated land is situated. This land shall be transferred to the oustee family if it agrees to take it. The price charged for it would be as mutually agreed between Gujarat and the concerned State. Of the price to be paid for the land a sum equal to 50% of the compensation to the oustee family for the land acquired from it will be set off as an initial installment of payment. The balance cost of the allotted land shall be recovered from the allottee in 20 yearly installments free of interest. Where land is allotted in Madhya Pradesh or Maharashtra, all recoveries for the allotted land shall be credited to Gujarat."

The Government of Gujarat have further liberalized the above compensation package. According to this, "The landed oustee/encroacher who have received compensation of land has an option to contribute 50% of his compensation as initial installment towards the cost of allotted land rest of the amount of the cost of land to be repaid in 20 yearly interest free installments. If the oustee contributes 100% compensation towards the cost of the allotted land, the difference between the price of

the allotted land and compensation would be treated as *ex-gratia*."

The Govt. of Maharashtra have also liberalized the compensation package and now the land is allotted to the oustees free of cost.

(c) All the oustees affected due to construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam upto an elevation of 90m, so far, have been paid compensation as per the liberalized packages.

(d) Union Government does not share any cost of the Sardar Sarovar Project. The estimated amount and the amount spent on R&R so far, by the State Governments is given below:

(Rs. in Crores)

State	Estimated cost as per 1986-87 level (provision in Project Report)	Estimated cost at 1995 Price Level	Cumulative Expenditure as on Sep. 2001
Madhya Pradesh	264.84	520.00	164.47
Maharashtra	24.11	53.09	116.49
Gujarat	27.46	297.00	290.66
Total	316.41	870.09	571.62

Unauthorised Ground Handling Agencies at Mumbai Airport

1187. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether unauthorised ground handling agencies are working at domestic and international terminals of Chhatrapati Shivaji Airport in Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether the Bureau of Civil Aviation Safety (BCAS) is issuing regular passes to these unauthorised ground handling agencies with the nexus of the employees; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures being taken to check such activities particularly in view of the incident of plane hijack at Kathmandu?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Certain private agencies have been entrusted with ground handling

functions by airlines under self-handling at Chhatrapati Shivaji International airport in Mumbai. This issue was examined and it was decided that till the new Ground Handling Regulations were notified, those agencies may be permitted to provide these services, which meet the conditions laid down by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). Photo Identity Cards (PICs) are issued only with the approval of PIC Committee consisting of representatives of Airport Director, Airports Authority of India (AAI), Deputy Commissioner of Police, Airport Police Station Unit (APSU) and Regional Director, Commissioner of Security, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) on the recommendation of AAI and Airlines after due scrutiny. The new AAI (General Management, Entry for Ground Handling Services) Regulations, 2000, have been notified. In accordance with these Regulations, an operator or carrier may either carry out ground handling service at an airport by itself or engage the services of (i) the Airports Authority of India, (ii) the two national carriers Air India and Indian Airlines and (iii) any other handling agency licensed by AAI. AAI have initiated the process of selecting private companies for providing ground handling services at international airports.

[English]

Exploration of Coal by Private Companies

1188. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received from private sector companies for exploration of the coal in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited during the last three years;

(b) the number of applications out of them which have been cleared/pending so far;

(c) the reasons for their pendency; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to clear these applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Development of Andaman and Nicobar as Tourist Spot

1189. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to develop Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands into tourist spot of international standard to attract foreign and Indian tourists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Development and promotion of tourism to attract foreign as well as domestic tourists is a continuous process. Central Department of Tourism through its 18 overseas and 21 domestic offices is promoting places of tourist interest in Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands by advertising in print & electronic media, participations in travel fairs, inviting media & Travel Agents and extensive use of IT in tourism promotion.

Separately, the Central Department of Tourism in association with United Nations Development Program/ World Tourism Organization (UNDP/WTO) conducted a study on "Development of Strategy for Environmentally Sustainable Tourism in the Andamans". The islands have two assets of prime importance, viz. a number of very fine beaches suitable for very high quality resort development and excellent opportunities for scuba diving. The report identified 5 Zones for development of tourism. The emphasis is on getting private sector participation for construction of hotels and resorts. The ultimate objective of the plan is to bring up the islands as a tourist spot of international standard.

Similarly in order to promote Lakshadweep as a major tourist destination, Central Department of Tourism has offered financial assistance to prepare a Comprehensive Master Plan for development of tourism in the Island. The UT Administration of Lakshadweep is also considering to seek private investment for opening new Island for setting up infrastructure for tourism as the islands have tremendous potential to emerge as world class water sports and leisure tourism destination.

Moreover, Department of Tourism provides grants-in-aid for development of tourist centres/places in the State Governments/UT Administrations on the basis of projects prioritised every year in consultation with them.

For the year 2001-2002, four projects with central financial assistance of Rs. 137.00 lakhs have been prioritised for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and four projects for Rs. 92.00 lakhs have been prioritised for Lakshadweep.

Training for Small Farmers*[Translation]*

1190. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to train the entrepreneurs and small farmers to produce white button mushrooms under the various climatical conditions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this direction; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) to (c) The Government of India implemented a Central Sector Scheme on Mushroom Cultivation till October 2000. The scheme provided for supply of quality spawn, pasteurized compost and handling facilities. One of the important components of the scheme was training of farmers and entrepreneurs in mushroom cultivation including white button mushrooms under various Agro-climatic conditions of the country. Assistance of Rs. 1500.00 per trainee was provided under the scheme. The scheme has now been subsumed in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/Complementation of States efforts through work plans". The scheme provides greater flexibility to States in prioritizing their needs. The States can pursue mushroom cultivation including button mushroom under this scheme.

The Government is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored scheme on "Technology Mission for integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim". Establishment of integrated mushroom unit & development of mushroom is part of this scheme wherein training is also provided to farmers and entrepreneurs in latest techniques of mushroom cultivation.

Besides National Research Centre for Mushroom (Indian Council of Agriculture Research), at Solan, (Himachal Pradesh) is regularly organizing training programmes for entrepreneurs and small farmers from different States. Under these programmes training on cultivation technology of white button mushroom under various climatic conditions is imparted.

Rain Water Entering From Nepal

1191. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main reasons for the floods in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is due to rain water entering into the country from Nepal;

(b) if so, whether the Government have prepared any action plan to tackle this menace;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to prepared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) to (d) A number of Indian rivers originate in Nepal and bring a lot of discharges during monsoon in Gangetic plains of UP and Bihar inundating a vast area. As per information received from Ministry of Water Resources, the following steps have been taken by the Central Government to assist the State Governments to tackle the problem arising out of floods due to water entering into the country from Nepal:

- (1) Ganga Flood Control Commission which was set up by the Central Government in 1972 has so far prepared Master Plans for flood control for 23 sub-basins. These plans have been handed over to the State Governments for implementation.
- (2) His Majesty's Government of Nepal has been moved to provided storage reservoirs on Kosi, Bagmati, Kamla Balan rivers in Nepal.
- (3) The construction of embankments of rivers emanating from Nepal continues to be a priority under Aid to Nepal Programme. The embankment construction work on the Lalbakaiya river has been completed. The construction of embankments on Lalbakaiya, Kamla, Khando and Bagmati rivers is carried out in tandem both on the Nepalese and the Indian sides.
- (4) Setting up of Hydrometeorological Stations under the service "Flood Forecasting and Warning Systems on rivers common to India and Nepal has also been taken up.

- (5) Inter-country consultation for suitable projects on Mahakali and Kosi rivers are at an advanced stage of planning.
- (6) Mechanism of a Standing Committee exists to deal with the problems of inundation on the Indo-Nepal border to take timely action.

[English]

Job Quota for Weaker Sections

1192. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are providing job quota for weaker sections of the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

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

High Residue of Pesticides

1193. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether high residue of pesticides are hampering export of processed foods and agricultural products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to set up inspection facilities for processed food items;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures to be adopted for ensuring growth of processed food items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) and (b) Some foreign buyers, particularly from European Union are reported to have rejected some food consignments from India due to high pesticides residue. However, the acceptable level of pesticides residue is a matter of dispute as there is variation in the levels prescribed by India, European Union, Codex, United States and other countries.

(c) and (d) The Export Inspection Council of India under Ministry of Commerce & Industry has already set

up Export Inspection Agencies in various States. Under Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act 1963, it is mandatory for exporters of Fish and Fish Products, Milk products, Egg products and Animal Casings to have pre-shipment inspection & certification before export. In addition to this, laboratories recognized by Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Coffee Board, Spices Board, Directorate of Marketing & Inspection monitor quality/safety parameters of processed food.

(e) Ministry of Food Processing Industries is providing financial assistance for promotion and development of food processing industries including infrastructure provisioning in the country. There are other agencies like APEDA, MPEDA, Spice Board, Coffee Board etc. which are also providing financial assistance for the growth of food industries in various areas. In addition to this, Ministry of Food Processing Industries has proposed several measures in the draft National Food Processing Policy for creating an enabling environment for the growth of food processing industries in the country.

[Translation]

Disaster Management Committee

1194. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Disaster Management Committee is working satisfactorily;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have reviewed its performance;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) The Government has set up a National Committee on Disaster Management under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister and Shri Sharad Pawar as its Vice Chairman. It has also been decided that the High Powered Committee (HPC) set up earlier for Disaster Management Plans will function as a Working Group to the National Committee. The National Committee is required to deliberate upon institutional and long term arrangements required for management of natural disasters. This work is in progress.

Anthrax Cases

1195. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of spreading of Anthrax disease amongst the cattle in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of cattle died due to the disease, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken so far to prevent this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Anthrax in cattle is reported sporadically in India in the endemic areas. The Government is fully aware of the presence of the disease in the livestock in the country.

(b) Total number of cattle died in the States due to Anthrax during 1998, 1999 and 2000 are 144, 172 and 163, respectively.

(c) In the wake of recent reported incidences of Anthrax in other countries, the State Governments have been requested to be more vigilant and to take necessary preventive measures for its control.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Pravesh Dwar Shopping Complex under MPLADS

1196. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether recommendations to construct Pravesh Dwar Shopping Complex and star Ambulance Service under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) are being rejected by the respective District Collectors;

(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 OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Under the extant Guidelines, construction of Shopping Complex and Pravesh Dwar is not permissible under MPLADS.

Proposals from the Members of Parliament to undertake works which are inadmissible, are referred to Committees on MPLADS of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for relaxation. On receipt of proposals from the Hon'ble Member, Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal Gandhi to allow construction of Shopping Centres for village Panchayats and repair/maintenance of Pravesh Dwars under MPLADS, the same were referred to above Committees on MPLADS of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for consideration.

As per guidelines purchase of Ambulance under MPLADS is permissible for Government hospitals and reputed service organisations like Red Cross, Ramkrishna Mission etc.

[*English*]

On-Going Projects in Infrastructural Sectors

1197. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and achievements made in financial and physical terms by the on-going projects in infrastructural sectors during the last three years and in the year current year, till-date;

(b) the amount sanctioned, released and utilised during the said period in regard to these projects, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the measures being taken for early completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The status of implementation of 470 on-going infrastructure projects in the Central Sector each costing Rs. 20 crores and above, as on 1st July, 2001, alongwith details of completion of projects, allocation and utilisation of funds during the last 3 years as well as in the current year, State-wise and year-wise, are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The measures taken for early completion of these projects are as follows:

(i) review of projects on monthly as well as quarterly basis by the Government;

(ii) indepth critical review of the progress by the Project Authorities and the administrative

Ministries and follow up with the State Governments (for acquisition of land and provision of infrastructure facilities like water and power, ensuring law & order at project sites, etc.), consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays;

(iii) setting up of Empowered Committees in the concerned administrative Ministries for resolution of problems;

(iv) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving problems of inter-ministerial nature;

(v) making available matching funds on yearly basis based on updated costs to ensure timely completion of projects in advanced stages of implementation; and

(vi) reviews by the Minister-in-charge, the Prime Minister's Office and the Cabinet Secretariat.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total No. of Projects under Implementation (As on 1.7.2001)	Number of projects Completed During				Outlay and Expenditure (Rs. Crores)							
			1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002 (As on 1.7.2001)	
							Outlay	Expenditure	Outlay	Expenditure	Outlay	Expenditure	Outlay	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.	Andhra Pradesh	39	6	3	7	1	1288.25	1173.18	1345.86	816.00	1261.19	1089.08	1607.68	296.60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	-	-	-	-	160.00	113.54	163.00	165.07	193.88	208.63	184.42	42.60
3.	Assam	13	6	2	2	1	1119.90	736.07	557.86	659.68	609.00	558.46	681.85	206.97
4.	Bihar	24	5	1	4	-	507.09	314.67	681.00	492.49	592.01	630.74	585.09	132.71
5.	Goa	5	-	-	-	-	0.70	0.69	19.50	10.85	15.85	7.51	17.16	1.60
6.	Gujarat	24	3	8	6	1	1500.43	1364.50	619.51	954.46	677.23	389.77	329.73	244.39
7.	Haryana	3	2	1	2	-	582.71	409.04	376.29	306.71	921.00	52.37	974.95	14.20
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	-	-	-	-	1018.00	671.86	1115.33	956.46	1315.00	1059.46	1229.88	207.17
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	-	1	-	-	609.30	375.97	445.78	373.47	454.95	476.24	573.58	98.86
10.	Karnataka	14	2	4	3	-	378.84	277.62	384.82	260.11	154.44	118.87	185.43	16.07
11.	Kerala	5	1	5	3	1	918.29	871.18	351.68	350.59	68.00	107.23	140.00	11.03
12.	Madhya Pradesh	24	3	4	8	1	1490.40	1139.05	1397.87	1197.87	504.37	403.85	537.78	27.69
13.	Maharashtra	63	11	19	11	1	2347.17	2098.57	1420.95	1205.12	1627.44	1075.07	1472.64	234.85
14.	Manipur	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.00	2.22	25.00	6.06	20.00	1.07
15.	Meghalaya	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.00	17.61	29.00	0.21
16.	Mizoram	1	-	-	-	-	42.00	2.85	59.00	4.48	90.00	14.20	60.00	1.83
17.	Nagaland	-	-	-	1	-	90.00	100.27	110.00	131.53	-	-	-	-
18.	Orissa	27	1	4	1	1	888.28	624.00	1422.38	1265.77	1999.29	1318.89	992.73	451.44
19.	Punjab	7	-	-	-	1	66.00	75.51	84.28	61.89	39.00	19.54	83.77	27.89

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
20.	Rajasthan	8	1	-	1	-	350.50	341.81	328.69	245.75	45.45	44.70	47.40	10.60
21.	Sikkim	1	-	1	-	-	94.32	69.20	-	-	30.00	126.66	189.90	29.02
22.	Tamil Nadu	39	4	4	2	-	1133.77	1395.01	1534.03	1216.48	1424.78	1519.73	1846.16	372.95
23.	Tripura	2	1	-	1	-	27.59	14.76	43.15	20.84	40.00	46.51	45.00	6.29
24.	Uttar Pradesh	25	2	6	5	-	1467.57	1391.35	529.65	445.73	284.06	232.00	188.88	48.81
25.	West Bengal	39	2	4	-	3	591.88	417.61	431.53	346.98	753.37	694.81	561.92	150.72
26.	A & N Islands	1	-	-	-	-	8.00	3.58	9.50	7.40	18.33	14.58	18.30	0.00
27.	Delhi	11	-	2	1	-	404.44	141.28	482.54	231.99	812.77	224.98	1676.35	283.54
28.	Chhattisgarh	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.17
29.	Jharkhand	7	-	-	1	-	75.95	52.20	98.36	48.48	75.04	77.08	19.50	28.42
30.	Uttaranchal	4	-	-	-	-	429.62	344.26	745.00	585.59	1269.04	732.12	1880.76	56.46
31.	Multistate	72	13	9	6	5	2357.77	1437.36	2719.71	2311.41	2087.25	2235.15	3361.18	545.34
	All India	470	63	78	65	16	19948.77	15956.99	17478.27	14675.42	17402.74	13501.90	19541.04	3549.50

National Cooperative Development Act

1198. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make amendments in the National Cooperative Development Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government have decided to take up amendment to the NCDC Act, 1962 as contained in the NCDC (Amendment) Bill, 1995 which is pending in the Rajya Sabha.

The amendments has been proposed to fulfil following two major demands of the Cooperative Sector vis-a-vis NCDC:

(i) direct lending to the cooperatives by NCDC without Government guarantee; and

(ii) inclusion of livestock, fisheries, industrial goods, agro-forestry, sericulture and allied activities for the purpose of assistance by NCDC.

NCDC

1199. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any analysis has been carried out on the working of the National Cooperative Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the details and the findings thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any plan of introducing Deposit Security Scheme or Deposit Insurance Scheme;

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

(e) whether any request has been received in this regard; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two studies have been carried out on the working of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

The first study on organisation and management was carried out by Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad in 1994 in fulfillment of World Bank requirement for I.D.A. (International Development Agency) credit to NCDC.

The second study by an Expert Group appointed by Government of India for revitalization of NCDC was carried out in 1998. The findings of these studies relate to generation and appraisal of proposals, review and monitoring of projects, State intermediation versus direct lending, sources of funds, information system, human resources management, organisation structure and revitalization of the NCDC.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Because the working/functioning of NCDC does not come under the ambit of DICGC (Deposit Insurance & Credit Guarantee Corporation).

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Norms for Growth of Basmati

1200. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have laid down new standards/guidelines that basmati can be legally grown only in the designated areas of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons for excluding other areas from the new standards norms laid down by the Government and the benefits therefrom;

(c) the details of other States which have reached to the new policy;

(d) whether the Government propose to protect the interest of the farmers in other States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Foreign Visits by Minister

1201. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries visited by the Minister during the last two years and the details of the agreements signed; and

(b) the amount spend on the foreign visits and the details of the benefits accrued to the country therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The information for the period from 1.4.1999 to 1.3.2001 is furnished below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Minister and period of visit	Country Visited	Total Expenditure on the Visit	Purpose of the visit and Benefits accrued to the Country therefrom etc.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Dr. C.P. Thakur Minister (WR) 19-22 March, 2000	The Hague, Netherlands	Rs. 2.01 Lakhs Approx.	Participated in the Ministerial Conference at the invitation of Dutch Govt. and enabled to present India's viewpoint on the Global Water Vision & Framework for action which highlights importance of water and its future development and discussion on draft declaration. A Ministerial Declaration was issued at the end of the conference and no agreement was envisaged to be signed.
2.	Mrs. Bijoya Chakrabarty Minister of State (WR) 17-19 March 2000	The Hague, Netherlands	Rs. 2.22 lakhs Approx.	Participated in discussion on gender issues and water use management during 2nd World Water Forum Meetings. Presented India's viewpoint and exchanged information at the Political level.

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Dr. C.P. Thakur Minister (WR) 26-29 March 2000	Geneva, Switzerland	Entire Expenditure Borne by the Organizers	To participate in the WHO's PDT Meeting in his individual capacity.
4.	Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty, Minister of State (WR) 25-29 September 2000	Bangladesh	Rs. 72,000/- Approx.	Goodwill visit to Bangladesh at the invitation from Bangladesh Govt. to visit Brahmaputra Delta, arsenic affected areas in Bangladesh and Jamuna bridge in Brahmaputra apart from courtesy call on PM of Bangladesh and Minister of Water Resources, Bangladesh. The visit was successful mission towards strengthening bilateral relationship between the two countries in the field of water resources.
5.	Shri Arjun Charan Sethi, Minister (WR) 10-14 January, 2001	Bangladesh	Rs. 72,000/- Approx.	To attend the 34th meeting of the Indo- Bangladesh Joint River Commission at Dhaka as the Leader of the Indian delegation as per the agreement between the two countries dated 24.11.1972. Discussions were held regarding sharing of Ganga waters, sharing of Teesta waters, border rivers problems, construction of Ganga Barrage at Bangladesh and arsenic problem etc.

Relief Work in Gujarat

1202. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the relief work has been properly undertaken in each village of earthquake hit Gujarat;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the progress made so far in rehabilitation of the victims;

(d) the reaction of the Union Government on rehabilitation works of the State Government;

(e) whether any rehabilitation scheme has been launched in different rural areas adjacent to Shyama Khiyali Village near Bachau;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government have taken measures to provide safety from frequent tremor being experienced everyday in the State;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (f) It is primarily responsibility of the Government of Gujarat to take necessary relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities including earthquake. The State Government has taken various measures for rehabilitation of the people affected by the earthquake which include packages for the towns of Anjar, Bhachau, Bhuj and Rapar, for the self employed groups of artisans, for the trade, service sectors & industrial units for renovation of buildings of heritage and archaeological importance for panjra poles & gaushalas, for providing permanent houses and to re-establish educational institutions. The State Government has reportedly decided to prepare the Disaster Mitigation Plan for effectively tackling natural calamities in future.

(g) to (i) Necessary steps in this connection have to be taken by the Government of Gujarat.

[English]

Procurement of Copra

1203. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) has received any request from Government of Kerala to procure Copra from the Coconut farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the amount sanctions for the purpose;

(e) whether the Government of Kerala are providing godown facilities for storage of Copra; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV). (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Kerala have requested to procure Copra under Price Support Scheme (PSS) from the farmers in Kerala.

(c) and (d) To resume the procurement operations of Copra under PSS, Govt. of India has given Govt. Guarantee to State Bank of India as per the requirement and also released an amount of Rs. 292.10 crore during

the current year. NAFED has already issued instructions to the State Designated Agencies for undertaking procurement.

(e) No Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

Irrigation Projects in Karnataka

1204. SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Irrigation Projects taken up on priority basis by the Government of Karnataka;

(b) the total estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) the share of the Centre therein;

(d) the total area of land likely to be covered thereunder; and

(e) the time by which these projects are expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) 7 majors & medium projects of Karnataka have been included in the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for their early completion viz. Upper Krishna Stage-I, Stage-II, Malprabha, Hirehalla, Ghatprabha, Karanja and Gandorinala.

(b) The latest estimated cost of these 7 projects is Rs. 10861.22 crores.

(c) The Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under AIBP is provided in the ratio of 2:1 (Centre : State).

(d) The ultimate potential of these projects is 1070 th. ha.

(e) The completion of these projects is linked to provision of adequate budget in the State Plan outlay.

[Translation]

Fodder and Drugs for Animals in Bihar

1205. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bihar Government has sought Central assistance for fodder and drugs for animals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) to (c) The Government of Bihar has not submitted any proposal for Central assistance for fodder and drugs for animals. Accordingly, no assistance has been provided to Government of Bihar for this. However, an amount of Rs. 25 lakhs has been revalidated to Government of Bihar during 2001-2002 for the purchase of Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine.

Construction of Hospital by SECL

1206. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hospital constructed by the South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) and run by the Appolo in Bilaspur has been given to the Appolo Institute on rent @ One rupee p.a.;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement signed in this regard;

(c) whether the people of this area who are victims of environmental degradation caused by the coal mines are not being given any concessions for medical treatment in this hospital;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial steps taken to ensure that the local people are given concessional treatment in the hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) and (b) As reported by South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) (licensor), it has entered into an agreement with M/s Appolo Hospitals Enterprises Limited (Licensee) for the purpose of running multi-speciality hospital constructed by SECL at Bilaspur on certain terms and conditions as given under:—

1. Pay to the licensor Rs. 1/- per month only as a token amount as licence fee for the first 3 years or in case there is a cumulative net profit to this division of the (licensee) within the first 3 years, pay 1/3rd of the net profit of the 3 years as licence fee to the licensor.

2. Pay to the licensor @ Rs. 21.52 Per Sqm (i.e. Rs. 2 per square ft.) per month on the hospital building as license fee for the 4th year or 1/3rd of the net profit arrived from the operation of this Division of Hospital of the licensee, whichever is more.

3. Pay to the licensor @ Rs. 32.28 per sqm (i.e. Rs. 3/- per square ft.) per month on the hospital building as licence fee for the 5th year or 1/3 rd of the net profit arrived from the operation of this division of hospital of the licensee, whichever is more.

4. Pay to the licensor @ Rs. 43.04 Per Sqm (i.e. Rs. 4/- per Square ft.) per month on the hospital building as licence fee for the 6th year onwards or 1/3rd of the net profit arrived from the operation of this division of hospital of the licensee, whichever is more.

5. In addition, to the amount as calculated in (1) to (4) above from the first year onwards i.e. from the effective date the licensee shall also pay to the licensor an amount calculated at the rate Rs. 21.52 Per Sqm (i.e. Rs. 2/- per square ft.) per month for the build up residential area measuring 5142.47 Sqm (i.e. 55,333 Square ft.) in the said land.

6. In addition, to the payment of licence fee the licensee shall give 22.5% discount on the amounts actually charged by the licensee from time to time from other patients covering all diagnostic services and 10% discount on room rent and other professional/consultation services which are normally charged from time to time from other patients provided however, there would not be any discount available on the drugs, materials and consumable.

7. The above discount shall be available to all permanent employees and their dependents, retired employees and heir spouse who would be referred by the Chief of Medical services of the licensor or person authorised by him.

8. Such discount will also be applicable to the cases referred by Chief of Medical Services or his authorised person of Coal India Limited and other subsidiaries on direct payment.

(c) to (e) There is no other provision in the licence agreement to extend any concession in medical treatment to the people of the area.

*[English]***Maize Cultivation**

1207. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the area under maize cultivation during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the target fixed and plan formulated in this regard, State-wise; and

(c) the Central assistance earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Government of India does not fix targets for area coverage under maize. Accordingly, increase of area under maize cultivation during the 10th Five Year Plan is not proposed. However, maize production targets, State-wise and year-wise, as proposed in the X Plan period, are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) An amount of Rs. 120.00 crores for implementation of maize development programme in the country during the 10th Five Year Plan has been proposed, which is, however, yet to be approved/ finalized.

Statement*State-wise and year-wise targets of maize production for Tenth Five Year Plan*

(Maize Production Targets in Lakh tonnes)						
S.N.	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1		2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13.845	14.399	14.975	15.649	16.431
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.485	0.500	0.510	0.515	0.520
3.	Assam	0.151	0.158	0.164	0.171	0.180
4.	Bihar	11.268	11.515	11.857	12.424	12.937
5.	Chhattisgarh	4.126	4.291	4.463	4.664	4.897
6.	Gujarat	6.782	7.053	7.335	7.665	8.048
7.	Haryana	0.433	0.450	0.468	0.489	0.513
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7.571	7.874	8.189	8.558	8.985
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.408	5.624	5.849	6.113	6.418
10.	Jharkhand	4.900	5.300	5.630	5.850	6.250
11.	Madhya Pradesh	7.663	7.97	8.289	8.661	9.095
12.	Karnataka	15.683	16.311	16.963	17.726	18.612
13.	Maharashtra	5.246	5.456	5.674	5.929	6.226
14.	Manipur	0.270	0.281	0.292	0.306	0.321
15.	Meghalaya	0.216	0.225	0.234	0.244	0.257
16.	Mizoram	0.110	0.114	0.119	0.124	0.131
17.	Nagaland	0.325	0.338	0.351	0.367	0.385

1	2	3	4	5	6
18. Orissa	0.854	0.888	0.924	0.966	1.015
19. Punjab	3.677	3.825	3.978	4.156	4.364
20. Rajasthan	10.059	10.461	10.880	11.369	11.938
21. Sikkim	0.617	0.641	0.667	0.697	0.732
22. Tamil Nadu	2.109	2.193	2.281	2.384	2.503
23. Tripura	0.022	0.022	0.023	0.024	0.026
24. Uttar Pradesh	13.520	13.985	14.491	15.140	15.768
25. Uttaranchal	2.500	2.680	2.850	3.000	3.300
26. West Bengal	1.136	1.181	1.228	1.284	1.348
Total All India	118.976	123.735	128.684	134.475	141.200

Identification of Industries Providing Maximum Livelihood

1208. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified five industries which provide livelihood to maximum number of people in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of employees working in each industry; and

(d) the names of industries where the number of employees has declined during nineties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) As per the surveys conducted by National Sample Surveys Organisations on employment & unemployment during 1993-94 & 1999-2000, the industry wise distribution of workers (in terms of numbers of workers and percentage to total) as per the Usual Principal & Subsidiary Status Approach is given in the Statement enclosed. The survey results reveal that agriculture, manufacturing, trade & community, social and personnel services are the sectors which provide employment to substantial number of people in the country.

(d) The sectors where there was a decline in employment opportunities during 1994-2000 are

agriculture, mining & quarrying, Electricity, Gas & Water supply and Community, Social and Personnel services sector.

Statement

Industry	*Employed workers 1993-1994		*Employed workers 1999-2000	
	(Million)	% to total	(Million)	% to total
Agriculture	242.64	64.8	237.56	59.8
Mining & Quarrying	2.62	0.7	2.27	0.6
Manufacturing	39.32	10.5	48.01	12.1
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	1.5	0.4	1.28	0.3
Construction	11.61	3.1	17.62	4.4
Trade	27.71	7.4	37.32	9.4
Transport, Storage & Communication	10.48	2.8	14.69	3.7
Financial Services	3.37	0.9	5.05	1.3
Community Social & Pers. Services.	35.2	9.4	33.2	8.4
Total Employment	374.45	100	397	100

*As per Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS) Approach.

Celebration of Civil Aviation Safety Week

1209. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Civil Aviation Safety Week has been celebrated in the country from October 30 to November 4, 2001; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the safety measures proposed to be adopted for the safety of air travellers on Indian planes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Civil Aviation Security week was organized from 29th October to 2nd November, 2001 with a view to increase awareness amongst the employees and passengers regarding their roles and possible contribution, and at the same time to prepare time-bound Action Plans for all agencies, to have foolproof, fail safe civil aviation security.

The following measures have been taken, *inter alia*, to further strengthen security at the airports:—

- (i) Deployment of Sky Marshals on all routes of scheduled domestic airlines at random basis;
- (ii) Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at all operational airports in a time bound manner;
- (iii) Deployment of Quick Reaction Teams at major airports; and
- (iv) Mandatory ladder-point security check of passengers and their hand baggage.

[Translation]

Encroachment near Satna Airport

1210. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have permitted the Public Works Department of Madhya Pradesh to construct a by-pass road near Satna Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the total area of Satna Airport has been divided into two parts by the Government of Madhya Pradesh and encroachment is still continuing on the land of Airport;

(d) the total area of Satna Airport and the land encroached upon so far; and

(e) the area of land of Airport to be covered by this proposed by-pass?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (e) Madhya Pradesh Government started construction of a by-pass road at runway 29 end beyond the runway strip through Airports Authority of India (AAI) land without any permission from AAI. On intervention of AAI the construction of the road has been stopped. The State Government desired that Satna Airport might be handed over to them. AAI has written to the State Government proposing terms and conditions of handing over of the airport. The total area of Satna Airport is 451.93 acres and the encroached land is 150 acres. The area to be covered by the by-pass is 17 acres.

[English]

Funds for Tourism Development

1211. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to various States for development of tourist spots particularly in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir during Ninth Plan Period, State-wise and Tourist spot-wise;

(b) the achievements made along with the expenditure involved on each of the projects during the above period, State-wise;

(c) the details of tourism projects submitted by the States and approved by the Union Government during 2000 and 2001 along with the funds allocated for them, State-wise;

(d) the details of ongoing tourism projects sponsored by the Union Government, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which each of the projects is likely to be completed indicating the estimated expenditure thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism

Government of India provides Central financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations every year in consultation with them for various projects for development of infrastructure and promotion of tourism in the country. During the first four years of 9th Plan 1359 projects were sanctioned involving an amount of Rs. 309.43 crores and an amount of Rs. 116.84 crores has been released. A statement showing number of projects sanctioned, amount released State-wise including Rajasthan, Maharashtra, West Bengal and J & K during first four years of 9th Plan is enclosed.

(c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned 338 projects involving an amount of Rs. 77.10 crores during 2000-2001 as per the details given in the statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) As per the information available, the projects sanctioned during 2000-2001 are at various stages of completion. The projects should be completed by the State Govts./UT Administrations within stipulated period of 30 months as per the guidelines of Central financial assistance.

Statement

Project Sanctioned, Amount Sanctioned and Released during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (All the Projects Including Fairs and Festivals)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sr. No.	State	1997-98			1998-99			1999-2000			2000-2001		
		No. of projects sancd.	Amount sancd.	Amt. Released	No. of projects sancd.	Amount sancd.	Amt. Released	No. of projects sancd.	Amount sancd.	Amt. Released	No. of projects sancd.	Amount sancd.	Amt. Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	206.70	69.70	10	244.08	87.85	14	222.22	60.48	7	141.00	42.30
2.	Assam	14	288.88	94.20	15	457.95	146.14	17	357.35	92.76	12	298.35	101.27
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	271.00	82.50	6	216.31	65.55	11	239.28	70.20	8	90.00	26.94
4.	Bihar	11	234.07	88.37	11	237.29	96.19	5	89.71	21.00	10	314.96	94.47
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	115.28	36.75
6.	Goa	8	144.62	56.76	14	324.98	147.67	11	279.82	70.08	9	89.54	27.91
7.	Gujarat	7	111.84	41.90	15	439.57	125.84	19	327.64	102.42	19	510.85	122.96
8.	Haryana	6	98.62	66.27	13	348.15	196.45	9	238.33	136.90	6	112.63	46.86
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5	119.00	65.50	10	318.00	174.50	17	691.79	353.55	16	340.54	107.16
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	10	293.35	198.45	6	192.85	108.00	16	306.43	176.38	11	419.93	161.86
11.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	206.49	61.92
12.	Karnataka	13	407.48	168.74	38	890.70	335.02	19	489.30	147.37	19	489.30	147.37
13.	Kerala	11	282.00	150.00	13	653.05	187.95	19	772.28	240.31	7	407.85	122.65
14.	Madhya Pradesh	9	131.85	55.37	18	471.01	244.29	16	431.08	156.54	12	243.21	76.27
15.	Maharashtra	12	169.84	50.14	18	496.27	208.50	30	1003.69	212.98	8	185.43	70.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16.	Manipur	5	186.10	56.35	8	140.49	41.40	10	229.00	70.10	18	782.77	235.42
17.	Meghalaya	5	97.70	30.55	5	120.48	37.50	6	80.72	20.26	5	105.59	36.10
18.	Mizoram	6	142.45	82.72	8	203.34	137.95	13	297.23	157.01	13	309.19	95.33
19.	Nagaland	3	113.90	93.36	11	230.54	97.60	16	302.90	179.89	8	156.53	53.04
20.	Orissa	28	552.05	180.00	6	178.60	56.30	19	301.90	88.44	5	201.94	60.57
21.	Punjab	6	52.87	15.72	7	241.29	220.15	8	175.00	57.50	6	203.50	59.08
22.	Rajasthan	14	137.33	77.25	22	436.28	151.70	12	131.22	36.59	22	455.00	143.47
23.	Sikkim	11	73.20	42.70	15	136.03	61.42	13	118.98	43.57	33	376.49	127.43
24.	Tamil Nadu	7	59.74	22.86	17	316.20	163.85	27	531.95	141.87	8	113.83	37.30
25.	Tripura	8	126.68	83.04	9	169.21	105.50	7	340.76	117.31	13	333.23	104.05
26.	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	70.19	29.78
27.	Uttar Pradesh	13	221.10	81.07	33	789.55	423.61	36	749.58	222.56	16	149.21	44.67
28.	West Bengal	7	125.76	35.00	12	211.13	108.12	6	194.01	12.72	20	412.68	115.67
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	1	60.00	60.00	4	162.50	49.50	1	32.37	16.18	1	1.78	0.89
30.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	3	54.23	20.82	4	68.44	15.37	5	22.13	8.50
31.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	1	5.20	2.60	2	20.00	6.00	1	30.00	9.00	1	8.00	2.40
32.	Delhi	8	229.86	150.86	13	223.89	104.43	5	24.50	12.20	1	16.28	8.57
33.	Daman & Diu	4	60.17	17.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34.	Lakshadweep	1	5.00	2.50	1	29.00	13.80	-	-	-	-	-	-
35.	Pondicherry	4	35.64	12.83	2	15.00	12.00	10	163.89	53.45	3	26.18	9.09
Total		259	5044.00	2234.56	365	8967.97	3935.60	397	9221.37	3094.99	338	7709.88	2419.06

No. of Projects Sanctioned 1359

Amount Sanctioned Rs. 30943.22

Amount Released Rs. 11684.21

Landless Farmers

1212. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:
SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of landless farmers in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any plan to safeguard the interest of these landless farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) A statement containing the State-wise number of landless (operational holders cultivating wholly leased-in land and wholly otherwise operated land) as per the Agricultural Census 1990-91 is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The Government implements several employment generation schemes like Sampoorna Grameen

Rozgar Yojana, Swarnjayanati Gram Swarozgar Yojana and watershed development programmes such as Integrated Watershed Development Project, Drought Prone Area Programme and Desert Development Programme, which are designed to benefit the rural poor including landless farmers.

Statement

State-wise number of landless farmers in the country as per Agricultural Census, 1990-91

(Figures in thousand)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Wholly leased-in holdings (Number)	Wholly/other-wise operated holdings (Number)	Total Col. (3)+(4) (Number)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	18	22
2.	Assam	67	27	94
3.	Bihar*	18	23	41
4.	Gujarat	2	4	6
5.	Haryana	46	6	52
6.	Himachal Pradesh	14	2	16
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	12	149	161
8.	Karnataka	—	Neg	Neg
9.	Kerala	2	25	27
10.	Madhya Pradesh@	14	160	174
11.	Maharashtra	8	15	23
12.	Manipur	8	Neg	8
13.	Meghalaya	9	9	18
14.	Nagaland	3	—	3
15.	Orissa	10	22	32
16.	Punjab	10	—	10
17.	Rajasthan	7	44	51
18.	Sikkim	7	Neg	7
19.	Tamil Nadu	33	11	44
20.	Tripura	3	64	67

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Uttar Pradesh#	56	44	100
22.	West Bengal	105	36	141
23.	A & N Islands	Neg	Neg	Neg
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	Neg	—	Neg
25.	Chandigarh	Neg	Neg	Neg
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
27.	Delhi	—	—	—
28.	Goa	23	4	27
29.	Lashadweep	—	—	—
30.	Mizoram	—	—	—
31.	Pondicherry	3	Neg	3
32.	Daman & Diu	Neg	Neg	Neg
Total		465	663	1128

Total may not tally due to rounding off.

* Includes Jharkhand

@ Includes Chhattisgarh

Includes Uttaranchal.

Contract for Carrying Passengers from Airports

1213. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrangements of vehicles have been made at certain airports to carry passengers to their respective destination;

(b) if so, whether contract for this purpose has been awarded to any private company; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No vehicles are provided for carrying passengers to their respective destinations. However, Airports Authority of India (AAI) provides coach services to passengers at Delhi and Mumbai airports to certain restricted destinations.

(b) and (c) AAI has awarded contract for providing Coach Services at the following airports:-

MUMBAI AIRPORT: Contract is awarded to M/s Inter City Coach Services, M/s Akbar Travels and M/s Maa Travels.

DELHI AIRPORT: Contract awarded to M/s Indo Canadian Transport co.

In addition, Inter Terminal Coach services are provided at Mumbai and Delhi as free services to passengers, besides the facility provided by Indian Airlines and Jet Airways. City Coach Services from Delhi airport to ISBT Connaught Place and from Kolkata Airports to the city are also provided through contracts with EATS and private operators.

Leasing Out of Ground Handling Services

1214. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
 SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
 SHRI C.N. SINGH:
 SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
 SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
 SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to lease out some international airports of the country to some private parties for modernisation/upgradation and ground handling services;

(b) if so, the names of the airports selected for the purpose; and

(c) the details of the terms and conditions for leasing them out?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) It has been decided to restructure the Airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI) as and when found suitable through long term lease. At present, the Airports located at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata have been taken up for this exercise. The services which are proposed to be handed over to prospective lessees shall exclude Air Traffic Services which would continue to vest with AAI and also the Customs, Immigration, Security, Public Health etc. which would continue to be vested with the Government.

(c) The detailed terms and conditions for the leasing process are being finalized in consultation with the Financial and Legal Consultants appointed for the leasing exercise.

[Translation]

Technology Mission for Livestocks Development

1215. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch technology mission for the livestock development in tribal areas;

(b) if so, the number of districts covered in Madhya Pradesh thereunder;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying implements a number of centrally sponsored schemes to complement the efforts of State Government towards development of livestock. It is possible for the State Governments to participate in such schemes in order to reach the benefits to the tribal population in the respective States.

[English]

Sugarcane Research Centre

1216. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Sugarcane Research Centres in Madhya Pradesh, location-wise; and

(b) the allocation made by the Union Government in these centres during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has provided one Centre at Sehore in Madhya Pradesh under its All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane.

(b) Allocation made to Sehore Centre during 1998-99 to 2000-2001 is as follows:

(Rs. in Lakhs)		
1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
6.96	9.90	18.87

Nakoda Coal Mines

1217. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nakoda Coal Mines in the Wani area of District Chandrapur (Maharashtra) has been suddenly closed down by the management of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL);

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

(c) whether the management of WCL are indulging in theft of coal;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to investigate the matter through an independent agency other than Coal India Limited;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) and (b) The Nakoda underground coal mine of Wani area has not been closed suddenly. The workings of Nakoda UG mine extended very near to the fault, dykes and danger was apprehended from water-logged workings on the other side of fault. Working place thus got exhausted because of geo-mining condition and the mine was securing heavy losses. The matter was discussed at different fora at Wani area and Company Head Quarter before the final decision on closure was taken.

All the workers of Nakoda incline have been redeployed gainfully in other mines of the same area/in the neighbouring areas. They have been allowed to retain their existing residential accommodation alongwith other welfare amenities like schooling, medical etc. Transport facilities have been provided to them for attending their new places of work.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of part (c) of the question.

Reconstruction Works in Flood and Cyclone Affected Areas

1218. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the progress of reconstruction and rehabilitation works in cyclone, drought and flood affected areas particularly in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken to rehabilitate the affected families;

(c) the amount spent thereon during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 in these areas;

(d) whether a Central Team has visited the affected areas and given its report;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(f) the time by which the affected families are likely to be rehabilitated adequately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) to (f) An Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited in December, 1999, the areas affected by floods and cyclones (including Super cyclone) in Orissa. Taking into account the report of the Central Team, an assistance of Rs. 828.15 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) was released to the State. This was in addition to the release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1999-2000 amounting to Rs. 42.50 crore.

It is the responsibility of the State Government for distribution of relief at the ground level and for undertaking necessary relief and rehabilitation measures. According to available information, the State Government has undertaken rehabilitation measures in various sectors which include reconstruction of damaged school buildings, reconstruction of damaged houses, construction of multi-purpose cyclone shelters, improvement of primary health centres, construction of roads and development of water supply scheme.

The details of expenditure incurred during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and the likely time by which the rehabilitation process will be completed has not been indicated by the State Government.

[Translation]

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

1219. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up more Krishi Vigyan Kendras during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

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

(c) whether the Union Government are providing financial assistance to the State Governments with a view to ensure smooth functioning of existing Krishi Vigyan Kendras;

(d) if so, the criteria laid down for allocation of funds for the said purpose; and

(e) the details of amount sanctioned/allocated and actually released during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have identified sixty six districts to set up more Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) during 2001-2002 to 2002-2003. The details are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) The Council provides full financial assistance to the existing KVKs established under State Agricultural Universities (SAU), ICAR Institute, Non-Government Organizations (NGO), other educational institutions, besides a few with State Governments and Public Sector Undertakings.

The criteria of such assistance include stage of development, activities undertaken and submission of Adult Utilization Certificate (AUC).

(e) During the last three years (1998-99 to 2000-2001), Rs. 145.49 crores were released to the KVKs. The details are given in the statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

List of Districts Identified for Establishment of New KVKs

State	Districts
1	2
Assam	1. Dibrugarh 2. Barpeta 3. Nalbari 4. Sibsagar 5. Bongaingaon 6. North Cachar Hills

1	2
Andhra Pradesh	7. Krishna
Arunachal Pradesh	8. Lower Subansiri 9. West Kamang 10. Lohit 11. Tirap
Bihar	12. Madhepura 13. Saran 14. Gopalganj 15. Rohtas 16. Khagaria
Chhattisgarh	17. Kavardah 18. Jashpur
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	19. Silvassa
Haryana	20. Sirsa 21. Bhiwani 22. Mahendergarh 23. Rohtak 24. Panchkula 25. Jhajjar 26. Fatehabad
Himachal Pradesh	27. Kangra
Jammu and Kashmir	28. Badgam 29. Srinagar 30. Rajouri 31. Doda
Jharkhand	32. Palamau
Madhya Pradesh	33. Betul 34. Dhar 35. Panna 36. Sehore 37. Neemuch 38. Narsinghpur
Maharashtra	39. Hingoli 40. Nandurbar 41. Bhandara
Manipur	42. Bishnupur 43. Senapati
Meghalaya	44. West Khasi Hills 45. East Khasi Hills 46. East Garo Hills 47. Jaintia Hills 48. Ri-Bhoi
Mizoram	49. Chintuipui

1		2	
Nagaland	50. Phek 51. Mokokchung	Tamil Nadu	58. Perambalur 59. Thiruvarur
Orissa	52. Jharsuguda 53. Deogarh 54. Jajpur	Tripura	60. North Tripura 61. Dhalai
Sikkim	55. North 56. South 57. West	Uttar Pradesh	62. Baghpat 63. Bulandshahar 64. Ghazipur 65. Pratapgarh 66. Unnao

Statement-II*Amount allocated/Released to KVKs during the last three years*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	States/Union Territories	No. of KVKs	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	27.29	30.90	32.55	90.74
2.	Andhra Pradesh	16	220.68	282.86	312.41	815.95
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	32.00	15.40	20.20	67.60
4.	Assam	4	160.00	89.60	131.60	381.20
5.	Bihar	16	183.17	210.37	300.24	693.78
6.	Chhattisgarh	4	40.08	67.64	61.35	169.07
7.	Delhi	1	24.42	27.85	25.34	77.61
8.	Goa	1	19.16	19.38	17.10	55.64
9.	Gujarat	10	144.25	164.47	151.35	460.07
10.	Haryana	12	235.06	296.30	267.80	799.16
11.	Himachal Pradesh	8	209.12	265.15	211.89	686.16
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	71.73	91.11	70.12	232.96
13.	Jharkhand	5	71.67	69.81	87.08	228.56
14.	Karnataka	11	176.43	167.68	175.59	519.70
15.	Kerala	9	144.29	138.56	147.65	430.50
16.	Lakshadweep	1	7.32	12.99	11.50	31.81
17.	Madhya Pradesh	16	199.62	248.64	304.07	752.33
18.	Maharashtra	23	442.19	373.48	381.86	1197.53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19.	Manipur	1	36.00	43.40	41.10	120.50
20.	Meghalaya	1	36.00	39.30	56.20	131.50
21.	Mizoram	2	68.00	22.65	55.40	146.05
22.	Nagaland	1	32.00	22.40	29.10	83.50
23.	Orissa	12	180.10	214.36	205.195	599.655
24.	Pondicherry	2	21.16	24.50	26.25	71.91
25.	Punjab	10	218.24	229.99	212.51	660.74
26.	Rajasthan	31	562.90	623.63	667.48	1854.01
27.	Sikkim	1	32.00	47.40	56.10	135.50
28.	Tamil Nadu	16	201.40	203.00	232.87	637.27
29.	Tripura	2	75.00	73.85	59.80	208.65
30.	Uttar Pradesh	28	458.42	444.66	586.11	1489.19
31.	Uttaranchal	2	34.24	23.10	45.90	103.24
32.	West Bengal	9	208.78	182.88	225.75	617.41
Total		261	4572.72	4767.31	5209.465	14549.495

[English]

Private and Public Coal Mines

1220. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private and public coal mines functioning in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh at present, separately;

(b) whether there are any variations in safety rules of mines under private ownership and under Coal India Limited (CIL);

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any complaint, regarding transportation and safety have been received from private coal mines of the above States;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) The number of private and public coal mines functioning at present in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh separately, are given below:—

State	Mines of the public Sector Coal Companies/CIL	Private Coal Mines
Madhya Pradesh	76	—
Chhattisgarh	56	1

In private sector, Jindal Steel & Power Limited had started coal mining in Gare Palma IV/1 coal block of Mand Raigarh coal field in Chhattisgarh. Though a number of private companies have been allotted coal blocks for captive mining for approved end uses in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, the mines have not become functional as in some cases the end-use plants are yet to be set up and in some other cases procedural requirements are yet to be complied with by the companies/parties for obtaining a mining lease.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. All rules & regulations relating to safety in coal mining are equally applicable to the public sector coal mines and the coal mines in private sector.

(d) No complaint regarding transportation and safety have been received from the private coal mine of the above States.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of answer given to part (d).

Release of Funds to Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

1221. SHRI K. BALARAMA KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have released funds to Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in view of the drought situation in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have conveyed to Karnataka that unless and until the aid provided in the first instalment for drought relief works is being fully utilised, the next instalment will not be released;

(d) if so, the aid provided in the first instalment;

(e) whether the Government of Karnataka have already submitted the utilisation certificate;

(f) if so, the time by which the second instalment is likely to be released;

(g) whether both the State Governments have demanded for allotment of additional rice for the affected people;

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

(i) whether the Government are aware that for the last couple of years Mehbubnagar district in Andhra Pradesh has been facing severe drought; and

(j) if so, the facilities provided to them like pump sets etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) and (b) Entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2001-2002 amounting to Rs. 155.97 crore to Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 58.72 crore to Karnataka have been released for undertaking immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought.

(c) and (d) The request of the Government of Karnataka for assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the wake of drought was considered and in view of balance available with the State Government in their CRF, it was decided that, to begin with, the funds available in the CRF be utilised and that the situation be reviewed at a later date. The State Government was suitably informed.

(e) and (f) The second instalment of Central share of CRF for 2001-2002 amounting to Rs. 29.36 crore was released to the State Government in advance, in the wake of drought.

(g) and (h) 6 lakh MTs of rice to Andhra Pradesh and 1 lakh MTs of foodgrains to Karnataka, free of cost, have been allocated under Food for Work Programme. In addition, 2.45 lakh MTs of rice per month at BPL rates have been allocated to Andhra Pradesh.

(i) and (j) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have informed that all the 64 mandals of Mahabubnagar were declared as drought affected during 1999-2000 and 2001-02. According to the State Government a number of relief measures were taken which included supply of pumpsets to the farmers.

Linking of Canals with Rivers

1222. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to link canals with rivers and also to interlink certain rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to link Krishna and Mahanadi to Godavari, and Cauvery to Vaigal;

(c) the specific programme drawn up for the purpose and the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and Central Water Commission have formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development which envisages inter linkages among the various Peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from presently assessed surplus basins to water deficit basins for the optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India has established, the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as an Autonomous Society in July, 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of the National Perspective Plan. Under the Peninsular Component of the National Perspective Plan, inter-linking of Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery and Vaigal is envisaged. NWDA has completed water balance and prefeasibility studies of all the link proposals and has identified 30 links for preparation of feasibility report. Tentative estimated cost (at 1995-96 price level) of the proposed identified links of National Perspective Plan is put at Rs. 3,30,000 crore. Implementation of such water transfer link proposals depend on various factors like consensus among the basin States regarding the proposed transfer, preparation of detailed projects reports and availability of funds.

[Translation]

Production of Mustard

1223. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of mustard oil and its annual consumption in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the production of mustard oil has increased since last few months; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Mustard oil is mainly produced by expeller method and crushing of mustard seed is reserved for small scale sector. State-wise total production of mustard oil in the

country during the last 3 years is given in the enclosed statement. State-wise consumption figures of mustard oil are not maintained.

(b) and (c) Production of edible oils including mustard oil depends upon the production of different annual oilseeds in the country. During the year 1999-2000, the production of rapeseed mustard was 5958.2 thousand tonnes and the mustard oil worked out from this figure is 18.12 lakh metric tonnes in that year. Production is estimated on annual basis. It is difficult to work out a reliable estimate about the increase or decrease in the production of mustard oil since last few months.

Statement

State-wise annual production of mustard oil (Lakh MT)

State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Rajasthan	6.79	7.69	8.22
Uttar Pradesh	2.20	2.73	3.38
Madhya Pradesh	1.30	1.77	2.08
Haryana	1.15	1.86	1.83
Gujarat	1.09	1.46	0.93
West Bengal	0.78	0.78	0.78
Assam	0.47	0.43	0.40
Bihar	0.28	0.31	0.31
Punjab	0.19	0.22	0.19
Total	14.25	17.25	18.12

[English]

National Calamity Contingency Fund

1224. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have spent thousands crores of rupees from Calamity Relief Fund and National Fund for Calamity Relief in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether it did not serve the intended purpose;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether many of the States have not set up Calamity Relief Fund and credited the funds received from Central Government credited to their revenue due to non setting up the institutional arrangement envisaged under this scheme;

(e) if so, the whether the Government propose to lay any procedure for use of Calamity Relief Fund by State Government and its monitoring;

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

(g) whether Andhra Pradesh has requested financial assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund to take drought relief measures;

(h) if so, the extent of amount released;

(i) the guidelines that govern for National Calamity Contingency Fund; and

(j) the details of the States to whom assistance provided under the fund in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Some of the States have not set up Calamity Relief Fund as per the requirement.

(e) and (f) The Government is pursuing the matter with such States. However, items and norms of expenditure for assistance from CRF/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) have been laid down.

(g) and (h) The request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh for assistance from NCCF in the wake of drought was considered and in view of balance available with the State Government under CRF, it was decided that, to begin with, funds under CRF be utilized and that the situation be reviewed at a later date. The State Government was suitably informed. Thereafter State Government requested for advance release of 2nd instalment of Central share of Rs. 77.985 crore and it was released.

(i) The guidelines that govern the scheme for constitution and administration of National Calamity

Contingency Fund (NCCF) for the period 2002-2005 were issued on 15th December, 2000.

(j) Details of assistance released from NCCF during 2001-2002 (so far) is indicated below:—

	(Rs. in crore)
Andhra Pradesh	10.00
Chhattisgarh	42.88
Gujarat	994.37
Jammu & Kashmir	23.20
Himachal Pradesh	43.98
Madhya Pradesh	22.72
Orissa	114.62
Rajasthan	28.97

[*Translation*]

Development of New Variety for Basmati Rice

1225. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi has developed a new variety of hybrid basmati rice; and

(b) if so, the time and the place where the said variety of seeds are likely to be made available to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi has developed a new variety of hybrid basmati rice i.e. Pusa RH-10.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is mandated to produce the breeder seed. The same is already taken up. The breeder seed is used for the production of foundation seed which in turn is used for production of certified seed before it is made available to the farmers for commercial cultivation. It is hoped that the breeder seed will be used for production of foundation seed by the seed producing public and private sector agencies before it is made available to the farmers. Such seeds are expected to be available to the farmers for large scale cultivation in the year 2003-2004.

*[English]***Indian Veterinary Research Institute**

1226. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar has not been reviewed by Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) since 1987;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether two projects viz. Improvement of goat Pashmina production and buffalo Herd even after a wasteful expenditure of crores of rupees, are still being continued by the Institute against the recommendations of QRT and directives of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR);

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government on both the issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) No, Sir. The Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) to review the performance of Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) since 1988 has already been constituted.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Quinquennial Review Team has already reviewed the performance and draft report has been prepared. In view of Committee's recommendations the Pashmina goats are being used in National Agriculture Technology Project (NATP) and buffalo herd is also being used in Network on buffaloes.

*[Translation]***Support Price of Agricultural Produce**

1227. SHRI NANDKUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the process of purchasing agricultural produce on support price;

(b) the amount of loss borne by the Government and State Governments in the process of purchasing agricultural produce; and

(c) the steps taken in those States where State Government does not purchase agricultural produce on support price on regular basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) The Government announces each season, Minimum Support Price for the major agricultural commodities of Fair Average Quality and organises purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India, Cotton Corporation of India, Jute Corporation of India, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India and Tobacco Board besides other agencies designated by the State Governments.

(b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) The designated Central agencies are required to intervene in the market for undertaking price support operations in the event of market prices falling below the minimum support prices fixed by the Government. The Government is also encouraging State Governments to adopt decentralized procurement scheme for procurement of cereals to ensure that the local farmers get the minimum support prices.

*[English]***Performance of National Aluminium Company**

1228. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the performance of the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) during the last three years in physical and financial terms; and

(b) the details of the metal sold by NALCO to different private and public sector undertakings during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
(a) The details of performance of NALCO during the last three years are as follows:—

Sl. No.	Items	Unit	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Production				
I.	Bauxite	MT	2806288	2822464	2834189
II.	Alumina	MT	894500	886000	939000
III.	Aluminium	MT	146206	212663	230516
2.	Finance				
I.	Sales turnover	Rs. Crs	1506.65	2142.32	2408.60
II.	PBT	Rs. Crs	337.22	681.00	843.37
III.	Net Profit (PAT)	Rs. Crs	248.25	511.53	655.83

(b) The details are given in the statement I and II enclosed.

Statement-I

Sale of Metal in International Market and List of Parties

Customer-wise shipments (Metal-Export)

(Quantity in Metric Tonne)

Sl. No.	Customer	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	MG/Enron	760.772	6004.703	21968.600
2.	Metal Exchange	4083.819	2283.082	2286.590
3.	PWT	3475.192	13225.714	-
4.	Gerald Metals	758.764	5715.341	1517.360
5.	Mitsui	209.937	2277.654	1817.347
6.	Sumitomo	4992.204	5491.688	1511.109
7.	Transworld	3775.105	14266.473	12549.969
8.	Glencore	12320.046	9170.850	6574.820
9.	Hydro	2610.509	13872.862	17744.167
10.	Alusuisse	6878.734	9812.306	14319.749
11.	Marc Rich	-	11154.199	21283.396
12.	Mitsubishi	-	1212.840	-
13.	AISB	-	697.170	-
14.	LG International	-	-	6068.449

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Noble	-	-	5346.884
16.	Hunter Douglas	-	-	4065.439
17.	Toyota	-	-	1814.624
Total		39865.072	95184.882	118868.503

Statement-II

Sale of Metal in Domestic Market and List of Parties Who have lifted more than 1000 Metric Tonne

(Quantity in Metric Tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of the Party	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	M/s Jindal Aluminium Ltd.	11269	28049	25237
2.	M/s India Foils Ltd.	5653	7926	2825
3.	M/s Risabh Electricals Ltd.	2862	5942	10017
4.	M/s Apar Industries Ltd.	2676	2137	5829
5.	M/s Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd.	2547	-	-
6.	M/s Rourkela Steel Plant*	1955	2248	-
7.	M/s Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	1876	-	-
8.	M/s Hiren Aluminium Ltd.	1672	1064	1165
9.	M/s Century Extrusions Ltd.	1396	-	-
10.	M/s Bajaj Auto Ltd., Pune	1338	2863	1297
11.	M/s Bajaj Auto Ltd., Aurangabad	1276	1045	-
12.	M/s Bhoruka Aluminium Ltd.	1220	1336	1554
13.	M/s Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.*	1034	-	1106
14.	M/s A.P.S. Enterprises	1003	-	-
15.	M/s Sterlite Industries Ltd.	-	3107	1204
16.	M/s Metal Powder Company Ltd.	-	2424	2074
17.	M/s Diamond Cables Ltd., Baroda	-	2130	-
18.	M/s Indian Pistons Ltd.	-	1740	-
19.	M/s Pankaj Metals Pvt. Ltd.	-	1289	-
20.	M/s Pankaj Aluminium Pvt. Ltd.	-	1238	-

1	2	3	4	5
21.	M/s Ganga Jamuna Metals	-	1165	-
22.	M/s N.S.I.C. Delhi*	-	-	5209
23.	M/s N.S.I.C. Jaipur*	-	-	1990
24.	M/s N.S.I.S. Gurgaon*	-	-	1771
25.	M/s Bokaro Steel Plant*	-	-	1514
26.	M/s Diamond Cables Ltd. Silvassa	-	-	1314
27.	M/s Man Industries Ltd.	-	-	1093
28.	M/s Maharashtra Metal Powder	-	-	1021

Total Domestic Sale (All customers)

1998-1999	98573 Metric Tonne
1999-2000	12071 Metric Tonne
2000-2001	114082 Metric Tonne

*Public Sector Undertaking

Recommendations by Quinquennial Review Team on Fisheries Education

1229. SHRI BIKASH CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations made by Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) in 1993 to make the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai, a centre of excellence and to attain international competence;

(b) the reasons for not implementing the said recommendations so far; and

(c) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) In 1993, the QRT of Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) recommended that "the major thrust of the CIFE in the near future should be to become a center of excellence in all aspects of fisheries science and to maintain international competence. Towards this the proper development of M.F.Sc. and Ph. D. programme is the basic pre-requisite. CIFE has to attract the best talent available to achieve the objectives".

(b) The recommendations have been implemented.

(c) In view of (b) above, the question does not arise.

Air Lifting of Haj Pilgrims

1230. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Air India has been directed by his Ministry to lift only 40,000 such passengers against the average 70,000 Hajis; and

(b) if so, the other arrangements, proposed to be made by the Government for Air lifting of all such passengers from the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) During Haj-2001 movement 71,215 haj pilgrims performed haj.

(b) and (c) It is expected that 70,500 pilgrims will undertake haj pilgrimage during Haj-2002 movement. Out of the 70,500 haj pilgrims, Air India and Indian Airlines are likely to transport approximately 40,000 pilgrims from India to Jeddah and 30,500 pilgrims are likely to be transported by the Saudi Arabian Airlines.

Central Institute of Fisheries Education

1231. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai has completed only 12 projects out of 44 in-house research projects from April, 1995 to March 3, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of measures being undertaken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai successfully completed 12 projects out of 44 in-house projects and their achievements are available in various reports. The research and teaching programmes of CIFE were prioritized and some of the projects with related objectives were re-grouped with a view of pooling the resources and avoid duplication. Rest of the projects are in operation. The in-house research projects are regularly reviewed by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and the Staff Research Council (SRC) and based on their recommendations the research projects are re-oriented.

Settlement of Labour Disputes

1232. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government make any evaluation of the delay by Industrial Tribunals and Labour Courts in the settlement of labour disputes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 1. The Ministry of Labour, from time to time, has brought to the notice of the Presiding Officers of the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts the need to reduce pendency of cases. In a recent review meeting held in May, 2001 in the Ministry of Labour, the Presiding Officers were once again requested about the need to reduce the pendency of cases and not to give repeated adjournments as such adjournments also result in delay in the disposal of cases.

2. As an effective measure to reduce the pendency of cases, a Lok-Adalat was organised on 9-11-2001 in the CGIT-cum-Labour Court, Delhi where 69 cases have been decided.

Coal Mines under ECL and BCCL

1233. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of coal Mines under the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) have been closed down during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact reported on the coal production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Coal mines closed in Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) & Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) during last two years are given below:—

Company	Period	Mine	Reason for closure
ECL	1999-2000	Sripur	Safety & techno-economic ground
		Toposi	Exhaustion of reserve
	2000-001	Kankartala	Techno-economic ground
		Adjoy-II UG	Exhaustion of reserve
BCCL	1999-2000	Khoodia OC	Exhaustion of reserve in working seam
		Kenduadih	Techno-economic ground
		Teturiya	Techno-economic ground

All the inputs of the above closed mines have been re-deployed in other mines to make the shortfall in production caused due to such closure.

Surplus Labourers in ECL

1234. SHRI ANADI SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has surplus labourers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to retrench/absorb them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of surplus manpower existing in ECL is given as below:-

1.	Piece-read-	2538
2.	Daily-rated-	3446
3.	Monthly-rated-	2582
Total		8566

Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) is taking advantage of reduction of workers through natural attrition and voluntary retirement. Further the surplus workers are being re-deployed transferred in mines/areas within and outside company in other Subsidiaries against recruitment.

Removal of Coal Mafia

1235. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of coal mafia syndicates are running parallel administration in the coal belts in Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government to check such parallel administration by coal mafias;

(c) whether the officials of Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries are having close links with coal mafias and providing all necessary help to them;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the concrete steps taken to remove these coal mafias?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (e) Whenever reports of irregularities are received, the Coal Companies take necessary corrective measures.

The measures taken by the Coal Companies to check the irregularities are as follows:

(i) Specific cases of any irregularity are investigated by the Vigilance Departments of CIL and its subsidiaries. Appropriate departmental proceedings are initiated and penalties imposed on officials, where charges of irregularities are established;

(ii) The CBI also initiates suo moto inquiries where cases of grave irregularities come to their notice. Based on their findings, either prosecution is launched or departmental proceedings are initiated;

(iii) A drive has been launched, with the help of the concerned State Governments, to verify the antecedents of linked consumers in the non-core sector sponsored by State Governments;

(iv) Steps have been initiated to streamline the functioning of ex-servicemen transport companies engaged in coal transportation;

(v) Measures are being devised in consultation with the State authorities to prevent misuse or multiple use of Delivery Orders.

The following steps are continuously taken by the Coal Companies to check mal-practices:

(i) Intensive patrolling by the Central Industrial Security Force and security personnel of coal companies;

(ii) Close liaison with the State/district authorities;

(iii) Raids by CISF and local police on illegal coal depots;

(iv) Surprise checks/raids by security personnel;

(v) Handing over of miscreants to the police and lodging of FIRs.

*[Translation]***Percentage of Labour in Different Sectors**1236. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have ascertained the percentage of the people engaged in agriculture, industrial and service sectors of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date, Sector-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the average annual income earned by them, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The percentage of workers employed in agriculture, industrial and service

sectors, as per Employment and Unemployment Survey, 1999-2000, conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation is given below:

Sector	Percentage
Agriculture	59.8
Industry	13.0
Services	27.2
Total	100.0

(b) A statement-I on the State-wise and Sector-wise statistics for rural and urban population as worked out from the above NSSO Survey, 1999-2000 is enclosed.

(c) A statement-II on average wage/salary earnings per day received by regular wage/salaries employees, industry group-wise and rural/urban, as per the above NSSO Survey, 1999-2000 is enclosed.

Statement-I*Percentage Age Distribution of Usually Working Persons in the Principal Status and Subsidiary Status taken together by Broad Industry Division for each State/Union Territory.*

State/UT	Rural			Urban		
	Agriculture	Industry	Services	Agriculture	Industry	Services
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	78.8	6.5	14.7	9.5	20.7	69.8
Arunachal Pradesh	83.4	3.1	13.5	8.7	2.2	89.1
Assam	67.7	4.4	27.9	6.0	8.3	85.7
Bihar	80.6	6.7	12.7	10.9	23.4	65.7
Goa	28.1	17.5	54.5	1.8	18.1	80.1
Gujarat	79.8	7.5	12.7	9.4	25.6	65.0
Haryana	68.5	8.6	22.9	9.1	23.0	67.9
Himachal Pradesh	73.6	5.1	21.3	11.0	11.7	77.3
Jammu & Kashmir	76.3	4.6	19.1	13.2	9.7	77.1
Karnataka	82.1	6.2	11.7	10.6	24.6	64.6
Kerala	84.3	14.5	37.2	9.5	21.0	69.5
Madhya Pradesh	87.1	4.5	8.4	15.4	20.4	64.2
Maharashtra	82.6	5.2	12.2	5.7	24.4	69.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Manipur	75.3	8.0	16.7	28.3	11.4	60.3
Meghalaya	86.5	1.4	12.1	1.3	4.1	94.6
Mizoram	85.5	1.3	13.2	30.3	5.3	64.4
Nagaland	79.7	1.4	18.9	8.4	6.9	84.7
Orissa	78.2	8.7	13.1	13.0	21.9	65.1
Punjab	72.6	6.7	20.7	8.7	23.7	67.6
Rajasthan	77.7	5.9	16.4	12.9	24.0	63.1
Sikkim	60.8	6.1	33.1	2.1	10.7	87.2
Tamil Nadu	67.9	14.6	17.5	8.9	29.3	61.8
Tripura	45.7	4.0	50.3	2.7	3.9	93.4
Uttar Pradesh	76.2	8.0	15.8	9.0	25.9	65.1
West Bengal	63.6	17.1	19.4	3.0	27.7	69.3
A & N Islands	65.0	4.3	30.7	15.3	14.1	70.6
Chandigarh	66.1	10.2	23.7	1.6	19.0	79.4
D&N Haveli	55.2	19.8	25.0	8.1	54.1	37.8
Delhi	7.5	26.4	66.1	1.7	24.7	73.6
Lakshadweep	53.6	4.1	42.3	24.5	6.2	69.3
Pondicherry	59.9	16.0	24.1	5.4	33.7	60.9
Daman & Diu	34.2	42.3	23.5	11.9	15.0	73.1
All India	76.3	8.1	15.6	8.8	24.2	67.0

Statement-II*Average Wage/Salary Earnings Per day Received By Regular Wage/Salaried Employees Sector-Wise*

Industry/Division/group	Urban (Rupees per day)	Rural (day)
1	2	3
Agriculture	137.90	65.88
Mining & Quarrying	257.16	140.16
Manufacturing	96.58	77.66
Manufacturing	165.40	96.41
Electricity, Gas & Water	246.86	197.54

1	2	3
Construction	133.59	104.66
Trade	100.27	64.90
Transport & Storage, etc.	162.04	112.29
Services	263.87	155.69
Services	206.43	177.18
Private households with		
Emp. Persons	49.38	49.25
Others	998.61	320.00
All	165.05	125.31

[English]

**Suspension of Licences of Saw Mills In
Arunachal Pradesh**

1237. COL. (RETD) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated January 15, 1998 permitted sale/auction of "illegally felled/seized timber logs" duly inventorised by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and cleared by HPC;

(b) if so, whether some Saw and Veneer Mills were taken on hire by Forest Department to process such timber sold in Public Auctions and the same was processed under their supervision;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether licences and clearance given to such hired saw mills have been suspended;

(e) if so, the reasons thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) In accordance with Supreme Court orders in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/95, Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department had disposed off illegal timber seized by it. Pending compliance of para 7 (c) of Supreme Court order dated 15.1.1998 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/95, conversion of such timber was allowed in the specific wood based units cleared by the High Power Committee.

(d) to (f) On receipt of information, about transport of illegal timber from North-Eastern Region in the garb of legal timber, physical verification of about 200 wagons loaded with timber was got done. During physical verification and subsequent investigation, significant irregularities and illegalities were found. After issue of show cause notices, personal hearing and necessary investigations, the clearances given by the High Power Committee to wood based units, who were found to be the consignors of the illegal timber, have been revoked. Detailed guidelines have been issued to regulate movement of timber and timber products from the North-Eastern States.

Return of Acquired Land

1238. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to return the acquired land to the original owners soon after completion of the mining process;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide all the basic facilities for the displaced people at the place of their rehabilitation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Land is acquired by the State Government for public purpose under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, and there is no provision under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 for acquiring land for the purpose of undertaking mining operations. The mining lease holder either has the surface rights or obtains the consent of the owner of the land for the purpose of mining operations. The Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 provide for payment of compensation to owner of surface rights etc. by the mining lease holder.

(c) and (d) In view of (a) & (b) above, do not arise.

Procurement of Copra by NAFED

1239. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Copra procured during the last three years by NAFED in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total amount out of the total allocation received by NAFED for procurement of Copra during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the time by which the balance amount is proposed to be provided to the NAFED for the purpose; and

(d) the steps taken by NAFED to procure Copra so far for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Details of procurement made by NAFED, State-wise during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Government of India had released the following amount to NAFED for undertakings PSS/MIS operations including procurement of copra during the last three years and the current year.

Year	Amount Released (Rs. in Crores)
1998-1999	10.90
1999-2000	0.94
2000-2001	26.00
2001-2002	292.10

(c) Arrangements are being made with State Bank of India/Reserve Bank of India to make available adequate fund as and when required, to NAFED for undertaking procurement of Copra.

(d) NAFED has made all arrangements for procurement of Copra under PSS and have issued instruction to the State Designated Agencies for undertaking procurement.

Statement

Procurement of Copra by NAFED

State	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Kerala	2849	80232	2329
Tamilnadu	40	111932	-
Andhra Pradesh	-	16173	-
Karnataka	-	4720	1613
A&N Island	-	7979	4434
Goa	-	593	598
Lakshadweep	66	2921	2884
Total	2955	224550	11958

[*Translation*]

Labour Contracts Awarded by Coal Companies

1240. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labour contracts worth Rs. 900 crores have been awarded by the coal companies;

(b) if so, whether these companies are being deceived by way of showing more labour in connivance with the contractors and officers of coal companies;

(c) the number of such cases detected so far, company-wise;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof along with the number of contractors who are the relatives of the officers of coal companies engaged therein; and

(f) the remedial action taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
(a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Linking of Rivers

1241. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has mooted the National perspective plan for linking various major rivers in the country so that excess water from some rivers could be transferred to deficit basins;

(b) if so, the achievements made so far and the amount spent thereon;

(c) whether the said plan has proved a total failure as there is no consensus amongst the concerned States on implementing the plan;

(d) if so, the new proposal of the Government to implement the plan and the sources through which funds are proposed to be mobilised; and

(e) the number of people likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a), (b) and (e) Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and Central Water Commission have formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development which envisages inter linkages among the various Peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from presently assessed surplus basins to water deficit basins for the optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as an Autonomous Society in July, 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of the National Perspective Plan. NWDA has completed 137 water balance studies of basins/sub-basins, 71 water balance studies at diversion points, 74 toposheet studies of storage reservoirs, 37 toposheet studies of link alignments and 31 prefeasibility studies of links out of which 30 links have been identified for preparation of feasibility reports. Feasibility reports of five links have been completed. The total grants-in-aid released to NWDA till date is Rs. 10488.42 lakhs. The link proposal envisages additional irrigation benefits of 35 million hectares.

(c) and (d) NWDA has already identified a few smaller links involving only two States for which feasibility reports have been completed and could be taken up for implementation in a phased manner. Implementation of such water transfer link proposals depend on various factors like consensus among the basin States regarding the proposed transfer, preparation of detailed project reports and availability of funds.

[Translation]

Child Labour

1242. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of child labour has tripled by the end of the year 2000 as per an assessment made by the existing Labour Bureau and Planning Commission; and

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

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

(b) Authentic figures of child labour are generated by the decennial Census and the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The number of child labour as per

1991 census is 1.12 crore. The NSS Survey on employment and unemployment conducted in 1999-2000 (55th Round) gives the estimates of child labour as 1.04 crore. The Planning Commission also uses the above figures.

The Labour Bureau has not made any assessment about tripling of the number of child labourers by the end of the 2000.

[English]

Supply of Coal to Non-Existent Industrial Units

1243. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries are supplying coal to a large number of non-existent industrial units in the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have ordered a probe into the functioning of CIL and its subsidiaries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to fix responsibility in such scandals etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) supply coal to the non-core sector based on linkages and sponsorship, given by state government authorities or the sponsoring agencies. The subsidiary companies of CIL have addressed the concerned State Governments to verify the existence of the linked consumers in the non-core sector.

Minimum Support Price

1244. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the prices of agricultural commodities are crashing below the minimum support price in the country particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to introduce quantitative restrictions on agricultural commodities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) The wholesale prices of certain agricultural commodities are ruling below the minimum support prices (MSPs) at some selected centres in the country, including those in Karnataka.

(b) and (c) Though there is no proposal to introduce quantitative restrictions. The Government has put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the imports of agricultural commodities, and is committed to providing adequate protection to the domestic farmers against the indiscriminate imports by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which include appropriate calibration of applied tariffs within the bound level, imposition of anti-dumping and countervailing duties and safeguard action under certain specified circumstances.

Quality Inputs for Farmers

1245. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's endeavour to supply quality inputs adequately and timely at reasonable prices to farmers has not met with success in the past;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to initiate concrete measures for ensuring timely availability of seeds, fertilizers etc. to the farmers at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No Sir. Sufficient provisions are available under various Acts and Control Orders, which are being implemented by the States to regulate the Supply of quality inputs to farmers.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Yes Sir, under various Crop Development programmes, assistance is being provided for supply of inputs. Government of India assesses the requirements and monitors the availability of all inputs before each sowing season so as to ensure adequate and timely supply.

Investigation of Aircraft Deal

1246. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been investigating aircraft deal, signed with Airbus Industries in 1986;

(b) if so, the present status of the investigation and the time by which the same is likely to be completed; and

(c) in case the inquiry has been completed, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) The investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into purchase of Airbus A-320 Aircraft by Indian Airlines is in progress in India and CBI is following up the same in the concerned foreign countries. The case involves extensive investigation in several foreign countries, which is lengthy and time consuming process, beyond the control of the investigation agency. No time frame can at present be indicated regarding the completion of this enquiry being done by the CBI.

Passes issued by BCAS

1247. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bureau of Civil Aviation Security propose to reduce the number of passes issued to the Airlines officials and handling agents, drastically in view of the safety of the Airports, particularly the IGI, AAI; and

(b) if so, the time by which the anticipated scrutiny is likely to be over to cover up the security risk?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) As a part of on-going process, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) continuously scrutinises the Airport Passes issued to the airlines/handling agents etc. to keep them to the barest minimum.

(b) BCAS has so far cancelled 262 passes at IGI Airport, Delhi, in respect of certain airlines who have stopped their operation at Delhi airport.

Mineral Reserves

1248. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any survey to find out the mineral reserves in States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal recently;

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

(c) the steps taken to explore the mineral resources and also maintain the ecological balance in these newly created States, separately;

(d) whether the Government have approved/received proposals from International Mining Companies for prospecting and exploration of minerals in Jharkhand;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom by the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been conducting survey for minerals in areas under the newly formed states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal continuously.

GSI has estimated a reserved of coal to the tune of 69.2 billion tonne in Jharkhand and 29.6 billion tonne in Chhattisgarh as on 1.1.2001.

The recoverable reserves as on 1.4.95 are as:

JHARKHAND: 2657 million tonne (MT) hematite, 5 MT magnetite, 2,363 MT manganese ore, 0.334 MT chromite, 108.69 MT copper ore, 0.0072 MT gold ore, 3.07 MT apatite, 0.04 MT asbestos, 66.022 MT bauxite, 21.864 MT dolomite, 0.39 MT graphite, 511.102 MT limestone, 50.457 MT fireclay, 131.688 MT quartz-silica sand and 0.0014 MT mica.

CHHATTISGARH: 1925 MT hematite, 0.567 MT gold ore 28.895 MT tin ore, 54.706 MT bauxite, 612.21 MT dolomite, 4941.447 MT limestone, 10.895 MT fireclay and 0.625 MT quartz-silica sand.

UTTARANCHAL: 1.20 MT lead-zinc ore, 1.12 MT copper ore, 15.529 MT rock phosphate, 0.0002 MT asbestos, 160.337 MT dolomite, 1.164 MT gypsum, 1068.104 MT limestone and 185.747 MT magnesite.

(c) Detailed geochemical appraisal for copper, zinc and gold in Ghimtolli area, Chamoli district of Uttaranchal state has recently been completed. During Field Season October 2001-September 2002, GSI proposes to conduct two investigations for gold and two investigations for diamond in Chhattisgarh, and three investigations for gold in Jharkhand.

As regards ecological balance GSI has programme following two items of geoenvironmental studies in Jharkhand.

(i) Impact assessment of mining activities in the Subarnarekha basin.

(ii) Preliminary geo environmental assessment to facilitate urban expansion planning of Hazaribagh and adjoining areas, Hazaribagh district, Jharkhand.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Tourism Development Fund

1249. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States including Bihar, for which Planning Commission has been asked for to formulate a tourism development funds;

(b) the status of Shringi Rishi Ashram, Rishi Kund, Sita Kund, Sita Charan, Kashtahami Ghaat, Bhim Bhandh and Chandi-sthan in district Mungher in Bihar;

(c) whether the Government intend to formulate a scheme to convert these places into international tourist centres be renovating and upkeeping them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Department of Tourism, Government of India has formulated a scheme to constitute Tourism Development Fund with the objective of bridging gaps in critical infrastructure and to generate funds for development of tourism infrastructure in the country. It is proposed to create Tourism Development Fund with an authorised outlay of Rs. 50.00 crore. The proposal is under the consideration of Planning Commission.

(b) to (e) Department of Tourism, Government of India has a scheme to grant Central financial assistance for development of infrastructure at the places of tourist interest. Financial assistance is provided every year in consultation with the State Government/UT Administration.

A proposal to Construct Tourist Complex at Bhim Bhandh has been sanctioned for an amount of Rs 49.28 lakhs and first instalment of Rs. 14.78 lakhs has already been released during 2000-2001. The Department of Tourism has schemes for improvement of tourist facilities including renovation & refurbishment. However, development of tourist places is the responsibility of State Governments/ UT Administrations and Government of India provides funds under Central Financial Assistance schemes.

[English]

Survey of GSI in MP

1250. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has conducted any survey for locating mines in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for their exploration/extraction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) under the administrative control of the Department of Mines is conducting investigations for locating mineral resources in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) GSI is continuing investigations for gold, copper, base metals in Sidhi, Katni, Betul and Jhabua districts. A survey for dimension stones was completed in Seoni, Balaghat, Jabalpur, Mandla and Shahdol districts for locating potential dimension stone prospects.

(c) The mineral resource once proved may lead to a mining project for extraction, depending on its economic viability. Any Indian National or a Company as defined in sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting mining lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder.

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance for Coal Projects

1251. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of coal projects are being run in the country with the assistance from the World Bank;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said projects are likely to be completed; and

(d) the amount allocated of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) Yes, Sir. There are two projects in Coal India Limited with the assistance of World Bank i.e. (1) Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project (2) Coal Sector Environmental & Social Mitigation Project (CSESMP).

(b) The CSRP consist of 24 profitable coal mining sub-projects under the five subsidiaries of Coal India Limited i.e. Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) and Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL).

The CSRP was co-financed by World Bank (IBRD) and Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC) on 50:50 ratios.

The main objective of CSRP is to make Coal India Limited commercially viable and self sustaining and increase coal production for meeting the future demand of energy in the country.

The Coal Sector Environmental and Social Mitigation Project (CSESMP) consists of 25 coal mining sub projects which are as in CSRP plus one additional project named Bistrampur OCP of SECL. CSESMP is funded by IDA credit routed through budget.

The objective of the CSESMP is to strengthen Coal India's capacity to deal more effectively with environment and social issues through implementation of Environmental Action Plans (EAPs), Resettlement and Rehabilitation Action Plans (RAPs) and Indigenous People's Development Plans (IPDPs) and also to make coal production environmentally and socially sustainable.

(c) The CSESMP is scheduled to be completed by June, 2002. The CSRP project is scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2003.

(d) (1) The amount allocated initially for CSRP US\$ 1030 million.

Amount surrendered CSRP US\$ 507.40 million.
 Net amount allocated for CSRP US\$ 522.60 million.
 (2) The amount allocated for CSESMP US\$ 47.96 million.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Airports

1252. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:
 DR. N. VENKATASWAMY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for modernisation of airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of airports identified in each State particularly in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh for upgradation/modernization alongwith the details of airports modernized during 2000-2001; and

(d) the details of the total allocation made for the purpose and the air traffic reduced/likely to be reduced as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) Development and modernisation of airports is a continuous process and depends upon the traffic requirements, availability of funds, acquisition of land required for the purpose, etc. The works are undertaken in a phased manner. Major works like extension/strengthening of runways/taxiways, construction/expansion/modification of terminal buildings, aprons, etc. have been carried out/completed during 2000-2001 at various airports at a cost of Rs. 775.50 crores. Major works are also planned for modernizing the airports at Hyderabad, Rajahmundry, Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Gaya, Purnia and Patna in Bihar, Dibrugarh, Guwahati and Silchar in Assam, Delhi in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar and Rajkot in Gujarat, Kangra (Gaggal) and Kullu (Bhuntar) in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir, Goa in Goa, Hubli and Mangalore in Karnataka, Calicut in Kerala, Aurangabad Mumbai, Nagpur and Pune in Maharashtra, Bhopal and Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Udaipur in Rajasthan, Chennai, Coimbatore, and Madurai in Tamil Nadu, Lucknow and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, Dehradun in Uttaranchal and Kolkata in West Bengal at a cost of Rs. 1452 crores in phases.

Closure of Safdarjung Airport

1253. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:
 SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to close down the Safdarjung Airport, Delhi in the wake of recent terrorist attacks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the US Embassy has also requested to divert the route of flights taking off from Safdarjung Airstrip towards Roosevelt House at Chanakyapuri;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith reaction of the Government on the request;

(e) whether the Government have taken any steps to protect the Government/private buildings; nuclear establishments etc. from such threat perceptions; and

(f) if so, the details of such establishments and quantum of money spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In the wake of recent incidents in USA, instructions have been issued modifying the Safdarjung Airport's circuit so that aircraft taking off from that airport do not fly over the diplomatic areas.

(e) Orders prohibiting the flying in defined airspaces already exist.

(f) It may not be in the public interest to reveal these details.

Target of Agricultural Growth

1254. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed target of 4 per cent growth in agriculture sector in the Tenth Plan;

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

(c) whether the Government are allocating less funds for agriculture in the Tenth Plan as compared to Ninth Plan period; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) to (d) The Approach paper to the Tenth Plan aims at an indicative target of 8 percent GDP growth for the period 2002-2007. Sector-wise growth rates as well as allocation of funds for agriculture and other sectors for the Tenth Plan, have not been finalised.

[*Translation*]

Seed Crop Insurance Scheme

1255. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched a pilot scheme on seed crop insurance to facilitate growth of seed industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of crops covered under the scheme; and

(d) the amount insured for each crop, and the number of farmers covered thereunder, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have launched a pilot scheme on Seed Crop Insurance in Rabi 1999-2000 with the following objectives:

- to provide financial security and income stability to the Breeder/Seed grower in the event of failure of seed crop;
- to strengthen confidence in the existing seed breeder/grower and encourage new breeders/growers to undertake seed production programme of newly released hybrid/improved varieties;
- to provide stability to the infrastructure established by the State owned Seed Corporations/State Farms; and
- to give a boost to the Modern Seed Industry and bring it under scientific arrangement principles.

The scheme is implemented by the General insurance Corporation of India.

(c) Seed Crop of Paddy, Wheat, Bajra, Jowar, Maize, Arhar, Gram, Groundnut, Soyabean, Sunflower and Cotton are covered under the scheme.

(d) The details of sum insured for each crop and number of farmers covered thereunder, State-wise is enclosed as statement.

Statement

State-wise/Crop-wise number of farmers covered and details of sum insured under pilot scheme on Seed Crop Insurance

RABI 1999-2000

State	Crop	Number of Farmers	Sum insured (Rs.)
Haryana	Gram	13	1171440
Karnataka	Sun-Flower	22	96000
Orissa	Paddy	27+2 Farm	671364
Rajasthan	Gram	Farm only	4449875
Uttar Pradesh	Wheat	242	7300000
Total		274+Govt. Farms	13688679

KHARIF-2000

State	Crop	Number of Farmers	Sum insured (Rs.)
Orissa	Paddy	76+Govt.Farm	2655288
Gujarat	Ground	17	1724526
Total		96 + Govt. Farm	4379814

RABI-2000-2001

State	Crop	Number of Farmers	Sum insured (Rs.)
Karnataka	Jowar-Hybrid	15	469050
Total	15	469050	

Review Committee for Smaller Aircraft*[English]*

1256. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have set up any review/enquiry committee with regard to safety measures provided in small aircraft;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said committee has submitted its report;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (e) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government had constituted a Committee on October 1, 2001 to undertake a comprehensive review of the systems and procedures for acquisition, maintenance and operations of small aircraft.

(c) to (e) The report was received on 03.11.2001 and is now being examined in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Disaster Mitigation Institute

1257. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any suggestion was made by the Disaster Mitigation Institute Ahmedabad for constitution of a National Commission during sometime past;
- (b) if so, whether national Commission has been set up;
- (c) if so, the objectives and the functions of the Commission; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Different organisations in the field of disaster management make suggestions from time to time for strengthening disaster management system in the country. However, the Government has set up a National Committee on Disaster Management under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The National Committee will deliberate upon long term measures needed for effective management of natural disasters including institutional and legal framework.

Closure of Coal Mines

1258. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to close some coal mines in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) and (b) The matter is under examination of the Government.

Powers to State Pollution Control Boards

1259. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after expiry of more than 25 years since the establishment of the Central State Pollution Control Boards, our waters are dirty, the air is foul, health care costs are mounting and people as well as Courts are worried sick about the environment;

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

(c) whether the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) are dominated by their non-technical members;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) if not, whether spending restrictions imposed on SPCBs prohibit them from meeting capital expenditure requirements despite having surplus revenue; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No Sir. After the establishment of Central & State Pollution Control Boards, steps have been taken to control industrial pollution, prevention of pollution of water and air from various sources etc. Due to the intervention of Central & State Pollution Control Boards, identified polluting categories of industries have set up pollution control devices. Significant steps have also been taken to reduce vehicular pollution. The other important steps taken to reduce/abate pollution include use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants, laying guidelines on siting of industries, introducing concept of waste minimisation, persuading local bodies to improve management of sewage and solid wastes, management of hazardous wastes and others.

(c) and (d) State Pollution control Boards consist of Members as per the composition laid down

under the Water (Prevention of Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

(e) and (f) Central government have not imposed restrictions on SPCBs for incurring any capital expenditure. However, the Water Cess reimbursements made by the Central Government to the State Pollution Control Boards are to be utilised for preventive and control pollution in accordance with the provisions of section 17 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, subject to the condition that the expenditure on office operations and establishment should not exceed 25% of the amount released.

Policy for Setting up of FPI

1260. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to promote the Food Processing Industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of food processing industries which were provided financial assistance by the Union Government during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) and (b) Government have been taking a number of policy initiatives from time to time for the promotion of the food processing sector. Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its Plan Schemes extends financial assistance to Non-Governmental Organizations, Cooperatives, Private industry, Public Sector Undertakings, Human Resource Development and Research & Development institutions etc. for development of the processed food sector.

This Ministry has also initiated action for formulating a National Food Processing Policy and for this purpose a Draft Policy has been prepared which envisages, among other things, creation of enabling environment, infrastructure development, linkages at farm level etc.

(c) A statement indicating details is enclosed.

Statement

Financial Assistance Extended under Plan Schemes for Setting up Food Processing Industries including Food Processing and Training Centres in Different States During 1998-99 to 2000-2001

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)

States/Union Territories	No. of Units	1998-99	No. of Units	1999-2000	No. of Units	2000-01
Andhra Pradesh	3	40.50	11	241.39	5	320.55
Karnataka	5	86.90	9	194.10	4	67.69
Kerala	6	298.68	4	344.10	7	233.10
Tamilnadu	11	127.93	18	182.45	8	86.40
Orissa	21	140.80	14	110.01	3	43.50
Bihar	4	19.00	6	9.78	4	23.77
West Bengal	16	497.95	8	252.96	4	186.00
Uttar Pradesh	14	132.57	13	204.73	8	560.13
Punjab	3	173.15	1	25.00	4	352.32
Haryana	-	-	2	57.50	2	65.00
Delhi	2	8.00	2	1.07	1	1.00
Himachal Pradesh	2	41.15	1	15.75	-	-
Jammu & Kashmir	1	7.50	3	82.57	1	200.00
Gujarat	2	35.00	7	218.58	3	92.50
Madhya Pradesh	3	73.00	2	44.57	2	243.00
Maharashtra	12	180.65	17	264.65	10	356.08
Goa	-	-	1	1.25	-	-
Assam	6	217.00	8	247.56	5	278.79
Meghalaya	-	-	1	44.30	-	-
Tripura	1	9.05	-	-	3	231.05
Manipur	4	34.41	4	59.68	16	334.39
Nagaland	2	99.00	2	104.72	1	97.25
Andaman & Nicobar	1	6.90	-	-	-	-

*[Translation]***Headquarter of Himalayan National Park, HP**

1261. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government received any requests regarding shifting of the headquarters of Great Himalayan National Park from Kullu to the central park area during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The management of National Parks and Sanctuaries vests with the concerned State Governments. The State Government of Himachal Pradesh have informed that the present headquarter of the Great Himalayan National Park at Kullu is more suitable from management point of view. The State Government have already established office of the Deputy Director at Larji for better management.

[English]

**Investment of PF Money in Private Firms
by Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.**

1262. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Gold Mines Limited Management has invested Provident Fund (PF) amount of its employees in private firms;

(b) if so, the total amount invested in the said firms;

(c) whether the employees have been demanding for withdrawal of PF money; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to pay the PF money to the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Employees Provident Fund Trustees (EPF) in Bharat Gold Mines Limited invested a sum of Rs. 2.50 crore of Provident Fund money with a private firm namely M/s S.N. Finance Limited.

(c) and (d) Employees have not been demanding final payment of EPF money. Any request of the employees of the company for temporary withdrawals from Provident Fund for marriage, medical treatment, house construction, etc. are disposed of in accordance with rules for withdrawal from Provident Fund of the employees formulated in this behalf as there is sufficient money available with EPF trust for meeting such demands.

**Interest Relief to Food Processing Industries in
Karnataka**

1263. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought Rs. 5 crores for providing interest relief to Food Processing Industries;

(b) if so, the date on which the proposal was sent;

(c) the number of Food Processing Industries proposed to be provided with interest relief in Karnataka; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) to (d) Ministry of Food Processing Industry does not have any scheme for providing interest relief to food processing industries and no such proposal has been received from Government of Karnataka in this Ministry.

Security Arrangements at National Parks

1264. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

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

(a) whether poaching in the Corbett National Park continues unabated to the extent that a Dy. Ranger was killed and some forest guards injured by the poachers sometimes in the last week of August, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have examined the reasons for failure of the security arrangements made so far in protection the animals in various parts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to firmly tackle the ever-growing poaching of protected animals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Six instances of poaching of elephants between 21st December, 2000 and 10th February, 2001 were reported by Uttaranchal Government. Consequent to these killings, infrastructure has been reinforced and elaborate combing of the forests has been done. In one such exercise, Deputy Ranger Shri Bipin Chandra Pandey lost his life in an encounter with miscreants on 28th August, 2001 and 3 other forest officials were injured.

(c) and (d) Parts and products of elephants, tiger and panther, musk pods, bear bile have very lucrative price in the illegal market across our borders and in many developed countries. The high pecuniary gains have created a large network of organised mafias across the country. The limited staff within the Forest Department and lack of adequate mobility, effective communication network, technical skills in intelligence gathering for detection of poaching cases and delayed prosecution in courts are major limitations before the forest officials in meeting the increasing challenge of poaching and illegal trade.

(e) The efforts made for protection of tiger and other wildlife in the country are:

- (i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) act, 1972.
- (ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the State under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provided effective protection to wild animals.
- (iii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- (iv) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
- (v) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary (Environment and Forests), Government of India for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

Destruction of Forests due to Illegal Mining

1265. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total damage done to environment and forest resources during the last five years by each public and private sector company dealing with mining activities in Keonjhar, Mayurbhary, Sundargarh and undivided KBK districts of Orissa;

(b) whether plantation of trees activity has been undertaken in the pits and holes left behind after mining by these companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore and the action taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government against such companies for degradation, destroying and creating environment imbalance including pollution?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Research Work by ICAR

1266. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of researches made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to protect rice and cotton from devastating pests;

(b) the details of other projects undertaken by the ICAR under National Agricultural Projects;

(c) whether genetically engineered cotton and rice are likely to be made available to farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) since its inception has focussed on developing resistant varieties to different diseases and insect pests of cotton and rice and their control measures through the use of pesticides/biopesticides and other agronomic manipulations. Also easily adaptable and economically viable IPM strategies have been developed for the control of major pests of the rice and cotton.

(b) Project undertaken through financial support of the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) are presented as statement enclosed.

(c) to (d) The transgenic Bt cotton developed by Mahyco is being evaluated through All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project in six states during 2001-2002 crop season. Its suitability for commercial cultivation will be known after getting results of these trials as well as trials being undertaken by the Department of Biotechnology.

In so far as development of genetically engineered rice crop is concerned, the transgenics are in preliminary stages of development and evaluation.

Statement*ICAR Projects under National Agricultural Technology Projects*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Place of Operation
1.	IPM in rice and cotton ecosystems—technology improvement, validation and transfer.	TNAU, Madurai
2.	Improving the bio-efficacy and persistence of neem in pest management of rice and rice based cropping systems.	TNRRI, Thanjavur
3.	Mycopesticides—improvement of production and formulation technologies for management of major insect pests on cotton	AU, Visakhapatnam
4.	Role of Microbivorous nematodes in nutrient mineralization in Rice-Wheat agroecosystems to promote sustainable agriculture	IARI, New Delhi
5.	Mycoinsecticide and Botanical for Management of Rice pests in Assam	AAU, Jorhat
6.	Development of Integrated Disease Management Strategies for sheath Blight Disease under Rice-Rice Cropping system	AAU, RRS, Titabar
7.	Isolation of secondary metabolites from fluorescent pseudomonas and their bioefficacy against pathogens of Rice	NARDI, Secundrabad
8.	New Approaches to Integrated Pest Management in Rainfed Rice based Production Systems	Director of Rice Research, Hyderabad
9.	Development of adaptable IPM in Rice Wheat Cropping system	NCIPM, New Delhi
10.	Impact of pesticides on soil-biota and non-targeted Organisms in rice.	BHU Varanasi-221005 (UP)
11.	Control of leaf curl disease in cotton and development of protocols for mass multiplication of predators, parasites and insects pathogens	CICR, Nagpur-440010 (MS)
12.	Development of Weather Based Fore-warning system for Crop pests and Diseases	CRRI, Cuttack

[*Translation*]**Conference of Labour Ministers**

1267. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of Labour Ministers held recently in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the issues discussed therein;

(c) the details of the decisions taken thereon; and

(d) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Reservation for SC/ST/OBC**

1268. SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether to SCs/STs and OBCs who are selected on merit are not required to be shown against the quota of vacancies/posts reserved for their communities as provided under para 11 of Explanatory Notes to DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 02/07/1997 persons belonging;

(b) if so, the total number of persons belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs who have been selected/recruited/promoted on merit to different categories of services and not counted against the 'reserved quota of vacancies/posts' for their communities during the last five years under his Ministry; and

(c) the number of persons belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs who have been selected on merit but shown/adjusted against vacancies/posts reserved for their communities indicating reasons therefor?

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

*[Translation]***Welfare of Indian Workers**

1269. SHRI BRIJ BHUSAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the latest measures taken to safeguard the interests of the Indian workers in the context of entry of multinationals;

(b) whether the Government have been facing pressure of the multinational companies in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the incidents of oppression/exploitation of the workers during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) There are adequate provisions in the existing labour laws to protect the interests of the workers. The labour laws are equally applicable to multinationals working in India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Representations have been received from the workers of some multinationals regarding forced resignations, retrenchments and obtaining forced undertaking of 'good conduct' from them.

*[English]***Backlog of Reserved Posts**

1270. SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'backlog/carried forward vacancies' reserved for SCs, STs and OBC's are required to be treated as a 'separate and distinct group' as provided under Article 16(4) B of the constitution to overcome 50% ceiling limit on vacancies to be reserved in an year;

(b) if so, the details of 'backlog/carried forward vacancies' ascertained as per para 5 of the DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt (Res.) dated July 2, 1997 in respect of (1) SCs (2) STs and OBCs in Group A, B, C and D categories of services as on August, 29, 1997 in the Ministry of Coal and Mines when special Recruitment Drives etc. meant for filling such vacancies were stopped;

(c) the details of such carried forward vacancies filled during each of the years and those which remain unfilled; and

(d) the details of fresh vacancies/posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last four years as per post based rosters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

SCs/STs in Group 'A' and 'B' Services

1271. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group 'A') services stood only at 13.59% (SCs-10.38% STs-3.21%) and in Class II (Group 'B') services only at 14.41% (SCs-11.73% and STs-2.68%) as against 22.5% quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs and 7.5% in respect of STs) as on 1/1/1998 under Central Government;

(b) if so, the total number of posts in (i) Class I (Group 'A') Category and (ii) Class II (Group 'B') category and equivalents thereof under his Ministry; and

(c) the number of persons belonging to (i) General (ii) SC, (iii) ST and (iv) OBC categories working against such posts and their respective percentages to the total posts?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Dairy Development and Animal Husbandry

1272. SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the facilities provided to the farmers and dairy owners for dairy development and animal husbandry under Dairy Development Technology Mission (DDTM);

(b) the number of new schemes and programmes initiated under the said mission during the last three years;

(c) the financial assistance being given to each State under these schemes during the said period alongwith the results thereof; and

(d) the amount proposed to be allocated under this mission to each State during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Under the Technology Mission on Dairy Development (TMDD), the following activities were taken up to provide facilities to the farmers and dairy owners:

(i) **Operational Linkages Programme** — In order to provide cost effective animal husbandry services like health care, breeding services and animal husbandry extension etc. and to optimize the resources available with the State Governments and other agencies were brought about.

(ii) **Strengthening of Frozen Semen Stations** — In order to increase the frozen semen production capacity to meet the future requirement of semen for artificial insemination programmes, selected

Frozen semen Stations in the Government sector and in the Non Government Organisation sector have been strengthened.

(iii) **Liquid Nitrogen Delivery System** — In order to make available liquid nitrogen for artificial insemination programme at cheaper rate, liquid nitrogen delivery system in Gujarat and Karnataka have been installed.

(iv) **Fodder Seed Production Programme** — The Mission helped in providing high quality fodder seeds at reasonable prices to dairy farmers.

(b) The tenure of TMDD ended in March, 1999. No new schemes and programmes were initiated during the last three years.

(c) State-wise Financial Assistance provided under TMDD Programme for the last three years is given in the statement enclosed. Implementation of various programmes by the Mission has resulted in the following:—

(i) Additional Coverage of 5374 dairy co-operative societies for providing animal health care; and 2079 dairy co-operative societies for artificial insemination, vaccination etc.

(ii) District Rural Development Agencies have started giving focused attention to dairy and animal husbandry development and financial assistance for infrastructure creation and distribution of milch animals in the existing milk routes.

(iii) Frozen Semen Production increased from 108 lakh doses to 241 lakh doses per annum.

(iv) Establishment of a model system for bulk procurement, storage and delivery of liquid nitrogen for artificial insemination programme.

(v) Orientation of additional 380 officers of State Animal Husbandry Departments and 29 District magistrates/Collectors.

(vi) Production of additional 9538 Metric tonnes of high quality fodder seed.

(d) As the tenure of TMDD has already ended, therefore, no amount is proposed to be allocated to any States.

Statement**State-wise Financial Assistance Provided Under TMDD Programme for the last three years**

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	Name of the State	Year		
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31.78	27.29	-
2.	Bihar	149.21	5.56	-
3.	Goa	0.00	13.76	-
4.	Gujarat	119.01	72.48	-
5.	Haryana	0.41	0.00	-
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	-
7.	Karnataka	22.11	38.68	-
8.	Kerala	1.72	2.71	-
9.	Madhya Pradesh	13.41	38.89	-
10.	Maharashtra	0.69	33.55	-
11.	Orissa	57.99	7.93	-
12.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	-
13.	Punjab	30.76	11.13	-
14.	Rajasthan	9.04	10.14	-
15.	Tamil Nadu	2.50	0.01	-
16.	Uttar Pradesh	34.83	20.86	-
17.	West Bengal	4.33	5.96	-

* TMDD scheme ended in March, 1999, no financial release was made under the scheme during the year 2000-2001.

Food Processing Industries

1273. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance provided to States in establishing the food processing industries;

(b) whether any proposal is pending with his Ministry for setting up of food processing industries in various States, including Sikkim;

(c) if so, the details thereof, Statewise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance to PSUs, Co-Operatives, Joint & Assisted sector, Private Sector, NGOs, HRD, R&D institutions etc. under their Plan schemes. The Plan Schemes operated by the Ministry are project oriented and not State specific. No application from any State Government, including Sikkim, for setting up Food Processing Industries has been received in the Ministry.

Compensation by NLC for Acquired Land

1274. SHRI M. DURAI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided compensation benefits/job opportunities for the family members of those whose lands were acquired by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC);

(b) if so, the details of cases pending and the number of cases in which compensation benefits paid;

(c) whether there is any difficulty for the NLC to provide job opportunities to the said persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Compensation for acquired lands are being paid as per the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act. Under the Act, monetary compensation to the affected families are paid as fixed by the competent authority for different categories of land surrendered. Apart from this, NLC has an approved Rehabilitation Action Plan comprising of a physical resettlement package for those surrendering houses and an economic rehabilitation package comprising of self employment training, temporary employment, contract work etc. for land oustees.

(b) Whenever land is acquired from private owners, the compensation towards the value of land and immovable property thereon is paid to the State Revenue Authorities for disbursement to the owner. Since 1977 compensation for 23,598 awardees has been remitted with government authorities. Out of the above 23,598 awardees, 9954 awardees have approached the courts for seeking enhanced compensation. As on 31.10.2001, 8368 of such cases have been settled and enhanced

compensation paid. 1,586 cases are still pending in various courts for settlement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The number of job seekers is large as compared to the employment opportunities available, particularly as the educational background of the displaced persons do not match the requirement of skilled manpower. In addition difficulties are also experienced by NLC in the following areas:

- Cases where more than two persons are already employed in NLC, and are not eligible on "one in one family" norm.
- Splitting up of the property of the family and each Family Member seeking employment based on such split-up Awards while the norm is for main Awardee only.
- Claims for employment from persons other than dependants, even though they are not eligible, as per norms.
- Claims for small fragment of Land.

Ambulift at Airports

1275. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of airports in the country having the facility of ambulift;

(b) whether the Government propose to have ambulifts at every airport;

(c) if so, the time by which such facility is likely to be provided;

(d) if not the reasons therefore;

(e) whether the Government are aware that the Airport authority has one ambulift in Mumbai, which does not carry passengers who need this facility from aircraft to arrival hall; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has provided one Ambulift each at the airports at Mumbai, Chennai, Coimbatore, Guwahati, Goa, Ahmedabad and Calicut.

Indian Airlines has provided two Ambulifts at the airports at Delhi and one Ambulift each at Kolkata, Bangalore and Thiruvananthapuram. Air India has provided three Ambulifts at Mumbai and one at Cochin airport.

(b) to (d) No, sir. Airlines normally provided Ambulifts as a passenger amenity at certain airports only on the basis of operational requirements.

(e) and (f) Ambulift provided at Mumbai serves the passengers as and when needed.

SCs/STs Posts in Coal and Mines

1276. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group A) services stood only at 10.68% (SCs-08.41% and STs-2.27%) and in Class II (Group B) services only at 13.20% (SCs-09.68% and STs-3.52%) as against 22.5% quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs and 7.5% in respect of STs) as on 1/1/1998 under Central Public Sector Enterprise.

(b) if so, the total number of posts in (i) Class I (Group A) Category and (ii) Class II (Group B) and equivalents thereof under all (1) Public Sector Undertakings/Enterprises (2) Statutory Organisations/Corporations (3) Autonomous Organisations attached and Subordinate Offices under his Ministry; and

(c) The number of persons belonging to (i) General (ii) SC, (iii) ST and (iv) OBC working against such posts and their respective percentages to the total posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) As per the information furnished by Deptt. of Public Enterprises, the percentage of SCs and STs in Group A and Group B services in all the Central Public Sector Undertakings as on 1.1.2000 is as follows:

Group	Percentage of SCs	Percentage of STs
Group A	10.35	2.98
Group B	11.05	4.18

(b) and (c) Total posts in Group A and Group B and percentage of reserved categories in the Public Sector Undertakings in Department of Mines under Ministry of Coal and Mines except BGML are indicated below:—

Group A

Name of PSU	Total	General	%	SC	%	ST	%	OBC	%
HZL	1272	1163	91.43	88	6.92	21	1.65	0	0
NALCO	1217	949	77.98	137	11.26	52	4.27	79	6.49
MECL	469	353	75.26	71	15.14	21	4.48	24	5.12
HCL	1479	1274	86.14	111	7.50	31	2.10	63	4.26

Group B

Name of PSU	Total	General	%	SC	%	ST	%	OBC	%
HZL	1274	1148	90.10	95	7.46	31	2.44	0	0
NALCO	1014	681	67.16	139	13.71	96	9.47	98	9.66
MECL	40	34	85	4	10	01	2.5	01	2.5
HCL	528	350	66.28	64	12.12	22	4.17	92	17.43

Bharat Gold Mines Limited stands closed w.e.f. 1.3.2001 under Section 25(o) of the Industrial Dispute Act 1947 subject to the decision of High Court of Karnataka where the matter is subjudice.

The information in respect of PSUs of Department of Coal is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Training of Officers

1277. SHRI PRAKASH YASWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government disputes officers for training to the reputed Foreign Institutions for improving their academic, managerial, technical and administrative capabilities in various fields and discipline where in some cases cost of such training are borne by the sponsoring countries/agencies under bi-lateral/international agreements;

(b) if so, the number of persons from his Ministry who underwent such short/long term training courses during last three years, year-wise;

(c) the number of SCs, STs and OBCs among them and their percentage;

(d) the details of 'Special Provision' made for ensuring adequate representation to SCs, STs and OBCs for

availing such opportunities as provided under Article 46 of the Constitution; and

(e) if not, the reasons for ignoring the said constitutional directive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Installation of TCAWS at Airports

1278. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government decided to introduce the Traffic Collision Avoidance Warning Systems (TCAWS) in the country after the Charkhi Dadri mid Air collision;

(b) if so, whether the TCAWS have been installed to avoid any such mid air collision in future;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since

1.1.99, it has been made mandatory for all aircraft having seating capacity of more than 30 and all up-weight of more than 5700 kgs. to install Traffic Collision Avoidance Warning System (TCAWS) in the Indian airspace to reduce the risk of mid-air collision between aircraft. At present, all aeroplanes falling in this category are installed with this system.

(c) TCAWS is not installed at airports. This is installed in the aircraft.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting of up a Pilgrim Tourism Board

1279. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have decided to set up a Pilgrim Tourism Board to promote pilgrim tourism;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this Board is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details are being worked out.

National Labour Commission

1280. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI G.MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to extend the term of Second Labour Commission;

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

(c) the details of recommendations made by the commission so far and accepted by the Government for implementation; and

(d) the time by which the final report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work of the Commission is presently at a crucial stage of compilation, consolidation and interpretation of various data. The Commission has also to study the report of the various Groups set up by it as well as memoranda & evidences received in response to the questionnaires from various quarters. In view of this, a decision has been taken to extend the tenure of the Commission.

(c) The Commission has not so far made any recommendations.

(d) The final report of the Commission is expected by 15.02.2002.

Commercialisation of Lilies and Lotus

1281. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps for the commercialisation of Lilies and Lotus on the line of Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to launch a "Floriculture Mission" to co-ordinate the different facets of the floriculture industry like traditional flowers, cutflowers, dryflowers, cutfoliage, pottfoliage plants etc.;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (f) The Government of India implemented a Central Sector Scheme on Commercial Floriculture during 8th and 9th Five Year Plan till October, 2000. The scheme provided for quality planting material through model floriculture centres and nurseries, training of entrepreneurs, green houses, on-farm handling units and area expansion. The scheme has now been subsumed in Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Macro Management in Agriculture—

Supplementation/Complementation of States efforts through work plan". The scheme provides greater flexibility to States in prioritizing their needs. The States can pursue the programmes relating to commercialization of lilies and lotus under the scheme.

The Government of India has also implemented FAO assisted project (1998-2000) on floriculture wherein lily was a focused flower specially for temperate regions.

For the present, there is no plan to launch a floriculture mission. However, different facets of floriculture industry like traditional flowers, outflow, dryflowers, cutfoliage, pottfoliage are being addressed through various programmes of the Government. National Horticulture Board (NHB) under its programmes "Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-Harvest Management" provides back ended capital subsidy @ 20% of total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 25.00 lakhs which includes floriculture projects also. Besides, Agricultural produce Export Development Authority (APEDA) is implementing various programmes for floriculture industry. It has taken initiative to set up flower auction centre in Bangalore. Similar centers are being considered by APEDA for Bombay and Noida (U.P.) which would help exports of flowers and growth of the floriculture industry. APEDA has also set up a flower marketing centre at Amsterdam, Holland, to maintain consistency in supplies for better value realization.

[Translation]

Quality of Indigenous Fruits

1282. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the quality of indigenous fruits in view of the increasing demand for foreign fruits due to its quality; and

(b) if so, the name of the foreign fruits which are much in demand in the market alongwith the steps being taken to protect the indigenous fruits market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No survey has been conducted on the demand of foreign fruits in India. However, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is conducting regular research programmes for improving the quality of all commercial

and indigenous fruits. Besides, the import duty of fruits is enhanced from time to time to protect the indigenous fruit market.

[English]

Import of Cattle

1283. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cattle imported during each of the last two years, country-wise;

(b) whether cattle meat is exported from the country; and

(c) if so, the names of the countries to which cattle meat is exported indicating the amount of profit earned therefrom during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) The details of import of cattle during the last two years are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir. As per the current Export Policy, the export of cattle meat (beef) is prohibited.

(c) In view of (b) above, question does not arise.

Statement

Import of cattle, country-wise and cattle-wise during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

Year 1999-2000

S. No.	Description	Country	No. of Cattle
1.	Heifers & Bulls (for breeding)	Australia	21
2.	Heifers & Bulls (for breeding)	Denmark	28
3.	Bulls, Adult other than pure bred breeding	Nepal	22
4.	Others (excluding Bulls and Buffaloes) other than pure bred breeding	Nepal	153
			Total 224

Year 2000-2001

S. No.	Description	Country	No. of Cattle
1.	Bulls, Adult other than pure bred breeding	Nepal	427
2.	Others (excluding Bulls and Buffaloes) other than pure bred breeding	Nepal	626
Total			1053

[Translation]

Renaming of Krishi Vidyapeeth in Maharashtra

1284. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to rename Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth as 'K, Bansanraoji Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth in view of his significant contribution in Agriculture Field;

(b) if so, the time by which the name of the above Vidyapeeth is likely to be changed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received in the Council.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Not applicable.

[English]

Outstanding Dues of ITDC

1285. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amount is due to the ITDC from various Government departments; and

(b) if so, the names of the departments along with details of the amount due from each of these departments, separately along with the steps taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 15.62 crores

is outstanding against various Central and State Governments/Departments as on 30th June, 2001. Ministry/Department-wise details are given in the statement-I, II and III enclosed.

Recovery of outstanding dues in a continuous process. The measures taken/being taken to recover the outstanding dues include:

1. Personal contacts and periodical reminders;
2. Periodical review both at unit and corporate level;
3. Assistance by the administrative Ministry;
4. Stoppage of credit facility to defaulting parties;
5. Resorting to legal action wherever necessary.

Statement-I

Ministry and Department thereunder wise position of outstanding as on 30.06.2001

(Rs. in lacs)

S.No.	Particulars	Amount
1	2	3
1.	Ministry of Agriculture	21.01
2.	Ministry of Atomic Energy & Space	2.09
3.	Ministry of Civil Aviation	9.92
4.	Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers	1.01
5.	Ministry of Commerce	3.70
6.	Ministry of Culture	134.35
7.	Ministry of Communication	2.13
8.	Ministry of Defence	74.57
9.	Ministry of Energy & Coal	2.22
10.	Ministry of Environment & Forests	59.08
11.	Ministry of External Affairs	182.75
12.	Ministry of Finance	37.09
13.	Ministry of Food & Civil Supply	13.95
14.	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare	23.48
15.	Ministry of Home Affairs	62.77

1	2	3
16.	Ministry of Human Resources Development	101.87
17.	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting	33.92
18.	Ministry of Industry	13.92
19.	Ministry of Labour	15.53
20.	Ministry of Law & Justice	6.82
21.	Ministry of Ocean Development	7.87
22.	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	64.13
23.	Ministry of Personnel & Training & Pension	1.92
24.	Ministry of Petroleum	0.27
25.	Ministry of Power	0.71
26.	Ministry of Railways	5.90
27.	Ministry of Social Welfare	0.21
28.	Ministry of Shipping	0.09
29.	Ministry of Science & Technology	92.97
30.	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment	1.11
31.	Ministry of Sports	2.39
32.	Ministry of Small Scale Industry	0.02
33.	Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation	0.68
34.	Ministry of Steel	18.37
35.	Ministry of Surface Transport	4.14
36.	Ministry of Telecommunication	3.09
37.	Ministry of Textiles	29.94
38.	Ministry of Tourism	210.28
39.	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	0.62
40.	Ministry of Urban & Rural Development	33.35
41.	Ministry of Water Resources	3.60
	Total	1283.84

Statement-II

Other Deptt. (Central Govt.) wise position of outstanding as on 30.06.2001

Other Departments Including Autonomous Bodies

(Rs. in lacs)

S. No.	Particulars	Total
1	2	3
1.	Archeological Survey of India	0.77
2.	Aero India	1.54
3.	Controller & Auditors General of India	0.19
4.	College Combat Mahow	1.31
5.	Press Trust of India	0.06
6.	President Secretariat	0.18
7.	AIIMS	0.25
8.	Election Commission of India	16.08
9.	National Inst. of Natural History	1.60
10.	Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Fund	0.64
11.	Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy	0.04
12.	DGFT	0.36
13.	LRDE	0.42
14.	National Highway Authority of India	0.04
15.	PM House	14.12
16.	Supreme Court	0.02
17.	SC/ST Commission	0.04
18.	Siri Fort Village	4.04
19.	TIFR	0.51
20.	UPSC	0.52
21.	WEC Institute	39.12
22.	Vice President House	5.11
23.	United News of India	0.03
24.	Geological Survey of India	1.28

1	2	3
25.	Rashtriya Hindi Academy	1.28
26.	Various Govt. Deptt. (Closed Units)	5.87
27.	Woman Employment Committee	0.10
28.	Purve Kaman Mukhyalya	0.08
29.	NDMC	0.07
Grand Total		95.67

Statement-III

Other Deptt. (Central Govt.) wise position of outstanding as on 30.06.2001

Other Departments Including Autonomous Bodies

(Rs. in lacs)

S. No.	Particulars	Total
1	2	3
1.	Archeological Survey of India	0.77
2.	Aero India	1.54
3.	Controller & Auditors General of India	0.19
4.	College Combat Mahow	1.31
5.	Press Trust of India	0.06
6.	President Secretariat	0.18
7.	AIIMS	0.25
8.	Election Commission of India	16.08
9.	National Inst. Natural History	1.60
10.	Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Fund	0.64
11.	Lal Bahadur Shashtri Academy	0.04
12.	DGFT	0.36
13.	LRDE	0.42
14.	National Highway Authority of India	0.04
15.	PM House	14.12
16.	Supreme Court	0.02
17.	SC/ST Commission	0.04

1	2	3
18.	Siri Fort Village	4.04
19.	TIFR	0.51
20.	UPSC	0.52
21.	WEC Institute	39.12
22.	Vice President House	5.11
23.	United News of India	0.03
24.	Geological Survey of India	1.28
25.	Rahstriya Hindi Academy	1.28
26.	Various Govt. Deptt. (Closed Units)	5.87
27.	Woman Employment Committee	0.10
28.	Purve Kaman Mukhyalya	0.08
29.	NDMC	0.07
Grand Total		95.67

Income by Tourism Department

1286. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the profit earned by the tourism department during last three years;

(b) the number of persons directly and indirectly engaged in the job relating to tourism;

(c) whether rich cultural heritage has been a great attraction for the foreign tourist;

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government for the promotion of this cultural heritage; and

(e) the number of projects sanctioned during 2000-2001 to upgrade the tourism infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India only acts as a facilitator and coordinator to the State Governments/UT Administrations and Stake holders of the tourism industry for development and promotion of tourism. However, foreign exchange earnings for the country through tourism during last three years are given below:—

Year	Rs. in crores
1998	12150.00
1999	12951.00
2000	14238.00

(b) Estimate direct employment in tourism industry was 17.31 million persons and indirect employment was 23.54 million persons in 2000-2001.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Department of Tourism takes following measures to promote India as a cultural heritage destination.

- (i) Organising Fairs & Festivals, Seminars, India Evenings, Talks etc.
- (ii) Production of literature, films, CD-Roms, Audio-Visual presentations;
- (iii) Joint advertising with Travel Agents and Tour Operators
- (iv) Use of Information Technology for promotion
- (v) Providing financial assistance to State Governments for development of tourist places/ infrastructure including refurbishment of monuments.

(e) During 2000-2001, 338 projects amounting to Rs. 77.10 crores were sanctioned for development of tourism infrastructure.

Opening of River Grids

1287. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open river grids in floody areas in various States for flow of water;

(b) if so, whether such an arrangement is also likely to be made from North to South so that water of Ganga and other rivers could flow to South, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development prepared by Central Government in 1980 envisages inter linkages among the

various Peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from presently assessed surplus basins like Ganga, Bharamputra to water deficit basins like Krishna, Cauvery for the optimum utilization of water resources. The Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as an Autonomous Society in July, 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of the National Perspective Plan. NWDA has completed water balance and prefeasibility studies of all the link proposals. NWDA has identified 30 links for preparation of the feasibility report. Implementation of such water transfer link proposals would depend on various factors like consensus among the basin States regarding the proposed transfer, preparation of detailed project reports and availability of funds etc.

Clearance to Power Projects of Kerala

1288. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some power projects of Kerala are pending for environment and forest clearance;

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

(c) the steps taken to accord early clearance to these pending projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) There is no power project of Kerala pending for forest or environmental clearance, except for Kakkadu Hydro-electric project in which decision could not be taken on account of non-furnishing of requisite details by the State Government and the case has been closed. Requests have also been received for reconsideration of two already rejected proposals namely—Kuriarkutty-Karappara Multi-purpose project and the Pooyamkutty Hydro-electric project.

Projection in Public Sector Steel Plants

1289. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set and actual production of Steel recorded in the Public Sector steel plants during the last three years;

(b) whether the public sector steel plants are operating at the optimum level of efficiency; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to improve their operational efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Production performance of Steel Plants of the Public Sector Undertakings under Ministry of Steel for the last three years is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) The operating efficiency of SAIL plants have been improving. However, depressed market

conditions leading to regulation of production has affected optimum operations of the steel plants of SAIL. Efforts are being made to further improve operational efficiency of SAIL plants by maximizing production from modernised efficient routes and matching production to market conditions. Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant is operating at the optimum level of its efficiency.

Statement

Production Performance of SAIL Plants During Last Three years

(in 000 tonnes)

PSU	Year	Hot Metal				Crude Steel				Saleable Steel			
		Cap	Target	Actual	% Full	Cap	Target	Actual	% Full	Cap	Target	Actual	% Full
Sail	1998-99	13694	12675	12075	95	12281	11602	10375	89	9870	10424	8887	85
	1999-00	13719	11899	11820	99	12616	10406	10280	99	10868	9742	9780	100
	2000-01	13719	12945	12093	93	12696	11575	10867	94	10931	10520	9980	95

Production Performance of Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant During Last Three Years

(in 000 tonnes)

PSU	Year	Hot Metal				Crude Steel				Saleable Steel			
		Cap	Target	Actual	% Full	Cap	Target	Actual	% Full	Cap	Target	Actual	% Full
RINL (VSP)	1998-99	3400	3400	2510	73.82	3000	2920	2225	76.19	2656	2580	1933	74.92
	1999-00	3400	3400	2943	86.55	3000	2650	2656	100.22	2656	2305	2382	103.34
	2000-01	3400	3120	3165	101.44	3000	2530	2909	115	2656	2217	2507	113

[Translation]

Strikes and Lockouts

1290. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of strikes and lockouts reported particularly in tribal areas in the Government and private sectors during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of working days lost as a result thereof particularly in Gujarat;

(c) the number of labourers/workers became unemployed particularly in tribal areas of Gujarat as well as other States during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve relations with industrial workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Information on the number of strikes and lock-outs for the years 1998, 1999 & 2000 is given in the statement-I enclosed. The information on the number of strikes and lock-outs reported particularly in tribal areas in the Government and private sectors during each of the last three years State-wise is not centrally maintained.

(b) The information on the number of working days lost is not centrally maintained. However, the information on mandays lost is given in the statement II enclosed.

(c) The information on the number of laboures/workers who became unemployed, particularly in tribal areas of Gujarat as well as other States during the above period as a result of strikes and lock-outs is not centrally maintained.

(d) The Appropriate Governments through their respective conciliation machineries have been taking steps to improve relations with industrial workers and prevent industrial disputes.

Statement-I

Number of strikes and lock outs during 1998-2000

S. No.	Name of States/UTs	Year 1998 No. of Strikes	Year 1998 No. of Lockouts	Year 1999(P) No. of Strikes	Year 1999(P) No. of Lockouts	Year 2000(P) No. of Strikes	Year 2000(P) No. of Lockouts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	60	151	32	91	27	46
2.	Bihar	22	7	14	10	10	6
3.	Delhi	2	11	1	8	1	5
4.	Goa, Daman & Diu	6	0	4	2	8	0
5.	Gujarat	114	18	103	11	67	8
6.	Haryana	49	1	32	1	13	1
7.	Karnataka	36	7	26	6	33	10
8.	Kerala	17	17	27	27	16	28
9.	Madhya Pradesh	26	0	16	1	15	0
10.	Maharashtra	23	12	13	8	26	6
11.	Orissa	14	3	15	2	21	5
12.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Punjab	17	5	14	5	15	5
14.	Rajasthan	25	5	29	7	15	12
15.	Tamil Nadu	156	42	149	33	109	40
16.	Uttar Pradesh	24	26	12	19	13	14
17.	West Bengal	21	116	29	150	22	155
18.	Others	23	8	24	6	27	2
Total		665	432	540	387	435	342

(P) Provisional

Source Labour Bureau, Shimla

Statement-II*Loss of Mandays (in thousands) during 1998-2000*

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UTs	Year 1998			Year 1999 (P)			Year 2000 (P)		
		S	L	T	S	L	T	S	L	T
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2463	3510	5973	230	1140	1370	1113	3272	4385
2.	Bihar	296	124	420	243	165	408	2039	40	2079
3.	Delhi	0	7	7	12	50	62	145	15	160
4.	Goa, Daman & Diu	31	0	31	3	2	5	51	0	51
5.	Gujarat	986	230	1216	259	133	392	532	82	614
6.	Haryana	510	12	522	125	176	301	46	160	206
7.	Karnataka	709	129	838	446	80	526	360	144	504
8.	Kerala	171	380	551	1901	323	2224	692	806	1498
9.	Madhya Pradesh	162	0	162	145	255	400	621	0	621
10.	Maharashtra	460	474	934	333	662	995	345	579	924
11.	Orissa	46	6	52	20	10	30	42	70	112
12.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Punjab	135	110	245	379	44	423	88	63	151
14.	Rajasthan	609	356	965	674	82	756	422	319	741
15.	Tamil Nadu	2007	1150	3157	1545	1086	2631	1062	753	1815
16.	Uttar Pradesh	191	633	824	124	505	629	875	902	1777
17.	West Bengal	502	5470	5972	4020	11391	15411	1075	9402	10477
18.	Others	69	123	192	156	65	221	688	47	735

S Mandays lost due to strikes

L Mandays lost due to lock-outs

T Total Mandays lost

(P) Provisional

Source: Labour Bureau, Shimla

*[English]***Revamping of Animal Genetic**

1291. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide adequate funds for revamping the area of animal genetics and breeding; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes Sir. Genetic upgradation of livestock was identified as a major thrust area during the 9th Plan period.

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding" was initiated during 9th Plan period with a 9th Plan allocation of Rs. 250.00 crore, as against less than Rs. 40.00 crore allocation during 8th Plan period under Centrally Sponsored Schemes concerning cattle and buffalo breeding. The actual amount

released to the States for cattle and buffalo breeding during 1997-98, 1999-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 were Rs. 31.71 crore, 6.18 crore, 33.06 crore and Rs. 24.92 crore respectively. The National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding emphasises on setting up mechanism towards production and dissemination of quality germ plasm.

Indian Council of Veterinary Research

1292. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish the Indian Council of Veterinary Research (ICVR) at the National level;

(b) if so, the site identified therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in that regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Government received proposals from Members of Parliament, Chief Ministers and others for establishment of Indian Council of Veterinary Research (ICVR).

(b) and (c) The proposal was considered in the Ministry of Agriculture but it was not found suitable at this stage.

Palm Processing Mill

1293. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government had submitted a proposal for upgradation of oil palm processing mill at Kabini, Mysore district, Karnataka;

(b) if so, a detailed proposal for expansion of the mill at an estimated cost of Rs. 35 lakh has been submitted to the Government of India; and

(c) the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal for upgradation of oil palm processing mill at Kabini, Mysore, Karnataka for Rs. 35 lakhs was received from Government of Karnataka. Since there is no Scheme for funding such proposals, it was not possible to extend the financial assistance from the Government of India. The Government of Karnataka was informed in the matter accordingly.

Deep Sea Fishing

1294. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Andhra Pradesh to convert deep sea fishing trawlers to tuna filters;

(b) if so, whether there is any programme for training of fishermen in Japan in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No, Sir. The Government has not received any proposal from Andhra Pradesh to convert deep sea fishing trawlers to tuna filters.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Corruption in Seed Development Corporation

1295. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Andhra Pradesh Oil Federation and Andhra Pradesh State Seed Development Corporation have bought low quality seeds from traders and distributed the same to farmers;

(b) if so, whether the investigations by the State Vigilance and Enforcement Department have revealed that the officials distributed seeds afflicted with dangerous disease against the advice of the agricultural scientists; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide better seeds to the farmers and take action against those held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have

reported that they are not aware of distribution of low quality seeds as purported.

(c) The Government proposes to produce and supply seeds of varieties tolerant to Peanut stem necrosis disease like TAG-24 and K-134 in large quantities, in a phased manner from this year onwards. Initially 300 quintals of Foundation seed of K-134 and 200 quintals of TAG-24 were distributed through Andhra Pradesh State Seed Development Corporation for multiplication of seed in two stages. Under the Seed Village Programme, Andhra Pradesh State Seed Development Corporation and Andhra Pradesh Oil Federation will distribute Foundation seed to farmers for multiplication of Foundation seed into Certified seed to meet their requirement.

Backwater Tourism

1296. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any requests from State Governments for assistance to develop Backwater Tourism in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government of Kerala submitted a multi-disciplinary project profile costing Rs. 154.67 crores for infrastructure developing for Backwater Tourism in Kerala.

(c) However this could not be considered for funding by the Ministry of Tourism under its tourism infrastructure development scheme in view of resource constraints. Government of Kerala has been advised to submit a project under the Equity Scheme and a background note for multi-departmental meeting in the Government of India.

Central Department of Tourism have sanctioned 15 proposals submitted during first four years of IXth Plan period for Rs. 698.00 lakhs for Kerala for development of Backwater tourism. Apart from that Planning Commission, Govt. of India has sanctioned a scheme for the preparation of Master Plan for the integrated development of Backwaters at total cost of Rs. 1.00 crores.

For the year 2001-2002, two projects for development of Walkway along backwater Shore Kochi and development of Jetties in Kochi backwaters have been prioritised for Rs. 125.00 lakhs each for central financial assistance.

Disciplinary Cases in ICAR

1297. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the number of vigilance/disciplinary cases in the ICAR/DARE;

(b) if so, the total number of cases initiated, disposed of and pending at present in ICAR/DARE during the last three years, separately;

(c) whether his ministry has circulated any instructions for quick disposal of such cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up a Vigilance Cell for these departments for quick disposal of such cases; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the last three years, a total number of 45 vigilance/disciplinary cases have been initiated in addition to the earlier pending cases and 50 cases have been disposed of. At present 55 cases are pending.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Instructions and guidelines issued by the CVC vide their Circular dated 3.3.99 and 6.9.99 for improving vigilance administration have been circulated vide Council's Circular dated 10.3.2000 to all ICAR Institutes for compliance.

(e) and (f) In view of the above, the question does not arise.

[Translation]

Assistance to Women Cooperative Societies

1298. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Bihar has requested for providing financial assistance to Women Cooperative Societies under Central Regional Scheme during 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details of the Women Cooperative Societies selected for providing financial assistance; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

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

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

[English]

Wasteful Expenditures in Tourism

1299. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken steps to minimise wasteful expenditures and have already indentified certain sectors in which wasteful expenditure is maximum in its various Departments;

(b) if so, the details of such sectors and the quantum of wasteful expenditure identified therein during each of the last three years; and

(c) the corrective steps taken so far to curtail/stop such wasteful expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) The steps are taken regularly to review the various schemes of this Department to ensure that there is no wasteful expenditure.

Expenditure Reforms Commission

1300. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Expenditure Reforms Commission has been set up in his Ministry to give his recommendations for reducing the existing wasteful expenditure of his Ministry and its Departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its composition;

(c) the details of recommendations made by this Commission so far;

(d) the details of those recommendations which are yet to be implemented by his Ministry or departments alongwith the reasons not implementing them till date; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be implemented in true spirits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Agriculture has not set up any Expenditure Reforms Commission. However, the Ministry of Finance has set up an Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC). The Department of Expenditure in the Ministry of Finance has forwarded a copy of Part-I of the Report of the ERC pertaining to rationalization of the functions, activities and structure of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. The report has recommended abolition of 385 posts, reduction in the posts of Technical Officers and has suggested restructuring of the activities of the Department. The recommendations of the ERC were examined in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and the comments of Department of Expenditure in the Ministry of Finance. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has already taken steps for right-sizing various Divisions and Directorates based on their mandates and responsibilities. It has already abolished more than 200 posts out of 385 posts suggested by ERC for abolition. The Tenth Plan proposals of the Department address the issue of re-structuring and rationalization of activities and programmes.

Welfare Measures for Labourers in Unorganised Sector

1301. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring any welfare measures for construction workers and labourers in unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for the welfare of these workers so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Government

has already enacted the Building & Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, the Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 for the welfare of construction workers and labourers in the unorganized sector. Workers engaged in iron ore, maganese ore, chrome ore, limestone, dolomite and mica mines, cine industry and beedi industry are also covered by the various welfare programmes undertaken under the concerned Welfare Funds. The Government has launched the Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001, a Social Security Scheme for Agricultural workers which will cover Life-cum-accident insurance, money-back, pension & Superannuation benefits.

The Government also implements a number of schemes like Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY), Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), etc. for the welfare and improvement of the conditions of rural unorganized labourers in the country.

Further, the Government has constituted the Second National Commission on Labour. One of the terms of reference of the Commission, inter-alia, is to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to workers in the unorganized sector.

Diamond Mines

1302. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have carried out any survey in the existing ancient diamond mines in Hirakud of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has explored the possibility for commercial mining in the area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Government has so far not carried out any survey regarding diamond bearing areas in Hirakud (Orissa), as there is no reliable information on its availability.

Development of Rock Garden in Karnataka

1303. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Karnataka Government to develop a Rock Garden on the guidelines of Rock Garden of Chandigarh and Shilparaman of Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Vedanthangal Birds Sanctuary

1304. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade the 'Vedanthangal Birds Sanctuary' in Tamil Nadu to attract foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to upgrade the same?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Although there is no specific proposal for upgradation of Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary to attract foreign tourists specifically, the Government of Tamil Nadu have sanctioned Rs. 15 lakhs to upgrade the accommodation facility in the bird sanctuary during the current financial year.

Construction of Devanahalli Airport

1305. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land has been acquired for construction of International Airport at Devanahalli in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the construction work of above airport has been started;

(c) if so, the estimated cost thereof;

(d) the time by which the construction work is likely to be completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Land for the construction of the Airport of Devanahalli in Karnataka is being acquired by the State Government.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The construction of the Airport will commence after formal selection of preferred bidder as Joint Venture Partner, signing of Share Holders Agreement, signing of Airport Development Agreement and after completing detailed engineering work to achieve technical and financial closure of the project. The estimated cost of the project, indicated as Guaranteed Maximum Price, is Rs. 1,150 crores. Final cost will be known after detailed engineering work.

(d) The probable time of completion of the construction work is 30 months, after achieving the financial closure of the project.

(e) Does not arise.

Harnessing of Water Resources

1306. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any programme to harness the water from natural resources for irrigation purposes; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government during the last three years and in the current year till-date in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA

CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The National Water Policy (1987) recognizes water as one of the most crucial elements in development planning. It provides for planning and management of country's water resources on a sustainable basis. The policy recognizes drainage basin as the basic unit of planning for development of water resources and calls for appropriate measures to optimize utilization of this resources, Irrigation being a state subject. the responsibility of survey and investigations, planning, funding execution and management of all types of water resources projects including flood control and drainage to harness the water resources within the State primarily rests with the concerned State Government according to their own priorities and from their own plan resources.

Development of water resources in the country since independence has resulted in an increase of foodgrain production from less than 50 million tonnes to 200 million tonnes in 1999. This has been made possible with the creation of a live storage capacity of 177 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) by construction of large dams upto 1995. With the help of these storages created and other minor irrigation schemes, an irrigation potential of 90 million hectare (Mha) has been created up to the end of the Eighth Plan against the ultimate irrigation potential of 139.9 Mha in the country.

To help the State Governments in their efforts to harness the water from natural resources and accelerate creation of irrigation potential, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97. Under the programme, financial assistance in form of repayable loan is being extended to State Governments to help them complete the ongoing irrigation projects in a time bound manner so that the benefits could accrue at the earliest. Accordingly, the Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the State Governments have been provided under AIBP amounting to Rs. 4425.857 crore during the last three years upto the end of March, 2001 and Rs. 808.845 crore have also been released during the current year out of the total budget outlay of Rs. 2000 crore for CLA under AIBP. Additional irrigation potential of 706.342 thousand hectare upto the end of 1999-2000 has been created under AIBP. Assistance is also being extended to State Governments under Command area Development (CAD) Programme for bridging the gap between potential created and utilized. An expenditure of Rs. 486.20 crore has been incurred during the last three years upto the end of March, 2001 under CAD programme and an outlay of Rs. 187.19 crore has been provided for the year 2001-2002. Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management programme, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central

Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge.

[*Translation*]

Crop Damage in Rajasthan

1307. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Narma and Cotton crops have got damaged in Rajasthan;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to provide assistance to the farmers; and

(d) if so, the time by which this assistance is likely to be provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been damage to cotton crop on account of infestation of American Boll Worm in Sriganganagar, Hanumangarh and Bikaner districts of Rajasthan during Kharif 2001. About 60-85% damages in Desi Cotton and 55-75% damages in American Cotton, has been reported by the State Government. The reasons for the widespread infestation of the American Boll Worm were:

1. Late sowing of cotton and development of resistance in the pests to pesticides;
2. Conducive climatic conditions of high precipitation and moisture for pest multiplication; and
3. Occurrence of overlapping generations of the pest.

(c) and (d) For such losses, the farmers are compensated under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme and farmers who have insured their crop are provided compensation as per norms. However, the State of Rajasthan is not covered under the scheme as the state has not opted for the insurance scheme.

[*English*]

Flourine in Water

1308. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether water borne diseases have caused havoc in many parts of the country due to presence of flourine contents in water;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to extend financial assistance to the State Govts. to overcome the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, high levels of fluoride in ground water has been observed in certain parts of various districts in the country. A statement indicating names of States and districts where ground water has been found contaminated with fluoride is enclosed.

(c) The provision of drinking water supply is the responsibility of the State Governments. Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission under the Ministry of Rural development has been assisting and guiding the States in the provision of safe drinking water to the rural population under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, and exclusive Sub-Missions in areas having serious ground water quality problems like Fluoride. In such quality affected areas, where ground water is unfit for drinking, the safe drinking water is supplied either through alternative sources, tapping surface water or by other means by undertaking remedial measures like de-flouridation. In urban areas, the Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation assists the States for the provision of safe drinking water.

Statement

State-wise Names of Districts Where Ground Water has been found contaminated with Fluoride

State	Districts
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	Prakasam, Nellore, Anapapur, Nalgonda, Ranga Reddy, Adilabad
Assam	Karbi, Anglong, Nowgaon
Bihar (including Jharkhand)	Giridih, Jamui, Dhanbad
Gujarat	Kachch, Surendranagar, Rajkot, Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Panchmahal, Kheda
Haryana	Rohtak, Jind, Hissar, Bhiwani, Mahendragarh, Faridabad

1	2
Karnataka	Tumkur, Kolar, Bangalore Gulbarga, Bellary, Raichur
Kerala	Palghat
Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	Bhind, Morena, Guna, Jhabua, Chhindwara, Seoni, Mandla, Raipur, Vidisha
Maharashtra	Bhandara, Chandrapur, Nanded, Aurangabad
Orissa	Bolangir
Punjab	Ludhiana, Faridkot, Bhatinda, Sangrur, Jalandhar, Amritsar
Rajasthan	Barmer, Bikaner, Ganganagar, Jalore, Nagaur, Pali, Sirohi
Tamil Nadu	Dharmapuri, Salem, North Arcot, Villupuram Tiruchirappali, Pudukkottai
Uttar Pradesh	Bulandshahar, Aligarh, Agra, Unnao, RAe-Bareilly
West Bengal	Birbhum
NCT of Delhi	City, Shahdara & Mehrauli Blocks

New Airport in Delhi

1309. SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for setting up of another airport in National Capital, Delhi in near future is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be spent thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) At present there is

no proposal under consideration of Government of India for developing another airport at Delhi.

Cold Storage Facility

1310. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the concession being provided by the Government to the private parties for construction of storage godowns and cold storages;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide more concessions to these private parties and extend subsidy to entrepreneurs for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps the government propose to take to increase the storage capacity in the wheat producing States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government has provided the following concession to the private parties for construction of storage godowns and cold storages:—

The Department of Food and Public Distribution has announced a scheme under which seven years guarantee is being provided by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to the private parties for construction of conventional storage godowns on Build-own-Operate basis at identified locations.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a Scheme entitled 'Capital Investment Subsidy scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce' through National Horticulture Board (NHB). NHB is providing financial assistance in the form of back-ended capital investment subsidy for construction of cold storages through National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakhs per project and @ 33.33% of the project cost upto a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakhs per project for North Eastern States. The eligible entrepreneurs under the scheme includes NGOs Association of Growers, partnership/Propriety Firms, Companies, Corporations, Cooperatives, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees, Marketing Boards/Committees and Agro-Industries Corporations.

(d) In order to increase the storage capacity in the wheat producing States, FCI is giving long term guarantee to the State agencies for construction of additional storage capacity. The State-wise storage capacity proposed to be constructed by March, 2002 under the scheme is as under:—

Name of State	Capacity (in lakh tones)
1. Punjab	41.60 (14 lakh tones has already been made available)
2. Haryana	10.00
3. Uttar Pradesh	8.53
4. Uttaranchal	1.00
Total	61.13

[Translation]

Development of Dwarka as Tourist Centre in Gujarat

1311. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sought financial assistance from the Union Government to develop Dwarka as tourist centre;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has taken any decision in this regard so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Development and promotion of tourist centres/places is primarily undertaken by the State Government/UT Administration themselves. Central Department of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects prioritised annually in consultation with them. No project has been prioritised for central financial assistance during the year 2001-2002 for development of Dwarka as a tourist spot. However, an Eco-tourism project at Bet Dwarka, District Jamnagar has been prioritised for Rs. 20.00 lakhs.

Earlier, a project for development of Dwarka (Phase-I) was sanctioned for Rs. 47.80 lakhs during 1998-99 and for development of Dwarka (Phase-II) Rs. 41.11 lakhs had been sanctioned during 1999-2000.

Schemes for Increasing GDP

1312. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schemes for increasing GDP of India is not being implemented effectively in comparison to other countries;

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

(c) the efforts being made to increase GDP rapidly in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir. According to the World Development Report, 2000-2001 published by the World Bank, the annual rate of growth of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of India during the 1990s (1990 to 1999) was 6.1 per cent as compared to 2.4 per cent in the low income countries, 3.5 per cent in the middle income countries, 2.4 per cent in the high income countries and 2.5 per cent for the World average.

(b) In view of the above, does not arise.

(c) The Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan as approved by the National Development Council has proposed that the Tenth Plan should aim at an indicative target of 8 per cent per annum of GDP growth for the period 2002-2007. This growth rate which is substantially higher than the target growth rate of 6.5 per cent per annum in the Ninth Five Year Plan, has been targeted by bringing about higher saving and investment rate and pursuing efficiency enhancing policies both at the macro level and at the sector level.

[English]

Investment in FPI Sector

1313. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make massive investment in the Processing Industry Sector;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal mooted in that regard for 2001-2002;

(c) the time by which the investment is proposed to be made; and

(d) the areas of investment identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) to (d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its Plan Schemes extends financial assistance to Non-Governmental Organizations, Cooperatives, Private industry, Public Sector Undertakings, Human Resource Development and Research & Development institutions etc. for Development of the processed food sector. The Ministry does not set up any unit on its own.

It has, however, been estimated that, to improve processing levels, an investment of Rs. 1,40,000 crores in the entire food chain over a period of 10 years, will be necessary. This investment will have to be generated from private sector, foreign direct investment, financial institutions, etc. The Ministry has drawn up Draft Policy which envisages creation of enabling environment for attracting such a huge investment. The investment would be particularly required for creation of infrastructural facilities including cold chain, research and development activities, human resource development and in sectors like Fruits and Vegetables Processing, Meat and Poultry Processing, Fish Processing, Grain Processing etc.

Reduction in Burden of Newspapers Establishment

1314. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Newspapers Society is demanding that the Wage Board should be done away with to reduce burden on newspapers establishments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the recommendations of the Manisana Wage Boards have been accepted recently these would remain in the force until the Award of next Wage Board. The constitution of the next Wage Board is, therefore, not a point for action for the present.

Assistance to Maharashtra for Irrigation

1315. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought any assistance from the Union Government for irrigation Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total area of land likely to be irrigated there from especially in Jalna district in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra has not sought any assistance from the Union Government for irrigation sector. However, Union Government is providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for 10 irrigation projects of Maharashtra namely Gosikhurd, Surya, Waghur, Bhima, Upper Tapi, Upper Wardha, Wan Jayakwadi, Vishnupuri and Bahula. Till March 2001 an amount of Rs. 266.755 crore has been released to these projects. For two projects, namely Gosikhurd and Jayakwadi for which shortfall in expenditure has been made up by the State Government, the first instalment of CLA of Rs. 10.35 crore has been released during the current year.

An irrigation potential of about 790 th. ha. is likely to be created by these projects including in Jalna District (by Jayakwadi Project).

Setting up of CGIT-Cum-Labour Courts

1316. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to set up CGIT-cum-Labour Courts at Madurai and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Development of Forests

1317. SHRI BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated for the development and conservation of environment and forests during the year 2001-2002, State-wise;

(b) whether any complaints have been received regarding non-utilization of the said funds particularly in Rajasthan;

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

(d) the follow up action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The State-wise/project-wise information on the funds allocated for the development and conservation of environment and forests during the year 2001-2002 are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	State	Funds Allocation/Released 2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Modern Forests Fire Control and Management	Andhra Pradesh	64.50
		Bihar	24.40
		Chhattisgarh	69.00
		Goa	14.30
		Gujarat	74.50
		Haryana	37.91
		Himachal Pradesh	101.30
		Jammu & Kashmir	59.00
		Jharkhand	64.65
		Karnataka	50.58
		Kerala	38.60
		Madhya Pradesh	74.50
		Maharashtra	61.00
		Orissa	49.22
		Punjab	57.60
		Rajasthan	32.50
		Tamil Nadu	60.50
		Uttar Pradesh	36.50
		Uttaranchal	74.50
		West Bengal	57.80

1	2	3	4
2.	Association for Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forest on Unsufructs Sharing Basis	Andhra Pradesh	33.00
		Arunachal Pradesh	32.82
		Chhattisgarh	21.17
		Gujarat	12.23
		Jharkhand	44.95
		Jammu & Kashmir	23.98
		Karnataka	43.05
		Madhya Pradesh	49.86
		Maharashtra	10.00
		Manipur	10.00
		Mizoram	10.00
		Rajasthan	20.00
		Sikkim	30.00
		Tripura	12.90
		West Bengal	4.09
3.	Conservation and Management of Wetlands	Himachal Pradesh	48.20
		Orissa	102.84
		Jammu & Kashmir	31.90
		Punjab	61.46
4.	Conservation and Management of Mangroves	Andhra Pradesh	57.18
		Goa	8.63
		Karnataka	10.56
		Orissa	41.42
		Tamil Nadu	88.15
		A & N Islands	11.10
5.	Biosphere Reserve	Karnataka	30.00
		Madhya Pradesh	49.10
		Meghalaya	7.20
		Sikkim	20.00
		Tamil Nadu	17.41

1	2	3	4
		Uttaranchal	28.00
		West Bengal	21.82
6.	Project Elephant	Andhra Pradesh	51.44
		Arunachal Pradesh	84.16
		Assam	94.50
		Jharkhand	22.68
		Karnataka	92.45
		Kerala	95.91
		Meghalaya	49.98
		Nagaland	66.92
		Orissa	117.03
		Tamil Nadu	58.66
		Uttaranchal	140.85
		West Bengal	109.87
7.	Project Tiger	Andhra Pradesh	21.00
		Arunachal Pradesh	35.00
		Assam	46.00
		Bihar	50.00
		Chhattisgarh	35.00
		Karnataka	146.44
		Kerala	50.00
		Jharkhand	50.00
		Madhya Pradesh	274.53
		Maharashtra	167.50
		Mizoram	10.00
		Orissa	126.81
		Rajasthan	70.00
		Tamil Nadu	16.00
		Uttaranchal	149.85
		Uttar Pradesh	50.00
		West Bengal	80.00

1	2	3	4
8.	Eco Development Project	Andhra Pradesh	69.59
		Arunachal Pradesh	41.05
		Assam	43.81
		Bihar	7.00
		Chhattisgarh	24.70
		Gujarat	37.26
		Himachal Pradesh	101.26
		Jharkhand	5.05
		Karnataka	202.74
		Kerala	66.90
		Madhya Pradesh	136.67
		Maharashtra	37.50
		Mizoram	154.44
		Nagaland	28.45
		Orissa	46.60
		Punjab	12.27
		Rajasthan	30.00
		Sikkim	26.22
		Tamil Nadu	6.38
		Tripura	34.00
		Uttaranchal	75.00
		Uttar Pradesh	132.78
		West Bengal	82.68
9.	Beneficiary Oriented Scheme for Tribal Development	Karnataka	100.00
		Madhya Pradesh	300.00
10.	India Eco Development Project	Madhya Pradesh	203.29
		Rajasthan	227.50
		Gujarat	300.00
		Kerala	515.07
		Jharkhand	325.67

1	2	3	4
		Karnataka	473.90
		West Bengal	498.00
11.	Integrated Afforestation and Eco Development Project	Andhra Pradesh	212.81
		Arunachal Pradesh	66.34
		Assam	26.05
		Chhattisgarh	21.32
		Jharkhand	4.50
		Gujarat	163.67
		Himachal Pradesh	64.00
		Jammu & Kashmir	378.48
		Karnataka	105.92
		Kerala	239.18
		Madhya Pradesh	109.95
		Maharashtra	89.05
		Manipur	197.22
		Mizoram	53.07
		Nagaland	29.23
		Orissa	211.03
		Rajasthan	291.34
		Sikkim	98.00
		Tripura	21.33
		Uttar Pradesh	4.89
		Uttaranchal	276.59
		West Bengal	172.25
12.	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project	Andhra Pradesh	134.08
		Arunachal Pradesh	9.40
		Assam	160.79
		Bihar	152.37
		Goa	8.91
		Gujarat	206.47

1	2	3	4
		Haryana	336.85
		Himachal Pradesh	133.16
		Jammu & Kashmir	177.46
		Karnataka	193.54
		Kerala	104.70
		Madhya Pradesh	330.40
		Maharashtra	107.89
		Manipur	150.54
		Meghalaya	21.95
		Mizoram	63.25
		Nagaland	23.40
		Orissa	70.77
		Punjab	248.82
		Rajasthan	61.79
		Sikkim	71.54
		Tamil Nadu	116.58
		Tripura	79.77
		Uttar Pradesh	151.72
		Uttaranchal	68.70
		West Bengal	171.87
13.	Non Timber Forest Produce	Andhra Pradesh	318.87
		Arunachal Pradesh	20.00
		Assam	53.30
		Goa	18.47
		Gujarat	139.97
		Haryana	59.33
		Himachal Pradesh	55.00
		Jammu & Kashmir	80.91
		Karnataka	64.12
		Kerala	40.00
		Madhya Pradesh	83.66

1	2	3	4
		Maharashtra	66.00
		Meghalaya	11.00
		Mizoram	45.00
		Nagaland	30.00
		Orissa	86.37
		Punjab	20.00
		Rajasthan	106.34
		Sikkim	167.53
		Tamil Nadu	19.00
		Tripura	8.16
		Uttar Pradesh	17.87
		West Bengal	61.45
14.	Forests Development Agency	Haryana	461.17
		Madhya Pradesh	472.26
		Maharashtra	79.63
		Rajasthan	128.50
		Uttar Pradesh	325.60
15.	Assistance for Abatement of Pollution	Arunachal Pradesh	1.00
		Bihar	15.00
		Jammu & Kashmir	5.00
		Govt. of NCT Delhi	3.70
16.	Taj Protection Mission	Uttar Pradesh	1500.00
17.	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	Andhra Pradesh	88.59
		Arunachal Pradesh	160.46
		Assam	35.55
		Bihar	4.52
		Chhattisgarh	31.14
		Goa	78.13
		Gujarat	127.20
		Haryana	15.64

1	2	3	4
		Himachal Pradesh	97.48
		Jammu & Kashmir	26.00
		Karnataka	288.26
		Kerala	81.50
		Madhya Pradesh	99.38
		Maharashtra	144.21
		Manipur	26.81
		Meghalaya	27.94
		Mizoram	94.96
		Nagaland	25.72
		Orissa	70.26
		Punjab	26.60
		Rajasthan	73.00
		Sikkim	20.00
		Tamil Nadu	75.23
		Tripura	46.40
		Uttar Pradesh	79.81
		Uttaranchal	38.13
		West Bengal	87.00
		A & N Islands	25.59
		Chandigarh	18.40
		Dadra Nagar Haveli	6.01
18.	National River Conservation Plan	Delhi	2200.00
		Haryana	1700.00
		Kerala	3.00
		Maharashtra	502.00
		Orissa	300.00
		Punjab	1507.00
		Tamil Nadu	3685.00
		Uttar Pradesh	4581.00
		Uttaranchal	120.00
		West Bengal	1641.00

1	2	3	4
19.	National Lake Conservation Programme	Maharashtra	400.00
		Tamil Nadu	1.00
20.	Central Zoo Authority	Andhra Pradesh	104.47
		Bihar	53.13
		Gujarat	9.95
		Haryana	3.45
		Karnataka	140.55
		Madhya Pradesh	171.50
		Maharashtra	21.31
		Sikkim	27.75
		Tamil Nadu	13.90
		Uttaranchal	11.50
		Uttar Pradesh	31.09

Review of functioning of Private Air Companies

1318. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a high level Committee to review the functioning of private companies which are providing smaller aircraft on hire;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of companies engaged in this job;

(c) the findings of the committee; and

(d) the follow up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government had constituted a Committee on October, 1, 2001 to undertake a comprehensive review of the systems and procedures for acquisition, maintenance and operation of small aircraft. At present 34 non-scheduled operators are providing smaller aircraft on hire.

(c) and (d) The report was received on 03.11.2001 and is now being examined in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Survey on Water Availability in States

1319. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to assess the total availability of water in various States;

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

(c) the details of the principles and methodology adopted in the survey works;

(d) whether there has been any drop in water availability as compared to last five years;

(e) if so, the reasons attributed thereto; and

(f) the total funds allocated and disbursed for increasing the water availability and the total annual expenditure incurred during the last five years under various heads, head-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) Central Water Commission (CWC) has assessed the availability of water in the country in 1993. For assessing the availability of water, a network of hydrological observation stations is being maintained by CWC for conducting the survey (i.e. observation) of the flows on important inter-state rivers all over the country. Availability of surface water is assessed river basin-wise based on the long term observation flow data at the terminal site of each basin alongwith upstream utilizations for diverse uses and the return flows to arrive at the natural flows at the site. As per its assessment, the average annual flow in the river-systems of the country is assessed at 1869 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). Central Ground Water Board, in 1995, has assessed the annual, replenishable ground water as 432 BCM based on rainfall infiltration method duly taking into account the recharge due to seepage for canals, irrigation fields and banks, inflow from influence rivers etc. Basin-wise average annual flows and replenishable ground water are given in Statement-I enclosed. As per the 1991 population census the per capita water availability was 2209 cubic meters per year. As per the 2001 population census, the per capita water availability is 1829 cubic meter per year.

(f) The availability of water for use for diverse purposes has been increased over the Plan periods by creation of the live storage capacity of 177 (BCM) by construction of large dams upto 1995. The expenditure incurred from year 1995 to 2000 on Major, Medium and Minor Irrigation and Command area Development Schemes is given in the statement-II enclosed. To increase the availability of water, the Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-1997. Under the programme, financial assistance is being extended to State Governments to help them complete the ongoing irrigation projects in a time bound manner so that the benefits could accrue at the earliest. Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the State Governments have been provided under AIBP amounting to Rs. 6686.892 crore during the last five years upto end to march, 2001 and an outlay of Rs. 2000 crore has also been kept for CLA under AIBP. Additional irrigation potential of 706.342 thousand hectare upto the end of 1999-2000 has been created under AIBP. Assistance is also being extended to State Governments under Command Area Development (CAD) Programme for bridging the gap between potential created the utilised.

Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge. The Government have earmarked funds amounting to Rs. 25.00 Crore for the scheme during the Ninth Five Year

Plan. Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management programme, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies.

Government of India have set up National Water Development Agency in 1982 which is carrying out pre-feasibility/feasibility level studies for linking of various rivers both in Peninsular as well as Himalayan rivers Development Components in order to transfer water to water deficit areas.

Statement-I

River Basinwise Water Availability

Sr. No.	River Basin	Average Annual Surface Water Availability	Total Replenishable Ground Water Resources
1	2	3	4
1.	Indus	73.31	26.50
2.	Ganga-Brahmaputra-Barak		
	a. Ganga	525.02	171.57
	b. Brahmaputra & Barak	585.60	35.07
3.	Godavari	110.54	40.60
4.	Krishna	78.12	26.40
5.	Cauvery	21.36	12.30
6.	Pennar	6.32	4.93
7.	East Flowing Rivers between Mahanadi and Pennar	22.52	9.00
8.	East Flowing Rivers between Pennar and Kanyakumari	16.46	9.20
9.	Mahanadi	66.88	16.50
10.	Brahmani and Baitarni	28.48	4.05
11.	Subamrekha	12.37	1.80
12.	Sabarnati	3.81	3.00
13.	Mahi	11.02	4.20
14.	West Flowing Rivers of Kutchh, Saurashtra including Luni	15.10	11.20

1	2	3	4
15.	Narmada	45.64	10.80
16.	Tapi West-Flowing Rivers	14.88	8.27
17.	West Flowing Rivers from Tapi to Tadri	87.41	8.70
18.	West Flowing Rivers from Tadri to Kanyakumari	113.53	9.00

1	2	3	4
19.	Area of Inland Drainage in Rajasthan Desert	Neg.	Neg.
20.	Minor River Basins Draining into Bangladesh and Myanmar	31.00	18.80
Total		1869.35	431.89

Note: Totals maynot tally due to rounding off.

Statment-II

Expenditure/Outlay for Irrigation and Command Area Development During 1995-2000—Head Wise

Years	Expenditure/Outlay in Rs. crore			
	M&M	MI	CAD	Total
1995-1996 (actual exp.)	4999.02	1408.08	489.30	6896.40
1996-1997 (actual exp.)	5891.30	1599.68	524.04	8015.02
1997-1998 (actual exp.)	7559.88	1499.33	432.69	9491.90
1998-1999 (actual exp.)	9322.15	1795.10	478.50	11595.75
1999-2000 (outlay)	12284.61	2173.20	492.39	14950.20

M&M Major & Medium Irrigation
MI Minor Irrigation
CAD Command Area Development

[*Translation*]

Rainfall on Agricultural Land

1320. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two-third agricultural land of the country depends on rain for irrigation;

(b) if not, whether the Government have made any assessment of average rainfall on such land;

(c) if so, the area of land under less rainfall zone, average rainfall zone and maximum rainfall zone, separately;

(d) whether the Government have drawn up any action plan for maximum utilization of rain water in different rainfall zones; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) 62% of net sown area of 142.00 million hectare in the country i.e. 87.5 million hectare is under rainfed agriculture.

(b) and (c) to As per Indian Meteorological Department categorization the country has been grouped into four groups based on amount of rainfall received which may be seen in the enclosed statement. The average annual rainfall for the country as a whole is 116.3 cms.

(d) and (e) The Government has accorded highest priority to the development of rainfed agricultural lands in the country. To harvest and utilize the maximum amount of rainfall for improving production and productivity of rainfed agricultural lands, several integrated watershed development projects are implemented in the Ministry of

Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development of Government of India from Third Five Year Plan onward. They include the following projects/schemes;

- (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas,
- (ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers,

- (iii) Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas,
- (iv) Drought Prone Areas Programme,
- (v) Desert Development Programme,
- (vi) Integrated Wasteland Development Project.

Statement

Areas of The Country Under Different Ranges of Annual Rainfall are Given Below

Average Annual rainfall	Name of region	% Age of country
Less than 40 cm.	West Rajasthan	6%
41-100 cm.	Plains of West U.P., Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, East Rajasthan, Gujarat Region, Saurashtra, & Kutch, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Coastal A.P. Telangana, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry, North Interior Karnataka.	43%
101-250 cm	Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, Gangetic West Bengal, Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, East U.P., Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, West M.P., East M.P., Vidarbha, South Interior, Karnataka, Lakshadweep.	41%
More than 250 cm	A & N Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya, Sub Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Konkan & Goa, Coastal Karnataka, Kerala.	10%

Annual Average rainfall for the country as a whole is 116.3 cms.

New Technique for Production in Mines

1321. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced any new technique for increasing production in the mines and safety of the miners;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date on which the said technique was introduced and the places selected for such introduction; and

(d) the benefits accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
(a) No Sir. However, the Government is making efforts

to continuously improve the productivity and safety of miners' in all phases of the mining activity through the projects sponsored to various research and academic institutions for developing further the design and optimisation of blast parameters, optimisation of stop parameters, mapping thickness of barrier in coal mines to improve safety, optimisation of grouting system for cable bolting for improved safety, development of guidelines for improving recovery, introduction of in-situ evaluation of explosive's properties, development of instruments to check roof conditions in coal mines for improving safety.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Tourist Places in West Bengal

1322. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to declare Sunderban areas in West Bengal as an international tourist spot;

(b) if so, whether any financial package is proposed to be sanctioned for the development of these areas; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no practice to declare any place as an international tourist spot.

Construction of Barrages Across Bheema and Manjara Rivers

1323. SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey has been completed for the construction of barrages across Bheema and Manjara rivers in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction work of these barrages is likely to commence; and

(c) the total estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Bheema Flow and Manjara Lift Schemes are proposed by Government of Karnataka in the IX Plan with estimated cost of Rs. 185.18 crores and 27.51 crores respectively. The Detailed Project Reports of these schemes have not been received in Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal.

[*Translation*]

Assistance for Maintenance of Canals in Bihar

1324. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has sought any assistance for repair and maintenance of various canals of major and medium irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any lack of adequate irrigation facilities in the state; and

(d) if so, the effective steps being considered by the Union Government to improve the irrigation system there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Water being a state subject, planning funding execution and maintenance of irrigation projects including repairs to canals is done by State Government themselves as per their own priorities.

The ultimate irrigation potential of Bihar (including Jharkhand) from major, medium and minor schemes has been assessed as 13.35 m.ha. out of which 8.12 m.ha. potential has been created till March 2000.

Cheating with Foreign Tourists

1325. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of harassment and cheating with foreign tourists are on the increase this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against persons/companies found guilty therein?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (e) Law and Order is primarily a state subject. However, the Central Department of Tourism in order to inspire confidence in visiting tourists regularly takes up reported cases with the State Government and other local authorities concerned on top priority. The Central Government has also requested the State Governments to have preventive tourism legislation and set up Tourist Police to safeguard the interests of tourists. States of Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Goa, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh etc. have already set up Tourist Police. Some other State Governments are considering introduction of such legislation. Strict action would be taken against those found guilty.

*[English]***Kharif Production**

1326. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for Rabi/Kharif production during the current year;

(b) the details of Rabi/Kharif production achieved and exported in 2000-2001, State-wise; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government for sufficient procurement of foodgrains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) The details of target set for Rabi/Kharif

production during the current year, achievement and export of agricultural products (Provisional) made in 2000-2001 are given in Statement enclosed. The State-wise figures have not been firmed up.

(c) The designated Central Nodal Agencies are required to intervene in the market and undertake procurement operations whenever the market prices fall below the Minimum Support Prices fixed by the Government. The purchase centres are opened in sufficient numbers after estimating the expected procurement of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India on the locations mutually decided by the State Governments and the Food Corporation of India well in advance before the commencement of each season to avoid distress sale and inconvenience to the farmers. Special Control Rooms are set up by the Food Corporation of India at their head quarters as well as regional offices to collect and compile daily procurement figures from the State Governments/UTs and other procurement agencies. These control rooms work on 24 hours basis during the peak procurement period.

Statement

Sl. No.	Crops	Target 2001-2002 (Million Tonnes/Bales)			Achievement (P) 2000-2001 Million Tonnes/Bales			Export of Agril. Products 2000-2001 (P) (‘000’ tonnes/Rs. in Crore)	
		Karif	Rabi	Total	Karif	Rabi	Total	Quantity (‘000’ tonnes)	Value (Rs. in Crore)
1.	Rice	77.98	14.02	92.00	74.41	11.89	86.30	1532.11	2926.10
2.	Wheat	-	78.00	78.00	-	68.46	68.46	879.48	444.23
3.	Coarse cereals	26.15	3.85	30.00	24.02	6.23	30.25	45.25	39.08
4.	Pulses	6.00	9.00	15.00	4.68	6.38	11.06	242.94	537.10
	Total Foodgrains	110.13	107.87	218.00	103.11	92.96	196.07	-	-
5.	Oilseeds	16.50	11.50	28.00	11.58	6.62	18.20	3048.30***	3911.17***
6.	Sugarcane	-	-	325.00	-	-	300.32	331.18@	427.74@
7.	Cotton*	-	-	14.50	-	-	9.39	30.14	223.95
8.	Jute & Mesta**	-	-	11.00	-	-	103.70	96.51	311.96

P Provisional

@ Sugar

** Million Bales of 180 kgs. each

* Million Bales of 170 kgs. each

*** Sesamum & Niger-seed, Groundnut, Caster Oil, Oil-Meal

*[Translation]***Labour Productivity**

1327. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. S. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether labour productivity in our country is lower than the productivity of developed countries;

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

(c) whether the Government have explored the possibilities to bring out country' labour productivity at par with the international standard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the plan formulated by the Government to make the dream true?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) A statement showing the labour productivity in India and some developed countries in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP) in U.S. dollars, as per the World Competitiveness Year book 2001, is enclosed. The labour productivity of India and other developed countries are, however, not comparable as there are significant variations in the concept used and methodologies adopted.

(c) to (e) The planning process in India has aimed at creating conditions for improvement in labour productivity through provision of training, upgradation of skills and improvement in tool-kits, equipment and production techniques. The resources have been accordingly directed through the plan programmes towards achieving this objective.

Statement

GDP (PPP) per person employed per hour

Country	Labour Productivity, in US \$
1	2
France	37.72
USA	36.08
Australia	30.97

1	2
The Netherlands	30.45
Canada	29.75
Switzerland	27.73
Japan	26.69
United Kingdom	26.63
Hong Kong	23.37
Singapore	21.66
India	2.42

*[English]***Licence to Private Aircraft**

1328. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been actively considering to review the procedure for granting license to private aircraft and also to supervise their upkeep and maintenance;

(b) if so, the details of lacunae found in the existing procedure; and

(c) the extent to which the review of procedure are likely to reduce mishaps of private aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government had constituted a Committee on October 1, 2001 to undertake a comprehensive review of the systems and procedures for acquisition, maintenance and operation of small aircraft. The report was received on 03.11.2001 and is now being examined in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

*[Translation]***Illegal Coal Mining**

1329. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases of illegal mining and coal mining detected during the last three years;

(b) whether illegal mining operations are being carried out in connivance with the mining officials; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government against the erring officials and the remedial steps taken to check such practice in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

PM's Announcement for Tourism Development

1330. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a drastic cut in the Budget of the Tourism under the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the amount of the cut imposed; and

(c) its likely impact on the Prime Minister's announcement made from the ramparts of the Red Fort recently, regarding promotion of tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Allocation of budget of the Department of Tourism for 10th Five Year Plan is in the process of finalisation with the Planning Commission.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Airstrips

1331. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of airstrips in various parts of the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of airstrips which are not operational at present and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The airports in the country managed by the Airports Authority of India are Cuddapah, Donakonda, Hyderabad, Nadirgul, Rajahmundry, Tirupati, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam (Civil Enclave) (C.E.) and Warrangal in Andhra Pradesh; Along (C.E.), Passighat, Tezu (C.E.), Zero (C.E.) and Daparizo (C.E.) in Arunachal

Pradesh; Dibrugarh (Mohan Bari), Guwahati, Jorhat (C.E.), North Lakhimpur (Lilabari), Rupsi, Silchar (C.E.), Tezpur (C.E.) and Shella in Assam; Gaya, Jogbani, Muzzaffarpur, Patna and Raxaul in Bihar; Chakulia and Ranchi in Jharkhand; Goa (C.E.) in Goa; Ahmedabad, Bhuj (C.E.), Bhavnagar, Deesa (Palanpur), Jamnagar (C.E.), Kandla, Keshod, Porbandar, Rajkot, Vadodara in Gujarat; Kangra, Kullu Manali and Shimla in Himachal Pradesh; Jammu (C.E.), Leh (C.E.) and Srinagar (C.E.) in Jammu & Kashmir; Bangalore (C.E.), Belgaum, Hassan, Hubli, Mangalore and Mysore in Karnataka; Calicut, Cochin (C.E.) and Trivandrum in Kerala; Bhopal, Gwalior (C.E.), Indore, Jabalpur, Khajuraho, Khandwa, Satna and Panna in Madhya Pradesh; Bilaspur and Raipur in Chhattisgarh; Akola, Aurangabad, Mumbai, Hadapsar, Juhu (Mumbai), Kolhapur, Nagpur, Sholapur and Pune (C.E.) in Maharashtra; Imphal in Manipur; Shillong in Meghalaya; Aizwal (Tural) in Mizoram; Dimapur in Nagaland; Bhubneshwar and Jharsuguda in Orissa; Amritsar and Ludhiana in Punjab; Bikaner (C.E.), Jaipur, Jaisalmer (C.E.), Jodhpur (C.E.), Kota and Udaipur in Rajasthan; Coimbatore, Chennai, Madurai, Salem, Tiruchirapalli, Tuticorin and Vellore in Tamil Nadu; Agartala, Kailashahar, Kamalpur and Khowai in Tripura; Agra (C.E.), Allahabad (C.E.), Gorakhpur (C.E.), Kanpur (Civil), Kanpur Chakeri (C.E.), Lalitpur, Lucknow, Varanasi and Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh; Dehradun and Pantnagar in Uttaranchal; Bagdogra (C.E.), Balurghat, Behala, Kolkata, Cooch Behar, Malda and Asansol in West Bengal; IGI Airport Palam and Safdarjung Airport in Delhi; Port Blair (C.E.) in Andaman & Nicobar; Chandigarh (C.E.) in Chandigarh; Agatti in Lakshadweep and Pondicherry in Pondicherry.

(b) There are 35 non-operational airports at present. No Airlines have projected their requirement to operate through these airports due to non-availability of traffic.

(c) Airports Authority of India proposed to hand over non-operational airports to the concerned State Governments for development and operation. However, the proposal did not evince response from any State Government, except in case of Kolhapur and Sholapur airports which have been handed over to the State Government of Maharashtra on agreed terms for a period of 15 years with effect from February, 1997.

Illegal Trade of Coal

1332. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government are aware that illegal trade of coal is causing loss of crores of rupees to the exchequer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments are also reportedly found in black marketing of the coal; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) and (b) Coal sales to the non-core sector are done by Coal India Limited (CIL) against linkages and sponsorships or under the open sales scheme. The subsidiaries of CIL have asked the State Governments concerned to verify the linkages and sponsorships.

(c) No such facts have come to the knowledge of the Government

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) above.

Environmental Technology on Water Front

1333. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought Swedish co-operation in environmental technology to tackle water related problems in waste water treatment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that due to rapid growth of population the water resources for irrigation are fast depleting; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Swedish cooperation in environmental technology to tackle water related problems in waste water treatment in country has not been sought by the Ministries of Water Resources; Urban Development; and Environment & Forests, Government of India. Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) assistance has been sought for urban reforms in India.

(c) Yes, Sir. Due to rapid growth of population, the demands of water for domestic and industrial purposes have increased. As such, the percentage of water available for irrigation has decreased.

(d) Development of water resources in the country since independence has resulted in an increase of

foodgrain production from less than 50 million tonnes to 200 million tonnes in 1999. This has been made possible with the creation of a live storage capacity of 177 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) by construction of large dams upto 1995. With the help of these storages created and other minor irrigation schemes, in irrigation potential of 90 Million hectare (Mha) has been created up to the end of the Eighth Plan against the ultimate irrigation potential of 139.9 Mha in the country.

Irrigation, being a State subject, the responsibility of survey & investigations, planning, development, funding, execution and management of all types of water resources projects including flood control & drainage to harness the water resources within the States primarily rests with the concerned State Government according to their own priorities and from their own plan resources. In order to meet the growing demand of water in the country, projects, to add an additional storage capacity of about 75 BCM, are under construction and for 132 BCM are under planning. This will facilitate additional irrigation potential to meet the future demands.

Further, to help the State Governments in their efforts to harness the water from natural resources, the Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97. Under the programme, financial assistance in the form of repayable loan is being extended to State Governments to help them complete the ongoing irrigation projects in a time bound manner so that the benefits could accrue at the earliest. Assistance is also being extended to State Governments under Command Area Development (CAD) Programme for bridging the gap between potential created and utilized. Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge.

Films for Awareness of Food Processing

1334. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of films produced for creating awareness for food processing among the masses were not telecast as on June, 1999;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the matter has been enquired into;

(d) if so, the results thereof;

(e) whether any time frame for completion of the film was prescribed in the agreements with the producers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The films were originally planned to be telecast on Krishi Darshan programme of Doordarshan. However, Doordarshan considered these films to be commercial for which payment was required to be made on fixed rates. The Ministry has finally succeeded in telecasting of these films on Gyan Darshan Channel of Doordarshan.

(e) No Sir.

(f) As the Ministry was producing films for the first time, the modal agreement provided by Doordarshan was adopted which did not contain any time frame for completion of films.

Cancellation of Flights by Indian Airlines

1335. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cancelled certain flights of the Indian Airlines which were termed to be uneconomical;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines is tracking its flights schedule on month-to-month basis; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) Indian Airlines makes adjustments to its schedule from time to time keeping in view the operational requirements, feedback from the market and variations in passengers demand. Indian Airlines has temporarily made changes to some services due to low passenger demand. A statement giving details is enclosed.

Statement

Indian Airlines & Alliance Air Ltd

Flights Withdrawn (Domestic)

From 28th October, 2001

IC867/868 (Delhi-Goa-Delhi) - on Days 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7.

CD7261/7262 (Kolkata-Bhubaneswar-Kolkata) on Days 1, 3, 5, 7.

CD7541/7542 (Chennai-Vizag-Kolkata) & VV on Day 4

CD7269 (Kolkata-Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Kolkata) on Day 5

CD7267 (Kolkata-Ahmedabad-Jaipur-Kolkata) on Day 2

CD7559/7560 (Chennai-Mangalore-Chennai) & Bangalore-Mangalore-Bangalore Sectors on days 2, 4, 6.

CD7587/7588 (Bangalore-Coimbatore-Bangalore) and (Chennai-Coimbatore-Chennai) Sectors on Days 2, 4, 6.

CD7689/7690 (Mumbai-Vadodara-Mumbai)-Daily

CD7443/7444 (Delhi-Mumbai-Delhi) - Days 6, 7.

CD7891/7892 (Delhi-Guwahati-Delhi) - on Days 2, 6.

From 28th October Till 17th November, 2001

IC669/670 (Mumbai-Puttaparthi-Mumbai) on Days 3,7.

From 7th and 9th November, 2001

CD7271/7472 (Kolkata-Nagpur-Hyderabad & VV) on Day 3/5

CD7277/7278 (Kolkata-Bhubaneswar-Hyderabad) on Day 6/2.

CD7409/7410 (Delhi-Lucknow-Patna & VV) on Days 1, 3, 5.

Change of Routing From 28th October 2001

CD7431/7432 (Delhi-Leh-Delhi) and CD7484/7483 (Leh-Chandigarh-Leh) - to Operate as Delhi-Chandigarh-Leh and VV on Day 3.

Change of Routing From 7th/9th November 2001

CD7145/7146 (Mumbai-Rajkot-Mumbai) and CD7147 (Mumbai-Jamnagar-Bhuj-Mumbai) to Operate As Mumbai-Rajkot-Jamnagar-Mumbai-Daily.

CD7459 (Delhi-Raipur-Jabalpur-Delhi) and CD 7465/7466 (Delhi-Nagpur-Delhi) to Operate As (Delhi-Raipur-Nagpur-Delhi) on Day 4.

IC821/822 (Delhi-Jammu-Srinagar & VV) Daily; CD7431/7432 (Delhi-Leh-Delhi) - Once Weekly and CD7430/7429 (Leh-Srinagar-Leh) Once Weekly; to Operate as:

(Delhi-Jammu-Srinagar-Delhi) - Thrice Weekly

(Delhi-Srinagr-Jammu-Delhi) - Thrice Weekly

And Delhi-Jammu-Srinagar-Leh & VV) - Once Weekly

Flights withdrawn (International)

From 28th October Till 15th November, 2001

IC957/958 (Bangalore-Singapore-Bangalore) - on Days 2,4.

From 28th October, 2001

IC723/724 (Kolkata-Dhaka-Kolkata) - on Days 4, 7.

IC631/632 (Mumbai-Karachi-Mumbai) - on Days 2, 6.

IC752/751 (Varanasi-kathmandu-Varanasi) on Days 1, 3, 5.

IC991/992 (Hyderabad-Cochin-Doha & VV) - on Days 2, 7.

IC907/908 (Trivandrum-Colombo-Trivandrum) on Days 1, 5.

From 7th November Till 20th November, 2001

IC723/724 (Kolkata-Dhaka-Kolkata) on Days 1, 3, 5.

From 7th November, 2001

IC 731/732 (Kolkata-Bangkok-Kalkata) - on Day 6.

[*Translation*]

Production of Mica

1336. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Mica produced in the country during the last three years and in the current year, till-date;

(b) the percentage of Mica exported during the said period; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (c) As per information with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a Subordinate Office of Ministry of Coal and Mines, Department of Mines, the production of mica during the last three years and the current year is given below:—

Item Production	Quantity in tonnes			
	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	April to Aug., 2001 (Provisional)
Mica (Crude)	1484	1807*	1111	451
Mica (Waste & Scrap)	1067	1579*	1267	1122

* Earlier estimated at 1273 tonnes for mica (crude) and 1039 tonnes for mica (waste and scrap).

Production estimates of mica are made by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) on the basis of information furnished by reporting mines. However, mica is also recovered from secondary sources and tailings, details of which are not maintained. The statistics on export of mica include export of mica in all forms. Hence, it is not feasible to relate the percentage of mica exported and the total production of mica. However, as per the information maintained by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), as reported by the IBM, the total foreign exchange earned from export of mica in 1998-99 is Rs. 7019 Lakhs, in 1999-2000 Rs. 6354 Lakhs, and in 2000-2001 Rs. 8813 Lakhs. Figures relating to amount of foreign exchange earned during April to August, 2001 is not available.

[*English*]

Funds for Tourism Development in Tamil Nadu

1337. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:
SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY:
SHRI A.K. MOORTHY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to improve tourist sports in Chengleput district and other districts in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of the foreign and Indian tourist arrivals in Tamil Nadu during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated to improve tourism industry in Tamil Nadu during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Development and promotion of tourist spots/places is the responsibility of the State Government of Tamil Nadu. However, Central Department of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects prioritised every year in consultation with them. During 1998-99, Rs. 15.00 lakhs were sanctioned for Setting up of Adventure Water Sports Centre at Kulaval Lake in Chengleput. During 2001-2002, no project proposal has been prioritised for improvement of tourist sports in Chengleput.

(b) The information is given as under:

Arrival of tourists

Year	Domestic	Foreign
1996	18207666	613982
1997	18975881	636640
1998	20452971	636430
1999	21079141	722442
2000	22981882	786165

(c) 30 project proposals for Rs. 519.00 lakhs have been prioritised in consultation with the State Government of Tamil Nadu for grant of central financial assistance during the current financial year.

[Translation]

Awareness About Impacts of Natural Calamities

1338. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to create awareness among people to lessen the adverse impacts of natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to provide relief to the people affected in the wake of natural calamities as also undertake awareness programmes. However, the Central Government, under its scheme, supplements the efforts of the State Governments and NGOs in creating public awareness. Such activities include workshops/seminars,

quiz competition, essay and painting competition, slogan contest, publicity material. Last year's theme for Disaster Reduction was "Public Awareness and Community Participation" and this year's theme is "Self help is Best help".

Production of Coal

1339. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal production consumption and export in the country during the last three years;

(b) the target fixed for coal production during the said period;

(c) whether there is any short fall in coal production in the country in comparison to the target fixed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken to overcome the shortfall; and

(f) the details of the plans of the Government to privatise the coal mines presently under its control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The details of target, production, off take and export of coal during the last three years are as under:

(figures in million tonnes)

Year	Target	Production	Offtake	Export
1998-1999	306.50	292.27	287.60	0.82
1999-2000	298.90	300.04	304.39	1.16
2000-2001	308.07	309.63	313.49	1.29

(c) to (e) In 1998-1999, coal companies regulated their production due to sluggish demand and low offtake by consumers.

(f) The government does not have any plans to privatise the existing coal mines of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries.

*[English]***Upgradation of Airports in Andhra Pradesh**

1340. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked and released for the upgradation of the airports in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the expenditure incurred so far together with the details of the work carried out; and

(c) the funds contributed by the Union Government and the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the purpose, separately, so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The amount earmarked for various sanctioned project in Andhra Pradesh is Rs. 90.57 crores. The amount provided in the Annual Plan for 2001-2002 in respect of these projects is Rs. 9.24 crores.

(h) The expenditure incurred so far on these projects is Rs. 56.22 crores. At Hyderabad Airport, a new Terminal Building has been constructed and the existing Terminal Building has been modified; the runway has been improved with Tax-track profile, extension of apron and construction of isolation bay. At Vijayawada Airport the existing runway has been strengthened and new apron has been constructed. At Rajahmundry Airport the runway

has been strengthened and a new Tax-track has been constructed.

(c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has provided Rs. 4 crores to Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the development of Vijayawada Airport. Rest of the funds have been provided by AAI.

Mining Industry in Orissa

1341. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Public Sector Undertakings dealing with Mining Industry in Orissa, location-wise;

(b) whether these undertakings have made any contribution in the peripheral development as well as social structure development in the state; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) As per information furnished by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a Sub-ordinate Office of the Department of Mines a list of Public Sector Undertakings dealing with Mining Industry in Orissa is given in the Statement enclosed. The information regarding contribution in the peripheral development as well as social structure development made by the mining companies are not maintained centrally.

Statement

District	Mineral	Mine Name	Owner
1	2	3	4
Angul	Fireclay	Telesingha	Industrial Promotion & Invt. Corpn. Ltd.
Baragarh	Limestone	Behra-Banjipali	Industrial Dev. Corpn. of Orissa Ltd.
		Dungri	Industrial Dev. Corpn. of Orissa Ltd.
Dhenkanal	Chromite	Birasal	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
		Kathpal (OMC)	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
Ganjam	Sillimanite	Oscorn(Orissa Sands	Indian Rare Earths Ltd.
Jajpur	Chromite	Comx) Kalarangi	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
		South Kaliapani	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
		Talangi	Industrial Dev. Corpn. of Orissa Ltd.
		Sukrangi	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
		Kaliapani (OMC)	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.

1	2	3	4	
Jharsuguda	Fireclay	Belapahar	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.	
Kalahandi	Ruby	Jillingdhar	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.	
Keonjhar	Iron Ore	Chromite	Bangur (OMC)	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
		Boula		Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
		Balda Palsa Jajung		Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
		Barpada Kasia		Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
		Belkundi		Orissa Mineral Dev. Co. Ltd.
		Bhadrasai		Bharat Process & Mechanical Engg. Ltd.
		Bhadrasai		Orissa Mineral Dev. Co. Ltd.
		Bolani		Steel Authority of India Ltd.
		Daitari		Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
		Gandhamardhan 'B' Block		Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
		Khandbandh		Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
		Roida		Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
		S.G.B.K. Mine		Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
		Gandhamardhan 'A' Block		Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
		Bagaiburu M/Block		Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
Keonjhar	Manganese Ore	Sakradhi	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.	
		Roida 'C'	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.	
		Thakurani	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engg. Ltd.	
		Bhadrasai (7.11 AC)	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engg. Ltd.	
		Dalki	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.	
		Bhadrasai	Orissa Mineral Dev. Co. Ltd.	
		Belkundi	Orissa Mineral Dev. Co. Ltd.	
		Dubna	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.	
		K.S. Group	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engg. Ltd.	
		Roida	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.	
Koraput	Bauxite	S.G.B.K. Mine	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.	
		Seremda Bhadrasi	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.	
		Thakurani	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engg. Ltd.	
		Limestone	Panchpatmali	National Aluminium Co. Ltd.
			Umpavally (Band-32)	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.

1	2	3	4
		Umpaveli	Industrial Dev. Corpn. of Orissa Ltd.
Nawapara	Limestone	Damapala	Industrial Dev. Corpn. of Orissa Ltd.
		Rohanpadar	Industrial Dev. Corpn. of Orissa Ltd.
		Chandapala	Industrial Dev. Corpn. of Orissa Ltd.
Raygada	Manganese Ore	Nishikhal	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
Sundargarh	Iron Ore	Kalta	Steel Authority of India Ltd.
		Barsua	Steel Authority of India Ltd.
		Khandadhar	Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.
	Lead & Zinc Ore	Sargipalli	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.
	Limestone	Pumapani	Steel Authority of India Ltd.
		Kaplas	The Bisra Stone Lime Co. Ltd.

Shortage of Scientists in CIFE

1342. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the activities of the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai are hampered due to acute shortage of scientists;

(b) if so, the number of such posts lying vacant as on date;

(c) whether the building work of the deemed University planned in 1986 has not been commenced so far and also against annual demand of 200 fisheries scientists, only 221 passed out from 1995 to 2000;

(d) if so, the reasons for these failures; and

(e) the steps being taken to remedy these shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) As on date 37 scientific positions in different categories are lying vacant in Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai. The activities of the institute are not hampered since teaching programmes are duly attended to with the help of guest faculty and invited lectures from other organizations. The action has already been taken to fill up these vacancies.

(c) The construction activities of the deemed University have already commenced. The projected manpower requirement of 200 fisheries scientists per year is on a national basis. 25 percent of the national requirement is being met out by the CIFE, Mumbai and the rest is through 12 Fisheries Colleges under the State Agricultural University (SAU) system.

(d) and (e) In view of (a), (b) and (c) above, the questions does not arise.

Safety Audit in Coal Mines

1343. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether safety audit is not being done in all coal mines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) Safety audit is being done periodically in all coal mines.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply given to part (a) above.

Guidelines for Flying Aircraft over Strategic Installations

1344. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of attacks of bomber aircraft in US, the Government have issued fresh guidelines to prohibit flying of aircraft over strategic installations and historic structures in the form of aviation as a weapon for terrorist activity;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect strategically very important installations from being targeted through "aviation terrorism";

(d) whether any demand has been received from the State Governments to close air space over some important monuments and pilgrim centres; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) No fresh guidelines have been issued.

(c) A necessary component is being added to the Contingency Plan to deal with hijacking and other acts of unlawful interference with civil aviation.

(d) and (e) A request has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for declaring airspace over Tirumala Temple as a 'No Fly Zone'. The matter is under consideration.

Identification of Areas for Extraction of Ground Water

1345. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Ground Water Board has identified any areas in Andhra Pradesh to extract ground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated and released for the purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) undertakes drilling of exploratory wells in the country for the purpose of collecting scientific data. Under this programme, the CGWB has a target of drilling of 48 exploratory wells in the State of Andhra Pradesh during 2001-2002. District-wise target for drilling of exploratory wells in the State is given below:—

Name of the District	No. of Exploratory Wells
Nellore	6
Nizamabad	6
Vizayanagaram	12
Mahaboobnagar	12
Hyderabad	12
Total	48

The expenditure booked under above scheme by CGWB for the State of Andhra Pradesh during current financial year upto 31st October, 2001 is Rs. 45.73 lakhs.

Inter-State River Water Dispute

1346. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to include the Inter-State River Water Dispute into Concurrent List; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture

1347. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for development of fisheries and Aquaculture; and

(b) the funds allotted and released to each State and Union Territory for these schemes and the funds utilised by them during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) The following centrally sponsored schemes, viz., Development of Marine Fisheries — Motorisation of traditional crafts & Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD Oil; Development of Freshwater Aquaculture; Integrated Coastal Aquaculture; National Welfare of Fishermen; and Fishing Harbour at Major and Minor ports; are being implemented for development of fisheries and Aquaculture.

(b) The details of funds made available to each State and Union Territory for these schemes and funds utilised by them during 2000-2001 are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of Funds released/Utilised by the State towards Central Share for Development of fisheries and Aquaculture during 2000-2001

(Rs. in lakhs)			
Sl. No.	State/UTs	Funds released	Funds Utilised
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	139.40	54.59
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	25.00	8.00
3.	Bihar	0.00	15.00
4.	Gujarat	649.22	648.31
5.	Goa	44.22	45.39
6.	Himachal Pradesh	22.73	
7.	J & K	0.00	26.25
8.	Karnataka	188.76	290.08
9.	Kerala	573.92	23.60
10.	Madhya Pradesh	87.00	43.39
11.	Maharashtra	579.67	398.88
12.	Manipur	43.47	
13.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.54
14.	Mizoram	30.00	
15.	Nagaland	134.39	68.76
16.	Orissa	381.12	288.99
17.	Punjab	50.00	34.00
18.	Rajasthan	1.50	1.50
19.	Sikkim	5.86	1.66

1	2	3	4
20.	Tamil Nadu	856.70	180.05
21.	Tripura	56.12	39.59
22.	Uttar Pradesh	483.50	356.17
23.	West Bengal	902.93	316.40
24.	Pondicherry	227.32	262.72
25.	Chhattisgarh	35.00	9.54
26.	Uttaranchal	27.07	
27.	A & N Islands	17.91	0.97
28.	Daman & Diu	64.80	64.80
29.	Lakshadweep	1.75	1.75

Note: The Figures of funds utilised include amounts released in earlier years that were utilised in 2000-2001 and for which utilisation certificates have been received.

Utilisation certificates have not been received.

Labour Based Technology for Removing Unemployment

1348. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage labour based technology for removing unemployment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Ninth Plan had accorded priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The plan had focused on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

The Task Force on employment opportunities has identified major areas with sufficient potential for employment generation which include Agriculture and allied activities, food processing, small scale industries, the service sector, travel and tourism, information technology, housing and real estate development and construction, road transport, distributive trade, educational and health services and new emerging services.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Kopare Dam, Maharashtra

1349. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of Kopare Dam in Maharashtra, Ahmednagar, has been started;

(b) if not, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued any directions to the State Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the State Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Detailed Project Report on Kopare Dam has not been received from Government of Maharashtra in the Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal. Water being a State subject primary responsibility for planning, investigation funding and execution of irrigation, flood control and drainage projects rests with the State Government including provision of requisite funds for works and establishment.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Offices of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management

1350. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether offices/centres of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management are functioning in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the yardsticks and norms laid down for opening such centres/offices;

(c) whether the Government are considering to open the centres/offices of the said institute in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra with a view to facilitate tourists coming in Ajanta Ellora;

(d) if so, the time by which the above offices/centres would become functional; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. One branch of IITTM is functioning at Bhubaneswar apart from the main centre of IITTM at Gwalior.

(b) There are no set yardsticks or norms for opening the centres/offices of the Institute.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No such proposal is there for the time being.

Compensation to Workers of Closed Polluting Industrial Units

1351. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Court has not only suggested for closure of polluting industrial units but also suggested for payment of compensation to the affected workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court while passing orders in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 4677 of 1985 for shifting/closure of 168 units in Delhi, desired that the workmen employed in these 168 industrial units shall be entitled to certain rights and benefits. These include continuity of employment in case of shifting of industries to new location, one year wage as shifting bonus etc. The workmen employed in the industry which fail to relocate shall be paid six year wages as additional compensation.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Amendment in Civil Aviation Act

1352. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Civil Aviation Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security is likely to get more powers by way of getting legal status;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the areas to be covered thereunder; and

(e) the time by which the said Act is likely to be amended and implemented indicating the extent to which it is likely to check security lapses at various airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) and (e) Action is in hand for working out the details of a New Civil Aviation Security Act.

[*Translation*]

Development of Horticulture

1353. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared any action plan for the development of horticulture in the country especially in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is providing assistance to the State Governments for the development of agriculture including horticulture crops under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/Complementation of State's Efforts through Work Plans. Under this Scheme the State Governments have the option to prioritize their programmes as per their needs and requirement. An outlay of Rs. 1800.00 lakhs have been earmarked for Himachal Pradesh during 2001-2002 under this Scheme out of which Rs. 578.00 lakhs is for the development of horticulture in the State. Besides, an assistance to the tune of Rs. 14.00 lakhs have been released to Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan under the Central Sector Scheme on Human Resource Development in Horticulture.

[*English*]

Hybrid Rice

1354. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Karnataka has successfully developed the country's best hybrid rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought lifting of the ban on export of paddy seeds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Karnataka Hybrid Rice-2 (KRH-2), developed by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, is a variety that is gaining popularity. It was Notified in the year, 1998 by the Government of India vide S.O. No. 401 (E) dated 15.5.1998. It is moderately tolerant to blast, comes to harvest in 135 days, its fodder yield is good and it gives about 35-40 quintals grain yield per acre. Under good management higher yields can be obtained.

(c) There is no ban on export of paddy seeds.

(d) Does not arise.

Royalty on Coal

1355. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the royalty on coal for the newly created State of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of royalty paid to the State since its inception;

(d) the details of the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission in regard to revision of royalty; and

(e) the reasons for ignoring the recommendations for the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) and (b) The royalty rates on coal as notified by the Central Government applies to all the States in the country, unless any specific rates are fixed in respect of a specified state or group of States. The royalty rates on coal were last fixed by the Central Government on 11.10.1994. Since no separate royalty rates for the States of Jharkhand has been fixed, the royalty rates of coal as fixed by the Central Government on 11.10.1994 for the States other than the States of West Bengal and Meghalaya will be equally applicable to the State of Jharkhand after its creation, till the royalty rates are further revised.

(c) The amount of royalty on coal paid by CIL to the Government of Jharkhand since its inception upto October, 2001 is Rs. 464.82 crores.

(d) and (e) The Sarkaria Commission in its report submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs, in Chapter XIII on Mines & Minerals made a recommendation in Para 13.7.01 as under:

"Proviso to Section 9 of the MMDR Act should be amended to reduce the period specified therein for revision of royalty rates from four years to two years."

The Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council which monitored implementation of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission deliberated the recommendation of the Commission in their Eighteenth meeting held on 1.9.2000, in which representatives of the Governments of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Department of Mines of the Government of India had expressed their views. Following the discussion the Standing Committee decided on a proposed consensus and modified the recommendation as under:

"The Government will endeavour revision of royalty every three years with a progressive shift towards a fully ad-valorem based royalty regime in accordance with the existing provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957."

In the Department of Coal a Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Coal) to examine the issue of adoption of ad valorem basis for determination of royalty on coal and the related matters of revision of royalty rates last fixed in 1994. The Committee will submit its report shortly. The Committee held its final round of discussions with the representatives of the State Governments and the Central Ministries/Departments/Organisations on 4.10.2001. The Committee is now firming up its recommendations and the report is expected to be submitted very shortly.

Norms for compensation to Air Crash Victims

1356. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present norms for providing compensation to air crash victims;

(b) whether the Government propose to revise these norms so as to bring them at par with some of the other airlines of the world; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The compensation payable to the victims of an air crash in India is governed by the provision of Carriage by Air Act, 1972, which was enacted to give effect to the provision of the Warsaw Convention, 1929, as amended by the Hague Protocol, 1955. For International passengers, the maximum compensation payable is US \$ 20,000 for each passenger in case of domestic passenger, the compensation payable is Rs. 7.5 lakhs for an adult and Rs. 3.75 lakhs for a child.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal presently under consideration of the Government to enhance the existing rate of compensation payable to air crash victims as India has not yet ratified the Montreal Convention, 1999 adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, which proposes to enhance the amount payable in such cases.

[Translation]

Import of Edible Oil

1357. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the value of agriculture produce have declined after entering into the WTO agreement;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to put total ban on import of edible oil;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to export chilies, onions and garlic; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The country is not self sufficient in the production of oilseeds/edible oils, and therefore, import of edible oils takes place. Under the current EXIM Policy, import of edible oil is under OGL and any one can import the edible oil on payment of required customs duty.

(e) and (f) The export of chilies and garlic is freely permitted under Current Exim Policy. The export of onions is allowed under quota released by Government from time to time through certain designated State Trading Enterprises.

Patent for Microbes

1358. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether microbes can be preserved in the Indian laboratories for the purpose of patent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any microbe can be patented; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir. If the patent application is for an Indian patent.

(b) For the purpose of patent procedure microbe has to be deposited in an International Depository Authority (IDA). This is governed by Budapest Treaty. India has submitted Instrument of Accession to World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Geneva on 17th September, 2001 to be part of Budapest Treaty. This will come into force from 17th December, 2001.

From 17.12.2001 for patenting in India involving any microorganism, microbe can be deposited in any International Depository Authority (IDA) and this can be disclosed in the Indian Patent Application.

(c) No, Sir. Microbe cannot be patented as per the provisions of the Indian Patents Act presently in vogue.

(d) Question does not arise, Sir.

Satellite Based Communication at Airports

1359. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a plan for satellite based communication and monitoring system in respect of air operation for Air Traffic Management; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith total cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is already using Satellite based Communication for extension of Very High Frequency (VHF) coverage over the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea through Remote Control Air-Ground VHF. AAI has planned for implementation of Dedicated Satellite Communication Network for inter connecting 80 Airports in the country to support all operational communication requirements for Air Traffic Services at an approximate cost of Rs. 58 crores.

Fall in Basmati Export

1360. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Basmati Export Market of the country has fallen;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to boost Basmati Export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) The total quantity and value of Basmati rice exported during the last three years is as under:

Year	Qty. (MTs)	Value (Rs. crores)
1998-1999	597793	1876.91
1999-2000	638382	1780.34
2000-2001	848919	2141.94

(Source: DGCI & S, Kolkata)

(c) Some of the steps taken to increase the export of basmati rice include conducting publicity campaigns, sending delegations abroad, participating in international trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

Requirement of Employment for Maintenance of Aircraft

1361. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of employees of Air India and Indian Airlines for maintenance and flying one aircraft;

(b) whether these number are on high side as compared to other airlines of the world;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to streamline the procedures to fall in line with efficient international airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Based on the fleet strength of 27 aircraft of Air India and 54 aircraft of Indian Airlines, the number of employees per aircraft as on November 1, 2001 is 626 and 388 respectively. The number of employees vis-a-vis the number of aircraft in Air India and Indian Airlines is high as compared to other airlines of the world because there is no outsourcing of routine jobs or service subsidiaries as is a normal practice for other airlines and fleet augmentation has not taken place.

(d) Air India has taken following steps for rationalising man power in order to make them viable:

(i) freeze on external recruitment in non-operational categories (ii) several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished; (iii) two voluntary schemes have been notified viz. shorter working week scheme and leave without pay/allowances scheme for a period of two years extendable upto five years; (iv) rolling back of retirement age from 60 to 58 years; (v) redeployment of employees from non-operation to operation areas; (vi) Induction of more aircraft through leasing.

Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Indian Airlines in this direction are (i) Roll back of retirement age from 60 to 58 years; (ii) Non-filling up of

non-operational posts; (iii) Induction of more aircraft through leasing.

X-Ray Machines at IGI Airport

1362. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to increase the number of X-Ray machines at IGI Airport Terminal-I of New Delhi is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in clearing the proposal; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the number of X-Ray machines at arrival hall of IGI Terminal-I in order to ensure 100% screening of luggage arrived at IGI Terminal-I?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no requirement of providing X-Ray machines at arrival hall of Terminal-I at IGI Airport, Delhi for screening of arrival baggages.

[Translation]

Setting up of Food Processing Industries

1363. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to the reply given to SQ No. 544 dated August 30, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the Department of Food Processing Industries has prepared a draft policy for setting up of Food Processing Industries in various parts of the country particularly in Kullu, Mandi and Solan districts of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has initiated action for formulating a National Food Processing Policy and for this purpose Draft Policy has been Prepared which envisages, among other things, creation of enabling environment, infrastructure development, linkages at farm level etc. The proposed

Draft Policy does not envisages setting up of food processing units by the Ministry.

(c) Taking into consideration various procedures to be followed, a definite time frame for the finalization of the policy is difficult to envisage.

[English]

Iron Ore Deposits at Ramanadurga in Bellary

1364. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) has located iron ore deposits at Ramanadurga in Bellary;

(b) if so, the estimated extent of iron ore likely to be available there;

(c) whether permission has been given to KIOCL to undertake the mining work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated extent of Iron Ore reserves available at Ramanadurga is 220 Million Tonnes.

(c) and (d) KIOCL has filed an application with the Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Karnataka for grant of Mining Lease for exploitation of Ramanadurga Deposit.

Installation of High-tech Cat-III System at Airports

1365. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of our domestic pilots are not able to handle even CAT-II system;

(b) if so, whether the most high-tech category-III (A) installed at IGIA is not functional;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have made any arrangements to train pilots to land under CAT-III and to upgrade our aircrafts accordingly; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (e) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has stipulated special training to be imparted to pilots for landing in Instrument Landing System (ILS) Cat. II and Cat. IIIA weather conditions. So far, Air India Indian Airlines and Jet Airways have trained 189, 130 and 40 pilots respectively for ILS Cat. II operations which have been approved by DGCA. No Operator have requested DGCA for approval of their pilots for Cat. IIIA operations.

The ILS system at IGI Airports, Delhi is presently functional as Cat. II. The System has been flight calibrated successfully for Cat. IIIA operations this month. It will be made functional as Cat. IIIA after consultation with DGCA.

[Translation]

Clearance to Forest based Industry in Orissa

1366. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain proposals to set up some forest based industries in KBK districts of Orissa are pending for clearance by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government have examined the possible adverse impact of those industries on the environment of these areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/being taken by the Government to protect the environment of the said areas?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) The information has been sought from the State Government and shall be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it shall be received.

Development of Wild Life Tourist Centres in M.P.

1367. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the development of wild life tourist centres in States, particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) If so, the details thereof especially in regard to Madhya Pradesh, State-wise; and

(c) the date from which the scheme is likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has formulated "Eco-Tourism policy & guidelines" which has been endorsed for implementation by all the State Governments/Union Territories. Central financial assistance is extended to Eco-friendly tourism projects prioritised in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has formulated and announced eco and adventure tourism policy to promote this form of tourism through private participation.

(b) In Madhya Pradesh, total 13 activities pertaining to eco and adventure tourism have been identified and 31 places have also been earmarked to undertake these activities by private investors. Government land and Government rest houses will be given on lease for a period of 30 years. The rates of premium and lease rent are also fixed and special concession will be given in transport taxes and excise license fees.

(c) Eco and adventure tourism policy is in force in the State of Madhya Pradesh with effect from 1.5.2001.

[English]

Duties on Import of Hot Rolled Coil

1368. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA Administration has agreed to suspend anti-dumping and counter-vailing duties on import of hot rolled coil from India;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

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

Selection of SCs/STs on Merit

1369. SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per para 11 of Explanatory Notes to DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 02.07.1997 persons belonging to SCs/STs and OBCs who are selected on merit are not required to be shown against the quota of vacancies/posts reserved for their communities;

(b) if so, the total number of persons belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs who have been selected/recruited/promoted on merit to different categories of services and not counted against the 'reserved quota of vacancies/posts' for their communities during the last five years under his Ministry; and

(c) the details of instances where candidates belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs who have been selected on merit but shown/adjusted against vacancies/posts reserved for their communities alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Persons belonging to communities for whom reservation has been made, but who are appointed on merit and not owing to reservations are not shown against reserved points. They would occupy the un-reserved points.

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

Representation of SCs/STs on Top Positions

1370. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether SC/ST MPs' Convention during December 1999 sought inclusion of one SC/ST member on all the 'Selection Committee/Boards' which undertake selecting and recruiting process of persons for the posts at the level of "Board of Directors", Managing Directors/Chairmen of Public Sector Enterprises, Statutory/Autonomous Organizations, Corporation and other senior posts/positions at the level of joint Secretary to Central Government and above;

(b) if so, the details of structural constitutional changes brought about in the existing instructions/systems regarding composition of the said Selection Boards/

Committees for facilitating inclusion of SC/ST persons on them;

(c) the number of persons appointed to the above referred posts during last five years under his ministry, year-wise; and

(d) the number of SCs/STs among them and their percentage to the total strength?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and would be placed at the table of the House.

Rainfed Areas

1371. SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared any research strategies for rainfed areas for effective involvement of Panchayat Raj Institutions to increase the productivity of dry land from the present level per hectare to meet the challenges of food and fodder requirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been conducting research and frontline extension activities through Central Research institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad and All India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture (24 cooperating centres), besides several other institutes and ad-hoc research projects. These institutes have been able to develop appropriate strategies for moisture conservation, rainwater harvesting, ground water recharge, selection of appropriate crop and varieties, improved agronomic management practices, alternative land use systems, including agro forestry and arid horticulture, suitable implements for dryland agriculture, livestock management under rainfed situations, watershed management and socio economic and policy issues for enhancing the productivity under rainfed areas. These technologies and improved practices are being transferred through Operational Research Projects, demonstrations, capacity building programmes and publication of suitable literature in print and electronic media. Most of these activities are undertaken through involvement of the State Governments and Panchayati Raj Institutions for effective and quicker transfer of the

technologies. All these research and extension activities have resulted in significant improvement in the production and productivity of the rainfed crops in different parts of the country.

Representation of SCs/STs/OBCs in Foreign Institutions

1372. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government selects/deputs officers for training to the reputed Foreign Institutions for improving their academic, managerial, technical and administrative capabilities in various fields and disciplines where in some cases cost of such training are borne by the sponsoring countries/agencies under bilateral/international agreements;

(b) If so, the number of persons from his Ministry who underwent such short/long term training courses during last three years, year-wise;

(c) The number of SCs/STs and OBCs among them alongwith their percentage; and

(d) The 'Special Provisions' made for ensuring adequate representation to SCs, STs and OBCs for availing such opportunities as provided under Article 46 of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Devastation by Overflowing Rivers

1373. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether rivers flowing from neighbouring countries into various parts of the country during monsoon, cause huge loss of life and property;

(b) if so, the names of the rivers and the countries from which they are flowing along with areas, where they cause devastation;

(c) the average quantity of additional water brought by these rivers into the country;

(d) the average annual loss suffered as a result thereof;

(e) whether the Government have held discussions with neighbouring countries in this regard and formulated any scheme to control the water of these rivers; and

(f) if so, the time by which the work on the said scheme is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The major rivers namely,

Sl. No.	Name of State	Estimated Area affected (m.ha)	Estimated Human lives lost (Nos)	Estimated Total damages to crops, houses & public utilities (Rs. in Crore)
1.	Uttar Pradesh	2.057	296	260.378
2.	Bihar	1.346	126	117.474
3.	West Bengal	0.842	169	132.538
4.	Assam	0.911	40	70.498
5.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.005	3	7.453
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.080	39	69.679

(e) and (f) To mitigate the problem of floods created by the rivers coming from Nepal, Bhutan and China, negotiations are on with these countries. However, preparation of a Joint Detailed Project Report for Pancheshwar Multipurpose project on river Mahakali (Sarda in India) by the Government of India and Government of Nepal is in progress.

[English]

Revamping of Agricultural Education

1374. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revamp agricultural education in the country to forge a strong university-industry linkage;

Ghaghra, Rapti, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Adhwara Group of Rivers, Kamla Balan, Bagmati, Kosi, Mahananda, Torsa, Raidak Sankosh, Gaurang, Puthimari, Beki-Manas-Aie, Pagladiya, Subansiri, Lohit, Siang and Sultej flowing from Nepal Bhutan and China cause flood during monsoon in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh resulting in loss of life and property.

(c) Detailed assessment for the quantum of water brought by these rivers has not been done, so far.

(d) The estimated average annual loss in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh caused due to floods (period) 1953 to 2000) from all the rivers of the States are as under:

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote university-industry interaction; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Council constituted Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Committee to suggest measures to improve quality of education in the country. Apart from various broad-based recommendations, the Committee recommended the strengthening of the linkages of State Agricultural Universities with private and public sector industries.

The Steps taken to strengthen to bondage of industries with State Agricultural Universities include:

- Revision of curricula of all disciplines of Agricultural Sciences in consultation with relevant industrial houses.

- Impart of skill based practical-training under Rural Awareness Work Experience (RAWE)/hands/on-training at industries/warehouses/farms etc.
- Creation of Placement Cell in universities for arranging campus interviews.
- Inclusion of experts from industries as members of academic management committee of the universities.

(c) Not applicable in view of (a) and (b) above.

Kudremukh Iron Ore Company

1375. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agreement period of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) in Karnataka has expired;

(b) if so, the reasons for continuing with the mining works by the company in the State;

(c) whether several protests have been made against the continuation of the mining; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) The original mining lease of KIOCL has expired on 24th July, 1999. The company is continuing its mining operations as it has been given two short term work permits of one year each by the State Government of Karnataka in July, 1999 & July, 2000. Thereafter, the company was given three months' extension of their work permit w.e.f. 25th July, 2001 and thereafter, another one work permit w.e.f. 25th October, 2001 by the State Government of Karnataka.

(c) and (d) Some NGOs have been protesting against continuation of mining by KIOCL in the Western Ghats. A Writ Petition was filed in the Supreme Court in this regard. The matter is sub-judice.

[*Translation*]

Legislation for Agricultural Labourers

1376. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to enact a legislation for the welfare of the agricultural labourers is pending since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) A proposal to enact a legislation for the welfare of the agricultural labourers has been examined in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments and the State Governments. Owing to absence of consensus amongst the State Governments, it is not possible to indicate the exact time frame at this stage.

Production of Oilseeds

1377. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of oilseeds in Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of areas there where oilseeds production was under taken;

(c) whether there is decline in oilseeds production in Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the said period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to check the decline to increase the production of oilseeds and cultivable land for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The production of oilseeds in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is negligible and is not included in the reporting system. However, as per the figures supplied by the Andaman & Nicobar Government the total production of oilseeds during the last 3 years is as under:

Year	Production (Tonnes)
1998-1999	153
1999-2000	73
2000-2001	55

(b) The details of area in Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the year 2000-2001 where oilseeds production is undertaken is given below:

South Andaman	13.20 ha.
Rangat	23.55 ha.
Middle Andaman	21.51 ha.
Diglipur	70.90 ha.
Little Andaman	4.00 ha.
Total	133.16 ha.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The following factors are responsible for the decline of oilseeds production in Andaman & Nicobar Islands:

1. Farmers are more inclined towards vegetable cultivation because they get more profit from it.
2. Lack of irrigation facilities.
3. Inclement weather condition.
4. Lack of processing & marketing structure.
5. Stray animals.
6. Non-availability of good quality seeds.

(e) The Agriculture Department of Andaman & Nicobar Islands have sent a proposal for the development of oilseeds to the National Oilseeds & Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board. A programme of training of farmers and demonstration of groundnut, mustard and sunflower was sanctioned for Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

[English]

Grain Banks

1378. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to decentralise grain storage by setting up of Grain Banks throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these storages are likely to include other non perishable foodgrains and vegetables like potato, onion and other coarse grains which are hardly available nowadays; and

(d) if so, whether such banks are likely to be located in each of the District headquarters throughout the country with retail sales outlets to ensure fair price control mechanism for farmers and consumers and to curb the insatiable appetite for profits of the middlemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Grain Bank in Tribal Villages since 1996-1997 to take preventive measures against deaths of children in selected remote and backward tribal area in 13 States identified by Central Planning Committee. Under the scheme, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provide a one time grant towards purchase of food grains of locally preferred variety @ 1QT per member family for the initial stock of the bank, setting up of storage facilities of traditional type and purchase of weight and scales. Member families can take loans of food grains in instalment during the period of scarcity and can repay it with nominal interest at the time of the next successful harvest. The Grain Banks are managed by Working Committees elected by beneficiaries themselves. All tribal families in the concerned village as well as interested Scheduled Caste families living below the poverty line can be members of a particular Grain Bank under the scheme. The funds are released by the Ministry to the State Governments through Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), which is the channelising agency under the scheme.

(c) and (d) Recently, the Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agriculture Export has recommended to expand the Village Grain Bank Scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with some modifications in all those endemic prone and migration prone areas with the concentration of tribal population and also in other tribal areas in the first phase. It has also been proposed to expand the Scheme in non-tribal areas, if, need be at a later stage.

The revised Scheme is aimed at covering 1.14 lakh tribal villages throughout the country in first phase with an estimated cost of Rs. 1066.00 crores. The cash component under the Scheme is Rs. 66.00 crores to be disbursed to the states for storage bins, expenditure on lifting of food grains etc. under the scheme. The food grains are to supplied to the states on their demand through the FCI and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs will

reimburse the amount to the FCI. The revised Scheme is yet to be approved by Government.

Domestic Subsidy

1379. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the idea behind WTO was to eliminate barriers of trade in agricultural produce to reduce domestic subsidy and to enable developing countries find newer markets of products;

(b) whether the developed countries have increased subsidies on their agricultural produce which is detriment to developing countries like India;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps the Government have taken to safeguard the interests of Indian Farmers; and

(e) the new policy of Indian Government towards WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) The idea behind WTO Agreements was trade liberalization through an open, equitable and rule based multilateral trading system.

(b) to (e) As per Organization for Economic Co-operation and development (OECD) report the support to agriculture in OECD countries increased from US\$ 308 billion in 1986-1988 to US\$ 361 billion in 1999. Keeping this in view, India in its negotiating proposals for the ongoing mandated negotiations under World Trade Organization Agreement on Agriculture has called for inclusion of all trade distorting domestic support measures in the calculations of the Total Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) which would be subjected to reduction commitments if above the de-minimise level. To safeguard the interests of Indian farmers the Government have put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring of the imports of sensitive items and are committed to providing adequate protection to the domestic producers by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which include appropriate calibration of applied tariffs within the bound tariffs, imposition of anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard action under certain specified circumstances.

Support Price for Coconut and Copra

1380. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the support price fixed by the Government for Copra in Karnataka;

(b) the estimated production of copra and coconut in the state during the last three years;

(c) the quantity of copra and coconut so far purchased by NAFED from farmers;

(d) whether the Government propose to purchase more quantities of copra and coconut from Karnataka to avoid distress sale by farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) The Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Milling Copra of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) at Rs. 3300/- per quintal and that of Ball Copra (FAQ) at Rs. 3550/- per quintal for 2001 season. There is no separate MSP for Karnataka since MSP fixed by the Government is applicable to all the States including Union Territories.

(b) The estimated production of Copra and Coconut during the last three years in the State of Karnataka are as under:—

Year	Production	
	Copra (thousand tonnes)	Coconut (million nuts)
1997-1998	94.10	1550.4
1998-1999	97.81	1611.5
1999-2000	101.38	1670.3

(c) to (e) Coconut is not covered under Price Support Scheme (PSS). During 2000-2001, the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), purchased a total quantity of 6188 tonnes of Ball copra under Price Support Scheme in Karnataka. During the Current year (2001-2002, till October) NAFED have already purchased 145 tonnes of Ball Copra in the State. Purchases are continuing.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 746 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th April, 2001 specifying the coverage of three establishments mentioned therein issued under sub-section (3) of section 1 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4473/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, for the year 2000-2001.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4474/2001]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1078 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd November, 2001 constituting the Central Fertilizer Committee consisting of Eleven Members, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4475/2001]

12.01 hrs.

MOTION RE: TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-eighth report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 23rd November, 2001."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-eighth report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 23rd November, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

12.03 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (NINETY-SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Article 16)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): This item should be taken up after the Zero Hour, not now...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is only the introduction of the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dt. 26.11.2001.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: How can we allow introduction of a Bill and Legislative Business before 'Zero Hour'?...(Interruptions) This is what you have suggested:...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We have been following this for sometime.

...(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 7-Dr. Muri Manohar Joshi.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The Minister is not present in the House...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): That is why I wanted to introduce the Bill on his behalf...(Interruptions) I have the same problem which Shri Dasmunsi had....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Since the concerned Minister is not present, we would take up the next item.

12.04 hrs.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES (MAINTENANCE) ORDINANCE REPEAL BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): On behalf of Shri L.K. Advani, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, 1941.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, 1941."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House would now take up the Zero Hour.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we never questioned the prerogative of the Prime Minister. But the way the Prime Minister gave a clean chit when the Venkatasami Commission is in operation and that too by extending the time is not acceptable. We, therefore, are very right to bring it as a Motion to discuss the propriety. The fate of the Motion is not yet made clear.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, you have given a notice and the same is under my consideration.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Tomorrow is the Business Advisory Committee day. We can plan our business only if you decide this by tomorrow.

Sir, this is an important issue. We cannot keep quite every day.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, you have given the notice. It is under my active consideration.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I have also given a notice on a very important matter....(Interruptions) I gave it on Friday...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to you later. Now, Shri Suresh Kurup.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (Muzaffarnagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice, please listen to me. Thousands of people are in jails...(Interruptions)

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dt. 26.11.2001.

MR. SPEAKER: Take your seat please, you will also be called.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thirty Members have given notices.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Today, during the Zero Hour, we will go according to the serial number. I have 30 notices with me. The first one is from Shri Suresh Kurup.

12.06 hrs.

RE: REPORTED DECISION OF NCERT TO
DELETE CERTAIN PORTIONS OF
HISTORY TEXTBOOKS

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, the circular by CBSE has directed the NCERT to delete certain portions from the textbooks of History being taught in the schools in our country. It is communally motivated and intended to twist the established facts of the Indian History...(Interruptions) Whatever historical facts are there, a poisonous view is being propagated by the Sangh Parivar. It is being systematically deleted from the textbooks that are taught in our country. This should be condemned....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): You did not say anything during the last ten years when this history was being taught...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a mess in education, this can not go on...(Interruptions) This country will be run in a secular way.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Is it secular to call Guru Teg Bahadur ji a thief...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khurana, I have called Shri Suresh Kurup.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will you please allow me?
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Jaunpur): You have no right to interpret the history as you wish...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): This must be withdrawn, otherwise the Government will have to go...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Kurup says.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Kurup.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: This Government wants to dismantle the secular education and foundation of our country...(Interruptions)

Sir, the fundamentalists of all shades — to whichever country they belong to or whatever religion they represent — speak the same voice. Whether it is *Taliban* in Afghanistan or *Sangh Parivar* in India, they are one and the same. They represent the two sides of the same coin. So, I request the secular allies of this Government to rise to the occasion. They should not allow this to happen in this country...(Interruptions) The whole House should condemn it.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Acharia ji, I will call you, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP: This circular should be withdrawn immediately...(Interruptions) Now, the Minister has come...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kurup, I have received three notices on the same subject. Shri Sahib Singh Verma and Shri Basu Deb Acharia have also given notices on the same subject.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I have to call Shri Sahib Singh Verma. Then, I would call Shri Acharia also.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: He has also given a notice on the same subject.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: On the same subject I have received three notices, one from Shri Suresh Kurup, one from Shri Sahib Singh Verma and one from Shri Basudeb Acharia. I have to hear them first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Right, Sir, let them speak first and then the hon. Minister can reply...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, this is not a matter which can be discussed here...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The circular should be withdrawn forthwith...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (Outer Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding circular issued by the CBSE, there had been a regular demand from the people of the country that many wrong things which are included in the text books should be deleted. This has created lot of panic among various categories of people in the country. It is causing insult to them. It has been said about Guru Teg Bahadur that he committed rapes, indulged in hooliganism, looted people which is totally wrong...(Interruptions) I have got this book. This is written in the book of sixth class...(Interruptions) It is all there. If CBSE has issued such a circular for deletion of such things then what more step could be better than this. The whole House should welcome this...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called his name please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Sahib Singh Verma. Let him speak please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record, except Shri Verma's submission.

...(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

SHRI SAHIB SINGH: 90% of the martyrs of Kargil War were Jats. In the wars fought for the freedom of the country in safeguarding the freedom of the country the role of the Jats is an excellent example. It would be wrong to say that the Jats are rogue and they loot the people. What could be more wrong than teaching such things about Jats in the history books...(Interruptions) You have stood up to say such things. You are also saying that wrong has been done. What would be more wrong than this. The people who ask that CBSE should withdraw that circular should feel ashamed...(Interruptions) Nothing could be more shameful if you speak such things about Guru Teg Bahadur, about Jats and about the history of the country. CBSE have done a great job. The Education Minister has done a good thing. The whole House should welcome that circular of the CBSE. You should welcome the work done in this direction and should applaud that CBSE did a good thing. Many other good things are there in the history. Nothing could be more wrong than teaching wrong things and such kind of books to small children. Those members who oppose it, definitely they are not doing the right thing...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Verma, please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SAHIB SINGH: You don't know about history. You oppose people who sacrificed their lives. Even the Delhi Government has said that whatever has been written about the Jats is true, while the Delhi Government is in power due to Jats. You oppose Jats and call them rogues and hooligans. Nothing could be more shameful than this. The whole House should welcome the step taken by the CBSE and should congratulate them...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, this is most unfortunate that the RSS is bent upon dismantling the secular fabric of this country. The Prime Minister has justified day before yesterday that what has been done by the NCERT under the direction of the Human Resource Development Minister, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi...(Interruptions) Sir, some of the portion of the history textbook...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I have called Shri Basudeb Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is there.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Before the Order was issued by NCERT for deletion, the eminent historians were not consulted....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kharabela Swain, I have called Shri Basu Deb Acharia. Please take your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is most unfortunate that the Prime Minister of our country has just referred to the deletion of some of the portions of these text books and he has also stated that there will be further deletion. This is nothing but Talibanisation of our education and saffronisation of our education. They want to dismantle the secular fabric of our country. They have already changed the curriculum of education...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Basu Deb Acharia says.

...(Interruptions) *

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They have deleted some of the portions of the history textbooks which are taught for years together. Those books are written by eminent historians of our country. They were not consulted before the deletion of those portions. So, we demand that the Circular which has issued by NCERT to all the CBSE schools should be withdrawn....(Interruptions) The Government should stop Talibanisation of education, and the secular fabric of our country should not be dismantled...(Interruptions) What are they doing?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything from the Government?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please understand that yesterday we had a very good meeting in the Central Hall about discipline and decorum in the House. What are we doing today in the House?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the hon. Minister has left the House....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is there. He can reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, Shri Shivraj V. Patil has given a very good suggestion. I think, the trouble starts only with 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: How the House can be run if everyone speaks like this? Mulayam Singh ji, do you also want to speak on the very same point?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You cannot change the history...(Interruptions) You cannot rewrite the history...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. Let Mulayam Singh ji speak now.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): When we speak the Members of other side do not allow us to speak and when Sh. Mulayam Singh ji speaks how we are expected to remain quiet?... (Interruptions)

[English]

You please speak but allow us to speak also.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should allow Malhotra ji also to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotra ji, you will also get a chance. Sometimes leaders should also be given chance.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter for the reason that the comments

* Not recorded.

which are received regarding imparting of such education, when the terrorism is in limelight all over the world, that is a serious matter. It is not a question of us alone but it relates to every body. The curriculum of a book published in the newspapers, which is being taught in Rajasthan, states about the achievements of the BJP and the shortcomings of the Congress. Congress Government is there and I don't know how this was accepted but it has clearly been published in the newspapers. Shivraj Patil ji can show that to the leader of opposition also as your Government is there in Rajasthan. Will it be taught there that what are the achievements of the BJP?...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What you are talking about? In which NCERT book it is there?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: That is what I am saying. Congress Government is there and rather than telling about the history of Congress it is written that the BJP Government is good...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Shri Mulayam Singh ji stated that the Congress Government always praises the B.J.P. Government...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It has been stated, by giving the History of Congress that Bhartiya Janta Party opposed the movements of the Congress. If such thing is being taught then I would like to ask on what basis you can oppose Taliban? You can not oppose them. You have no moral right to oppose Taliban. What Taliban has done the same is being done by Bhartiya Janta Party. As you have demolished Mosque Taliban is destroying Buddha's idols. How can you oppose Taliban for this? What Taliban has done is done by you.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, not even a single sentence has been inserted in the N.C.E.R.T. books. I want to ask the Members can anyone show me where a sentence has been inserted in the books. That is why whatever Shri Mulayam Singh is telling is entirely baseless. Five sentences have been deleted. One sentence which was deleted is as under.

[*English*]

Let me confirm it—

"In 1675 Guru Tegh Bahadur was arrested and executed. The official explanation for this is that after his return from Assam, the Guru in association with

one Hafiz Adam resorted to plundering and raping laying waste the whole province of Punjab."

[*Translation*]

Whether this sentence should not be deleted. Whether this sentence that Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur alongwith one Hafiz plundered and committed rape.

[*English*]

Let any one get up and say,

[*Translation*]

Can any one Member say that such sentences should be taught to our children. Not a single Member will agree with this...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second sentence that has been deleted is

[*English*]

"Jats founded their state at Bharatpur from where they conducted plundering raids in the region around."

[*Translation*]

This was being taught in class 8th. Whether this was to be taught to all the children of our country that Jats were involved in plundering. Who will say that Jats did this? One more sentence was deleted...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker. Sir, third thing which I would like to say is...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are making so much noise. Is this the code of conduct? Hon'ble Mulayam Singh ji wants to say some thing kindly listen to him...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the third sentence, which was deleted is that here people used to eat beef and on the visit of any guest he was served with the calf's meat. Is it a fact that all Indians used to eat beef?...(*Interruptions*) The fourth thing which I would like to say is regarding Jain's...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You have given permission to all the hotels in India to serve beef and pork...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mulayam Singh ji kindly let me conclude. You are sympathizer of Jats. I

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

want to tell you that it was written in these books that Jats used to loot and raid the people would you like to teach all such thing to the children of this nation...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, sir, out of 20,000 pages of books only 5-6 sentences were deleted and such a hue and cry is being made, they are comparing us with Taliban. They are linking us with Taliban for this act and it is being told that we are supporting Taliban...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Whatever you are telling may be right but I want to say that there are many more facts which have been changed...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to put forward the views of our party and people on two or three issues. The first point is how these books included in the syllabus of Rajasthan State. I would like to say one thing in this regard that these books were not in the syllabus of our time. These books pertain to previous government and a committee was set up to remove the objectionable matter from these books and on the recommendations of this committee it was ordered to remove the objectionable matter. Even then the publisher published the book by changing the cover of the book. On doing so action was taken against the publisher and the said book was put out of the circulation. There is no fault of the Congress Government....(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The question is not that what has been removed but the question is that something has been changed...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: O.K, if you are saying so we have no objection.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second point is that if something written against the leaders or the great personalities of this country there is no harm in taking out that portion from the book but there should be a proper way and that should be done in such a considered way that no rift is caused in the society. If such thing is causing rift in the society then it is improper.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my third and last point is that how efforts are being made here to change the History. It is being told

[English]

Arctic is the home of arians.'

[Translation]

This book was written by Shri Tilak and the main reason for the publication of this book is History and our historians are being told that

[English]

Arctic was not the Home of Aryans.

[Translation]

'Aryans went away from here. Hence by this way they are trying to cause misunderstanding among the people of this country by changing History. This will effect the entire world. If history is changed in such a way it will not have a good impression in the minds of the children of this nation. That is why such efforts should not be made. If some one is putting efforts to do such things we have got the right to raise the issue here and we will continue to raise such issues.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this cannot be treated as a mere routine matter or just it has happened. There is deliberateness behind this. It is a diabolical move to tamper with the history of this country. It is an amazing attitude by the saffronised people. What they want to do? They are deleting one sentence here and there, as if they are rewriting history. This is an amazing thing. This has never happened. Without any credibility or credentials who can write a history? You try to write a history for your own purpose. You cannot even impose upon the children and try to delete one sentence here and there on the basis of your own perception. This has suddenly arisen...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Kindly tell us what mistake we have done by deleting something...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This discloses a particular state of mind. They want to divide the people of this country on the basis of obscure ideas and fundamentalism. This will never be tolerated.

Sir, the NCERT cannot rewrite the history. All the people who have been put there are deliberately doing all these things. This is a part of the saffronisation of education, which is going on. This has to be condemned. This is the grotesque attack on the history of this country...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor): Sir, what do you want? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is a matter, which we strongly oppose...*(Interruptions)* It is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Why the Government is trying to change the facts of the history...*(Interruptions)* It should be changed with the consent of the concerned historians...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not called your name.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has also given his support to this. It is very unfortunate to say the least when so many parties are concerned about it. The leaders have been expressing their views and the academicians have been expressing their views. The hon. Prime Minister without consulting anybody gives a clean chit. What is the basis of his finding? What is the basis of the finding of the hon. Prime Minister of India that he takes upon himself to decide what is the history that will be read in this country.

Sir, we strongly oppose this and we condemn it. We demand immediate withdrawal of this circular; otherwise it will create an agitation. We cannot allow division of this country on the basis of obscurantism and fundamentalist ideas...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have little knowledge about history. I could not understand for what matter such a long discussion is going on here.

An opinion can be given on the question, in which some facts were mentioned, raised by Shri Shivraj V. Patil and Shri Mulayam Singh ji. but it is very difficult to give any opinion on other things because what a historian has written, can not be presumed as true for ever. I have neither read such concept about history, nor it is the concept of history. The historians write from time to time as per their circumstances and understanding. An

officer of NCERT showed me that book and I had gone through it. Most of the additions, which have been made to that book are in the same form as have been recommended in the report of S.B. Chavan Committee. In my opinion, Shri S.B. Chavan can not be in favour of Saffronisation.

So far as the matter of Rajasthan is concerned, it is definitely a serious one. We will request the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to discuss the matter with the people there. If they are adamant on old things, it is wrong.

There can be a debate on 4-5 questions raised by Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra. A discussion can be held on the matter, whether the people in that era when they wandered in the forests, used to eat beef or not. It can be written by a historian and he can also carry out analysis on this matter but it is not good to teach such things to a student of eight class and if it is taught in today's circumstances, unnecessary controversy will be created in the country.

Try to understand that all people have sentiments. Shri Somnath ji, I, therefore, tell you that their book has not been banned but on that basis it can not be proper, in any way, to teach such things to the students of eight class. The Minister of Human Resource Development does not have right to change any investigation or research work but it is his right to stop such things which may create tension and lead to conflicts. He should give equal importance to both the sides. If there is a controversy, take 3-4 members of this House who have deep knowledge of history and both the parties can place their views before them. Thereafter a decision can be taken. But as a common man, I think, if the students of seventh and fourth standards are taught whatever is there in research works, nobody can save this country from breaking.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have now called the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The suggestion given regarding the objections can be discussed together and some solution can be found. Hon'ble Minister can not decide it alone.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are raising serious matters and you are not allowing the Minister to reply. I have now called the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me two minutes time. You have given opportunity to each party. I also would like to express the opinion of my party. Hon'ble Shivraj V. Patil ji has said, "if something is wrong in it, it should be deleted from the book." My party agrees with his views.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the *Rashtriya Chetna Sanghatan* has issued a circular...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the hon. Minister now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, he will never listen to you...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the *Rashtriya Chetna Sanghatan* has issued a circular accusing Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru and the Congress Party against the Hindus...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you go on like this, then what would happen to the other notices that have been given. I cannot understand this. The other Parties also would ask for time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this has been supported by Shri Ashok Singhal by another circular with a few pamphlets by one Shri Talreja...(Interruptions) This is causing danger to our secular amity...(Interruptions) Why did the Government not take any cognizance of this? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Government is now responding.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir this is the circular issued by the *Rashtriya Chetna Sanghatan*...(Interruptions) and supported by Shri Ashok Singhal...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is going to reply now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The only problem here is how to accommodate the Leaders of all the Parties.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing, except what Kumari Mamata Banerjee is saying, would go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): First of all, I would like to support whether has been said by Shri Chandra Shekhar ji and Deputy leader of Congress Party, Shri Shivraj V. Patil ji. Vijay Kumar Malhotra ji has also given an example about Teg Bahadur ji which is absolutely correct and which has been supported by Shri Shivraj V. Patil and former Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar ji. In this regard, I have an objection about the word 'Talibanisation' being used in respect of education in Parliament. This is not the right platform to use the word 'Talibanisation' and 'Northern Alliance' here. Ours is an independent country and secularism is there in our country. It is unbecoming of them who organise procession in Kolkata in support of Taliban....(Interruptions) We do not want saffronisation and also we do not want to spread communism as is being done in West Bengal....(Interruptions) We want a secular India. What hon'ble Shivraj V. Patil and Shri Chandra Shekhar have said, has created confusion. So far as the deletion of three portions from NCERT books is concerned, I would like to appeal the Government to ask the Minister of Human Resource Development for arranging fullfledged discussion on this issue. Only then we will express our views. The Minister of Human Resource Development will also give a clarification on it and thus this problem will be solved. The Government can not be allowed to politicise the education.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to express my views.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Let me answer this short discussion now. You can have a fullfledged one later.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: I would like to express the views of my party.

MR. SPEAKER: It will create problem in running the House because the hon'ble Minister is giving reply.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: I will speak only if you will allow me.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your submission?

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, nothing is wrong in what hon'ble Shivraj V. Patil and Chandra Shekhar ji have said. Nothing is wrong in what has also been said by Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra ji. It is our duty to respect those who, out of patriotism, have laid their lives for our country. ...(*Interruptions*) These people have no right to say anything about those people because they took side with China during war. The history has been changed. If anything has been written wrongly in the history, it will be changed and nobody should object to it. We, therefore, want to change what has been written wrongly. Shri Chandra Shekhar ji has rightly said that anything which can vitiate the atmosphere, should be corrected. Whenever Government wants to do something good, they see an element of saffronisation in it. I support whatever Vijay Kumar Malhotra ji has said...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not go in detail but would like to take some time.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You can also take your own time. No problem.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Starting his speech, hon'ble Shivraj V. Patil ji said that when BJP was in power in Rajasthan, some wrong things were written in the history book or teachers were asked to teach such history books which had wrong things. But when Congress Party came into power there, they constituted a committee to go into the matter. The Committee had gone through it and found that the book which was being forced to be taught by the BJP Government was wrong. Therefore, the Congress Government asked that such book should not be taught. It means that any wrong thing should not be taught in any class and the Government have right to issue such order.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (*Bankura*): Which Committee has such right...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: How long will you interrupt me? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: To which committee the matter was referred?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: It means that there can not be double standard in this regard. If one Government, by constituting a Committee and after studying the matter, can remove the objectionable portion from the history book, it should as a matter of principle, not object to if another Government do the same...(*Interruptions*) As a matter of principle, I agree with Shivraj V. Patil ji and Som Nath ji in this regard.

[*English*]

Nobody can tamper with history and nobody can re-write history...(*Interruptions*) Shri Acharia, if you do not want to have reply, then I will sit down. I am very sorry about this. I may be wrong. I may be wrong, but let me say.

At the same time, everybody here knew about them. We are all learned people. History is a very controversial thing. There are many things in history on which still there is no final word. For example, where did the Aryans come from? Even Tilak Maharaj has no last word on this, because you are analysing something that had happened 2000 years or 5000 years ago. Naturally, there can be these things...(*Interruptions*) Should I have to yield?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am not getting up. I am paying more attention to you.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Thank you. I am very grateful. Rarely it happens.

So, there are a few things in history on which really nobody has a final word, including me...(*Interruptions*) Again, what is this Bengali syndrome? I do not understand.

[*Translation*]

When Basudeb ji keeps mum Priya Ranjan ji starts speaking.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I was only trying to help.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: One will not need an enemy when he has friends like you...*(Interruptions)* There are some issues in History which have not been finalised as yet. Every book has more than one version and even very learned persons can not decide as to which version is right or wrong. So, I agree with Shivraj ji. We provide books of History to be taught to our children. So, it is natural that the standard of the book should vary for a student of MA and a student of class III, which has been suggested by Chandrashekharji. If some matters written in History books are wrong from theoretical point of view, they should be removed from it. In the same way, if something wrong has been written about great men, it should be removed also.

Many times we have talked of banning some books and we have banned them. Once there was a demand for banning a book written by Salman Rushdie which was not a text book for any class. One could have known its contents only after reading it. But, we talked about banning it. From the expression 'we', I do not make allegation on a party, but I am pointing towards the tendency of all the political parties of India who have demanded for banning a book or a film at the time or other and in our sense of freedom and behaviour we always take sides in deciding truth.

[English]

'The truth lies on which side of Jerusalem you are'.

[Translation]

So, it becomes difficult for deciding the real truth. In this situation, what can be said about the book which is the matter of controversy. Hon'ble Members are demanding for withdrawal of the circular...*(Interruptions)* It is your right. Rajasthan government constituted a committee. It may be a good committee. In the same way, a committee was constituted by the Department of Education to remove the complaints of those persons who think that factual mistakes have occurred in the text books for various classes. They approach the Government to remove those mistakes. For example, if the Jats have been termed as plunderers in some books, many organisations representing the Jats have complained to the Government towards this mistake...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut): We have also written about it. Something like that has been written about the Gujjars also. Will you remove those things also which have been written about the Gujjars?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please let him complete?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: You do not like to listen to me...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Have you removed the references regarding the Jats? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): What is the Confusion...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has not completed his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)* *

MR. SPEAKER: He has not completed his reply. You must have some patience.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have stated the fact. May be, there are many derogatory statements regarding Marathas and Gujjar in text books which should be removed. I am saying just that...*(Interruptions)* You have demanded in the House that it should be removed from the text books that Gujjars were plunderers. I totally agree with you. If NCERT issues a circular to remove derogatory statement, against Gujjars, it should be removed. It is being said here that history is being changed and tampered with. I want to know about those changes and tamperings...*(Interruptions)* If you want that a particular circular should be withdrawn, it would mean that...*(Interruptions)* The Legislative Assembly of Delhi, by passing a motion...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please, Shri Basudeb Acharia.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: This is injustice to me. You will have to listen to me. If hon. Speaker allows, you can speak after me but you will have to listen to me.

[Translation]

I am not politicizing the matter. A motion was adopted by the Legislative Assembly of Delhi that derogatory statements against Guru Teg Bahadur, whose martyrdom still inspires us, should be removed from the text books. If I accept your demand of withdrawing that circular, then the students would be taught that Guru Teg Bahadur was a murderer and plunderer. Do you like these things to be taught? In the same way, the withdrawal of the circular will force us to teach our young children that the Jats were plunderers.

[English]

We have not tempered with the history. We have not re-written the history. We have just deleted those portions which hurt the sentiments. There is no question of withdrawing the circular at any cost...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We are walking out in protest...(Interruptions)

12.54 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I was referred to by the Minister...(Interruptions) A reference was made to me...(Interruptions) I am only submitting that the religion and the history should not divide the country. We are objecting to the intention of dividing the country and dividing the society...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: You may show me one such line...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is why we are making a request to you, Sir, that this is an issue which requires discussion on the floor of the House. Let us have a discussion.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, they are challenging the intention. First, they should talk about the facts and then they should talk about the intention...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we are not satisfied with the reply given by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. Therefore, we are also walking out in protest.

12.55 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and some other hon. Members left the House.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, they have insulted Guru Teg Bahadur...(Interruptions) We get inspiration from these great persons...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: The dual policy of the congress has become clear...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I challenged the hon. opposition leaders on facts, they could not give me one single line which can put a motive that the Government is re-writing the history or the Government is changing the history.

Now, this is like Goebbels. Without giving even one proof of changing the history, they are making allegations. Sir, though the Opposition has the right to walk out but if it is against the NCERT circular, I think it is very unfortunate as it is a circular which brings back glory of Guru Tegh Bahadur and which again terms the Jats as patriots. If walk outs are done against these kinds of circulars, I think, people will judge on which side they are.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know my view on this matter. But the word 'talibanisation' used by them is as objectionable as the word 'Goebbels' used by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. This is not Goebbelian tactics. They might not be behaving in a decent manner. That is altogether different. But this word should not come from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. It does not create a congenial atmosphere in this House because they are not there and he is saying that they are behaving like Goebbels. Nobody can be Goebbel and nobody can be Taliban in this country. The country has a cultural history of thousands of years and such Goebbels and such Talibans would come and go, but the country will go on its own path...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the night of September 8, the army demolished 20 quarters in the Nai Abadi, Naulakha Ghosi Muhalla in Agra where Balmiki and Baghel people had been residing for about 40 years. Thousands of men, women and children have been rendered homeless. All these people belong to the Balmiki Community of scheduled caste. In addition to the 20 quarters Nai Abadi, Naulakha Ghosi Mohalla, there are seven other mohallas with a population of 40-50 thousand. There are 509 persons in the Dalit Basti behind Base workshop, 15 quarter, Nai Abadi Naulakha, Five quarters Beech Ka Bazar Lal Kurti Baluganj Nai Basti Ravidas Nagar, Mohalla Chawali and Nagla Afoye — all these mohallas have been identified, the army can demolish them, too.

12.59 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

They all were ration card holders, their names were there on the electoral rolls. They had electricity and telephone connections and they had been residing in these mohallas for quite long — for three or four decades. The army demolished them without any prior notice.

13.00 hrs.

The statue of Mahatma Gandhiji and Balmiki were broken in that Mohalla and houses of people living in Balmiki Basti were demolished. All this has happened in Agra near Delhi. They are forced to pass their nights under open sky. The Urban development Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government Shri Lalji Tandon had said that these people would be rehabilitated under Balmiki Ashram Yojana. But the Government is not interested in doing it. There is a conspiracy to displace the people who have been living in Balmiki Basties for long and who have no houses. Now it is the responsibility of the Government to rehabilitate the people who have been displaced from these mohallas. This is what I had to submit.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Deptt. of Surface Transport of the Central Government has taken over some roads under N.H. in every state. In Bihar also many roads have been taken under N.H. from Chapra to Gopalganj, Chapra to Mohammadpur via Jalalpur, Baniyapur Malmalia.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bihar witnessed great floods recently. You and the entire House are aware of the economic condition of Bihar. Floods have damaged all the roads. Transportation between Chapra and Mohammadpur via Baniyapur has been disrupted. But

the State Government is not spending money for the maintenance of these roads because they are now under N.H. Besides, the Central Government is not sending funds for their maintenance even after their coming under N.H. Through you I want to request the Government to make funds available for repairing of Chapra-Mohammadpur road via Baniyapur, Bhagwanpur damaged by flood, so that people may get transportation facility.

[English]

13.04 hrs.

RE: REPORTED INFLUX OF REFUGEES FROM BANGLADESH

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, I have given notice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you keep mentioning about it, your chance of being called would become less. Your notice is here, I will call you.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): I would like to draw the attention of this House into the most unpalatable development in Bangladesh which has triggered a steady influx of refugees into India. The Talibani Cousins in Bangladesh under the present dispensation have got a fresh lease of life and after a long hibernation they have come out with all possible virulent agendas against the secular elements in Bangladesh, as a consequence of which the minorities are fleeing away out of fear and desperation....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat please do not interrupt. I do not want you to interrupt anyone. Only yesterday we have passed a Resolution.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: In the border districts of West Bengal a steady influx of refugees has been observed. But it is intriguing to note that both the State Government of West Bengal and the Central Government are playing reticent in disclosing as to what exact number of refugees have already entered into India. This is only adding grist to the rumour mill. It is a matter of serious concern that in this milieu the BSF Jawans in the border areas are resorting to the baton and bullet policy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please mention what you want from the Central Government.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: It is simply strengthening the hands of the fundamental elements of all hues who are acting in this border region.

Sir, already a few innocent people have fallen victims to the trigger happy BSF jawans. My suggestion to this Government is that the atrocious attitude of the BSF personnel should be restrained. Secondly, the issue of refugees should be taken up with Bangladesh Government sincerely and more consistently.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: One more notice has been given on this matter by Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, India and Bangladesh have got friendly cultural and traditional relations. We have been divided after Independence. But earlier, we were united. Recently, after the political battle and since the new Government has come, lakhs of minorities, specially linguistic minorities, are forced to go out of Bangladesh to the border States of India like West Bengal, Tripura, Assam and Meghalaya. They are being ill-treated by our country. Actually, I do not want to show any disrespect to my country because I am proud of my country but the message should go to the State Governments. The matter is relating the Government of India and the Government of Bangladesh. So, my request to this august House, through you, would be that the Government must intervene in this matter.

The United States Resolution, 1951 says that if anybody is tortured, if their life and property are not secure and safe and if they are forcefully turned out from that country to the bordering districts of neighbouring countries, then they should be treated as refugees. People who are coming from Bangladesh are not infiltrators but are refugees. So, the Government must insist and give instructions to the State Governments to consider them as refugees and behave properly with them. They should start some refugee camps to give them relief and other materials required. They have property with them and are staying there since Independence. But due to political problem, they are forced to come here. Since *Ramzan* is going on, we want to convey our regards to the Bangladesh Government and build up good relations with them. So, my second suggestion to the Government would be to pursue the matter. Either the Ministry of External Affairs or the Ministry of Home Affairs or the PMO may persuade the matter with the Bangladesh Government so that it would be sorted out as early as possible.

Thirdly, recently, a girl died due to BSF firing. If this situation continues, then communal tension would increase. That is why, my appeal to the Government is to cut across party lines and sort out this problem between both Governments. Otherwise, West Bengal,

Assam and Tripura would face the same problem and our brothers and sisters in Bangladesh also would face the same problem. We want to congratulate the Bangladesh Government and at the same time, Bangladesh and India should always work together. This message should go to the Government of Bangladesh.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Government should respond to the matter raised by Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

13.09 hrs.

RE: REPORTED CARICATURES OF
PROPHET MOHAMMAD AND HAZRAT
ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE APPEARING
IN THE NEWSPAPER 'THE HINDU'

[Translation]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many pictures of Hajrat Mohammad Mustafa(s) and his Sahabi Hajrat Abu Baker Siddique were published in the *Hindu* on the 26th of this month. Though this newspaper is a prestigious newspaper this has hurt the sentiments of the Muslims. Many Muslims do not like such things. They cannot tolerate that the pictures and caricatures of their prophet and his Sahabi are published in newspapers.

I want to know whether the attention of the Central Government has been drawn towards this newspaper and if so, what action has been taken thereon. It is a fact that in India the newspapers are free to write but writing on such subjects that hurt the sentiments of any community should not be allowed. So I want to know from the Government as to what actions have been taken in this regard. If not, when this action is going to be taken?

[English]

This is a very important matter. I would like to know what the Government of India wants to do.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (Muzaffarnagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the newspapers have published materials regarding prophet Hajrat Mohammad in such a manner... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will convey the matter raised by the hon. member to the minister concerned.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you are replying to this issue or the earlier one.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I will also convey this matter raised by Ms. Mamtaji to the minister concerned.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, crores of muslims live in India, their sentiments must be respected. This has hurt the sentiments not only of Indian muslims but also of the muslims of the world. I would like to know as to what the Government are willing to do in this regard.

[English]

It is very important issue. This will create law and order problems throughout India. I would like to know from the Government what they want to do in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already said that he would convey it to the Minister concerned.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK: The Minister could have said that he would look into the matter and take appropriate action.

[Translation]

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): Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, it is not possible to comment on the issue just raised by Ali Saheb. If the Minister concerned was here it would have come to his notice. Now it will be brought to the notice of the Minister concerned. Before this, the issue raised by Mamtaji will certainly be brought to the notice of the Minister concerned for taking action.

[English]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK: The Minister could have said that he would look into the matter and take appropriate action.

13.12 hrs.

RE: STRIKE BY WORKERS OF NATIONAL JUTE MILLS LTD. AND REVIVAL OF JUTE INDUSTRY

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, jute industry is one of the most important and oldest industries of this country. But the condition of the jute industry is very worse. Most of the jute industries, including NJMC mills are closed. The jute workers are very much distressed. They are facing irreparable loss and injury. Thousands and thousands of jute workers have assembled in the Capital. They have rushed to the Capital from all over the country and are sitting in *dhama*. They are placing their demand. They are agitating. They want to raise this issue to the hon. Prime Minister and to the highest forum of the country.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to look into the matter seriously and to take appropriate and suitable action for revival of jute industry and to remove the plight of jute workers who are in distress.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi after seeing the condition of jute growers and workers of Bihar and West Bengal, nationalised a few mills and brought them under the umbrella called NJMC in the seventies. Indiraji not only nationalised jute mills but also formed the Jute Corporation of India to protect the interests of jute growers of Eastern India. One of the largest public sector jute mills is in Howrah.

It is supported by the other jute mills in Bihar, one in Orissa and the others mostly in Bengal. What has happened is that for the last six years, several packages are offered to stabilise the jute mills. But at no point of time did the Government release the funds to stabilise the package. Some of their rights have been taken away. The workers have agreed to it. They have also agreed to reduce the number. One mill by name the Kennyson Jute Mill in Calcutta has almost been closed. One mill in Bihar is almost closed. The hon. Minister, who is coming from Kishangarh, is sitting here. He may also share the view with me that 30 per cent of the rural workers of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are living only on the support of the jute mills of Bengal. If no money order comes from Bengal to the villagers of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, a part of Bihar villages, especially in north Bihar, and significantly Madhya Pradesh also, they cry.

Now, the situation is that the BIFR is almost trying to close the whole thing by giving their judgement, by their observations in such a way. The Government of India is not coming forward to rescue the mills. Today, in the capital, all the jute mill workers are agitating. I am told that the hon. Prime Minister is giving audience to us today. If nothing happens very soon, within a month, the severest law and order problem will take place not only in Bengal but also in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and a part of Bihar. I, therefore, feel that it is not a matter of any State. It is a national issue.

Sir, I talked to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister this morning requesting him to ask Shri Kashiram Rana to be present here. I gave notice in time. About Code of Conduct of Members of Parliament, we discussed many things. But the Government does not take anything seriously. I would like to convey to the hon. Minister that Government should, at least, intervene this week. If it is not done this week, I am afraid, the BIFR will take such steps that the entire NJMC would be in jeopardy....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity. I associate myself with the point which has been raised by the hon. Member Shri Ajoy Chakraborty. I would like to mention here that at the time of partition, most of the jute mills remained in our part of the country. It is known to everybody that thousands and thousands of workers used to work in the jute mills. But, at present, most of the jute mills are facing crisis. So many jute mills are going to be closed abruptly. A few days back, one NJMC unit at Convent Road, Calcutta was closed abruptly and more than 1,500 workers have become jobless.

So, I urge upon the Government, through you, Sir, that the Government should come to the rescue of the workers and it should take the matter seriously. Today, thousands and thousands of workers coming from different parts of the country are demonstrating in the capital.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, work of gauge Conversion of rail lines in Gujarat is going on but its pace is less than required, it is quite slow....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Minister concerned is not present. The Government should respond to it....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is taking note of it. I cannot compel him.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Yesterday, we resolved that the Government should respond to the matter of urgent public importance equally. If the response is on record saying that they will convey to the Minister concerned to intervene, that is enough. That will satisfy the hon. Members. We are always considered to be disruptionists if we intervene. This is the matter of the workers. The hon. Minister should have been present. Why is the Minister not present here. We gave the notice. The hon. Minister knew about it one month before. He knows that the workers are coming to the capital today. What is happening? I do not know.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Why do you quote government everytime.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Government should say something about it.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Much more would have been done during the last fifty years if we intended to do it. Now it is my turn, please let me speak.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Of course, you must speak, but let the Minister say something.

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): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the matter raised will be referred to the concerned Minister.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): There should be a full discussion on it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mamataji, response has also been given on this matter.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to bring it to the notice of the Government that the work of laying railway lines in Gujarat state is very slow. Through you, I want to put forward my demand that the work of laying railway line may be expedited. The funds are not being allotted to Gujarat for laying railway lines as per requirement as a result of which the work is pending and lagging behind. We have been demanding for a long that the work of laying broad gauge in Veeramgaon Mehasana, Surat and Bhavnagar, should be completed at the earliest but the same is not being done.

[Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a large number of businessmen from Bawla, Daulka, Dhandhuka and Veeramgaon of my Lok Sabha constituency use to go to Mumbai and other cities but due to less reservation quota, they have to face problems we have been demanding frequently for increase in the reservation quota. But it has not been increased so far. Due to this reason people travel in great difficulties. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to say that Ministers of Railways provide more facilities to their states only. This has been our experience so far. The states which do not have their Railway Ministers are lagging behind so far as the developmental work of Railways is concerned. So, through you, Sir, I would request the Government that the pending work of Railways in Gujarat may be completed at the earliest.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I also want to bring it to the notice of the government that the Government of Gujarat have decided to constitute a corporation like Konkan Railway in which government of Gujarat as well as the private sector will have participation. I urge that this should be recognised and provided assistance.

13.12 hrs.

RE: NEED FOR SETTING UP A BENCH
OF ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT IN
WESTERN U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (Muzaffarnagar): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on this very important matter. The advocates of 18 districts of the western U.P. are continuously on strike for the fast five months for their demand of setting up of a High Court Bench in Western U.P. there are thousands of people in jails. Due to strikes of advocates they are feeling it very difficult to file their cases in courts. The people of these places have organized dharnas and submitted their representations against it, but despite so many dharnas and representations, the government did not take any action in this regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in 1986 Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee himself raised a matter in the House that the government should set up a Bench in Western U.P. Sir, the situation may become worse at any time if the demand of the people is not met. In reply to his question the then Minister had agreed for setting up a High Court Bench in Western U.P. as a policy

matter and he also felt that there must be a Bench of High Court in Western U.P. He further said there is a need of such bench there and the work relating to selection of place for setting up a Bench of High Courts was left to the government but no progress has been made in this direction so far.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today such a situation is there that advocates are on strike for the last five months in 18 districts and thousands are languishing in jails and now the situation is that there is no room to accommodate them in jails. Hon'ble Minister Shri Gangwarji, who belongs to Western U.P. is sitting here. He must be aware of the severity of the situation...*(Interruptions)*

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): There is no strike in our Barelley division.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members have to look to the Chair while making speeches and the Ministers also should not reply to the Members when they are making speeches.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Sir, it is a very important matter. So I was addressing to the hon'ble Minister who is also from U.P. In U.P. 72 districts are covered in Allahabad and 12 districts are covered in Lucknow Bench. Both Allahabad High Court and Lucknow bench are in the same side and there is no Bench in Western U.P.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, efforts are being made since 1955 to set up a Bench of High Court in Western U.P. Shri Sampurnanandji himself wrote that there should be bench at Meerut but despite all this no action has been taken in this regard. Only 18 districts will be covered under western High Court bench and remaining 54 districts will be covered under Allahabad High Court.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in 1976 the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court said that-

[English]

"Allahabad has no exclusive right as a place of sitting of the High Court."

[*Translation*]

Again in 1983 Jaswant Commission recommend that there should be a Bench of the High Court in Western U.P....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please tell, what you expect from the Government?

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are 18 such districts which are at a distance of 600 kilometers from Allahabad High Court.

In our neighbouring states, districts like Shimla, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Jammu and Kashmir, Nainital are situated approximately two hundred fifty kilometers away where as the people of 18 districts of western U.P. have to travel six hundred kilometers. It is a great injustice against western U.P. and the Supreme Court has also stated this thing in its judgement. It has said that a Bench of High Court should be set up for the convenience of the people...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want to urge upon the Government.

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Central Government itself has accepted that enactment of legislation is a subject of Central Government and the High Court and Supreme Court have nothing to do in this matter. The Central Government has accepted that we are agree to set up a Bench of the High Court and the government has to decide it and it will be decided by the government. In 1986 when Atalji was in opposition and he was also a member of Rajya Sabha had raised a question in this regard and at that time the then Minister had accepted that there must be a Bench.

The situation is so serious today that thousands of lawyers are on strike in 18 districts and thousands of people are in jails....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are names of two more persons on this subject.

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: 50% cases are still pending which belong to Western U.P. In such a serious situation, I would like you to kindly ask the Government to take the matter of High Court Bench in Western U.P. seriously. It is a very serious matter...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are two more hon'ble members who have given notice on this subject. Shouldn't they be called?

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: I would like hon'ble Minister to convey our feelings to the Government that lawyers are on strike for five months, thousands of innocent people are in jails. Atleast this may be ordered...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: This is a very serious matter. We also belong to the Western Uttar Pradesh. Members of Bar Association of all concerned districts have met hon'ble Minister of Law and the Chief Minister, I have urged them to end the strike. Strike is causing loss to the plaintiffs. Our view should be presented through a proper medium. It is under active consideration of the Government. I would attract the attention of the concerned Minister towards this issue...(*Interruptions*)

13.29 hrs.

RE: ISSUE OF ECONOMICALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS OF BIHAR

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (*Vaishali*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after constituting a committee in 1997-1998 all over the country, a hundred of such districts were selected as were most backward economically. The Government have decided to bring to an end the regional disparity and the regional imbalances but coincidentally it was seen in the calculation that out of a hundred districts, most districts belong to Bihar and this Government have discriminatory attitude towards Bihar and hence are not implementing that scheme by keeping it at a standstill. I would like to draw the attention that it is dangerous for the country to adopt a behaviour of discrimination, negligence and enmity towards a part of the country which has got more districts and create regional imbalance there. Bihar is being discriminated. Everybody asked for Economic Package at the time of reorganisation. But, even after a year, not a single paisa has been given. Then it was said that loans would be waived off. All members from Bihar and the State Government gave a memorandum but neither the loan was waived off nor the status of a special State was granted. Members of all parties unanimously decided that an Economic Package of 1 lakh 79 thousand crore rupees will be provided.

Every year Bihar is devastated by floods and drought. In this way, this Government are increasing the regional disparity. Though we have 56 members, and if they take a stand one day, then they can bring the Government to

[Dr. Rghuvansh Prasad Singh]

senses but the members and Minister of NDA...* are not working for the welfare of the people. The Government should tell about the memorandum, given to the Prime Minister. The Minister had stated in the House that the package will be provided a cell will be constituted for regional imbalance. But nothing happened so far and one year has passed on 15th November, 2000...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): It is an unparliamentary word.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Bihar will age behind due to this and India can not progress further. John Whittal wrote:-

[English]

Bihar is the heart of India.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (Muzaffarnagar): He is saying that...which is unparliamentary.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: And the injustice being done to Bihar is parliamentary? Who will decide the parliamentary word?... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will look into that word and if it is unparliamentary, I will expunge it.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, injustice is being done to the farmers, procurement is not being done. Procurement is being done only in the NDA led States but it is not done in Bihar. Thus there is injustice against Bihar. Besides, Bihar, injustice is also being done to the 8.5 crore people of Jharkhand. We are a tenth part of India's population and they can not bear such injustice. They will not respond to this and they stood up when I used some harsh words. But what happened to the memorandum given to the P.M. in which we have mentioned about not giving any fund to Bihar and its negligence. The Government should explain about the action to be taken. Why no Minister is rising to respond on this discrimination? Whether they will convey this question to the Prime Minister or not? 60 members have given the memorandum collectively. Even yesterday it was decided that we are raising a genuine question but why the Government are not responding? If we will stick to it then it should be decided as to whom interrupt the House

whether it is we or the government. When a question is raised by the chosen people, Ministers rise up immediately but the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has run away when we have raised a question...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): Let me speak now....(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You are a supporter of the Government, why don't you make the Government aware. I have also raised the question of Jharkhand...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary, you are not asked to give a reply to him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Until he stops speaking, then how can we speak...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Should I sit down if the Government are not responding? Whether the Government will react on this issue. They are just gazing. What was the response to our memorandum to the Prime Minister? One year has gone by...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you agree, we can send it to the concerned ministry.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Injustice is being done to Bihar and don't you have to consider that? You feel good that this Government are insulting Bihar? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): You think that only you are a sufferer and not the others.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Whether the Government will respond on this issue or not? Directions should be issued to the Government as this Government will not listen without a direction. Sensitivity has become insensitivity. This Government is doing discrimination, pick and choose, negligence and injustice. This must be looked into. Injustice is done to Bihar, how work can be carried on like this and how can justice be provided here. It is the highest House and where else could there be justice if not here. You are our protector, our caretaker, why they are not speaking?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, first of all I would request the hon. Member to speak parliamentary language.

[Translation]

we have passed the proposal yesterday.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not your look out. It is for me to decide. Please do not do that. If it is unparliamentary, I will ask him to withdraw.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: I am sorry Sir.

[Translation]

I want to submit that he has written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister. He is aware of the procedure related to that letter. I want to draw his attention in this regard.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: So much time has passed but no solution has been found.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you have to keep quiet now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, internationally acclaimed engineering consultancy organisation Mecawn Limited, a Government of India undertaking is situated in Ranchi. The Government propose to privatise this organisation and I am totally against it. All its officers and employees in the entire Jharkhand region are against it. Mecawn has been a part of Steel Authority till 1978. It was set up by the Government with a view to carry out the activities of designing and engineering in the area of iron and steel. By its special achievements through its huge network spread all over the country and abroad intelligence and unique engineering talent, Mecawn has added to the prestige of the nation and made it prosperous in the field of technical development. I am constrained to state that this organisation which has always earned profit and which has enabled Indian Government to earn crores of rupees, efforts are on to privatise this organisation. This organisation has worked on many sensitive projects in the fields of defence, space and nuclear energy and is

still engaged in such activities. Apart from this, it has also served the rest of the public organisations, engaged in the public welfare activities. Even today we are working on certain very confidential projects like the second launch pad of ISRO, Seabird of Navy and uranium of Nuclear Energy Department. Assigning these projects to the private sector companies instead of the engineering consultancy company of public sector can prove to be dangerous and against the interest of the nation. This organisation is incurring losses for the last two years but there are many other organisations, which are incurring losses. This organisation is engaged in building up Jharkhand. It is engaged in carrying out many activities there. It is providing free education and facilities and is also working on projects related to construction of roads in rural areas. Construction of bridges and electrification and health projects in tribal areas. In the newly created State of Jharkhand things are not properly arranged yet.

I want to urge upon the Government to give this organisation at least two years time. It will come out of red in this period so, it would not be right to privatise it. I oppose privatisation of this organisation. The Government should reconsider it and should not privatise it.

[English]

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey): Sir, I would like to raise a very serious problem faced by the entire coir sector of Kerala. Five lakh coir spinning workers, 25,000 coir factory workers, and 12,000 small-scale producers are on an agitational path seeking governmental intervention to solve their burning problems.

Their main demands are:

- (1) immediate payment of rebate dues of Rs. 13.5 crore and continuance of the rebate scheme to save the Coir Mats and Matting Co-operative Societies, Co-operative Societies of small-scale producers and public sector institutions like Coir Fed from extreme difficulties;
- (2) early restoration of floor price, that is MEP for coir and coir products taking into account the adverse result of the abolition of floor price;
- (3) revision of the purchase price;
- (4) protection of pay and other benefits of the workers; and
- (5) restoration of the quality control.

[Shri V.M. Sudheeran]

I would request the Government to take immediate steps to settle the issue amicably and solve the problems of the people connected with coir industry.

The action council of the coir sector, which includes all the trade unions, has decided to start an indefinite strike from December 7th onwards. So, I request the Government to take immediate steps to solve the problems and avoid strike.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I also support it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I allow you to associate.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): We have seen a very disturbing news in the press that BIFR is proposing to wind up IISCO of Burnpur. But the point is that IISCO has been a classic case of neglect, indecision, wrong decision and inability to appreciate the real priority. Sir, IISCO was the pride of the Indian steel industry. Even when IISCO was unfortunately nationalised—I say unfortunately because I do not think that was a correct decision in 1971—IISCO was declaring dividend at that point of time. This is one case where a perfectly run private sector enterprises after coming under nationalisation has given from bad to worse and completely ruined. Sir, if you visit IISCO today, you will be shocked to see the tremendous amount of skill and precision which are there, and how they work together. Now, the proposal for modernisation has been pending for many, many years.

In 1989 during the Rajiv Gandhi's Government, everything was finalised practically with the Japanese assistance, but the Government which came to power after the 1989 election unfortunately attributed all kinds of motives and scuttled a perfectly sound proposal. It is not too late even now to revive the proposal with the Japanese. Japan is facing a lot of recession and should be interested. Russia has also shown a lot of interest. I personally think that with the powerhouse, with an oxygen plant, with some modernisation of the machinery and even with balancing equipment, IISCO can be saved. Otherwise, if a pure routine view is taken as has been taken for the last so many years and because of which modernisation has been pending, I think it will be suicidal. It will be extremely unfortunate for steel industry in the country. Incidentally, IISCO, Burnpur is the best site for an integrated steel plant in the whole sub-continent. So, the modernisation proposal should not be delayed any more. The Government should treat this matter with urgency.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you that you have permitted me to raise this issue in the zero hour. The devastating floods that occurred in eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in the last week of August and the first week of September this year have rendered lakhs of people homeless. This year, during floods, I wrote a letter to the hon. Prime Minister on the issue of rescue from floods and rehabilitation of people devastated by floods and to send a central team to assess the losses caused by floods in the region of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and make arrangements for the rehabilitation of people who have been rendered homeless but, I am constrained to state that despite writing two letters to the hon. Prime Minister, the Government of India has not sent any central team on a visit to eastern U.P. and Bihar while in the same year when the coastal region of Orissa was hit by a cyclone, the centre released 100 crore rupees as the first instalment and later on 300 crore rupees were released in the form of second instalment to help the cyclone-hit families. I urge upon the Government to give more assistance to Orissa but at the same time if eastern U.P. and Bihar are neglected then it definitely amounts to neglecting the feelings of a big section of people in the country.

I want to say that the Government of India has not given even a single rupee to U.P. and Bihar to make up for the losses caused by devastating floods. It is very unfortunate that lakhs of people are homeless even today. I want to make a mention of my own constituency, Maharajganj and also of Siddarth Nagar and Gorakhpur. Thousands of people are homeless even today in these districts and are compelled to live in the open. The Government of U.P. has done its duty by giving mere 10,000 rupees to certain families. Through you, I urge upon the Government to send a central team to assess the losses caused due to floods in eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and send large amounts of money to rehabilitate the families properly.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir it is a matter of great concern. An American Scientist of John-Hopkins University tried harmful medicines on 26 patients of Regional Cancer Centre in Kerala from the month of April last year to July this year without prior-approval of either American Government or the officials of the University and without prior testing them on animals. This is a heinous crime and unjustifiable

act against humanity and contrary to the norms laid down for such tests. This test was not conducted according to the standards of the Research University. Are Indians worse than mice, cats and other animals? When the WTC was attacked is down town America on 11 September, 2001, America retaliated by attacking Afghanistan. That was the matter of national pride. Our Indians were used as guinea pigs in Kerala for testing harmful. This test should have been conducted on cats, mice and rabbits first which is an established procedure. By flouting this procedure and without getting pre-approval from the University and American Government, this test was conducted on 26 patients in RCC in Kerala. Through you, I submit that the matter be enquired into as to which institution had granted the permission to the researching to conduct such tests. Those found guilty in the enquiry should be penalized and no action should be taken against the concerned persons by loading a protest with American Government.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, I support Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday at 5.30 in the morning a security picket was attacked by Pakistan-supported militants at Jawahar Tunnel, Banihal, Jammu and Kashmir. In this attack, three security personnel and one civilian were killed. Seven days ago, there was a similar attack at Amban, killing 13 security persons.

There seems to be a sinister design to sever the link between Jammu and Kashmir by the militants supported by Pakistan. The Taliban has been disintegrating in Afghanistan and Pakistan is in a state of demoralisation. It seems, those persons who had been working in Afghanistan are being pushed into India by Pakistan supporters, whether it is the Lashkar-e-Toiba, Al Badr or Jaish-e-Mohammad. May I request the Government of India to take steps to sanitise the area around the line of control? For sanitisation, I would suggest that the Government may take steps to see that those persons who are coming from Pakistan are neutralised in an effective manner.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Thank you. Recently, there was a landslide at Ambodi near Trivandrum. When a group of people were celebrating a betrothal ceremony, all of a sudden, the landslide took away the lives of 40 people. These innocent people lost

their lives due to unexpected rain havoc. Now, it has been reported that such occurrences may take place at any time in the hilly regions of Kerala and people are living in a precarious situation. So, I would request the Government of India to send a survey team under the Geological Survey of India for a thorough study of the situation arising there because they are living in fear of landslides. Therefore, preventive steps should be taken to save the lives of hundreds of people who are residing in those regions.

This is not only a human problem but it is more or less an environmental issue also. So, considering the serious situation, I, once again, request the Government to come to the rescue of the State Government to give financial assistance and to do all that is possible to prevent such an occurrence.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Sir, an approval should be given to confer Central University status to Guru Ghasidas University located at Bilaspur district of newly created state of Chhattisgarh. Courses in various disciplines like bio technology, industrial technology, B.E., M.E., computers are being run in this University alongwith medical colleges, etc. There is a zonal railway headquarters in Bilaspur. This district also has new High Court, sponge factory n Dagori, Akaltara cement factory, ACCL coal and commissioner's headquarter. Thermal power plant is located in Koraba. Bilaspur ranks the second in Raipur, the capital of new Chhattisgarh state. This is a Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes dominated area.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to confer Central University status to Guru Ghasidas University and give approval to open medical college in Bilaspur in view of what has been stated above.

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to bring the attention of the Government towards the pathetic condition of National Highway-17 in the North Malabar area, especially in Kannur and Kasargod districts of Kerala situated very close to Karnataka

The development of National Highway in Karnataka is being done very promptly. The overall progress of industrial and agricultural development in the north Malabar region is affected by the pathetic condition of

[Shri T. Govindan]

National Highway. The developmental activities declared by the Government years back has not yet started at Taliparamba Payyanur, Nileshtar areas. Also the primary work of the already approved main ROBs on National Highway at Pallikkara and Padannakkad in Kasargod district has not yet started. As a result, road traffic is badly affected at these level crossings for hours together. After Konkan railway started and railway running more trains, the two railway crossings are almost closed all the time.

In the circumstances, I would request the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highway to carry out the construction work of the two ROBs immediately and sanction sufficient funds for the development of National Highway at Taliparamba, Payyanur and Nileshtar area.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that security today is at a greater risk and we are facing various kind of difficulties on account thereof. The Army Headquarter is located in Delhi only and it is necessary that its sub-headquarter should be located in Southern India, particularly either at Aurangabad or Nasik of Maharashtra. The Mig aircrafts factory and my cantonment board are located in Nasik. Lot of other facilities are also available there.

Through you, I urge upon the Defence Minister to open a sub headquarter there.

[English]

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad): Sir, I would like to mention here a very serious incident which took place in the border area of West Bengal, that is, Murshidabad, Malda, Coochbehar, North-24 Parganas.

Sir, in those places, in the name of border protection, our BSF jawans are indiscriminately firing on the common and innocent people.

Sir, on the 17th of November, in the evening of that particular day, in Lalgola P.S., BSF people fired on the 11th Class student, who got First Division in the last Secondary Examination.

Sir, I would like to mention here that in the name of protecting the borders, the BSF jawans, unfortunately are picking up the rice meant for the mid-day meals to be provided to the schools. I am very sorry to inform this august House that they are even lifting the cattle from areas that are quite far away from the border. I would like to submit that the common people here are suffering a lot on account of these activities of the BSF jawans in the border areas of West Bengal and Bangladesh. The BSF jawans even are refusing to recognise the identity cards of the people issued by the State Government, or an MP, or an MLA or Pradhan of that area.

Sir, I would only like to urge upon the Government that we should come out with a favourable solution to this problem. It is because the situation in these areas are becoming grave day by day. These activities of the BSF jawans are even resulting in the increase of communal tension in these areas.

Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister, who is present here, to convey this message to the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Home Ministers and other appropriate authorities so that a proper solution to this problem could be found out. Let the Government sit together with the local representatives of the area and the local administration to find a solution to this problem and save the people of this country from this harassment.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to Railway Ministry that N.T.P.C. and BHEL the two big undertakings are functioning near Fund railway station in my parliamentary constituency Etawah. However, the employees and traders are facing lot of difficulties due to non-availability of halt of main Express trains at the railway station. Therefore, I would like to request the Ministry of Railways to provide a halt of Gomti Express and Kalka Express at the above station.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned to meet again at 1500 hrs.

13.57 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch
till Fifteen of the Clock.*

[English]

15.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Two Minutes past Fifteen of the clock.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

CONSTITUTION (NINETY-THIRD AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of new article 21A, Substitution of new article for article 45 and Amendment of article 51A)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up item No. 7 of today's List of Business. Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): I propose that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan—not present.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I introduce** the Bill.

Sir, this is a very important document. After a long wait we are introducing this in the House. I hope that you will unanimously pass this Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dt. 26.11.2001.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I have filed my objection for introduction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, your name was called but you were not present in the House. Please take your seat now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I was present here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you were not. You came in just now. The Minister has already introduced the Bill. There is no question of opposing the introduction now. Please take your seat. You can speak at the consideration stage.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: This is not proper. This is a matter which is provided under Rules. Under Rule 72, I am entitled to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I called your name and you were not there.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It is just a matter of difference of a few seconds. I have already filed my notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Bill has already been introduced and there is no question of it being reintroduced. Whatever you have to say can be said at the time of consideration of the Bill. Please take your seat. You should have been present when your name was called.

[English]

15.04 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(I) **Need for expeditious environment clearance to pending proposals of Upper Indrawati Project in Kalahandi district of Orissa**

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, all forest and environment clearance proposals pending with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, be cleared in respect of Upper Indrawati Project in

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]
Kalahandi District as it is impeding development activities in the chronically drought-prone District and the canal construction works have stopped.

(II) Need for Early Completion of pending Projects and Gauge Conversion in Rajasthan

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government had decided to bring about a unigauge system in the whole country i.e. to convert all the railway lines of different gauges into broadgauge. But due to the change in the policy of the Government several important surveyed and approved broadgauge projects in Rajasthan have either been abandoned or very less amounts have been allocated for them in the railway budget. Consequently, Rajasthan is lagging behind in comparison to other States in respect of the expansion of broad gauge projects of the railways and laying of railways lines. Southern Rajasthan has been its worst victim. The tribal dominated Udaipur division is lagging behind in respect of rail services since independence itself. Banswara district has not been linked with railway. The work in respect to the conversion of the meter line from Ajmer to Bhitwara-Chittaur-Udaipur into broad gauge laying of approved new broadgauge line between Ajmer and Pushkar, conversion of Rewari-Ringas, Phulera meter-gauge into broadgauge and that of Shekhawat circle meter gauge into broadgauge are not completed. The work of gauge conversion of the Bandikui-Agra fort meter gauge line is also not complete even after years.

Therefore, the Government of India is requested to expeditiously complete the sanctioned and pending projects of gauge conversion in Rajasthan particularly the Ajmer-Chittaur-Udaipur and Ajmer-Pushkar and Bandikui-Agrafort projects by allocating more funds to them.

(III) Need to Expedite Gauge Conversion Work Between Gorakhpur and Gonda in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (Domariaganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my parliamentary constituency of Siddharthnagar district is a very backward district because due to lack of broad gauge line coal, iron, cement cannot be directly brought from outside and no big industrial units are being set up there. Of course, Naugarh station of the Gorak-Gonda loop line is located here, but no direct train to Lucknow, Mumbai, Delhi from here is available there. From the time I came in the tenth Lok Sabha, I am constantly trying for the gauge conversion of the

Gorakhpur-Gonda loop line. I always get the reply that the work on this will commence soon after getting the clearance.

The Planning Commission has approved of the gauge conversion of this railway line. Now, the Railway Minister has informed that the work on this line will commence after getting the approval of the Cabinet Committee on economic affairs. There is an allocation of Rs. one crore in this year's budget for the gauge conversion of this line.

Therefore, I demand the Union Government, to get the work on the gauge conversion of this line commenced soon after it is approved from the Cabinet Committee on economic affairs.

15.07 hrs.

RE. CONSTITUTION (NINETY-THIRD AMENDMENT) BILL

(Insertion of New Article 21A, Substitution of New Article for Article 45 and Amendment of Article 51A)—Contd.

[English]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, how can you deny me the opportunity? The Minister was not present in the morning...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can you raise it now? The Bill was introduced and the Minister has already left. There is no question of your raising the objection now. So, you may please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, you are right in giving your ruling. But he also has a right point. He says that following the List of Business, he was present in the House in the morning, when the Bill was to be introduced. Incidentally the Minister was absent at that time and it was not introduced. Now, he thought that he could come a bit relaxed...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: When he was present, the Minister was not present and when the Bill was introduced, he was not present.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: No. It is not the question. The introduction of the Bill as posted for the morning, but the Minister was not present. Now, I want to raise my objection...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, nothing can be done now. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: How can you take away my right? The Minister should have been present in the morning, but he was not present. I was present in the morning...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: But the introduction of the Bill was postponed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: By my notice for objection was before you...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: When it was taken up in the morning, the Minister was not present...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions) *

MR. CHAIRMAN: You gave a notice to oppose the introduction of the Bill. I called your name also. But you were not present in the House. So, the Minister introduced the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: That is not the question. The Minister was not present in the morning...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can you oppose the introduction now?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The Minister was not present when the Bill was taken up for introduction in the morning...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The introduction was postponed at that time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: But I was present at that time; and the notice of objection is before you...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: When you were present, the Minister was not present and when the Minister was present, you were not present. What can I do for that?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Minister should have been present here in the morning but he was not here and now objections are being raised against Shri Radhakrishnan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright, when hon'ble Minister was not present here Shri Radhakrishnan was here and when the Bill was introduced Shri Radhakrishnan was not present here, what can be done for it?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: So you have stopped Shri Radhakrishnan simply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I had called him but he was not there.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Mr. Chairman, Sir, when there would be discussion on it then you kindly give double time to Shri Radhakrishnan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: O.K.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Please do not waste the time of the House. We may continue with Matters under Rule 377.

[English]

15.10 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377—Contd.

(iv) Need to provide additional local trains from Ghatkopar in Mumbai

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Railway Ministry's attention is drawn to provide fast trains stopping

* Not recorded.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

at Mulund after 9.00 p.m. from CST, Mumbai on Central Railway. More local trains starting from Ghatkopar should be considered. Need to delcare new Railway Time Table, which is delayed, at the earliest.

(v) Need for taking immediate steps for all-round development of North Bengal

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): The development scenario in North Bengal has been causing concern since the Sixth Plan period due to non-utilization of funds in respective heads and non-allocation of required funds for the infrastructural development such as roads, electricity, education and health including basic industry infrastructure. Tenth Plan is approaching very fast and I request the Government to make a special task force to look into the problems of North Bengal district for having three decisive issues to be settled pertaining to flood management, road infrastructure, industry and power infrastructure. Severe backwardness is causing economic imbalances in North Malda, Dakshin Dinajpur and Uttar Dinajpur. Unless immediate intervention is done through planned approach nothing will happen. Issues pertaining to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Communities and minorities are causing concern in North Bengal due to inadequate support for their social upliftment and economic opportunities.

I request the Union Government to look into the matter.

(vi) Need to Provide Financial Assistance to Government of Madhya Pradesh for Drought Relief

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDAR LAL TIWARI (Rewa): Sir, this year 22490 villages of 32 districts of Madhya Pradesh are drought affected. They are facing severe drought this year. People are forced to migrate from there. The Union Government did not provide required financial assistance to deal with this drought situation due to which it is not possible to provide adequate opportunities of employment in the drought affected areas. Besides, all the 45 districts of Madhya Pradesh are facing the shortage of potable water. The crisis of shortage of potable water is deepening day by day.

I, therefore, request the Government to provide adequate financial assistance to the Government of Madhya Pradesh to create job opportunities in such areas and to have permanent solution of water crisis.

(vii) Need for Early Construction of a New Railway Bridge at Tatmill in Kanpur

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Sir, with the increase in population of Kanpur city, the problem of traffic is becoming a serious problem. The only railway bridge connecting 'Tat Mill Chauraha' to South Kanpur is very old and narrow. That is why smooth traffic is becoming a serious problem there. I have been repeatedly requesting the Minister of Railways to construct a new bridge in place of old railway bridge. I have even made a written submission to provide funds from my quota of MPLADS, which was supposed to be given by State Government, but no steps have been taken in this regard. Therefore, the situation there is deteriorating further.

I, therefore, once again urge the Government to construct a new bridge on place of the old one at Tat Mill in Kanpur at the earliest so that the problem of traffic could be solved and I am prepared to provide funds from my quota of MPLADS funds in place of State Government's contribution.

(viii) Need to Provide Financial Assistance to Government of Bihar for Restarting Gandak and Kosi Project Phase-II

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government under Rule 377 towards the water logging problem in ten lakh hectares of land in Bihar. There was provision to solve the problem of water logging in the phase-II of Gandak and Kosi scheme. Earlier some work was initiated to solve this problem and Project Gandak and Kosi Phase-II was to be implemented which has not been done. The State Government is facing financial crunch.

I, therefore, urge the Union Government to provide adequate assistance to the State Government to enable it for restarting Gandak and Kosi Project Phase-II and solve the water logging problem there.

[English]

(ix) Need to provide adequate facilities at Dharampuri and Morappur railway stations in Tamil Nadu

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN (Dharampuri): There is urgent need to improve the railway infrastructure facilities in Dharmapuri district, Tamil Nadu. The introduction of the one more passenger train service between Salem

and Bangalore via Dharmapuri Stations and to construct a pedestrian Pathway overbridge as well raising the platforms to the appropriate height and roofing throughout the length of platform will facilitate Dharmapuri people. It is also very essential to create a stop at Morappur Railway Station for the Coimbatore-Chennai intercity Express and a stop at Dharmapuri Railway Stations for Bangalore-Tuticorin Express. It is also a long time demand of the people of Dharmapuri district to construct Railway over-bridge at Adiyamankottai Railway level crossing, 10 kms South of Dharmapuri town on the NH-7. To avoid heavy traffic jams on the NH-7, the construction of Railway over bridge at Adiyamankottai level crossing is a must. The reservation quota of berths/seats at Morappur and Dharmapuri railway stations for all the trains and stops at these two stations have to be increased to cater the needs of the people of Dharmapuri district.

(x) Need to provide adequate train services linking Moradabad with Delhi and Mumbai

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (Moradabad): There are inadequate train services linking Moradabad. It earned the country over 2000 crores in foreign exchange through exports, yet the town has no Shatabdi train to bring daily commuters to Delhi and back the same evening. It has no direct rail link with Mumbai and the line pair area consisting of half the towns population have no access to a platform or ticket counter. Many rail crossings like Farhedi, Chakfazalpur, Govind Nagar remain unmanned—resulting in frequent accidents and unnecessary deaths.

I request the Union Government to look into the matter.

(xi) Need for early construction of a hospital at Kotsilla in Purulia Parliamentary Constituency, West Bengal

[Translation]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government Under Rule 377 towards opening of a hospital for Beedi Workers in my Parliamentary Constituency Purulia. Many years have lapsed since construction of a hospital for Beedi Workers in Kotsilla area of my Parliamentary Constituency was sanctioned but the Government have not taken any measures so far to open a hospital there. The Government is providing financial assistance for opening of private hospitals in mega cities and also providing land at low cost as well as water and electricity at concessional rates but on the other hand, the Government

is not taking any measures to open the sanctioned schools. There are a number of Beedi Workers, in my Constituency, who work in hazardous conditions leading of sickness at intervals.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take measures for early construction of hospital sanctioned for Beedi Workers in Kotsilla area of Purulia.

[English]

15.18 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE:
DISAPPROVAL OF COMPANIES
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE**

AND

COMPANIES (THIRD AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up item numbers 10 and 11 together.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 (No. of 7 2001) promulgated by the President on 23 October, 2001."

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: This Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2001 is aimed at liberalising the process of the buy-back of the shares. It is also aimed at reviving the poor state of stock market which worsened in the wake of unfortunate incident of terrorist attack on USA on September 11.

Sir, a company is now permitted to buy-back its share up to 10 per cent of its paid up share capital. They are also permitted to keep a free reserve with the approval of the Board of Directors. Earlier it could be done only by a special resolution of the shareholders. This will prove to be detrimental to the interest of the independent and small shareholders as also to the concept of the shareholders democracy.

[Shri Ajoy Chakraborty]

Sir, it is a fact that the buy-back is a legitimate way for the company to reward shareholders by pushing up the prices. But given the uncertain condition of the Indian stock market, it is quiet unlikely that after the buy-back, the prices of the shares would move up. This would result in loss to the shareholders.

So many financial institutions of like ICICI, UTI, etc. are just non-existent and non-functioning as they have non-performing assets worth Rs. 1,00,000 crore.

So, I urge upon the Minister to bring a comprehensive Bill and take steps to recover the arrears for the interest of the small shareholder. The stock market is already weak in our country due to a number of stock scams. There was already slow down in the economy before the Black Tuesday. The terrorist attack on US on September 11, has only aggravated it. So, I do not think this measure will be able to improve the market. I consider that there was no urgency to bring the legislation by way of Ordinance. That is why, I moved the Statutory Resolution and I oppose the Bill.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the intention of the Companies (Third Amendment) Bill, 2001 which was initially promulgated as an Ordinance is really to improve the stock market and also directly help the investors who have invested their hard earned money in the stock market itself. It is a well known fact that for the past several months since the beginning of this year the market sentiment has been somewhat poor and particularly, after the middle of March, the stock market started declining.

After the 11th of September, world over the stock markets were adversely affected. So, the stock markets were already adversely affected as far as India was concerned and there was a further dip in the stock market. The effect of all this has been that investors who have purchased shares at a particular value, even though the book values of certain shares are higher, the market value of the share is somewhat lower. If the investors go and sell shares today, they get a much lessor price and the market comes down further. To tackle this situation various steps are required. Some steps have been taken by the Government and this amendment is also one step in that direction.

In the year 1999 by way of the then amendment of the Companies Act, the provision of Section 77 of the Companies Act were amended and Section 77A was added. The initial concept under the Companies Act was that shareholders can buy shares of the company but a

company was not entitled to buy its own shares. This was the original concept. The concept of corporate governance and the management of the company itself has altered all over the world. It has grown, it has evolved and the 1999 amendment to the Companies Act permitted company to buy back up to 25 per cent of its shares. The effect of buy back is that here you have the companies which have a very large reserves because they have profits and some of the profits get added to the reserves every year, the reserves are lying with the companies but the market value of the shares is much lower than what the book values are going to be.

The companies use these reserves to buy their own shares, add liquidity to the market, the share value goes up and the small investors start getting higher prices once the value goes up. They would otherwise get a much lesser amount of their shares if they were to sell them. As far as those shareholders are concerned who can continue to hold on to the shares of the company, whose holding capacity is much more than that of a small investor, because the shareholding base also contracts when the buy-back takes places, their value per unit also increases. So, buy-back of shares is being permitted the world over. In India, with the 1999 amendment to the Companies Act, we permitted buy-back up to 25 per cent of the share capital of the company. But the procedure which we had laid down under the buy-back was that you require a special resolution under the Companies Act to approve the buy-back. The special resolution is required to be passed by a majority of three quarters, that is, 75 per cent of the shareholders present at the AGM of a company.

This amendment only makes the buy-back provision similar. That is, the outer limit of 25 per cent continues to remain. The only effect of this amendment is that out of the 25 per cent which the companies have been allowed to buy-back, ten out of those twenty-five can be bought back without waiting for the resolution of the shareholders by a special resolution, but can be bought back by a resolution which is passed by the Board of Directors of a company. This is a procedure which is being made simpler.

We have added two more amendments to make the provisions simpler, the effect being if you have bought back your shares then you have to wait for 365 days, that is one full calendar year, before going in for the next batch of buy-back. The third part of this amendment is that you buy-back when you have the reserves. The condition in the original amendment was that for a period of two years you were not allowed to have a further

issue of the capital of the company. We have altered that and said that you cannot have another issue to raise capital for the company for a period of six months. That is the amendment. The only purpose of this amendment is, within the parameters already permitted by the 1999 amendment we are making the procedure simpler for buy-back up to 10 per cent of the shares. The effect of this is going to be 10 per cent of the share capital can be bought back by a company by an easier process. This will push up the value of the shares; this will directly help the small investors who want to sell their shares; and this will also help the investors who have a holding capacity, who hold on to the shares, by pushing up the prices.

The direct effect of this has been seen along with certain other steps taken. The market which had come down to a sensex value of about 2600, since this Ordinance has come plus certain other measures which have been taken, has moved up some 700 points in the last one month. This is a positive indication and I would appeal to the hon. Members of the House that this is a simplification of the procedure and a step to help the market revival process which also helps the small investors and therefore this amendment requires to be supported.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 (No. 7 of 2001) promulgated by the President on 23 October, 2001."

"That the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Mr. Chairman Sir, the hon. Minister has given a very rosy picture about this amendment. Actually we are very much afraid that this may be the last nail on the coffin of small investors. Small investors are not at all protected by the NDA Government from day one of their initiating this process of globalisation.

When Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister, a lot of investments were made. I can even give the data. The amount of the capital raised through public issues during 1994-1995 was Rs. 13,300 crore. The entire amount was 100 per cent equity. In 2000-2001 the amount has been reduced to Rs. 6,600 crore which has a debt instruments cover of 63 per cent and the equity constitutes just 37 per cent. This is the position now. But the hon.

Minister says that they have obliged the sentiments of the market and therefore they want to reduce it and make it open. For whom? That is the question the hon. Minister has to reply.

It is because the Government has come with an Ordinance. Article 123 of the Constitution expects that circumstances exist which render the necessity for immediately making it a law by promulgating an Ordinance. What is the necessity now? Who made the necessity and who has created a lobby for bringing an Ordinance which can be very well be placed as a Bill before the Parliament within two weeks or so? Why has the Government taken an initiative for bringing it under an Ordinance? That has to be answered because the nation feels that this Government is no more protecting the interests of the Indians, especially the small investors, the people who have invested their money on the big companies. It shows that if you invest the money in the companies, you will be flourishing. Therefore, we are reducing the bank interests and we are reducing the saving banks interest. All the people who are pensioners and monthly income earners have invested in shares. The real estate had bloomed five years before. The people sold their property and invested in shares. The money which was in the banks have been divested to the companies. But what happened?

The share prices have come down. There are plenty of scams before the Parliament itself. By having a probe by the Joint Committee, they are trying to find out the truth. This is the situation. In this situation, the Government has to clear themselves that they are *bona fide* in bringing forward this Bill. This is not a small amendment. It is an amendment which makes the MNCs purchase the entire shares of the subsidiary companies which they were holding with 40 per cent shares and lower than that. In 1970s, the MNCs had created the subsidiary companies but at that time, the Government had compelled that they should have the holding below 40 per cent and if they are not accepting it, they may go out. That was the feeling in 1970s. Here is the chance for them. The MNCs are not worried about the incident of 11th September. It is not at all connected with the aims and objectives. Even before that, the MNCs had come forward for buy back to get their subsidiary companies which were listed and which were having very low value in the share market. They started purchasing it. They started it even before the Ordinance by quoting their offer and by lesser amount, they got all the shares from the small investors.

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

I can give some data and one example. M/s. Fuller India is a foreign-owned company. This company was delisted on 21st April, 1998 but it could again come back and they want to purchase the shares to the tune of 93.2 per cent. Subsequently, they purchased the rest of the 8.6 per cent also from the small investors. Therefore, acquisition is now cheaper for them. They want to invest the entire money here. They can invest the entire money in a cheaper way by taking away the national capitalists also from the market. The national capitalists are also suffering. They are now compelled by the MNCs to go away from their own business and trade. That is why, I would submit here that this is not a simple amendment but it is has got very big consequence.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the reason why they have to go for the buy-back. The Minister has already explained it. When the management think that their stock is under value, they may come. The other reason is to enable the promoters to hike their stake without spending any funds on their won. They want to spent their own savings, to invest it and make their own stock value increase. That may be the intention. But here, it is the other way round. What happens is, the promoters can also raise their stake by making an open offer to the shareholders. But at the same time, they are going to take away certain taxes from the hands of the Government. How? If they are actually giving it as a dividend, or if it is giving it as a bonus share, then they have to pay tax for the dividend. But here, even without taxation, they want to get away by purchasing the entire shares which is in the hands of the small investors who are small people.

I would like to suggest that reducing the days to 365 days is good in one way for certain companies which are genuinely interested in purchasing the shares in the market. I would like to request the Government to kindly protect the interests of the shareholders. Already on a scam, the SEBI has investigated and filed a 9000-page report against the irregularities of even the listed companies. Even before this Ordinance came, many companies have started purchasing the shares in different ways. The Britannia Company, Siemens, Bombay Dyeing, GE shipping, Reliance Industries, Sterlite Optical, Kesoram industries, Lakhani and Exide industries have already quoted buy back of their shares. This will make the companies beyond the reach of shareholders as it becomes illiquidity investment and they have made their own companies which can become the liquidity for the ordinary shareholders. I would like to suggest to the

Government that when they are enacting laws, have an eye on the small shareholders who have no say in the company. Now, they are reduced to ashes. Now, you are giving six months, instead of the earlier twelve months, for coming forward with further issues. Even this September has passed away. Another September may not come. You may allow floating of shares after six months. Will the market buy them? The confidence has to be created by the Government by their enactments. This enactments, I feel, may be helping certain good companies. But at the same time, there are many bad companies who are on their way to dump the Indian companies. The MNCs and foreign investors want to come in the indirect way instead of the direct way. Is that the reason for bringing this Ordinance? I would like to have the clarification from the Government.

I would like to sum up my submission by saying that this enactment may be, at the face of it, helpful for certain companies but a majority of companies are going to suffer. And MNCs are going to flourish.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Mr. Chairman, I stand here to support the Companies (Third Amendment) Bill, 2001. As the hon. Minister has sated, weak market sentiments have prompted the issue of an Ordinance. Later on the Bill has come before the House. He has very correctly indicated about the Terrible Tuesday, that is the 11th September, when markets all over the world started crumbling down. Previous to that India has been facing difficulties in the share market. As the business environment is changing from time to time and very rapidly, the growing emphasis on returns on equity have engaged the attention of the Government and from time to time amendments have been proposed and brought by the hon. Minister. I must congratulate him again. We have passed a large number of Company Amendment provisions. In the year 1999, the first major amendment, as the Minister indicated, was Section 77(A) where provisions were made for buy back of shares. Buy back of shares are very good to ensure that the company does not suffer much and it is kept on a proper fold so that dissolution does not take place and the company can buy back shares. That is why this amendment has been brought. In that particular amendment, 77(A), a cap was fixed for 25 per cent. Now, up to ten per cent the procedures have been changed to ensure that up to ten per cent of buy back, the company need not go through elaborate procedures. It is a very good measure. I do not want to go into the details of this measure. I only would like to bring to the notice the three factors which have to be kept in mind at a later stage. First factor is,

when the Board of Directors pass a Resolution, it should be proper to approve the buy back of ten per cent of shares on a provisional basis. This is the suggestion. I do not know whether it could be accepted or not because at a later date, there will be some adjustments here and there. Secondly, when the buy back is thought of the value of the share has to be ensured. Otherwise, it may create problems. The market value has to be ensured. Thirdly, when the Resolution is passed for 25 per cent, the Minister said that certain number of members have to be there. We should also indicate whether quorum should be there or not. This is not a special type of Resolution and this is only an ordinary type of Resolution. For buy back of share of the own company or of the subsidiary companies, it has to be indicated, maybe by rules prescribed by Government as per the Companies' Act, whether quorum is required or not. If these things are not taken into account, then there might be difficulties at later stage. The cross shareholding, of course, has to come. It is necessary to see that the market does not crash and that the share market is on a even keel, in spite of the difficulties being faced by the Indian companies.

With these words, I conclude my speech and I support this amending Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I oppose the amendment. When the 1999 amendment was introduced in this House, I remember, there was a solemn pledge by the Government that the economic situation will improve and the share market will also get improved. That was what the Finance Minister assured in this House. We opposed it because in the 1956 Companies Act, there was no specific provision for buy back. Due to liberalisation, globalisation, and the so-called reform process, they were telling us that they would like to introduce buy back in the Company Law for the simple purpose of meeting the economic situation in the international sphere. For that purpose the Government also assured the House that it would be up to 25 per cent of paid up share capital. That was the assurance given. The Bill was passed. It became an Act. Now, they have come with another amendment. In that amendment, there was a provision that any buy back will have to be supported by a General Body Meeting of the shareholders. That was the position. So, the ordinary shareholder was given the voice in such a decision-making process. We were under the impression that since the ordinary shareholder is given a chance to know what exactly is taking place, that would act as a safeguard and precaution against the Company going from bad to worse.

The situation did not improve. Now, the hon. Law Minister has brought in a new amendment saying that he wants to take away the decision of the General Body Meeting which is not required for 10 per cent buy-back of shares. For 10 per cent buy-back of shares, the ordinary shareholders need not authorise the Board of Directors to take such a decision. They can easily take the decision and implement it. If the ordinary shareholders are put at the mercy of the Board of Directors, who will include the multinationals, very big industrialists, then, all these people will come into the Board as the Directors. Naturally, they will be governed or influenced by those interests and not the interests of the poor people. The shareholders are put to risk on account of taking such a decision by the Board. That provision has been changed. My argument is that we are in a vicious circle. Can we control or influence the share market? Is there any security? Is there any word anywhere in this statute saying that the value of the share will be secured? There is no such assurance given here. The company's shareholders are put at the mercy of the international market where we have no control at all. The ten per cent restriction is there now. But they will come forward with another Ordinance asking this House that the 25 per cent ceiling may be done away with even without the resolution passed by the ordinary shareholders. He will come again because we are in a vicious circle. There is no guarantee. There is no security that the value of the share will be maintained. Mr. Minister, can you do it? Can you give an assurance to the House that the security and the value of the share will be secured even after taking a decision like this without the decision of the General Body Meeting? Nobody can assure it. That is the present position. That is why, I have said at the outset that we are moving in a vicious circle. The vicious circle started in 1999 when the Companies (Amendment) Act was passed giving 25 per cent buy back facility. They started the dark days of our Indian Companies Law. Whenever there is some reserve or profit or earning in respect of a company, that could be, more or less, traded as in a lottery. Some people are investing money in lotteries. The reserves or profit will be put in the open market in the name of buy-back. All that we have earned as earnings will be again put into the share market in the name of buy-back. Actually, it is not supported by any economic condition or economic stability. Nothing of that sort is there. It is only a gambling in the market. The Directors of a company are gambling in the market without some security either legal or economic. The loser will be the poor shareholders. The shareholders of the company will be the losers.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

This is the second time that they are coming forward with such a measure. When they appeared before this House with an amendment in 1999 amending Section 77A of the Companies Act, we were very much definite that such a situation would arise in the near future. The only reason that is advanced now is the attack on the World Trade Centre at New York. What is the relation between the attack on the World Trade Centre and the process of buy-back of Indian companies share? There is no direct relation at all. But under the guise of the attack on the World Trade Centre, they have come forward with an Ordinance by-passing this House and changing the entire Companies Law to suit their own convenience, the convenience of the multinationals who are controlling the Indian companies. They wanted such an amendment at the risk of the poor and the ordinary shareholders.

That is why I submit that this is a far-reaching amendment. The amendment made in 1999 was much more far-reaching which has given the authorisation to buy-back shares. That is why I have put it that this is gambling the entire reserves of the company in the open market. Now, they have come with another amendment. They want a Resolution without any restriction. Under this Resolution, directors of the company must be allowed to do it without any restriction. To suit their convenience, they have reduced the period also. According to the first amendment, the period is reduced to 365 days. They have brought another amendment which reduces the period from 12 months to one month. It is gambling, nothing else. It is gambling the Indian capital in the share market and throwing away the ordinary shareholders with the risk. It is an utter and colossal failure. That is what we are experiencing now. I am sure that this amendment would not help in any way in improving the share market or maintaining the share market value.

With these few words, I am constrained to oppose the Bill because it is highly damaging to the Companies Act and companies law. I am sure that they would again come with another amendment in the near future when there is another crisis. They would come with another amendment saying that is the remedy but these are nothing but gambling in the share market. With these words, I oppose this amendment once again.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2001 was brought to replace the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 (No. of 2001). The Ordinance was issued

one month before the actual session was about to start on the pretext that it helps to boost the share market. But, I am afraid as to whether such boost was given to the market or not with this Ordinance. But the market prices show that such boost has not occurred.

The other thing is that the market going up very slowly but not to the desired extent of what we expected out of this Ordinance. In other words, this is a backdoor method of liquidating the small shareholders' share because the company need not have to go to the shareholders for buying ten per cent of the shares. Mere resolution of the Board is enough to buy-back up to ten per cent out of its reserves and surpluses. That is what has been given - up to 25 per cent, the company can do it again after 365 days. Again they issue another ten per cent resolution, and again in the third year, may be for another five per cent. Thus, the company, without going to the shareholder, could purchase 25 per cent of the shareholding. This is one of the amendments that has been sought in this Act.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: It is only ten per cent.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: No Sir.

According to the other amendment, the company can issue such equity shares within such six months. But why should they buy immediately and issue within six months again? Again the company can issue or resort to issue of such equity shares which have been off-loaded into the market. I can understand buy-back of shares of ten per cent, either to boost the market or to give higher price to the remaining shareholders in the market or to improve the liquidity in the market. The Minister wishes to state that these are some of the reasons but this process of buy back should not affect the liquidity in the company.

For creating liquidity within six months, they are trying to issue shares again. This is a cyclical effect, will the hon. Minister agree with me or not? This also works against the bonus issue of shares because liquidity is affected in one way or the other. Higher dividends prospects are also affected. These are some of the issues. But the shareholders will become a mere spectator in the whole issue because with a bite of higher prices, always the company can acquire the small shareholdings and the companies will ultimately be ruled by the large shareholders. That is one of the effects of this amendment.

However, this is a part of the trading all over the world and also we are resorting to the same type of trading in our country. It is all right, if it can boost the market by off-loading ten per cent of the shares with a Board Resolution which could be restricted to 10%. But it should not be with Board Resolution, more than ten per cent. I would also like the hon. Minister to think whether it is necessary to reduce to six months instead of 24 months to issue such equity shares in the market.

With these words, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Companies Amendment Ordinance was promulgated on 23 October whereas the session of Parliament was to commence from November 19 and the members were informed about it on October 29. During the last session we had opposed the promulgation in such manner. I think, the manner in which the Government promulgate ordinances on various issues amounts to contempt of Parliament. When the session of Parliament was likely to commence shortly it should have been brought before the House. The ordinance was promulgated in a haphazard manner. I think this was done to benefit certain companies. Honourable Minister while giving his reply may kindly give the details of buoyancy in the share market between 23 October and 29 October and the profits earned during these six days? He should certainly give the details about this. You have told that the ordinance has been promulgated to simplify the procedure and facilitate the investors as well and especially after the terrorist activities against America on September 11, the share market depressed. It was an effort to boost the share market. I understand that similar effort was made in 1998-1999 too. SEBI says that in only 44 cases buy back was done and it did not affect share market. Mr. Arun Jaitley Saheb terrorism is not the reason of depression in the market. It is due to distrust on the financial institutions. Today, common investors have lost their trust in it. There 236 such companies which have vanished with the money of small investors. The Government could not help the investors to get their money. As long the distrust on the financial institutions continue among them, condition of the share market could not improve. Unless you make efforts to check the financial irregularities you cannot get good profits out of it.

16.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I apprehend that the manner in which the Government have promulgated this ordinance and putting its efforts, is not going to yield good results.

Therefore, Samajwadi Party oppose this Bill.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak tomorrow. Only one minute is left now for taking up the discussion under rule 193 and you will be able to speak for only one minute.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, will the Constitutional Amendment Bill be taken up tomorrow? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will be decided by the Speaker.

16.01 hrs.

[English]

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Problems Faced by Farmers—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up next Item 12. Shrimati Preet Kaur.

SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR (Patiala): Mr. Chairman, Sir, and the hon. Members of the House, in mid 1960s we witnessed a phenomenon of Green Revolution, Punjab took a great part in this Green Revolution. Ever since then, it has served the country by contributing 42 per cent of rice production and 64 per cent of wheat production to the Central pool. Eighty-four per cent of the area in our State is under crop and cropping intensity is 194 per cent.

While the farmer has been working hard and producing food for the whole country, his own economic condition has been steadily deteriorating. According to the Punjab Agricultural University's Report 2001 the production of paddy is costing Rs. 720 whereas the Minimum Support Price is between Rs. 520 and Rs. 560. This Government wants to do away with the MSP as

[Shrimati Preneet Kaur]

well, in which case the whole system will collapse and it will not only be dangerous but it will be going against every commitment made by the successive Government since the Green Revolution.

The farmers have always done their best for the country when the country needed it, and to be let down in this hour of their need by this Government, I think, will be breaking of every commitment and it will break the very backbone of our country.

16.02 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

This state of the farmer has been brought about mainly by the increase in the price for the farm products, inputs such as diesel, fertilisers, which have modernised farming needs. Consequently, the farmers has been driven into a debt trap. The Punjab farmer is carrying a total debt of Rs. 5,700 crore, and 63 per cent of this debt is owing to commission agents at usurious interest rates. The interest burden on the farmers is as high as Rs. 1200 crore per annum.

Overflowing godowns and the problems of the farmers not receiving this Minimum Support Price for their foodgrains or cash crops have led to a depression in the market for agricultural products. So acute has this been that the debt ridden farmers of our country have started committing suicides in various parts. In Punjab, in 1998, 421 cases of suicides were reported; in 1999, 463 cases were reported; in 2000, 520 cases were reported and in this year, the number of cases of suicides may well exceed 600.

While farming has reached a saturation point, no new avenues of employment have been opened for the rural people. In fact, rural unemployment is on the increase and 65 per cent of the educated unemployed in Punjab are from the rural areas.

Agro industries seem to be the only ways and means to act as consumption and price support agencies.

This rural indebtedness and unemployment have created a widespread feeling of frustration among the farmers and this is leading to extensive drug use. According to a recent study, in Punjab the average expense on drugs is Rs. 734 per household and something like 12 per cent of the population of Punjab spends at least Rs. 3000 a month on drugs.

Fragmentation of holdings has further contributed to make agriculture unviable. Out of the 11.74 lakh holdings, 88 per cent of these holdings are below five hectares and the income from these holdings is much less than the minimum wages fixed by the Government. The extensive use of fertilisers, pesticides and sub soil water has created further problems which can only be met by capital intensive techniques and the debt-ridden farmer can hardly afford this. He can least afford it.

As farming becomes increasingly unviable, a population of 33 lakh agricultural labour who are also dependent on agriculture for a living are also becoming unemployed and they have no alternative but to migrate to the urban areas and thereby create huge civic problems.

Nature too has not been very kind almost every year the farmer faces drought and floods. These natural calamities, such as flash floods coming down the rivers, and that occur yearly once cannot be helped. The example I want to quote is the river Ghagghar which is one of the five rivers of Punjab. This comes and floods all the nine Assembly constituencies of my parliamentary constituency of Patiala every year. This certainly can be tamed and it is about time that this problem of the flooding of the Ghagghar is addressed. It has actually become a river of sorrow for the nine Assembly constituencies in my parliamentary constituency. The havoc it causes is indeed a national disaster and it can be solved. So, the Centre must intervene as it is an inter-State matter.

The Government of Punjab is already reeling under a debt burden of Rs. 58,000 crore and a revenue deficit of Rs. 32,000 crore. With 67.5 per cent of the State's revenue going towards paying salaries and pensions, there is just no hope that the State Government will be able to give the minimum support price to the farmer.

Therefore, my plea to this Government and the hon. Members of this House is that the existing price support system of procurement and distribution of foodgrains should not be dismantled before this House and the nation have had the opportunity to debate and discuss the National Agriculture Policy and the Food Policy that this country needs. Only after a national consensus emerges and a viable system that would cater to every class especially, the economically weaker sections, the adversely affected citizens and the small farmers is evolved, can any change be made in the existing food security system. It would be unfair and undemocratic to introduce such a drastic economic measure which virtually amount to

sweeping the carpet from under the feet of 70 per cent of the already vulnerable farmers of this country.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the problems in the field of agriculture that come in the way of the farmers have been discussed in this session and all other sessions of Parliament but I am sorry to say that the Government has not paid any attention to the discussion on the suggestions given by the opposition. Time and again we have said that unless a national policy is formulated by taking us all into confidence, the condition of the farmers would not improve.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not an allegation. It is a fact that due to the irresponsible behaviour of the Government the condition of the farmers has deteriorated and they have a feeling that agriculture is unprofitable and they cannot even leave agriculture to adopt other occupation even if they want to.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, 10th Five Year Plan is on the verge of completion and the 11th Five Year Plan is being prepared and the targets that have been fixed to increase the growth rate so far have not been achieved. Growth rate has not increased more than 5.50 per cent. The formulators of 11th Five Year Plan are targeting it at 7 per cent. But keeping in mind the prevailing conditions, it seems an impossible task. The main reason for this is shortfall in agricultural production.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, from the data received from the surveys conducted so far the Agriculture Minister should tell us whether the quantity of yield is declining or not. This year itself in the last session we raised a question in the House to the then Minister of Agriculture which was pertaining to only one state i.e. Uttar Pradesh. My question was whether agricultural yield has declined during last 2-3 years in Uttar Pradesh, if so, the rate of decline? The hon. Minister in his reply has stated that there is nothing to worry while he should have given a direct answer that yes a decline has been registered and he should have specified the rate of decline also. But instead of giving a direct reply he only stated that there is nothing to worry. This clearly means that he did not take the question seriously.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now there is new Minister. He might pay a little attention and formulate a new national agricultural policy. He might have read the book. I have also read the book and heard too whatever is written in the book but main reason for deteriorating economy is that the farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. So much is talked about for giving fair prices to the farmers but it has not benefited them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has always been the policy and intention of Samajwadi Party to give the farmers remunerative prices for their produce. Due to not receiving remunerative prices for their produce, more than five per cent of the farmers from the poor and weaker section of the country during the last 10 years are earning their livelihood by selling their land. People who have spoken before me have talked about the policy of liberalisation so I do not want to repeat it but if it becomes necessary, I would repeat it also because if a thing is repeated time and again, it might influence you so I would repeat it. You are aware of the outcome of the policy on economic liberalisation. In the name of liberalisation agriculture subsidy has been withdrawn. Previous Minister of Agriculture and also the Food Minister, Mr. Shanti Kumar has said that FCI will not procure wheat, rice, sugar or paddy. The State Governments will do so, they have been given the powers in this regard. But State Governments do not have much resources and their economic condition is not very good so they cannot make procurement. FCI will not procure paddy, potatoes and wheat, consequently there is distress sale of paddy at present. Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the case of paddy, farmers are incurring a loss of 150 rupees to 200 rupees per quintal because the paddy is being procured at the rate of 350 to 370 rupees per quintal. The Government has fixed procurement price of 530 rupees per quintal. You can calculate the amount of loss the farmers are incurring. Even I am running into losses by the price fixed by the Government then what would be the condition of the small farmers. Regarding paddy the plight of a common farmer is that he either has to give some commission to the agent or accept low rates only then his paddy can be sold otherwise, he has to stand in the foodgrain market for about 3-4 days. In Poorvanchal, farmers are not getting even 370 rupees per quintal. Today's condition of the farmers is miserable. Since FCI has discontinued procurement, the business of food grains will be totally under the control of powerful people which will further aggravate the misery of the farmers.

[Shri Mulayam Singh]

The multinational companies are entering the area of food market in a big way and agricultural products have been introduced in the competitive market. The Government should change the policy and make agricultural investment affordable. And purchase the produce adding 20 per cent profit in the cost. There should be a national policy for the purchase of all agricultural produce. This is not the question of any particular political party. The whole House is sitting here, probably some Member may tell where and how much investment has been made in his area and how much profit has accrued to it. The atmosphere of disinvestment that has been created has caused the decline in production because the morale of the labourers has eroded, production of the factories has decline and they are suffering from the feeling of apprehension and insecurity. Whatever disinvestment takes place will yield its results after five years, but the atmosphere has been created right from now. The affect is all the more adverse. As we know, probably only 43-44 per cent disinvestment has taken place as against the published target. But where that investment has taken place is not apparent. It is not being found out as to whether the state or the Union Government are indulged in fulfilling their respective deficits or are indulged in distributing salaries. We do not know about the development of disinvestment on land. We are not seeing any disinvestment in our area or in the neighbouring states. But the farmers have suffered. There is no national policy on agriculture. The Government of India has stopped procurement. Rights were conferred on the States but the resources of the States are not enough for the procurement of the agricultural produce. The Union Government does not provide funds arbitrarily or under any political pressure.

Today, there is discontent and anger among the farmers because the price of sugarcane is less in Uttar Pradesh and in the neighbouring Haryana it is higher. Haryana is the adjoining area to the Hon. Agricultural Minister's area. There the price of sugarcane is higher there and in the area of the Hon. Minister the price of sugarcane is less. This is the difference. Earlier also there were differences. When we were in Government, the price of sugarcane was higher in Uttar Pradesh and the price of sugarcane of the farmer in Haryana was less. This difference should be removed. Therefore, there should be such a policy as to be it sugarcane, paddy or wheat their prices should be uniform in all over India. When the farmers look at the dual norms they resent it.

The Union Government should interfere to help all the States formulate a uniform policy.

Political pressure is also being mounted in various ways. Central aid is being received in some States. We have no objection to it. Wherever you want to assist, do it more to the farmers, be it in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab or in other States. I am happy. But the condition of the farmers of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Kerala is not less grave. Persons like Jyoti Basu had come from West Bengal for picketing, were the crops not destroyed by flood in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Did the farmers not suffer losses? Will someone tell as to who were the representatives of the Union Government who visited Uttar Pradesh, what surveys and assessments they made? There was huge loss and severe destruction in Bihar as well; who went there as the Government representative and what was his report to the Government? What is the fault of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh? In the States also the farmers suffered losses due to flood in adjoining areas but they were not provided any type of assistance. Their crops stand destroyed even now. Du to that also the losses of the farmers have compounded. India is a densely populated country. Despite this is has got full capability to export wheat, rice and sugar. But not only the rich countries but countries like Iran also have refused to take the wheat of the Indian farmer terming it of inferior quality. Countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and South Africa are ready to purchase whom India exports at half of its cost price. The export of sugar has almost come to a stand still due to which the export of India is constantly decreasing and owing to that India's trade deficit is constantly rising. If anti-dumping laws on agricultural products and textile exports continue to be enforced in rich countries then it would be out of India's reach to make up for the trade deficit. This is why that between April to September, 2001, our export has decreased by two per cent and during the month of September it has decreased by 8.61 per cent. It may be an immediate cause but the trade is very gravely adversely affected. You are implementing liberal economic policy and the affect of the World Trade Organisation is so much that 11 sugar mills have been closed in Uttar Pradesh. Out of them five sugar mills are owned by the Union Government. They have also been closed....(Interruptions) I have said about Bihar also. Had you been present here, you would have heard. Such is the condition that five sugar mills owned by the Union Government have also been closed.

The Union Government is not paying any attention towards it. When the farmers of Padrauna go to ask for their dues or ask for the opening up of the closed sugar mills, the policy of the Uttar Pradesh Government starts firing at them, which resulted in the killing of four persons.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Four mills have been sold to a mafia Minister of that State.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: He is the Minister of your neighbourhood, you have got a clash with him. I am leaving this issue for you. Despite that I want to say that he has been given an opportunity to exploit the property of crores of rupees. Mishrajee also has got to know this fact. Today, the farmers of that State are forced to hand over all their wheat and paddy to the intermediaries. Consequently, there is disastrous chaos let loose among them. There is no trace of purchase this year. The farmer is on the verge of ruination. On the other hand, chemicals and fertilizers factories are being closed whether it be in West Bengal or any other state. We have repeatedly demanded to revive factory at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh. But the factory is still closed. Besides sugar mills are being closed. The FCI is sick now. No effort is being made for the revival of these factories and mills. The Government should certainly do something in this regard. You are suffering a huge loss but you are not ready to bear the losses of the farmers. I demand that an integrated policy should be formulated to make easy availability of fertilizers, power, water insecticides and improved seeds to the farmers at concessional rates.

Today we are withdrawing subsidies, whereas in European countries or rich countries, which virtually rule the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Trade Organization including America and Canada, are spending 360 thousand crore American dollars every year over the subsidies provided in agricultural sector their farmers, which is equal to the annual budget of African countries. The European countries are not ready to do away with the system of subsidy provided for agriculture in their countries and on the other hand, our Government are continuing to withdraw all subsidies being provided for agriculture sector.

Recently of the World Trade Organization organised a ministerial level conference. Back from the Conference, the Government boasted to have made a major achievement that henceforth the patent law would not be applicable to the drugs manufactured for AIDS and

Malaria. We were thinking that you would strongly raise issues related to the farmers in that conference. In this connection, we, the leaders of leftist parties and others who are running various type of non-political organizations and the former Prime Minister Mr. V.P. Singh had also met the Prime Minister. We had told that since the Minister of Commerce is participating in that conference, he should exercise some pressures on this occasion. Today, the pressure politics is being played at international level. Pakistan adopted the pressure tactics for providing base to America in its war against Afghanistan and sought much assistance in return. America agreed to under compulsion. Therefore, he should also put some pressure on the World Trade Organization so that we might not compromise with the interest of the farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mulayam Singh ji, the time allotted to your party is over. How much extra time would you take?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I will conclude within five to ten minutes. The Minister had gone to participate in the conference of World Trade Organization. The issue relating to agriculture production and subsidy has been postponed for two more years. It means that our trade would come to stand still for two more years. The matter relating to reducing withdrawing or continuing with the subsidy would be considered after two years. Nothing has been decided as yet. Meanwhile our trade would go down after two years and nobody knows what international scenario would be after two years. Today international scenario is changing fast and hence, we appeal to you to take some decision because in 1966 they succumb to the pressure but this time in Doha Japan, America were fully prepared for taking some action. It is true that in the beginning we were made to believe that Mr. Maran was adamant this time as was seen on TV but it is learnt that when pressure seemed building from Delhi, he put his signatures on agreement. But who is putting pressure on Delhi? All of you are very well aware of it and there is no need to disclose the names time and again. Therefore, you will have to decide who will determine our priorities. Whether it will be decided by our Government or International Institutions or America. Today it seems that we are not deciding our priorities, whether these relate to agriculture or trade or defence or border security and internal unity, but decisions pertaining to these are influenced by the rich countries. Therefore, we want to make it clear and also caution you that so long as our economic condition remains destabilized, the foreign pressure will keep on building on us. More we

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

lose on this front greater pressure is put on us. We were about to congratulate Mr. Maran but as he was compelled to sign the agreement so many objections are being raised. But I want to say that World Trade Organization will not let India and other developing countries to get their justified rights. Its impartiality and legitimacy have been questioned. Therefore, we are not going to be benefited from WTO in any way because the competition should be among equals. Now, we have cited the example that whereas these rich countries are spending 360 thousand dollars on providing subsidies to the farmers, we are withdrawing these in our country. When the condition of our farmers is already very bad, how can they compete with others. If this is decided in World Trade Organisation, you will be compelled to purchase foodgrains then who will procure foodgrains of our farmers. The other hand, the result is before us. The foodgrains of foreign companies has gone up to 40 per cent.

The production of food-grains has increased by over 40 per cent and the production of mustard has already decreased upto 65 per cent in our country. Edible oil trade percentage of the foreign companies has increased upto 40 per cent. Various oil companies are getting closed. Whereas the foreign companies are earning profit to the tune of 40 thousand crore from mustard oil and the foreign Companies have started looting. Therefore, the hon. Minister should reply and explain the steps likely to be taken in this regard. So far as the discussion is concerned I agree with you that the comment upon the great men should be expunged. But you have opened a big market of foreign meat in India. Beef and pork would be served in Indian hotels in the name of fast food. However, the Indians worship the cow but you will import beef from foreign countries. It would be served in Indian hotels....(Interruptions)

The Indians worship the cow but all the cows and other animals of the country are sick. The animals are cut into pieces and they are preserved. There is arrangement to preserve two, three or even thousand kgs of meat and it will not perish. The same meat would be sent here. You are not in a position to test the meat. How will you test the imported meat?

The experts have submitted their report about India, Bangladesh, Nepal Bhutan and Pakistan and they have mentioned in it that land is continuously decreasing in these countries. The experts had admitted it in a conference held one year back. As a result of it there has been an annual loss of Rs. 350 billion. If we form new districts on the land, the land would decrease. If we

reorganise a state then we have to construct a Secretariat, a High Court and Raj Bhawan for the newly created state. Thousands acres of land is acquired to set up infrastructure. Even after reorganisation of Punjab in 1960, Haryana does not have its separate capital. This is division. When there is no any issue of getting votes, people's sentiment are provoked, politics is played at the cost of farmers...(Interruptions) Therefore, again and again I say that it is a shameful incident.

Sir, I would not like to take more time but I want to say only one thing. When there is ample foodgrains in the warehouses, then why the people are starving? It is regrettable that the Prime Minister says that media and the opposition is publicizing all this to defame our government. I would like to know whether the Prime Minister visited that village to take stock of the situation. The opposition referred to the name of a district of Orissa. Had they visited there along with the Chief Minister? Were they aware of the situation prevailing there? Indifference has crossed its limitation. If we were making wrong statements and the media reported in a wrong manner then the Prime Minister should have told that he had visited the village at that time and nobody starved. The indifferent government is not ready to admit this thing. I do not know who compelled the Prime Minister to make a statement.

I would like to say only this much that there are 32 crore farmers in India whose annual income ranges from 8 to 12 thousand rupees as per the Government statistics. Government of India declared that there would be no compromise over providing subsidy to the farmers in WTO. Again and again the Government gave false assurance that the other countries are decreasing the subsidy. I would like to say that agriculture should be saved in such an international trade. It is a good opportunity. You may not get this opportunity again. Many countries are taking advantage of the situation but we are not taking advantage of it. Suffering of the farmers means ruination of the country. The countries which have paid attention towards agriculture are prosperous.

Sometimes, some members of treasury benches express their objection time and again in this regard. I do not like to say about the system of governance in China whether it is democratic government or not. I can say this much that in 1949 a revolution took place in China and the development started. But, in India, the development started in 1947. We were ahead of that country. But, today they have controlled their population. Its population is approximately 125 to 130 crore and our population is above one hundred crore. Their production

is more than 2¹/₂ times or 2³/₄ times than ours but their population is more by merely 25-30 crore than ours. Earlier, they paid attention to agriculture and now they are paying attention to industries. In the same manner 400-450 years back America was not a prosperous country. But paid attention towards agriculture and it is a fact that on the basis of wheat production America is today a superpower in the world.

Sir, today only that country is prosperous which has paid attention towards agriculture and the farmers. The Government is not paying attention to farmers. It is rather hostile to the farmers. The interests of the farmers were not kept in view in the World Trade Organisation. Elsewhere we will talk about our individual state but today I request the hon. Minister that the condition of the farmers of Uttar Pradesh has become deplorable. Farmers of Uttar Pradesh have suffered loss of Rs. 15,000 crore. Therefore, the Government should provide assistance to the farmers. There should be a National Policy on Agriculture and to assess the benefit that reached agriculture, economic liberalisation be reviewed. My suggestion is that at least you should make a promise and take a decision in the cabinet and the House that by giving six months notice to the international market, India should pull out its agriculture from the WTO. With these suggestions I conclude.

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I have a request to make. We have a few speakers from all the parties but the time is confined up to 6 o'clock. I would appeal to the Government to agree to extend the time so that all those whose names are listed are given time to speak for two-three minutes each and let the Minister reply after that.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is in agreement.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir call also the Hon'ble Minister of Food. It is a question of paddy storage and the Hon'ble Food Minister is not sitting here...(*Interruptions*) He makes statements in Newspapers that they are purchasing paddy in every state but nowhere the purchase of paddy is being done at the support price...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Hon'ble Members are in agreement to extend the time of the House till the

discussion lasts. It is my request to the Hon'ble Members to state their views in the minimum possible time.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: At 6 O'clock a review will be done, thereafter time will be extended.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has got some compulsion, but those who are present here can give an estimate as to how much serious they are on the question of farmers.

[*English*]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this discussion under Rule 193 which has been initiated by Shri Basu Deb Acharia is a welcome discussion. But at the same time, the intention of the discussion was to put this Government in the docks.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): This Government is already in the docks.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Your idea was to put the Government in the docks. But the Opposition should know that this Government has given the first initiative to the farmers of this country. It is a new Government of three years duration and we cannot forget the past follies created towards the farmers by the various Governments during the last 50 years.

For the last 50 years, the condition of the farmers have not improved and today they are accusing us that you are responsible for the WTO where the farmers have got a raw deal as compared to developing countries throughout the world.

I would like to mention here clearly that the WTO agreement was first signed in 1993 by the Congress Government when Shri Pranab Mukherjee was the Commerce Minister. At that time the Government never thought about the plight of the farmers of India or the plight of the farmers of other developing countries. They are now just shedding crocodile tears for the farmers. This is very sad.

When we are talking of food security and the problems of farmers, we have to take into consideration three important aspects. They are; procurement, storage and distribution. By a host of dedicated scientists and the labour of our farmers we have been able to achieve food security. But giving remunerative prices to farmers

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

for their produce is yet to be achieved. In the last fifty years we could not contemplate to create proper storage facilities and a proper distribution system. That is why farmers are facing this problem today. You will be surprised to know that in the last couple of years the subsidy the Government is giving to farmers has gone up from Rs. 15,000 crore to Rs. 25,500 crore. At the same time, the investment in agriculture has come down from Rs. 7,300 crore to Rs. 4,700 crore in the country. This is clearly an indicator as to how farmers have been neglected by the previous regimes who ruled the country. It is because investment in the agricultural sector has come down that the farmer does not feel safe. Now when our Government is trying to give a protective shield by announcing a new agriculture policy, we have been criticised.

We should understand the real problems that the farmers are facing. Distribution system and storage facilities have to be improved. I would like to mention a few points about the storage facilities. When there was food scarcity in this country, at that time PL-480 wheat was brought to this country for distribution among the poor. You will be surprised to know that till today PL-480 stock is lying in some of our godowns unutilised. This clearly vindicates my charge against the previous regimes in regard to their distribution policy. And today they are clamouring and shouting at our Government saying that our Government has failed in our agriculture policy. For the first time a vibrant agriculture policy has been announced to safeguard the interests of the farmers.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): That is why farmers are killing themselves.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. Only yesterday we resolved not to do it.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: That is not because of today, but because of the neglect of farmers in the past few decades.

We have had twelve successive good monsoons. But proceeds from agriculture has declined from 8680 per hectare as per 1996 estimates in wheat to 6926 per hectare. Also productivity has come down in the case of wheat. The same is the case with rice. It has come down from 7640 per hectare to 7126 per hectare. How do you expect the farming community which forms 80 per cent of our population to improve? That is why we have today allegations of a few stray incidents of malnutrition, starvation deaths taking place in various backward pockets of the country.

When the question of food distribution comes, when the question of nutritional security comes, there should be no Party politics.

There should be a non-partisan attitude so that we can solve this human problem with utmost care, interest and dedication. Unless this is done, our country will never go up. Today, we are talking about World Trade Organisation. We are getting a raw deal. But our Government has taken a lot of measures by getting new laws in the TRIPs Agreement and a lot of new Bills have been initiated regarding geographical boundaries and patents. All these Bills have been introduced taking into account the security of the farmers. So, we cannot just sit down here and hear wild allegations levied on the Government.

Today, the Cooperative Movement which was the backbone of the farming community has been completely broken and today, our Government is thinking of a Cooperative Bill to give autonomy to the co-operatives to make them stronger. But the Cooperative Movement has completely failed in the country, if you do and see. The banks are not willing to give money to revive them. In this condition, the issue raised by Shri Acharia is very valid and I admit it. But we cannot level allegations against the Government.

I would like to say something on Quantitative Restrictions. The recent data of the Commerce Ministry shows the minimum Quantitative Restrictions. But we have been able to decrease the normal imports by 14.7 per cent in 2000-2001. There are measures and laws about Quantitative Restrictions which will not affect the farmers to a great deal. Therefore, we welcome the discussion which has been initiated by Shri Acharia but it should not be a discussion to level allegations against the Government. A work room has been created to track down and analyse import of 300 sensitive items including several agriculture produce. So our Government is on the job to guard the interest of the farmers.

[Translation]

*SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Hon'ble Chairman Sir, there is a proverb in Tamil. 'When you go out to sell salt it rains. 'When you go out to sell husk there blows heavy wind.' This saying is appropriate to describe the state of Indian farmers who toil hard in the fields through the length and breadth of the country. They live a simple life, remain poor and die as debtors.

* English translation of the speech Originally delivered in Tamil.

I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to speak on the plight of farmers and the problems faced by them while participating in the discussion under rule 193. I am not here to criticise any of the Governments that were there and that are here now. I would like to raise before the House the problems faced by the farmers even after 50 years of independence. I do not think any agriculturist in any part of the country is contented and free from worries. Big farmers have heavy debts. Small farmers have got comparatively lesser loan burden but more problems. But the fact remains that all farmers have got debt problems.

In the early years of our independent India, that is, during the fifties when hunger, poverty, and deaths due to them were rampant, our farmers gave a rejuvenation through their efforts towards green revolution. They have helped the country to attain self-sufficiency in food production. They took efforts to feed the hungry mouths when it was needed much. Whom do you think go without food now? It is only the farmers whose struggle is to feed the country. The farmers and agriculturists who helped the country to meet the targets for food production are not able to compete with people who run other business and take up other occupations. Even a small tea-shop owner is better off than a poor farmer. What is the reason? We cannot evolve a solution by way of pointing an accusing finger at Governments of the day or even earlier Governments. I find at least 99% of the members of this House hail from agriculturists' families. Pointing fingers at somebody we cannot escape and shy away from our responsibilities.

Some two years back in Delhi when the price of onion and tomato soar up to Rs. 25 and 20 per kg respectively, farmers at other places who could not get more than Rs 5 per basket thought that they can get a big profit. When media came up with the news about price increase in Delhi especially in the electronic media like TV, farmers in other parts of the country who were cultivating onion and tomato increased their cultivation with high hopes. But there was a reverse trend. Onion price crashed. Their hopes were crushed. There was a glut in the market. The price per basket came down even below one rupee. The basket itself would cost Rs 5 per piece. This resulted in a huge loss to the farmers while it did not affect middlemen much. Leave alone getting returns for the labour on the field, the farmers could not get back even the investments on the baskets used for packing tomatoes. What is the reason? There is a huge gap between production and distribution. There is insufficient and inadequate marketing mechanism. There

must be planned production and planned procurement for agricultural produce. If we evolve a rational method to distribute food to places where people starve, there may not be starvation deaths both of the poor in scarcity-ridden-drought-prone areas and among the farming community as well. The situation of the farmers caught in the grip of debt burden may also ease down. A topiaca cultivator sold a bag at Rs. 100 in a particular year. Hoping that it may sell for Rs 140 in the subsequent year he went for it again. Because inflation is such. But what happened next year is astounding. The price of topiaca crashed down to a mere Rs. 40 belying all the hopes of the farmers. Then he thought he could switch over to another cash crop the sugarcane. Till two years back it was considered that only sugarcane growers face no loss. There is disappointment there also. The sugarcane field in the case of a particular area's farmer got afflicted with pests and insects. Red warts spoilt the sugarcane grown. The farmer in case could not get back even the money he spent on transplanting. Even then the farmer did not give up. When cash crops and vegetable growing fail, at least eucalyptus cultivation may save. That is what the farmer thought. But what happened is again miserable. The eucalyptus which was selling at Rs 100 per tonne came down to Rs. 400. Now we have come to such a passe that no farmer is assured of gainful returns. The farmers are not in a position to plan and rest assured of good returns. Only each cultivation could be remunerative but it benefits only a farmer's grand children. Because we have to wait for long to get the yield.

A member who spoke ahead of me recalled the PL 480 days when wheat was imported from US. Our farmers who make the country self-sufficient in food production are still left with debts and are caught in debt traps. It is true that Government evolves several schemes. But have we ensured that farmers really get the benefits out of such schemes. I do not blame any Government for this. Almost every party has come to power one following the other. So there is no point in blaming one another. We need to do a soul searching. I am afraid we all have failed in our duty to ensure that all the schemes meant for farmers have reached them. It is true that all funds allotted for such schemes do not flow intact to the farmers. There are several areas in the country which are drought prone for years together. Some areas are prone to series of floods in consequent years. There are some States which are hit by both in the same year. Farmers get in to debt traps during those times when natural disasters play havoc. We must help our farmers to come free from the clutches of debt burden. Nationalised banks come

[Shri S.S. Palanimanickam]

out with some reason or the other to dissuade our efforts to liquidate the loans extended to farmers.

We have a plan target to increase our agricultural production by 4% every year. But do we get 4% increased allocation to Agriculture in our Budget every year. The answer is a big 'NO'. If we ask Finance Ministry they say that the approval has to come from the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission says that the Ministry of Agriculture do not utilise the allocated funds fully. When do we allot funds to Agriculture? Is the allocation made at a season when the fund flow is most required? We must put our heads together.

More than 2 to 3% of total allocation for Agriculture is spent on Agricultural Research in the developed world. But to our dismay in developing countries like that of ours, the fund for R&D is much less. It is 0.02% of the total allocation for agriculture. In today's competitive world, it is imperative to set apart adequate funds for agricultural research to evolve modern techniques adopting modern technology. If we do not give a facelift to agricultural research, I am afraid there could be a famine in a decade from now. Because the land under cultivation in our country is under use continuously for centuries now. Soil potential and soil management need our attention. In many countries virgin lands are converted to be agricultural lands. Due to that agricultural production cost comes down to less than half of the amount spent normally. That enables those countries to be economical in production and remunerative in marketing. So it is imperative that we give impetus to our agricultural research activities setting apart more funds for agricultural research and development. The subsidy given to farmers are publicised widely. This in fact would demean our farmers. With much fanfare every ruling party in every annual Budget announces free electricity scheme, loan waiver, etc.

17.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much time you will take?

[Translation]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: I am concluding Sir.

We trumpet and boast of subsidies we extend to farmers. It is really an insult to farmers. If free electricity was not there, we might not have achieved our targeted level production. Do you think that we could have overcome the dependent status we found ourselves in during those PL 480 days. The subsidies come handy. No farmer demands for his right for price fixation. No

farmer decides the rate of margin. The farmers only cry for a support price even if it is minimum. Instead of doing this as a bounden duty, we, the political parties and representative Governments, look them down upon. We are hesitant to meet their basic needs. Those of the farmers who have other means to sustain their families are quitting agriculture. This trend must be arrested. I draw the attention of this Government if only to ensure that we do not face with a serious crisis in future. Many irrigation schemes even those conceived in the First 5 year plan have not been completed yet. Adequate infrastructure for irrigation has not come about as yet. Just by way of discussing the problems of farmers in every session we may not solve their problems. We must evolve long term strategy. The Departments of Agriculture, Irrigation, Finance and Commerce must have a coordinated approach. There must be a monitoring Committee comprising of all political leaders with officials drawn from those Ministries. We would have shown our gratitude to farmers only through a long-term policy approach for a lasting solution. Our esteemed colleague and senior leader Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav appreciated the stand taken by our Hon. Minister of Commerce Shri Murasoli Maran during the WTO meet at Doha. But he also added that he compromised his stand towards the end. I am sorry to disagree with him on this count. His criticism is not based on facts. If Shri Maran is to be bend it can be done only by his conscience. He will never yield to anything against his conscience.

I would like to draw your attention to a report in the media. *Business Standard* is not a DMK party organ. The Commerce Minister of the European Union who led their delegation said that he had the mandate of all the European countries. Our Union Commerce Minister Shri Murasoli Maran retorted that he had the mandate of hundred crore people of India. The European Union Minister tried to exert pressure on him saying that he would talk to the Government of India and the Prime Minister of India. *Business Standard* reports that Shri Maran did not compromise with his stand.

All our newspapers say that Shri Maran expends more time and energy now putting in all efforts to mend the damages that were caused during our participation in all the erstwhile WTO talks since 1994. Hence I urge upon this august House and all its Hon. Members that we must stand united and come together and must not compromise in finding a lasting solution to the problems faced by the farmers.

With this, I conclude.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Chairman, sir, many many thanks to you. After a long time you have

given me the opportunity to speak here. I have always been saying "Uttam Kheti, Madhyam Vyapar, Nikrisht Chakari Aur Bhikh Nidan". Agriculture was regarded as the best profession and thereafter service ranked second, but Hon'ble Minister, during your rule agriculture has gone down and service has become the foremost.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to make clear the position of agriculture in our country by citing some figures. In India, agriculture is done in 999 lac hectare area and the total production is 2230 lac tonnes. Whereas, in America, compared to us, a far less area of 645 lac hectare is cultivated but there the produce is 3426 lac tonnes. That is, there the production is equal to one and a half times the production here. In China, agriculture is done in 916 lac hectares and the produce is 4438 lac tonnes. By it you make a rough estimate as to where we stand. You may take the same portfolio—the Minister of Agriculture time and again, but you remain where you had been.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, perhaps the Hon'ble Minister might not be knowing that in 1959 the Congress had held a session in Nagpur. At that time, your father was a Minister in the Department of revenue in Uttar Pradesh. At that time, the father of Shri K.C. Pantji had moved a resolution on co-operative farming. At that time, the Congress was the ruling party in the country and Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru was the Prime Minister. Your father was the only person who had opposed co-operative farming and at that time, the Congress Party had taken it seriously. But Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru had not taken it seriously. Your father was a great democrat. He had opposed co-operative farming, but the Prime Minister rejected that proposal and a proposal on co-operative farming was passed in the Nagpur session. Where are we going today.

Mr. Chairman, Sir we are giving today 84 kgs of fertiliser per hectare to the farmers in our country...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): The proposal of co-operative was not passed in the Nagpur session.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: I have got the record. Your father had opposed it.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: We are opposing it even now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Minister, please mention all these things in your reply.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Now, company farming going on in India.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): This country has been saved from communism due to that opposition.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Jaiswaljee, in between where did you come from Banaras. He is unpredictable by the time elections come to a close, he may cross over to this side.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: He does not figure here. We are discussion the question of farmers.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: I am telling you about the matter of farmers only. You make available 84 kilograms of fertiliser to the farmers in India, whereas in America 114 kilogram fertiliser and in China 266 kilogram fertiliser is provided to the farmers. As per our situation, it is estimated that by 2025 India will fall short of foodgrains by 30 crore tonnes. I am putting figures before you, you please see them. Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, recently you too, had made a statement that half of the land in the country has lost its fertility I have read it in the newspaper. I also agree. What is the condition of banking sector here? The farmers do not get fertilisers in time, they do not get diesel, the loan provided to them are against so much compound interest that the farmers are ruined. More over, their farmers suffer due to drought. The Hon'bel Agriculture Minister is sitting beside, has he ever thought over it? In our Bihar, it is said—

'Hriyal Kheti dekh kar garva kiya kishan,
Abhi jhola bahut hai, ghar aaway to jaan'.

Green plants of crops are ready, they start bearing grains and then the flood water comes by which the farmer gets harassed. You do not understand the helplessness of the farmers. In his home, his young daughter is unmarried. He hopes to get his daughter married by selling the harvest once it comes his home. But due to flood all get frustrated and remain confined to their homes. This is the condition of the farmers of India, be they from Kerala or from any other state.

Just now Shri Mulayam Singhji delivered his speech. Now you are importing bread from outside. You are importing cooked bread that does not get staled for eight days. Come to the Bengali market, I can show you it there. The apples of Shimla are being sold in our area. It is bought from the farmers at a very cheap rate which remains unsold. I am giving example of your state itself regarding the condition of paddy, cultivation there. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are the chairman of the Committee. We have received that report. You have written at page 88 that Demand for Grants 2001-2002, Eleventh Report

[Shri Ajit Singh]

was presented in the Lok Sabha in April, 2000. Here it has been said that in Bihar the production of rice is approximately 77.41 lac tonnes and in the form of paddy it is 123.85 lac tonnes, whereas the procurement is about 0.5 lac tone which is negligible. This is the proof that step-motherly behavior was meted out to Bihar. You fail to purchase the paddy of the farmers of that state. In this capacity an Agriculture Minister Shri Hukumdeojee gave a statement that they would purchase rice. Where will be purchase. Does he mean to purchase it in his constituency—is there any mill of rice? Why did you give the statement? Do not make fun of the farmers in such a way...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajo Singhji, please speak in short, four more speakers are still listed from your party.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH: What will you tell him for making him speak the fact. Some states like Bihar, Orissa, Maharashtra and Karnataka are being dealt with harshly. So, the Committee strongly recommend that such double standards should not be followed in the case of the farmers of other states, especially the farmers of Bihar and a uniform policy should be adopted keeping in view the larger interest of the farmers of the country. This is the recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee which has been accepted by the Parliamentary. This is the recommendations of the Standing Committee, despite that what has been done by the Ministry of Agriculture. They have not formulated their own policy, despite that farmers have not got any kind of benefit. If this condition persists, then I think that the farmers are not going to be benefited any way. I want to finish after saying one thing.

These people gave much stress that the foreign companies should come here to do farming, not agriculture farming with the farmers, not even co-operative farming but it should be company farming and once they do the farming for 3-4 years, then all the land will become barren, that land will become useless and the farmers will have no benefit from that. They are going to create such a condition.

Through you, I want to tell the Government not to hamper the interests of the farmers, otherwise in coming days you may turn your area into whatever status, or whatever you may make, the farmers will vote you out.

With these words, I support this.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I share the feelings of the other hon. Members that the hon. Food Minister should have been present now during this discussion. I know that the Agriculture Ministry is connected with the problems of the farmers but the Food Ministry is in no way less connected with the various problems of the farmers, particularly, at this juncture. Therefore, it would have been better if along with the agriculture Minister, of Food and Consumer Affairs would have been present in this House during this discussion. I am sorry that the hon. Food Minister is not present in the House now.

Sir, as you know, last year and before, many parts of the countries suffered due to a very severe drought...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Where is the Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Raghunath Jha, you are a senior member. The agriculture Minister is present here. Government is always collectively responsible for everything.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Last year, many States in the country suffered a severe drought. This year, there has been a bumper crop in many parts of the country. Unfortunately, last year while there has been a drought and due to drought the farmers suffered a lot, this year, the poor farmers of the country are suffering because of the bumper crop. Many hon. Member have rightly mentioned here that there is no sale of paddy or wheat in the market, and there is acute problem of distress sale.

Sir, I hail from a poor State of Orissa. Last Year, my State reeled under a severe drought and there was an acute drought position year before last. Fortunately, this year, there has been a bumper crop. Even in the non-irrigated areas, the crop has been good. If you go to different market yards in that part of the country, particularly, in the eastern region of the country, you will find that thousands and thousands of quintals of paddy are piling up in different market yards, and here is nobody to purchase.

As the hon. Members from Bihar have very rightly mentioned, every farmer, particularly the poor farmers, the middle class farmers and the small farmers entirely depend upon their paddy or wheat for their livelihood. If a poor farmer wants to get his daughter married, he has to sell his paddy or wheat. If a poor farmer wants to get his son admitted in the College, he has to sell his paddy or wheat. If a poor farmer wants to take his wife to the hospital for treatment, he has to sell his paddy or wheat. Without selling his paddy or wheat, he cannot go to the hospital or even he cannot purchase a medicine worth Rs. 10. This is the condition of the farmers. In this condition, when there is a good crop, there is nobody to purchase and the Government refuses to purchase it.

Sir, the Government of India procures foodgrains through the Food Corporation of India. I accuse the Food Corporation of India with biased attitude. The Food Corporation of India is taking different stands in regard to different States. I will cite one example. In my State, more than 80 per cent of paddy is meant for boiled rice. The Food Ministry of the Government of India cannot escape itself from this accusation. They decided the price of raw rice much before.

There are certain major States. I do not want to name here. I do not know why they have not declared or decided the price to boiled rice. It is because of some strong lobby in the Ministry of Food or because of their strong political pressure or because they represent a Party which is very strong in this NDA Government, for other States, the procurement of rice and wheat started in the month of October but in my poor State of Orissa, in the poor State of Chhattisgarh, my neighbouring State and also in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar where boiled rice is more in production, the price of boiled rice, par-boiled rice was not declared or decided. Why? The Food Corporation of India started procuring foodgrains from some State and the Food Corporation of India did not move an inch in States like Orissa. Why is this double standard being adopted by the Food Corporation of India and the Ministry of Food? Therefore, I wanted that the hon. Food Minister should have been present here to clarify on this point before this House.

So, firstly, I would request the Agriculture Minister who also represents this Government to take into consideration this aspect also. All the time, the Food Corporation of India is taking the plea of shortage of space. I know that in my State, this time, the State Government's procurement target is 15 lakh metric tonnes of rice. I know, particularly, in my State, there is a space

for only six lakh metric tonnes. When there is no space and when the Food Corporation of India is all the time taking plea in the States like Orissa that due to shortage of space, they are not able to procure paddy or rice from the farmers, why then you are dumping rice and wheat from other States into Orissa? Is it just for storage facility? So, we are there to store your foodgrains only. On that plea of shortage of space, you are not procuring rice and paddy or wheat from the poor farmers of Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. On the other hand, you are dumping wheat and rice from other States to store them. What policy is this? This is completely a double standard. So, I would urge upon the Government, through you, that let the Food Corporation of India and let the Ministry of Food under which administrative control the FCI is working, take a very clear and categorical stand on the procurement policy.

As some hon. Members were very correctly saying, the Government every year is fixing a Minimum Support Price for paddy and wheat. This Minimum Support Price is also much less than the actual cost of production. Nobody can deny this fact. You are fixing a support price which is much less than the actual cost of production. On the other hand, you are not able to give the farmer that Minimum Support Price also. I know that in my State, the farmers are bound to sell their paddy at a price less than Rs. 200 and Rs. 250 than the Minimum Support price. How will the poor farmers thrive? We are boasting that we have been successful in Green Revolution. What is the result? What is the impact of the Green Revolution? Therefore, I do not understand this.

I beg your pardon, Sir. I apologise, Sir, before stating that I question the wisdom of the hon. Food Minister, I repeat, Sir, I question the wisdom of the hon. Food Minister, in declaring a proposal that the Government of India is going to stop procuring paddy and wheat from the farmers at a time when the procurement has just started. I do not understand this. The very statement of the hon. Food Minister created a lot of confusion in the market. Again, the market showed a downward trend. The unscrupulous traders, businessmen and millers took advantage of such a statement and they further tried to downgrade the rice, paddy and wheat in the market. By that, the poor farmers suffered. I do not understand this. The Government of India or any responsible Minister of the government of India should think hundred times before issuing such a statement which has a very deep impact on the market and on the poor farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Please give me just two more minutes. There is one point. As I stated, every poor farmer, every small farmer, every medium farmer entirely depend upon the foodgrains for their livelihood. When the farmer is selling his paddy even at a lower rate, the Food Corporation of India or the Miller Agent who procures paddy or wheat on behalf of the Food Corporation of India is not passing on the payments to the poor farmers. I know this. It is happening in my own constituency. I hail from an area which is irrigated. They are command areas irrigated by the Hirakud Dam Project. Every year, there is a bumper crop. In spite of selling their paddy after two months, they have not been giving their payment.

How do you expect the poor farmer to thrive when this is the position today? Therefore, I urge upon the Minister of Agriculture that he should discuss these issues with the Minister of Food. Let the Government of India take a serious note of all these problems.

Another problem that the farmer is facing relates to FAQ. I do not know where this 'FAQ' has come from. 'FAQ' indicates 'fair average quality'. In the Food Corporation of India, the definition of FAQ is something; in the Government of India, the definition of FAQ is something else. For the miller-agents who procure on behalf of the Food Corporation of India and for the farmer the definitions of FAQ are two different things. In the name of FAQ, the Food Corporation of India and the miller-agents who procure paddy or wheat on behalf of the Food Corporation of India put the farmers into much harassment. In the name of FAQ, they are underrating the price of the paddy but when they mill the same paddy and sell the rice to the Food Corporation of India the term FAQ vanishes from the dictionary of the Food Corporation of India.

With all responsibility and with full conscience, I am making this accusation that for each bag of paddy in Orissa — I know this in particular — and in different States of the country, there is an underhand transaction of Rs. 25 to Rs. 30. This is my accusation and I am prepared to face any inquiry if the Government of India or the Ministry of Food institute an inquiry into this. This is the plight of the farmers of Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country. Therefore, let the Government take a very serious note of all these problems. Let it not push the interests of the farmers into a hole. Unless the farmers live, the country cannot live. Therefore, my sincere appeal to the Minister of Agriculture and to the Government of India through you is that they should not undermine the gravity of the situation and the gravity of the problem. Let them take a serious note of it.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUNATH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Who will reply to this question? If we ask this question, they will say this is not their department...*(Interruptions)* The issue relating to the farmers is being raised...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Why is the Minister of Food not present here? It is a serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, this is a discussion on the plight of the farmers who are not able to dispose their paddy and wheat at appropriate prices. This is very much linked to the FCI's procurement. It is very much linked to the Ministry of Food and the Minister of Food is conspicuously absent. This is the attitude of the Government. If you go through the notice, you will find that this discussion is on the plight of the farmers...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, the instructions should be given by the Chair to the Food Minister to be present in the House. It proves that this government is not serious about this matter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Today, the House is being treated like this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, all will follow your directions. But you please give directions to them that a serious issue has been raised...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Government is always collectively responsible. But in such a convention, it will have to be vigilant about its responsibility.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: It is a matter of procurement to be made by the Food Ministry and we are blaming the Food Ministry only and asking about the whereabouts of Food Minister?...*(Interruptions)* So many serious issues are being raised...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister is sitting here and he has noted all of your points. However the government has collective responsibility.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Today, the issue relating to farmers is being debated and no conclusion is being drawn from it...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, though the farmer's interests are being debated here but no solution to their problems is being found. It is a serious matter...(Interruptions) The directions should be given by the Chair to the Food Minister to be present in the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on problems being faced by farmers in India.

Sir, the 1994 World Trade Organisation agreement, which brought agriculture within its policy framework by the Government of India was totally unequal when we compare India with the industrialised nations. We are the agriculture-based country. India's agriculture is now on cross roads.

Sir, after this WTO agreement in 1994, these industrialised countries have introduced a number of safeguards such as the 'Blue' and 'Green' Boxes, but we have not even got our livelihood boxes here in India. Those industrialised countries have safeguarded by imposing heavy import duty. For example, Japan has levied 2000 per cent import duty on the import of rice; we have not taken such stringent measures to protect the farmers. For example, in United States, the farmer is being paid not to produce a crop...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb the Member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: But here a poor farmer is being punished for having produced high production....(Interruptions)

Sir, as of 1 August, 2001, the FCI was holding 60.91 million tonnes of foodgrains, comprising 38.71 million tonnes of wheat and 22.20 million tonnes of rice. This

was 48 per cent more than the stock held on 1 August, 2000. Until July 2001, the Government released Rs. 3,884 crore as subsidy to the FCI...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, I want to make a point...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri P.H. Pandian.

...(Interruptions) *

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, the provisions, as I said, in the Green Box includes policies that provide services or benefits to the agriculture or rural community, stockholding for food security, domestic food aid, investment subsidies and agricultural input subsidies for low-income and resource-poor families....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Sir, the matter is so serious and the Food Minister is not present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is nothing down all the points. All of the points will be replied.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, unfortunately, our farm families are experiencing all the negative impacts of the WTO agreement, mostly owing to our own inaction or lack of timely action.

Sir, I would like to emphasise that when the WTO agreement is reviewed this year, it is essential that we press for a 'Livelihood Box' that would allow us to impose quantitative restrictions. This must be done wherever there is clear evidence that such imports will kill livelihood opportunities for small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural labour or those involved in small-scale agro-processing and agro-business activities.

They are the people who have been engaged in small scale agro processing and agro-based business activities.

* Not recorded.

[Shri P.H. Pandian]

Sir, the view of a famous Agricultural scientist is that globalisation has promoted jobless economic growth. Without a livelihood box, we would not be able to stimulate jobless economic growth. At this point of time I would like to submit that India should pull out of the WTO agreement in matters of food and food production. We have not seen the clauses of the WTO agreement in this House. What are its clauses? We have been seeing everything in the newspapers. This parliament has never been informed about the clauses of the WTO. This WTO has spoiled the Indian economy and our food production. It is cheating the poor farmers. I am on the side of the farmers. The WTO agreement has never been reviewed since 1994...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Do you think Shri Maran did the right thing in Doha?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: I will say the Ministry of Commerce. I would not take the name of anybody here...*(Interruptions)* The unfortunate part of the story is that in spite of good production, the farmers today are faced with a situation of a price crash. Who is at fault? The farmers are not at fault. The farmers have not done anything wrong. They have made sacrifices. They are the tillers and they have produced. The farmers only are responsible for this enormous production. The country today has plenty of foodgrains. So, India should pull out of the WTO agreement in matters pertaining to the agricultural policy. The Agriculture policy, as farmed and included in the WTO agreement is not for the benefit of farmers of this country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pandian, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, there is a little distraction.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): How does pulling out of the WTO favour the farmers?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Then they would get enhanced prices.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: How would they get enhanced prices?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: The Government can declare crop holiday and they must raise resources...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the first clause was that of a safeguard mechanism for all developing countries. Was it done? Was there any safeguard mechanism for farmers?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Japan has raised the import duty to 300 per cent. What protection do you have?

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, I am asking the Government to give protection. Quantitative restrictions under specified circumstances in the event of soyabean imports. What did the Government do?

Sir, retaining quantitative restrictions and having high import duty for agricultural production, therefore, should have been India's official position in the WTO negotiations. What is there?

Then, Sir, removal of quantitative restrictions...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: The New Agriculture Policy has affected the farmer badly. Retention of quantitative restrictions in the Agreement and the non-implementation during the review process undermine our position and also the interest of farmers in the third world countries.

This is the third time I am participating in a discussion on farmers' problems. We have not got any response so far. We participate in debates. What is the use of our participation in such debates? These debates on the problems being faced by farmers should not become customary debates. Government should come out with a concrete solution and an action plan. Farmers are not able to get the Minimum Support Price...*(Interruptions)* It is a farmers' issue. There is no colour to the problems faced by farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: I on behalf of All India Anna DMK support the farmers fully...*(Interruptions)* It is common minimum programme for us...*(Interruptions)* The Government should solve the problems of farmers. They should give the minimum support price to farmers. Finally there should not be debates on this every six months.

17.43 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

It should not be a thing that is done every year customarily...*(Interruptions)* Cutting across party lines, we are with them on the issue of farmers' problem.

On behalf of All India Anna DMK, I call upon the Government to help farmers by coming forward with a

solution. Shri Ajit Singh is a farmer himself. He is a *kisan* leader. His father was a *kisan* leader. He must take initiative and solve the problems of farmers. This sort of a discussion should not come again in Parliament. There must be a 'thanks giving' by the Opposition to the Government in this regard next time. The Government must act in that manner. The Government should understand the problems of farmers. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should take initiative and convince the Prime Minister to support the farmers by pulling out of the WTO agreement and protect the interest of the farmers.

About 651 articles are being imported. Under Milk Products Import Order of 1992, milk powder, Cheese, curd, icecream. etc., are being imported. What are the Yadav's doing? Shri Muyalam Singh Yadav and Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav must jointly fight together because the Milk Products Order will jeopardise the people belonging to Yadav Community.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. This issue relating to farmers is concerned with the Food Minister only.

MR. SPEAKER: State, the respective rule.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I am on the point of order that the Food Minister is being directly blamed. In U.P. these are being purchased through middlemen. The Food Minister must reply to it. He should have been present here. It is serious allegation. The Agriculture will not be able to reply to it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Sir, WTO is being discussed and the concerned Minister is not present here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Both the Ministers are sitting here.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan.

...*(Interruptions)* *

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, WTO is being discussed here. Nobody is present. Shri Murasoli Maran is not present...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Again, you are wasting the time of the House. Please take your seat. I have called Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Procurement season is now going on...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You speak later on, please.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problems of farmers are being discussed for a long time. Many of our honourable members have raised the problems of farmers belonging to their respective states as well as the country before the House. In every session parliament the problems of the farmers are discussed in the House in the one form or the other. Even you too know it very well that the economy of the country is based on the agriculture. 80 percent of the farmers are directly or indirectly or in the form of labourers engaged in agriculture.

It is also truth that the condition of farmers in the country has remained pitiable since independence. Even after the independence nobody paid attention towards the problems of the farmers and the farmers became burdened. The Industrial policy was formulated in 1951 but the Agriculture Policy was prepared after 50 years by Vajpayee Government. Nobody prepared a Agriculture Policy upto fifty years. Had the Agriculture policy been prepared fifty years ago the issue of the problems of farmers which are being discussed here, would not have raised at all. Today, our culture and civilisation as well as Agriculture too is being Europeanised.

Every Member had raised the problems of their areas. There are problems such as famine, drought, floods, spreading of any disease in some area on the other of the districts of the country, so many problems exist everywhere.

I am presenting the condition of farmers of Haryana, Punjab, Western U.P. which are said to be prosperous areas. Hon'ble Members have raised the issues of their areas. I am presenting the problems which are based on latest figures, of the areas where the farmers are considered prosperous. There has been the problem of land holdings. The land has been divided with the increase in population. Today there are 22 per cent farmers who have only one acre of land, 59.4 per cent farmers are having two and half acre land, 18.6 percent farmers are having five acre land. This is the situation of land holding, see how much burden is on one acre holders. According to data of the Punjab Agriculture

[Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan]

university, commercial Banks have extended loan of 1655 crore cooperative Banks have provided 1752 crore rupees, private institutions have extended 4800 crore rupees. Besides there are other private loans, it means the farmers are indebted 7600 rupees per acre. Such is the condition of the farmers of these areas which are considered prosperous and have prosperous farmers. Then, what would be the condition of the other states, you can better imagine it yourself.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, livestock is a means of livelihood for the farmers. The farmers who had no land, were surviving with the live stock. I have the figures with me. In 1952 there were 452 animals per thousand persons which has come down 232 animals per thousand person by 1992, the number of animals has drastically come down. I would naturally have an affect on the economic condition of the farmers.

So far as the condition of the floods, drought is concerned, there is drought at some places, likewise floods, diseases, hailstorm at some other places in the country. No attention has been paid towards these issues. This Government has been given a New Agriculture policy, let us see what would be its impact? How would it be implemented, only the time would decide it. Credit card facility has been provided to the farmers. Under this scheme crores of farmers have availed its benefits but the banking system is defective.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: This facility might be provided in Haryana but it is not there in Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: The Government have formulated many schemes which are connected with the Banking system. When a villager goes to the bank he is taken for a ride. He does not get proper treatment. He does not get the facility he deserves and his entire money is mishandled.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I would like to talk about Crop Insurance. I would congratulate this Government for introducing crop Insurance scheme. Therefore, the Government have formulated this scheme but it has not been implemented. It has not been implemented in some states and wherever it has been implemented it is not effective. Hon'ble Minister is sitting here. He himself is also a farmer and he might be aware of the natural calamities. If Crop Insurance Scheme is implemented then the farmers would get respite from the natural calamities. It is a big issue on which attention is required.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of my friend from Orissa was speaking. Just now, In spite of bumper crops in the absence of market, a farmer incurs loss. Our other friends have also raised this issue that the farmers should be provided support price for their crops. The price is declared after the crop is moved to the market whereas the Government should declare the support price before the sowing of crop.

This is the biggest task. If the Ministry of Agriculture has the welfare of the farmers in mind then it should be decided before the cultivation of crops that the farmers would get this rate for wheat, paddy millet and cotton then the farmers would be able to carry out agricultural operations as per their wishes. The problem of storage would be sorted out. If the hon. Minister of Agriculture performs this task then the farmers will remember him all through their lives. If the farmers knows the price before sowing then he is prepared mentally.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is the position of Agriculture Price Commission. The farmers do not have a representative in the Commission. It is the job of the Commission to fix the prices of crops of the farmers but there are no farmers in it.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer): This should be decided by your Government.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Agriculture Price Commission should have more than fifty percent representative of the farmers only then the farmers will get the right price for their crops.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am going to speak about Haryana. Haryana is one of prosperous regions of the country. There are some natural problems. Half of haryana is visited by floods while the other half is, drought prone. Today the water level has gone to so low in Haryana that all the tubewells have failed and the southern Haryana has always been in the grip of drought. People have been asking for SYL canal for 34 years. It has nothing to do with nature. The water of SYL canal has been going to Pakistan for 34 years. Pakistan has put up a claim for damages that their crops have been spoiled due to surplus water and the farmers in Haryana are facing drought but this problem has not been solved. Time and again arbitrators have met and taken a decision but it has not been implemented. Resolve the issue of SYL on priority basis so that the people of the Rajasthan and Haryana may be benefited. The whole economy of Haryana is leaving on SYL canal. I urge upon the hon.

Agriculture Minister that keeping in mind the interest of the farmers in Haryana and Rajasthan, he should pay attention towards this issue and resolve it.

There is the issue of subsidy on fertilizers. Everybody says and it is a fact that we give subsidy on fertilizers to keep the prices down. It is given to the industry and not the farmers. We give several thousand crore rupees every year to factories in the form of subsidy on fertilizers. The organisation named FICC fixes the retention price. Several times people have raised the issue that it is a policy matter. You may give less subsidy but give it to the farmers. Why should the factories get the opportunity to usurp the money? This demand has been put up again and again that the mediators should be topped from usurping the money and the farmers should be given subsidy directly.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of electricity is very serious. Farmers are not getting it. Some conditions prevail in all States. The farmers are not getting electricity on priority basis. They do not even get water due to lack of electricity. The yield of mustard and cotton in Haryana and millet in Rajasthan has showed decline. Production has come down by 40 percent. The medicine which was used to cure the disease named "American Sundi" was spurious. Spurious medicines are in the market and the farmers are losing their money. Production has come down by 40 percent in Haryana. Attention should at least be paid to good quality seeds and medicines. It has nothing to do with Nature. At least the steps that can be taken at the Government level, should be taken otherwise the farmers of the country who have been suffering losses for 50 years will continue to be in that situation only. Hukumdeoiji and Ajitji are present. I hope they will consider these suggestions and do something for the farmers and only then they would deserve to be called sons of the farmers.

With these words. I thank you that you gave me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Hon. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I must thank the senior Member of this august House, Shri Basu Deb Acharia who has raised a very valid and important discussion.

Sir, I am of the opinion that this plight of the peasants has not come up only today. It is the result of the policies which have been followed since Independence. Our former

Prime Minister. Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri raised the slogan of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan'.

18.00 hrs.

The present Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee extended that slogan and made it *Jai jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan*. This is the open slogan and the open programme. But the hidden programme is different. The hidden programme is for the hardship of peasants, for the suffering of peasants.

Two months back, lakhs of peasants demonstrated in Delhi and raised the slogan, *Kisan Bachao, Desh Bachao — save the peasants, save the nation—and Khet Bachao, Gaon Bachao*. So, the hard reality is different. After Independence, the policy which has been followed gave birth to the development of capitalism. Invariably, pauperization of peasants increased day by day. Now we are passing through the stage of globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation which has aggravated the suffering, hardship and pauperisation of peasants all the more. This path is detrimental to the peasantry...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb the House. If you want to talk between yourselves, please go out and do so.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : It may be good for the upper layer of peasants, corporate houses and multi-national corporations. It may be good for 10 per cent of the population who are sitting in the upper layer of the society and bad for 90 per cent of the population who are living in the lower strata of the society. The mainstay of our economy is agriculture, but with this policy of liberalisation, our Government has become liberal to the multi-national corporations, liberal to the big business houses and liberal to the corporate houses. It has opened up to the outside world. That way it is ruining the substantial strength of our economy, that is, agriculture in our country. They have in fact declared a war against small peasants, against marginal peasants, against agricultural labourers and against farmers as a whole. So, this matter is very serious and it should be treated as such.

What about the Government policy? The important point is that agriculture is a State subject. But, our Government is announcing so many policies like the National Agriculture Policy without going into any consultation with the State Governments. This is totally

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

contradictory to the idea of federal structure. The policy announced by the Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha in the Budget, the so called National Agriculture Policy of the NDA Government, the GATT and its conditionalities, and the WTO have very much seriously threatened the survival of peasants. This policy of liberalisation has been pursued since 1991. When the GATT agreement was signed, we raised the point that it would cause hardship to peasants. Now it has been proved that the signing of GATT did not help a country like ours.

So far as fiscal deficit is concerned, with stabilisation and structure adjustment policies and in the name of giving fiscal deficit below 40 per cent, public investment, particularly, in agricultural sector is drastically cut. With this development in agriculture, infrastructural development related to agriculture has suffered very much during this reform period. The changes proposed in the patents law, new seed technology, less germinated and terminated seeds and spurious fertilisers are going to increase the strongholds of multinational corporations and big business houses.

Many things have been neglected by the Union Government. There is gross neglect of irrigation, water management and de-silting of rivers. What is the condition of rivers? May I refer to the situation in West Bengal? Most of the rivers have been silted. The situation is very serious. And because of this, each and every district is suffering due to heavy floods. This aspect has to be taken into consideration.

What about erosion? Erosions of rivers and seas are going to take place. Many things have been said about lifting of Quantitative Restrictions. This is very harmful to the peasants and a country like ours. Many things have been said about the price of agricultural produce. But I am of the opinion that, in general, the price of agricultural products per year are not bad. It is fine but the point is the peasants are not getting the price. The middlemen, the hoarders and the agents are getting the price. The peasants who are producing the commodities and other agricultural products are suffering today. The farmers make our country self-sufficient in food and agriculture. We may call them *annadattas*. They are living in the streets. They are not getting food. Starvation deaths are increasing. This is due to the detrimental policy pursued by the Government at large. So, Sir, my point is that this aspect should be taken into consideration. The concerned organisations and all political parties should be taken into confidence for a consensus on it in the interest of agriculture.

Lastly, I would conclude my speech saying that in many places *kisans* used to raise this slogan:

[Translation]

Jo roji roti de na sake

Woh Sarkar nikammi hai

Woh sarkar nikammi hai

Us Sarkar ko jana hai

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Food Minister should have been present here now. This is a very important discussion linked with the Food Ministry also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)* *

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Food Minister is not yet present in the House ...*(Interruptions)*

There are severe problems in the entire Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. It is a serious issue; the Government is not serious about the issue relating to farmers. He is showing disrespect towards the declaration of the House. The question has been raised here again and that the Food Minister should be present here....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except Dr. D.P. Yadav's speech.

...*(Interruptions)* *

MR. SPEAKER: I called Dr. D.P. Yadav to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing others to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we walk out in protest against Food Minister's disregard to this issue and to this House.

18.11 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and some other hon. Members left the House

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except Dr. D.P. Yadav's speech.

...(Interruptions) *

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we are walking out in protest against Food Minister's absence in this House when this important issue is being discussed.

18.12 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, I am on a point of order....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Under what rule?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Under rule 376. Agriculture is a State subject...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This Government is not serious about the issue, it is anti farmers. Today the farmers are in serious trouble so we boycott the House.

18.12 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members left the House

KUNWAR AKHILSH SINGH: Despite our repeated requests hon. Food Minister is not coming to the House. This Government does not want to buy paddy of the farmers, it wants to rob the farmers through mediators. This Government is ruining the farmers of this country. The Government is ruining the agriculture of the country under World Trade Organisation's pressure and to protest against this we boycott the House.

18.13 hrs.

At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members left the House

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except Dr. D.P. Yadav's speech.

...(Interruptions) *

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, I am on a point of order...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order? Under what Rule?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I am on a point of order under rule 376. Agriculture is a State subject.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am on a point of order, quorums is not complete in the House so debate can not take place...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not know anything, what are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I am on a point of order. Where is the quorum?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, you have already walked out.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record please.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bikram Keshari Deo is raising point of order.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Where is the quorum?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: My point of order is that there was a consensus and there was an agreement on agriculture and food management. A majority of the States are ruled by the Congress Party. In nine States we have Congress Governments....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)* *

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: It was decided that procurement will be done on State-cum-Centre basis. The Congress ruled States are not cooperating....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): It is very saddening and unbecoming of the principal Opposition party to make a walk out and send only one Member to raise the question of quorum...*(Interruptions)* The whole House is sitting and you have empty benches. They have asked for two days to discuss this issue...*(Interruptions)* Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, please look behind you, not a single Member is sitting...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, since you have already walked out, how can you raise this issue?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)* *

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: This House cannot function without a quorum...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Since you have already walked out, how can you ask questions?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: We never walked out...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, you have walked out. Why did you come back? The point is that you cannot face the Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, the Members of the Opposition parties are standing in the Lobbies Please look at the Opposition Benches....*(Interruptions)* Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, no Member is sitting behind you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, because of you, the farmers are suffering today...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Where is the quorum?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. The ho. Member has raised a point of order. What are you telling?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, there is no quorum.

MR. SPEAKER: He is raising the point of order. Please take your seat.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: There is no quorum. Please give me your ruling...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Deo, what is your point of order?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: there was a Conference of Chief Ministers on Agriculture and Food Management. It was decided that 50 per cent of the procurement would be made by the State Government. Today, there are Congress Governments in nine States. It is very said that they have failed to do any procurement in these nine States. They have failed to give the right price to the farmers. They are supposed to make grain banks. Except the Government of Karnataka, no other State Government ruled by the Congress has given a State policy regarding WTO...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, the allegation levelled against the Government is baseless and has no value...*(Interruptions)* Since we have got huge stocks of foodgrains lying in the godowns, the Government is taking up the "Food for Work Programme"...*(Interruptions)* The Government is laying emphasis on improved infrastructural facilities in the rural areas. The PMGYS is there by which farmers can take the foodgrains...*(Interruptions)* We are coming up with the Agriculture Policy to mitigate the suffering of the farmers...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, we will listen to you also.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Deo, what is your point of order?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: My point of order is that the allegations which were levelled against the Government were baseless. They do not have any ground reality...(Interruptions) Sir, I repeated it several times. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise the point of order...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right, Madam.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I am absolutely right. The proceedings of the House can not continue without quorum...(Interruptions) Please give a ruling in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Renukaji, please take your seat.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I raised the issue of quorum. Please give me the ruling...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: You have walked out on farmer's issue. You cannot face of the issue. You do not have the right to speak about farmers...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Can the House be run without a quorum...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri deo, what is your point of order?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: My point of order is that today they have levelled allegations against the Government...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Under what rule are you raising the point of order?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I am raising it under Rule 376...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, generally, it is always observed that the rule is followed in this House. The issue of quorum is not raised by the Chair at any time but if any Member raises the issue of quorum, then it is found out as to whether the quorum is there in the House or not. If the quorum is not there, Sir, allow me to submit, the Chair has no option but to adjourn the House...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, give me also time after him...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I want to say something on this issue...(Interruptions) I am not under you. The Speaker has allowed me to speak...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: There is no quorum in the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

Make your speech afterwards...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I am not under you. I know your rights. You do not know where to sit in the House, and you are telling me about the rights...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Pramod Mahajan.

...(Interruptions) *

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, you may recall that it is not that rules are always important. They must be followed, no doubt about it. But we may recall that this discussion on farmers was asked by the Opposition parties...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete. He has not yet completed his speech.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Normally discussion under rule 193 is not a Government business. ...*(Interruptions)* You may recall that this discussion was scheduled only for one day. I want to bring not it to the notice of the House that the leader of Samajwadi Party, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had asked that—as he was unavailable on that day—he would like this discussion to be taken up on Monday, not even the next day. From the Government side, we did not object to it as he is a very important leader and he wants to raise the farmers' issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has not completed his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: We started this discussion. Suddenly a demand came that the Food Minister should come and reply. Unfortunately Food Minister is not in town. If they have given me sufficient notice that they wanted to hear the answer from both the Food Minister and the Agriculture Minister, we would have asked the Food Minister to be present here because it is the right of Parliament to seek the answer from the Food Minister. We do not want to hide anything. We called the Minister of State in the Ministry of Food. This is what is possible at this juncture.

Then suddenly the Opposition, which was sitting here, at the fag end of the day, for no reason walks-out and stands in the Lobby. Then, one of the members comes here and raises the Quorum issue.

I am very sorry Sir, this shows what kind of interest they have on the farmer's issue. They spoke for two days on farmer's issue and when the hon. Minister is ready to answer point by point, they are doing this. If these are the parliamentary tactics, self-discipline and decorum, which we discussed yesterday and if this is the exhibition of the Opposition Party, then God save democracy in this country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Since the Member has raised the question of quorum, the quorum Bell may be rung and nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)* *

MR. SPEAKER: The bell is being rung.

Now, there is quorum. The hon. Member, Shri D.P. Yadav may continue.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly listen to me. I am requesting your for a longtime. I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Under what rule?

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I can tell you the rule...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, sir, the issue which has been discussed today, was also discussed yesterday in the conference, an unable to understand as to how the opposition is taking the problems of the farmers. The hon'ble members of the opposition by politicising the discussion have done great harm for the farmers. Although I did not want to say this thing¹ but now I am compelled to say this.

Sir, 75-80% people of this country depend on agriculture. India is an agricultural country. Today a very important issue was being discussed but it is very unfortunate that such in important discussion was interrupted for half an hour. There is a nexus against the farmers in this country whethe it is capatalists or businessmen, they did not want to give benefits to the farmers. The officers and the administrations are involved with nexus, whether it is in respect of the recovery of loans or other matters. Today's happenings in House show that the opposition is not well wisher of the farmers. I am compelled to come to such conclusions because it is very unfortunate and shameful that the opposition has besieged the government by twisting the discussion in other direction on such an important matter. It is also very painfull that the opposition has made farmers an issue of discussion for besieging the government.

Sir, I would like to mention one thing. So far as the sanctioning of loans is concerned, the priority is given to industries in accordance with the priorities fixed by the Government and in its budget instead of farmers. The persons who are responsible for this are those who had earlier opposed this move. Choudhary Charan Singh was the 'Messiah' of the farmers. He first became Home Minister, then Finance Minister, and thereafter Deputy Prime Minister and atleast he became Prime Minister.

* Not recorded.

When he became Finance Minister he had sympathy for the farmers because he was born in a farmer's family. Choudhary Ajit Singh, who is presently holding the portfolio of Agriculture, will reply to this debate coincidentally he is the son of Choudhary Saheb. Choudhary Saheb said—"Chhoti kheti, achhi paidavar, desh maldar (cultivation on small land gives good yield and thus country becomes prosperous)". He said it is unnecessary to have big factories for the work which can be done manually. For example big factories can be set up for production of Engines and medicines but not for making small earthen bows. This policy was not farmed by the Congress party. Congress party remained in power for most of the period after independence and it has changed this policy in such a way that the farmers are facing difficulties.

I would like to say particularly to Shri Ajit Singh ji that Shri Choudhary Saheb when he was the Finance Minister, called the higher officers of the Reserve Bank of India and asked to sanction loans to the farmers for the purchase of Bullocks, cows, buffaloes, goats and poultry and to issue similar guidelines to other banks also.

Sir, R.B.I. has stated that loan can be provided to only such industries as are engaged in production. Choudhary Saheb stated that from the milk of cows, goats and Buffaloes. We get butter ghee, butter milk and curd and other milk products. That is why it is a biggest industry. We also get dung from the animals which is used in making fertilizers. This makes fields more fertile. That is why there is no bigger industry than this. Thereafter RBI issued guidelines and for the first time in 1977-1978 loans were sanctioned to the farmers during the regime of Janta Party. I want to urge Shri Ajit Singh that Choudhary Saheb exempted tobacco from excise duty when he was Prime Minister. At that time farmers used to hide their yields due to the fear of Police. He did such an important work for the benefits of the farmers. Besides, he did many more work for the benefit of the farmers.

18.37 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*)

Now the N.D.A. Government has taken up the work of Credit cards and cold storage. We are also a part of this Government. I have come to know that the number of 153 profit making schemes of the farmers has been reduced to 44. It is very unfortunate situation. Today farmers are facing most of problems. Even America feels proud by supplying PL 480 wheat to its people. It is my belief that a country can not prosper unless and until it gives importance to agriculture.

Hon'ble Prabhunath Singh ji said that farmers plant trees and produced woods. They get dung from animals. There should be subsidy on this. Not even 2% of the farmers of this country cook food on gas. Villagers cook their food by burning fire wood. That is why subsidy should be given on that. Sir, our colleague from Alwar Shri Jaswant Singh ji said that there should be a separate T.V. Channel for the programmes related to agriculture. I am also a son of farmer. There are so many categories of farmers. Some have 2 crores of land and some have less than that. Today 80% of the farmers have less than 5 acres of land. Before the rule of Britishers in India land belonged to nature but when Britishers came, they did measurement of the land and charged land revenue. The land was distributed. The pasture land of the villages were put under the settlement of the State Government. So the farmers are not going to get any training by opening the agriculture channel.

There are various types of Farmers. There are farmers having bungalows, farm houses and highly rich farmers, the farmers having plough and bullocks, landless farmers, marginal farmers and others who cultivate the land of others by taking it on contract. Whether production is going to increase by providing a T.V. channel to the rich farmers? A T.V. channel may be useful for the farmers having farm houses, but it will be not useful for the marginal farmers who produce foodgrain by their hard work.

We do not get the supply of electricity for the pumping sets. You may not be aware as how long electricity is supplied in the villages. The basic need of farmers is electricity and more attention is required to be given on this issue. If I start discussing the problems faced by the farmer it may take very long time. A manufacturers of shoes, cloths, cycle and clocks fix the price of their products themselves but 80% of the farmers, who depend on agriculture, can not fix the price of their produce. The Commission on Agriculture cost and Production fixes the price. There is not a single representative of farmers in this commission. There should be a representative from the farmer's community. Until there is a representative from farmers, how can the officials of the commission know their real conditions? Only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches." The Government machinery is responsible for such condition of the farmers. Banks have been opened for giving loans to the farmer. Rural Development Bank issues notices to the farmers in case of non-repayment of loans they are sent to jails. For example I want to give an instance. The loan amount is forcibly recovered from the defaulter farmers by sending them to jails. But I want to tell about the number of the non-performing Assets.

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

It was 69750 crore rupees in the year 2000-2001. It does not include figures of 6-7 months. I am only giving figures of the year 2000-2001. I am placing all the figures of State Bank of Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Bikaner, State Bank of Indore, State Bank of Mysore, Allahabad Bank, Andhra Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra Canara Bank. I would like that these figures may be seen. What is the Government doing for recovery of NPA. On the one hand the farmer is arrested for not repaying a loan, but on the other hand nothing is done for recovery of such a huge amount of money.

Now, I would like to talk about black money. In the year 2000-2001, the black money was to the tune of rupees 1151999 crore. If we calculate it at the rate of 20% G.D.P. it comes to rupees 2,15000 crore. Who own such a huge sum of money? Why are those people not arrested and action taken against them? The investment in agriculture is gradually decreasing. I do not want to give figures about it as it will take time. I am placing those figures on the table. Agriculture sector is being neglected since the year 1998-1999. Now you are going to impose taxes on the farmers. A tax of 10 rupees is being levied on the bullock-cart of farmers and there are four crore bullock-carts. Even though I do not have full assessment about the number of bullock-carts according to the latest survey their number is more than four crores and a tax of ten rupees is being levied on each of them. An annual tax of 15 rupees is levied on a bicycle which is owned by a farmer's family. Market tax is levied on the movement of foodgrains...*(Interruptions)* I hope that you will give me an opportunity for highlighting the problems of the farmers.

Bazaar Samiti controls the movement of foodgrains and irrigation charges are three times. Fertilizers and seeds are becoming costlier day by day. There are taxes on education, health and roads. The farmer has to pay tax of rupees 2400 on tractor's engine and rupees 100 on the trolley. In which direction the country is going? The farmer have to pay heavy taxes. Electricity charges are separate. I demand that the money of the villages should be left there to used for their own development. I do not hope that the government will start big programmes for their development. The Gram Panchayats should be entrusted with the work of levying taxes in their area so that development works like irrigation, roads, schools can be undertaken and the exploitation of farmers can be checked.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to give an example of exploitation of farmers. The farmers of the village produce milk which is sent in towns so that urban people remain healthy by taking milk but in turn the towns give wine to the villages. Various milk products like khoya, butter and ghee are sent to towns by villages but in turn the village folk get addictive substances like guthkha, Skhikher sinkha, talabs raja khaini tiranga and other harmful tobacco products. I am not against towns but towns can be alive only by having an equilibrium with the villages. I would like to give an example of a ten year old boy who died of blood cancer. Pouches of shikhar sinkha were found from his pocket as he used to consume 6 pouches of shikhar sinkha daily.

To conclude, I would like to say that Ministerial Conference of World Trade Organization was held in Doha. The opposition told a lot about it but the GATT agreement was signed by them between 1991 to 1994. I would like to tell about the consequences of that agreement. Among the third world countries India was requested to reduce domestic support on agriculture so that their agriculture produce can be easily sold in this country. India was asked that the prices of wheat and paddy which are rupees 610 and rupees 530 per quintal be reduced to rupees 300 per quintal. Is it not the way of killing the farmers? Is it not the issue of self-respect of the country? Whether the country will be benefited, when the monopoly of seeds will rest with foreign countries? Therefore, I would like to say that a Joint Parliamentary Committee should be constituted which would give its report and suggest in it how the economic condition of the farmer and traditional cultivation can be improved. The farmers can get benefits only if the government takes positive steps on the basis of the report of the proposed committee.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would not take more than one minute.

The supreme institution of the country is guided in its functioning both by rules and traditions. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has alleged that the opposition always interrupts and it does not listen to the views of the government. We have been watching this for the last two years and we want to say that the ruling side and the opposition both have equal responsibility. The opposition has made some demands regarding the problems of farmers. Not only opposition but the members of treasury benches and constituent parties of N.D.A.

including Bhartiya Janta Party also criticised the government for the pitiable condition of the farmers...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak on the subject and not on other matters.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: The ruling side is not paying attention to the plight of farmers and they are exploiting farmers for the last two years. If the condition does not improve, we will come out on the roads...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this? I think, you have not attended the Seminar on discipline and decorum held yesterday.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: The farmers are being exploited in the states for the last two years. How can we remain silent? It is the responsibility of the ruling party to run the House. The tenure of Bhartiya Janta Party rule will be written in black letters in the pages of history...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*) *

[*Translation*]

*SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER (Serampore): Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in this important discussion on the plight of farmers in the country.

Today, the peasants in India are passing through troubled time. They are neglected, suppressed and oppressed. 80% of the people in India depend on agriculture. We know that India is an agrarian country. Agriculture plays an important role here. We have been discussing the plight of the farmers since two days in this august House. This discussion has been going on in the supreme legislative body in the country that is

Parliament. But I am surprised that even though such an important issue is being discussed, we find that the main opposition party instead of discussing such an important issue has taken some plea of rule and have disturbed the proceedings and have walked out. It is indeed astonishing that the main opposition party did not hesitate to waste the time of the House with this type of pretext. I feel the main opposition party seems to be busy to attend the dinner hosted by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. The time of the dinner happens to start at 6 o'clock so they are more interested in attending the dinner than discussing the plight and problem faced by the farmers. It is indeed regrettable that the staggering problem of the farmers has been treated in such a manner.

[*English*]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, he should speak on the subject and not make all those allegations.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Today there was a news in the newspaper that Shri Somnath Chatterjee has offered an invitation to Smt. Sonia Gandhi...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All Members here are honourable and responsible. They know on what subject they should direct their minds.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Sir, I come from the family of farmers in West Bengal. I know what the farmers have to face for their survival. Sir, we have to go deep and find out the causes responsible for the plight and problem of the peasant folk. If we fail to do that the life of the farmers will be shattered. If the condition of the farmers further deteriorates, then life of 20% of the urban population will also suffer and be disturbed. I come from a peasant's family in West Bengal. I do not have electricity in my home. If you want to ameliorate the life of the farmers in West Bengal or of any farmer anywhere in the country, you have to provide them electricity, drinking water and basic things for survival. Electrification is must for every village in the country. To provide electricity, we need infrastructure. We need broad-based infrastructure for the development of our villages. This can be achieved by proper developed *panchayat raj*. The roads have to be constructed, supply of water is to be ensured through tube wells and deep wells. If we can't provide these basic amenities by having an efficient system of infrastructure, agriculture cannot develop. 54 years have passed after independence. Now people are going to the moon and today we are

* English translation of the speech Originally delivered in Bengali.

* English translation of the speech Originally delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Akbar Ali Khandokar]

discussing about the problems and plight of our farmers. It is a matter of regret that even after 54 years of our independence the condition of farmers in India has remained *status quo*. They have remained what they were even before independence. The condition of small farmers, marginal farmers is very grim and serious. If we can't take any effective step to improve their life, then the whole system will be jeopardised. Mr. Basu Deb Acharia was mentioned many things about the farmers. I feel the CPM forget West Bengal by the time they travel from Calcutta to Asansol. When they reach Delhi they do not remain CPM but turn Congress. CPM has ruled West Bengal for more than 26 years. The greatest damage they have done in their 26 years' rule is the damage to the poor farming community. That is why the struggle against them, their rule is continuing in the State. Today the Government led by our able Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has taken some corrective measures to ameliorate the life of the farmers. They have adopted some policy also so that the problem of the farmers can be solved. Sir, it is very strange that Kissan Credit Card has not been introduced in West Bengal so far. We do not know the reason why it has not been introduced so far. An industry worker is entitled for gratuity, PF, pension and other facilities but the peasant who is working for 24 hours is deprived of such facilities when he cannot work at all. What facilities he will get at the end of his life. The Agriculture Minister must think about it. So if somebody works in industry he is saved. Today both the Centre and States have been opting for industrial growth. Today there is an urge, a trend for rapid industrialization in West Bengal. For this trend the farmers are losing their agricultural land. When they lose their agricultural land they cannot till the land. But they cannot get any job in factory or industry and ultimately they cannot feed themselves and their families. The net result is death due to starvation. We come across reports in newspapers, so many suicidal deaths by farmers. Whether in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala, West Bengal or anywhere in India, the farmers are dying because of non-availability of food. Hooghly District in West Bengal is first among all the country in Asia for potato production. It is the biggest producer of potato in this part of the continent. When there is bumper production the farmers do not get remunerative price. The middlemen is getting all the benefit by depriving the potato farmers their due share. But the State Government has failed to take any effective measure to scuttle the role played by middlemen. Thus because of their wrong policy the farmers are suffering. They are at the receiving end. We have got the gas contact. What is the result of this gas contact? What benefit the farmers have got? We are just providing lip service to their plight. Today the farmers have remained in the same condition they were 53 years back.

We have expenditure under so many heads. We have so many welfare programmes in different fields. But the percentage of improvement for the farmers has not increased at all. Why it is so? We have to think deeply about it.

Mr. Chairman Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of our hon'ble Agriculture Minister towards the measures to be adopted for the improvement of the plight of the farmers. We have Farakka Water Agreement with Bangladesh. But as a result of that agreement, the farmers in West Bengal are suffering. We must have a review of that agreement. Otherwise, the farmers of Bengal will die, they cannot survive.

The farmers of Bengal will die, they cannot survive. There is scarcity of water these days. I myself write letters to offices but in vain. I have written several times for providing water to the farmers for irrigation. How can a farmer increase production if there is no water, no fertiliser, no pesticides. In Bengal today the farmer has gone below the poverty line. The work required to be done to uplift the farmers living below the poverty line in Bengal is not satisfactory, who is responsible for that?

19.00 hrs.

The people living below poverty line have not been identified so far. Crop insurance scheme has been introduced in all the States except Bengal. What about that? This must be implemented. Whatever will be done in Kerala that must be done in Bengal, U.P., Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. The entire India is one. This is my slogan, everybody's slogan that India is ours, Hindustan is ours, then why one thing applies to Bengal's farmers and another for Bihar's farmers. FCI procures rice in Bihar but not in Bengal. The Jute Corporation procures partly but FCI does not procure rice. What will happen then? This affects the farmers. Gradually the farmers of the whole country will die. They will be compelled to commit suicide. Let's see the earlier datas, how many farmers committed suicide during a period of ten years. This farmers are seriously concerned about the things that happened in WTO. There should be a good policy for farmers. There is a news item in today's newspaper about the labour office that there should be a meeting of the Chief Minister, Leader of Opposition and others of every state to unite the farmers. At present Taichun variety of paddy is being supplied from China. It is sold at the cheapest rate i.e. Rs. 3 or 4 per kg. The rice of Bengal was earlier supplied to Bangladesh owing to which the Bengal farmers used to earn more money but today Bengal is not exporting rice to Bangladesh. We should support farmers today. But the opposition has played a new game today and such type of games they generally plan daily...*(Interruptions)* They have played a great game

today followed by good meals. They have managed to go to Somnathji's resident on the pretext that there is no quorum in the House. If the concerned Minister is not present in the House, then who should be entrusted with this job. Mr. Speaker, should have told the Minister concerned to be present. But they want election every year otherwise work will be done and the country will be ruined. Presently they have to break the NDA so they are meeting. We would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture to go to Bengal and see the plight of farmers...*(Interruptions)* No water, no power, no fertiliser is available to the farmers. My leader is Mamata Banerjee, please come.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, farmers in the country are in a very pitiable condition today. India is primarily an agricultural country. Former Prime Minister Choudhary Charan Singhji had once said that the path of India's prosperity passes through villages and fields. I am very glad that his son is our Minister of Agriculture. He will certainly make a policy and do something for the farmers. Even today, about 75 per cent people of India live in villages and about 65 per cent of them depend on agriculture. When we got independence in 1947, the per capita land holding was 1.2 hectare and after 40 years, when a survey was conducted in 1990, it reduced to only 0.2 hectare. Moreover, people are migrating to towns and majority of them are artisans. This is also hampering developmental work. According to the datas of the previous 30 years from 1960 to 1990, about 50 per cent growth in population has been due to migration from rural areas.

Besides, there is acute unemployment today. In 1990, the number of farmers and unemployed labourers was about 230 lakh which has increased to about 940 lakh in 2000. Out of these unemployed people 70 per cent are associated with agriculture. The electricity and water situation is quite bad, somewhere there is scarcity of electricity and somewhere there is scarcity of water. I tell you of my own constituency which has witnessed 40 famines in the last 52 years. At some places, the ground water level has gone very low; tube wells are there but in the absence of electricity many people have not been able to cultivate their land at some places for the last two years because only one third of the total requirement of electricity is generated by the Rajasthan Government itself and the rest is taken from outside. At the centre there is a Government of other party so it is a victim of Central Government's discrimination thus rendering the Rajasthan farmers helpless. The condition of agricultural markets is very pitiable, cooperatives have become weak and the Banks, as we have been told, are not willing to grant loans to them. As a result of that the RBI targets are not being met with regard to farmers specially small farmers.

The second main problem of the farmers relates to the rates being given to them for their produce. You are aware that the farmers are hard pressed, they are not getting remunerative prices. In my constituency, there is a variety of mustard called 'Raida' whose price was Rs. 2000/- per quintal two years ago, but today nobody is ready to buy it even for Rs. 700/- per quintal. 'Guargum' was sold at Rs. 2500/- per quintal but today nobody is ready to buy it for Rs. 800/- per quintal. Black Pepper rates have slashed to mere 25 per cent. The Coconut, which was sold for Rs.6-7 is not being sold today even for Rs. 2/-. All of you know about the condition of rubber also. When you took over from the Congress in 1996, the rate of diesel was Rs. 6.50 or 7 per litre today within four years, you have hiked it to Rs. 18-19 per litre, you have trebled it. Where will the farmer go? He is not getting proper price of his produce and you are increasing the rates. This is happening due to your policies. The rates of milk have come down, dairies have closed. The condition of fruits or vegetables is quiet grim. Recently, our Prime Minister visited Himachal Pradesh where BJP is in power. The people there burnt apples before the Prime Minister as a protest. In such circumstances, the farmers of India is finding no way out, and are committing suicide. They are being starved to death. 40 years ago, in 1960 foodgrain was imported, PL 480 from USA, now they claim that 60-70 million tonnes of foodgrain are there in our godowns. On one hand foodgrains are eaten up by the mice or on the other hand the farmers are starving. All this is because there is no coordination. Your policy is not right. I have no regret in saying that this Government pays more attention to traders than the farmers. Our colleagues have just told what happened in the WTO in-so-far-as our import policy is concerned. The Minister had made a statement there. In his statement he said as to what he had done in this regard, but if we go in details, we will find that he has signed it under the influence of capitalist and developed nations. This will worsen the farmers' plight in the times to come.

So far as export is concerned, the goods of some of the farmers which are exported do not fetch their actual price which they are supposed to get. The middlemen are flourishing in it. I have a suggestion for the hon. Minister that he should increase import duty, levy tax or regulate tariff on the import items and exports should be done through 'NAFED' and not through middlemen. My colleagues were saying that there is difference between the samples and the goods that we export. This affects the credibility of the entire country.

I want to speak about minimum support price also. Rajasthan has witnessed much discrimination in this regard. Rajasthan produced 27 lakh quintals of Bajra. The Government declared its support price at Rs. 485

[Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary]

per quintal toward the end of September upto which time Bajra was selling at Rs. 280/- to Rs. 300/- per quintal, which meant a loss of approximately 400 crores rupees to farmers, because the minimum support price was declared belatedly. It is correct that Congress is in power there, but the Government at the centre given a lesson by the farmers of Punjab and U.P. The Government gives a subsidy of Rs. 22,000 on fertilizers. But this is not given to farmers directly. I request that this subsidy should be given to farmers directly. Besides it, they should be provided with improved tractors, seeds etc.

Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat has been Chief Minister of Rajasthan. He has submitted a report on farmers to the centre, which was discussed in their National Working Committee meeting at Amritsar. He has mentioned that the condition of farmers is very miserable which needs to be improved. If you do not agree with us, please agree with his view and implement it.

I want to tell a few things about my region. In my constituency Jaisalmer and Badmer are biggest deserts. Famines occur frequently there. There are wastelands and Congress Government had submitted a proposal to the centre to constitute a board for wastelands but is lying in cold storage here. There is acute problem of water. Even today people fetch water from a distance of 15-20 Kms. Funds from the centre for the Indira Gandhi Canal Project which was launched by Jawahar Lal Nehruji have been stopped for the last two years. So the work on it has been stopped. On the same account the business of animal husbandry is also suffering there. To help people overcome all these problems, central financial assistance needs to be provided to them. Despite announcement by the Prime Minister in this regard money is not being released to them. The money which was being received under D.D.P. and other programmes has been stopped by a Minister here. There should not be such a partiality. Proper policy in regard to farmers should be framed for their well being. It will also benefit Shri Ajit Singh himself because he will be credited in history for having really done something for the farmers.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury to speak.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, before she speaks, I think she should thank the Treasury Benches for having provided quorum in the House.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, he has to thank himself because public will, at least, believe that they have some interest in farmers.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Do you not have any responsibility to provide quorum in the House?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): Sir, I thank you for permitting me to speak. I want to draw the attention of this House to the specific issues. All of us have discusses issues relating to procurement price, etc. The main and the thrust issue is that we need to have crop planning. This year it was the turn of Assam. East Bihar and North Bihar are water rich. But we have unplanned crop patterns, as a result of which, we in India have plenty but we have glut productions because small and medium farmers flock to, where you have given Minimum Support Price. If, as a policy, you evolve MSP in isolation without seeing the macro-level implications of this, we will be wrestling with this issue for the rest of our life.

Minimum Support Price is to be given in the necessary areas provided you have applied your mind on crop patterns. Dry-land agriculture has been coming down in percentages all over the country as a result of which farmers are clueless. They do not know what to grow where. Small and medium farmers have no other knowledge transfer being given to them.

While we are at crop pattern, I want the Government to apply its mind. At one time India almost became self-sufficient in Yellow Revolution. We spoke of a Yellow Revolution for oil seed production. We had almost an independent stand on it. Today where has that Yellow Revolution gone? India has been spending precious foreign-exchange on imported edible oils. At the same time, ironically you have glut production of oilseeds. Wherever you have given MSP, you have wrongfully harmed the interests of farmers because you have not applied your mind.

Governments unfortunately think of farmers when there are elections, when there is *sukha* or when there is *bhar*. They rush in. FCI must stop behaving like a first-aid organisation, like we did in Latur when there was the worst earthquake. FCI is an organisation that should have some autonomy and some plan for progress in the future. Sops given to allied governments only render the FCI helpless. These are the realities.

We have to look at the banking aspects also. Small and medium farmers sell straight after a crop because

firstly they do not have place in their homes to stock their produce; secondly they do not have money to put it in a godown and save it; and thirdly farmers do not have access to technologies that can increase the shelf-life of their produce. Post harvesting technologies and post harvesting requirements are the need of the hour particularly when we are heading towards progress and development.

We talk about trans-genetic seeds, we talk about pisciculture and we talk about bio-technologies. If you do not have post harvesting technologies available to the farmers, then distress selling continues. We have BARC in Mumbai which has irradiation technologies. Irradiation is not to be confused with trans-genetic crops or with genetically modified crops. Irradiation does not alter the seed, does not affect the taste and does not have any ill-health effects. Nations like Israel have been using irradiation technologies for the past ten to fifteen years and it is considered a value-added product. The display on all their sea-food, natural food and grains that this is irradiated food. If you have irradiation technique, it will cost only about three to four crores of rupees. If you have an irradiation centre in each one of your districts, then farmers would expose it to their produce. Then there will be no sprouting of potatoes and onions and the shelf-life of all your pulses also increases. It will help the farmer not to sell his produce under distress.

While we are simultaneously examining this, we also need to understand the farmers' requirements. Their need is that as soon as they have cultivated a crop, they need cash flow. When they harvest a crop, they need cash flow. Banks are unimaginative. We have banks which are stuck in the mud, which are not creative enough and which do not lend to farmers. You can see this in the percentages that they have been lending into the farmers and understand what kind of lending has been done. Gramin and Rural Banks must hire godowns as part of the package they give to farmers and help the farmers store their produce there. They can give them a soft cash loan immediately as a post harvest bridge, as a bridge loan, until such time that they can command a better price in the market and do not resort to distress sale. Similarly, in remote and rural areas farmers have to spend their money, come to the district headquarters and keep visiting the bank for their loans.

As regards small savings amongst landless labourers and those people who are dependent on farmers are the people who wait there and their money was burnt down in a fire of their huts because there was no banking facility accessible to them. Sir, through you, I would request the Minister that banking should now become a mobile banking unit in rural areas and remote areas so

that, as per the calendar, you can send a mobile bank into the villages and people can do small savings and farmers can have access to soft and medium-sized loans without being harassed and without coming to centres.

The single crucial requirement that is needed today for farmers is market. Our market yards are a disgrace. They are only advertisements for corruption that happens in our system. My poor farmers have to go and sit in the market yard in one corner and after they have paid for transport, they cannot afford to transport their produce anywhere else. They are stuck there with their produce. Middlemen exploit them and in the same market yard compound, from one corner to the other corner, the price has been doubled and people exploit the farmers as such. These are the realistic situations that we are facing and if they are to be any interventions made, it has to be here. With the advent of biotechnology, Gujarat has almost 10 crore produce of BT cotton today. And we are saying to burn it. Based on what knowledge are you saying that you burn the Bt cotton? It is because the pesticide lobbies do not have to sell pesticides anymore if transgenic crops come like this which are pest resistive. And these lobbies came into our market and told us that, after the 11th September, we are not able to get the pesticide called *avant* from United States. But it was accessible to us in the black market at double the rate in Khammam constituency, my parliamentary segment. We had conducted raids and we recovered *avant* which was supposed to specifically deliver the required quantities for my farmers. So, you have to look closely at pesticides' companies which are going to come into our country and talk about biotechnology pesticides. There is no incentive given to our farmers for organic farming. We have given no incentive for farmers to be cultivators and conservers of seeds. We have given no imagination to our farmers who have to use environmentally safe activities because bio feminism and ecofeminism are women-related subjects. To be inherently holistic, we have to apply our mind to keep the nature at balance. It is because we have understood what Francis Bacon said about industrialisation and how we must force the earth to yield her treasure even if it is necessary by force. Today, there is a holistic approach, world over, where people have realised that we have to treat nature with care and inherently, as a culture, as a nation and as a people, we are people who have cared for nature. Our religious strategies are based on scientific cultural practices. They are turned into religious practices so that we use them and we are forced to practice them. It is to conserve this farming in India which is revolutionary. As late as 1984 or 1986, our farmers, even with their illiteracy and poverty levels embraced science and technology, and we have revolutionary farming taking place. Kulu-Manali Seed Centre has introduced brilliant colours in our gladioli for

[Shrimati Renuka Choudhary]

floriculture which is only the tip of the iceberg and my largest concern today is that, even as we look at very seriously at floriculture, we looked at Pepsi who promised us an agricultural revolution in Punjab and said that they will give us potatoes which none of us have seen. It is all gone. We have only Pepsi revolution. There is no other agricultural revolution. The Government is not questioning these companies which have come in under the guise of farmers' helpers. They have not done it... *(Interruptions)* There are no statistics in our country about crop planning and which State has what natural reserves and how we should use it. We have no statistics on the shift in crop planning where farmers have switched over to cash crops versus food crops. There is a shift in that because when we bring in new technologies, the farmers embrace them. But nobody thinks about it. I have a Jasmine growth in my constituency with no distillation plant. We have introduced pisciculture and scampi culture which have given glut production resulting in salination of soil as a result of which the same water which went into one farm was carrying it down and the virus spread and hundreds and thousands of farmers suffered.

Today we have the virus resistant scamp culture that has been introduced to the country. Due to mad cow disease and other such scares people are finding more and more alternatives. They are aware that it controls cholesterol. There is a health awareness. People are generally turning towards sea food with all these scares world over. India is poised to take that quantum leap tomorrow holding both hands, one with tradition and the other with modernity. If the Government turns a deaf ear or if you give your tokenism, that the discuss this issue in Parliament and after the debate if nothing comes of it, then it is indeed a sad statement and that would reflect in the next election. When Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru died, he gave a right message to the country. He said, when I die my ashes will be scattered on the fields of the farmers so that I can always help them.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall be very short. With the advent of WTO and other world agreements, farmers have been put into great difficulty. Now, we know that there are loopholes in the agreements which should be taken advantage of. The farmers should be made to take advantage of the loopholes to get out of the difficult situation.

One thing is lacking in the Government machinery. We have a Political Affairs Committee, Economic Affairs Committee etc. But I do not know whether we have Agriculture Affairs Committee. If there is no such Committee, I would suggest that an Agriculture Affairs Committee should be formed, which should include

Minister of Commerce, Minister of Food, Minister of Irrigation, Minister of Finance and other important Ministers. It may be called a Consortium or a Committee or any other name. It should be taken up by the Government immediately.

The price of all the commodities have come down, but the cost of production has gone steeply high. As far as Kerala is concerned, there is a fall in the prices of coconut, areca nut, rubber, pepper, coffee, tea which has put the farmers in a difficult position. The price of rubber was Rs. 69 come four or five years ago, now its price has come down to Rs. 28 and the cost of production has gone up by two times. The price of copra has come down from Rs. 48 to Rs. 18. The price of pepper has come down from Rs. 240 to Rs. 67. I do not know which Ministry is dealing with areca nut. Its price has come down from Rs. 165 to as low as Rs. 28. It has come down by six times. The price of coconut has come down from Rs. 6 to Rs. 2, but the cost of production has gone up by twice or thrice during the last five years. I would suggest that something has to be done in this regard. To save coconut growers, you must start coconut complexes. Now, the leading farmers are rallying behind an Organisation called INFORM. They have suggested that they will do it themselves. If some technical and financial aid is given, they say that they are prepared to start some coconut complexes in Kerala and in other places.

They are prepared to start some coconut complexes in Kerala and also in other parts. For coffee also, they have suggested it. For pepper, in Wynad district, they have suggested that they would take up if they were given the proper aid. There are schemes. But we are not getting them. For example, in the case of coconut, there is a scheme which is on paper saying that with one coconut, 56 industries can be made to run. The Coconut Development Board has got a scheme to give aid to 56 industries from one coconut itself leave alone the tree. So, we must encourage that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Thomas, will you conclude?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, due to paucity of time, I cannot go into the details. I know that the hon. Minister is also in a hurry. So, I think the hon. Speaker as well as the hon Chairman for giving me this opportunity.

I urge upon the hon. Minister to give a reply with regard to the WTO as well as the Committee which I have suggested.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshetra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for inviting me to participate

in the ongoing Discussion Under Rule 193 on the problems of farmers. Today, farmers are committing suicide in different states and are leaving the agricultural sector considering it a loss making activity which is a matter of grave concern for an agrarian country like India.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there has been a 40% decline in agriculture produce in recent times. The prices of agricultural inputs like fertilizers, diesel, electricity, water and pesticides have been skyrocketing these days while the percentage of rate of support price has fallen much below the minimum price. It will take long time if I start referring to the farmer's problems state-wise. All Governments since independence till date have been responsible for the tragic step of committing suicides resorted to by farmers.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): You are telling a lie... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take two minutes. The Chair has protected the interest of the Lady Member.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: Schemes pending for years now like SYL link canal, Sardar Sarovar Dam, Panipat Refinery, Dadipur Canal, Yamuna Nagar Thermal Power Plants and many other such projects which have converted from five year plans to fifty year plans and have miserably landed themselves in the cobweb of bureaucracy, should be completed by all means. Monsoon water should be stopped by building dams on rain-fed rivers, which will help save crops from destructions by floods on the one hand monsoon water could be used for irrigation and water level will also rise. Thus, the motors running on 25-30 horse power will then run on 7-8 horse power. This will ensure cheaper and more electricity to farmers. Unemployed people will get employment if such projects are completed. If the rain waters of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab could be stopped by building dams on rain-fed rivers, it can quench the thirst of whole of Bihar, U.P. and Rajasthan, provided these projects are completed with a strong determination. This will result in increase purchasing power of the farmers, industrial goods will have a market, industries will not fail, we will get freedom from the clutches of foreign companies as our industry is agro-based, large scale agricultural projects should be completed even by taking the risk of capital investment because there is immediate production gain. The money invested does return alongwith interest after all this

exercise is done but to do so we will have to ponder over agricultural policy with strong determination. We will have to exploit all our hydropower resources. At some places there is destruction due to floods and at other places it is due to drought and to get rid of it we will have to make a National Grid of Water. A thorough change will have to be brought about in the agricultural policy running on old pattern. Agriculture will have to be given the status of an industry. Crop Insurance Scheme will have to be implemented under which the farmers will get back the input cost and selling price at full rates. Modernisation of the markets will have to be done because we have seen in U.P. and other states that in its absence food grains of the farmers get rotten on the streets and they cannot find a buyer. Two crore farmers will get Kisan Credit Cards and Eighteen crore farmers are yet to benefit from it. These should be provided to all the farmers. Water should be provided to all the corners covered by the canals. We have to compete with WTO today. We will have to make the farmer's produce worth entering the international bazar by bringing down the cost and stepping up high-quality production. Maximum subsidy will have to be provided on fertilizers. Barren lands will have to be made fertile for agriculture. A national Farmers Relief Policy will have to be implemented to deal with the natural disasters because farmers have made India self-reliant in the field of foodgrains. We have stopped begging for food grains from abroad. Our farmers have belied all the propositions of the economist who used to say that India will not be able to feed its increasing population. Today, India has enough buffer-stocks of food grains for four years. Food grain for work scheme should be implemented. It has not been implemented properly. Even the Government has declared that. The warehouses have 305 food grains from Haryana because Mr. Chautala, who is our Chief Minister, enabled farmers to create a new record by providing electricity and water round the clock and by giving highest rate for their crops. He also streamlined the distribution system because the middlemen used to become rich by procuring the farmers' produce at cheaper rates and by hoarding it, thereby creating artificial shortage and then selling them at higher rates due to which both the farmers and the consumers had to suffer. This problem can be solved by implementing a special Agricultural Policy at the national level and only then the farmer can be prevented from taking such extreme steps like suicide.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank all the hon. Members, even those who have walked out at the wrong time, for participating in this debate and the agriculture scenario in the country.

[Shri Ajit Singh]

Most of the Members are intimately connected with farming. So, they know the reality. Whatever suggestions they have made and whatever comments they have made, they are welcome. I can assure you that the Government is fully cognisant of the problems, farmers are facing. This problem transcends Agriculture Ministry. I can understand that many Members raised issues which concerns the Ministry of Food, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Fertilizers. Sixty-five per cent of our people still live in villages. They are connected with farming. The problems they face are not concerned with just this Ministry but the whole Government. I would go beyond that. Today, farmers are facing issues and challenges. All the parties are forgetting as to who signed the WTO and as to what happened in the last 50 years. We are facing very severe challenges today...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Is there any arrangement for coordination of various Ministries connected with agriculture?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : I will come to the point raised by you later.

I wish that the parties have not tried to politicise the issue. Instead the gravity with which the debate was going on, that spirit should have been maintained.

I am very thankful to our dynamic hon. colleague from Andhra Pradesh. She was the driving force behind the walkout. She gave a very passionate speech on many issues that are dear to my heart, like biotechnology and problems faced by the farmers. So, I am thankful to all the Members who spoke, those who did not speak, those who walked out and those who came back because, as I said, we are facing very severe problems. The only good thing is that now the severity of the problem has been realised. All sections of the society—all the movers and shakers of our country, whether the media, whether the industrialists, whether the politicians of all hues—have realized that the farmers are the backbone of our economy. So, all of us really have to come with good suggestions and buckle up because we have no option. Unless we do something in the next couple of years, we are going to be in very big trouble.

At the outset, I would like to emphasise the remarkable progress in agriculture that our country has made. The annual rate of growth in the first 50 years of this century was 0.3 per cent while in the next 50 years, it grew to 2.7 per cent. Not only we got out of the dependence on imports and became self-sufficient, but we are also in a position to export much of our agricultural produce today. The momentum of that Green Revolution has now slackened. But it is important to note that in the

Eighth Plan, the average production of foodgrains was 187 million tonnes. In the Ninth Plan, it is expected to be 205 million tonnes. So, after the production losses of the last year—in the recent Kharif—we expect to reach a record production level of 105.5 million tonnes. As I said, it is a record production. We have never achieved at this level in the *Kharif* production.

Given the good prospects for the rabi crop, it is estimated that the total production this year will reach an unprecedented level of 210 million tonnes. In fact, the overall growth in the agricultural sector, which includes fishery, poultry and animal husbandry, is expected to be of the order of seven per cent. That means, more than two per cent of our GDP growth will come from the agricultural sector.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: How much from floriculture?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Agriculture accounts for about 24 per cent of the GDP.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I am talking about floriculture.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Floriculture is a part of it. As I said, it is a very small part of it. But horticulture and floriculture are growing at much faster rate than the traditional agriculture and so are fishery and animal husbandry.

Although we have reached self-sufficiency in foodgrains at the macro level, yet the food security is not there at every household level. The mountains of foodgrains that we have accumulated today do not hide the fact that a very large percentage of our people still go to sleep hungry. Our Government is extremely concerned about this anomaly. We will work towards an equitable scenario that will provide multiple livelihood opportunities and unemployment to the rural population and enhance the quality of life.

Admittedly, the agriculture sector, as I said, faces several challenges today. Seventy-eight per cent of the holdings in the country are small and marginal. These are getting further fragmented due to population pressure. The timely availability of good quality seeds, planting material, good quality fertilisers and plant protecting chemicals and adequate credit on reasonable terms are issues that confront all the State Governments. In fact, there are new challenges that we are facing. We have to increase the productivity. The means, we need new technology and new seeds. The marketing is going to be a big problem. As everybody knows and talking about, with the mountains of foodgrains, we do need diversification. But it needs a lot of resources. Just by

saying that floriculture is very remunerative or horticulture is very remunerative it is not easy to ask a farmer to shift from his traditional crops to a new crop.

What guarantee can we give him in the new crop he will get remunerative prices, especially in horticulture and floriculture? What is most important is the physical infrastructure, the refrigerated trucks, the godowns, and the roads and then very important thing is the knowledge infrastructure, like floriculture, which Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury is very fond of. I believe, she has Jasmine in her home garden.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOUDHURY: No, I have Chrysanth and Gerbera beauty.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: The marketing is controlled from Holland. So, how does she pay a farmer? She can ask him to grow flowers here and expect him to market them. These are the big issues. The Government is aware of these issues.

As I have been saying all along, many times I have said the challenge is as the holdings are getting smaller, we have to raise productivity, that means new technology and the problem of providing input and output. Marketing the out put is the challenge. There are only two ways...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOUWDHURY: I am not challenging. I want to ask him...*(Interruptions)* Do we have statistics to shift from cash crop to food crop?...*(Interruptions)*

MR CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Chowdhury, why do you not get the prior permission before getting up?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I am not challenging him. I am asking him...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH: This debate or my answer is to the end of the problem and information. Any information that she needs, she can always ask, she always has a right at individual level, party level. So, there is no need to get worked up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: She is very touchy. What is this?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: The statistics that she is asking are not readily available with me, but if she needs them I can make them available to her...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: We support and extend a lot of thanks to you. I want to ask only one question ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. What for the Chair is here?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I am not allowing. Hon. Minister, you need not answer this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a Question Hour. No, please. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)* *

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the way. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, you please look at the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in response to the Question raised by the hon. Member that who will reply, who is sitting here and whether or not the Quorum is there or not, I would like to say that the leaders and Member of his party vanished one by one after delivering the speech. Only to show that they are the well Wishers of the farmers.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, if they are concerned with the plight of the farmers, let us not make it a frivolous debate. We have listened to all the views, we will not be able to answer all the queries that they have raised. But as I said, all the statistics that they have asked, can be made available to them. We are here. We are not going away in a hurry. They should not worry about Shri Somnath Chatterjee's party or not, we are not going in a hurry. Therefore, we are here to answer any queries they have now or they may have later...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody should speak, except the hon. Minister.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Let us admit it, on many issues, we all agree. Speeches from this side of the House or

* Not recorded.

[Shri Ajit Singh]

form that side of the House, on most of the issues, there have been no problems. FCI has problems, everybody knows it. Procurement is becoming a problem. Regarding WTO, the whole House and all parties are aware. Let us debate them, let us come up with suggestions so that something can be done.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The hon. Minister should give us mobile banking!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, he is not yielding.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: One mobile thing has created a lot of problems in the House, so please keep mobile banking away from here.

We have initiated a series of measures to address the problems that confront the agricultural sector. In order to promote a regional differentiated approach in agricultural development and to exploit the potential, particularly, of backward regions, the Technology Mission for the Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North-East region has been launched. An ambitious scheme for on farm water management for increasing crop production in Eastern India is proposed.

These schemes will tap the enormous potential of these regions to effect quantum increases in production and thereby the farmer's income. The recently launched macro management scheme gives States a flexibility to identify and implemented programmes as per local priorities. This approach has been welcomed by all State governments and Rs. 850 crore has been budgeted for macro management this year.

The National Watershed Development Programme for rainfed areas has resulted an increase in arable areas. Unlike some Members said that the rainfed areas and the arable land has come down, it has increased two million hectares of arable land during the Ninth Plan through a holistic approach based on community participation and ownership.

This programme will bring about productivity increases in marginal land and will benefit some of the poorest farmers in the country. The Watershed Development Fund with a corpus of Rs. 200 crore has also been created.

Another vital problem that the farmers face is credit, and any of the suicides that have happened over the last so many years are because of the credit problems that the farmers face. One failure of the crop, one problem in marketing the kind of loans they have taken and the kind of interest rates at which they have taken force the

farmers to commit suicides. So, we are aware of this. This year, the farm credit is likely to cross Rs. 60,000 crore.

The Kisan Credit Card Scheme is gaining popularity and around two crores are benefited from this programme. It is proposed to extend the personal insurance package to cardholders covering them against risk to life and limb. In order to extend the availability of credit, NABARD is making special efforts to promote self-help groups, which have proved popular and effective.

The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme has now been adopted by 20 States. Incidentally, the Members from Punjab and Haryana have raised the cotton problem. Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan, where the cotton crop has failed this year, have not subscribed to this Farmer's Insurance Scheme. So, when they talk about the problems that the cotton farmer is facing and it is to the tune of more Rs. 500 crore this year, they should urge the State Government to subscribe to the Agricultural Insurance Scheme. It has been adopted by 20 States and UTs, and around 80 lakh farmers are provided with insurance cover in the Kharif alone. We are examining various suggestions to make this scheme even more effective.

Stepping up investment in the agricultural sector is a priority area. A major thrust is being given towards constructions, modernisation and expansion of cold storage and other godowns. A scheme for construction of rural godowns for providing long-term loans with subsidy to farmers is also under preparation. This would enhance the holding capacities and reduce the possibility of distress sale.

The Rural Infrastructure Development Fund has been expanded and the interest rates have been lowered. This would encourage the State Governments to make larger drawals from the Fund for the creation of essential infrastructure.

The Approach Paper to Tenth Plan, which was recently approved by the National Development Council, recommends a significant increase in public investments and agricultural infrastructure, irrigation rural roads, etc. Provision for appropriate conditions to attract private capital is also a priority area.

Many Members have expressed their concern at the declining prices of the agricultural commodities in the recent months. While we are equally concerned and we have resorted to procurement of record quantities of various commodities, I must point out that this is a global phenomenon. It is not correct to attribute subdued prices in India to WTO or at the Agreement on Agriculture.

Yes, WTO has some problem areas but all the problems that the farmers are facing today cannot be attributed to WTO. We have to get into competition. World is getting smaller. Therefore, we have to adopt new technology, bio technology and new irrigation methods. Productivity has to be increased. There is no other way. Except for edible oils, there has not been any significant increase in import on account of dismantling of quantitative restrictions.

In regard to edible oil, yes, the import has gone up but there is no noticeable increase in most other commodities. The tariff levels that we can impose on agricultural commodities are in most cases sufficient to protect the interest of our farmers. During the past year, the basic import tariffs on a number of agricultural commodities have been calibrated several times. Moreover we keep a close watch import trends so that tariffs can be changed to prevent unnecessary and unwanted imports.

Some Members have voiced doubts about our ability to compete in the WTO regime. Sir, it is true the advanced countries, the developed countries, instead of reducing subsidies, have increased subsidies. Today, they are paying subsidies to their farmers to the tune of one billion dollar a day and there is no way a poor country can compete with these advanced countries in paying subsidies. But we still have competitive advantages in many areas of agriculture which we should promote and exploit.

At the recently concluded WTO meeting at Doha, a lot of noise has been made that at Doha, we did not do anything, we lost out and our Minister did not do what he should have done. But I think and we think there is a general agreement that we have achieved a major success by forcing inclusion of a commitment in the declaration to phasing out all forms of export subsidies and reducing trade disturbing domestic support.

Let us not forget this. Some people are saying, 'get out of WTO'. Yes, WTO has problems. But you just cannot get out of agriculture in WTO. There are more than 16 agreements under WTO. They are all one piece together. We cannot say agriculture will not be part of it, rest will be part of it.

China, which got out of WTO in 1949 before it was in WTO, tried for 16 years to get into WTO. If you bear with me and if you some time want to discuss with me, in agriculture, if you see the kind of tariffs we have, the kind of agreements we have made and the kind of agreements they have made, you would realise that we are much better off. So, they have joined WTO now. Let us remember one more thing. If WTO was not there, do

you think the advanced countries will not have subsidies for their farmers? Do you think that if WTO was not there, would not they have preferential imports from countries they want to? Therefore, all our problems are not WTO. We have to adjust to new world situation. We have to increase productivity. I will say again about our farmers ingenuity. With lack of all kind of basic amenities and support from the Government, they created the Green Revolution and today, as I said, we can be a major exporting country in the grain area and what we should try to do is to become a major exporting country in horticulture, fishing, poultry and aquaculture. I am sure all Andhraites would love aquaculture...*(Interruptions)* I agree with it.

Now, comes the issue which agitated the Opposition Members, which have agitated our Members on this side also. There was a very impatient and very logical speech given by my colleague from Orissa. That issue is, procurement and getting the prices to the farmers.

Let me first make it very clear. The Food Minister is not present here. The State Minister for Food is here. Let me make it very clear there is no intention of this Government to get rid of MSP. Minimum Support Price is there. It will stay. All he said was and all their thinking is that today barely 20 per cent of the farmers get the advantage of MSP. We have to look at some new innovative approach. You want the poorest of the farmers to get the MSP for whatever little he produces. So, a debate can be started. The Members of Parliament could be part of it. It could be outside also.

20.00 hrs.

All that the hon. Minister of Food has said is that a new and innovative approach is needed for MSP.

As I said, the FCI has many problems. In respect of some of the States where questions have been raised, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal have opted for the decentralised system. This means that those States are responsible for procurement. The FCI would still pay but those states are supposed to make the arrangements for procurement. Even in States like Haryana and Punjab where they have not opted for procurement, 70 per cent of the procurement is done by the States agencies.

In respect of Rajasthan, the issue of bajra was raised. The FCI has not procured bajra. The last time we procured bajra was in 1972. The FCI does not have that kind of infrastructure in Rajasthan and many other States

[Shri Ajit Singh]

to do the procurement. They do it through the State agencies. So, the State Governments should come forward and do it. The question of procurement is a big issue. All of us realise that. The kind of surplus we have, and the kind of storage shortages that we have and the kind of concentrated production of food grains in certain parts of the country and the consequent costs of transporting them to other parts of the country, are the problems that are there.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We want to have a separate discussion on the procurement policy of the Government of India.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: As I was myself saying, that needs to be debated. We need to get new ideas. We need to get your experience and need to know what suggestions you have. Let me assure that the MSP is here to stay but the question is in what form. If we can improve it, by all means, let us try to improve it. The system of MSP was created because the farmers do not have the financial clout to produce and wait for the ripe market conditions to sell it. That is why MSP is there.

My friend from Kerala was very nice and patient. He did not take much of the time of the House. I have to address his problems. The first problem he has related to coconut. Coconut is a different kind of a crop. It is not like food grains. It is a year-round crop. The problem is that when you procure it, unless the procuring agency converts it into coconut oil, you have to sell it again. So, we are trying to see that the NAFED's capacity to convert coconut into oil is increased.

The problems here are much bigger. Someone mentioned that we could have 57 products from coconut. A Coconut Technology Mission was promised by hon. Prime Minister when he visited Kerala last year. That Technology Mission is keen that the policy is cleared and the programme goes on track. Very soon, we would have that Technology Mission's findings, which would help in tackling the problems of the coconut industry.

The rubber industry is another problem area. The STC has announced a market intervention scheme. The price announced is more than the price that was prevailing last year. The prices of all commodities have fallen. They have fallen all over the world.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: The farmer is not getting the prices. There is no procurement.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: We are aware of some of the problems...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. Let the hon. Minister complete his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Sir, farmers in Gujarat are facing a lot of problems. He has to say something about the Gujarat farmers and his difficulties...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can you interrupt when he is replying? He did not interrupt any hon. Member.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: I want to compliment the Government of Gujarat. I was earlier speaking about bajra. The Government of Rajasthan said that they cannot procure bajra but the Government of Gujarat went ahead and started procuring bajra. The hon. Member wanted to say something. This is a very complimentary remark that I have to make about the Government of Gujarat.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Thank you.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: We will have to start a debate on procurement. Anyway, I need not speak much about that.

The question of constituting a Committee has been a priority. As I said, it was a priority and the hon. Prime Minister has constituted a Committee that consists of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers. The Committee has already met three times.

The *Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana* came out of these meetings. The Committee has also finalised the contours of the Grain Bank Scheme which will benefit 1.14 lakh tribal villages in the first phase at a cost of Rs. 1,066 crore. This Committee is also looking at the broader aspects of marketing of agricultural produce. So, a Committee is there. Besides, as I said, every Ministry is one way or the other connected with agriculture. Railway is connected because the foodgrains have to be transported; the Ministry of Commerce is there as long as WTO is there. So, all Ministries are there. So, Committees are already there, and, as I said, as you wanted, a special Committee has also been formed to look at the problems of the farmers.

Now, I come to fertilisers. Some hon. Members have mentioned about it. I think, Shri Basu Deb Acharia has

mentioned about it in his opening speech. He has made very valuable suggestions and he has pointed out many problems. He told that fertilisers subsidy has been going down. I want to tell you that the fertiliser prices have not gone up in the last two years and if the fertiliser prices have not gone up in the last two years, it is obvious that fertiliser subsidy has gone up...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Consumption has gone down!

SHRI AJIT SINGH: No, consumption has not gone down. In fact, if you want, I have the figures somewhere here. Fertiliser subsidy has gone up, not substantially, but it has gone up.

Sir, once again, I wish to thank the hon. Members for their valuable views on the critical issues relating to the condition of our farmers. I reiterate that Government is no less concerned about the problems faced by our farmers and, as I have tried to explain, we have a comprehensive and sensitive strategy to address these issues. I look forward to the cooperation of all hon. Members in the successful implementation of our policies and programmes.

20.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, November 27, 2001/Agrahayana 6, 1923 (Saka).

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