

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Eighth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, December 3, 2001/Agrahayana 12, 1923 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the Prime Minister is present here. I have a number of objections to the speech delivered by the hon. Prime Minister on POTO. It is not a small thing. ...*(Interruptions)* You see that the hon. Prime Minister has directly levelled accusations. First accusation is that the opposition has got its own partisan interests. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You raise it in Zero Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Secondly he has also accused that the opposition is not cooperating with the Government in any way. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You raise this matter after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot sit now because it is not an ordinary thing.

[English]

According to the *Indian Express* of 3rd December, the Prime Minister has said :

"The Centre was firm on introducing the POTO Bill in Parliament as a section of people were trying to create unrest in India with the help of a neighbouring country."

[Translation]

It is a direct attack on the Muslims....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except hon. Member's supplementary.

...*(Interruptions)* ...*

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise all these things during the Zero Hour, that is, immediately after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)* ...*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You raise this issue after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : How can it go on like this every day? You can raise it in Zero Hour after Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you disturbing the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Don't you want the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhji, you raise it in Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion on POTO should be started after suspending all other proceedings. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : You sit down. You can raise it in Zero Hour after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I should be given the first opportunity. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will. Is it a condition?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The hon. Prime Minister is sitting here. I want to know his opinion in this regard and he has come after giving a thought to this issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You will be given an opportunity in Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhji, you will get an opportunity in Zero Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if these are codified rules in this regard with a view to punish, then you can expel me from the House. What more important issue other than this issue can be? Why all this is taking place?

MR. SPEAKER : You will get an opportunity in Zero Hour. Please sit down. It is not right to do so in Question Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me raise this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhji, how many times I will have to remind you this thing.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you tell us the position and expel me.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is sitting here.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : The

hon. Prime Minister sits here up to Zero Hour. Shri Mulayam Singhji, you speak that all may listen.

MR. SPEAKER : What sort of things you are submitting? You are hijacking and changing the whole procedure.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you tell us as to what issue is more important than this?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singhji, you are a senior Member.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what other issue shall I raise. There is no other issue more important than it. The hon. Prime Minister is sitting here and I want to accuse him. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No please. You please sit down. What is this? I am on my legs.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I am resuming my seat.

MR. SPEAKER : You can speak in the Zero Hour.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.06. hrs.

[Translation]

Awareness Campaign for Protection of Wildlife

*181. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to launch an awareness campaign for the protection of wildlife;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken in this regard so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement-

(a) and (b) Education and awareness for protection of wildlife is an integral part of the National Wildlife Action Plan, adopted by Government of India in 1983. Important steps

taken by the Government to increase awareness regarding various aspects of wildlife conservation include :

- (i) Assistance is provided to State Governments for creating nature interpretation facilities within national parks and sanctuaries.
 - (ii) Assistance is provided to zoos for displaying animals in naturalistic surroundings with proper signage to create empathy and awareness for wildlife conservation amongst visitors.
 - (iii) Celebration of 'Wildlife Week' every year in the first week of October.
 - (iv) Setting up a network of National Museum of Natural History at Delhi, Mysore and Bhopal.
 - (v) Launching of the 'National Green Corps Programme' covering all the districts of the country for spreading environmental awareness amongst the school children.
 - (vi) Recongnising Centre for Environmental Education, Ahmedabad as a centre of excellence and providing financial assistance to the Institute for preparing appropriate extension material on various aspect of nature conservation including wildlife.
 - (vii) Organising short term courses and workshops through Wildlife Institute of India for officials of Army, para-military forces, universities lecturers and people from other walks of life.
 - (viii) Providing financial support to NGOs for holding workshops and bringing out popular literature on wildlife.
 - (ix) Organising workshops for local communities living around national parks and sanctuaries under the scheme "Eco-development in and around national parks and sanctuaries".
 - (x) Instituting "Amrita Devi Bishnoi Award" for outstanding contribution in the field of wildlife protection by the local communities.
 - (xi) Bringing out thematic postage stamps on wildlife from time to time.
- (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to ask the question.

The hon. Minister, in reply regarding the wild life protection has given the suggestions from 1 to 11. I am happy to learn that the Government too is concerned for protection of wild life. However, despite taking efficacious steps, the graph of killings of wild animals amazingly has gone up. Death of Tigers in Nandan Kanan; Peacocks in Morena; Cheetahas in Ranthambore sanctuary and of five Elephants in Jim Corbett Park cannot be termed as accidents but the examples of carelessness and deranged attitude of mankind. The laws, rules and the policies framed to protect the wild life are not efficacious and effective. I would like to know from the Government as to whether the Government are contemplating to enact stringent laws and formulate appropriate policy in this regard so that the good result may be achieved?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the hon. Member has put a pertinent question pertaining to the safeguards to be taken to protect the wild animals.

The Central Government, in the same House, had enacted a law and provided the Wild Life Protection Act in 1972. From 1972 onwards the Government is making concerted efforts to see that the wild life is properly protected as per the Wild Life Protection Act 1972.

There are some stray incidents here and there, but the State Governments have been advised frequently in this regard. In fact, recently the hon. Prime Minister, who is the President of the Indian Wild Life Board, has written to all the hon. Chief Ministers of the State.

At the same time, my Department is frequently arranging Workshops and having interactions with the State Government officials as well as the Ministers.

Last year, we had conducted a Seminar and a Workshop in Coimbatore. Coimbatore Charter clearly states to give proper protection to the wild life. At the same time, the State Governments have also been requested frequently to protect them. In fact, I interacted with each and every Minister who attended the Colmbatore Conference. The problem is, forest department is not having adequate member of guards. The guards have not been posted properly. Whatever vacancies are there, they have to be filled up quickly. That is what I have told them. But I do not know how much more persuasion I have to make with the hon. Ministers of the States regarding this. I have interacted with many States. It is because of the deficiency in the posting of guards, the problem arises. At the same time, we are having interactions with the CBI and many a law enforcing agency

at the Central level. I would advise the States once again to see that everything is taken care of.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am from Gujarat and Gir area of Junagarh in Gujarat is known as sanctuary for the lions. This was declared many years ago. The counting of lions is done every year by the Forest Department. And every year the number of lions is going down. It has been heard that the sanctuary has neither any laboratory, nor any veterinary doctor. There is no proper arrangement of medicines there and therefore, the number of lions has been constantly going down.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, similar situation prevails in Godhra area of Panchmal district, Jaambugoda - to which I belong. It has been declared as sanctuary. The announcement has been made but the Union Government have provided no funds and no work is being undertaken there. Through you, I want to know from the hon. Ministry as to whether Union Government intends to provide funds or take any other measure for Gir and Jaambugoda sanctuaries?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, probably, the hon. Minister would have been misinformed, Asiatic lions, which are at the level of 327, have got the habitat in the Gir forest. Previously, their number was 315. Now, their population has increased to 327. So, there is an increase of 12. If there is any apprehension or problem, I will interact with the hon. Member. But the State Government has not asked for any fund for the wildlife in this park. If they want, let them send the proposal. We are ready to give them.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, protection of wildlife and spreading awareness is only one part of it. It is an important part but not the main part. Protection of the habitat for the wildlife is the most crucial thing in protecting wildlife. So, I would like to know two things from the Minister. One is, with the pressure on the habitat, pressures of population and pressures of development, what efforts are being made to not only protect the existing habitat but also to make efforts to increase the habitat for the wildlife? It is because there can be no wildlife without the habitat.

The second part is this. We have had the Wildlife Protection Act. It will be about nine years since the Wildlife Protection Act (Amendment) Bill was passed by this House. What are the difficulties which have been faced in the last nine years in the Wildlife Protection Act as it currently stands?

I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would be considering any changes or improvements in the Wildlife Protection Act to supplement all the other efforts that are being made.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The Wildlife Protection Act is being amended. After getting the Cabinet approval, we would be bringing the Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Act before this hon. House.

At the same time, the hon. former Minister of Environment and Forests should not forget that we are having a very limited geographical area - 2.4 per cent of the total geographical area and 1.8 per cent of the forest area. Within this limited forest area as well as geographical area, when compared to the rest of the world, there is a lot of biotic pressure on our forests, especially for want of fuel, fodder, timber and food security. In spite of that biotic pressure, we have sustained 50 per cent of the tiger population, 60 per cent of Asiatic elephants and 70 per cent of rhinos and at the same time 327 numbers of Asiatic lions. This is what I would like to impress particularly upon my friend, who was the former Minister. So, when compared to the rest of the world, especially, Africa and South Asian countries, we are better placed.

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA : In the context of the awareness campaign, is it true that the fishing community and the general public were not consulted when shark was included in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972? The scientists' world body has said that shark is not an endangered species. About 600 million fishermen are affected all over India. Is it true that this ban is because of certain NGOs with vested interests and not because shark is endangered?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the ban on shark was enforced by a notification in May and afterwards we have banned some of the molluscan species on July 11th.

As the hon. lady Member has just now expressed, there was no specific pressure from some organization or any such thing. At the same time, there are advisers like the International Union for Conservation of Nature. According to them, we have notified the ban on some species of molluscan varieties as well as shark.

As if now, there is no hue and cry in the entire Indian nation except in three districts. For the sake of information of hon. Members, I would say that the landing of shark varieties is only four per cent. A lot of shark varieties are being harvested. Some of the shark varieties are harvested in Gujarat, Pondicherry and elsewhere. At the same time,

the particular problem of hue and cry is being felt only in Kanyakumari, Ramanathapuram and Tuticorin districts. With an open mind, the Government has received, last month, the report of the DMK Members, especially from the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. Experts have been sent and my officers have been sent for interaction with the fishing community as well as the experts.

Last week, more than 30 experts have come from throughout the length and breadth of the nation. We have discussed this with many organisations of the Central Government as well as the State Governments; and the Director of Fisheries has been consulted. We could identify some of the areas in which the ban could be lifted for some of the items.

At the same time, I would impress upon hon. Members that the shark variety is getting its maturity only at the age of 30. We should not forget that.

If the shark variety is caught within 30 years, definitely, the entire shark variety will get extinct. Therefore, the Government, in its wisdom, has decided to ban all the shark varieties at that point of time. But afterwards, after getting the inputs and understanding the problems of some of the fishermen, this was done. The fishermen who agitated were poor fishermen. It was, at the instance of the rich people, who were having mechanised boats and ships. But, anyhow, with an open mind, we have decided to see that the particular ban on shark variety has been restricted to 10 and at the same time for the Molluscan, variety it is upto 24. It will be done with the consultation of the Ministry of Law and Justice and announced shortly.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, in his answer; the hon. Minister has admitted that they brought the ban without consulting enough people. Mr. Minister, you yourself said it. Let me point out that internationally shark is not banned as far as fishing is concerned. There are international lobbies which are trying to kill the trade out of India because we are too competitive for them. Secondly, I wish to point out to the hon. Minister that where the ban exists internationally, it is only to a particular type of fishing which is done in the Far-East where the fins are cut because of their value. The fin is called 'black gold' because of its value. They cut the fins and throw the shark back into the sea. That is what has been banned because then they cannot swim, they sink, and are eaten by larger fishes.

Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what was the basic reason that made you to succumb to this kind of pressure when, internationally, the trade is still going on. It is not banned internationally. In international waters

fishing is going on. It is only a particular type of fishing which is internationally banned. You have put a blanket ban on all types of shark fishing. I would like to ask then hon. Minister as to what was the reason for him to go beyond the international ban and make India even ahead of international fishing lobbyist.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, first of all I should say that neither me nor the hon. Prime Minister nor the Government will ever succumb to pressure except in the case of poormen's issues. I could only say that I have been guided by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. I have been guided by IUCN. At the same time, the CMFRI, the Central Marine Research Institute has also, in their particular meeting which was conducted, clearly said that they are not having any specific data pertaining to the specific species. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, my question was this. Is it banned internationally?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I have already said it.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Is it banned internationally? It is not banned internationally.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the shark variety will get maturity only after 30 years. You should appreciate that.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member has asked whether the ban was imposed by the international organisations or by the Government of India.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the Government has taken a wise decision. I cannot be pressurised. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not need any precedent. I am guided by the IUCN. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the hon. Minister is trying to avoid the answer and confuse the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, it was only on the assessment of IUCN that this issue has been decided.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, why should only the Indian fishermen suffer? Is there an international ban?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, this was done in the interest of poor fishermen. We are not having any other source. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, there is no international ban. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We will now take up Q. No. 182.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, he has not answered my question.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, why is the hon. Minister not giving reply? ...(Interruptions) In the Conference held in the Central Hall recently, we have decided that all specific issues will be answered by the Ministers. In this case, the hon. Minister did not answer the question. Sir, you should give protection to the hon. Lady Member also.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, you should protect us also. The hon. Minister has not answered my question. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, we took a resolve in the Central Hall that the Members should be answered by the hon. Minister. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, again and again you are disturbing the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I am not disturbing the Question Hour. ...(Interruptions) Sir, I have got the right to get a reply. ...(Interruptions) Sir, if you do not protect us, then what is the point in putting questions. ...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the Minister should give a proper reply. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Sir, a specific question was put to the Minister. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, we only raise questions and do not get answers. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have now gone to the next question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the Minister should come prepared to answer questions. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, I have gone to the next question.

...(Interruptions)

Import of Cotton

*182. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cotton stocks have been piling up with the farmers and procurement agencies while import of cotton is being allowed freely;

(b) whether consequent to fall in international prices of cotton from \$ 1.76 per kg. to \$ 0.75 per kg., imports have considerably gone up affecting the Indian farmers; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures being taken/ proposed to be taken to save the Indian farmers from this disastrous situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. There are no reports of any stocks piling up with the farmers. Even, the stocks with the procurement agencies etc. have come down from 40.50 lakh bales in 1999-2000 to 30.90 lakh bales in 2000-2001. To enable the domestic Textile industry to procure raw material of desired parameters at competitive prices, import of cotton has been made free.

(b) No, Sir. The import of cotton has declined from 22.01 lakh bales in 1999-2000 to 16.00 lakh bales in 2000-2001.

(c) To protect the interest of the cotton growers, the Government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Kapas (seed cotton). Whenever the market prices of kapas touch the MSP, the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) undertakes Support Price Operation and purchases kapas at MSP, without any quantitative limit, in all cotton growing States (except in Maharashtra where the Raw Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme of State Government is in operation). The loss, if any, incurred on account of support price operation is reimbursed to the CCI by the Government.

I would like to modify part-(b) of the answer. In part B of the answer we have updated the statistics. The answer says, '16.00 lakh bales of cotton were imported in 2000-2001'.

Now we have the figures up to the end of September. The cotton import has gone up to 29 lakh bales and is about the same as the previous year.

SHRI P. S. GADHAVI : Sir, cotton was considered to be white gold for cotton growing farmers of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and various other States, but the same has now become the death knell for them due to abundant crop, freedom to import at a very low import duty, and for falling prices of cotton world over.

Sir, agitating farmers are setting the piling stock and public properties on fire and are engaging in *Rasta Roko Andolan* and many of them also are committing suicides.

Sir, the Cotton Advisory Board, has estimated that the production of cotton this year would be around 156 lakh bales as against 140 lakh bales last year. The carry-over stock of last year was 36 lakh bales, this year it is 50 lakh bales and this year the import of cotton may go up to 25 lakh bales.

Sir, I would like to know whether the Government is aware about the fact that price of cotton right at the start of this year was Rs. 1700 per quintal which was much lower than the support price of Rs. 1800 per quintal.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, in order to protect the interest of the cotton-growing farmers, whether:

- (a) Government could consider giving transport cost of cotton growing farmers from their field to the export point as it is being done in China;
- (b) Government could consider giving grant to cotton growing farmers by way of its Export Promotion Schemes as it is being done in many other countries;

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Gadhavi, you cannot read from your notes in the Question Hour. You have to put the supplementary.

SHRI P. S. GADHAVI : Sir, my supplementary is, whether Government could consider giving bound rate of duties on cotton - as the same is also considered in agricultural product, + which are 100 per cent in case of ground nut oil, coconut oil and wheat. Even 60 per cent and 80 per cent import duty has been levied on sugar and rice respectively. What is the logic of keeping a five per cent duty on cotton?

MR. SPEAKER : You have not asked your supplementary. What is your supplementary?

SHRI P. S. GADHAVI : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, in order to protect the interest of the cotton growing farmers, whether :

(c) Government could consider giving transport cost to cotton growing farmers from their field to the export point as it is being done in China; and

(d) Government could consider giving grant to cotton growing farmers by way of its Export Promotion Schemes as it is being done in many other countries.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. You need not read the entire thing once again.

Mr. Minister, are you considering giving any transportation charges to the cotton-growing farmers?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, wherever the prices of cotton have fallen below the MSP, the Cotton Corporation of India has commenced procurement purchases. At present, the Cotton Corporation of India is buying cotton in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Sir, the hon. Member in his question itself has mentioned that international prices of cotton have come down from dollar 1.76 per kg. to dollar 0.75 per kg. I do not think that by giving transport subsidy we will be able to increase exports. The Government will consider as to what WTO-compatible export subsidies can be given. The Ministry of Textiles is also considering whether raising of duty can help the farmer in this case. But, as I pointed out, import of cotton this year has been the same as that of the previous year. It has not gone up in comparison with the previous year.

SHRI P. S. GADHAVI : Does the Government know that there is a stock of cotton of about five lakh bales with the CCI? So, CCI has not started notable purchase in Gujarat even though the price reached below the support price.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : The figures I have with the Government show that about twenty thousand bales of cotton has been purchased under Price Support Scheme. There are no quantitative limits on that. Whatever cotton is offered, CCI will buy that. There is no question on that. It has commenced and it will continue. If the hon. Member has any specific case or any problem, he can always come to us.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister answered the question based on the facts available with him. But the ground reality is different. That is true. In Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra, and even in other parts of the country, cotton farmers are not getting Minimum Support Price. I want to know from the Minister as to how much cotton was imported during 1996-97 and 1997-98; and as to why it has been enhanced up to 25 lakh bales later. It is only due to import that cotton farmer

in India is not getting remunerative price for his produce. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh wrote a letter to Government of India requesting it to enhance customs duty on cotton from five per cent to 25 per cent in order to get Minimum Support Price for the cotton farmer. This is a fact. What is the action taken by the Government of India on that?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, just now the Minister has answered that the Government is not going to increase imports.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Even this quantity of 25 lakh bales of cotton was not being imported previously. We were only importing four lakh bales previously. The Minister has figures for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98. This is a fact. Even in Andhra Pradesh, cotton farmers are not getting remunerative prices.

MR. SPEAKER : He is asking if there has been any increase in imports.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Imports up to September this year, as I said, were about 22 lakh bales. In the previous year also, the imports were about 22 lakh bales.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : We have to analyse the figures of imports for previous years like 1997-98 and 1998-99. In those years, we imported only four lakh bales of cotton. That was the reason why farmer got remunerative price in those years. This year, we imported 25 lakh bales. Last year, we imported 21 lakh bales. That is why the cotton farmer is not getting a remunerative price. Stocks are getting piled up with the institutions also. This is the ground reality. Otherwise, the Government can send some officers to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem that the cotton farmer is facing is because the textile mills are facing a crunch. Imports have been the same as those in the previous years. There is not enough demand for yarn and textiles. So, the mills are not buying away cotton right from the farmer. That is why CCI has stepped in. It will continue to purchase whatever quantities offered. As I said in answer to the earlier question, Government is considering increasing of import duty, if it will stem the imports further. We are aware of the situation. We know that the cotton farmer is facing this problem.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, this is a very important question. It relates to the policy the Government of India has to make and follow. There are two points involved in this. Cotton is being imported from outside the country. In other countries subsidy given to farmers is too high. Because of

that, the price of cotton in other countries is very low. So, cotton coming from outside is really responsible for the industry not purchasing cotton from farmers in India. So, the Government of India has to decide to use the WTO agreement in such a fashion that the subsidy given on cotton by other countries beyond 10 per cent has to be reduced to 10 per cent.

If that is not done, we cannot blame the previous Government for the WTO Agreement and say, 'because the WTO Agreement is there, we are not helpful.' The WTO provides that the subsidy on agriculture produce has to be reduced to less than 10 per cent. We have to take a step in this regard.

The second thing which has to be done in the country is to see that the subsidy given to the farmers is increased in such a fashion that the cotton produced by the farmers is utilised by the textile industry in the country.

If a correct policy is not followed, the cotton produced by the agriculturists will suffer, the industry will suffer and the consumers will suffer. If this is not being done, we cannot blame the other countries or the farmers.

So, I would like to know whether the Government of India is going to have a comprehensive view of the procurement policy with respect to the agricultural produce from other countries in consonance with the Agreement of the WTO; and whether it is going to help the farmers in such a fashion that they keep on producing, and also in future the consumers do not suffer.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member wants to discuss the WTO and the Agricultural subsidies. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, he is answering on behalf of the Government... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : I will answer it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : The WTO is relevant to his Ministry also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised questions about the agricultural subsidies and the WTO Agreement. He even went on the defence saying that they did not want to be blamed for signing the WTO Agreement, I am not going to blame them although they did sign the WTO Agreement during their regime. That is not the issue today... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Would you not have signed? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, in Doha Conference, all these questions including the question of subsidy being given by the advanced countries, were raised. There, the agreement was signed that it would be considered.

The question relating to the export subsidies and the domestic subsidies were also raised there and we were successful in getting the commitment in the WTO about these subsidies. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : You were not successful. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, as far as the cotton is concerned, the Government is aware that the farmer is facing problems. That is why the Cotton Corporation of India has stepped in.

As I said, there is no restriction on quantity, we will buy whatever cotton is offered by the farmers.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : What is the policy?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : The policy is that the Government decides the MSP. If the market falls below that price, the Cotton Corporation of India steps in and buys the cotton.

As far as the Maharashtra State is concerned -- the hon. Member comes from there -- they have their own Monopoly Purchase Agreement. As per that Agreement, the Maharashtra State should buy the cotton. That price is more than that of the MSP of the CCI. ...*(Interruptions)*

The problem that the farmer of Maharashtra is facing is because of the reason that Maharashtra State is not buying cotton which they should buy under the Monopoly Scheme.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, this issue is very important. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the supplementary of Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mane, I have called Dr. Indora. Please take your seat now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : The question relates to Maharashtra and you are not allowing us to ask questions.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Mane, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There are other Members also waiting for their supplementaries.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Sir, reply is not given relating to farmers of our State.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers of my area produce cotton on large scale. Hon. Minister himself admitted that cotton is imported for textile industry. But as per the current situation, the cotton crop of my area, and that of adjacent areas of Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana has been destroyed due to an American worm. Since they have got no returns, farmers are frustrated and want to switch over to some other crop. On this issue, the hon. Chief Minister of Haryana had demanded from the Prime Minister an amount of Rs.102 crore for giving assistance to the farmers. On the one hand we are importing cotton and on the other hand our farmers want to benefit the country by producing more and more cotton. I want to know from the hon. Minister about the measures Government intends to take with regard to damage to crops due to American worm. I also want to know the response of hon. Prime Minister on the demand of Rs.102 crore as assistance by Haryana. Hon. Prime Minister is present here. All the Members of Parliament from Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan are willing to meet hon. Prime Minister on the issue and apprise him of the problems. I want to know the measures hon. Minister intends to take on the issue.

[English]

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, what the hon. Member is saying is true that this year in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, the cotton crop has been, to a large extent, destroyed.

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : I had asked the question in Hindi. It will be better if you reply in Hindi. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hindi interpretation is also going on.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT SINGH : It is true that crops have been damaged due to American worms. To save farmers from such problems, Government have implemented crop insurance scheme which have been implemented by 20 States but the States of Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan have not implemented this scheme. If these states also agree to implement the crop insurance scheme, then the provision regarding payment of compensation to the cotton farmers, ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : What compensation has been paid? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Under the crop insurance scheme, farmers are provided assistance in case their crop is damaged. These three states have not implemented crop insurance scheme but since hon. Member said that a letter to hon Prime Minister has been written, I trust that the Government would consider it sympathetically. Hon. Prime Minister would consider it personally.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No 183 – Shri Ajay Singh Chautala.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, this is about the farmers' issue. Please allow Half-an -Hour discussion on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The discussion was held four days ago. What happened to it? Discussion was held for two days. What was the result at the end of it? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : You delivered your speech and went away while Minister answers it. Discussion continued for eight hours. How there could be any results?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I had to attend a meeting but what reply was given? What reply are you giving at present? Please don't threaten me? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Discussion on the problems of farmers was held for four hours. Even then if you want to discuss cotton or any other problem, Government is ready for it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Discussion has

ended but what is the result? ...*(Interruptions)* You have become a supporter of the USA. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Q.No. 183 - Shri Ajay Singh Chautala.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, this relates to farmers of our country. It is the most important issue. We want a Half-an-Hour discussion on this Question. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, you please allow Half-an-Hour on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am asking the Minister. Please taken your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mane, this is too much. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, the hon. Members are demanding Half-an-Hour discussion on this question. Would you agree for it?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Certainly, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

Interstate River Water Disputes

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*183. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have convened any meetings to resolve water disputes amongst various States;

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

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to resolve the said disputes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Government, under the provisions of the Interstate Water Disputes Act 1956, constituted tribunals for adjudicating the water disputes for the Godavari, Krishna and Narmada waters. These water disputes tribunals have already given their awards.

The Ravi and Beas Water Dispute between the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and Cauvery Water Disputes between the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry were also referred to the Tribunals under the provisions of Inter-State Water Disputes (ISWD) Act, 1956 in April, 1980 and June 1990 respectively. The Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal submitted their first report in January, 1987. The Central Government and party States have sought explanations/guidance from the Tribunal under Section 5(3) of the ISWD Act, 1956. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed an interim order on June 25, 1991. At present, Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal is holding regular hearings for adjudicating the Cauvery Water Dispute. No other dispute has been referred to the Union Government for adjudication by any of the State Governments.

Three meetings of Cauvery River Authority and nine meetings of Cauvery Monitoring Committee were held for monitoring the implementation of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's Interim Order.

Efforts were made to convene meetings with Chief Minister of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on February 2, 2000, September 11, 2000 and June 27, 2001 to discuss water related issues pertaining to these States. However, these meetings could not materialize.

In order to expedite the adjudication process of inter-state water disputes, the Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2001 proposing inter-alia a definite time frame for constituting a Tribunal and giving the award was introduced in the Lok Sabha in March 2001. The said Amendment Bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha in August 2001 and is now under consideration of the Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, water dispute is pending with many states where the floods causes a lot of damages and many areas are affected with severe droughts also. What measures Government are taking to resolve inter-state water disputes? Besides, I also want to know from the hon. Minister whether Government intends to provide permanent solution to the problem of flood and drought by formulating a central water policy? The water dispute is not only creating bad blood among states but also damaging farmers' interests.

[English]

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : It is a sort of jumbo question and I appreciate it. The hon. Member has put many questions into one. Of course, water is source of life and it is livelihood. We know that there are many water disputes in the country and they are due to the fact that rivers are inter-State. There are conflicts between upper riparian States and the lower riparian States.

As far as the first part of the question of the hon. Member is concerned, I want to state that regarding different water disputes concerning the States of Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan, constant effort is being made. Probably, it is best known to the hon. Member. Regarding the present problem, I want to highlight one point. Hon. Supreme Court while resolving this issue in the case, on 9th July 2001, said that the Ministry of Water Resources would make efforts for a negotiated settlement between Punjab and Haryana within four weeks of its order. The Ministry of Water Resources made every possible effort, but did not succeed till now. So, cooperation of all the States concerned is required for a negotiated settlement. While still endeavouring for a negotiated settlement, we are also awaiting for the order of the court.

Regarding the second part of his question, which is concerning National Policy, I would say that National Policy Guidelines are already on the way. It is a subject of water management including the issue of combating flood - as mentioned by the hon. Member - and drought in the country.

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : When SYL canal is going to be completed by the Government? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please don't speak while sitting. You don't follow any rule. You are a senior Member and the Party Leader also. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : The Draft National Policy Guidelines were also discussed in the Eighth meeting of the National Water Board. If I answer fully, it will be long answer and so, I would like to give the answer to the hon. Member in writing, if he wants so. But precisely I want to say that we are trying to formulate a National Water Policy that will incorporate flood, drought and other water-related issues in the State of Haryana and other parts of the country, with the consensus of different States.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister has just replied with regard to various river water disputes that Government intends to formulate a National Water Policy in the near future, I would like to know when it propose to finalise it? The Bill in this regard has already been passed by Lok Sabha. It is pending in Rajya Sabha. When will it be passed there? My second supplementary is that Rajasthan suffers from drought. Water supply from Punjab is also not regular. On the one hand water flows down to Pakistan and on the other Haryana and Rajasthan remain dry. Through you, I want to be assured from the Government that Rajasthan would continue to get adequate water even during crop season when there is water crisis.

[English]

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : With regard to the question asked by the hon. Member, I wish to state that as per the 31st December, 1981 agreement reached among the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, we are giving the share of Rajasthan when there is surplus Ravi-Beas water. The share comes to about 8.6 million-acre feet. However, this agreement also mentions that it shall last till the time Rajasthan is in such a position. So, it depends upon the goodwill and mutual confidence of the States. ... (Interruptions)

In this regard, I wish to say that water is a State subject. If I may quote : "

" Chingari agar bhadke, to Paani aag bujhaye.

Agar Paani mein aag lagaye, to kaun bujhaye."

So, if all the three Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan put their heads together and come to some agreement, which may be forwarded to us, we are ready to solve their each and every problem.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I want to know from the Union Government, what is the outcome of the report which was submitted in 1987?

[English]

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : With regard to the second part of the hon. Member's question, I would like to say that keeping in view the Report submitted by Ravi-Beas Water Tribunal, attempts were made in recent past for negotiated settlement of water-related issues between

Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. Efforts were made to convene a meeting again with the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan to discuss the conflicting issue. However, this meeting could not be held for various reasons. I think they are known to the hon. Member.

With regard to the operation of canals, I would say that it is purely a State subject. I hope the Government of Rajasthan will forward a proposal on a priority basis and we will surely look into the matter.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Mulla Periyar dam has become a contentious issue between the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The river concerned, that is the Periyar River and its water belongs exclusively to the State of Kerala. I am proud to say that even during the British period and also after Independence, Kerala has never viewed this matter in a narrow partisan manner. We have taken care of the plight of the farmers across the border. We have always taken into consideration the dam and the agreements would testify this statement. Now, the problem is, the Government of Tamil Nadu wants to raise the level of the dam. The Kerala Government has been consistently objecting to this because the dam is very old and earthquakes have occurred in the area recently. The Central Government has constituted an Expert Committee, without consulting the State of Kerala, whose report the Kerala Government has rejected. The people of Kerala are very anxious after reading the reports that certain construction work is going on in the dam area. What comes out is the total negligent attitude of the Central Government. The Central Government is totally callous on this issue. Some cases are pending in the Supreme Court. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is your supplementary?

SHRI SURESH KURUP : What I want to know is, whether the Government of India will convene a Conference of the concerned States to help solve the issue. This is a very important matter because once the dam level is raised, it will lead to serious repercussions.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Sir, I know the condition of Mulla Periyar dam and I also agree that Periyar river purely belongs to the State of Kerala. But the entire issue is *sub judice*. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, I seek the indulgence of the Prime Minister. ... (Interruptions) I would like to know whether the Government is thinking to convene a conference. These are not matters to be settled by courts.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member has asked whether

the Government of India will convene a meeting of the concerned States to sort out the issue.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : We are always open to the negotiated settlements. So far, in this country we have 130 negotiated settlements of the river disputes. In the case of Mulla Periyar dam, if the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu agree, though the matter is *sub judice*, we are ready for the negotiated settlement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : If the level of the dam is raised, you will endanger the human lives. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing, except the Minister's reply, should go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. SPEAKER : Please address to the Chair and not to the Member. By doing so, you can avoid such problems.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : As I have already mentioned, the matter is *sub judice*. We are trying our best to settle it as per the direction. The Central Water Commission suggested three measures, namely, emergency, medium and long term measures to strengthen this dam. CWC also advised to keep the water level in the dam at 136 feet, until strengthening measures are completed. The Government of Kerala has, however, certain apprehensions about the safety of the dam after the strengthening measures are completed and is not agreeable to filling the reservoir beyond to the level of 136 feet.

We hope that with negotiations and with mutual confidence this conflict will be over and both the States will use the water of River Periyar.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : I wish to draw the attention of this House to the arbitrary way in which Punjab waters are being sent to Haryana and Rajasthan. It is not in accordance with the law or the Constitution. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether might is right or whether the Punjab waters will enter Rajasthan and Haryana according to law or Constitution. This is my humble submission. I want a reply from the Government of India.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Probably the hon. Member is referring to the share of Ravi-Beas water. As the hon. Member knows, the matter is already *sub judice*. I wish

to inform the hon. Member that according to the negotiated settlement among the States of Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, the share of Punjab is 4.22 million-acre feet, Haryana - 3.15 million-acre feet, Rajasthan - 8.60 million-acre feet. Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir also have their own shares. The dispute is with regard to SLY Canal. I do not want to go into the details of the matter. So far as I know, the Haryana portion is already completed. Punjab portion has not yet been completed. I hope the entire conflict between both the States will be solved at the negotiating table so that we stop sending water to sea and rather we can make use of it. As you know, water is a precious natural resource. It is not a fact that we are giving all the water of Punjab to other States. Punjab gets its own share. I have got all the figures which I have just now quoted. I think I have satisfactorily answered all the queries raised by the hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Distribution of water is not according to the Constitution. When we are agitating, the Government of India tells us to talk about the Constitution and the law. So, I am asking the Government whether water will be distributed according to the law and the Constitution and the riparian principles or whether it will be given arbitrarily to Haryana and Rajasthan. This is my question.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Sir, I want to state that India is a Union of States. The constitutional provision in respect of allocation of responsibility as also the water is in Entry 17 of the Constitution. This Entry is subject to the provision of Entry 56 of the Union List. But I do not want to go into the details as the matter is *sub judice*. So, I urge upon the Members to try to find out ways so that we may resolve all these issues at the negotiating table. It is also the resolve of the Government.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : We want to resolve them according to the law and the Constitution.

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the State Government of Karnataka seldom follows the Interim Award given by the Cauvery River Water Tribunal, as a result of this, the farmers of Tamil Nadu are not getting enough water during the Kuruvai crop season, namely, June to September. I would like to know what action has been taken against the Karnataka Government for not obeying the Interim Award of the Cauvery River Water Tribunal.

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, you can send the written reply to the hon. Member.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*184. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem under captioned, "Intruder climbs flight ladder" appearing in the Hindu dated October 3, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof as well as of other incidents of serious security lapse in other airports during the past 3 months;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the officials for the security lapse;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that such lapses are not repeated in future?

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

(b) At Chennai Airport, on 2.10.2001, at around 8 a.m., a 28 year old resident of Guntur, Andhra Pradesh was apprehended by the aerobridge operator of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) at the aerobridge for gaining unauthorised entry to the flight of Saudi Airlines to Riyadh. The person was handed over to Airport Police Station, Meenambakm where a case was registered against the intruder under Section 448, IPC and the intruder was remanded to custody. The investigation is in progress.

There have been 5 more incidents of serious security lapses during the past 3 months. Four incidents related to recovery of ammunition from the baggage of passengers during secondary check on Jet Airways flights at Mumbai airport. Another incident related to apprehension of an unauthorised person by security staff on 28.9.2001 at Mumbai airport while the unauthorised person was climbing the step ladder of an aircraft belonging to Jet airways.

(c) and (d) Airport security was the responsibility of the State Police at Chennai airport till 18.11.2001. Tamil Nadu State Police authorities have been requested to enquire into the incident of security lapse and take action against the security officers found responsible. The response of the State Government is awaited. It is also to be noted that airport security has been handed over to Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) w.e.f. 18.11.2001 as part of induction of CISF at all the airports in phases to strengthen airport security by way of unified command, better coordination, standardised

compliance of security directions and adequate provision and adequate provision of arms and ammunition.

As regards 4 incidents at Mumbai Airport, cases have been registered at Santacruz Police Station, Mumbai. As the responsibility of preembarkation security check the access control is with the State police at Mumbai airport, State police authorities have been requested to enquire into the incident and take action against the security officers found responsible.

(e) The following steps have been taken, inter alia, to avoid recurrence of such incidents :

(i) Induction of CISF at all operational airports in a time-bound manner.

(ii) Round the clock guarding of perimeter and intensive patrolling.

(iii) Implementation of strict access control at the airport.

(iv) Sensitization of all users agencies at airports towards security requirements.

Foot and Mouth Disease in Cattle

* 185. SHRI H.G. RAMULU :

SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL) :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether dangerous foot and mouth disease is spreading fast in cattle and other animals in the country particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken to control the same;

(c) the amount sought to control the same by States particularly Karnataka during the current year and amount released so far, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up more research centres for controlling and eradication of the said disease during Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Foot and Mouth Disease is endemic in India including Karnataka, and occurs throughout the year.

In the wake of an outbreak of the disease, central team of experts are sent, and the State Governments are advised to take necessary preventive measures including vaccination to control the disease. The States having international borders intensify border vigilance to prevent any possible entry of infection from across the border.

In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling Foot and Mouth Disease, Central Government provides grants-in-aid on 50:50 basis for vaccination of the high yielding indigenous, exotic and cross-bred cattle belonging to weaker section of the society. The cost of the vaccine is shared by the Central Government, State Government and the beneficiary on 25:25:50 basis.

(c) Under the Scheme on control of Foot and Mouth Disease, various State Governments have requested for the release of Rs. 407.71 lakhs during 2001-2002 against which a sum of Rs. 203.52 lakhs have so far been released. A sum of Rs. 40.00 lakhs has been released to the Government of Karnataka in 2001-2002 against their proposal for Rs. 50.00 lakhs. The State-wise details of proposals received and releases made so far during 2001-2002 are annexed.

(d) and (e) At present, there are 21 Centres under the Project Directorate on Foot and Mouth Disease of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in the country, including one Regional Centre at Bangalore. During the 10th Plan, it is proposed to set up more research centers for controlling the disease.

Statement

States and UTs and amount released under 'Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme' during the financial year 2001-2002.

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Proposal Received	Amount released (up to 15.11.2001)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.00	4.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.00	1.40
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	N.R.	0.00
6.	Goa	2.50	2.00
7.	Gujarat	4.79	0.00
8.	Haryana	5.50	5.50
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9.00	7.20
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	N.R.	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	N.R.	0.00
12.	Karnataka	50.00	40.00
13.	Kerala	3.00	2.50
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7.91	7.91
15.	Maharashtra	18.86	14.86
16.	Manipur	3.66	3.00
17.	Meghalaya	4.00	3.00
18.	Mizoram	14.65	10.00
19.	Nagaland	N.R.	0.00
20.	Orissa	N.R.	0.00
21.	Punjab	23.96	6.00
22.	Rajasthan	0.85	0.85
23.	Sikkim	N.R.	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	20.00	0.00
25.	Tripura	30.00	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	150.00	50.00
27.	Uttaranchal	6.00	4.00
28.	West Bengal	30.00	30.00
Total States		392.68	192.22
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Is.	5.00	4.50
2.	Chandigarh	0.80	0.80
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	N.R.	0.00

1	2	3	4
4.	Daman & Diu	N.R.	0.00
5.	Delhi	8.93	6.00
6.	Lakshadweep	N.R.	0.00
7.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00
Total Union Territories		14.73	11.30
Grand Total		407.71	203.52

N.R. - Not Received

Indo-UNDP Agreement for Food Security

*186. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed any agreement regarding funding of programme for food security;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of assistance provided by UNDP under the agreement; and

(d) the details of development programmes undertaken by the Government thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) An agreement on "Programme Support for Food Security" was signed between Government of India and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 13th Feb., 1998 for an amount of US\$ 13.00 millions.

Seven Sub-programmes as indicated below are being implemented under the INDO-UNDP Food Security Programme :

Sr.No.	Name of the Sub-programme	Total cost*	Implementing Agency
1.	Strengthening National Resource Management & Sustainable Livelihoods for women in Tribal Orissa.	US\$ 1,975,385 (Rs. 8.55 crores)	State Government of Orissa through Institute for Management of Agricultural Extension (IMAGE), Bhubaneswar, Orissa
1b.	Additional support to Cyclone affected districts of Orissa.	US\$ 3,45,265 (Rs. 1.49 crores)	-do-
2.	Empowerment of Women Farmers for Food Security : Uttar Pradesh	US\$ 1,626,542 (Rs. 7.04 crores)	State Government of Uttar Pradesh through State Institute for Management of Agriculture Extension (SIMA), Rehmankheda, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
3.	Sustainable Dryland Agriculture by Mahila Sanghams, Andhra Pradesh	US\$ 3,130,373 (Rs. 13.42 crores)	State Government of Andhra Pradesh through State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (SAMETI) Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
4.	Development of Hybrid Rice Technology for Large Scale Adoption in India.	US\$ 2,550,000 (Rs. 10.85 crores)	Indian Council of Agricultural Research through Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad
5.	Maize Based Cropping System for Food Security.	US\$ 8,14,000 (Rs. 3.43 crores)	Department of Agriculture & Cooperation through Technology Mission on Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize
6.	Management Support to Food Security Programme	US\$ 73,000 (Rs. 0.34 crores)	Department of Agriculture & Cooperation through Directorate of Extension.

* The figures in Rupees are based on the exchange rate at the time of signing of the agreement.

Eradication of Child Labour

*187 SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have drawn up any special plan for the eradication of child labour expeditiously;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be implemented indicating the manner in which the Government intend to eradicate the child labour; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):

(a) to (c) The Government of India has been implementing two schemes, for the rehabilitation of Children withdrawn from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. So far, NCLPs have been sanctioned in 100 districts in 13 Child Labour endemic States, for coverage of 2.11 lakh children, withdrawn from work. The major activity under the NCLP is the running of special schools/centres, for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work, through non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipend etc. Under the scheme of grant-in-aid, funds are released to Voluntary Organisations, on the recommendation of the concerned State Government, for taking up action-oriented projects for the benefit of children withdrawn from work. Over 50 projects are currently under implementation.

Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem the elimination of which would need sustained efforts over a period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted for complete elimination of child labour, beginning with children working in hazardous occupations.

National Aluminium Company

*188. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has been following the price increase policy of Hindalco and increasing its price almost simultaneously and frequently, thus forming a cartel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for maintaining the exorbitant selling price in parallel with Hindalco and not at international level when domestic cost is less; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to avoid cartelisation and check such practice?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) NALCO has its own pricing, discount and credit policy for sale of aluminium metal in the domestic market. Neither does the Company follow the pricing policy of HINDALCO nor is it in any cartel with the latter. Aluminium metal being under the Open General License (OGL) category for import/export, NALCO's pricing policy has to take into account many factors including the metal's price in London Metal Exchange (LME), landed cost for imported metal, and demand/supply conditions in the domestic market. The Aluminium sector is decontrolled and the metal is freely tradeable. Since the prices are market driven, there is no question of NALCO maintaining exorbitant selling prices.

[Translation]

Setting up of Regulatory Authority for Coal Mines

*189. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a regulatory authority for coal mining in the country;

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

(c) the details of powers to be vested in the proposed authority;

(d) whether the coal sector has been adversely affected due to resource crunch;

(e) if so, the details of foreign investment likely to be attracted by the sector;

(f) whether there is a huge gap between demand and supply of coal in the country;

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

(h) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the gap?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) In the context of Government's decision to open up the coal mining sector to private sector investment, it was decided in 1997 that an independent body may be set up to perform the functions of monitoring and

processing proposals for exploration of coal and lignite in the country and allotment of new coal and lignite blocks to Indian companies. The decision will have to be reconsidered by the present Government.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) We do not have any estimates of the likely foreign investment in the coal sector.

(f) and (g) The gap between demand and supply has been assessed at 30.06 million tonnes at the end of 2000-01, at 53.56 million tonnes at the end of 2006-07 and at 260.30 million tonnes at the end of 2011-12.

(h) The Coal Mines Nationalisation (Amendment) Bill, 2000 was introduced in the Parliament to allow Indian companies to mine coal and lignite in the country without the existing restriction of captive mining, and to engage in exploration of coal and lignite.

Price of Cotton

*190. SHRI NANDKUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cotton growers are suffering heavy losses due to decline in prices of cotton; and

(b) the measures being taken to increase the prices of cotton and to save the cotton growers from the financial loss?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH):

(a) The Domestic Cotton Prices in 2001-2002 season have shown a declining trend as compared to the previous year.

(b) To protect the interest of farmers the Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for different varieties of cotton and the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) undertakes Price Support Operation (PSS) if prices touch MSP level. As a result of falling prices, the CCI has started procurement operations and has already procured 18735 bales of cotton under PSS as on 23.11.2001. The procurement is continuing. This intervention is likely to help stabilize the market prices of cotton.

Income from Royalty on Coal

*191. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the income being earned by the Union Govern-

ment as royalty on coal from each coal producing State including Madhya Pradesh every year;

(b) the amount of royalty paid to each State; and

(c) the percentage of the royalty provided to States from the total royalty for the development of coal producing area and for protection of the environment?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Royalty on coal is payable to the concerned State Government, directly by the holder of the mining lease.

(b) The amount of royalty paid by the Coal India Ltd. and Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. to the various States during the last three years is as follows :

	(Rs. in crores)		
Coal producing State	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01 (Prov.)
Bihar	607.59	591.28	329.79
Jharkhand*			194.24
Orissa	227.40	226.58	253.95
Maharashtra	184.62	183.13	220.79
Madhya Pradesh	671.58	688.10	574.95
Chhattisgarh*			139.07
Uttar Pradesh	86.78	108.30	131.48
Assam	11.75	13.27	7.80
Andhra Pradesh	200.16	223.07	227.34
West Bengal	9.53	10.26	10.17
Total Royalty	1999.41	2043.99	1958.24

* The State of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh were formed during the year 2000-2001.

(c) The royalty paid to the State Government goes into the Consolidated Fund of the State. Expenditure from the Consolidated Fund is made with the approval of the State Legislature. The State Government is under no obligation to utilize any proportion of the royalty on development of coal producing areas or on protection of the environment.

[English]

Dumping of Agricultural Products

*192. SHRI AMBAREESHA :

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the farmers in the country have been adversely affected due to the large scale dumping of agricultural products by some countries;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard to save the domestic farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) No antidumping investigation under the Customs Tariff Act, involving agricultural products has been initiated by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD&AD) as yet.

In order to ensure that the farmers of the country are not adversely affected by dumping or surge in imports of agricultural products, the Government has put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items and is 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 levels, imposition of anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard action.

[Translation]

Afforestation in the Country

*193. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :

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

(a) the targets set and achieved, separately, for afforestation in the country under the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the total funds allocated and spent during the said plan period, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets within the stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The major Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Ministry of Environment and Forests in which afforestation activities are undertaken are as under :

(i) Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme (IAEPS)

(ii) Area Oriented Fuel-wood and Fodder Project Scheme (AOFFP)

(iii) Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including medicinal plants Scheme (NTFP)

(iv) Association of Scheduled Tribe and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct Sharing Basis Scheme (ASTRP)

The State-wise details of financial progress and physical progress achieved under the programme are attached in the statement-I and II respectively. In respect of ASTRP an area of 10639 ha. has been covered against a target of 16,747 ha.

The performance of the schemes are reviewed periodically through quarterly and annual progress reports. Subsequently release of funds is subject to satisfactory utilisation of funds.

Statement-I

Statement showing Financial Progress during 9th Five Year Plan
(1997-98 to 2000-01)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Financial : Rs. in lakh							
		NTFP		IAEPS		AOFFP		ASTRP	
		San.	Rel.	San.	Rel.	San.	Rel.	San.	Rel.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	567.43	370.38	642.08	539.71	695.87	593.74	123.96	47.96
2	Arunachal Pradesh	106.81	45.00	214.12	200.01	40.12	25.02	85.40	30.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	Assam	241.22	136.50	369.78	224.75	858.31	355.53	0.00	0.00
4	Bihar	188.58	88.00	282.12	190.80	737.98	275.52	151.61	66.95
5	Goa	63.76	63.28	0.00	0.00	37.93	24.18	0.00	0.00
6	Gujarat	526.97	424.61	446.66	330.02	1036.94	811.80	99.45	61.80
7	Haryana	149.34	148.34	343.35	330.82	1398.44	1340.30	0.00	0.00
8	Himachal Pradesh	142.53	99.81	230.18	169.11	744.62	537.32	0.00	0.00
9	J&K	772.08	569.25	1346.74	1148.97	797.81	162.64	98.51	75.24
10	Karnataka	263.90	229.84	695.90	508.93	900.22	657.91	132.50	88.14
11	Kerala	132.07	72.95	1412.98	1166.73	467.66	368.34	0	0.00
12	Madhya Pradesh	712.41	405.80	1442.67	961.65	2772.60	1521.81	219.37	156.91
13	Maharashtra	432.43	214.17	967.79	398.60	378.41	296.66	142.13	63.03
14	Manipur	261.06	237.55	1382.44	1178.86	975.23	404.27	89.21	60.69
15	Meghalaya	81.95	54.39	33.21	24.91	123.83	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Mizoram	223.57	194.17	511.47	470.35	854.73	807.06	59.67	44.55
17	Nagaland	124.78	69.00	136.78	132.24	77.65	24.10	59.02	15.80
18	Orissa	517.04	399.16	2542.47	1145.26	565.47	395.00	0.00	9.00
19	Punjab	126.76	58.50	392.22	123.99	1204.13	190.12	0.00	0.00
20	Rajasthan	555.25	444.62	1537.82	1304.88	970.01	755.14	112.32	72.97
21	Sikkim	401.05	401.05	671.09	598.52	346.66	292.23	64.43	0.00
22	Tamil Nadu	117.68	87.75	278.59	102.57	595.97	483.21	0.00	0.00
23	Tripura	77.88	60.71	341.59	252.85	314.51	217.49	48.73	21.80
24	Uttar Pradesh	312.48	136.00	162.69	154.07	1062.55	854.06	0.00	0.00
25	West Bengal	275.86	231.91	587.23	433.48	894.61	792.93	0.00	21.61
26	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	41.62	20.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	324.86	229.13	0.00	0.00	40.00	0.00
28	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	1535.96	1224.99	381.80	169.37	0.00	0.00
Total		7374.89	5242.74	18874.41	13566.32	19234.06	12355.75	1526.31	837.44

Statement-II

*Statement showing Physical Progress during 9th Five Year Plan
(1997-98 to 2000-01)*

Physical Area in ha.

Sl.No.	Name of State	NTFP		IAEPS		AOFFP	
		Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	9082	4653	9571	9233	15214	13071
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1820	490	2183	1860	1120	360
3	Assam	3595	1300	2750	2250	16800	10593
4	Bihar	3225	0	2700	1510	10609	2698
5	Goa	1160	520	0	0	500	465
6	Gujarat	4795	1745	1840	1840	15365	13925
7	Haryana	1250	705	2445	2445	13175	10606
8	Himachal Pradesh	1611	810	2460	1900	14015	11364
9	J&K	8275	4749	12122	10508	16110	4288
10	Karnataka	2246	1539	5412	4858	15244	10444
11	Kerala	1440	274	11219	11309	4090	3203
12	Madhya Pradesh	8175	2836	13085	12013	61125	54341
13	Maharashtra	5975	1240	8350	3083	5474	4636
14	Manipur	3660	940	9778	9808	14400	8270
15	Meghalaya	1400	400	250	250	3200	800
16	Mizoram	3300	1200	3400	3400	14000	14000
17	Nagaland	3247	405	1925	1925	2280	293
18	Orissa	9000	4725	25030	13125	16665	15926
19	Punjab	1075	595	2570	1170	16222	2912
20	Rajasthan	5250	2700	9900	9150	13353	13000
21	Sikkim	4500	3000	6200	6000	5834	3858
22	Tamil Nadu	1405	700	1500	100	14500	10500

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23	Tripura	1560	487	4385	3327	9461	7562
24	Uttar Pradesh	4270	1100	34	34	16879	14647
25	West Bengal	3827	1452	4000	3168	14942	11942
26	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Chhattisgarh	0	0	3105	2862	3057	975
28	Uttaranchal	0	0	11400	10744	8965	4600
Total		94143	38565	157614	127872	342629	249279

The state-wise physical target & achievement of ASTRP scheme is not readily available. However an area of 10639 ha. has been covered against the target 16,747 ha. during 9th Plan.

Assistance for Setting up of Fodder Banks

*194. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance provided to set up Fodder Banks for development of animal fodder and grazing fields under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme to various States including Gujarat during the last three years and in the current year till date;

(b) the criteria adopted for providing such assistance;

(c) the amount spent by each State under the said scheme during the above period;

(d) whether the Union Government are aware of the alleged misuse of the said amount by several State Governments; and

(e) if so, the names of such States and the action being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) During the last 3 years, only the States of Kerala, Karnataka, J&K, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Arunachal Pradesh have asked for funds to establish fodder banks. The information on the central assistance provided and the balance pending is given below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

States	98-99	99-00	2000-01	Amount Spent/ Pending
Kerala	38.85	-	-	38.85
Karnataka	21.00	-	10.50	21.0/10.50
J&K	-	50.56	-	41.25/9.31
Gujarat	-	79.00	-	79.00
Maharashtra	-	-	41.25	41.25
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	11.36	11.36

No further request for release of funds for establishment of fodder banks is pending.

The assistance is provided on the basis of the proposals received from the State Governments, their viability and utilization of funds released to them.

(d) No information regarding alleged misuse of the said amount has been received.

(e) Question does not arise.

[English]

ESIC Facility for Beedi Workers

*195. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to permit beedi workers to avail of the ESIC medical facilities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria laid down therefor;

(c) whether ESIC facilities for medical purposes are being under utilised;

(d) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):

(a) to (e) There is no such proposal at present. However, beedi workers working in the factory premises which are covered under the ESI Scheme enjoy all the benefits as permissible under the Scheme.

Some of the ESI Hospitals are under-utilized. The survey/inspection of the Hospital is a continuous process and reporting of the occupancy is done annually. The under-utilisation in some Hospitals is due to reduction in number of workers under the ESI Scheme on account of shifting or closure of various industries/establishments.

Security Watch Towers at International Airports

*196. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct Security Watch Towers/Sniper Towers with automatic Weapons at all the International Airports to thwart the possible terrorists attack;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total cost involved therein;

(d) the time by which the work is likely to be completed; and

(e) the extent to which it is expected to help the airports authority to deal with the security threat?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (e) Security Watch Towers already exist at five international airports i.e. Delhi, Mumbai,

Kolkata, Chennai and Amritsar, and at eight domestic airports i.e. Srinagar, Jammu, Chandigarh, Udaipur, Coimbatore, Vadodara, Tirupati and Silchar. No more Watch Towers are planned at present. As regards Sniper Towers with automatic weapons, these are not considered suitable for airports.

Programme for Tourism Industry

*197. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been actively considering to formulate a seven point programme to meet the adverse conditions being faced by the tourism industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to boost tourism growth?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) In order to meet the adverse conditions in the arena of tourism in the aftermath of terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001 the Department of Tourism, Government of India has formulated a Seven Point Programme for promotion of tourism in the country. The details of the Seven Point Programme are as given below :

(i) Do not ring alarm bells to often;

(ii) Propagate India as safe and secure destination;

(iii) Step-up marketing in the Western and Northern world;

(iv) Break new grounds in the East and South, particularly with regard to China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and Australia;

(v) Give special boost to domestic tourism, particularly the tourism connected with pilgrimage and use the new facilities and infrastructure created in this regard to serve as a backbone for international tourism in times to come;

(vi) Create conditions in which India attains a very great reputation for ethical trade and business practices; and

- (vii) **Help** in initiation of a great reform movement in India, a sort of new renaissance which would make India more creative and constructive and bring about a work culture of the highest class and also project India as a unique country which provides opportunities for physical invigoration, mental rejuvenation, cultural enrichment and spiritual elevation.

(c) Further steps taken by the Government to boost tourism growth and attract foreign tourists to India include development and improvement of tourist facilities, publicity and marketing efforts in the foreign countries through overseas tourist offices, strengthening institutions of Human Resource Development and use of Information Technology etc.

Department of Tourism has also made efforts to send appropriate signals to countries all over the world that India is a safe destination. Reorientation in marketing efforts is also being made by focussing on markets in South-East Asia and also emphasizing the significance of domestic tourism.

[Translation]

M.S. Ahluwalia Committee for Creation of Job Opportunities

*198. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee constituted for creation of additional job opportunities under the Chairmanship of Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) whether there is also another Committee headed by Shri S.P. Gupta constituted for the same purpose;

(c) if so, the composition thereof;

(d) the reasons for setting up of another committee after receiving the report from the first one; and

(e) details of the recommendations made by Ahluwalia Committee and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Task Force on Employment Opportunities

under the Chairmanship of Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Member, Planning Commission has submitted its report to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on 2nd July 2001.

(b) to (d) A Special Group on "Targeting 10 million employment opportunities per year over the Tenth Plan Period" has been constituted by Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission to suggest strategies and programmes in the Tenth Plan. The Group shall consider all relevant studies and recommendations including the report of the Task Force on employment opportunities headed by Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia. The Composition of the Special Group is in the attached statement.

(e) The full report of the Task Force has been placed in the Parliament Library (Call No. 331.1R/P1 and Class No. 331.1R). Chapter 8 of the Report gives the summary of recommendations. The strategy for employment generation recommended by the Task Force is based on intervention in the following 5 major areas :

- Accelerating the rate of growth of GDP, with particular emphasis on sectors likely to ensure the spread of income to the low income segments of the labour force.
- Pursuing appropriate sectoral policies in individual sectors which are particularly important for employment generation. These sector level policies must be broadly consistent with the overall objective of accelerating GDP growth.
- Implementing focused special programmes for creating additional employment of enhancing income generation from existing activities aimed at helping vulnerable groups that may not be sufficiently benefited by the more general growth promoting policies.
- Pursuing suitable policies for education and skill development, which would upgrade the quality of the labour force and make it capable of supporting a growth process which generates high quality jobs.
- Ensuring that the policy and legal environment governing the labour market encourages labour absorption, especially in the organized sector.

The Report is under examination.

Statement**Composition of the "Special Group on Targeting 10 Million Employment Opportunities per year over the 10th Plan Period"**

1	Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member (LEM), & Chairman, 10th Plan Steering Committee on Labour and Employment	Chairman
2	Chairman (KVIC)	Member
3	Sh. R.P. Sinha, Pr. Adviser (LEM)	Member
4	Secretary (Labour)	Member
5	Secretary (Rural Development)	Member
6	Secretary (Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation)	Member
7	Secretary (Small Scale Industry)	Member
8	Secretary (Agro and Rural Industries)	Member
9	Secretary (Social Justice and Empowerment)	Member
10	Director General, NSSO	Member
11	Adviser (LEM), Planning Commission	Member Secretary

*[English]***Insurance Scheme for Agricultural Workers**

*199. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched an insurance scheme for agricultural workers recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons why the scheme has been launched in 50 blocks of 50 districts of the country;

(c) whether the All India Agricultural Workers Union (AIAWU) has objected to certain provisions of the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prepare and launch a comprehensive insurance scheme for agricultural workers on the Kerala pattern of 1974?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):

(a) and (b) The Government has launched 'Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001' w.e.f. 1st July 2001 in one or two blocks in each of the selected 50 districts to cover 10 lakh agricultural workers over a span of three years in the first phase. The scheme is being implemented by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). The benefits under the scheme include life-cum-accident insurance, money back, pension and superannuation benefits. The agricultural Workers between the age group of 18 to 50 years are eligible under the scheme. The worker will contribute Rs.365/- per annum (Re.1/- per day) and the Government will contribute Rs.730/- per annum (Rs.2/- per day) per worker.

As per sample survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organization in 1999-2000, about 23.7 crores workers are engaged in agriculture and allied activities and it is not possible to cover such a large workforce at the same time. On the basis of the performance of the scheme during the first phase and availability of funds, it will be extended to other areas in a phased manner.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The Scheme has been launched after detailed consultations with concerned Departments and taking into account the experiences of the State Governments including Kerala.

Crop Production

*200. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a "No Pest" campaign in Bangladesh led to a reduction of 76 per cent in pesticide usage and a subsequent yield increase of 11 per cent in crop production;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to frame a similar policy to decrease pesticide usage and to increase the production;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the alternative measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (d) Government are not aware of "No Pest" campaign in Bangladesh. However, the Government have adopted eco-friendly Integrated Pest Management approach as cardinal principle of plant protection in the overall crop production programme. Under this approach known pest

control methods viz. cultural, mechanical, biological and need based minimum use of chemical pesticides are being advocated. Emphasis is being laid on human resource development by imparting Integrated Pest Management training to field functionaries and farmers, organization of Integrated Pest Management demonstrations and promotion of biological control with emphasis on use of biopesticides and pesticides of plant origin like neem based formulations.

There has been a reduction in pesticide use from 61,357 Metric tonnes (Technical Grade) during 1994-95 to 43,584 Metric tonnes (Technical Grade) during 2000-01 in the country.

Production and productivity depend on many factors like weather, soil, water management, seeds, new technology, input management including pesticides, farmers practices etc. Efforts are being made to increase production and productivity under the National Agriculture Policy. There has been an increase in the yield of foodgrains from 1546 Kilogram per hectare in 1994-95 to 1697 Kilogram per hectare in 1999-2000 and increase in production of foodgrains from 191.50 million tonnes in 1994-95 to 208.87 million tonnes in 1999-2000.

[Translation]

Supply of Computers to Schools under MPLADS

2035. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of schools which have been provided with computers so far under the scheme to provide one computer each to five schools on the recommendations of the Member of Parliament of the respective constituency, State-wise; and

(b) the time by which the remaining schools are likely to be provided with such facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme, works can be taken up only on the recommendations of the concerned Member of Parliament. Computers also can be provided to Government and Government-aided educational institutions, under the Scheme, on the recommendations of the concerned Member of Parliament. The details about the names and addresses of schools to whom the computers have been provided, under the scheme so far, are available at the District level.

Companies Purchasing Steel from SAIL

2036. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH BARWALA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of companies purchasing HR coils and GI sheets from SAIL; and

(b) the details of companies which have yet to settle the outstanding dues of SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) As a very large number of customers buy material from SAIL, it would not be in the commercial interests of the company to furnish customer details.

Price of Arecanut

2037. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Goa has recently increased the price of Arecanut under MIS;

(b) if so, whether the Andaman and Nicobar Islands had increased the selling price of Arecanut several times during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the price;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be accomplished;

(e) whether the rates of Arecanut were revised on July 30, 2001 under the MIS Scheme of the Government;

(f) if so, whether this scheme is applicable in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(g) whether the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have sent a scheme on Arecanut under the MIS to the Government of India for approval; and

(h) if so, the proposed rate of Arecanut per quintal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. Price under MIS is fixed by the Government of India not by the State Government.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Question does not arise.

[English]

Sponge Iron Plants

2038. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sponge iron plants under operation in the country along with their location, State-wise;

(b) the total production of sponge iron in the country during 1994-1995 and 2000-2001;

(c) whether some sponge iron plants are becoming sick or closed, as the products remain unsold in the domestic market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make them operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) As per available information, there are 32 sponge iron plants in operation. Location of these plants is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The total production of sponge iron in the country during 1994-1995 and 2000-2001 is as under :

1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
3392.0	4441.6	5047.0	5325.0	5166.0	5328.4	5484.2

(c) and (d) Five sponge iron plants are reportedly closed due to various reasons such as financial constraints, adverse market conditions, labour problems, technical problems etc.

(e) As all these closed Sponge Iron plants are in the private sector, initiative to revive them has to come from them.

Statement

List of Working Sponge Iron Units

Sl.No.	Name of Unit	Location	State
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s. Sponge Iron India Ltd.	Khamman	Andhra Pradesh

1	2	3	4
2.	M/s. Bihar Sponge Iron Ltd.	Singhbhum	Jharkhand
3.	M/s. Ashirwad Steel & Ind. Ltd.	Jamshedpur	-do-
4.	M/s. Bisco Sponge Iron Pvt. Ltd.	Jamshedpur	-do-
5.	M/s. Chandil Industries Ltd.	Singhbhum	-do-
6.	M/s. Maa Chinnamastaka Sponge Iron Pvt. Ltd.	Hazaribagh	-do-
7.	M/s. K.Y.S. Sponge Iron Pvt. Ltd.	Jamshedpur	-do-
8.	M/s. Essar Steel Ltd.	Hazira	Gujarat
9.	M/s. Bellary Steel & Alloys Ltd.	Bellary	Karnataka
10.	M/s. H.E.G Ltd.	Durg	Chhattisgarh
11.	M/s. Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.	Raigarh	-do-
12.	M/s. Prakash Industries Ltd.	Champa	-do-
13.	M/s. Raipur Alloy & Steel Ltd.	Raipur	-do-
14.	M/s. Monnet Ispat Ltd.	-do-	-do-
15.	M/s. Nova Iron & Steel Ltd.	Bilaspur	-do-
16.	M/s. Raigarh Electrodes Ltd.	Raigarh	-do-
17.	M/s. Sunflag Iron & Steel Ltd.	Bhandara	Maharashtra
18.	M/s. Vikram Ispat	Raigad	-do-
19.	M/s. Ispat Industries Ltd.	Raigad	-do-
20.	M/s. Lloyds Metal & Engg. Ltd.	Chandrapur	-do-
21.	M/s. Tata Sponge Iron Ltd.	Keonjhar	Orissa
22.	M/s. Orissa Sponge Iron Ltd.	-do-	-do-

1	2	3	4
23.	M/s. Raxon Strips Ltd.	Sundergarh	-do-
24.	M/s. Sree Metalliks Ltd.	Keonjhar	-do-
25.	M/s. Deepak Minerals & Ind. Ltd.	-do-	-do-
26.	M/s. Scan Steels Ltd.	Sundergarh	-do-
27.	M/s. Surya Sponge Iron Ltd.	Jaipur	-do-
28.	M/s. Scan Sponge Iron Ltd.	Sundergarh	-do-
29.	M/s. M.S.P. Sponge Iron Ltd.	Haldiguna	-do-
30.	M/s. Kusum Powermet Pvt. Ltd.	Keonjhar	-do-
31.	M/s. Jai Balaji Sponge Ind. Ltd.	Burdwan	West Bengal
32.	M/s. Shyam Sel Ltd.	-do-	-do-

Reduction in Strength of GSI

2039. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :

SHRI SUBODH ROY :

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to cut down work related to mineral exploration, mapping and drilling in the Geological Survey of India (GSI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether only GSI in the country can find out and identify disaster prone zones and mineral deposits;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to reduce the strength of GSI and its field of activity; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The National Mineral Policy of 1993 recognised the need for encouraging private investment including foreign direct investment and state-of-the-art technology in mineral sector both for exploration as well as exploitation of minerals. The Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act,

1957 was amended in 1994 and 1999 resulting in simplification of procedures. The Expenditure Reforms Commission has also recommended for the revision of the role of Geological Survey of India. The Government of India is contemplating to setup an expert committee to review the working of GSI in the changing times. However, GSI will continue mapping and exploration for certain minerals in which inventory is very low and where private sector would not step in.

(c) GSI carries out geological mapping and studies in seismotectonic, land slides, Glaciers, volcano etc. which help in the identification of disaster prone areas. Other central agencies which undertake such studies to a limited extent are Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, National Geophysical Research Institute and Indian Meteorological Department under Department of Science and Technology.

GSI has been associated with discovery of all major mineral deposits in the country. However, there are State Departments of Geology and Mines, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, National Mineral Development Corporation, Coal India Limited, Hindustan Zinc Limited and other agencies which are also engaged in mineral exploration in the country.

(d) and (e) The Expenditure Reforms Commission in their recommendations related to GSI have recommended for the revision of its charter and down-sizing of the organisation, which shall be considered by the expert committee to be setup and any follow-up action would be considered in the light of its recommendation.

Smuggling of Agricultural Produce

2040. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Arecanut, Spices etc. are smuggled to India from neighbouring countries causing price down to all such agricultural products in the domestic market; and

(b) if so, the details and steps taken to safeguard the interest of growers in this regard?

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

National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories

2041. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories has urged the Union Government to reduce the excise duty on molasses and allow alternate packing material for sugar instead of gunny bags; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Such a representation was received from the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories by the Government. However, after taking into consideration all the relevant factors, Government have decided to extend the compulsory packaging of sugar to the extent of 100%, with the provision that in case of any shortage in supply of jute packaging material, relaxation upto 20% will be allowed by the Ministry of Textiles in consultation with the user Ministry concerned.

There is also no proposal for reduction in excise duty on molasses.

Agro Service Centre

2042. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of farmers Agro Service Centres (ASC) established in the country particularly in Orissa and Gujarat, State-wise;

(b) the functions of these centres; and

(c) the details of assessment of their performance so far?

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

[Translation]

Opening of new mines in Singhbhum

2043. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey has been conducted for opening of new mines in Singhbhum region of Jharkhand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Geological Survey of India (GSI), a subordinate organisation under the Department of Mines has conducted preliminary mineral surveys for gold, base metal, nickel and dimension stone in Singhbhum region of Jharkhand with the objective of augmenting mineral resources. However, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), a public sector undertaking under this Department has carried out detailed exploration for copper and gold in Singhbhum district of Jharkhand State.

The block-wise reserves estimated are given below :

District	Mineral	Block	Reserve (million tonnes)	Grade
Singhbhum	Copper ore	Turamdih-Bayanabil	3.61	0.92-1.49% Copper
		Sideshwar Block-I&II	7.25	1.65-1.83% Copper
		Surda	20.73	1.20% Copper
		Pathrgora	9.65	1.51% Copper
		Dhadikidh Ph-I&II	9.25	1.12% Copper
	Gold ore	Kundarkocha	0.01	13.11% Gold

[English]

Shifting of S.E.C.L. to Chhattisgarh

2044. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) Mukhyala, Vilaspur has been shifted to Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up a SECL Mukhyala in Shahdole as there are 42 collieries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are aware that there is no Independent Company at present in Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the 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) Headquarters of South Eastern Coalfields Limited is situated at Seepat Road, Bilaspur, which is located within the State of Chhattisgarh only.

(b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to shift the SECL headquarters to Shahdole.

(c) Does not arise in view of answer given to part (b) of question.

(d) and (e) The Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited, is headquartered in Singrauli in the State of Madhya Pradesh with its jurisdiction covering coalfield areas of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The Western Coalfields Limited, headquartered in Nagpur in Maharashtra, and South Eastern Coalfields Limited, with its headquarters in Bilaspur, also operate coal mines in Madhya Pradesh.

Promotion of Bio-Tourism/Eco-Tourism

2045. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to promote Bio-tourism and Eco-tourism in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is enormous potential in some areas like Mysore, Coorg, Chickmagalur and Western Ghats in Karnataka including bio-sphere reserves which can be developed as Eco-Bio/tourism Centres; and

(c) if so, the time by which a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) The Ministry of Tourism had formulated the Policy and Guidelines for Eco-tourism.

(b) and (c) Eco-tourism projects proposed by the State/ Union Territories Governments are provided Central financial assistance on the basis of their inter-se priority and subject to availability of funds.

For development and promotion of Eco-tourism in the State of Karnataka, the Central Department of Tourism has provided assistance for the following Eco-tourism projects :

- Kabini River Lodge at Kharapur, Mysore District
- Kali Wilderness Camp at Dandeli, U.K. District
- Eco-tourism facility at K. Gudi, Chamarajanagar District
- Eco-Beach Cottages at Devgarh near Karwar
- Cauvery Fishing Camp at Bhimeshwari and at Doddamakali, Mandya District
- Tourist Complex at Kundremukh, Chickmagalur District
- Eco-tourism Resorts at Bannerghatta National Park near Bangalore
- Eco-tourism Resorts at Hampi

Lift Irrigation Project

2046. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry had spent Rs. 58.69 lakh during 1992-96 on a Lift Irrigation Project to irrigate fodder and fodder seed farm at Dhamro in district Surat;

(b) if so, whether the project has not been commissioned so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to start the project expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The matter has been taken up with Gujarat Water Resources Development Corporation to complete testing and hand over the project to the farm.

Economic Growth of Weaker Sections

2047. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Article 46 of the Constitution directs the States to promote with special care the economic interests of the weaker sections of the people particularly of the SCs and STs so as to protect them from social injustice and exploitation and to overcome the prevailing deep rooted prejudices and historical economic hardships suffered by them; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to give effect to this constitutional directive to promote with special care the economic interest of the SCs and STs in tapping the forest resources through State Sponsored Scheme/Programmes such as leasing of wood collection and award of agency licence/permit for transportation etc.?

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

(b) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct Sharing Basis" for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The scheme was initiated in VIII Plan and continued in IX Plan. The Scheme is now being implemented in 16 States.

The objectives of the scheme are : 1. To improve forest based biomass resource base in degraded forest lands and to manage it on a sustained basis for domestic needs of the identified communities. 2. To involve local Scheduled Tribes and other rural poor in protection and rehabilitation of degraded forests for maintenance of ecology of the area and for sustenance of local communities. 3. To provide gainful employment and sustainable economic base to scheduled tribes and other rural poor in the vicinity of their habitation.

Under other afforestation schemes such as Integrated Afforestation and Ecodevelopment Project, Area Oriented Fuel and Fodder Project, Non Timber Forest Products Project, about 60-70% of the funds are spent towards labour component which provides employment to the rural poor including SC/STs.

The Government is promoting Joint Forest Management (JFM) to involve people living in and around forests in the management of forests. A benefit sharing mechanism has been evolved for people living in the vicinity of forests to secure their active participation in the management of forests. Under JFM programme, people have been given free access to the forest which is under the control of the concerned Forest Protection Committee. JFM aims to provide fuelwood, fodder, non-wood forest products and timber to local people living in and around forests.

[Translation]

Amendment in Mining Act

2048. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from State Governments requesting for amendment in section 5(2) of the Act to remove the compulsion of mining plan for low value mineral like quartz, felspar, clay, silica sand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, do not arise. However, the powers to approve mining plan in respect of low value minerals like quartz, felspar, clay and silica sand for open cast mines have been delegated to the State Governments with effect from 25th September, 2001 by amending the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960.

Declaration of Cow a National Animal

2049. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to declare the Cow as a National Animal;

(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) No, Sir.

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

(c) The Ministry of Environment & Forest has already declared tiger as the National Animal.

Assistance for Natural Calamities

2050. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated by the Government to the State Governments to tackle the natural calamities during each of the last three years;

(b) the States which have suffered maximum loss of life and property due to natural calamity during the said period; and

(c) the amount of assistance provided to those States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) Natural calamities do cause damage to life and property of varying magnitude depending upon the nature, intensity and severity of the calamity. Orissa and Gujarat have suffered maximum loss because of Super cyclone and earthquake, respectively. State-wise details of release of Central share of CRF and assistance provided from the NCFR/NCCF during 1998-99 to 2000-01 is indicated in the statement attached.

Statement

Assistance provided from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NCFR)/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) States to the States, during 1998-99 to 2000-01

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Name of the State	Central Share of CRF Released			Assistance Provided from NCFR/NCCF		
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	1998-99 (NCFR)	1999-2000 (NCFR)	2000-01 (NCCF)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	103.30	107.69	148.54	26.50	75.36	-
2	Arunachal Pradesh	5.86	6.10	9.02	13.47	-	2.00
3	Assam	41.60	43.37	76.12	59.90	-	-
4	Bihar	43.22	33.79	50.22	11.45	38.18	29.67
5	Chhattisgarh	-	-	20.60	-	-	40.00
6	Goa	0.89	0.93	0.47	-	-	-
7	Gujarat	116.12	121.05	131.14	55.35	54.58	585.00
8	Haryana	20.84	21.73	60.98	13.27	-	-
9	Himachal Pradesh	22.42	23.37	32.61	-	-	8.29
10	Jammu & Kashmir	16.39	17.09	26.18	-	73.42	-
11	Jharkhand	-	-	42.52	-	-	-
12	Karnataka	34.81	36.29	55.93	49.98	17.09	-
13	Kerala	46.08	48.04	17.34	-	-	-
14	Madhya Pradesh	42.49	44.29	46.98	35.00	38.86	35.00
15	Maharashtra	56.73	44.36	117.90	-	-	-
16	Manipur	2.06	1.61	1.56	-	4.93	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17	Mechalaya	2.32	2.42	2.95	-	-	1.00
18	Mizoram	1.05	1.10	1.12	-	6.00	-
19	Nagaland	1.41	1.47	0.53	-	-	-
20	Orissa	40.77	42.50	103.65	-	828.15	35.00
21	Punjab	45.04	46.96	92.04	-	-	-
22	Rajasthan	148.92	155.25	196.00	21.98	102.93	85.00
23	Sikkim	3.92	4.08	2.95	7.67	-	-
24	Tamil Nadu	49.37	51.47	76.98	-	-	-
25	Tripura	3.74	3.90	1.41	5.05	5.34	-
26	Uttaranchal	-	-	7.10	-	-	-
27	Uttar Pradesh	104.07	108.50	32.08	131.15	16.68	-
28	West Bengal	42.69	44.50	75.83	66.33	29.52	103.25

CRNFNCRNCCF-98-2001

[English]

Reserved Posts for Handicaps

2051. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts reserved for disabled/physically handicapped persons in all the Departments under his Ministry, during each of the last three years post-wise/category-wise;

(b) the number of such posts lying vacant as on October, 31 2001, year-wise/post-wise/category-wise;

(c) the number of disabled/physically handicapped persons given employment on such posts, year-wise/post-wise/category-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The details of posts reserved for disabled/physically handicapped persons in respect of Department of Coal during each of the last three years post-wise/category-wise are as under :-

S.No.	Year	Posts	Category			Total
			B	C	D	
1	1998-1999	-	-	-	-	Nil
2	1999-2000	-	-	-	-	Nil
3	2000-2001	Assistant	1	-	-	1
		Steno Gr. 'D'	-	1	-	1

The appointments of Group 'A' posts are made on receipt of nominations from Department of Personnel and Training.

(b) Both the posts of Assistant and Steno Grade 'D' mentioned in the year 2000-2001 in reply to part (a) above are lying vacant as on 31st October, 2001.

(c) No employment to disabled/handicapped persons has been given during last three years.

(d) The vacant posts are likely to be filled up in due course on receipt of nominations from Department of Personnel and Training.

Information to the aforesaid question i.e. (a) to (d) in respect of Department of Mines is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Voluntary Retirement by Employees
of Coal & Mines**

2052. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of officials of his Ministry, who sought voluntary retirement during each of the last three years, category-wise/post wise;
- (b) the benefits given to such officials;
- (c) the number of applications lying pending for such retirement as on date;
- (d) whether such retirements have in any way affected smooth functioning of his Ministry;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government propose to make arrangements to fill up all such vacancies; and
- (g) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The details of officials of Department of Coal, who sought voluntary retirement during last three years, category-wise/post wise are as under :-

S.No.	Year	Category	Post	Total No.
1	1998-99	-	-	Nil
2	1999-2000	C	Assistant Accountant	1
3	2000-2001	B	Section Officer	1

- (b) The benefits to these officials have been given as per C.C.S. (Pension) Rules, 1972.
- (c) As on date, no application of voluntary retirement is pending in the Department of Coal.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) and (g) Vacancies arising out of such voluntary retirements are filled up in normal course as per rules.

Information to the aforesaid question i.e. (a) to (g) in respect of Department of Mines is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Revolution in Agriculture

2053. 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 bring productivity and quality revolution in the agriculture sector to meet the international standard;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the productivity and improve quality of agricultural products; and
- (d) whether there is any proposal to establish agricultural clinics to provide services like soil health management water processing and resources management to the farmers?

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

- (b) International standards in respect of agriculture sector are framed by Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO). In Government of India, mainly four Departments namely Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI) in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Export Inspection Council (EIC) and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in the Ministry of Commerce, Directorate General Health Services (DGHS) in the Ministry of Health and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution are involved in fixing standards for different agricultural commodities. These Departments are also engaged in the task of harmonizing standards with international standards to facilitate exports to international markets and to regulate imports. Directorate of Marketing & Inspection is framing standards of agricultural commodities under the provisions of Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937. So far grade standards for various 163 agricultural commodities have been framed. EIC is implementing the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 for the sound development of export trade from India through Quality Control and Pre-shipment Inspection. BIS has formulated more than 700 Indian Standards in

agriculture sector including agricultural machinery out of which 10% are harmonized with International Standards. APEDA has initiated various steps to promote exports namely Backward Linkages, Integrated Programmes for production of quality and productivity of selected fruits and vegetables, establishment of post harvest management facilities, strengthening of information database in terms of quality and other requirements of importing countries, strengthening testing facilities, setting up of Agri-Exports.

(c) For maximizing, the production in the agriculture sector, the Department is providing assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under integrated crop production Schemes with a view to supplement their efforts. Under these schemes, there are certain components under which assistance is provided for identified implements including power tillers and water saving devices like sprinklers and drip irrigation.

In order to improve the quality of agricultural products as many as 1345 units are functioning in various States which grade cereals, millets, pulses, oilseeds, fiber crops, fruit and vegetables, jaggery, tobacco, eggs etc. The value of commodities graded in these centres has been Rs.4389 crores during 1999-2000. The grading is undertaken through visual inspection by the graders of the Staff of Agricultural Produce Market Committees, who are regularly trained by the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection through its training programmes in regional languages.

(d) Yes, Sir. A new Scheme 'Establishment of a Network of Agri-clinics and Agri-business Centres' has been formulated which seeks to extend opportunities to all eligible agriculture graduates to support agriculture development through economically viable ventures as stakeholders by providing the much needed capital for this purpose by way of bank finance on the one hand and entrepreneurship skill on the other, to set up information kiosks, tissue culture

laboratories, soil testing laboratories, water testing laboratories, agriclincs, agri-business centres and take up other related activities for which model schemes are being prepared by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium.

Clearance to Power Projects

2054. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some projects in the country particularly Orissa are pending for environmental and forest clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-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) and (b) Only 11 power projects are awaiting environmental clearance as on 28th November, 2001. Similarly, only two major power projects (involving forest land of more than 20 ha.) are awaiting forestry clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. No power project of Orissa is pending for environmental or forestry clearance. A State-wise list of the pending power projects along with the reasons for their pendency is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) For expeditious environmental and forestry clearance of development projects including projects, various steps have been taken which, inter-alia, include streamlining of procedure, frequent meetings of Expert Committees and finalization of decision within 90 days of receipt of complete information.

Statement

List of pending power projects as on 28th November, 2001

(a) Environmental Clearance

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Status
1	2	3

Gujarat

1. 2x250 MW Imported Coal Based Thermal Power Plant near Village Zarpara, Taluka Mundra, District Kutch of M/s. Gujarat Power Corporation Limited

Based on the information submitted by project authorities, the proposal would be considered in the next meeting of the Expert Committee for Thermal Power project.

1	2	3
Karnataka		
2.	20 MW Mahatma Gandhi Hydro Electric Tail Race Project, District Shimoga of M/s Ambuthirtha Power Pvt. Ltd.	Expert Committee for River Valley Projects has recommended environmental clearance.
Madhya Pradesh		
3.	500 MW Sanjay Gandhi TPS extension at Barshighpur Pali, Distt. Umaria of Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board.	Additional details sought are still awaited form project authorities.
Maharashtra		
4.	10 MW Kumble Hydroelectric Project in Distt. Raigarh of Department of Irrigation, Government of Maharashtra	Certain clarifications are awaited from project authorities.
5.	15 MW Kal Hydroelectric Project in Raigarh District of Department of Irrigation, Government of Maharashtra	Supplementary information is awaited from project authorities.
Tamil Nadu		
6.	1886 MW TN LNG Power Plant at Ennore, North Chennai of M/s TN LNG & Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd.	Additional details sought are awaited from project authorities.
7.	35.5 MW D.G. Power Plant at Kothapalem village, Chittoor Distt. of M/s Pioneer Energy Corporation Ltd.	At the request of project authorities, discussion on the project was deferred.
8.	100 MW Gas based Valuthur power project at Valathur, Ramanathapuram Distt. of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.	Revised Environmental Impact Assessment Report is awaited from the project authorities.
9.	100 MW Cogeneration Power Plant at Ennore, Ponneri Taluka, Thiruvallur district of M/s Venkatesh Coke & Power Limited	Supplementary details sought are awaited from the project authorities.
10.	500 MW Lignite Thermal Power Plant, Stage-II Expansion Project at Neyveli Thermal Power Station, Cuddalore of M/s Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited	Supplementary information sought is awaited from project authorities.
Tripura		
11.	500 MW Gas based Combined Cycle Power Plant near Monachak, West Tripura District of M/s North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited	Supplementary information sought is awaited from project authorities
(b) Forestry Clearance		
Himachal Pradesh		
1.	66 MW Kashang Hydro Electric Project of Himachal Pradesh Electricity Board	Under active consideration.
Kerala		
2.	50 MW Kakkadu Hydro Electric Project of Kerala State Electricity Board	Essential information from the State Government awaited.

Sanjay Gandhi National Park

2055. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted regarding rehabilitation of slum dwellers in Sanjay Gandhi National Park;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) In pursuance of the orders of the High Court of Bombay to make a rehabilitation plan for the encroachers evicted from the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, the State Government of Maharashtra has identified two sites, namely, Khoni and Shirdhon in Thane district for rehabilitating those encroachers who were residing in the encroached area prior to 1.1.1995 and had their contribution towards the rehabilitation plan, as per directions of the High Court. The State Government have provided Rs. 6.0 crores in 2000-01 and Rs. 0.88 crores in 2001-02 for execution of the rehabilitation plan.

Guidance to Foreign Tourists

2056. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Special Police for Tourists" appearing in Hindu dated November 12, 2001;

(b) if so, the number of incidents cheating/duping of tourists reported during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to set up tourists Delhi Police to guide foreign/domestic tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) The Central Government has requested the State Governments to have preventive tourism legislation and set up Tourist Police to specially safeguard the security of the tourists. State Governments like Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Goa, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh

etc. have set up Tourist Police. Some other State Governments are considering introduction of such legislation.

(b) As per the information available the number of tourist complaints received from tourists during the last three years is as under :-

Year	No. of Complaints
1998	100
1999	103
2000	35

(c) and (d) Tourism Department of Government of NCT of Delhi has taken up with the Commissioner of Police, Delhi to set up a Cell of Delhi Tourist Police to provide security and safety to foreign and domestic tourists in Delhi.

[Translation]

Construction of New Airports

2057. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct some new domestic airports in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

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

(c) the details of total amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) At present Government of India has no plans to construct any new domestic airports in the country.

[English]

Fruits and Vegetables Outlet of Mother Dairy

2058. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Fruits and Vegetables Mother Dairy outlets functioning in Delhi at present;

(b) whether the proposal to set up a said outlet at CPWD Complex, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi has been pending for a long time;

- (c) if so, the present position thereof; and
 (d) the time by which it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) As present there are 263 Fruits & Vegetable Mother Dairy Outlets in and around Delhi.

(b) to (d) Mother Dairy have applied to Land & Development Office, Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation for allotment of land adjacent to their Milk Outlet in CPWD Complex, Vasant Vihar for construction of Fruit and Vegetable Outlet. But the land has not been allotted so far. After allotment of the land, it normally takes about six months for construction of the outlet subject to the provision of service connections by the concerned authorities.

Licences to Plywood Industries in A&N Islands

2059. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the plywood industries which have been granted licences for establishing plywood industries in Andaman and Nicobar Islands during each of the last five years and current year alongwith their years of operation in each case;

(b) whether some licences have been withdrawn or not renewed and some are still continuing;

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

(d) the value of wood fallen by each of the timber and plywood companies during their years of operation; and

(e) the steps taken to replenish the loss of the forest indicating the expenditure and physical achievements during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Decline in Foreign Tourists

2060. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Tourism Department is running under heavy losses due to decline in foreign tourists during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to revamp the Indian Tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) No, Sir. The foreign tourist arrivals as well as foreign exchange earnings have increased during the last two years in the country. The details are as given below :-

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals	% change	Foreign Exchange Earnings	% change
1998	2358629	--	12150.00	--
1999	2481928	5.2	12951.00	6.6
2000	2641157	6.4	14238.00	9.9

(b) Does not arise.

Employment of Men and Women

2061. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of men and women given employment in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the number out of them belonging to SC, ST and OBC; and

(c) the number of men and women unemployed as on date in each category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Gender wise details of the placement effected by the employment exchange in Gujarat during the last three years is given as under :

Year	Placement (in thousands)		
	Men	Women	Total
1998	61.7	5.7	67.4
1999	56.8	8.3	65.1
2000	62.1	7.3	69.4

(b) Placement of SC, ST and OBC jobseekers during 1998, 1999 and 2000 was as follows :

Year	Placement (in thousands)		
	SC	ST	OBC
1998	2.9	3.5	0.1
1999	5.7	6.7	0.2
2000	6.9	4.7	0.2

(c) The number of Men & Women job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the Live Register of the Employment Exchanges in Gujarat as on December 2000 was 8.8 lakh and 1.9 lakh respectively. The number of job-seekers belonging to SC, ST & OBC categories was of the order of 1.9 lakh, 1.1 lakh & 8.9 thousand respectively.

[Translation]

Visits by Minister

2062. SHRI UTTAM RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of Steel be pleased to state :

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) During the last two years, Minister of Steel has not visited any country/ signed any agreement.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Decline in Marine Products

2063. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a fall in market of Food Processing Industries products like marine products due to recent Afghan war;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to compensate the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) and (b) Yes. From the initial report gathered from the exporters, it appears that the export of Marine Products has been affected after the incident in U.S.A. on 11.09.2001. The export price for all varieties of seafood exported has dropped by 5-15%.

(c) Marine Products Export Development Authority

(MPEDA) are organising seminars in various centres in India to enlighten the exporters about the scope to increase exports even during the current crisis period. Besides, market intelligence is collected through their office abroad and disseminated to the exporters from time to time.

Central Cattle Breeding Farms

2064. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Cattle Breeding Farms are producing high pedigree bull calves of indigenous and exotic breeds of cattle for distribution to States;

(b) if so, whether these farms are producing such cattle more than the demand in the country;

(c) if so, whether due to less demands from the States because of paucity of funds these breeding farms have turned into commercial organisation and are using valuable funds of the Government;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to set up a committee to review the allocation of funds to these breeding farms; and

(e) if so, the corrective steps taken or being taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has set up on 21 August, 2001 a Committee of Experts to study the functioning of Central Cattle Breeding Farms and Central Frozen Semen Production & Training Institute and suggest corrective steps. The Committee will submit their report within six months from its inception.

[Translation]

Agriculture Training Centre

2065. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar for Central assistance to set up a State Level Agriculture Training Centre in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the assistance by the Union Government is likely to be provided?

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

Under World Bank funded National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP), Government of India have received a proposal from Government of Bihar to set up a State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI) at Rajendra Agricultural University (RAU), Samastipur, Bihar.

(b) As against the proposal of Rs. 89.60 lakhs submitted by Government of Bihar, the competent authority under NATP i.e. Technology Dissemination Management Committee (TDMC) have sanctioned and released the first instalment of Rs. 25.00 lakhs on 4th May, 2001 to the Director, SAMETI at RAU, Samastipur, Bihar.

[English]

Pending Irrigation Projects of Karnataka

2066. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of proposals of the Government of Karnataka for irrigation projects are pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, whether these proposals were discussed between the State and the Union Minister in Bangalore recently; and

(c) If so, the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) Out of the 4 major (Markandeya, Singatalur, Upper Tunga & Hippargi) and 1 medium irrigation project (Basapur), received from the Government of Karnataka for techno-economic appraisal, the Hippargi project has been accepted by the Advisory Committee subject to certain observations which are yet to be complied by the State Government. The other 4 projects are under correspondence.

(b) A memorandum on the pending projects was presented to the Union Minister of Water Resources by Government of Karnataka during the recent meeting in Bangalore.

(c) The memorandum has been examined and project wise status has been informed to Government of Karnataka for compliance of outstanding observations of various central appraising agencies. Clearance of the projects is linked to the promptness with which the State Government complies with the outstanding observations.

[Translation]

Construction of Cold Storage

2067. SHRI SURESH PASI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cold storage functioning for storage and marketing of fruits and vegetables in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh at present, State-wise;

(b) whether there is acute shortage of cold storage in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the number of cold storages set up in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh during the year 2000-2001;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up new cold storages in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (f) The total number of cold storages in the country as on 31.3.2001 are 4199. The State-wise details are given in the statement-I.

The High Level Expert Committee constituted by the Government of India for identifying the constraints and suggesting remedial measures has identified the creation/expansion of 12 lakh tonnes and rehabilitation/modernisation of 8 lakh tonnes of cold storage capacity and an addition of 4.5 lakh tonnes of onion storage capacity in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan. In order to give thrust to the cold storage sector, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation have introduced a scheme entitled, 'Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce'. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided in the form of back-ended capital investment subsidy by the National Horticulture Board (NHB), 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 organisations. The Government do not construct cold storages. The above scheme is operational throughout the country and is not restricted to any particular area/region.

Under the scheme, details of cold storage projects sanctioned, State-wise, during the year 2000-2001 are given in the statement-II.

Statement-I

State/Union Territory-wise Break-up of Cold Storages in the country as on 31.3.2001

Name of State/Union Territories	No. of Cold Storages
1	2
Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)	02
Andhra Pradesh	202
Arunachal Pradesh	00
Assam	19
Bihar	200
Chandigarh (UT)	06
Delhi	96
Gujarat	314
Goa	23
Haryana	201
Himachal Pradesh	16
Jammu & Kashmir	18
Kerala	156
Karnataka	110
Lakshadweep (UT)	01
Maharashtra	368
Madhya Pradesh	174

1	2
Manipur	00
Meghalaya	00
Mizoram	00
Nagaland	01
Orissa	71
Pondicherry (UT)	05
Punjab	440
Rajasthan	85
Sikkim	00
Tamil Nadu	94
Tripura	03
Uttar Pradesh	1233
West Bengal	361
Total	4199

Statement-II

Details of Cold Storage projects sanctioned, State-wise during the year 2000-2001 under the 'Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion / Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce'.

Name of State/Union Territory	Number of Projects Sanctioned
1	2
Gujarat	27
Orissa	3
Madhya Pradesh	25
Andhra Pradesh	18
Maharashtra	11
Punjab	24
Haryana	7
Tamil Nadu	14

1	2
Assam	2
Rajasthan	20
Uttar Pradesh	84
Karnataka	8
Bihar	2
West Bengal	7
Delhi	1
Tripura	1
Total	254

[Translation]

Revision of Royalty Rate on Minerals

2068. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received some requests from the various State Governments for revision of royalty rates on minerals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Proposals are received from time to time from State Governments for revision of rates of royalty on different minerals by the Central Government. Conventionally, a Study Group is constituted in the Department/Ministry concerned to review the rates of royalty on major minerals which comprises representatives of State Governments, the Industry, the Technical Institutions and other concerned Ministries/Departments. The Study Group makes recommendations about the rates of royalty after holding broad-based consultations which are considered by the Government and final revision of the rates of royalty is notified in the Official Gazette. Department of Mines had set up a Study Group vide office memorandum dated 5.10.1998.

Study Group submitted its recommendations in March, 2000. On the basis of the recommendations, the rates of royalty for major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing) have been notified w.e.f. 12.9.2000. As per Sec.9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, upward revision of royalty for major minerals (other than coal, lignite & sand for stowing) is not due before 12.9.2003. Revised rates of royalty for lignite were notified vide Gazette notification dated the 15th March, 2001. Hence the upward revision of royalty for lignite is not due before 15.3.2004.

A Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Coal) has been appointed to consider the revision of royalty rates on coal. The Committee is expected to submit its report shortly.

Survey on Effects of Pollution

2069. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in different areas of Delhi where polluting industrial units are operating to assess the effect of poisonous gases on the health of residents in the vicinity;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the conclusions revealed therefrom;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to undertake such surveys to safeguard and protect the health of residents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the safety measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) A survey has been conducted in different areas of Delhi including industrial areas to assess the effect of pollution on the health of residents. The survey indicates that pollution from industries is one of the causes of adverse health effects particularly respiratory diseases.

(e) The steps taken to control pollution include the following :

(i) Action Plan to control pollution in Delhi has been prepared and is being implemented.

(ii) A comprehensive Policy for Abatement of

Pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution has been formulated.

- (iii) A network of 290 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations has been set up throughout the country.
- (iv) Emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.
- (v) Industries are also required to install necessary pollution control equipments before commissioning of their plants.
- (vi) Industries are required to take consent from the respective State Pollution Control Board under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- (vii) A number of hazardous industries have been identified. Some of these industries have either been closed or relocated.

Natural Calamities Prone Areas

2070. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government had written to all State Governments asking them to identify their territorial areas which were prone to natural calamities and suggesting protective measures which they should take to minimize the likely damage in case any such disaster struck;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the name of the States responded to the suggestions made and measures being taken by these States in this regard; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to pursue the matter with the remaining States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to take preparatory measures and provide relief to the people in the wake of natural calamities. The Central Government supplements the States' efforts by providing financial and logistic support. The Central Government remains in close liaison with the State authorities for providing necessary assistance, if needed. In the meeting of the Relief

Commissioners of the States the matters connected with the preparedness and relief measures are discussed. After Gujarat earthquake, the States in Seismic Zones IV and V were specifically requested to update disaster plan and response mechanism.

[Translation]

Effects of Pollution caused by Petro Products

2071. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the pollution caused by spurious petroleum products has more deadly effect on human beings than pollution caused generally; and
- (b) if so, the effective steps taken or proposed to be taken to apprise the people of this fact?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Pollution caused by spurious products could have more health impacts.

- (b) The steps taken include the following :
 - i. Public awareness campaigns have been launched on the use of specified quality fuel and the public have been informed of the facilities available in retail outlets for checking of fuel quality.
 - ii. The oil companies are taking various steps to detect/prevent adulteration of petroleum products at retail outlets.
 - iii. The Government has advised the State and Union Territory Governments from time to time to ensure that the product reaches the targeted people as well as to identify and plug loopholes in the distribution system.
 - iv. Motor Spirit (MS)/High Speed Diesel (HSD) control order has been amended providing for testing of sample for various parameters including density checks, octane number of Motor Spirit and cetane number of High Speed Diesel etc.
 - v. The State and Union Government authorities have been empowered to conduct inspections at retail outlets and take appropriate action against the erring dealers against any malpractices/irregularities detected.

- vi. Promotion of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) driven vehicles.

Funds of MPs of Maharashtra under MPLADS

2072. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of STATICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds sanctioned and allocated to each Member of Parliament of Maharashtra under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) during each of the last two years; and

(b) the details of works got carried out by each Member of Parliament under the MPLADS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The amount released under MPLADS for the State of Maharashtra during the last two years and the current year till 28.11.2001 to Lok Sabha constituency wise and Rajya Sabha MP wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The details of works are available with the concerned District Collectors.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Lok Sabha Constituency	Funds Released (Rs. Lakhs) 1999-2000	Funds Released (Rs. in Lakhs) 2000-2001	Funds Released (Rs. in Lakhs) 2001-2002 (upto 28-11-2001)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Ahmednagar	100	400	200
2	Akola	50	350	300
3	Amravati	200	350	200
4	Aurangabad	300	200	200
5	Baramati	200	300	250
6	Bhandara	100	400	250
7	Beed	250	200	200
8	Mumbai North	150	200	150

1	2	3	4	5
9	Mumbai North Central	200	300	200
10	Mumbai North East	250	200	200
11	Mumbai North West	250	0	300
12	Mumbai South	200	350	100
13	Mumbai South Central	150	400	200
14	Buldhana (SC)	100	450	200
15	Chandrapur	100	100	250
16	Chimur	100	300	150
17	Dahanu (ST)	100	350	200
18	Dhule (ST)	150	300	300
19	Erandol	50	400	300
20	Hingoli	150	350	200
21	Ichalkaranji	150	350	200
22	Jalgaon	200	300	250
23	Jalna	150	100	150
24	Karad	200	300	250
25	Khed	200	350	200
26	Kulaba	250	200	200
27	Kolhapur	150	300	200
28	Kopergaon	150	300	300
29	Latur	250	200	200
30	Malegaon (ST)	50	300	300
31	Nagpur	0	100	200
32	Nanded	300	200	200
33	Nandurbar (ST)	50	400	250
34	Nashik	100	400	100
35	Osmanabad (SC)	150	350	200
36	Pandharpur (SC)	250	250	100

1	2	3	4	5
37	Parbhani	300	200	200
38	Pune	200	100	350
39	Rajapur	100	100	450
40	Ramtek	50	300	150
41	Ratnagiri	150	400	200
42	Sangli	150	350	200
43	Satara	100	350	200
44	Solapur	300	200	200
45	Thane	300	200	200
46	Wardha	200	350	100
47	Washim	200	0	550
48	Yavatmal	100	250	400
Total		7900	13100	10850

1	2	3	4	5
12	Ramkrishna Suryabhanji Gavai	0	200	200
13	S.B. Chavan	250	250	200
14	Satish Chandra Sitaram Pradhan	300	200	200
15	Suresh Kalmadi	0	300	250
16	Surya Bhan Patil Vahadane	200	300	150
17	Vedprakash P. Goyal	200	200	100
18	Vijaya Darda	100	200	150
19	Yusuf Sarwar Khan (Dilip Kumar)	0	100	100
Total		2100	3600	2550

[English]

Tourists from Pakistan

2073. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign tourists are coming to India from Pakistan due to US attack; and

(b) if so, the number of such tourists arrived in India during the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) As a fall out of attack on World Trade Centre, USA and attack on Afghanistan by USA, 166, 65 and 33 foreign tourists arrived in India via Attari Land Checkpost during the months of September, October and November (till 17.11.2001) respectively.

Production of Milk in Karnataka

2074. SHRI R.S. PATIL :

SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL) :

SHRI G. PUTTASWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI AMBAREESHA :

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA :

S.No.	Name of the Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament	Funds Released (Rs. Lakhs) 1999-2000	Funds Released (Rs. in Lakhs) 2000-2001	Funds Released (Rs. in Lakhs) 2001-2002 (upto 28-11-2001)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Adhik Narayanshirodkar	50	300	0
2	Balavantparshuram Apte	0	100	200
3	Keswani Sureshatal Rai	50	100	0
4	Mukesh R. Patel	150	200	250
5	N.K.P. Salve	50	100	50
6	Najmaheptulla	150	100	150
7	Nirupam Sanjay	200	350	0
8	Pratul Manmohanbhai Patil	0	100	200
9	Pramod Mahajan	250	200	200
10	Pratish Nandy	0	100	50
11	Ramjethmalani	150	200	100

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantity of milk produced in Karnataka during the last three years;
- (b) whether the production of milk and dairy products in the State have been on the very high side;
- (c) if so, whether Karnataka has requested the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and other agencies to facilitate the sale of excess milk and dairy products;
- (d) if so, whether the Government propose to start a mega-dairy or related industry in Karnataka; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The milk production in Karnataka during the last three years is as below :

Year	Quantity (000 tonnes)
1998-99	4231
1999-2000	4925
2000-2001	5106 (Provisional)

- (b) Production of milk and dairy products especially skimmed milk powder and butter is high during the current flush season.
- (c) Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has requested Mother Dairy, Delhi which is a subsidiary of NDDB to purchase skimmed milk powder and butter. KMF has offered skimmed milk powder for sale during the current year to Delhi Milk Scheme, West Bengal Milk Federation, West Bengal Government Central Dairy and Metro Dairy, Kolkata.
- (d) and (e) A mega dairy of capacity 6 lakh litres per day has already been set up in Bangalore by the Bangalore Urban and Rural District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union. A 30 Metric Tonnes per day milk powder plant is also under construction at Bangalore. In addition to these the various District Coop. Milk Unions in Karnataka have proposed

augmentation of their processing capacity to the tune of 5 lakh litres per day.

CBI Enquiry on Wet Lease Deal

2075. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the CBI has completed the investigation into the alleged financial irregularities in the Wet Lease Deal;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken against the persons found guilty; and
- (c) if not, the time by which the investigation report is likely to be submitted to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have intimated that due to voluminous documents and numerous witnesses who are scattered at many places, the pace of the enquiry has been slow. The Convener of the Committee which selected M/s Caribjet and the then Commercial Manager (Marketing), who had settled in Switzerland after his retirement had also to be examined. The case, however, continues to be under active investigation of the CBI.

[Translation]

Agricultural Research

2076. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to make the agricultural research favourable to the Indian farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the broad achievements made by agricultural research during each of the last three years?

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

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is the apex scientific organisation in agriculture at national level to plan, undertake, promote, aid and coordinate agricultural research, education and the extension of new technologies through front line demonstrations. It will continue its research efforts on development of improved crop varieties and livestock, poultry and fish breeds and their production and post-harvest technologies including farm implements and machinery for the different agro-ecologies with consideration of the needs of the farming community, and to provide them to the farmers through front line demonstrations, training and interactions.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As per attached statement.

Statement

2000-2001

More than 135 high yielding and disease resistant varieties/hybrids of various field and horticultural crops were released for various agro-ecoregions and production systems of the country. This was supported by the generation of the appropriate agro-techniques. A total of 2,413 tonnes of breeder seed was also produced, which included about 55 tonnes of vegetable seed. Promising major crop-based cropping systems, having economic viability in different agro-ecoregions, have been evolved, keeping in view the resource availability and its efficient utilization. More emphasis was given on the development of farm machinery and post-harvest technology, and on-farm and off-farm value-addition, processing and storage. In the livestock and poultry improvement and management, efficient techniques for micro-satellite DNA markers, monoclonal antibody kits, diet supplements and semen preservation were developed. In the fish improvement and management, Indian catfish was successfully crossbred with African catfish, besides development of various fish production and processing techniques.

Under the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP), most of the research programmes were finalized and sanctioned under the Teams of Excellence (ToE), Mission Mode (MM), Production System Research (PSR), Institution-

Village Linkage Programme (IVLP) and Competitive Grant Programme (CGP) modes.

Council established ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region at Patna for enhancing productivity and production through multi-disciplinary research in system perspective; National Bureau on Agriculturally Important Microbes at New Delhi; and National Research Centre on Seed Species at Ajmer; in addition to upgradation of NRC on Semi-Arid Horticulture, Bikaner to a national institute.

1999-2000

More than 75 high yielding and disease resistant varieties/hybrids of crops which include 51 of field crops and 24 of horticultural crops, were released for various agro-ecoregions of the country. A total of 61,015 samples of diverse germplasm were procured from 63 countries. A total of 2,302.48 tonnes breeder seed of oilseed, pulse, fibre and forage crops was produced. Bio-intensive integrated pest management module showed higher benefit: cost ratio than farmer's practice in Andhra Pradesh. DNA-based fingerprinting technology was developed for all released potato varieties. A number of transgenic potato lines resistant to tuber moth and *Helicoverpa* were developed. Soil and land form conditions were mapped for different states and land resource atlas of North-Eastern region was prepared. Cost-free surge irrigation, an alternate to lift irrigation, was found promising in maize, sunflower and sorghum. Technologies were developed for improving water-use efficiency of various crops. Several agricultural implements and machinery including tractor-mounted hydraulically controlled wetland leveller, till planter, multi-crop planter, chilli seed extractor, etc. were developed.

The livestock census database was updated for 1992, and distribution maps and photographs were added. A fully operational information system in animal genetic resources was developed. A High Security Animal Disease Laboratory was commissioned at Bhopal. In rabbits, feeding of soyflakes improved the wool production and inclusion of locally available energy sources in their diet was found very economical. Mechanical methods of preantral follicle isolation proved better than enzymatic method in buffalo. In Bharat Merino, 100% embryo recovery was observed by double puncture technique. Addition of bromocryptin in poultry diet improved the egg production. A GIS map of the river Kosi was prepared to know the habitat of different life stages of endangered mahseer. Fish improvement and production technology were studied for freshwater, cold water and brackishwater aquaculture. Two projects under Jai Vigyan National Science and Technology Mission, one on Household Food and Nutritional Security and the other on Conservation of Agro-Bio-diversity were launched.

1998-99

More than 84 high yielding disease resistant varieties/hybrids of various field and horticultural crops were released for various agro-ecoregions and production systems of the country. About 3738 accessions were added to the National Genebank, while 280 samples of agrihorticultural crops were exported to 20 countries. In case of animal and fish genetic resources, efforts were concentrated to characterize our local breeds and strains. A total of 2,643.6 tonnes of breeder seed was produced and the major quantity belonged to cereals, oilseeds and pulses. Low-cost technology for large-scale production of vermicompost from coconut plantation wastes was standardized. Drip irrigation, border method of irrigation, mulching and supplemental irrigation were developed for saving of irrigation water. Rice-potato-wheat and sugarcane provided higher net returns than the rice-wheat system. The other cropping systems found promising at farmers fields were: rice-pea in Assam, groundnut - wheat in Bihar, soybean-gram and rice-tomato in Madhya Pradesh, rice-onion in Himachal Pradesh, sorghum-sunflower, blackgram-gram etc. in Maharashtra, clusterbean-wheat in Rajasthan, and maize-pea + wheat and blackgram-wheat in Uttar Pradesh.

For livestock and poultry improvement and management, information system on animal genetic resources was upgraded. Disease forecasting computer-based models were developed. The absence of rinderpest virus activity in various parts of the country was confirmed. Camel milk was found to have therapeutic value in tuberculosis treatment. Diagnostic kits for infectious bovine rhinotracheitis, brucellosis and bluetongue were developed. Multiple emulsion haemorrhagic septicaemia vaccine was developed. Embryo transfer technology protocols for cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, etc. were being standardized. A new hormonal formulation, ovotide, was developed for fish breeding programme. A 6-row tractor-mounted inclined plate planter; manually-operated single-row garlic planter; power tiller-operated multi-crop planter; power tiller-operated potato planter-cum-fertilizer applicator; solar fruit and vegetable dehydrator; pin-mill for low temperature grinding of tough agricultural produce of 100 kg/hr capacity; and technology for preparation of soy-sauce from okara (a by-product of soymilk and soy paneer-tofu) were developed. The National Agricultural Technology Project, a prestigious World Bank project, became fully functional in November, 1998.

Agricultural Cost and Prices Commission

2077. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Agricultural Cost and Prices Commission (ACPC) has taken into account the minimum support price of Soyabean as proposed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to declare the support price of Soyabean on the basis of the proposal sent by the State Government during 2001-2002 and onwards; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) While recommending the minimum support prices (uniform throughout the country) for various agricultural commodities including soyabean (black & yellow), the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACPC) takes into account a number of factors like cost of cultivation, demand and supply, input and output prices, the terms of trade for agriculture, inter-crop parity in prices, international prices etc., and the information elicited through additional Questionnaires from the State Governments and other interest groups on various issues related to the above aspects. The views of the Government of Madhya Pradesh have also been taken into consideration.

(b) and (c) The Government has already announced the MSPs of Kharif crops including soyabean for the 2001-02 season. The MSP fixed for soyabean (black) is Rs. 795 per quintal and for soyabean (yellow) is Rs. 885 per quintal. The MSPs have been fixed after taking into account the recommendations of the CACP, views of State Governments including those of Madhya Pradesh and concerned central ministries as well as such other relevant factors, which are considered important for fixation of support prices.

[English]

Production cost of Aluminium

2078. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of aluminium ingots (excluding scrap) imported and also imports against exports made and the amount of custom duty collected therefrom during the last three years;

(b) the details of custom duty on Aluminium ingots as compared to Asian and SAARC countries;

(c) the cost of production of Aluminium in the country during the above period;

(d) whether it is the lowest in the world;

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

(f) whether the domestic selling price of Aluminium ingot is highest in the world;

(g) if so, the international price at which producers are exporting Aluminium;

(h) the reasons for maintaining high rate of customs duty and encouraging the producers to exploit public by charging price above international level; and

(i) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the custom duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The figures of aluminium ingots imported during the last three years are as under :

	(Quantity in tonnes)		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Aluminium ingots-not alloyed (Exim Code : 76011001)	48203	36353	34174
Aluminium ingots-alloyed (Exim Code : 76012001)	20256	9434	7716

The amount of custom duty against the budget head of "aluminium" collected during the last three years are as under :

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1998-1999	265.23
1999-2000	203.03
2000-2001	226.78

(b) The details of basic custom duty in SAARC and other Asian countries are given below :

	(in per cent)		
	Primary	Scrap	Secondary
1	2	3	4
WTO Code	7601	7602	7603-16
Country			
Japan	0	0	5
Indonesia	5	0	20

1	2	3	4
Malaysia	5	5	30
Philippines	10	-	35
Singapore	10	10	10
South Korea	5	3	13
Thailand	10	6	20
Pakistan*	5	10	-
Sri Lanka*	10	10	-
Bangladesh*	7.5**	7.5	-
India*	25	15	25

* SAARC Countries

** (Value added tax 15%)

(c) to (e) The cost of production of aluminium in the country varies from plant to plant. However, National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) and Hindalco Industries (HINDALCO) the two major producers of aluminium in the country are amongst the lowest cost producers in the world. The cost of production depends on various factors such as quality of bauxite, rate of other inputs, cost of manpower and cost of power etc.

(f) and (g) Domestic aluminium prices in a particular country is linked to London Metal Exchange (LME) prices and other market forces operating in that country. The net export realisation (Gross sales realisation minus freight and insurance plus benefits under duty exemption pass book scheme and income tax) of NALCO, the major exporter in the country during the last three years is as under :-

Year	(Rs. per tonne)		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Net realisation	60,379	80,049	84,856

(h) and (i) The import duty rates are decided after taking into account all relevant factors like the domestic international prices, demand-supply situation, level of protection to the domestic producer and used industry etc. Taking into account all relevant factors, including the representations from the industry and recommendation from the Ministry of Coal & Mines, Government has decided to maintain the existing duty on aluminium.

[Translation]

Assistance to Tourism Sector

2079. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide any assistance to tourism sector which is passing through heavy recession due to US attacks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Tourism has consulted travel trade, hotels and airlines to counter the down-trend following the recent terrorist attacks on United States. Efforts have also been made to send appropriate signals to countries all over the world that India is a safe destination. Re-orientation in promotion efforts is also being done by focussing on less affected markets and reorienting marketing by the trade and industry to the potential of domestic tourism.

[English]

Profit Earned by Steel Companies

2080. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian steel companies have performed better than that of American companies;

(b) if so, the names of companies which have been shown a huge profitability;

(c) the total profit earned by those companies; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve this profit further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) to (d) The profits of steel companies the world over, including USA and India are under heavy pressure due to recessionary conditions prevailing in the world steel market and the decline in international prices of steel. It is difficult to compare the

performance of steel companies in India and America as in both countries some companies are making profits and others are making losses. As per available information nearly 25 US steel manufacturers have filed for bankruptcy since 1998. The performance of select steel companies in India is given in the statement enclosed. With the liberalisation of steel sector, the steel companies work out their own strategies to increase their profitability.

Statement

Performance of Select Steel Companies

Name of Company	(+) Net Profit/ Loss (-) 2000-01	(+) Net Profit/ Loss (-) 1999-00
Bhusan Steel	+46	45
Essar Steel	-346	-581
Jindal Iron	-97	9
Jindal Strips	+53	63
Llyod Steel	-407	-265
Mukand Ltd.	-32	-7
SAIL	-729	-1720
TISCO	+553	423

[Translation]

Development of Tourism in Madhya Pradesh

2081. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals received by the Union Government for the development of tourism in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the number of proposals approved/rejected under consideration at present; and

(c) the reasons for rejection of each proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) The details are as under :

Year	No. of proposals received
1999-2000	16
2000-2001	12
2001-2002	10

(b) Out of 10 projects prioritised for central financial assistance during the year 2001-2002, 6 proposals have been received and processed. The project for celebration of Khajuraho National Folk Festival has been sanctioned for Rs. 5.00 lakhs and first instalment of Rs. 1.95 lakhs has also been released. Remaining five proposals are at various stages of process.

(c) Question does not arise.

[English]

Assistance Sought under CRF and NCCF

2082. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :

RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :

SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased

to state :

(a) the details of natural calamity situations declared as National Calamities so far;

(b) the assistance sought and the amount relea-

sed from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) to each affected State during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) the operational guidelines, allocation, tenure and funding of CRF and NCCF;

(d) whether the Union Government are satisfied with the progress of work carried out under CRF in Bihar; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by the Union Government for proper utilization of funds by each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) There is no provision to declare a natural calamity as a National Calamity. However any natural calamity which is beyond the resources of the State Government and needs National and International efforts and support is dealt with at National level.

(b) State-wise details of release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) during last three years and current year (so far) and the assistance sought and released from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR)/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) during this period is indicated in the statements I & II.

(c) The guidelines for operation and funding of CRF and NCCF are contained in the Schemes for Constitution and Administration of the CRF and NCCF issued on 24.11.2000 and 15.12.2000, respectively.

(d) and (e) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments including Bihar for undertaking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities. Distribution of relief at the ground level is also the responsibility of the State Government concerned.

Statement-I

State-wise details of release of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund during 1998-1999 to 2001-2002

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	10330.00	10769.00	14854.00	15597.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	586.00	610.00	902.00	947.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Assam	4160.00	4337.00	7612.00	3996.00
4	Bihar	4322.00	3379.00	5022.00	2636.50
5	Chhattisgarh	-	-	2060.00	2163.00
6	Goa	89.00	93.00	46.50	-
7	Gujarat	11612.00	12105.00	13113.51	11701.49
8	Haryana	2084.00	2173.00	6098.00	3201.50
9	Himachal Pradesh	2242.00	2337.00	3261.00	3224.00
10	Jammu & Kashmir	1639.00	1709.00	2618.00	-
11	Jharkhand	-	-	4252.00	-
12	Karnataka	3481.00	3629.00	5593.00	5872.00
13	Kerala	4608.00	4804.0	1734.39	8603.61
14	Madhya Pradesh	4249.00	4429.00	4698.00	4932.00
15	Maharashtra	5673.00	4436.00	11790.00	12380.00
16	Manipur	206.00	161.00	156.00	-
17	Meghalaya	232.00	242.00	295.00	155.00
18	Mizoram	105.00	110.00	111.50	-
19	Nagaland	141.00	147.00	53.08	-
20	Orissa	4077.00	4250.00	10365.25	6465.75
21	Punjab	4504.00	4696.00	9204.00	4832.00
22	Rajasthan	14892.00	15525.00	19600.25	12225.75
23	Sikkim	392.00	408.00	294.66	495.34
24	Tamil Nadu	4937.00	5147.00	7698.00	4041.50
25	Tripura	374.00	390.00	140.83	-
26	Uttar Pradesh	10407.00	10850.00	3208.44	13521.06
27	Uttaranchal	-	-	709.91	2992.59
28	West Bengal	4269.00	4450.00	7583.00	3981.00

Statement-II

State-wise details of Assistance Demanded and Released from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR)/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) during 1998-99 to 2001-02

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	State	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
		Assistance (NFCR)		Assistance (NFCR)		Assistance (NCCF)		Assistance (NCCF)	
		Demanded	Released	Demanded	Released	Demanded	Released	Demanded	Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	600.00	26.50	760.36	75.36	777.71	10.00	950.57	Nil
2	Arunachal Pradesh	200.23	13.47	Nil	Nil	139.10	2.00	-	-
3	Assam	1001.98	59.90	Nil	Nil	-	-	-	-
4	Bihar	1003.75	11.45	701.26	38.18	975.87	29.67	735.45	Nil
5	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	495.64	58.94	158.25	23.94
6	Gujarat	810.65	55.35	817.23	54.58	15110.46	1579.37	-	-
7	Haryana	757.29	13.27	Nil	Nil	-	-	607.73	Nil
8	Himachal Pradesh	26.06	Nil	259.42	Nil	1874.45	52.27	83.33	\$
9	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	214.47	73.42	1880.95	23.20	-	-
10	Karnataka	1352.13	39.78	249.95	17.09	435.83	Nil	903.45	Nil
11	Kerala	1499.63	Nil	79.56	Nil	200.00	Nil	551.75	Nil
12	Madhya Pradesh	251.34	Nil	556.88	38.86	*795.42	57.72	253.84	\$
13	Maharashtra	152.26	Nil	Nil	Nil	-	-	500.00	Nil
14	Manipur	Nil	Nil	24.00	4.93	-	-	-	-
15	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	22.13	1.00	-	-
16	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	35.08	6.00	-	-	-	-
17	Orissa	445.59	Nil	7143.54	828.15	443.95	49.62	1530.88	100.00
18	Punjab	1140.60	Nil	Nil	Nil	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
19	Rajasthan	959.62	21.98	1144.40	102.93	2367.80	113.97	-	-
20	Sikkim	141.41	7.67	Nil	Nil	-	-	-	-
21	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-	-	-	-
22	Tripura	30.11	5.05	158.80	5.34	-	-	-	-
23	Uttar Pradesh	2254.30	131.15	339.55	16.68	-	-	-	-
24	West Bengal	804.43	66.33	750.38	29.52	1486.70	103.25	-	-

* Includes requirement for Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

\$ under consideration

Note : Also, requests from Governments of Andhra Pradesh in the wake of heavy rains/flash floods, Bihar in the wake of drought and Maharashtra in the wake of drought are under consideration.

Reconstitution of State Seed Sub-Committee on Horticulture Crops

2083. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD :

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased

to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal for the reconstitution of the State Seed Sub-Committee for Horticultural Crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have given its approval;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which this proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) The Central Seed Committee (CSC) has approved the proposal for reconstitution of the State Seed Sub-Committee for Horticulture crops of Karnataka in its 29th Meeting held on 19th November, 2001 in New Delhi. The Composition of Karnataka State Seed Sub-Committee for Horticultural Crops is as per statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Statement

No. 17-36/2001-SD.IV

Government of India

Ministry of Agriculture

(Department of Agriculture & Cooperation)

F/212, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

Dated : 29th Nov., 2001.

ORDER

The Central Seed Committee is pleased to reconstitute the State Seed Sub-Committee for Horticulture crops for the State of Karnataka under Section 3(5) of the Seeds Act, 1966 consisting of the following members.

S.No.	Name	Designation
1	2	3
1.	Secretary to Government (Horticulture) Agriculture and Horticulture Department, Multistoreyed Buildings, Bangalore - 560 001.	Chairman
2.	Director of Horticulture Laibagh, Bangalore - 560 004	Member
3.	Director Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR), Hesaraghatta Lake Post, Bangalore - 560 089	Member
4.	Director of Research University of Agricultural Sciences, G.K.V.K., Bangalore - 560 065	Member

1	2	3	
5.	Director of Research University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad - 580 005	Member	(iii) To inspect the State Seed Testing Laboratory(s) and report on its(their) suitability for being declared as the State Seed Testing Laboratory (Horticultural crops) under the Seeds Act to the State Government.
6.	Regional Manager National Seeds Corporation, Hebbal, Bangalore - 560 024	Member	(iv) To advise educational promotional measures for proper enforcement and understanding of the Seeds Act.
7.	Managing Director Karnataka State Seeds Corporation, Beej Bhawan, Hebbal, Bangalore - 560 024	Member	(v) To plan for different varieties of crops to be grown in different regions of the State and to review the assessment of seed/planting material requirement especially of certified, foundation and breeder seed/planting material.
8.	Director Karnataka State Seed Certification Agency, 43-1/B, Hamsa Nursery Farm, Hebbal, Bangalore - 560 024	Member	(vi) To consider the release of new varieties of crops for the State and to monitor the performance of newly released varieties in the State.
9.	Joint Director Horticulture (Development) Lal Bagh, Bangalore - 560 004	Member	(vii) Any other functions as may be assigned to it by the Central Seed Committee/State Govt. in connection with the implementation of the Seeds Act.
10.	Shri Shavanagowda R. Patil Ex-T.M.C., President, Byadagi, Haveri District	Member	(viii) The headquarters of the Sub-Committee will be at Bangalore.
11.	Shri K.R. Sridhar Bhat S/o Ramchandra Bhat, Nadakalasi, Sagar Taluk, Shimoga District	Member	(ix) This order shall come into force with immediate effect.
12.	Director M/s Namadhari Seeds, Bidadi, Ramnagar Taluk, Bangalore Rural District	Member	(x) The terms of the Sub-Committee will expire on 20th June, 2003
13.	Dr. Manmohan Attavar M/s. Indo-American Hybrid Seeds, Kanakapura Road, Banashankari, Bangalore.	Member	
14.	Shri S.R. Bidaraghatti Karjagi, Haveri Taluk & District.	Member	(C. Shanmugam) Secretary, Central Seed Committee-cum- Deputy Commissioner (QC)
15.	Secretary Central Seed Committee-cum- Deputy Commissioner (QC), New Delhi.	Co-convenor	<u>Copy to :</u>
16.	Deputy Director of Horticulture (STL), Lal Bagh, Bangalore - 560 004	Co-convenor	(1) All members of the State Seed Sub-Committee.

Terms of references

- (i) To advise the State Government on all matters relating to the implementation of the Seeds Act, 1966 (Horticultural crops).
- (ii) To review the implementation of the Seeds Act

- (2) All members of the Central Seed Committee.
- (3) Chairman, Central Seed Committee
- (4) Additional Secretary (Incharge Seed).
- (5) Joint Secretary (Seeds)
- (6) Secretary, Central Seed Committee-cum-Deputy Commissioner (QC)

- 7) Deputy Commissioner (Seeds).
 8) Under Secretary (Seeds).
 9) Section Officer, SD.I
 10) Dealing Assistant (Seed Development-1), for processing the case of TA/DA of the non-official members.
 11) Secretary, Agriculture/Horticulture, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.

Government of Karnataka may please be advised that if the State Seed Sub-Committee have meanwhile met in the intervening period under the impression that the reconstitution of the State Seed Sub-Committee is routine and will be forthcoming the decisions taken may be got ratified by the new State Sub-Committee.

(D.S. Misra)
 Asstt. Director (QC)

Amount Spent by CIL under Community Development Scheme

2084. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount spent and sanctioned by Coal India Limited (CIL) in Jharkhand State under the Community Development Scheme since its inception;
 (b) the details of the work undertaken under the scheme during the above period;
 (c) whether any financial irregularities have been reported in implementing of the scheme in the State; and
 (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the official found responsible for such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The amount spent and sanctioned by BCCL, CCL operating in Jharkhand State and ECL (Partly Operating in Jharkhand State) under Community Development Scheme during 2000-01 are given below :

(In Rs. Lakhs)

Company	State	Budget Provided	Amount Spent
BCCL	Jharkhand	117.00	43.24
CCL	Jharkhand	85.20	56.25
ECL	Jharkhand	11.50	11.50

(b) The details of the work undertaken under the scheme in the above period in BCCL, CCL and ECL are placed at statement enclosed.

(c) No such financial irregularities have been reported by the coal companies.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Statement

Details of the works undertaken by BCCL, CCL and ECL

Sl.No.	Name of work
1	2

Bharat Coking Coal Limited

1. Construction/ Renovation/ Repair of Community Centre.

- | 1 | 2 |
|----|--|
| 2. | Installation of hand pumps. |
| 3. | Digging/ Renovation of Ponds/ Wells. |
| 4. | Construction/ Extension, Repair of Educational Institution Buildings |
| 5. | Construction/ Repair of Roads. |
| 6. | Water Supply through pipeline. |
| 7. | Construction Repair of Community latrines. |

Central Coalfields Limited

1. Construction/ Repair of Community Centre.
 2. Installation of Hand Pumps/ Sinking of Wells/ Tube Wells/ Bore Wells.
 3. Construction/ Repair of Roads/ Culverts.

1	2
4.	Construction/ Extension/ Repair of Educational Institution buildings
5.	Medical Services and Health Camps.
6.	Self Employed Training.
7.	Plantation of Fruit Bearing Plant in Schools.
8.	Sport and Cultural Activities.
9.	Other Miscellaneous works (including electrification).

Eastern Coal Fields Limited

1. Development of Educational Institutions.
2. Construction of Road.
3. Water Supply Scheme.
4. Construction of Community Centre.
5. Village Electrification.
6. Afforestation.

Tourism Finance Corporation

2085. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any effort to enhance the activities of the Tourism Finance Corporation;

(b) if so, the manner in which the government propose to extend the activities of TFC;

(c) whether the Tourism Finance Corporation (TFC) has given loans to State Governments to improve tourism infrastructure; and

(d) if so, the details of such loans given during the last two years, State-wise?

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

(b) Apart from conventional Tourism projects in the accommodation and hospitality segment, TFCI has now started funding non-conventional tourism projects like restaurants, highway facilities, travel agencies, amusement parks, multiplex complexes, ropeways and car rental services, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Representation of SCs/STs and OBCs in Services

2086. SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI :

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group A) Services and in Class II (Group B) Services is very low as against 22.5% quota prescribed for them under Central Government and 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 his Ministry and its subordinate offices including Public Sector Undertakings; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Funds in Affected Forest Divisions

2087. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government ask the concerned departments to deposit certain estimated amount to grow trees in lieu of permission granted to them for utilization of forest land or for executing any other developmental activities under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the details of such amount deposited with the Government during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the respective State forest departments have utilized such amount for growing of trees in the affected forest divisions in compliance with the spirit of the Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken by the Government to ensure full utilization of such amount?

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

(b) to (e) As per Rules and Guidelines made under Forest (conservation) Act 1980 compensatory afforestation is to be raised in the affected district. However, when the land for compensatory afforestation is not available in the affected district afforestation can be done in other district also. State-wise details of amount realised from user agencies and the amount spent by the State Governments for compensatory afforestation are given in the statement attached. The State Governments have been requested to utilize the unspent amount expeditiously.

Statement

(Amount Rs. in lakh)

States/UTs	Fund received from user agency during 1998-99 to 2000-2001	Funds utilized for compensatory afforestation during the period
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	1845	3773
Arunachal Pradesh	1238	184
Assam	177	103
Bihar	0	0
Goa	260	218
Gujarat	4054	3383
Haryana	278	98
Himachal Pradesh	260	274
Jammu & Kashmir	0	0
Karnataka	2386	1745
Kerala	4469	3847
Madhya Pradesh	0	0
Maharashtra	1203	5292

1	2	3
Manipur	0.05	-
Meghalaya	1	-
Mizoram	422	178
Orissa	1502	448
Punjab	1312	842
Rajasthan	1207	588
Sikkim	363	310
Tamil Nadu	110	69
Tripura	22	10
Uttar Pradesh	550	57
West Bengal	177	227
A & N Islands	59	52
D & N Haveli	102	0
Total	21997	21598

Coal Projects

2088. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have accorded approval to 401 projects after nationalisation of coal industry;

(b) if so, the number out of them completed so far;

(c) the amount spent thereon so far;

(d) whether commitment charges have been paid for not spending the sanctioned amount on these projects within the stipulated time period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) After nationalisation, 401 coal mining projects in Coal

India Limited (CIL) and 84 coal mining projects in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), each costing Rs. 2 crores and above, have been taken up for implementation after approval of the competent authority up to October, 2001. Out of these, 318 projects have been completed in CIL and 60 projects have been completed in SCCL so far.

(c) Upto August, 2001 the total amount spent in respect of approved projects of CIL is Rs. 15097.33 crores (provisional). Total amount spent upto October, 2001 in respect of approved projects of SCCL is Rs. 3520.71 crores (provisional).

(d) and (e) Commitment charges on loan for Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project (CSR) of CIL have been paid though the investment programme was on schedule. Commitment charges are normally required to be paid on the un-utilised balance on the loan contracted with any major Bank. Commitment charges paid on IBRD and JBIC loan under CSR till 15.11.2001 is Rs. 12 95 crores.

In SCCL, no commitment charge has been paid for not spending the sanctioned amount on any project.

Per Capita Availability of Pulses

2089. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :

SHRI A. NARENDRA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita availability of pulses in 2000-2001 as compared to the year 1981;

(b) whether there has been a fall in the per capita availability of pulses;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to increase the per capita availability of pulses;

(d) whether the production of pulses has been stagnating over the years;

(e) whether this has adversely affected the price of pulses in the open market; and

(f) if so, the details of steps taken to make available pulses at reasonable prices to weaker section?

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

to (f) As per capita net availability of pulses has recorded a fall from 13.7 kg per year / 37.5 gms per day in 1981 to 11.7 kg per year / 32.0 gms per day in 2000. The fall in the per capita availability of pulses may be attributed to several factors like increase in population, lower rate of increase of production of pulses, etc. The production of pulses, which was 10.63 million tonnes in 1980-81, increased to 14.91 million tonnes in 1998-99 but fell down to 13.35 million tonnes in 1999-2000 and is expected to be 11.06 million tonnes as per the Advance Estimates of production for the year 2000-01. The pulses production in the country is still facing a number of constraints like their cultivation being largely confined to rainfed marginal and sub-marginal lands, high susceptibility to insects, pests and disease, and lack of genetic breakthrough etc. However, the Government is implementing the National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP) for increasing the production and productivity of pulses. The shortfall in the requirement of pulses is met through imports whenever necessary. The wholesale price index (WPI) number of pulses for the week ending 10th November 2001 shows a weekly fall of 0.5 per cent, monthly fall of 0.3 per cent and annual rise of 8.4 per cent.

[English]

Demerge of Hotels Properties

2090. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) propose to demerge nine of its hotels properties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) The process of Disinvestment in India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) is being dealt by the Department of Disinvestment. The Department has informed that disinvestment in ITDC has been taken up following the acceptance of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission by the Government. The Government's disinvestment plan in respect of the hotel properties/businesses of ITDC is as under -

Four hotel properties, viz. Hotel Ashok Delhi, Hotel Samrat Delhi, Hotel Ashok Bangalore and Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore would be demerged into a separate company with the existing shareholding pattern as that of ITDC and given on long-term lease-cum-management contract basis. It is envisaged that each of these properties are to be given separately to bidders.

According to Department of Disinvestment, the remaining 22 hotel properties including 6 hotels located at Delhi would be demerged into separate companies having shadow shareholding pattern as that of ITDC for the limited purpose of disinvestment of 100% Government equity. Each of these properties would be transferred to the respective demerged companies after a buyer for the particular property is selected through the disinvestment process. It is envisaged that all the properties proposed for 100% disinvestment would also be sold individually.

Development of Islands in Lakshadweep

2091. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Home Minister in his visit to the Lakshadweep has emphasized that a few islands are proposed to be developed and opened for domestic and foreign tourists;

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

(c) the details of steps taken to encourage tourism in Lakshadweep?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. While inhabited islands Bangaram, Agatti and Kadmat are opened for international tourists, Agatti, Kavaratti and Minicoy are opened for domestic tourists. The UT Administration of Lakshadweep has proposed to open two more uninhabited islands named Thinnakara and Cheriyaam for International tourism and opening of remaining islands where only domestic tourists are allowed, for international tourists.

(b) 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.

(c) 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 Lakshadweep by advertising in print & electronic media, participations in travel fairs, inviting media

& Travel Agents and extensive use of IT in tourism promotion.

Complementary Passes by Air India and Indian Airlines

2092. SHRI Y.V. RAO :

PROF. I.G. SANADI :

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO :

SHRI SAHIB SINGH :

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India and Indian Airlines issue Complimentary Passes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such Passes issued during the last three years and in the current year, till-date by both these airlines, separately;

(d) the criteria adopted for issuance of such Passes by these airlines;

(e) the financial losses caused to Air India and Indian Airlines during the above period due to issuance of these Passes;

(f) whether the Government have since decided to freeze all such complimentary passes; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the amount likely to be saved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (g) Air India and Indian Airlines have stopped issuing complimentary passes. This is, however, not applicable to normal sales promotion. With regard to (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Occupancy Rate of IA and other Private Airlines

2093. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

Indian Airlines & Alliance Air - A-300 - 65%

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of 'air buses' under Indian Airlines and other Private Airlines Services operating daily inside the Country;

- A-320 - 71%

- B-737 - 70%

Jet Airways - 73% to 75%

Sahara Airlines - 56%

(b) the number of seats occupied from starting to destination both in 'J' and 'Y' Class during each of the day of flight in the month of June, 2001;

(d) The manufacturers of modern transport aircraft have not prescribed any flying hours/retirement life/ ultimate life requiring phasing out of the aircraft from service once these lives are achieved.

(c) the occupancy percentage of both the classes considered to be 'break even' for the aircraft;

(d) the normal life of an aircraft and the age of each of the aircraft both air bus and boeing operating under Indian Airlines and Air India;

Type of Aircraft	Flight hours	Flight Cycles/ Landing	Age (years)
Boeing 737-200	60,000	20,000	20
Boeing 737	51,000	75,000	20
Airbus A300-B2	60,000	48,000	Nil
Airbus A300-B4	60,000	34,000	Nil
Airbus A310	60,000	35,000	Nil
Airbus A320	60,000	48,000	Nil

(e) whether the number of passengers being carried by Indian Airlines has dropped during the last two months;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the private airlines carry better share of passengers in the domestic sector; and

(h) if so, the steps taken to make the Indian Airlines flights more attractive to the passengers?

The implication of stipulating design economic life is that the cost of maintenance and operation may not be economical once an aircraft exceeds design economic life and does not mean that the aircraft is not airworthy and is not safe for operations. The aircraft will continue to be airworthy and safe for operations even after crossing design economic life provided all the maintenance requirements stipulated by the manufacturers and DGCA for such aircraft are complied with.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSIAN) : (a) Airbus aircraft is operated by only Indian Airlines.

Type	Number
A-300	6+2 (on lease)
A-320	30+2 (on lease)

The number of Airbus aircraft scheduled for daily operation by Indian Airlines in its current schedule are :

A-300	6
A-320	28

Age of each aircraft operated by Indian Airlines and Alliance Air is given as Statement-IV enclosed. Similar data for Air India aircraft is as Statement-V enclosed.

(b) Day-wise number of revenue passenger carried by various Airlines in the month of June 2001, separately in J and Y class are enclosed as statement-I to III.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The number of passenger carried by Indian Airlines during the months of September and October, 2001 has dropped as compared to the same period last year :

Indian Airlines & Alliance Air :	Statement-I
Jet Airways :	Statement-II
Sahara Airlines :	Statement-III

	No. of Passengers (million)	
	September, 2000	September, 2001
Total	0.551	0.543
% change		-1.46

(c) Break even seat factor for various Airlines are as follows :

October, 2000	0.615
October, 2001	0.533
% change	-13.33

In Indian Airlines assessment, there has been impact on air travel demand following the incidents of 11th September. Air travel demand also seems to be impacted by the overall slowdown in economic activity. During September, 2001 the total domestic traffic declined by about 90000 passengers compared to the corresponding month in year 2000.

(g) The percentage share of private airlines on domestic sectors for the last three months is enclosed as statement-VI.

(h) Various marketing initiatives taken and product upgrades carried out by Indian Airlines are enclosed as statement-VII.

Statement-I

Date	Revenue J Class	Passenger Y Class
1	2	3
1-Jun-01	1455	21083
2-Jun-01	1363	20500
3-Jun-01	1313	20866
4-Jun-01	1251	18478
5-Jun-01	1324	18952
6-Jun-01	1394	20138
7-Jun-01	1426	20857
8-Jun-01	1333	19967
9-Jun-01	1370	20099
10-Jun-01	1550	21720
11-Jun-01	1209	18745
12-Jun-01	1224	18193
13-Jun-01	1244	19117
14-Jun-01	1474	19116

1	2	3
15-Jun-01	1285	19138
16-Jun-01	1107	18311
17-Jun-01	1285	19540
18-Jun-01	1170	17197
19-Jun-01	1203	17047
20-Jun-01	1155	18054
21-Jun-01	1206	17797
22-Jun-01	1154	17756
23-Jun-01	1038	17262
24-Jun-01	1160	19100
25-Jun-01	1140	17300
26-Jun-01	1157	17187
27-Jun-01	1253	18860
28-Jun-01	1499	20175
29-Jun-01	1263	19761
30-Jun-01	1276	19773

Statement-II

Date	Revenue J Class	Passenger Y Class
1	2	3
1-Jun-01	1608	14879
2-Jun-01	1325	14548
3-Jun-01	1435	14832
4-Jun-01	1449	14107
5-Jun-01	1508	14538
6-Jun-01	1643	15235
7-Jun-01	1641	15975
8-Jun-01	1828	15682

1	2	3
9-Jun-01	1361	15001
10-Jun-01	1487	15554
11-Jun-01	1443	13907
12-Jun-01	1623	13983
13-Jun-01	1656	14156
14-Jun-01	1585	15165
15-Jun-01	1576	14796
16-Jun-01	1199	13654
17-Jun-01	1128	14150
18-Jun-01	1345	12788
19-Jun-01	1382	13056
20-Jun-01	1515	14202
21-Jun-01	1472	14174
22-Jun-01	1543	14416
23-Jun-01	1173	13526
24-Jun-01	1201	13819
25-Jun-01	1308	13280
26-Jun-01	1477	13582
27-Jun-01	1627	15010
28-Jun-01	1704	15420
29-Jun-01	1649	15074
30-Jun-01	1276	14428

Statement-III

Date	Revenue J Class	Passenger Y Class
1	2	3
1-Jun-01	56	1688
2-Jun-01	61	1564

1	2	3
3-Jun-01	53	2127
4-Jun-01	48	1097
5-Jun-01	71	1525
6-Jun-01	64	1481
7-Jun-01	55	1423
8-Jun-01	68	1514
9-Jun-01	67	1902
10-Jun-01	71	2387
11-Jun-01	38	1640
12-Jun-01	63	1595
13-Jun-01	62	1403
14-Jun-01	39	1643
15-Jun-01	61	1351
16-Jun-01	58	1520
17-Jun-01	59	1673
18-Jun-01	58	1344
19-Jun-01	49	1464
20-Jun-01	50	1633
21-Jun-01	74	1506
22-Jun-01	79	1495
23-Jun-01	55	1682
24-Jun-01	75	2077
25-Jun-01	65	1509
25-Jun-01	103	1585
27-Jun-01	70	1872
28-Jun-01	75	1940
29-Jun-01	65	1756
30-Jun-01	75	1966

Statement-IV*Aircraft Operated by Indian Airlines*

Type of A/C	Regn. No.	Year of Manuf.	Age (In Year)
1	2	3	4
Airbus A300B2			
1.	VT-EFX	1980	21
2.	VT-EFW	1980	21
3.	VT-EFV	1979	22
4.	VT-EDY	1978	23
Airbus A300B4			
1.	VT-EVD	1983	18
2.	VT-EVC	1986	15
3.	VT-EHD	1981	19
4.	VT-EHC	1981	19
Airbus A320			
1.	VT-EPR	1990	11
2.	VT-EPC	1989	12
3.	VT-EPD	1989	12
4.	VT-EPE	1989	12
5.	VT-EPF	1989	12
6.	VT-EPG	1989	12
7.	VT-EPH	1989	12
8.	VT-EPI	1989	12
9.	VT-EPJ	1989	12
10.	VT-EPK	1989	12
11.	VT-EPL	1990	11
12.	VT-EPM	1989	12
13.	VT-EPO	1989	12

1	2	3	4
14.	VT-EPB	1989	12
15.	VT-EPQ	1989	12
16.	VT-ESL	1994	7
17.	VT-EPS	1990	11
18.	VT-EPT	1990	11
19.	VT-ESA	1993	8
20.	VT-ESB	1993	8
21.	VT-ESC	1993	8
22.	VT-ESD	1993	8
23.	VT-ESE	1993	8
24.	VT-ESF	1993	8
25.	VT-ESG	1993	8
26.	VT-ESH	1994	7
27.	VT-ESI	1994	7
28.	VT-ESJ	1994	7
29.	VT-ESK	1994	7
30.	VT-EPP	1989	12
31.	VT-EVO	1991	10
32.	VT-EVP	1991	10

Aircraft Operated by Alliance Air

Type of A/C	Regn. No.	Year of Manuf.	Age (In Year)
1	2	3	4
Boeing 737			
1.	VT-EGE	1980	21
2.	VT-EGF	1980	21
3.	VT-EGG	1980	21
4.	VT-EGH	1981	20

1	2	3	4
5.	VT-EGM	1981	20
6.	VT-EGI	1981	20
7.	VT-EGJ	1981	20
8.	VT-EHE	1982	19
9.	VT-EHF	1982	19
10.	VT-EHG	1982	19
11.	VT-EHH	1982	19

Statement-V

*List of Airbus and Boeing Aircraft
Operating Under Air India*

Type of A/C	Regn. No.	Year of Manuf.	Age (In Year)
1	2	3	4

Airbus A300B4

1.	VT-EHO	1982	19
2.	VT-EHQ	1982	19
3.	VT-EHN	1982	19

Airbus A310

1.	VT-EJJ	1986	15
2.	VT-EJH	1986	15
3.	VT-EQT	1990	11
4.	VT-EJG	1986	15
5.	VT-EJI	1986	15
6.	VT-EJK	1986	15
7.	VT-EJL	1987	14
8.	VT-EQS	1990	11

Airbus A310-300

1.	VT-EVE	1989	12
2.	VT-EVF	1990	11

1	2	3	4
3.	VT-EVG	1988	13
4.	VT-EVH	1988	13

Boeing 747-237

1.	VT-EFU	1979	22
2.	VT-EGB	1980	21
3.	VT-EGC	1980	21
4.	VT-EGA	1979	22

Boeing 747-337 (Combi)

1.	VT-EPW	1988	13
2.	VT-EPX	1988	13

Boeing 747-437

1.	VT-ESN	1993	8
2.	VT-ESO	1993	8
3.	VT-ESP	1993	8
4.	VT-EVA	1996	5
5.	VT-EVB	1996	5
6.	VT-ESM	1993	8

Statement-VI

Month & Year	Percentage Share	
	Private Air Carriage	Indian Airlines
August, 2001	54.8	45.2
September, 2001	52.7	47.3
October, 2001	52.0	48.0

Statement-VII

*Marketing Initiatives & Product Upgrades
of Indian Airlines*

Memorandum of Understanding : Indian Airlines has signed MOU with Rajathan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) and Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala for promotion of Tourism and launch of Holiday package and sleeper packages.

Indian Airlines has recently launch "IA Flyaways-Holiday packages" to the following destinations :

Goa Flyaways

Kerala Flyaways

Jammu Flyaways

Bodhgaya Flyaways

Fitness Flyaways

Srinagar Flyaways

Orissa Flyaways

JKTDC House boat package

Rajasthan Flyaways

These packages are valid till 31st March 2002.

Indian Airlines is also in the process of offering the above holiday packages saleable abroad through the network of Tour Operators and IA own offices.

Sleepover Packages : At major metro cities a facility through which passenger could avail discount on hotel stay at major metro cities by presenting IA boarding pass.

Special Discount/Others to IATO Members : 10% discount on USD airfare and Exclusive hotel rates at 11 select Heritage and Palace hotels in Rajasthan, have been offered to the members of Indian Association of Tour Operators for development of packages. These discounts/offers are valid till 31st March, 2002 for promotion of tourism in Rajasthan.

Following Marketing Initiatives have been taken by Indian Airlines :

Sales Teams

Sales Teams have been formed at six metro cities headed by Regional Sales Manager. These sales teams have been effectively communicating with Agents, Corporate Houses and our esteemed passengers.

Corporate House Scheme :

An attractive and revised corporate house scheme has been launched targeting corporate houses that have large volume of travel budget.

Agency Package :

Travel agency package providing additional facilities like credit extension, cash value documents delivery to

agents, absorption of line rentals, additional agency discounted passages etc. these are being extended to the top fifty productive agents in the metros. Apart from the above, bank guarantee, overtrading, cheque payment facility issues of agents have also been addressed in favour of them.

Indian Airlines has taken a major step of absorbing the credit card commission charges from Agents.

Other Promotional Measures :

Introduced Netfundu Scheme, wherein the child passenger are rewarded with small give away items and personal plastic card and visiting cards.

Tied up with American Express and launched IC - Amex Co-brand Card for our valued customers.

Introduced **Desh-Videsh** Scheme, wherein the frequent fliers are rewarded with an international ticket(s) depending on the value of the travel. This scheme has helped IA to increase its passenger carriage in the domestic network.

Flexi Fares : The flexi fare policy enables Indian Airlines to offer fare variations on a sector to sector and on a season to season basis, depending on a variety of factors including market size, seasonality, price sensitivity and other market and service related factors. With the FLEXI FARE POLICY, fares become market based rather than cost based and fare changes occur in response to market conditions. Passengers thus get the benefit of attractive fares and this in turn promotes domestic travel including tourist destinations.

LTC - Leave Travel Concession, offers an attractive discount of 30% to promote domestic tourism. This scheme is offered to those employees who are not otherwise eligible to travel by Air. This scheme is most popular among the employees and promoting domestic tourism.

Following Marketing Initiatives are being considered by Indian Airlines :

Call centres are being planned for six major metro cities. With the implementation of the facility, passengers could easily access Indian Airlines and get the required information.

[Translation]

Tourism Development Agency

2094. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Tourism Development Agency; and

(b) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Assistance for Diversification of Crops in AP

2095. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to support its efforts to diversify crops, livestock and fishery enterprises to meet the emerging demand; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) No specific proposal for assistance for diversification process has so far been received by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Earthquake Zoning System

2096. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Indian plate is undergoing unusual seismic and tectonic change in the last decade as reflected by a cluster of earthquake occurring with unfailing regularity;

(b) if so, whether it is necessary to modify the earthquake zoning system in the country;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) The subject matter is the concern of the Ministry of Science and Technology and the information is being obtained from that Ministry.

[Translation]

Production of Coal

2097. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for production of coal during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the above target has been achieved;

(c) if so, the details with regard to the annual demand and consumption of coal in the country; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to become self-reliant in the production of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The target of coal production as assessed by Planning Commission for the terminal year of 9th Five Year Plan i.e. 2001-02 and actual (provisional) for the current year upto September, 2001 is given below :

(in million tonnes)			
Original	Mid-Term Appraisal	Annual Plan 2001-02	Actual (Provisional) upto September 2001
370.60	328.86	322.73	141.823

(c) The details of demand (as assessed by the Planning Commission) and consumption of coal in the country during 2000-01 is given below :

(in million tonnes)	
Items	2000-01
Demand	333.85
Consumption	*334.42

* Provisional

(d) The following strategies have been formulated to enable coal sector to become self-reliant in the coal production.

- (1) To open new mines and increase efficiency and productivity in the existing mines by modernisation, application of new technologies and to ensure timely availability of inputs and infra-structural facilities.

- (2) To take steps to remove the bottlenecks in land acquisition and forest land clearance for speedier implementation of coal projects.
- (3) To take steps to securitise the outstanding coal sale dues of coal Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) against defaulting SEBs.
- (4) To take steps in co-ordination with the Railways to remove the transportation bottlenecks in coalfield areas having potential for enhanced production.
- (5) Apart from above Coal India Ltd. is making concerted efforts to reduce the production cost of coal by resorting to various measures viz. rationalisation of manpower, improvement in capacity utilisation, removal of bottlenecks in timely completion of coal projects, judicious planning, economy in expenditure, and maintaining good industrial relations.
- (6) To take steps to improve the quality of coal through selective mining and beneficiation.
- (7) To supplement the resources required for investment in new projects and infuse modern technology and management systems and practices by entering into joint venture for development of green field project.
- (8) To integrate environmental & social mitigation measures with mine development plans.
- (9) The Government is also planning to effect necessary legislative amendments to facilitate entry of private sector in commercial coal mining.

Development of Breed of Animals

2098. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any institute has developed/improved breed of milching animals;
- (b) If so, the names of such improved breeds alongwith their milching capacity;

(c) whether any assessment has been made in regard to the production cost of milk milched from these animals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the annual estimated availability of such animals in the country?

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

(b) The names of the improved breeds alongwith their approximate milching capacity per lactation for cattle and buffalo are as follows :

Cattle :

1.	Karan Swiss	-	3595 kg.
2.	Karan Fries	-	3685 kg.
3.	Frieswal	-	3000 kg.
4.	Sahiwal	-	2262 kg.
5.	Tharparkar	-	1800 kg.
6.	Gir	-	1200 kg.
7.	Hariana	-	1500 kg.
8.	Red Sindhi	-	1250 kg.
9.	Ongole	-	800 kg.

Buffalo :

1.	Murrah	-	2500 kg.
2.	Nili Ravi	-	2300 kg.
3.	Surti	-	1200 kg.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The evaluation of cost of milk production of crossbred cattle and Murrah buffalo assessed at Demonstration Unit of National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal in 1997-98 revealed that the cost of milk production was Rs. 7.34 and Rs. 8.05 per litre respectively.

(e) The annual estimated availability of such animals in the country is not known as the livestock census is not conducted breed wise.

[English]

Provident Fund Returns

2099. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY :

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to streamline the system of submission of Provident Fund Return (PFR);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expected time by which the such changes are likely to be made effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The Employees Provident Fund Organisation has launched a project titled 'Re-Inventing EPF India' to revamp the entire processes and procedures followed by it to ensure better service to the Provident Fund members. As part of this project, the number of returns to be filed by the employers will be simplified and reduced to the minimum.

(c) The project is to be implemented in phases initially in certain pilot centers and thereafter replicating the model in other centers incrementally.

Dues of West Bengal towards ECL

2100. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the demand raised by the Government of West Bengal from the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) on account of royalty and dead rent for each of the last three years and the amount paid against these demands;

(b) whether there is any shortfall in clearing the aforesaid dues;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the action being taken by the Government to clear the dues; and

(e) the total amount due to West Bengal on this count as on September 29, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The details of the demand raised by the Government of West Bengal from the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) on account of royalty and dead rent for each of the last three years and the amount paid against these demands are furnished as under :

Year	Demand		Amount Paid	
	Royalty	Dead Rent	Royalty	Dead Rent
1998-99	939.85	33.71	928.81	—
1999-00	979.19	40.64	976.43	—
2000-01	979.19	40.47	976.67	—
Total	2898.23	114.82	2881.91	—

(b) and (c) In case of royalty, there are differences between assessed dues and return dues because of

- Imposition of royalty on stock shortage in assessment order.
- Disallowance of basic exemption on free issue of coal to those employees, who are drawing coal from mines other than those in which they are working, within the same area.

All dues as per the return has been paid in time. Difference between assessed dues and return dues amounting to Rs. 16.32 lakhs, has not been paid as the same is under dispute.

In case of dead rent, the total amount of Rs. 114.82 lakhs has not been paid since it is under sub-judice before the Hon'ble High Court, Kolkata and the respective Certificate Officers of the district.

(d) Section 9(1) of the MMDR Act 1957 requires the holder of a mining lease or his agent, manager, employee, contractor or sub lessee to pay royalty in respect of any mineral removed or consumed from the leased area at the rates specified in the Second Schedule of the Act. Royalty on coal is payable to the concerned State Government who is the lessor by the coal company. Neither the State Government nor the coal company has represented in respect of the aforesaid dues to the Central Government for taking necessary steps.

(e) The cumulative amount due upto June, 2001

is Rs. 4.68 crores on account of royalty and Rs. 3.255 crores on account of dead rent. However, these claims are being disputed by the coal company.

Maize Production

2101. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of people are suffering from malnutrition and anaemia the deficiency of which can be checked by quality protein maize; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to boost the production of maize in the country, particularly in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) As per surveys conducted by National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (1999 report), the prevalence of malnutrition is as under :

Category of malnutrition	Children			
	1-5 yrs	6-9 yrs.	10-13 yrs.	14-17 yrs.
Mild	40.6%	31.4%	16.6%	25.5%
Moderate	44.3%	54.7%	52.0%	52.6%
Severe	6.2%	8.4%	28.7%	18.9%

	Adults (measured as Body Mass Index)	
	Males	Females
Chronic energy deficiency	45.5%	47.7%
Overweight	4.1%	6.0%

The National Family Health Survey-II (1998-99) indicates the prevalence of anaemic as 51.8% amongst women and 74.3% in children (6-35 months). Quality Protein Maize (QPM) is an effective measure to meet quality protein needs and raise the human nutritional status. Enhanced levels of essential amino acids (tryptophan and lysine) in QPM hybrids and their net protein utilization are comparable qualitatively to milk or egg protein leading to improved biological value. Diversified uses of QPM is one of the ways towards making a significant positive impact on health status and tackling malnutrition problem in our country.

(b) Accelerated Maize Development programme (AMDP), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), is being

implemented by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture since 1995-96 in the country with the objective to increase the production & productivity of maize. All the maize potential districts in 26 States including Bihar are covered under this programme.

To boost the production of Quality Protein Maize (QPM) in the country, two hybrids viz., Shaktiman-1 and Shaktiman-2, having yield potential of 7-8 tonnes per hectare in Kharif and 9-10 tonnes per hectare in Rabi, have been released for cultivation in Bihar for both the seasons. For developing appropriate varieties, production & protection technologies in the country, 28 centres of All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on maize are working across the country including two centres viz., Dholi and Agwanpur in Bihar. Directorate of Maize Research has also established a seed production unit at Kushmahut, Begusarai for meeting the seed requirement for the entire country including Bihar.

Destruction of Standing Crops by Wildlife

2102. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Blackbuck are on rampage in the field in many places destroying standing crops worth crores of rupees and the forest departments are unable to check it; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to check the destruction of standing crops from the blackbuck and other wild animals?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Black bucks essentially inhabits open scrub forests and adjoining agricultural fields. Farmers have learned to live in harmony with the species, because damage caused by the black bucks most of the times is minimal. Due to conservation efforts made by local people, the population of black buck has increased considerably in certain areas. Even in these areas the people are not interested in killing of black buck but they want that the animals may be translocated to other areas. The Central Government have granted permission to carry out such relocation programmes as and when the requests in this regard were received from the State Governments. The State Governments are empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to allow hunting of crop raiding animals like blue bulls and wild boar.

Cancellation of flights by Air India

2103. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India and Indian Airlines have cancelled its flights to United States of America because of the developments in that country caused by terrorist attacks on various establishments and increase in insurance cost and high fuel price;

(b) if so, the number of flights cancelled and the loss suffered by these Airlines on this account; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to help these airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Air India had cancelled 22 single flights and suffered loss of Rs. 8.50 crores on this account during the period of four days when the US airspace was closed after the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. No flight was cancelled due to increase in insurance cost and high fuel price. Indian Airlines do not operate to USA.

(c) Air India have reduced their capacity to match the reduced demand. Government of India has provided indemnity to the tune of USD 500 million to Air India which is equal to the shortfall in the 3rd party cover required and the same available in the market till 3.11.2001. This cover which was valid only till 12.10.2001 has been extended by the Government till 30.11.2001.

Smuggling of Ozone Depleting Substances

2104. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Concern over smuggling of Ozone depleting substances" appearing in the *Hindu* dated October 16, 2001;

(b) if so, whether illegal business in Ozone depleting substances into India from neighbouring countries have undermined India's efforts in phasing out its own production of these harmful chemicals; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check illegal business in Ozone depleting substances?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Environmental Investigation Agency, a non governmental organisation has reported smuggling of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) into India. There has been no impact on production phaseout of Ozone Depleting Substances. All the field formations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are vigilant and alert to thwart any attempts of smuggling of Ozone Depleting Substances.

Jobs in Tourism Sector

2105. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI :

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Terrorism in the United States has hit Indian Tourism;

(b) If so, the action taken to ensure that million of jobs provided in the Tourism Sector are not curtailed on this count;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to create employment opportunities in tourism sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A special tourism task force was set up comprising of senior officials of the concerned ministries of the Govt. of India, senior members of the travel industry and trade to discuss and suggest suitable plan of action to ensure that the jobs provided in the tourism sector are not curtailed.

Some of the measures recommended by the Task Force are as under :

(i) Promote India as a safe destination through special media strategy and confidence building measures.

(ii) Re-focus of overseas marketing and promotion policy to South East Asia, North East Asia, South Asia, Australia and South Africa.

(iii) Organising of Road Shows in the above markets to target NRIs and PIOs.

(iv) Special focus to be given on the Domestic market.

A special thrust on Domestic Tourism has also been given in the National Tourism Policy and the ninth five year plan.

**Procedure for Acquisition/
Maintenance of Small Aircraft**

2106. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU :

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a committee to review the system and procedures for acquisition, maintenance and operation of small aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also need to review the norms for imports of private aircraft; and

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

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 aircrafts.

(d) The report was received on 03.11.2001 and is now being examined in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Security Force for Airports

2107. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide additional security force at airports in the country in view of the happenings around the World;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government are considering to

create a separate security force for the upkeep of airports and other civil aviation installations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) After IC-814 hijack incident, aviation security measures were reviewed and important decisions were taken relating to deployment of CISF for airport security, deployment of Sky Marshals on domestic routes of Indian Airlines, introduction of ladder-point checking etc. In the wake of recent happenings in the world in regard to aviation security, it has been further decided to complete the task of deployment of CISF in all operational airports in a time bound manner, extend Sky Marshals to all domestic routes at random basis including on scheduled private airlines, ensure stricter access control and pre-embarkation checks, bring in upgraded technology for perimeter security, further strengthen training of security personnel and take action for increased all round aviation security awareness, including amongst passengers.

(c) CISF is now being entrusted with the responsibility of providing security at all operational airports.

U.K. Aid for Protection of Vulture

2108. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.K. propose to give aid to India to save vulture;

(b) if so, the details of the plan made in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Government of India has not received any offer for grant of assistance for conservation of vultures from Government of U.K. However, Darwin Initiative Trust, U.K. is funding a 3 years project entitled "Conservation of critically endangered Gyps spp. Vultures in India" through Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai. The project is being funded with effect from 1.4.2001 with an estimated budget of about Rs. 21 lakhs. The objective of the project is to produce a recovery plan for the vultures in India and to develop the capacity to implement the plan.

Congenial Policy for Small Farmers

2109. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to draw congenial policy so that small farmers can generate more incomes and employment in villages;

(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) The Government is already pursuing the policy to generate income and employment in villages for the benefit of rural communities including small farmers. In pursuance to this objective, various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented through various implementing agencies/departments and through the State Governments for development of Agriculture, Horticulture, Aquaculture, Animal Husbandry, Poultry, Apiculture, Sericulture, Cottage and Small Scale Industries and other diverse economic activities.

[Translation]

Air Crash Due to Lightning

2110. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of air crashes took place during the last three years due to lightning; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for the safety of aeroplanes for the menace of lightning?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) No air crash took place due to lightning during the last three years.

(b) Does not arise.

Special Coordination Committee for Wildlife Protection

2111. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No.1276 dated July 31, 2001 and state :

(a) whether the Central Zoo Authority has decided to constitute a team of specialists in this regard;

(b) if so, whether the specialist team has been constituted so far and if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be constituted;

(d) whether the Government have received any proposals to include some of the specialists in this team; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) A multi-disciplinary team comprising zoo managers and zoo veterinarians was created by Central Zoo Authority. This team made quick appraisal of large, medium and small zoos of the country. On the basis of its report, State Governments have been asked to mitigate the shortcomings and provide the zoo animals a better quality of life. State Governments have also been requested to appoint veterinary doctors in the zoos and upgrade health care facilities.

[English]

Flouting of Labour Laws in Rajasthan

2112. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Labour laws flouted with impunity" appearing in the Hindu dated September 6, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the workers are harassed with wide spread industrial sickness, lockouts, closures and anti-labour policies pursued by the employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial action taken by the Union Government and the State Governments for redressal of the grievances of the workers?

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

[Translation]

Seminars and Workshops on Food Processing

2113. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of seminars and workshops conducted by the Government in regard to the Food Processing during the last three years State-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred on seminars and workshops during the said period, year-wise; and

(c) the details of the achievements made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) State-wise details of seminars & workshops sponsored by this Ministry under its Plan Scheme during the last three years (1998-99 to 2000-2001) are attached as statement.

(b) The year-wise expenditure committed/incurred by the Ministry on sponsored seminars/workshops is given below :-

Year	Expenditure (in Rs. lakhs)
1998-1999	31.75
1999-2000	29.20
2000-2001	35.87

(c) The Seminars & Workshops are sponsored by the Ministry to promote the industry, sensitize the public/industry about opportunities, prospects, potentials, technologies; quality parameters, export opportunities, incentives from Centre & State Governments. The message has gone very well.

Statement

State-wise details of Seminars Workshops

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Seminars/Workshops sponsored by the Ministry		
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	2	2
2.	Delhi	2	4	1
3.	Haryana	1	-	-
4.	Karnataka	2	1	2
5.	Rajasthan	1	-	-
6.	Uttar Pradesh	1	-	2
7.	Tamil Nadu	-	1	-
8.	Punjab	-	1	-

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Bihar	-	-	2
10.	Goa	-	-	1
11.	Manipur	-	-	1
12.	Union Territory of A & N Islands	-	-	1
13.	Maharashtra	-	-	2
14.	West Bengal	-	-	1
15.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	1

[English]

Visit of Tourists to Rajasthan

2114. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of domestic/foreign tourists visited Rajasthan during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount spent on development of Tourism in Rajasthan during the said period, year-wise and project-wise;

(c) whether the Government have drawn up any Integrated Tourism Development Plan for the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) According to the information provided by the Government of Rajasthan, the number of visits of domestic and foreign tourists to Rajasthan during the years 1998, 1999 and 2000 is as follows :

Year	Number of visits of tourists	
	Domestic	Foreign
1998	6403310	591369
1999	6675528	562685
2000	7374391	623100

(b) Development of tourism in any State/Union Territory is mainly undertaken by the State Government/UT Administration. However, the Department of Tourism, Govt.

of India, provides Central financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for projects/schemes prioritised every year in consultation with them. Details of the amount sanctioned for projects/schemes of Rajasthan for the year 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are given in statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) No proposal to prepare an Integrated Tourism Development Plan for Rajasthan has been received from the State Government. However, Central financial assistance has been provided to the Government of Rajasthan for integrated development of Pushkar Ghats, Hadoti Region, Vishram Sthali on Beawar Road at Ajmer, Ghat at Ramdeora, Jaisalmer, etc.

Statement

Projects / Schemes sanctioned to the State of Rajasthan for the year 1998-99

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No	Name of the Project / Scheme	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Integrated Development of Place of Pilgrimage, Pushkar Ghats	51.65
2.	Integrated Development of Important Tourist Places in Hadoti Region (Bundi and near Kota)	82.00
3.	Integrated Development of Vishram Sthali of Pushkar Road Ajmer	46.70
4.	Upgradation of Shikhar Tourist Bungalow, Mount Abu	25.00
5.	Upgradation of Tourist Bungalow, Sariska	18.00
6.	Upgradation of Tourist Bungalow at Gangaur, Jaipur	15.00
7.	Upgradation of Tourist Bungalow Khadim, Ajmer	5.00
8.	Upgradation of Tourist Bungalow at Jodhpur	25.00
9.	Upgradation of Lake Palace Hotel at Siliserh, (Distt. Alwar)	17.65
10.	Upgradation of Tourist Bungalow at Kajri, Udaipur	25.00
11.	Upgradation of Midway at Behror (Distt. Alwar)	13.55
12.	Upgradation of Moonmal Tourist Bungalow at Jaisalmer	25.00
13.	General Toilets and Development of Lawns at Museum, Pali	3.20
14.	Toilet Facilities and Landscaping including Water Supply Arrangements at Mughal Gate, Viratnager	3.20
15.	Project of General Toilets and Development Works including Water Supply Arrangements at Chandrawati, Jaipur	3.20
16.	General Toilets including Water Supply Arrangements and Developments of Lawns at Museum, Jaisalmer	3.20
17.	General Toilets and Development of Lawns at Museum, Kota	3.20
18.	General Toilets and Landscaping Works at Museum, Bharatpur	7.72
19.	Project of General Toilets and Development Works at Museum, Mandore	3.20
20.	SEL Show at Amber (Jaipur Distt.)	54.00
21.	Shilgram Utsav	2.50
22.	General Toilets and Development of Lawns at Akbar-ka-Quila, Ajmer	3.31
Total		436.28

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned to the State of Rajasthan for the year 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Project / Scheme	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Construction and Development Work at Amar Singh Rathore-ki-Chattaries, Nagaur	13.33
2.	Refurbishment of Maharani-ki-Chattaries, Jaipur	5.37
3.	Construction of Toilet Facilities at Talab Shahi Badi, Dholpur	1.25
4.	Construction of Toilet Facilities and Water Supply at Govt. Museum, Chittaurgarh	1.88
5.	Refurbishment of Gator-ki-Chattaries, Jaipur	1.97
6.	Refurbishment of Hawa Mahal, Jaipur	18.00
7.	Conservation of Cenotaphs at Mandore	20.00
8.	Refurbishment of Jantar Mantar, Jaipur	13.30
9.	Development of Mossi Rani Cenotaph and Development of Facilities at Sagar, Alwar	13.30
10.	Development of Steps at Taragarh, Ajmer	9.33
11.	Development of Pilgrim Centre, Salasar, Dham (Distt. Churo)	12.79
12.	Development of Pilgrim Centre of Shri Digambar Jain, Athishaya	20.70
Total		131.22

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned to the State of Rajasthan during 2000-2001

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Project/Scheme	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	Refurbishment of Albert Hall, Jaipur	43.33
2.	Refurbishment Fateh Gumbaj, Alwar	8.00
3.	Conservation/Restoration/Repair work at Akbar's Kos Minar, Rajasthan	6.67
4.	Refurbishment of Amber Palace, Jaipur, Rajasthan	53.33
5.	Conservation/Restoration/ Repairs of Sun Temple at Ranakpur, Pali	6.67
6.	Conservation/Restoration/ Development work at Fateh Prakash, Chittorgarh	33.33
7.	Conservation/Restoration work at Mandore	33.33
8.	Conservation/Restoration/ Development work at Kamra Khas, Bharatpur	33.33
9.	Conservation/Restoration/ Development work at Chavand-ka-Mahal, Udaipur	16.67

1	2	3
10.	Conservation/Restoration/Development work at Kiradu Temples	33.33
11.	Conservation/Restoration/Development of Monuments at Virat Nagar	16.67
12.	Restoration work at Patvon-ki-Haveli, Jaisalmer	40.00
13.	Conservation/Restoration work at Gatore-Ke-Chhattaries, Jaipur	16.67
14.	Refurbishment and Conservation of Kishori Mahal, Bharatpur	16.67
15.	Integrated Development of Ghat at Ramdeora, Jaisalmer	24.99
16.	Shilpgram at Tourist Village Pushkar, Ajmer	13.74
17.	Upgradation/Extension of Vinayak Tourist Bungalow at Sawai Madhopur	15.00
18.	Chemical Conservation work at Garh Palace, Jhalawar	08.33
19.	Installation of HARK System in Amber Palace, Jaipur	03.00
20.	Website upgrading of DOT & RTDC units and having Internet (IT) bookings with GSA (IT)	25.00
21.	Pushkar Festival	3.45
22.	Desert Festival	3.45
Total		454.96

Strike at PFL in Orissa

2115. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been frequent strikes at Phosphetic Fertilizer Limited (PFL) plant at Paradeep in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken to look into the demand of the workers of PFL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Contract Labourers working under different contractors at the plant were on strike from 26th October, 2001 to 9th November, 2001 to press their demand of making their service permanent.

(c) The contractor and the management participated in the conciliation in the presence of the District Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer. The Company's Management clarified during the conciliation that the demand

for granting permanent status to contract labourers could not be considered since the case was subjudice in the Orissa High Court. However, the matter regarding wage revision of contract labourers was settled amicably.

Cotton Production

2116. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the target set for the production of cotton in the years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 was achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of cotton bales produced during the said years and the number out of them exported and utilized domestically, separately; and

(e) the amount of foreign exchange earned and the measures taken to get the best price for the farmers/exporters in international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The targets set for the production of cotton in lakh bales of 170 kg each and the corresponding achievements during 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 are as follows :

Year	Target	Production
1998-99	148.00	122.90
1999-2000	150.00	116.40
2000-2001	145.00	93.90*
2001-2002	145.00	123.00*

* - Advance estimates

(c) Due to adverse agro climatic conditions during these years crop was damaged seriously by insect and pest attack.

(d) The information has been given below :

Year	Quantity exported (in lakh bales of 170 kg each)
1998-99	1.01
1999-2000	0.65
2000-2001	0.60
2001-2002	No details available as the season has just started.

(e) The information in respect of foreign exchange earned is given below :

Year	Value (Rs. in crore)
1998-99	86.72
1999-2000	50.09
2000-2001	47.73
2001-2002	No details available as the season has just started.

Export of Cotton is covered under Open General License. However, to safeguard the interest of the cotton growers, the Government also announces Minimum Support Price for cotton each year and guarantees its procurement, if the price fall below the Minimum Support Price, through the Cotton Corporation of India in all States except Maha-

rashtra. In Maharashtra, the State Government itself procures cotton under its Monopoly Procurement Scheme.

Flyaway package to Boost Tourism

2117. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the flyaway packages taken by Indian Airlines to boost tourism in the country; and

(b) the details of achievements made thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Recognizing the potential of domestic tourism, Indian Airlines has devised 7 holiday packages, popularly known as "IA Flyaways", currently available in the market, These are :

Goa Flyaways

Kerala Flyaways

Rajasthan Flyaways

Jammu Flyaways

Srinagar Flyaways

Bodhgaya Flyaways

Kairali Health Resort Fitness Flyaways

These packages were valid till 31st October, 2001 but are being extended with effect from 1st November, 2001 to 31st October, 2002.

Development of Horticulture

2118. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of financial assistance provided for development of tropical, temperate and arid zones and development of horticulture during 2000-2001, till date, State-wise;

(b) the name of crops identified for tissue culture;

(c) the role of tissue culture in production of horticulture crops; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to promote horticulture in each State particularly in Orissa during year of the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The State-wise details of assistance provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Fruits during the year 2000-2001 and till date is given in the statement enclosed. The Scheme was subsumed under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture - Supplementary/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans with effect from October, 2001.

(b) Banana and strawberry are major fruit crops identified for tissue culture propagation. Protocols are available for papaya, grape, citrus and pineapple for tissue culture propagation.

(c) Tissue culture is used for large scale rapid multiplication of true to type disease free planting material.

(d) The details of assistance provided to the Government of Orissa during the Ninth Five Year Plan for the development of fruits under the Scheme on Integrated Development of Fruits is given below :

Year	Assistance Provided (Rs. in lakh)	
	Total for country	To Govt. of Orissa
1997-98	1671.62	299.00
1998-99	1984.29	500.00
1999-2000	2149.59	635.11
2000-2001	515.00	30.44
		(Till September, 2000)

Components of assistance in the Scheme are for production of planting material through establishment of nurseries, tissue culture units, area expansion with improved varieties, technology transfer, establishment of plant health clinics, disease forecasting units, leaf analysis laboratories and mechanization. As per the Work Plan for Orissa, an outlay of Rs. 134.60 lakhs has been earmarked for the development of fruits during 2001-02.

Statement

Assistance Provided for Development of Fruits

(Rs. in lakh)

State	Assistance 2000-01	Provided during IX Plan till 2000-01
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	33.72	267.70
Arunachal Pradesh	11.68	128.39
Assam	8.66	33.66
Bihar	8.00	99.72

1	2	3
Goa	4.92	4.92
Gujarat	12.03	72.03
Haryana	17.32	167.12
Himachal Pradesh	18.21	84.90
Jammu & Kashmir	24.26	256.26
Karnataka	38.85	458.79
Kerala	23.70	408.39
Madhya Pradesh	16.57	367.57
Maharashtra	43.58	557.58
Manipur	20.28	277.28
Meghalaya	12.94	54.44
Mizoram	15.57	92.70
Nagaland	15.49	238.19
Orissa	30.44	1464.55
Punjab	29.45	93.53
Rajasthan	18.87	209.57
Sikkim	11.96	73.45
Tamil Nadu	31.11	442.14
Tripura	14.09	87.19
Uttar Pradesh	33.66	176.10
West Bengal	4.64	74.64
Sub Total (States)	500.00	6190.81
A&N Islands	2.57	32.56
Chandigarh	0.68	13.68
D&N Haveli	1.99	13.70
Delhi	0.95	0.95
Daman & Diu	2.23	17.73
Lakshadweep	2.53	36.52
Pondichery	4.05	14.55
Sub Total UT	15.00	129.69
Total	515.00	6320.50

Gosikhurd Right Bank Canal Project

2119. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested his Ministry in the month of July, 2001 to give permission regarding forest land change in alignment for construction of Gosikhurd Right Bank Canal;

(b) if so, whether approval has since been accorded to in the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The revised proposal for diversion of 105.605 ha. forest land for construction of Gosikhurd Right Bank Canal from 28 to 50 km in district Chandrapur, Maharashtra has been accorded approval on 1.10.2001.

(d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Proposals for new Airports in Rajasthan

2120. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the new places proposed by Government of Rajasthan to the Union Government for setting up of airports in the State.

(b) whether some organisations and public representatives have also given representations regarding setting up of airports at some places like Ajmer, Sriganganagar and Bikaner;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the main reasons for not setting up an airport at Ajmer, a historical and religious place of international importance;

(e) the details of ongoing projects for upgradation of airports in Rajasthan; and

(f) the total amount spent on these works during each of the last three years, airport-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (d) Proposals have been received from Government of Rajasthan, some other organisations and public representatives for setting up of an airport at Ajmer. The proposal was examined and it was found that it will not be commercially viable even if land is given free of cost by the State Government. Besides, Ajmer is only 136 K.M. away from Jaipur and as per the existing policy no green field airport is normally allowed within a distance of 150 KM. from an existing airport. In Bikaner, Airport Authority of India maintains a civil enclave as it is a defence airport. However, there is no plan to develop this civil enclave due to lack of traffic demand. No proposal have been received for an airport at Sriganganagar.

(e) At Jaipur Airport the work for extension of runway from 7500 ft. to 9000 ft. to sustain the operation of AB-300 type of aircraft, resurfacing of runway, expansion/resurfacing of existing apron, construction of isolation bay, new ATC block and Fire Station etc. at the cost of Rs. 32 crore are in progress and at Udaipur Airport action to acquire additional land of 8.13 acres is in progress for installation of simple and Cat-I Approach Lighting System at runway ends.

(f) A sum of Rs. 22 lakhs in 1998-99, Rs. 84 lakhs in 1999-2000 and Rs. 185 lakhs in 2000-2001 has been spent at Jaipur airport for construction of ATC block and extension of runway to 9000 ft.

[English]

Introduction of New Marketing Policy by Coal India Limited

2121. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) has introduced new marketing policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the non-core sector has reportedly complained against new policy as 'discriminatory' towards them;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon;

(f) whether the Government propose to review the marketing policy; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) As a sequel to total deregulation of price and distribution of coal with effect from 1st January 2000, Coal India Limited (CIL) has decided, in June 2001, to authorize the subsidiary companies to evolve their respective policies of coal sales to the non-core sector without the condition of linkage/sponsorship.

(c) and (d) Certain representations had been received from non-core sector consumers and associations about certain aspects of the new policies like the provision of higher price/premium as compared to the notified price, Earnest Money Deposit etc.

(e) to (g) The issue of coal supply to non-core sector consumers and the policies evolved by CIL/Subsidiary companies were discussed by the Government with the coal companies. CIL and subsidiary coal companies have been advised to write to the State Governments and other sponsoring authorities to verify the existence, working status etc. of the linked consumers in the non-core sector. Provisions of the new sales policies with regard to pricing, Earnest Money Deposit and quantity restrictions have been withheld temporarily till the verification process is complete.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Raipur Airport

2122. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide the facility of International Airport at Raipur, the capital of newly constituted State, Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has constructed a new Terminal building with modern facilities in the year 1998 at a cost of Rs. 8.55 crores to cater for 300 passengers at a time. At present the runway length is 6400 feet and AAI has requested the State Government of Chhattisgarh for acquisition of 48 acres of land for extension of runway to 7500 feet to make it suitable for operation of A-

320 class of aircraft. Declaration of an airport as international airport will depend upon traffic potential and demand from airlines for operation of international flights.

[English]

Promotion of Tourism in Andhra Pradesh

2123. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought the assistance of the Union Government in promoting tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to include special tourism areas identified by Andhra Pradesh for development through joint efforts and giving tourism an industry status?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Promotion and development of tourist places/centres is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, the Central Department of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects prioritized in consultation with them.

(b) For the year 2001-2002, 21 projects for a total amount of Rs. 661.65 lakhs have been prioritised for central financial assistance.

(c) No such proposal for inclusion of special tourism areas identified by Andhra Pradesh for development through joint efforts has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has declared "tourism" as an industry with effect from 27.11.1986.

Selection of Reserved Categories on Merit

2124. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether as provided under para 11 of Explanatory Notes to DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 2, 1997 persons belonging to SCs/STs and OBCs being 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 selected/recruited/promoted on merit to different categories of services and not shown against the

'reserved quota of vacancies/posts' for their communities during the last five years under his Ministry; and

(c) the number of instances where candidates belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs have been selected on merit but shown/adjusted against vacancies/post reserved for their communities along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. As provided under para 11 of Explanatory Notes to DOPT OM No.36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 2, 1997 persons belonging to SCs/STs and OBCs being selected on merit are not required to be shown against the quota of vacancies/posts reserved for their communities.

(b) The total number of persons belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs selected/recruited/promoted on merit to different categories of services during the last five years under the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation is 82. These persons have not been shown against the reserved quota of vacancies/posts for their communities.

(c) The number of instances where candidates belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs have been selected on merit but shown/adjusted against vacancies/posts reserved for their communities is Nil.

[Translation]

Accidents in Coal Mines in Bihar and Jharkhand

2125. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether several accidents occurred in coal mines of Bihar and Jharkhand during the last two months;

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

(c) whether in view of accidents happened in the past, a decision was taken to make proper arrangement to avoid such accidents in future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) There was only one fatal accident with one fatality in the mines of Coal India Limited in the State of Jharkhand in the last two months i.e. September and October, 2001.

(b) The accident took place at North Tisra Colliery of BCCL on 1-9-2001 where a Tripman, late Shri Prabhat Banerjee, was runover by a dumper on the overburden dump.

(c) and (d) Continuous efforts are being made by Coal India Limited to avoid accidents in coal mines.

Details of steps taken by Coal India Limited to prevent recurrence of past accidents are as under :-

(A) For underground mines :

- (i) Check correlation surveys in all identified mines having risk of inundation have been taken up to guard against inundation.
- (ii) Connecting all mine plans to national grid - has almost been completed.
- (iii) Wherever required the thickness of barrier between adjacent mines have been proved by positive methods like drilling.
- (iv) Replacement of timber support by steel support in a phased manner.
- (v) Support plan have been framed on the basis of Rock Mass Rating (RMR) study.
- (vi) Hand held digital gas detectors in addition to flame safety lamps are being used for inflammable and noxious gases for regular monitoring of mine environment.
- (vii) Continuous computerised Environmental Tele Monitoring Systems (ETMS) are being provided - 36 mines have been identified for this purpose; 7 such systems are in operation and 6 more systems are under procurement.
- (viii) Deployment of more SDL/LHD and introduction of PSLW equipment to reduce exposure of workers to hazards.
- (ix) Before every monsoon, danger of inundation from both surface and underground mines are examined for each mine and action plan drawn and implemented.
- (x) Support personnel and other key personnel, such as supervisory staff are being given extensive job specific training.

(B) For open-cast mines :

- (i) Comprehensive action plan framed to reduce accidents in open-cast mines & at surface.

- (ii) Special drives for checking configuration of over burden and coal benches and O.B. dump slope stability.
- (iii) Improvement in lighting.
- (iv) Stress given on monitoring haul roads and prior checking of road worthiness of vehicles.
- (v) Traffic rules framed and being enforced in open-cast mines.
- (vi) Rest shelters at conspicuous places have been set up.
- (vii) Personnel like HEMM operators etc. are being given extensive job specific training.

(C) General

- (i) Safety audits are being done regularly.
- (ii) Thrust has been given on quality of inspections. Inspection by ISO have also been increased.
- (iii) Workers involvement have been increased in safety through their participation in different fora and through training, publicity and propoganda and organising special safety drives.
- (iv) CIL has established structured multi disciplinary Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) for monitoring safety status - both at subsidiary level and CIL Head Quarters.
- (v) Programme has been taken up to provide Filter Self Rescuers (FSRs) to all workmen apart from personal protective equipment like shoes, helmets etc.

*[English]***Hiratalla Irrigation Project in Karnataka**

2126. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Hiratalla Irrigation Project in Karnataka is likely to be commissioned during the current Financial Year;
- (b) if so, the present status of the project; and

- (c) the steps taken to expedite the execution of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) The reference is probably to the Hiratalla Irrigation Project in Karnataka. The latest estimated cost is Rs. 120.52 crores and the expenditure incurred till March 2001 is Rs. 110.59 crores. 98% work on the dam and 78% on the canals has been completed. The project can be completed in 2002-03 if the State Government provides the required budget outlay in the current and next Financial Year.

This project has been receiving Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for its expeditious completion since 1996-97 and an amount of Rs. 35.75 crores has been released to this project till date.

Report of CSE on Indian Automobiles

2127. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

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

- (a) whether as per report of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) Indian automobiles are below world standards in term of efficiency, emissions and design, etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether most of the manufactures have criticized the methodology adopted by CSE for the purpose of rating the Indian Auto Industry;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether most of Indian vehicles pollute more and are fuel guzzlers as compared to green wheels rolling in other parts of the world;
- (f) if so, the facts, thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to bring Indian automobiles at par with the world in all the areas?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The Centre for Science and

Environment (CSE), New Delhi, has recently released the rating of Indian automobiles. According to them, the Indian automobiles, mainly the passenger cars, utility vehicles and mass transport vehicles are below the western standards (Europe and the United States of America) in terms of technology and emissions. The Government has not received any reaction from the manufacturers on the methodology adopted by the Centre for Science and Environment. The Centre for Science and Environment has not submitted the report to the Government.

(e) to (g) There is no recent reliable study on vehicular pollution indicating the comparison of Indian vehicles with vehicles from other part of the world. The steps taken by the Government to improve the technology and emissions of vehicles include the following :

- India 2000 norms akin to Euro-I norms has been made effective for all categories of vehicles manufactured on and after 1.4.2000 in the entire country;
- Bharat Stage II norms akin to Euro-II norms have been made effective for four wheelers in four metros in a phased manner.
- Emission norms for Compressed Natural Gas driven vehicles has been made effective from 9.2.2000;
- Emission norms for Liquefied Petroleum Gas driven vehicles has been notified on 24.4.2001;
- Promotion of Compressed Natural Gas and Liquefied Petroleum Gas driven vehicles.

Setting up of Special Courts under Mines Act

2128. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate General, Mines Safety has recommended setting up of special courts to try cases under Mines Act; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The Sub-committee of the Consultative Committee of Parliament, Ministry of Labour under the Chairmanship of Shri Gurudas Das Gupta in the report submitted to the Government in 1996 on the "status of safety in mines" had recommended that special courts or designated courts may be set up to deal with cases

under the Mines Act, 1952 for expeditious disposal. The Ministry of Labour have taken up the matter with the Registrar Generals of the various High Courts where the cases under the Mines Act are pending for designating judicial Magistrate/Metropolitan Magistrate in the Districts exclusively to deal with the cases under the Mines Act. The High Courts of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have issued necessary instructions for designating Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrate to deal with the cases under the Mines Act. The High Courts of Orissa, Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have declined to set up the designated courts as the number of cases under the Mines Act are few as compared to the pending cases under the other Acts. However, the High Courts of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have issued instructions to the respective courts for expeditious disposal of pending cases on day to day trial. The High Courts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have rejected the proposal.

Economic Development of SCs/ STs

2129. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been implementing various schemes and programmes under Special Component Plan (SCP) & TSP since 1978 for achieving overall development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who live below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details of income generating schemes/ programmes being implemented by his Ministry;

(c) the funds allocated and procured by his Ministry during VIth, VIIth, VIIIth and Ninth Five Year Plans for such Schemes/ programmes;

(d) the quantified benefits and targets achieved in this regard; and

(e) the details of other schemes/programmes being implemented by his Ministry for economic empowerment of SCs and STs?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has been implementing various schemes under Tribal sub Plan for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(b) to (e) The details of schemes and funds allocated/ released under Tribal Sub Plan for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Funds allocated / released during VII to IX Plan (Rs. in lakhs)	Quantified Benefits during VII to IX Plan	
			Targets	Achieved*
1.	Project Tiger	12865.42	146.4 Mandays in lakhs	174.64 Mandays in lakhs
2.	Beneficiary Oriented Scheme for Tribal Development	2188.53	1714 Families	1532 Families
3.	Eco Development around National Parks and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves	5940.40	359 Mandays in lakhs	381.93 Mandays in lakhs
4.	Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forests	2235.00	239.77 Mandays in lakhs	225.72 Mandays in lakhs
5.	Fuelwood/Fodder Projects	134.28	1.59 ha. in lakhs	1.89 ha. in lakhs
6.	Integrated Wastelands Development Projects/Integrated Afforestation and Eco Development Projects	896.52	1.64 ha. in lakhs	1.32 ha. in lakhs
7.	Non Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants	460.98	1.4 ha. in lakhs	2.16 ha. in lakhs

* Includes anticipated benefits during the IX Plan

Allocation of Funds under SCP and TSP

2130. SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allocated any funds for implementing various schemes and programmes under Special Component Plan (SCP) and TSP for achieving overall development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes majority of whom live below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details of Schemes/programmes formulated /being formulated by his Ministry to train educated unemployed youth from SC/ST community in the field of aviation sector and for providing employment opportunities specifying nature, scope and target groups;

(c) the funds allocated and utilised during VIth, VIIth, VIIIth and Ninth Plans for such purpose; and

(d) the benefits and targets achieved in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) No, Sir. Programmes are mainly carried out in the Ministry of Civil Aviation through various Public Sector Enterprises which are autonomous and are not given any budgetary support by the Government. While, every effort is being made to ensure that all programmes meant for weaker sections, including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, are implemented with full zeal, Ministry of Civil Aviation does not have any Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub-Plan(TSP) directly under it.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Classification of Rubber and Coir as Agricultural Product

2131. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to classify Rubber and Coir as agricultural product;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the same is likely to be considered and finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) In terms of WTO Agreement on Agriculture, Rubber and Coir are not classified as agricultural products. India in its negotiating proposals filed in January, 2001, in WTO has proposed rationalization of product coverage of Agreement on Agriculture to include agricultural commodities such as Rubber and Coir.

[Translation]

Sale of Scrap by SAIL and IISCO

2132. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL and IISCO have sold 679001 tons of scrap from their five plants (integrated) during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the extent of financial loss suffered by SAIL and IISCO as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL : (a) SAIL and IISCO sold about 8 lakh tons of iron and steel scrap during 2000-2001 in the five integrated steel plants.

(b) and (c) Iron and Steel scrap is generated during manufacture of steel. The surplus scrap, after meeting internal requirement; is sold. Therefore, it is an additional source of revenue and no financial loss can be attributed to the sale.

Expansion of Bio-Farming

2133. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy for the large scale expansion of Bio-farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of assistance provided by the Government to the farmers for Biofarming, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) The farming system which is devoid of the use of any kind of chemicals such as fertilizers as nutrient source and insecticides/pesticides as plant protection measures can be referred as bio-farming/organic farming. The Government encourages and promotes the integrated nutrient and integrated pest management system. This involves the use of biofertilisers, compost/vermi compost, green manures in conjunction with chemical fertilizers as nutrient source to the crops. Integrated Pest Management involves the biological and mechanical means in conjunction with chemical pesticides as effective measures for plant protection. With a view to promote the organic farming, the Ministry of Agriculture had set up a Task Force on Organic Farming, with the objective to assess the scope, potential and extent of organic farming in the country. At present, there is no scheme exclusively for organic farming/biofarming.

[English]

Super Speciality Hospital for Mine Workers

2134. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister or COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the names with location of super-speciality hospitals functioning for coal mine workers at present, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether patients have complained of certain irregularities in some hospitals;

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

(d) the steps being taken to set the matter right; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken to ensure that no patient is referred to private hospitals for treatment when they are examined by super-specialists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) There is no super-speciality hospital functioning under Coal India Limited. However, central hospital of BCCL Dhanbad in Jharkhand State has one super-speciality wing for neuro-surgery.

(b) No irregularities in the functioning of super-speciality wing has been reported.

(c) and (d) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (a) and (b) above.

(e) For complicated cases, treatment of which is not available in this super speciality wing, patients are mostly referred to Central and State Government Hospitals like New Delhi; SGPGIMS, Lucknow, PGI Chandigarh; SSKM Hospital, Kolkata etc. However, occasionally certain cases are referred to reputed private speciality institutions like CMCH, Vellore etc.

Backlog of Vacancies for SC/ST

2135. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether backlog/carried forward vacancies reserved for SCs/STs and OBCs 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 a 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) SC, (2) STs and OBOs in Group A,B,C and D Categories of services as on August 29, 1997 in his Ministry when Special Recruitment Drives etc. meant for filling such vacancies were stopped;

(c) the details of such backlog vacancies filled during each of the last four years and those which remain unfilled, year-wise; 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 roster'?

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

Integrated Reservoir Fisheries Development Project

2136. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Integrated Reservoir Fisheries Development Project sanctioned in March, 1992 for Akola and Bhandara in Maharashtra, has been completed;

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

(c) whether there was considerable shortfall in achievements of the project and the matter was referred to his Ministry by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG);

(d) the details of action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the further steps taken to develop fisheries projects in the country?

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

(b) National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under this Department sanctioned a Integrated Reservoir Fisheries Development Project in March 1992 for Akola and Bhandara districts in Maharashtra, at a Block Cost of Rs.565.85 lakhs. The State Government has so far availed reimbursement of only an amount of Rs.319.44 lakhs (comprising of loan of Rs.302.94 lakhs and subsidy of Rs.16.50 lakhs). The balance assistance of Rs.246.41 lakhs is yet to be claimed by the State Government of Maharashtra.

In view of the slow implementation of the project, NCDC conducted comprehensive review, also involving the representative of the Commissioner of Fisheries, Maharashtra. The review team identified the following reasons for slow progress :

- Non-availability of quality fish seeds of desired size.
- Low utilisation of cages/pens for rearing fish seeds.
- Difficulties in supply of fish to urban markets by the district federations.

(c) The shortfall has been around 25% in the case of Akola and 30% in the case of Bhandara District. Report of the C&AG has been received.

(d) The report of the CAG has been sent to NCDC for their comments.

(e) NCDC started promoting and developing fisheries cooperatives after its Act was amended in 1974 to cover fisheries within its purview. Assistance is provided to fishery cooperatives for the following purposes:

- Purchase of operational inputs such as fishing boats, nets and engines.
- Creation of infrastructure facilities for marketing, transport vehicles, ice plants, cold storages, retail outlets, processing units, etc.
- Development of inland fisheries, seed forms, hatcheries etc.
- Preparation of feasibility reports.

Integrated Fisheries Projects (Marine, Inland and Brackish water).

Till 31/03/2001 NCDC sanctioned an assistance of Rs.651.52 crores against which Rs.405.91 crores has been released.

[Translation]

Security at Mumbai Airport

2137. SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some objectionable items were found at Chhatrapati Shivaji Domestic Airport in Mumbai, recently;

(b) if so, whether his ministry has inquired into the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to beef up security arrangements at Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There were four incidents on 26.8.01, 18.9.01, 9.10.01 and 29.10.01 respectively at Mumbai airport in which arms and ammunitions were recovered from the hand baggages of the passengers travelling by Jet Airways. The Maharashtra Police is investigating the cases.

(d) Government have taken the following steps, inter alia, to strengthen security at 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 timebound manner

(iii) Deployment of Quick Reaction Teams at major airports

(iv) Strict access control and screening of passengers and their baggage, including at ladder point.

[English]

Installation of ILS at Leh Airport

2138. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Instrument Landing System has been installed at Leh Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the ILS is likely to be installed at Leh Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Air Traffic Control at Leh is managed by Indian Air Force. They have to determine the requirement of Instrument Landing System (ILS) at Leh Airport.

[Translation]

Drip Irrigation Project in Gujarat

2139. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds allocated for Drip Irrigation Project (DIP) in the country particularly in Mehsan and Nabaskantha districts of Gujarat and Karnataka during the last three years, State-wise and Year-wise;

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has made any demand for increasing the funds for the above said project;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the State Government have been asked to submit a report on utilisation of the fund allocated for the said DIP;

(e) whether the State Government have informed the Government about the drought conditions prevalent in the above said districts;

(f) the amount of funds allocated to the State Government for the same; and

(g) the steps taken to promote DIP particularly in the State of Gujarat and Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The State-wise details of funds released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Horticulture through Plasticulture Interventions during the last three years, till September, 2000 is given in the Statement attached. The Scheme was subsumed under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture - Supplementation/ Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans with effect from October, 2000. Funds are released to the State Governments who in turn make the allocations to the districts.

(b) and (c) As per the Macro Management Scheme, the State Government has the freedom to take up the programmes according to the felt needs and requirement of the State through Work Plans.

(d) Yes, Sir. It is mandatory for the State Government to furnish the Utilization Certificate for funds released.

(e) No report has been received from the Government of Gujarat regarding drought conditions in any part of the State during the South West Monsoon period of 2001.

(f) and (g) The details of funds released to the Government of Gujarat and Karnataka under the Macro Management Scheme during the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 are as follows :

Funds Released (Rs. in lakh)

State	2000-01	2001-02	
		Allocation	Release
Gujarat	1511.43	4000.00	1800.00
Karnataka	4222.00	6500.00	2925.00

Under this Scheme assistance is being provided for installing drip irrigation system @50 percent of the total cost to Small, Marginal, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women farmers and 35 percent of the total cost to other category farmers. During 2001-02, an area of 1600 hectares is proposed to be brought under drip irrigation in Gujarat

while 9090 hectares is proposed to be covered in Karnataka.

Statement

State-wise Assistance provided under Plasticulture Scheme

Sl.No.	State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (Till Sept. 2000)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	1410.75	1277.50	125.60
2	Arunachal Pradesh	46.00	34.62	10.21
3	Assam	0.00	0.00	4.84
4	Bihar	0.00	0.00	5.36
5	Goa	19.00	7.00	7.29
6	Gujarat	141.49	230.20	182.76
7	Haryana	155.42	61.00	45.13
8	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	17.72
9	Jammu and Kashmir	262.00	236.07	100.02
10	Karnataka	2995.00	2372.45	248.98
11	Kerala	415.85	364.12	84.06
12	Madhya Pradesh	183.10	221.10	100.77
13	Maharashtra	3194.13	2704.75	309.23
14	Manipur	63.00	30.00	21.39
15	Meghalaya	45.00	0.00	17.83
16	Mizoram	88.00	38.00	18.04
17	Nagaland	96.60	41.80	19.47
18	Orissa	0.00	214.80	6.37
19	Punjab	93.00	30.00	36.12
20	Rajasthan	270.00	310.77	163.29
21	Sikkim	45.32	43.00	24.31

1	2	3	4	5
22	Tamil Nadu	1095.00	1052.25	121.13
23	Tripura	0.00	0.00	16.61
24	Uttar Pradesh	115.59	234.57	106.53
25	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	6.94
26	D&N Haveli	0.00	3.00	4.11
27	Daman & Diu	5.00	0.00	2.84
28	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.43
29	Lakshadweep	5.00	3.00	2.48
30	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.2
31	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.37
32	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	9.57
Total		10744.05	9510.00	1820.00

[English]

Amendment to Industrial Dispute Act

2140. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the companies employing workers from 1000 and more, from 100 to 999 and from one to 99 along with percentage of workmen in each company, company-wise;

(b) whether the proposed amendment to Industrial Disputes Act is likely to make strong hand of the Industrialists to retrench work force since no permission is required from the Government; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The details available of size of employment, number of factories and number of workers is as under :

Figures in percentage

S.No.	Employment Range	Factories	Workers
1.	Upto 99	86.06	29.44
2.	100 to 999	13.04	44.27
3.	1000 and above	00.9	26.29
		100.00	100.00

Source : Annual Survey of Industries 1995-96. Provisional results for Factory Sectors: Central Statistical Organisation.

(b) and (c) Amendments in the Industrial Disputes Act are proposed to promote cordial relations between workers and employers and are based on the requirements of the social partners and in consonance with economic reforms. A cautious policy is adopted to bring about any amendments in the Industrial Disputes Act after taking into consideration all the relevant factors.

[Translation]

Lifting of Ban on Export of Agricultural Goods

2141. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to lift the ban on export of all agricultural produces;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any decision in this regard; and

(c) 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) to (c) No, Sir. The policy of the Government for export of agricultural products is governed principally by the consideration of country's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning incomes. Thus, the food security is a prime concern of the Government of India. The review of export performance of agricultural products is an ongoing process and policy interventions are made as and when considered necessary with a view to making agricultural exports increasingly viable. Most of the agricultural products are freely exportable, except a few which are subject to either licensing requirement, or quantitative ceilings, or their export being allowed through certain designated State Trading Enterprises.

[English]

Employees in Special Deposit Account

2142. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) caused loss of crore of rupees by making investment in the special deposit account with Reserve Bank of India instead of nationalised banks where the rate of interest was higher than in RBI;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry had given some explanations to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in response to their observations made in the report; and

(c) the reaction of his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) ESIC is basically a Social Security Organisation. While investing its funds, 'rate of interest' has never been the sole criteria but safety aspect has also been given due weightage. The C&AG has been suitably informed in this regard.

[Translation]

National Professorship Scheme in ICAR

2143. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the country has been benefited in terms of development in the agricultural sector by spending funds on the scheme of National professorships for a period of five years in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR);

(b) the details of funds spent under this scheme during the last three years and the benefits derived by the Council therefrom;

(c) whether the Government propose to review this scheme in the interest of ICAR; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The scheme has benefited the country tremendously

by addressing key areas crucial to Indian Agriculture. The project has increased the visibility and impact of Indian Science in international scenario by generating techniques, material and manpower of high caliber important for productive and efficient agriculture. A total of Rs. 481 lakhs have been spent on National Professor scheme during the last three years. Some of the benefits derived include : development of Pusa neem golden urea giving 36% increased rice yield; transgenic rohu fish growing 6 times faster; technique for sex reversal in fishes; identification and characterization of indigenous sources of temperature sensitive genic male sterility (TGMS) in rice; characterization of drought tolerance in wheat; Dot Immunobinding Assay (DIA) for on the spot diagnosis of animal rotavirus disease and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques for the management of pests of major crops.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. It is a prestigious scheme of ICAR yielding desired results and there is no plan to review at this stage.

[English]

Social Security as a Fundamental Right

2144. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Social Security Group constituted by the National Labour Commission has recommended that social security should be given the status of fundamental right;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The Study Group on Social Security constituted by the National Commission on Labour has submitted its report to the Commission. The Commission is yet to take a view on the report of this Study Group in framing its recommendations. The final report of the Commission is expected by 15.02.2002.

Representation of SC/ST on Selection Committees

2145. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of structural/constitutional changes made in the existing instructions/systems regarding composition of the Selection Boards/Committees for facilitating inclusion of SC/ST persons on the selection committees/boards for selecting persons for appointment as Vice-Chancellors of Agro-Universities and similar Institutes which receive financial aid from the Union Government;

(b) the number of persons appointed to the above referred posts during last five years, year-wise; and

(c) the total number out of them belonging to SC/ST category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The composition of Selection (Search) Committee for Vice-Chancellors is determined as per the provision of Agricultural University Act promulgated by State Government.

The Council has not proposed any structural/constitutional changes in the composition of Selection Board/Committee for facilitating SC/ST persons on the Selection Committee/Board for selecting persons as Vice-Chancellors in Agricultural Universities.

(b) A total number of 40 persons as Vice-Chancellors have been appointed during last five years. The year-wise detail is as follows :

1997	-	12
1998	-	6
1999	-	10
2000	-	8
2001	-	4

(c) One

Unutilized Land

2146. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any survey to identify the unutilized lands/termed wastelands in the country;

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

(c) the measures taken by the Government to make them viable for cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has brought out a "Wastelands Atlas of India, 2000" in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad employing Remote Sensing Technology on 1:50, 000 scale. The State-wise details are given at statement enclosed.

(c) Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development have been implementing several schemes aimed at checking land degradation, putting these lands into productive use and increasing the availability of bio-mass, specially fuel wood and fodder for the development of wastelands/degraded lands on watershed basis like;

I. Ministry of Agriculture

- i. National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas.
- ii. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Reclamation of Alkali Soils
- iii. World Bank Assisted Uttar Pradesh Sodic Land Reclamation Project
- iv. EEC Assisted Project for Reclamation of Alkali Soils in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh
- v. Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas in North-Eastern States
- vi. Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation for enhancing productivity of degraded lands in the catchments of River valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers.

II. Ministry of Rural Development

- i. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP),
- ii. Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)
- iii. Desert Development Programme (DDP)

Statement

State-wise and Category-wise Wastelands of India

State	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1 A.P.	692.88	20256.64	1035.02	603.26	13.80	22237.78	709.29	52.91	464.70	98.88	5196.27	388.96	0.00	51750.19	275068.00	18.81
2 Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	3326.78	41.47	0.00	3088.08	1416.67	2134.99	6.07	309.43	0.30	1262.36	7.93	6732.17	18328.25	83743.00	21.88
3 Assam	0.00	843.72	1633.56	0.00	8391.48	3112.71	2217.85	0.00	3764.54	0.43	54.88	0.00	0.00	20019.17	78438.00	25.52
4 Bihar	559.17	4689.93	1198.87	0.51	45.45	13066.53	164.97	79.80	222.08	184.23	688.91	97.10	0.00	20997.55	173677.00	12.08
5 Goa	0.00	292.83	41.02	0.00	0.00	71.99	2.47	32.19	0.00	110.73	58.55	3.49	0.00	613.27	3702.00	16.57
6 Gujarat	1013.39	21786.72	2656.26	7637.34	0.00	5443.02	387.45	78.32	188.42	49.66	3293.39	487.31	0.00	43021.28	196024.00	21.95
7 Haryana	49.50	988.42	238.30	285.63	0.00	732.52	721.65	134.12	465.01	13.72	105.12	0.00	0.00	3733.98	44212.00	8.45
8 H.P.	121.89	2056.50	15.69	1.36	0.00	4589.98	4278.17	2457.59	105.04	85.66	3858.04	1529.67	12559.42	31659.00	55673.00	56.87
9 J&K	21.25	4495.30	246.50	0.00	0.00	2491.66	267.51	640.58	869.26	0.31	32821.50	1685.42	21904.97	65444.24	101387.00	64.55
10 Karnataka	301.52	9087.68	32.76	125.11	0.00	8299.41	97.46	104.74	43.96	77.78	2627.89	40.97	0.00	20839.28	191791.00	10.87
11 Kerala	0.00	357.93	136.00	0.00	0.00	609.30	3.99	25.65	27.87	0.49	146.46	140.49	0.00	1448.18	38863.00	3.73
12 M.P.	7569.11	36977.87	51.72	162.81	0.00	20437.77	302.44	910.40	24.57	141.44	2950.97	184.65	0.00	69713.75	443446.00	15.72
13 Maharashtra	1700.37	31386.91	527.57	251.66	0.00	13430.67	1349.40	687.43	77.63	100.45	2587.42	1389.57	0.00	53489.08	307690.00	17.38
14 Manipur	0.00	1.32	324.60	0.00	12014.06	608.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12948.62	22327.00	58.00
15 Meghalaya	0.00	4190.63	14.87	0.00	2066.77	3612.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9904.38	22429.00	44.16
16 Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3761.23	310.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4071.68	21081.00	19.31
17 Nagaland	0.00	1596.46	0.00	0.00	5224.66	1562.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8404.10	16579.00	50.69

State	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18 Orissa	185.82	8358.68	379.10	51.49	115.28	10014.07	13.43	193.93	212.49	35.45	1574.09	207.88	0.00	21341.71	155707.00	13.71
19 Punjab	168.52	339.44	352.01	173.29	0.00	353.29	113.71	81.58	619.67	26.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	2223.40	50362.00	4.42
20 Rajasthan	4952.77	27152.76	289.66	2722.99	0.00	12541.89	12208.44	21.14	40639.51	128.65	4799.02	182.28	0.00	105639.11	342239.00	30.87
21 Sikkim	0.00	1073.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	1060.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.34	0.00	1425.56	3569.58	7096.00	50.30
22 Tripura	0.00	286.87	0.11	0.00	400.88	588.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1276.03	10486.00	12.17
23 T.N.	226.12	7697.91	415.80	2479.73	0.53	9634.25	168.94	221.96	590.80	120.46	1155.92	301.50	0.00	23013.90	130058.00	17.70
24 U.P.	2806.52	5498.99	4981.43	5811.94	0.00	3338.32	446.36	50.44	470.21	29.26	1180.13	992.83	13166.37	38772.80	294411.00	13.17
25 W.B.	171.90	1245.16	1931.54	131.25	0.00	777.58	384.97	2.93	879.13	47.34	130.46	16.24	0.00	5718.48	88752.00	6.44
26 Union Ter.	12.83	25.74	24.60	39.01	0.00	289.97	5.43	46.34	47.33	0.00	83.05	0.00	0.00	574.30	10973.00	5.23
Total	20553.35	194014.29	16568.45	20477.38	35142.20	140652.31	25978.91	5828.09	50021.65	1252.13	64584.77	7656.29	55788.49	638518.31	3166414.00	20.17

1. Gullied/Revinous land
2. Landwith/without scrub
3. Waterlogged/Marshy land
4. Saline/alkaline Area
5. Shifting Cultivation area
6. Deg. Notified forest land
7. Deg. Pastures/grazing land
8. Deg. Land under plantation crop
9. Sands-Inland/Coastal
10. Mining/Industrial wastelands
11. Barren Rocky Area
12. Steep Sloping Area
13. Snow/Glacial Area
14. Total Wastelands
15. Total Geog. Area
16. % to total geog. area

Source : 1:50,000 scale wasteland maps prepared from Landsat Thematic Mapper/IRS/LISS III/II data

Note : 1,20,848.00 Sq. Kms. in Jammu and Kashmir is not mapped and hence not considered for calculating the percentage.

Floriculture Research System

2147. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the floriculture research system is nearly four decades old and the technology used for export-oriented production is still very low;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to improve floriculture research;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(f) the names of flower producing States district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The export oriented floriculture in India is of recent origin and gain momentum only after the economic liberalization. Systematic research on export oriented floriculture could not be taken up earlier as it requires huge investment and sophisticated infrastructure.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Systematic research on floriculture is being carried out at Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore; Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi and 22 centres under All India Coordinated Floriculture Improvement Project, besides Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair and ICAR Research Complex for North East Region, Shillong. The research programmes under these institutes/centres have been re-oriented to give more emphasis on export oriented floriculture. A new National Research Centre for Orchid has been established in Sikkim to boost orchid research in the country. During IX Five Year Plan a network project on Promotion of Research on Protected Cultivation of Ornamental Crops and a mission mode project on protected cultivation of vegetables and flowers in the plains and hills under National Agricultural Technology Project have been sanctioned and implemented at different centres in the country. To fill the critical research gaps the ad-hoc projects are sanctioned to various institutions.

(e) An amount of Rs. 13.51 crore have been allocated during 9th Five Year Plan for National Research

Centre for Orchid, All India Coordinated Floriculture Improvement Project and Network Projects.

(f) Important flower growing States :

Karnataka	-	Coorg, Bangalore, Mysore, Coastal Karnataka
Tamil Nadu	-	Coimbatore, Ootacamund, Housur, Kodaikanal and coastal districts
Maharashtra	-	Pune, Nasik, Munibal, Sangli, Thane,
Andhra Pradesh	-	Hyderabad, East & West Godavari Districts, Renga Reddy District,
Kerala	-	Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur, Ernakulam
West Bengal	-	Siliguri, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kolkata, Midnapore, 24 Paraganas and Nadia
Himachal Pradesh	-	Solan, Shimla, Kullu, Kangra; and States like Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir and North Eastern States.

Private Participation for Construction of Airport at Devanhalli

2148. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Airport with private participation is likely to be set up at Devanhalli;

(b) whether the only bidder selected namely Siemens AG of Germany is facing problem at Government level for clearing the project;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) The Government has approved, in principle, the proposal of the State Government of Karnataka for construction of a new greenfield international airport at Devanhalli, Bangalore under Joint Venture with private sector participation.

(b) to (d) The process of selection of Joint Venture Partner (JVP) has made substantial progress. The State Government of Karnataka will clear the project after the Shareholders Agreement and Airport Development Agreement with the proposed JVP are drawn up.

[Translation]

Contract Awarded to Unemployed Youth

2149. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be please to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to award contracts for transportation and mining in subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) on priority basis to the cooperative societies of local unemployed youth belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes as is done in the case of cooperatives of ex-servicemen.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) There is no separate proposal in subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited for awarding of transportation and mining on priority basis to the cooperative societies of local unemployed youth belonging to SC/ ST/ OBC. However, in BCCL "Berojgar Samity" and "Adibasi Samiti", sponsored by district administration are engaged for coal and sand transportation. These samities have been enlisted and are allotted transportation contract without participation in tender. They are given the same prevailing rate of civilian transporters for sand transportation and the rate at par with ex-servicemen companies for coal transportation.

Contractual works are awarded through open tender except Ex-Servicemen Companies which are engaged generally for coal transportation under MOU with DGR, Ministry of Defence. The Co-operative Societies of unemployed youths belonging to SC/ST/OBC, if any, can take part in the open tender called by different companies for contractual works. Civilian contractors are asked to give priority to accommodate local youths including SC/ST/OBC.

[English]

Curtailment in Farm Subsidies

2150. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to impose a cut in farm subsidies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the developed countries are offering subsidies to the farmers which were as high as 10 per cent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether in India the farmers are not getting one percent of the GDP as subsidies; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(c) The details of the Total Transfers Associated with Agriculture Policies (TTAP) in the developed countries for the year 1997, as a percentage of GDP, is given in the table below :

Sl. No.	Country	TTAP as % of GDP in 1997
1.	Australia	0.4%
2.	Canada	0.7%
3.	Japan	1.6%
4.	Norway	2.0%
5.	Switzerland	2.2%
6.	USA	0.9%

Source OECD

(e) and (f) In 1997-98, the subsidies extended to Indian farmers were approximately 1.9% of the Gross Domestic Production (GDP). The Total Transfers Associated with Agricultural Policies (TTAP) measures transfers associated with agricultural policy most of which goes to primary producers, but some goes to other sectors etc. Details of exactly comparable information on subsidies between India and other developed countries is not maintained.

[Translation]

Export of Pork

2151. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of pork exported and the income earned therefrom during the last three years;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage its export; and

(c) the efforts made under the special scheme on pig reproduction and the amount spent thereon during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The information on quantity of pork exported and the income earned therefrom during the last three years is as under :

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Qty. (Tons)	107.40	283.49	2.63
Value (Rs.in lakh)	50.33	127.43	0.94

(b) No specific steps are proposed to be taken to encourage the export of pork meat from the country.

(c) Under the scheme "Assistance to States for Integrated Piggery Development" financial assistance is provided for strengthening State pig farms and for genetic upgradation of their breeding stocks. The information on expenditure under the Scheme during the last three years is as under :

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Expenditure (Rs. in crores)	4.00	2.50	2.07

[English]

Storage Houses at International Airports

2152. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY :

SHRI AMBAREESHA :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to establish storage houses for perishable goods at all the International Airports including Hyderabad Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Integrated Cargo Terminal alongwith cold storage facility for export of perishable cargo has been established at the international airports at Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, Bangalore and Guwahati. Besides, State-of-Art Centre for perishable cargo facility exclusively for handling floriculture and horticultural products has been established at Cargo Terminals of Delhi, Chennai and Hyderabad airports. Construction of the perishable cargo centre facility at Mumbai Airport is likely to be completed and commissioned by August, 2002.

(c) There is no sufficient demand for export of perishable cargo at other airports which can warrant establishment of State-of-Art Cargo centre.

Plan for Tourism Network with Foreign Countries

2153. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have chalked out a comprehensive action plan for Tourism network with foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism has bilateral International Cooperation Agreements with 29 countries. Cooperation in tourism is also discussed in multilateral forums such as World Tourism Organisation, ESCAP, ASEAN, BIMST-EC, MGC (Mekong Ganga Co-operation) and SAARC Technical Committee on tourism.

Cost of Production

2154. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that several agricultural produces are not giving adequate returns to farmers;

(b) whether farmers are not able to continue their job due to heavy costs of production and low return;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard to save the farmers;

(d) whether various trade agreements have not yield fruitful results and farmers have suffered heavy losses;

(e) if so, the details of losses to farmers cultivating paddy, wheat, sugarcane, coconut, arecanut, pineapple and mango, item-wise; and

(f) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) During the last two years prices of certain agricultural commodities have shown a declining trend. This has affected the level of returns to farmers.

In order to protect the interest of the farmers, twenty-five major agricultural commodities are covered under the Scheme of Minimum Support Prices (MSP). Purchase operations for these commodities are required to be undertaken at MSP levels through public and cooperative agencies whenever prices fall below MSP levels. The Minimum Support Prices are so fixed as to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce. The Government is also implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for horticultural commodities and other minor agricultural produce, which are perishable in nature.

(d) to (f) The long term objective of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture is to establish a fair and market oriented agricultural trading system and to initiate reform process through negotiations, on commitments on support and protection. The aim is to ensure substantial progressive reduction in certain types of agricultural support and protection over an agreed period of time which will result in correcting and preventing restrictions and distortions in World Agricultural Market.

The Agreement on Agriculture does not require India to reduce its existing subsidies for research, pest and disease control, marketing and promotion services and various infrastructural support services. India is continuing its assistance to resource poor farmers, and implementing poverty alleviation programme and Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme and following agricultural policies and various domestic support programmes for protecting the interest of the farmers. Value of India's exports of agricultural commodities has been in excess of the value of agricultural imports into the country. Further in the year 2000-2001, value of agricultural exports increased over that of 1999-2000 while value of agricultural imports declined during the corresponding period.

Information about losses to farmers is not maintained. However, the farmers' income which is reflected in Gross Value Addition (GVA) in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Forestry, and Fishing has increased from Rs. 269383 Crores in 1997-98 to Rs. 290895 Crores in 2000-2001 at constant prices.

Desilting of Rivers

2155. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a National Action Plan for desilting of the major rivers in the country;

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

(c) the total funds allocated, disbursed and utilized for desilting of major rivers during each of the last three years; and

(d) the funds allocated for desilting of rivers in Tamil Nadu for the year 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) As of now, the Government of India have not formulated any National Action Plan for desilting of the major rivers in the country.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Foodgrains Production

2156. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target of foodgrains production during the first three years of Ninth Plan could not be achieved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of foodgrains production during the last two years of the Ninth Plan and the average production of foodgrains during the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) The targets and achievements of foodgrain production during the Ninth Five Year Plan are given below:

	(million toones)	
Year	Targets	Production
1997-98	202.00	192.26
1998-99	210.00	203.61
1999-2000	210.00	208.87
2000-01	212.00	196.07
2001-02	218.00	210.00*

* Projected

The average annual production of foodgrains during the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), based on the above figures, works out to 202.16 million tones.

Realisation of targets depends on a number of factors such as performance of monsoons, technological developments, farm management skills, timely application of inputs, demand of agricultural produce etc. In particular, the agricultural production in the country is greatly influenced by the extent and spread of rainfall as about 62% of net area sown is dependent on rains for water. Deficient rainfall also adversely affects the irrigation potential.

Promotion of Tourism

2157. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the strategy being adopted to bring tourism industry out of the red;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any plan to boost both regional and domestic tourism; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) A special tourism task force was set up comprising of senior officials of the concerned ministries of the Govt. of India, senior members of the travel industry and trade to discuss and suggest suitable plan of action for promotion of tourism.

Some of the measures recommended by the Task Force are as under :

Year	Date	Place	Description	Quantity
1998	26-10-1998	Ashoka Farm House,	Live leopard	04
		Goregaon(E), Mumbai	Pariah Kite	03
1999	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2000	06-11-2000	Aayush Resort, Panvel Distt., Raigad	Indian Gazelle (Chinkara)	04
			Barheaded Geese	09
			Spotbilled duck	05
			Saras crane	05
			Flamingos	04
			Demosile crane	02
2001	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

i) Promote India as a safe destination through special media strategy and confidence building measures.

ii) Re-focus of overseas marketing and promotion policy to South East Asia, North East Asia, South Asia, Australia and South Africa.

iii) Organising of Road Shows in the above markets to target NRIs & PIOs.

iv) Special focus to be given on the Domestic Market.

(b) and (c) A special thrust on Domestic Tourism has been given in the National Tourism Policy and the ninth five year plan.

Animals in Private Captivity

2158. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of endangered animals have been recovered in a private zoo near Mumbai, during the last three years and current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) As per the information available in the Ministry, details of recovery of wild animals near Mumbai are as follows:

Chargesheets have been filed in both the cases in the Court by the Maharashtra State Forest Department.

Coal Supply to Power Plants

2159. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of power plants/projects have been badly affected in the country due to inadequate coal supply;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure smooth supply of coal to the said plants/projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government accords priority to the power sector in giving linkages and supplies of coal. Public sector coal companies, viz. Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited are fully geared to supply coal to various power plants/ power utilities in the country. Demand of the power sector and actual supplies made in the last two years are given below :

(Figures in million tonnes)

Year	Demand	Supplies
(As assessed by Planning Commission)		
1999-2000	217	224.96
2000-2001	227	236.82

(c) To ensure that power utilities do not suffer for want of coal, Government have established a Standing Linkage Committee (Short-Term) under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Coal) to facilitate coordination of coal movement from various coalfields to the power utilities. The committee meets alongwith all stake holders frequently and ensures that the power utilities get their coal supplies regularly.

Complaints Against Recruitment Agencies

2160. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether some recruitment agencies are promising attractive jobs and salary and cheating the public by collecting huge amount of money for no service;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any complaint either from individuals or State Governments in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken against each of the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) Sporadic complaints alleging adoption of various malpractices by the recruiting agents are being received from time to time. Immediate action is taken to settle the grievances of the workers by way of directions to the local agents. Indian Missions are also requested to solve the problems of the workers, whenever necessary, with the help of foreign sponsors/Government. In the event of local agents failing to solve the problems of workers, action is initiated to suspend/cancel their registration certificates.

Construction of Big Dams

2161. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Commission on Dams has advocated against construction of big dams due to negative impact on Environment and its socio-economic ramifications;

(b) if so, the number of big dams under construction at present in the country;

(c) whether the Government propose to review its policy of construction of big dams;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The World Commission on Dams (WCD) an NGO funded by international agencies, in its report has, inter-alia, stated that the impact due to large dams are more negative than positive and have led to the impoverishment and suffering of millions of people.

(b) The number of big dams under construction (as per National Register of Large Dams published by Central Water Commission, 1994), in the country, state-wise, are given in statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal to review the policy of construction of big dams in the country as a result of the

WCD report. India has adequate policy and legal framework to take care of environment and people affected by projects. India has enshrined environmental protection in its constitution and there is a well laid out legislative and institutional mechanism to implement these provisions. Keeping in view the socio-economic ethos of the country, Government of India has already framed and adopted a National Water Policy, which provides guidelines for various facets of water resources development. Further, India has been constantly improving and updating its policy formulation and implementation strategies for dam projects so as to make them responsive to local, regional and national demands as well as socially and environmentally sustainable. Keeping this in view, major, medium and minor irrigation projects, including sustainable groundwater exploitation, alongwith rainwater harvesting using indigenous techniques are all integrated in the planning approach. The role of dams in India cannot be substituted but it is to be supplemented by other water conservation practices and technologies. To ensure continued self-sufficiency in foodgrain production and also to meet the energy, drinking water and industrial needs of our growing population, India proposes to continue with its programme of dam construction to create another 200 billion cubic metres of storage in the next 25 years. The guidelines for development suggested by World Commission on Dams in their final report are not a necessity for India as these are utopian in nature and are incompatible with our national development imperatives.

Statement

The number of Big Dams Under Construction in the Country

Sr. No.	State	Number of Dams
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26
2.	Bihar	33
3.	Gujarat	71
4.	Karnataka	28
5.	Kerala	16
6.	Madhya Pradesh	147
7.	Maharashtra	300
8.	Orissa	18

1	2	3
9.	Rajasthan	4
10.	Tamil Nadu	13
11.	Uttar Pradesh	22
12.	West Bengal	5
13.	Other States	12
Total		695

Voluntary Retirements

2162. SHRIAMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- the number of officials of his ministry, who sought voluntary retirement during each of the last three years, category-wise/ post-wise;
- the benefits given to such officials;
- the number of such applications pending for clearance as on date;
- whether such retirements have affected smooth functioning of his ministry;
- if so, the extent thereof; and
- the manner in which the Government propose to make arrangements to fill up all such vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) One Deputy Secretary (Group 'A' level officer) sought voluntary retirement in October, 2001.

(b) Such officials are given post-retirement benefits, as admissible under the CCS (Pension) Rules 1972, which include pension and gratuity, besides encashment of unavailed earned leave.

(c) No application for voluntary retirement is pending as on date.

(d) No, sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The post of Deputy Secretary is filled up by Department of Personnel & Training as per existing procedure.

Expenditure Reforms Commission

2163. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether any Expenditure Reforms Commission has been set up in his Ministry to give recommendations for reducing the existing wasteful expenditure in the Ministry and its departments;

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) the details of recommendations made by this Commission so far;

(d) the details of the recommendations which are yet to be implemented by his Ministry or departments along with the reasons for not implementing them till date; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) The Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) has been set up in the Ministry of Finance under the chairmanship of Shri K.P. Geethakrishnan to give recommendations for various Ministries including Ministry of Environment & Forests. The recommendations of the ERC on rationalisation of the functions, activities and structure of the Ministry of Environment & Forests have recently been received and this Ministry is in the process of examining the same.

Eco-Development Schemes for Development of Sanctuaries

2164. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of wild buffaloes in Papikonda Sanctuary at present;

(b) whether there is a demand to develop Eco-development schemes for development of different sanctuaries of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to suggest or develop eco-development schemes for such sanctuaries in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) the funds made available for the purpose during the last two years and current year as well, sanctuary-wise;

(e) whether monitoring is being done for utilisation of funds and if so, the present status in regard to utilisation of these funds thereof;

(f) whether Non-Governmental Organisations and other activists are encouraged to suggest ways and means to protect wildlife; and

(g) if so, the details of the steps proposed to develop such sanctuaries through Eco-Development?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) At present there are no wild buffaloes in Papikonda Wildlife Sanctuary.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment & Forests, under the Ecodevelopment Scheme, funds proposals for Ecodevelopment in Protected Areas for various activities like bio mass regeneration, animal and human health care, soil moisture conservation, water development including drinking water facility, alternative sources of income generation, non-conventional energy resources and, publicity and awareness programme.

(d) Details of funds made available during the last two years and current year are furnished in statement enclosed.

(e) While releasing funds in any particular year, the utilization certificate for the funds already released, along with details of work carried out are obtained from the State Government for monitoring. The State Government is impressed upon to ensure that the field works are carried out in accordance with the Management Plan and the Annual Plan of Operation, through field inspections. In addition, officials of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India and the Steering Committee of Project Tiger also review the progress of implementation.

(f) and (g) As reported by the State Government, Non-Governmental Organisations are involved in the Sanctuary development and Eco development activities. They are acting as catalysts in the preparation of micro plans and implementation of the works through the Eco development committees.

Statement*Eco-Development Around National Parks and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserve***1999-2000**

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	National Parks / Sanctuaries / TR	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	Utilised
Andhra Pradesh				
1.	Krishna	4.824	3.523	3.322
2.	Kolleru	2.28	1.68	-
3.	Siwaram	9.824	8.524	7.25
4.	Manjira	4.05	4.05	4.05
5.	Nelappattu	3.50	2.96	3.50
6.	Papikonda	3.80	3.80	3.79
7.	Sri Venkateswara NP	6.00	6.00	6.00
Total		34.278	30.537	30.122

2000-01

State	National Parks / Sanctuaries / TR	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	Utilised
Andhra Pradesh	Nagarjunsagar	33.80	33.548	33.80

2001-2002

State	National Parks / Sanctuaries / TR	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	Papikonda	6.30	3.995
2.	Manjira	5.30	5.30
3.	Venkateshwara N.P.	7.00	4.00
4.	Nellapatu	7.00	4.00
5.	Kawal	8.00	4.00
6.	Krishna	3.50	2.00
7.	Sri Venkateshwara	7.00	4.00
8.	Parnhita	6.30	4.30
9.	Mahavir Harina NP	8.00	8.00
10.	Nagarjunsagar	23.50	15.00
			8.50
11.	Pulicat	6.50	6.50
Total		88.40	69.595

*[Translation]***Development of Hilly Areas in Maharashtra**

2165. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop the hilly areas of Molgi in Nandubar district in Maharashtra as a tourist spot to attract foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) 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 prioritized annually in consultation with them. No project has been prioritized for central financial assistance during the year 2001-2002 for development of hilly areas of Molgi in Nandubar district in Maharashtra as a tourist spot.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]***Water Quality of National Aquatic Resources**

2166. SHRI A VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has been monitoring water quality of national aquatic resources in various States;

(b) if so, whether CPCB in a study has revealed that municipal corporations have inadequate resources for their municipal sewerage; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures suggested by the study group to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring Water quality of rivers and lakes at 507 locations in various states in the country. In

most of the cases, municipal corporations do not have adequate resources for treatment of their wastewaters.

(c) Government of India has taken up schemes in several towns for treatment of wastewater under Ganga Action Plan/Yamuna Action Plan and subsequently, under National River Conservation Plan.

Irregularities in NALCO

2167. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of large scale irregularities and corruption in the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of cases in which investigation is going on; and

(d) the progress made therein so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) The Government periodically receives various complaints of irregularities and corruption in National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). All the complaints are promptly inquired into and necessary action is taken in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), where necessary.

Information Technology in Food Processing Industries

2168. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has decided to introduce information technology in the area of food processing industries;

(b) if so, whether the removal of quantitative restrictions effective from April 1, 2001 has a major impact on the food processing industry;

(c) the extent to which the Karnataka Government has been able to get more foreign investment for food processing industry; and

(d) the total help the Union Government have agreed to provide for development of food processing industries in Karnataka State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) Government of Karnataka have informed that "Bio Informatic Industries are proposed to be included in the new Industrial Promotion Policy for Agro Food Processing Industries of the State, which is under consideration".

(b) The figures of import of major processed food items during the period April -September, 2001 do not show any major change as compared to the period April - September, 2000.

(c) From July, 1991 to July, 2001, 91 FDI proposals with a total investment of Rs. 98.19 crores have been approved for Karnataka.

(d) During the period 1998 - 1999 to 2000 -2001, Rs. 328.69 lakhs has been provided as financial assistance by the Ministry for setting up food processing industries including food processing and training centres in the State of Karnataka.

Release of Water to Andhra Pradesh

2169. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Government of Karnataka to release additional Krishna waters from its projects on the upper reaches- Alamatti and Narayanur;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has also requested to the Union Government in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to intervene and resolve the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) No such request has been received by the Union Government.

Development of Floriculture

2170. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the southern districts of Karnataka are growing export quality flowers;

(b) if so, the assistance provided to the State for the development of floriculture;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a flower auction centre in Bangalore to promote export to international markets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) 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 with improved cultivars. 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.

An amount of Rs.65.00 Crores and Rs.80.00 Crores have been allocated for Karnataka under the scheme during 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Agricultural Produce Export Development Authority (APEDA) has received a proposal from Government of Karnataka for setting up of flower auction centre in two phases. APEDA has approved the proposal and sanctioned an amount of Rs.3.57 Crores.

[Translation]

Rate of Agriculture Production

2171. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of agricultural production fixed for each of the last three years and the extent to which it has been achieved along with the details in this regard;

(b) the reasons due to which fixed target could not be achieved; and

(c) the target fixed for agricultural production for

the year 2001-02 and the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) The targets fixed in respect of important crops/group of crops during 1998-99 to 2001-02 and the achievements during 1998-99 to 2000-01 are given in the attached statement.

Realisation of targets depends on a number of factors such as performance of monsoons, technological developments, farm management skills, timely application of inputs, demand of agricultural produce etc. In particular,

the agricultural production in the country is greatly influenced by the extent and spread of rainfall as about 62% of net area sown is dependent on rains for water. Deficient rainfall also adversely affects the irrigation potential. However, to increase production in the country, the Government inter alia, decided to switch over from the conventional Schematic approach to Macro Management mode for providing assistance to States from November 2000. The scheme integrates 27 schemes into one Macro Management scheme for supplementation/complementation of states' efforts through work plans which gives flexibility to states to address the specific problems faced by them, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim at all-round development of agriculture.

Statement

Targets and Achievement of Production of Major Crops in 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01

(Million Tonnes)

S.No.	Crop/ Group of Crops	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002
		Targets	Production	Targets	Production	Targets	Production*	Targets
1.	Rice	86.00	86.08	86.00	89.48	90.00	86.30	92.00
2.	Wheat	74.00	71.29	74.00	75.57	74.00	68.46	78.00
3.	Coarse Cereals	34.50	31.23	34.50	30.47	33.00	30.25	33.00
4.	Pulses	15.50	14.91	15.50	13.35	15.00	11.06	15.00
5.	Foodgrains	210.00	203.61	210.00	208.87	212.00	196.07	218.00
6.	Oilseeds	27.00	24.75	27.00	20.87	28.00	18.20	28.00
7.	Sugarcane	300.00	288.72	305.00	299.23	325.00	300.32	325.00
8.	Cotton #	14.80	12.29	15.00	11.64	14.50	9.39	14.50
9.	Jute & Mesta @	10.25	9.81	11.00	10.53	10.00	10.37	11.00

Million Bales of 170 Kg. Each

@ Million Bales of 180 kg. Each

* As per Advance Estimates released on 29.6.2001

[English]

I.L.S. at IGI Airport

2172. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of foreign expert had visited India to set up State-of-art instrument Landing System (ILS) at IGI airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ILS installed two years ago to cut down on the delay caused to fog has not been made fully operational;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the foreign expert has observed that the system do not meet the requisite international standard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to upgrade the system at international standard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Instrument Landing System (ILS) was installed at IGI Airport, Delhi in February, 1999 and declared operational as Cat. II. After completion of the ground lighting system for Cat. III operations, two groups of Experts from International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) had examined it. The representatives of M/s Sypher Mueller International Inc. inspected ground arrangement and procedures in two visits in December, 2000 and April, 2001 and cleared it for use as Cat. IIIA. The system was calibrated by Flight Inspection International (FII), Germany in December, 2000 for Cat. IIIA operations. A representative of the USA manufacturer ASI then studied the topography of IGI airport and cleared the facility for Cat. IIIA operations. The system was calibrated by M/s AeroPearl Pty. Ltd., Australia, an associated company of FII, Germany last month and was reported fit for Cat. IIIA operations.

(c) and (d) ILS was made operational as Cat. II immediately after its installation in February, 1999.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Since ICAO Experts have found all the parameters of ILS at IGI Airport fit for Cat. IIIA operations, there is no need to upgrade this. The system is likely to be declared operational for Cat. IIIA after obtaining the authorisation of the Director General of Civil Aviation and issue of NOTAM.

Upgradation of Drought Monitoring Cell

2173. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought financial assistance for upgrading the existing Drought

Monitoring Cell into Natural Disaster Mitigation Centre to cover all natural and national disaster like floods, earthquake, drought, landslides, etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The proposal of the State Government is not covered under the provisions of the Central Sector Scheme of Natural Disaster Management Programmes.

Evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

2174. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether independent evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes is being done;

(b) if so, the details of norms being followed in regard to evaluation of these schemes;

(c) the details of organisations and agencies making such evaluation; and

(d) the outcome of evaluation made in this regard during the last three years and current year as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) The Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) has been set up as an independent agency for evaluation of development programmes being implemented under the Central Sector / Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The PEO undertakes evaluation of selected programmes/schemes under implementation as per the requirement of various divisions of the Planning Commission and the Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India. The evaluation studies are designed to assess the performance, process of implementation, effectiveness of the delivery system and impact of programmes. These studies are diagnostic and aim at identifying the factors contributing to success and failure of various programmes and derive lessons for meeting the requirements of the existing schemes through mid course correction and better performance of future programmes.

During the last 3 years, the PEO has conducted evaluation studies of 7 schemes which include the following three Centrally Sponsored Schemes :

- (a) Non-Formal Education
- (b) State Pollution Control Boards
- (c) Employment Assurance Scheme

Angora Rabbit Production

2175. SHRI N.T. SHAINMUGAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to distribute the selected breeding programmes for high production of meat and wool type Angora Rabbit to Backyard Rabbit Farmers in the country particularly in Vellore District in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to educate the Backyard Rabbit Farmers for their better livelihood and the source of availability of these Angora Rabbits; and

(d) 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) No, Sir.

(b) On request from Govt. of Tamil Nadu the Central Wool Development Board (CWDB) under Ministry of Textile, Jodhpur, Rajasthan had sanctioned one project under Integrated Angora Rabbit Development Programme to Director, Deptt. of Animal Husbandry, Govt. of Tamil Nadu in the year 1999-2000 with an outlay of Rs.3.90 lakh under this project to cover 50 families of Nilgiri Region for providing Angora Rabbits to them for wool production. However, later on, the programme could not be taken up by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu due to marketing problem of Angora Wool.

(c) The Central Wool Development Board is imparting training to farmers who are interested in rabbit rearing for wool production at Board's expenses.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Insurance Cover to Private Airlines

2176. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to give insurance cover to the private airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Government generally does not interfere in the financial matters of private airlines.

[English]

Basic Facilities at Ahmedabad Airport

2177. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether basic facilities at Ahmedabad Airport are inferior as compared to Airports at other Mega cities;

(b) if so, whether these facilities are likely to be modernised;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Clock Room and lodging facilities are to be provided in the new domestic departure building; and

(e) if so, the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) Basic infrastructural facilities both on the airside and cityside provided at Ahmedabad airport are, by and large, at par with similar facilities provided at other international airports in the country. However, a new Domestic Departure Block has been planned, construction of which shall commence shortly. The existing domestic terminal shall thereafter be modified and expanded to cater for arrival passengers only. In addition, plans are being prepared for expansion of international terminal to cater for increased requirements of traffic. Parallel taxi track and Isolation bay are under construction.

(d) and (e) Six double-bedded rooms and cloak room are proposed in the new departure block which are likely to be provided by December, 2003.

Illegal Trade in Wildlife

2178. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that animal skins and bones are transported to the capital in tourist buses from various States for distributing it throughout the country and abroad as reported in the Hindustan Times dated October 13, 2001;

(b) if so, the details and facts thereof.

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

(d) whether the Government propose to enact any law to ban the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) A few years back an offender was apprehended by the Delhi Administration while alighting from a bus with wild animals skins. The offender has been convicted by the Court. No specific case regarding wild animals skin being brought to Delhi through tourist buses have come to notice of the Central Government.

(c) A provision has been made in Section 48(A) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for taking legal action against the persons indulging in transportation of illegally procured wildlife products.

(d) and (e) Trade in endangered species of wildlife and its products is completely prohibited under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Revival of Steel Industry

2179. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry has urged the Union Government to increase its spendings in the infrastructure sector to revive the steel industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Steel Industry Division of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in their budgetary proposals for 2002-2003 have requested the Government to increase Government expenditure and plan outlay for the infrastructure and Power, Irrigation/ Flood Control, Railways, Drinking Water Supply and Housing etc. to boost the demand for steel in the country.

(c) The suggestions of CII will be given due consideration.

[Translation]

Setting up of Large and Small Nurseries under IDF Scheme

2180. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether target for setting up of large and small nurseries under the scheme for Integrated Development of Fruits (IDF) has not been achieved during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to achieve the target in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) During the Eighth Five Year Plan, 54 big and 421 small nurseries were established against a target of 85 big and 350 small nurseries respectively. The shortfall in achieving the target of big nurseries was mainly due to the high cost involved in its establishment through the Public Sector/State Government.

(c) During the IX Five Year Plan, setting up of big and small nurseries are encouraged in the Private Sector under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture - Supplementation/ Complementing of State Efforts through Work Plans. Under the Scheme, the State Governments have the freedom to include the components as per their felt needs and requirement. Assistance for nurseries is being provided as back ended subsidy linked with institutional financing @ 25% of the total cost subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs.8.00 lakhs for big nurseries and Rs.2.00 lakhs for small nurseries. During the Eighth Plan the maximum assistance for big nurseries was Rs.18.00 lakhs while for the small nurseries the assistance was limited to Rs.0.20 lakhs per nursery.

*[English]***Agriculture Export Zones**

2181. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Agriculture Export Zones (AEZs) in Karnataka exclusively for gherkins; and

(b) if so, the details of share of the Union Government in these zones alongwith the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The Government has notified on 8th October, 2001, the creation of an Agri Export Zone for gherkins in Karnataka, covering the districts of Tumkur, Bangalore Urban, Bangalore Rural, Hassan, Kolar, Chitradurga, Dharwad & Bagalkot.

(b) The Central Government funding of the Agri Export Zones will be through the convergence of existing schemes of the various Central Government Departments and Agencies concerned with the relevant activities. The Government of Karnataka has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), which is the nodal coordinating Agency for the Scheme towards the implementation of the proposal. The duration of the project will be for a period of three years.

*[Translation]***Withdrawal of Hotel Expenditure Tax**

2182. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw hotel expenditure tax to provide relief to the hotel industry of the country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the average annual amount that was being mobilised from the hotels through this tax?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) The issue is under examination.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The average collection from hotel expenditure tax over the past three years is Rs. 321.64 crores.

Food Processing Units in Madhya Pradesh

2183. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of food processing units producing mango juice (Fruity), Chavyanpras, Pickle, Murabba (Jam) and Anvla bekig run at present in Madhya Pradesh with the assistance of Union Government, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide loans/grants and technical assistance to the poor farmers and tribals for setting up of such units in some other districts of the State ;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the places where such units are proposed to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) There are 112 units licensed under Fruit Products Order (F.P.O.) in Madhya Pradesh as on 1.1.2001, out of which 34 units are engaged in manufacture of different fruit products including mango juice, pickle, murabba of anvla etc. Assistance by Ministry of Food Processing Industries is provided on the basis of approved plan scheme and request received. No financial assistance has been provided to such units in Madhya Pradesh during the 9th plan period.

(b) to (d) 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. A higher quantum of assistance is provided to units located in "difficult area" including Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) areas. Assistance is project oriented and not state specific. The Ministry does not set up any food processing units on its own.

*[English]***Cauvery Water Dispute**

2184. SHRI AMBAREESHA :

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to resolve Cauvery water dispute;

(b) if so, the details of discussion held in the meeting;

(c) whether there is huge gap between demand and supply of Cauvery water to Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to settle the water sharing disputes between the said States expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The third meeting of the Cauvery River Authority, constituted under Section 6 A of the Inter State Water Disputes Act for giving effect to the interim order of 25.6.91 and all related subsequent orders of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, was held on 10th October, 2001 at New Delhi and was attended by the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Pondicherry and Irrigation Minister of Kerala. The Authority decided to work out an acceptable and equitable procedure for pro-rata sharing of the distress and accordingly requested the basin States to put forward their specific suggestions for consideration by the Authority.

(c) and (d) Cauvery Water Dispute between the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and UT of Pondicherry was referred to the Tribunal under the provisions of Inter-State Water Disputes (ISWD) Act, 1956 in June 1990. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed an interim order on June 25, 1991. At present, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal is holding regular hearings for adjudicating the dispute. The State Governments are free to present their demands before the Tribunal.

[Translation]

Sharing of Ravi Beas Water

2185. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI :

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has requested the Union Government to convene a meeting of Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan to resolve water sharing dispute of Ravi Beas river;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that Rajasthan was allocated 8.6 MAF of water from surplus flood water of Ravi Beas rivers by an inter-state agreement in December, 1991;

(c) if so, whether the Government have directed to the Bhakra Beas Management Board to provide 8.6 MAF (i.e. 52.7%) of water to Rajasthan as per agreement; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Rajasthan, while referring to certain matter pertaining to the inter-state sharing of waters between Rajasthan and Punjab, has suggested to the Union Government for discussion on inter-state water issues among all the States involved.

(b) to (d) Rajasthan has been allocated 8.6 MAF of surplus Ravi and Beas waters in an agreement signed by the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on the 31st December, 1981. The releases to the party States are decided in the monthly meetings of the Technical Committee of the Bhakra Beas Management Board, in which all the three States are represented, keeping in view the indents for water from the States and water availability in the dams, in accordance with an ad hoc interim arrangement based on the agreement of December, 1981.

SC/ST Persons Registered in Employment Exchanges

2186. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of disabled persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes registered in employment exchanges in the country including Maharashtra as on November, 2001, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons belonging to these categories provided with employment during the last three years;

(c) whether the reserved quota for the persons of these categories is filled regularly;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the efforts being made to fill the reserved quota of these categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) State-wise details of the number of disabled persons on the Live Register of the Employment Exchanges in the country including Maharashtra as on June 2000 is given in the statement attached. Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and OBC category-wise details out of the above are not maintained.

(b) Number of disabled persons placed by the employment exchanges in the country during 1998, 1999 and 2000 (January to June) was of the order of 3.6, 4.2 & 1.8 thousand respectively.

(c) to (e) Employment Exchanges do not enforce the policy of reservation for various categories. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in consultation with Department of Personnel and Training is making continuous efforts to ensure that the quota for the disabled are filled up.

Statement

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Number of disabled persons on the Live Register as on June 2000 (in thousands)
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	64.8
2	Arunachal Pradesh	@
3	Assam	4.6
4	Bihar	19.1
5	Goa	1.1
6	Gujarat	19.6
7	Haryana	10.9
8	Himachal Pradesh	8.1
9	Jammu & Kashmir	0.8
10	Karnataka	27.0
11	Kerala	36.1
12	Madhya Pradesh	29.6

1	2	3
13	Maharashtra	34.1
14	Manipur	1.6
15	Meghalaya	0.1
16	Mizoram	0.3
17	Nagaland	0.2
18	Orissa	10.4
19	Punjab	10.5
20	Rajasthan	21.8
21	Sikkim*	
22	Tamil Nadu	62.5
23	Tripura	2.3
24	Uttar Pradesh	28.5
25	West Bengal	62.2
26	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.4
27	Chandigarh	1.1
28	D & N Haveli	@
29	Delhi	7.0
30	Daman & Diu	0.1
31	Lakshadweep	0.1
32	Pondicherry	1.3
Total		466.2

Note : * No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State

Central Mines Planning and Design Institute

2187. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Mines Planning and Design Institute comes under the purview of his Ministry;

- (b) if so, the details of work assigned to it;
- (c) the total number of employees working in the institution as on March, 2001;
- (d) the average annual expenditure incurred on this institution during each of the last three years; and
- (e) the details of achievements made by the said institute during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDIL) is a subsidiary of Coal India Limited.

(b) The main function of CMPDIL is to provide adequate and up-to-date planning design and technological support to Coal India Ltd. and its coal producing subsidiaries in the areas of geological exploration and drilling, project planning and designing, beneficiation, utilization of coal and field services etc. CMPDIL also serve as a nodal agency for all Science and Technology schemes funded by the Department of Coal and the Research and Development schemes funded by the Research and Development Board of CIL, besides carrying out any other assignments given by the Government from time to time.

(c) The total number of employees working in CMPIDL as on 31st March 2001 is 3600.

(d) Revenue expenditure of Central Mines Planning & Design Institute Limited during the last three years is given below :

Year	Amount in lakh
2000-2001	16,170.52
1999-2000	9,288.99
1998-1999	9,933.00

(e) CMPDIL has rendered consultancy services to CIL and its subsidiaries in the following broad areas :

- Geological exploration & Drilling;
- Projects Planning & Design;
- Coal beneficiation & Utilisation;
- Research & Development (S&T/R&D Projects);
- Field Services like environmental monitoring;

Laboratory testing, explosive utilisation etc.

Apart from meeting in-house consultancy needs of CIL and its coal producing subsidiary companies, CMPDIL has also rendered consultancy services to the organisations outside Coal India, both in public and private sector with the objective of turning itself into an institute of excellence in the areas of coal mine design and planning.

[English]

Functioning of CIL

2188. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the management of the Coal India Limited (CIL) has spent several crores on legal expenses during the last many years and shown these spendings as miscellaneous expenses in its account books;

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

(c) whether the financial bunglings in CIL and its subsidiaries have increased since the past few years;

(d) if so, whether any machinery exist to check such financial bunglings; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to check such financial bunglings in the CIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Expenses on legal issues in CIL along for the last 10 years from 1990-91 to 31.3.2000 have been of the order of Rs. 206.02 lakhs. If the legal expenses incurred in the other subsidiaries of CIL during the aforesaid period are also taken into account, the same will aggregate to Rs. 3059.92 lakhs. The yearly average of these expenses separately for those incurred at CIL only and also taking into account the expenses incurred in other CIL subsidiaries would be Rs. 20.60 lakhs and Rs. 305.99 lakhs respectively.

It is not true that the expenses incurred on legal issues are shown under miscellaneous expenditure. The same is shown separately in the schedule of other expenses forming part of the profit and loss account.

(c) CIL and its subsidiaries have well defined

accounting policies, which are in compliance with the accounting standards and commonly accepted accounting practices, relying on which the financial statements and the annual report of CIL and its subsidiaries are prepared.

(d) and (e) Financial statements forming part of annual accounts of CIL and its subsidiaries are regularly audited by the statutory auditors as per the Companies Act, and followed up by supplementary audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India as required under Section 619 of Companies Act, 1958. Thus adequate safeguards are already available against any financial bungling.

Project Tiger

2189. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

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

(a) whether tigers of different Reserves particularly Valmiki, Palamau and Similipal are not being attended to by the respective staffs for the last few months;

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

(c) whether the staff are being paid their salaries regularly;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to save the project tiger and ensure to make payment of salaries to the staff well in time?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) There have been instances of delayed payment of salary in Valmiki, Palamau and Similipal Tiger Reserves due to adverse ways and means position of State Governments. Recently the issue of non payment of salary in Valmiki Tiger Reserve was brought to the notice of Central Government and the matter was taken up with State Government. The situation has been mitigated and the staff has reported back on duty. *

Revival of Indian Iron and Steel Company

2190. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to revive the Indian Iron and Steel Company, Burnpur (West Bengal) including the Kuth works, coal mines;

(b) whether in the meantime, the promoter/ operating agency has submitted their revival package to the BIFR or not; and

(c) if so, the details of terms and conditions therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) SAIL has submitted a revival proposal amounting to Rs. 1081 crore for IISCO to Government which includes funds for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and Capital investments at Burnpur Works and its mines and collieries, besides provisions for meeting its cash losses. As Kulti Works cannot be revived it has been proposed for closure. No decision has yet been taken in the matter.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation Package for Freed Bonded Labour

2191. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI A.K. MOORTHY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission observed that even after the identification of bonded migrant labourers, the directions given by the Supreme Court for payment of compensation and the rehabilitation package are not being strictly implemented;

(b) if so, the details of directions issued by the Supreme Court;

(c) the reasons for not implementing the Supreme Court directions; and

(d) the steps being considered by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) In some cases, both the States namely the State from which The bonded labourer migrated as well as the State in which the bonded labourer is identified do not accept their responsibility to rehabilitate the identified bonded labourer on the grounds that the other State is liable for it.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labourers, detailed guidelines have been issued to all the States/UT Governments regarding rehabilitation of bonded labourers. These guidelines, in case of migrant bonded labourers, provide that the recipient State/UT Government, where the bonded labour has been identified, would make arrangements for his/her repatriation to their native place, if they so desire under intimation to the Ministry of Labour. Then, it would be the responsibility of their native State Governments/UTs to provide them the rehabilitation package. Otherwise they have to be rehabilitated by the same State Government where they are identified.

Further, in order to ensure strict compliance of the Supreme Court directions as well as the requirement of the law, the National Human Rights Commission has decided to bring this issue to the notice of the Supreme Court for seeking further directions.

Statement

The Supreme Court of India in order dated 13-5-1994 in writ Petition (Civil) No. 3922/85 with Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 153/82 issued the following directions for prompt compliance of the State Governments :

- 1) To identify the bonded labourers and update the existing list of such bonded labourers as well as to identify the villages where this practice is prevalent.
- 2) To identify the employers exploiting the bonded labourers and to initiate appropriate criminal proceedings against such employers.
- 3) To extinguish/discharge any existing debt and or bonded liability and to ensure them an alternative means of livelihood.
- 4) To appoint an independent body such as a local non-political social action group to collect independent information and details of :

- a) the prevalence of the exploitative practice of bonded labour and
 - b) employers or their agents perpetrating the wilful violation of the law by encouraging and abetting the practice of bonded labour.
- 5) To provide employment to such bonded labour as agricultural workers at the prescribed minimum wages rate and/or provide the landless bonded labour with agricultural land, with a view to ensure an alternative means of livelihood.
 - 6) To provide adequate shelter, food, education to the children of the bonded labourers and medical facilities to the bonded labourers and their families as part of a rehabilitation package.
 - 7) To ensure :
 - a) regular inspection by the concerned Labour Commissioner to keep the contractors who have in the past employed bonded labourers under watch;
 - b) setting up of Vigilance Committees in each District;
 - c) the concerned District Magistrates to send quarterly reports to the Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee or to any Commissioner appointed by the Court for this purpose; and
 - d) the setting up of rural credit facilities such as grameen banks, co-operatives etc. from which short term interest free loans can be availed without security, since the root cause of bonded labour seems to be the lack of availability of funds (credit through an institutional network).
 - 8) To initiate criminal prosecution against the contractors/employers or their agents who engage bonded labour and employ children below the age of 14 without adequate monetary compensation by paying wages below the minimum wage rate, as prescribed under the Minimum wages Act.
 - 9) To initiate criminal prosecution against those employers, contractors or their agents who make part payment of wages by way of khesri

dal which is known to cause permanent disability- lathyrises.

With specific reference to the State of Madhya Pradesh this following additional directions were made :

- i) to provide data to the Hon'ble Supreme Court in respect of prosecutions launched against various employers already identified in proceedings before it as having employed bonded labourers in the context of Harwaha System;
- ii) to investigate and provide data to the Hon'ble Supreme Court in respect of the fate of those bonded labourers identified and allegedly freed from the Harwaha System;
- iii) to report the present extent of cultivation of Khesri dal within Rewa and Satna districts as well as such other districts in which it may also be cultivated;
- iv) To report the steps taken by the State Government to prohibit the cultivation and consumption of Khesri dal;
- v) To report the fate of persons already identified as suffering from Lathyrises and the steps taken by the State Governments to provide free medical aid and facilities to such persons; and
- vi) To provide the steps taken, if any, for the rehabilitation of bonded labourers freed from the Harwaha System and the rehabilitation of persons suffering from Lathyrises within the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Sale of Bokaro Power Plant by SAIL

2192. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether SAIL is going to sell its Bokaro Power Plant;
- (b) if so, the details thereof with the reasons for sale;
- (c) whether SAIL is also considering selling its other power plants; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b)

No, Sir. SAIL is not going to sell its power plant of Bokaro. However, as part of its ongoing financial and business restructuring, SAIL has initiated action to form a Joint Venture (JV) company with Damodhar Valley Corporation (DVC) as its partner to operate and manage its captive power plants at Bokaro. SAIL and DVC will each hold 50% equity in the JV company.

(c) and (d) SAIL is not considering to sell its other power plants. SAIL has formed a JV company with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) as its partner to operate and manage its captive power plant at Rourkela and Durgapur. Similarly, the captive power plant at Bhilai would also be transferred to a JV company with NTPC as its partner. SAIL and NTPC will each hold 50% equity in the JV company.

Death of Animals and Birds

2193. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :

SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI A. NARENDRA :

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI :

SHRI A. KRISHNA SWAMY :

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

(a) the latest census records of important wild animals like lions/Asiatic lions, tigers, tigresses, bears, rhinos, elephants etc. and birds in the country, State/Sanctuary-wise;

(b) the extent of increase/decrease recorded in their population during each of the last five years;

(c) whether a large number of these animals and birds have been killed or died during the last three years as well as current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, category-wise and National Zoological Park/Sanctuary/Reserve-wise;

(e) the outcome of inquiries conducted, if any, and the action taken by the Government in each of the incidents; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for their conservation and protection?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI T.R.BAALU) : (a) and (b) The estimation of population for various species of wild animals and birds are not done on yearly basis. These are generally carried out on a cycle of four to five years. The latest estimate of the population of important species of wild animals for last two operations is given in statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) The information regarding animals killed on sanctuary wise/reserve-wise basis are not available. However, details of the number of animals killed or died during the last three years and the current year are given in statement-II enclosed. The Number of deaths of tigers, bears, rhinos and birds in National Zoological Park for the last three years is also given in statement-II enclosed.

Reported cases of poaching and seizure of bear parts are insignificant. The data regarding death of birds is also not collated and compiled at the level of Union Government. However, 388 deaths of peacocks and 12 deaths of saras have been reported from different parts of the country during the last three years.

(e) The responsibility of detection, investigation and prosecution of the offenders in poaching lies with the State Governments. A few important cases have been handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation. The details of these cases and the action taken are as follows :

S.No.	Cases detected	Date	Action Taken
1.	Seizure of 3 nos. of tiger skins, 50 nos. of leopard skins and 5 nos. of otter skins at Sahibabad, Uttar Pradesh	18.12.1999	Complaint filed in the Court.
2.	Seizure of 4 nos. of tiger skins, 70 nos. of leopard skins, 18000 nos. of leopard claws, 132 nos. of tiger claws and 221 nos. of black buck skins at Khaga	12.1.2000	Complaint filed in the Court.
3.	Seizure of 50 nos. of leopard skins at Haldwani	6.5.2000	Legal action initiated by CBI.
4.	Seizure of 30 nos. of leopard skins at Haldwani	21.5.2000	Legal action initiated by CBI.
5.	Seizure of 70 shawl, 26 pure shahtoosh and 44 suspected shahtoosh shawls at Delhi	2.2.2001	Legal action initiated by CBI.
6.	Seizure of 1 nos. of tiger skin, 5 nos. of tiger skulls, 10 nos. of tiger claws, 23 kgs. of tiger bones, 3 nos. of tiger teeth and 4 nos. of leopard skins at Nagpur	21.3.2001	Legal action initiated by CBI.

(f) The steps taken by the Government for conservation and protection of animals and birds in sanctuaries and reserves are indicated in statement-III.

Statement-I

Deaths of Animals and Birds

Population Census of Important Wild Animals

State-wise Details

S.No.	Name of the State	Tiger		Leopard		Lion		Elephant		Rhino	
		1993	1997	1993	1997	1995	2000	1993	1997	1993	1998/99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Andhra Pradesh	197	171	152	138	Nil	Nil	46	57	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2	Arunachal Pradesh *	180	180	98	98*	Nil	Nil	2500	2102		Nil
3	Assam	325	458	246	246*		Nil	5500	5312	1440	1684
4	Bihar/Jharkhand	137	103	203	203*		Nil	550	618		Nil
5	Goa/ Daman & Diu	3	6	31	25		Nil		Nil		Nil
6	Gujarat	5	1	772	832	304	310-320		Nil		Nil
7	Haryana *	Nil	Nil	25	25*		Nil		Nil		Nil
8	Himachal Pradesh *	Nil	Nil	821	821*		Nil		Nil		Nil
9	Karnataka *	305	350	455	620		Nil	5500	6088		Nil
10	Kerala	57	73	16	NA		Nil	3500	5737		Nil
11	M.P./Chhattisgarh	912	927	1700	1851		Nil		Nil		Nil
12	Maharashtra	276	257	417	431		Nil		Nil		Nil
13	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		Nil		Nil		Nil
14	Meghalaya	53	63	Nil	Nil		Nil	2750	1840		Nil
15	Mizoram	28	12	49	28		Nil		Nil		Nil
16	Nagaland *	83	83		Nil		Nil		147		Nil
17	Orissa	226	194	378	422		Nil	1750	1827		Nil
18	Rajasthan	64	58	475	474		Nil		Nil		Nil
19	Sikkim *	2	2		Nil		Nil		Nil		Nil
20	Tamil Nadu	97	62	138	110		Nil	2400	2971		Nil
21	Tripura *	Nil	Nil	18	18*		Nil		Nil		Nil
22	UP/Uttanchal	465	475	711	1412		Nil	845	1984	12	13
23	West Bengal	335	361	108	108*		Nil	220	327	44	120
24	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	15		Nil		Nil		Nil
Total		3750	3836	6828	7273		310-320	25541	29010	1496	1817

* Population census in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Sikkim have not been done.

The census fig. quoted by these States during 1993 has been incorporated in 1997 also.

Statement-II*Reported cases of Tiger Poaching*

State	1998	1999	2000	2001
Andhra Pradesh	-	2 (1 in Kawal WLS)	4 (1 skin seized at Nagarjuna sagar TR)	1 (1 in Nagarjunasagar Srisaillam TR)
Assam	-	Nil	4 (1 in Orang WLS)	Nil
Delhi	2 (Skins)	1	2	
Madhya Pradesh	1 (Skin)	9 (2 in Bandhavgrah TR)	4 (1 in Kanha NP & 1 in Bandhavgrah TR)	2 (1 in Pench NP)
Orissa	-	1 (1 in Satkosia WLS)		
Maharashtra	1 (Skin)	3 (2 in Melghat TR & 1 in Andheri TR)	4	11 (2 in Tadoba NP)
Tamil Nadu	-	2		
Uttar Pradesh	3 (skins)	14 (1 in Rajaji NP)	12 (2 in Katarniaghat WLS & 2 in Dudhwa NP)	18 (1 in katarniaghat WLS & 1 in Dudhwa NP)
West Bengal	2 (skins)	6 (2 in Sunderban TR)	7 (4 in Sunderban TR)	
Kerala	-			3
Rajasthan	-		2	
Karnataka	5 (skins)	-	-	-
Total	14	38	39	35

Reported cases of Lion poaching

State	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
Gujarat (Gir Forest)	Nil	2	1

Reported cases of Leopard Poaching

State	1998	1999	2000	2001
1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	13 (skins)	56	166	28 (1 in Rajaji NP)
Andhra Pradesh	-	1 (Kawal WLS)	5 (1 in Pocharam WLS)	
Goa	-		1	
Rajasthan	-	4	1	2

1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh	1 (skin)	15 (3 in Achanakmar WLS, 1 in Bori WLS & 1 in Sitanadi WLS)	9	
Maharashtra	3 (skins)	2	5	6
Himachal Pradesh	8 (skins)		1	1 (1 in Chail WLS)
Jammu & Kashmir	-		1	
Assam	-		2	
Gujarat	-	1 (Gir NP/WLS)		
Delhi	3 (skins)		2	6
Punjab	-		8	
Tamil Nadu	-	1		26
Total	28	80	201	69

Reported cases of Elephant Poaching

State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Assam	2	2 (1 in Pobitora WLS)	3 (3 in Manas WLS)
Bihar	1 (1 in Palamau NP)	1 (1 in Palamau NP)	0
Karnataka	27	16	19
Kerala	4	1	1
Meghalaya	2	2	0
Orissa	14 (1 in Kuldiha WLS, 1 in Simlipal WLS)	4	3
Tamil Nadu	12	5	7
Uttar Pradesh	1	0	5 (in Corbett NP)
West Bengal	4 (3 in Jaldapara WLS)	9 (4 in Buxa TR & 1 in Mahananda WLS)	3 (2 in Buxa TR)
Total	66	41	41

Reported cases of Rhino Poaching

Year	No. of Rhinos Poached	NP/WLS	State
1	2	3	4
1998-99	0	Jaldapara WLS	West Bengal
1999-00	1	Jaldapara WLS	West Bengal

1	2	3	4
2000-01	1	Jaldapara WLS	West Bengal
1998	8	Kaziranga NP	Assam
1998	12	Orang NP	Assam
1998	4	Pobitora WLS	Assam
1998	4	Other Areas	Assam
1999	4	Kaziranga NP	Assam
1999	7	Orang NP	Assam
1999	6	Pobitora WLS	Assam
1999	2	Other Areas	Assam
2000	4	Kaziranga NP	Assam
2000	8	Orang NP	Assam
2000	2	Pobitora WLS	Assam
2000	3	Other Areas	Assam

Death of animals in National Zoological Park

S.No.	Year	Tiger	Bear	Rhino	Birds	Total
1.	1998-99	Nil	Nil	01	36	37
2.	1999-2000	Nil	02	Nil	36	38
3.	2000-01	07	01	02	35	45

Statement-III

The steps taken by the Government for conservation and protection of animals and birds in sanctuaries and reserves are :

(1) Steps taken at the State level :

- (i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (ii) State level and District level coordination committees have been set up in several States to prevent poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(2) Steps taken at National level

- i Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.
- ii. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders. Anti poaching efforts are being coordinated with INTERPOL.
- iii. Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Development of National Parks and

Sanctuaries and Eco-development around Protected Areas for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals. Financial assistance is, in particular, being provided for raising 'Strike Forces' and providing arms to the protection staff for combating the organised poachers. Assistance is also provided for giving rewards to the informers for eliciting information about poachers and smugglers.

- iv. A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Environment & Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
- v. Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM policy.
- vi. A National Conference of Forests and Environment Ministers of State Government was held on 29th and 30th January, 2001. It was resolved to organise existing protection staff into viable formations for effective control of poaching and to create enforcement infrastructure both within and outside protected areas.
- vii. Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(3) **Steps taken at International level.**

- i. Government of India seeks international co-operation under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wildlife items.
- ii. To control transboundary trade a protocol has been signed with Peoples' Republic of China and a MOU has been signed with His Majesty's Government of Nepal.
- iii. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to Tiger Conservation.

Demand/ Production And Export/Import of Steel

2194. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN :

SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN :

SHRI UTITAMRAO PATEL :

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the total demand and production of steel in the country, company-wise;
- (b) whether a large quantity of high grade steel is being imported from Japan and other countries;
- (c) if so, the details of export/import of steel in terms of quantity and value during each of the last three years, company-wise and country-wise;
- (d) the details of MoU/agreements signed with foreign countries for the import/export of steel;
- (e) whether the Government have any data on the availability of indigenous steel and its annual utility;
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (g) whether the consumption of steel is increasing in the country; and
- (h) if so, the extent therefor and the step taken by Government to meet the demand of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJĀ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Food Processing Industries

2195. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise Food Processing Industries in the country; and

(b) if so, the incentives proposed to various States and private entrepreneurs for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL

GUPTA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its Plan Schemes extends financial assistance for setting up and development of food processing industries including modernization of the units. Such assistance is given to Non Governmental Organizations, Cooperatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Private Industries, Human Resource Development and Research & Development Organizations, etc. The assistance extended is project oriented and not state or region specific. Besides the scheme of financial assistance, the Ministry has taken a number of initiatives to promote this sector. In the recent Budget central excise on processed fruits and vegetables have been brought down to 0% from the existing level of 16%. In foreign direct investment, most of the sectors in the food processing has been brought under the automatic route. The Ministry has also finalized work on a Draft National Food Processing Policy which envisages creation of enabling environment, development of adequate infrastructure, development of Research & Development facilities, networking of laboratories etc. These facilities would encourage setting up of units in the processed food sector both by private parties and by State Governments in public sector or joint sector or assisted sector.

[English]

Backlog of Reserved Posts

2196. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether backlog/carried forward vacancies reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs 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 a year;

(b) if so, the details of 'backlog carried forward vacancies' filled up 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 his Ministry when Special Recruitment Drives etc. meant for filling such vacancies were stopped.

(c) the details of such carried forward vacancies filled up during the last four years and those which remained unfilled, year-wise; and

(d) the details of fresh vacancies/posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last three years as per 'post based rosters'?

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

(b) Details may please be seen in statement-I enclosed.

(c) Details may please be seen in statement-II enclosed.

(d) Details may please be seen in statement-III enclosed.

Statement-I

Details of Backlog Carried Forward Vacancies Filled up as on 29.08.1997 in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Secretariat Proper)

Category	SCs	STs	OBCs
Group 'A'	-	-	-
Group 'B'	-	-	-
Group 'C'	1	-	-
Group 'D'	-	-	-

Statement-II

Details of Carried Forward Vacancies Filled up During the Last Four Years and those which remained unfilled in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Secretariat Proper)

Year	Category	Number of posts filled			No. of Posts remained unfilled		
		SCs	STs	OBCs	SCs	STs	OBCs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1997	Group 'A'	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Group 'B'	-	1	-	3	3	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Group 'C'	-	-	-	1	7	-
	Group 'D'	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	Group 'A'	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Group 'B'	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Group 'C'	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Group 'D'	-	-	-	-	-	-
1999	Group 'A'	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Group 'B'	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Group 'C'	1	-	-	-	-	-
	Group 'D'	-	-	-	-	-	-
2000	Group 'A'	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Group 'B'	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Group 'C'	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Group 'D'	-	-	-	-	-	-

Statement-III

Details of fresh vacancies/Posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last three years (1998, 1999 and 2000) as per post based rosters in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Secretariat Proper)

Category	Number of Vacancies reserved		
	SCs	STs	OBCs
Group 'A'	-	-	-
Group 'B'	6	4	7
Group 'C'	2	3	7
Group 'D'	-	-	-

Decline in Foreign Tourists

2197. SHRI A. K PREMAJAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is lagging behind in

attracting foreign tourists and even smaller countries are much ahead of us;

(b) if so, the figures of tourist inflow during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to attract domestic/foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) During the year 2000, India received less number of foreign tourists as compared to the countries like Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia. Foreign tourist inflow to the country through the major Ports of entry during the last three years is as follows :

Port	1998	1999	2000
1	2	3	4
Delhi	806001	799099	842204
Mumbai	677400	696299	748584
Chennai	251566	276380	297751
KoKata	127537	128336	132711

1	2	3	4
Others	496125	581814	619907
Total	2358629	2481928	2641157

(c) Various steps taken by the Government to boost tourism and attract foreign tourists/ domestic tourists include development and improvement of tourist facilities, publicity and marketing efforts in the foreign countries through overseas tourist offices, strengthening institutions of human resources development, use of information technology and encouraging private investment in tourism sector including hotels.

Efforts have also been made to send appropriate signals to countries all over the world that India is a safe destination. A reorientation in marketing efforts is also being made by focussing on markets in South East Asia and emphasising the significance of domestic tourism.

Bailouts Package for Airlines

2198. SHRI Y.V. RAO :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the bailouts given to airline companies in US and Europe after the terrorist attacks in US;

(b) if so, whether Air India/Indian Airlines and Jet Airways approached the Government for bailout package; and

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

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

(b) Only Jet Airways have submitted a proposal seeking several relief measures to tide over the serious economic problems and recessionary conditions being faced by the aviation sector. Some of the important measures are:

(i) Indemnity from the government to cover the uncovered portion of the required insurance coverage not available from Insurance companies;

(ii) Retention of 50% of Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT) by the airlines;

(iii) 30% relief in Category II & IIA operations;

(iv) Exemption from Customs Duty on import of aircraft and engines;

(v) Extension of the limit of 4% Central Sales Tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel to all aircraft operations;

(vi) Permission to hedge fuel prices; and

(vii) 50% reduction in Landing, Route Navigation Facility Charges (RNFC) and Parking charges.

(c) These proposals from Jet Airways are under consideration of the Government except for b(i) which has not been agreed to.

Threat to Tadoba Tiger Reserve

2199. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether deforestation process has created a major threat to Tadoba Tiger Reserve in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the wildlife conservation department has expressed grave apprehension as it may cause huge damage to the Tadoba Tiger Reserve; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The State Government has reported that no deforestation of forest areas forming part of Tadoba Andheri has been done in recent past.

[Translation]

Irrigation Capacity

2200. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals received from Chhattisgarh to increase irrigation capacity in the State;

(b) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared; and

(c) the amount likely to be granted during the current year under Accelerated Irrigation Beneficiary Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) A modified Mahanadi reservoir project proposal costing Rs. 572 crores has been received in the Central Water Commission from Government of Chhattisgarh in July 2001 and is under correspondence.

(b) Clearance of major/medium irrigation projects depends on compliance of outstanding observations of various central appraising agencies by the State Government.

(c) The Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) is released in two instalments in a year, subject to availability of funds and the budget outlay provided by the State Government for such projects in the State annual Plan. Three projects in Chhattisgarh namely Hasdeo Bango, Shivnath Diversion and Jonk Diversion have been released an amount of Rs. 16.60 crores as first instalment of CLA during the current year.

Inter-State Irrigation Project

2201. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

- (a) the details of Inter-State Irrigation Projects under construction at present in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the estimated cost of each project; and
- (c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) The details of Inter-State Irrigation Projects under construction at present in the Country are given in the enclosed statement, as per the information available with this Ministry.

Statement

S. No.	Name of Project	Category	State/UT involved	Started in Plan	Target for completion	L.E.C.*	Cum. Exp. upto 3/2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Tungbhadra High Level Canal	ERM	Andhra Pradesh Karnataka	III II	Beyond IX IX	467.26 79.48	201.88 51.83
2	Subernarekha	Major	Bihar Orissa West Bengal	V VII AP 90-92	Beyond IX IX Beyond IX	2376.16 1270.60 696.00	917.73 469.93 28.19
3	Bansagar	Major	Bihar Madhya Pradesh Uttar Pradesh	V V V	IX Beyond IX IX	234.00 344.66 234.00	104.34 158.18 107.00
4	Tillari	Major	Goa Maharashtra	V AP 78-80	Beyond IX -	320.63 167.70	219.67 179.77
5	Damanganga	Major	Gujarat D&Nagar Haveli Daman & Diu	IV - -	Completed - -	235.06 - -	246.45 - -
6	Mahl Bajaj Sagar	Major	Gujarat Rajasthan	- IV	- Beyond IX	- 1016.98	- 626.81
7	Sardar Sarovar	Major	Gujarat Madhya Pradesh Maharashtra Rajasthan	VII - - -	Beyond IX - - -	22176.95 - - -	6631.07 - - -

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	Gurgaon Canal	Major	Haryana Rajasthan Uttar Pradesh	III III -	IX Beyond IX -	65.00 35.40 -	33.56 26.68 -
9	Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal	Major	Haryana Punjab	V VII	IX Beyond IX	601.00 3379.53	504.62 2713.66
10	New Tajewala Barrage (Hathnikund)	ERM	Haryana Uttar Pradesh	VIII IX	Beyond IX -	1448.36 28.00	908.80 0.06
11	New Okhla Barrage	ERM	Haryana Rajasthan Uttar Pradesh	- - V	- - Completed	- - -	- - -
12	Shahnahar	Major	Himachal Pradesh Punjab	VIII VI	Beyond IX IX	150.78 148.48	- -
13	Dudhganga	Major	Karnataka Maharashtra	VI V	Beyond IX Beyond IX	110.00 798.66	12.82 243.70
14	Rajghat (Rani Laxmi Bai Sagar)	Major	Madhya Pradesh Uttar Pradesh	V V	IX Completed	133.60 150.80	127.28 133.08
15	Urmil	Major	Madhya Pradesh Uttar Pradesh	V -	IX -	32.01 -	19.89 -
16	Bawanthadi (Rajiv Sagar)	Major	Madhya Pradesh Maharashtra	VI AP 78-80	Beyond IX Beyond IX	52.75 124.17	0.00 53.03
17	Lendi	Major	Andhra Pradesh Maharashtra	- VI	- Beyond IX	- 204.60	- 17.08

*LEC - Latest Estimated Cost

[English]

**Establishment of New Giant
Aluminium Project**

2202. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded approval for establishment of a new Giant Aluminium Project in Kutch District of Gujarat in a joint venture with Ambassador Group Investment Limited of America;

(b) If so, the details of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Government has accorded approval for establishment of an Alumina (not aluminium) Project in Kutch District of Gujarat to M/s Gujarat Alumina & Bauxite Limited This company is a joint venture between Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation, Gujarat Alkalies & Chemicals Ltd., Ambassador Group International Limited, USA and Jefferies & Company, USA. The joint venture company will establish an Alumina Project in the Kutch District of Gujarat at an estimated project cost of US\$ 700 million. The foreign equity participation will be 45% and Indian promoters will have 6% equity stake and 49% equity will be held by Public and others. The plant will have a capacity to produce Alumina 7,50,000 MTA, Met Coke 11,50,000 MTA, Power 100 MW and Desalination 6 MGD.

(c) The target for completion of the Met Coke and

Power Plant is September, 2004 and the target for Alumina Plant is March, 2006.

Pension Cover for Unrecognized Sector

2203. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to widen pension cover mainly to include workers in the unorganised sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The social security for the unorganized workers is one of the major concerns of the Government. Therefore, a social security scheme for agricultural workers, which constitute the largest segment of the workforce in the unorganized sector has been launched with effect from 1st July, 2001. The benefits under the scheme, inter-alia, include pension cover to these workers. Further, one of the terms of reference of the 2nd National Commission on Labour is to suggest an "Umbrella" legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganized sector.

[Translation]

Organisation Engaged in Environmental Development

2204. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHTO :

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

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

(a) the names of the voluntary organisations engaged in protection of environment with the assistance of grants from the Government;

(b) the amount provided as grants to various voluntary organisations for the purpose during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the activities undertaken with the said assistance during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Renting of Aircraft by Private Companies

2205. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Private Aviation Companies in the country which have rented out helicopters and small aircraft;

(b) the number and names of the Aviation Companies (business houses) which are offering their fleets for commercial purpose, alongwith the number of helicopter seats; and

(c) the name of the agency which issue guidelines, check and safety operation of aircraft to ensure that these aircraft are maintained and functioning properly?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) 34 private aviation companies are engaged in providing smaller aircraft/helicopters on hire. Their names and the respective strength of their fleet are attached as statement.

(c) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issues guidelines for check and safety of operation of aircraft to ensure that these aircraft are maintained and are functioning properly.

Statement

List of Aircraft of Private Non-Scheduled Operators

Sl. No.	Name	Aircraft Type	A/c No.	Seating Capacity
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ace Airways Pvt. Ltd.	AS 350B (H)	1	5
2.	Aerial Services Pvt. Ltd.	Beech Jet-400	1	8

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Ahmedabad Aviation Academy	Cessna 172	1	3
		Piper Aztec	1	5
		Cessna 172P	1	3
4.	Airworks India Pvt. Ltd.	King Air C-90	1	7
5.	Asia Aviation Ltd.	Cessna Cit II	1	8
6.	Azal India Pvt. Ltd.	Bell-412 HP (H)	6	13
7.	Blue Dart	B-737-200	3	Cargo
8.	Century Textiles & Industries Ltd.	Cessna Caravan II	1	7
9.	Delhi Flying Club	Cessna 152	2	1
		King Air C-90	1	6
10.	Deccan Aviation	Bell 206 L3 (H)	2	6
		Bell 206 B3 (H)	2	4
		Bell 212 (H)	1	13
		Bell 407 (H)	1	6
		Ecureil AS 355 (H)	1	5
		Pilatus PC-12	2	9
11.	Dwarka Air Taxi	Cessna 404 Titan	1	8
12.	Excorts Ltd.	Bell 407 (H)	1	6
13.	East India Hotels	HS-125-700	1	9
		C-90A	1	6
14.	Great Eastern Shipping Co. Ltd.	Bell 212 (H)	2	13
15.	Hindustan Institute of Engg. Technology	Cessna 172L	1	2
16.	India International Airways	Bell 222UT (H)	1	6
		HS-125 B	1	7
17.	Indo Pacific Aviation	Bell 206 L4 (H)	1	6
18.	Jagson Airlines	DO-228	2	18
19.	J.K. Corp.	King Air B-200	1	8
20.	Jindal Strips Ltd.	King Air C-90	1	6

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.	Alloutte III (H)	1	5
22.	Malhotra Helicopters	Bell-47G5 (H)	1	2
23.	Megapode Airlines	HS-125-700B	1	7
		Falcon 2000	1	8
24.	Orient Flying School	Cessna-152	3	1
		Seneca III	1	5
25.	Rajputana Aviation Academy (P) Ltd.	Cessna-172P	1	2
		Cessna-152	2	2
26.	Raymond Ltd.	AS-355N (H)	1	5
		Bell 206 L3 (H)	2	6
		Cessna Citation-II	1	8
27.	Reliance Transport Travels Ltd.	Gulfstream-IV	1	13
28.	Saraya Aviation (P) Ltd.	Beech B-58	1	4
29.	Span Air Pvt. Ltd.	Bell 206 L4 (H)	1	6
		Bell 407 (H)	1	6
		Super King 200	1	8
30.	Taneja Aerospace & Aviation Ltd.	PC 68-TC	1	6
		P 68 C	4	6
31.	Tata Tea Ltd.	MD 600N (H)	1	5
32.	Trans Bharat Aviation	Beech 99	2	15
		Bell-206 B3 (H)	2	4
		Bell 407 (H)	1	5
		Piper Seneca	1	4
33.	U.B. Air	Chetak (H)	1	5
		Bell-212 (H)	3	13
34.	Vidyut Travel Services	King C-90	1	6
Total Aircraft			80	

Notes :

1. Seating capacity indicates passenger seating capacity excluding pilots seat.
2. 'H' indicates Helicopter

Pending Cases of Colliery Workers

2206. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of colliery workers in different collieries allowed to join their duties with compensation or without compensation in spite of the Tribunal awards for their reinstatement, subsidiary-wise;

(b) the number of cases pending for settlement; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be finalized and workers absorbed?

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

Name of Subsidiary	No. of workers reinstated as per award of Tribunal	No. of cases pending for settlement	By which time these will be finalised
ECL	56	In respect of 17 reference cases the matter is sub-judice before High Court. 141 cases pending in CGIT for decision	Since matter is sub-judice in H.C. & Tribunal respectively the exact time by which same will be finalized is not know.
BCCL	26	03	Will be finalised shortly
CCL	06	Nil	-
WCL	04	Nil	-
SECL	04	Nil	-
MCL	03	Nil	-
NCL	Nil	Nil	-

Anti-Dumping Duty on Imported Fruits

2207. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether under World Trade Organisation (WTO) regime the imported fruits are the threat to the domestic fruit growers;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any plan to put anti-dumping duty on imported fruits to safeguard the domestic fruit growers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) So far as dumping of fruits into Indian markets is concerned, no specific information or fully documented petition has been received from the domestic industry indicating any dumping or injury to the domestic producers.

Barring fruits that are bound at lower rates, most of the

fruits currently attract import duty at rates equal to the peak rate of 35% or higher. As regards imposition of anti-dumping duty, the Central Government can impose anti-dumping duty only if a recommendation to this effect is received from the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD&AD). So far no recommendation for imposition of anti-dumping duty on any fruit has been received from them.

Agriculture Technology Information Centres

2208. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Agriculture Technology Information Centres (ATICs) set up in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up such more centres in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has sanctioned for establishment of 40 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC) in the country including one in Andhra Pradesh with Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural

University, Hyderabad. The State-wise details are given in statement enclosed.

(b) There is no proposal to set up more such centres.

(c) The question does not arise.

Statement

List of Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC) in the Country

Sl. No.	State	Atic Centres
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	1. Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad
2	Assam	2. Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat
3	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3. Central Agricultural Reserch Institute, Port Blair
4	Bihar	4. Rajendra Agricultural University, Samastipur
5	Chhattisgarh	5. Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwa Vidhyalaya, Raipur
6	Delhi	6. Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.
7	Gujarat	7. Gujarat Agricultural University, Dantiwada
8	Haryana	8. National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal
		9. Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar
9	Himachal Pradesh	10. Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Palampur
		11. Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan
		12. Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla
10	Jammu & Kashmir	13. Shere-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Srinagar
11	Jharkhand	14. Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi
12	Kerala	15. Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur
		16. Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut
		17. Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin
		18. Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod
13	Karnataka	19. University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore
		20. University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad
		21. Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore
14	Madhya Pradesh	22. Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur

1	2	3
15	Maharashtra	23. Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani 24. Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Ahmednagar 25. Dr. Panjab Rao Deshmukh Krishi Vishwa Vidyalyaya, Akola 26. Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur 27. Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Ratnagiri
16	Orissa	28. Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubneshwar 29. Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubneshwar
17	Punjab	30. Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana
18	Rajasthan	31. Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur 32. Maharana Pratap Agricultural University, Udaipur 33. Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner
19	Tamil Nadu	34. Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai 35. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore
20	Uttar Pradesh	36. Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur 37. Narehdra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur 38. Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar
21	Uttaranchal	39. Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology Pantnagar
22	West Bengal	40. Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalyaya, Nadia

[Translation]

Content of Iodine in Rock Salt in H.P.

2209. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 138 dated November 20, 2000 and state :

(a) whether Government have received any request from Himachal Pradesh to set up a caustic soda factory based on salt solution due to the availability of adequate content of rock salt in Drang area of Mandi district; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Government of India have not received any proposal for setting up a caustic soda factory on salt solution in Drang region of Mandi District in Himachal Pradesh, in the recent past. However, caustic soda industry has been de-licensed.

[English]

Publicity to Tourist Places

2210. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that many places in the country which are important from tourism point

of view have not been given adequate publicity in regard to their culture and heritage; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) In order to publicise the cultural and heritage places from tourism point of view in India and abroad, Ministry of Tourism undertakes the following steps :

- (i) Printing of brochures and other tourist literature on prominent tourist spots,
- (ii) Release of advertisements in prominent newspapers and magazines in India and abroad,
- (iii) Production of posters, video films, CD Roms, souvenirs, etc.
- (iv) Maintaining of Department of Tourism website providing information on the tourist places in India,
- (v) Dissemination of information by Government of India Tourist Offices in India and abroad,

Besides, State Governments/Union Territories also undertake publicity and promotion of such places in their states by printing of brochures, tourist material, production of video films, CD-ROMs, etc.

[Translation]

Reorganisation Package For SAIL

2211. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved financial and business reorganisation package for SAIL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an agreement has been entered into between the Government and SAIL in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the improvements likely to be effected in the functioning of SAIL thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) In February, 2000, Government had approved the financial and business restructuring package for SAIL, which, inter alia, includes the following :

(i) Financial restructuring of SAIL by waiving of loans advanced to it from Steel Development Fund (SDF) to a value of Rs.5073 crore and Rs.381 crore from Govt. of India.

(ii) Provision of Govt guarantees with 50% interest subsidy for loan and interest thereon of Rs. 1500 crore to be raised by SAIL from the market to finance reduction in manpower through Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

(iii) Provision of Govt. guarantee for loan and interest thereon of Rs.1500 crore to be raised by SAIL from the market primarily for meeting repayment obligation on past loans during 1999-2000.

(iv) To initiate the process of divestment of following non-core assets while protecting jobs of existing employees:

(a) Power Plants at Bokaro, Durgapur and Rourkela

- 2x60 MW Captive power plant -II at Rourkela Steel Plant and the Central Power Training Institute at Rourkela

- 2x50 MW Captive power plant -II at Durgapur Steel Plant

- 122 MW (2x55 MW +12 MW back pressure turbine) Captive Power Plant - I, 3x60 MW Captive Power Plant -II and steam generating capacity of 660 MT/hour at Bokaro Steel Plant.

(b) Oxygen Plant-II of Bhilai Steel Plant

(c) Salem Steel Plant (SSP), Salem

(d) Alloy Steels Plant (ASP), Durgapur

(e) Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant (VISL), Bhadravati

(f) Fertilizer Plant at Rourkela

(v) Allowing SAIL to have a minority shareholding in any joint venture contemplated for revival of IISCO.

(vi) Subsequently, Govt. has also approved inclusion of CPP-II of 74 MW capacity at Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) in the divestment programme of SAIL.

(c) A detailed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between SAIL and Ministry of Steel on

13.3.2000. The MOU lists out the various tasks for implementation and detailed milestones that need to be accomplished to complete the tasks within time bound manner.

(d) The details of the improvements likely to be effected in the functioning of SAIL, projected at the time of signing of MOU with Govt. of India are given below :

Target against	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Production ('000 tonnes)	9943	10263	10603	10753
Sales Quantity ('000 tonnes)	9874	10132	10445	10633
Sales Turnover (Rs. crore)	18584	18624	20153	21541
Gross Margin (Rs. crore)	2510	2711	3706	4231
Net Profit after Tax (Rs. crore)	-700	-139	810	1376

[English]

Floods and Fire in Coal Mines

2212. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of tragic incidents occurred due to floods and fires in Coal Mines during each of the last three years;

Year	1998	1999	2000
Incident of flooding	Nil	Gondudih Colliery, BCCL Inrush of water from dip gallery of higher rise into level gallery 3-4 hours after blasting	Nil
Incident of Fire	Nil	Argada Colliery, CCL After a cable fire, a pump Khalasi fell down while escaping and was overcome by noxious gases. When he was rescued by rescue team and brought to the hospital he was declared dead.	Amlohri OCP, NCL A mining sirdar was engulfed in hot particles when burning coal face fell during fire fighting operations in opencast workings.

(d) The remedial measure being taken by Coal India Limited to avoid recurrence of such incidents are as under :

1. Dewatering dip galleries in advance.

(b) the number of lives lost in these incidents during the said period, mine-wise;

(c) the major causes for these tragic incidents and result of the findings of each of these incidents; and

(d) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The number of tragic incidents due to flooding and fire in the coal mines of Coal India Limited involving fatality in each of the last three years are given as under :

Year	1998	1999	2000
Incident of flooding	Nil	1	Nil
Incident of Fire	Nil	1	1

(b) The number of workers who lost their lives in these incidents during the last three years are given as under mine-wise;

Year	1998	1999	2000
Incident of flooding	Nil	Gondudih Colliery, BCCL-1	Nil
Incident of fire	Nil	Argada Colliery, CCL-1	Amlohri OCP, NCL-1

(c) The major causes of each of these tragic incidents are given as under : :

2. Assessing danger of inundation in each and every mine prior to the monsoon and preparing and implementing annual action plans.

3. Check co-relation surveys to guard against inundation have been taken up.

4. Connecting all mine plans to national grid -has almost been completed.
5. Wherever required the thickness of barrier between adjacent mines have been proved by positive methods like drilling.
6. Rigorous periodic (shift-wise/daily/weekly/monthly) physical inspection of working places, old workings, fire-stoppings/isolation stoppings for symptoms of heating by supervisory staff & officials.
7. Monitoring environmental conditions in underground mines for early detection of heating by Co-detectors and hand held digital monitors, hygrometers etc.
8. CIL has identified 36 mines for installation of computerised continuous environmental telemonitoring systems. Out of these, seven such systems are already operating and order has been placed for six additional systems.
9. Programme has been taken up to provide Filter Self Rescuers(FSRs) to all workmen.
10. Conducting safety audits of mines and implementing recommendations thereof.
11. Thrust on training of work persons.

Corruption and Irregularities in MCL

2213. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the local people are not given any contract for supply work by the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) in its coalfields;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there have been large scale corruption and irregularities in various works in these coalmines of MCL;
- (d) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken to stop such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) As reported by CIL, local people are being given supply orders as per established procedures in MCL.

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

(c) No, Sir. No case of large scale corruption of irregularities have been reported by the coal company.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of answer (c) above.

[Translation]

Accident in Mahua Pathri Colliery Under CCL

2214. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some persons died in illegal mining in Mahua Pathari Colliery situated in Baniyadih under Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) on November 7, 2001;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the matter; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) on verification from the local police station as well as from the report of area, no death has been reported in the illegal mining site in Baniyadih on 7th November, 2001.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply given to part (a) above.

(c) and (d) Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS) and District Collector visited the site and conducted preliminary enquiry. Usually enquiry of this nature takes time and appropriate action is always taken once the enquiry is completed.

[English]

Non-Utilisation of Foreign Aid for Earthquake Victims

2215. SHRI J. S. BRAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the entire foreign aid received for the rehabilitation of Gujarat earthquake victims have not been utilized so far;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total foreign aid in terms of money and material, separately and also from the Indian sources received and the amount out of them spent so far;

(d) whether the total aid received is sufficient for complete rehabilitation and relief measures in Gujarat;

(e) if not, the quantum of funds provided by the Government therefor; and

(f) the time by which the entire relief and rehabilitation work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (f) The rehabilitation and reconstruction is an ongoing and continuous process. The State Government is hopeful that except for the four towns of Anjar, Bhachau, Bhuj and Rapar, the reconstruction work will be completed before the onset of next monsoon. As per the information supplied by the Government of Gujarat, the assistance received/approved from external sources is as under :

(i) Govt. of Netherlands	Rs.300 crore
(ii) European Union	Rs.170 crore
(iii) Other external sources	Rs.100 crore
(iv) Loan assistance (ADB)	US\$ 300 million
(v) Loan assistance (World Bank)	US\$ 700 million

In addition to release of Central share of CRF, assistance of Rs.1467.37 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) was released. Additional Central assistance of Rs.220.00 crore has also been provided. According to the assessment of the State Government, the assistance approved/promised will be sufficient to meet the cost of rehabilitation and reconstruction measures in the wake of the earthquake.

[Translation]

Civil Aviation Projects of Bihar

2216. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projects proposed for implementation during the Ninth Five Year Plan in Bihar;

(b) whether these projects are being implemented timely and according to the set programmes;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(d) the total amount granted for each project till date; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to complete these projects?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (e) Strengthening of runway, construction of apron, boundary wall and a new terminal building at Gaya Airport at a cost of Rs.33.51 crores; improvement of runway strip and acquisition of land at a cost of Rs. 7.00 crores at Patna Airport are under implementation during 9th Five Year Plan in Bihar. These projects are being implemented on schedule.

[English]

Barrage on Mahanadi River in Orissa

2217. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a barrage in between Hirakud Dam and Naraj Barrage on Mahanadi river in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the site elected for the purpose;

(c) whether any habitats have been inundated by the proposed barrage;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of barrage;

(e) whether any survey has been conducted to divert surplus water of Mahandi to Rushikulya via a high-level canal from this proposed barrage; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) The Central Water Commission has not received any Detailed Project Report from Government of Orissa for techno-economic appraisal for setting up a barrage in between Hirakud Dam and Naraj Barrage on Mahanadi.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Duty Free Outlets Run by ITDC

2218. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of duty free outlets being run by ITDC hotels and outside;

(b) whether the ITDC has relaxed its norms for the sale of liquor; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Presently, ITDC is operating a total number of 36 duty free outlets comprising of 35 at international airports and one at Ashok Hotel, New Delhi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Rise in Killing of Endangered Species

2219. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a steep rise in the incidents of killing of endangered species/wildlife for the last few years as reported in the *Times of India* dated May 2, 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of cases registered in this regard during each quarter of the last two years and current year; and

(d) the specific measures taken to safeguard and protect the endangered species/wildlife?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Consequent to the 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.

(c) The responsibility of detection, investigation and prosecution of the offenders in poaching cases lies with the State Governments. A few important cases have been handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation. The details of these cases and the action taken are as follows :

(i) Seizure of three nos. of Tigers skins, 50 nos. of Leopard skins and 5 nos. of otter skins at Sahibabad, Uttar Pradesh border on 18.12.1999. Complaint has been filed.

(ii) Seizure of 4 nos. of Tigers skins, 70 nos. of Leopard skins, 18000 nos of Leopard claws, 132 nos. of Tiger claws and 221 nos. of Black buck skins at Khaga on 12.1.2000. Complaint filed in the court.

(iii) Seizure of 50 nos. of Leopard skins at Haldwani on 6.5.2000. Legal action initiated by CBI.

(iv) Seizure of 30 nos. of Leopard skins at Haldwani on 21.5.2000. Legal action initiated by CBI.

(v) Central Bureau of Investigation seized 70 shawls in Delhi on 2.2.2001. Of these 26 are pure Shahtoosh shawls and 44 are suspected. Legal action initiated by CBI.

(vi) Central Bureau of Investigation has seized 1 no. of tiger skin, 5 nos. of tiger skulls, 10 nos. of tiger claws, 23 Kgs. of tiger bones, 3 nos. of tiger teeth and 4 nos. of leopard skins at Nagpur on 2.1.3.2001. Legal action initiated by CBI.

(d) The steps taken to control illegal trade in wildlife and its derivatives are furnished in the statement.

Statement

(1) **Steps taken at the State level :**

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) State level and District level coordination committees have been set up in several States to prevent poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(2) **Steps taken at National level**

i. Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

ii. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders. Anti poaching efforts are being coordinated with INTERPOL.

- iii. Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries and Eco-development around Protected Areas for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals. Financial assistance is, in particular, being provided for raising 'Strike Forces' and providing arms to the protection staff for combating the organised poachers. Assistance is also provided for giving rewards to the informers for eliciting information about poachers and smugglers.
- iv. A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Environment & Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
- v. Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM policy.
- vi. A National Conference of Forests and Environment Ministers of State Government was held on 29th & 30th January, 2001. It was resolved to organise existing protection staff into viable formations for effective control of poaching and to create enforcement infrastructure both within and out side protected areas.
- vii. Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(3) **Steps taken at International level.**

- i. Government of India seeks international co-operation under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wildlife items.
- ii. To control transboundary trade a protocol has been signed with Peoples' Republic of China and a MOU has been signed with His Majesty's Government of Nepal.
- iii. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to Tiger Conservation.

Beedi Workers Welfare Fund

2220. DR. V SAROJA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any hospital is proposed to be opened in Tamil Nadu for the welfare of beedi workers out of Beedi Workers Welfare Fund;
- (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) A 30 bedded hospital for beedi workers has been sanctioned at Mukkudal, Tirunelveli District in Tamil Nadu.

- (c) Does not arise.

Export of Coal

2221. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantum of coal exported to each country during the last three years;
- (b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the said period, country-wise;
- (c) whether the Government propose to export coal to some other countries during 2001-2002; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Coal India Limited (CIL) has exported coal to Nepal and Bhutan in the last three years. This export is done in Indian currency as per bilateral agreements between the countries. The quantum of coal exported by CIL to these two countries during the last three years is given below :

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

Year	Nepal	Bhutan	Total
1998-99	30.00	14.06	44.06
1999-2000	55.95	9.51	65.46
2000-2001	35.55	7.17	42.72

(c) and (d) At present, CIL is not considering any proposal to export coal to any other countries during 2001-02.

SCs/STs in Group A and B Services

2222. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of LABOUR 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 and 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% for STs) as on January 1, 1998 under Central Government;

(b) if so, the total No. of 'posts' in (i) Class I (Group A) Category and (ii) Class II (Group B) Category and equivalent thereof under his Ministry; and

(c) the number of persons belonging to (i) General, (ii) SC, (iii) ST and (iv) OBC category working against them including their respective percentages to such total posts as ascertained in view of instructions as contained under para 5 of DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 2, 1997?

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.

Exploration of Minerals

2223. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for mineral exploration in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh during last three years; and

(b) the achievements made thereunder during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) During the last three years, GSI has undertaken 11 investigations for coal, 6 for gold and 7 investigations for diamond in the State of Chhattisgarh and 14 investigations for coal, 5 for gold and 5 for basemetals in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The item-wise targets and achievements are as follows :

Item	Target	Achievement
1. Specialized Thematic mapping (1:25,000)	3025 sq km	3073 sq km
2. Detailed Mapping (1:500/2,000)	8.22 sq km	8.80 sq km
3. Large Scale Mapping (1:10,000)	79 sq km	63.50 sq km
4. Reconnaissance Surveys (1:25,000)	14760 sq km	14278 sq km
5. Pitting and Trenching	3133 Cu m	2523.63 Cu m
6. Drilling	19200 m	16942.10 m

The investigations have led to estimation of additional resources of gold ore & basemetal ore and reserves of coal in the above areas.

National Committee on Disaster Management

2224. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Committee on Disaster Management has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the action taken/ proposed to be taken on the recommendations for effective management of recurring natural calamities every year?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Multi-States Cooperative Societies

2225. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kendriya Bhandar has since been registered under Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act which was hitherto registered with the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons for not holding fresh elections of Chairman/Managing Directors/ delegates from amongst the shareholders as is the case with National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF) and Super Bazar;

(c) whether any enquiry has been made into the working of Kendriya Bhandar or NCCF during the last three years;

(d) if so, the findings thereof;

(e) whether some Members of Parliament have also apprised him about the irregularities going on in Kendriya Bhandar/NCCF; and

(f) if so, the action taken in the matter?

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

(b) As per provisions of Bye laws of Kendriya Bhandar, Chairman is nominated by the Central Government. The Post of Managing Director of Kendriya Bhandar is not an elected post. The election of delegates are held in accordance with the Bye Laws of the Kendriya Bhandar.

(c) to (f) On receipt of certain complaints, the Central Registrar has ordered inspection of Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF and both the inspecting officers are seized of the matter.

Concessional Tickets by IA

2226. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

SHRI M.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines give some concession in tickets to students and armed forces personnel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to give some concession to Government servants also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines offers 50% discount for travel in economy class on domestic sectors to students as well as Armed Forces Personnel.

Discounts in fares are also extended to the following :

- Members of General Reserve Engineering Forces and their family members.

- War disabled Persons and to their family members.

- War-Widows.

- Ex-Armed Forces Personnel who are recipients of Bravery Award (Level I & II) i.e. Paramvir Chakra/Ashok Chakra and Mahavir Chakra/Kirti Chakra.

- Para-Military Forces who are in active service and their family members.

- Police Personnel who are recipients of President Medal for Gallantry and Police Medal for Gallantry.

- Awardees of Gallantry Awards - civilians - 'Ashoka' & Kirti chakra'.

(c) to (e) Indian Airlines has been offering Leave Travel discount of 30% which is currently available till March, 2002. Employees of Central/State Governments/Public Sector Undertakings and other Government Organizations/Institutions are eligible for this discount. The discount is available on the domestic network, but selected routes are excluded from the application of the discount, depending upon the season and the level of traffic demand.

[Translation]

Purchase of Guar

2227. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have proposed

to the Government of Rajasthan to purchase Guar from the farmers at the rate of support price;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to provide relief to the farmers in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The crop of Guar is not covered under Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme.

(c) The crop of Guar has been included under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) from 2000-2001. Under the scheme, financial assistance to the farmers through State Government is provided for production and distribution of certified seeds, seed minikits, rhizobium culture, sprinkler sets and improved farm implements etc. In addition, field demonstrations and farmers' training are also being organized for the transfer of improved production and plant protection technologies to the farmers' field for increasing the production of pulses including Guar in the country.

[English]

Catastrophe Reserve Fund for Civil Aviation Sector

2228. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up a separate Catastrophe Reserve Fund for the domestic aviation sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the impact of recent hike of insurance premium by the insurance companies in aviation sector has been assessed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures adopted by the Government to meet losses to be faced by public sector aviation companies?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) and (d) Consequent to the incident on 11th September, 2001 in USA Insurance Companies have limited 3rd party Liability cover in respect of war, terrorist and other

allied activities to US\$ 1 billion and imposed additional war risk insurance charge at the rate of US\$ 1.25 per passenger. Financial impact of recent hike in insurance premium varies with the insurance requirements under lease/finance agreement of airlines and number of passengers carried by them.

(e) Government of India has provided indemnity to the tune of US\$ 500 million to Air India which is equal to the short fall in the 3rd party cover required and the same available in the market till 30.11.2001.

[Translation]

Status on Industry to Tourism

2229. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be please to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to give tourism the status of an industry in various States including Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details of the tourism projects and the assistance provided to State Governments for the purpose, project-wise; and
- (c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Department of Tourism, Government of India from time to time has requested the State Governments to declare tourism as an industry in the respective States.

- (b) Department of Tourism, Government of India in consultation with the State Governments has sanctioned 1359 projects involving Central financial assistance of Rs.309.43 crores during first four years of 9th Plan.
- (c) As per the existing guidelines the State Governments/UT Administrations are required to complete the projects within stipulated period of 30 months.

Foreign Tours by Minister

2230. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the countries visited and the agreements signed by him during the last two years; and
- (b) the amount spent on these visits and the details of the benefits accrued to the country therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Minister for civil Aviation visited Singapore from 18th to 20th May, 2000 to exchange views on developing bilateral ties in Civil Aviation. However, no agreements were signed. A sum of Rs.1,73,002/- was spent on this visit.

[English]

Special Court For Provident Fund Default Cases

2231. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Employers are continuing to write off arrear payment of Provident Fund of employees in different organisations in the name of "unrealisable";

(b) if so, the number of cases of Provident Fund defaulters pending in the country presently and the number of cases in which prosecution has been carried out;

(c) whether there is any provision of special court to try Provident Fund default cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) Arrears are not allowed to be written off by classifying them as unrealisable.

As on 31.3.2001, 26,207 establishments have defaulted in payment of dues. Further 74,838 prosecution cases under Section 14 of Employees Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 are pending before the courts and 7,723 complaints have been lodged under Sections 406/409 of India Penal Code (IPC).

Necessary legal and penal action is taken against the defaulters under the provisions of the Employees Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

There is no provision for constituting special courts to try Provident Fund default cases. However, depending upon the volume of work involved, in certain States, some courts are specified for trying Provident Fund default cases, by the State Governments concerned.

Revised Posts in ICAR

2232. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) total number of posts of SCs/STs/OBCs in

ICAR, DARE and its Headquarter and in Regional Research Centres functioning in the country respectively, place-wise and centre-wise;

(b) the time since when these posts are lying vacant;

(c) the reasons for not filling up the vacancies so far; and

(d) the efforts being made to fill up these vacancies expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) There are 6051, 1441 and 1886 officers and staff of SC category, ST category and OBC category respectively functioning in the various units of the Council as per details provided in Statement. With the existing employees, the quota prescribed by the Government of India has been achieved in respect of SC category except in the case of entry-level Scientists.

(b) The vacant posts in the reserved categories are under the direct recruitment quota and are lying vacant since August, 1999.

(c) It has not been possible to fill up the vacancies in the reserved category due to non-availability of suitable candidates.

(d) The Council follows the Government of India instructions for filling up of vacant posts/backlog vacancies in the reserved categories. Three special recruitment drives in the year 1997, 1998 and 1999 have been conducted to clear this backlog in respect of the Scientific category.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Institute	Total Number of SCs/STs/OBCs		
		SCs	STs	OBCs
1	2	3	4	5
1.	CRIDA, Hyderabad	61	12	5
2.	IISR, Lucknow	83	8	100
3.	CSSRI, Karnal	103	16	12
4.	IIPR, Kanpur	54	7	2
5.	NCIPM, Pusa, New Delhi	13	2	9

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6.	NBAGR, Karnal	13	1	3	33.	CSWRI, Avikanagar	124	48	5
7.	CRRI, Cuttack	133	90	33	34.	CITH, Srinagar	11	6	3
8.	NIANP, Bangalore	3	0	0	35.	NCAP, New Delhi	1	1	1
9.	IASRI, New Delhi	95	12	21	36.	CIFT, Kochi	81	29	111
10.	CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram	46	14	44	37.	PDVR, Varanasi	27	3	11
11.	NBPGR, Pusa, New Delhi	90	19	12	38.	DOR, Hyderabad	34	6	36
12.	CAZRI, Jodhpur	169	78	42	39.	CRIJAF, Barrackpore	92	16	1
13.	DMR, New Delhi	6	1	1	40.	CIBA, Chennai	43	7	52
14.	CPRI, Shimla	164	30	22	41.	CIRB, Hissar	45	1	0
15.	PDBC, Bangalore	13	4	6	42.	VPKAS, Almora	41	4	7
16.	CMFRI, Cochin	225	54	146	43.	DWMMR, Patna	6	2	8
17.	PD on Poultry, Hyderabad	9	1	0	44.	PDCSR, Modipuram	12	0	1
18.	ICAR Research Complex, Goa	12	0	5	45.	IISR, Calicut	35	2	7
19.	CPCRI, Kasargod	126	44	77	46.	CARI, Izatnagar	45	9	25
20.	CIAE, Bhopal	91	66	7	47.	CSWCRT&I, Dehradun	144	40	43
21.	CTRI, Rajahmundry	110	17	49	48.	NRCOG, Pune	3	3	5
22.	IARI, New Delhi	803	123	162	49.	ILRI, Ranchi	28	74	56
23.	NRCC, Puttur	8	11	8	50.	NRCC, Nagpur	16	7	15
24.	NRCM, Solan	16	3	3	51.	NRCG, Junagadh	22	6	12
25.	NRCAH, Bikaner	9	5	2	52.	NBFGR, Lucknow	14	7	15
26.	NRCE, Hissar	20	1	6	53.	SBI, Coimbatore	60	13	41
27.	NRCCF, Bhimtal	9	2	4	54.	NRCMAP, Anand, Gujarat	6	1	6
28.	NRCOP, Eluru	13	3	4	55.	DRR, Hyderabad	28	9	9
29.	NDRI, Karnal	445	50	89	56.	NRCG, Pune	7	1	3
30.	IISS, Bhopal	7	6	1	57.	NRCC, Bikaner	16	4	4
31.	PDC, Modipuram, Meerut	8	3	3	58.	NRCRM, Bharatpur	4	3	7
32.	DWR, Karnal	35	4	6	59.	NRCAF, Jhansi	10	5	8
					60.	NRCY, Dirang	4	17	2

1	2	3	4	5
61.	NRC women, Bhubaneshwar	1	1	0
62.	NRCB, Trichy	12	2	19
63.	CARI, Port Blair	20	24	6
64.	CIFA, Bhubaneshwar	86	17	13
65.	NRC Soyabean, Indore	8	14	5
66.	WTCER, Bhubaneshwar	6	10	2
67.	NRCO, Pakyong, Sikkim	4	5	3
68.	NRCWS, Jabalpur	12	11	3
69.	IIHR, Bangalore	141	77	17
70.	CICR, Nagpur	106	34	18
71.	NIRJAFT, Calcutta	56	2	3
72.	NRC Sorghum, Hyderabad	45	4	35
73.	NRCA, Jharnapani	1	10	2
74.	IVRI, Izatnagar	739	58	236
75.	CIPHET, Ludhiana	18	0	11
76.	IGFRI, Jhansi	137	13	27
77.	NBSS&LUP, Nagpur	106	30	19
78.	CIRCOT, Mumbai	66	18	4
79.	CICFRI, Barrackpore	126	22	9
80.	CIFE, Mumbai	52	22	1
81.	CIRG, Mathura	44	4	24
82.	NRC on Meat, Izatnagar	29	10	3
83.	ICAR Headquarters	173	41	28
84.	Zonal Coordinating Units	111	01	20
		6051	1441	1886

SCs 6051

STs 1441

OBCs 1886

Grand Total - 9378

*[Translation]***Production of Fish Eggs**

2233. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance provided to Maharashtra for producing fish eggs in non-saline water during the last three years;

(b) the details of the schemes/projects being executed in this regard, district-wise;

(c) whether the said scheme has also been launched in Ahmednagar district; and

(d) if so, the details and present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No financial assistance has been provided to Government of Maharashtra for producing fish eggs in non-saline water during the last three years.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Employees State Insurance Corporation

2234. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is reframing the laws relating to Employees State Insurance Corporation;

(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) to (c) The Government does not intend to reframe the Employees' State Insurance Act. However, a few amendments to remove functional difficulties and infirmities as well as to liberalise certain conditions in administration of some benefits are being processed.

Destruction of Environment by Mining Activity

2235. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mining works in hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh has been affecting the environment badly for the last many years;

(b) if so, the details of districts where such mining has been taking place along with the names of companies doing excavation work thereby destroying environment; and

(c) the action taken against each such company?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Implementation of Recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission

2236. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission (FPC) have been implemented in the ESI to bring the doctors and nurses working therein at par as per the guidelines of Director General Health Services under the Ministry of Health;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor;

(c) whether the said criteria is being applied in the case of Dietician working under ESI;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (e) The pay scale notified by the Central Govt. on the basis of the recommendations of the Vth Central Pay Commission have already been extended to the ESI Corporation employees w.e.f. 1.1.96. The Dietician in ESI Corporation has been granted the normal replacement pay scale on the basis of the pre-revised scale as recommended by the Vth Central Pay Commission.

Directorate of Maize Research, Pusa

2237. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed and achievements made by Directorate of Maize Research, Pusa, under ICAR, in physical and financial terms, since its inception, year-wise;

(b) the time originally scheduled for completion of

the project and the time by which it is expected to be completed now; and

(c) the fate of the employees deployed therein on casual/contract basis after completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEONARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The Directorate of Maize Research (DMR) was established in 1994. The objectives of the DMR and its achievements both in physical and financial terms year-wise, since inception, are given in statement-I and statement-II enclosed.

(b) and (c) The Directorate of Maize Research (DMR) is not a time bound project but a regular plan scheme and its research programmes are approved on plan to plan basis to fulfil its objectives. In addition, the Directorate also implements a number of time bound research projects and staff engaged therein on contract are totally on temporary basis governed by the terms of the contract or the job requirements. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research/ Directorate of Maize Research has no liability of any kind for such contractual workers.

Statement-I

Objectives of the Directorate of Maize Research (DMR)

- a) To undertake basic and strategic research activities with respect to germplasm enhancement like tolerance to abiotic and biotic stresses, quality improvement, specialized uses, etc.
- b) To co-ordinate interdisciplinary research activities as follows :
 - i) strategic and applied researches for genetic improvement in yield, quality and resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses.
 - ii) Development of efficient package of practices for increasing productivity.
 - iii) Tailoring maize for diversified uses for industry and other sectors.
- c) To organize activities related to overall development of maize. For example: training programmes, on-farm researches, frontline demonstrations, etc.
- d) To render and undertake consultancy services and programmes on maize research and

development for needy agencies/institutions in India or abroad.

- (e) To develop effective collaborative programmes in maize research and development with national and international agencies/institutions.

Achievements

Since its inception in 1994 the Directorate of Maize Research has released sixteen hybrids and six composites for cultivation in the various agroclimatic zones of the country. These cultivars have helped in increasing the productivity from 1493 kg/ha in 1994 to 1806 kg/ha in 2001. The total production has also increased from 9.1 million tonnes in 1994 to 11.9 million tonnes in 2001, which is a significant increase. Special emphasis was laid on development of nutritionally superior quality protein maize hybrids. Accordingly single cross hybrids Shaktiman-1 and Shaktiman-2 were released. The details of varieties/ hybrids released are placed at Annexure-II.

Financial Allocation and Expenditure

There was no separate approved allocation during VIII Plan period for the Directorate of Maize Research as this Directorate's budget was met from the overall allocation of Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. The year-wise remittance from the Council to IARI during 1994-95 to 1996-97 in respect of the DMR and expenditure against that

remittance under the Directorate during the VIII Plan period are given in Table 1. The allocation during IX Plan and expenditure, year-wise, are given in Table 2 below:

Allocation and Expenditure (Rs. in crores)

VIII Plan (Table 1)		
Year	Remittance from Council	Expenditure
1994-95	0.40	0.30
1995-96	1.44	0.76
1996-97	2.90*	2.85*

*including All India Coordinated Research Project

IX Plan (Table-2)		
Year	Allocation	Expenditure
1997-98	1.57	1.57
1998-99	1.07	1.07
1999-2000	1.17	0.96
2000-01	1.26	1.26
2001-02	2.06(BE)	

Statement-II

Maize Hybrids released/notified (1994-2001)

S. No.	Name of the hybrid (with parent)	Grain colour and type	Year of release	Season	Avg Yield Kg/h.	Area of adaption	Source of seed availability
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Full Season Hybrids							
1.	Rajendra hybrid makka-1	White flint	1994	Rabi	4500-5000	Bihar	Dholi/ RAU
2.	Rajendra hybrid makka-2	White flint	1996	Rabi	4500-5000	Bihar	Dholi/ RAU
3.	Paras	Orange semi-flint	1996	Kharif	4500-5000	1st single cross hybrid released for Punjab, Delhi, Haryana	PAU, Ludhiana
4.	Dharwad Makka-1	Orange-yellow flint	1996	Kharif	4500-5000	Recommended for Karnataka	UAS, Dharwad
Early hybrids							
5.	DHM 109	Yellow semi-flint	1994	Kharif	2500-3500	I, III, V (Irrigated) A.P. Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, H.P., J. & K., Karnataka	NSC/ APSSDC/ KSSDC

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Him 1 29	Yellow flint	1997	Kharif	2500-3500	Zone I to V (Assam, Gujarat, H.P., J&K, M.P. Rajasthan, U.P., N.E. States)	Almora/NSC
7.	Prakash	Yellow flint	1997	Kharif	2500-3500	Recommended across the country under rain-fed conditions suitable for baby corn.	PAU Ludhiana
8.	Pusa Early Hybrid Makka-1	Yellow flint	1997	Kharif	2500-3500	Zone IV (AP, TN, Karnataka) Zone V (Rajasthan, MP, Gujarat) performs well at low fertilizer levels	Maharashtra Seed Corporation/ NSC
9.	Pusa Early Hybrid Makka-2	Yellow orange flint	1997	Kharif	2500-3500	Zone IV (AP, TN, Karnataka), Zone V (Rajasthan, MP, Gujarat) perform well at low fertilizer levels	Maharashtra Seed Corporation/NSC
10.	Vivek Hybrid-4	Yellow semi-flint	1999	Kharif	2500-3500	Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh	V. Lab, Almora/NSC
11.	Prakash	Yellow semi-flint	1999	Kharif	2500-3500	Across the country for Kharif	PAU

Maize Composites/QPM hybrids released/notified (1994-2001)

Composites

12.	Mahi Kanchan	Yellow flint	1995	Kharif	2500-3500	Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh	NSC/RAU
13.	Megha	Yellow flint	1994	Kharif	2500-3500	Western UP, Delhi, Punjab, Delhi	PAU, Ludhiana
14.	C6	Yellow flint	1994	Kharif		Jammu & Kashmir	
15.	C8	Yellow flint	1994	Kharif		Jammu & Kashmir	
16.	C15	Yellow flint	1994	Kharif		Jammu & Kashmir	

Quality Protein Maize

(QPM)

1.	Shakti-1	Orange flint with chalky base	1997	Rabi as well as for Kharif		Across the country. Having high lysine and tryptophan maize having hard endosperm with a normal look will help in providing nutritional diet to infants/tribals, etc. as well as to make industrial products like Balaher	DMR/NSC
2.	Shaktiman-1		2001			Bihar and U.P	
3.	Shaktiman-2		2001			UP	

*[Translation]***Conversion of Waste Land into Fertile Land**

2238. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the farmers of Alwar district of Rajasthan have converted the waste land into fertile one by using the method of rain water harvesting and by making small beds;

(b) the contribution of the Union Government to make this method popular all over the country;

(c) whether a large quantity of rain water goes waste every year in the country for want of developed mechanism to collect rain water; and

(d) the number of schemes being implemented by the Government for enhancing water resources in Rajasthan?

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

(b) Rain water conservation and harvesting is an integral component of Watershed development programmes, which are being implemented all over the country. Keeping in view the diverse agro-ecological situations, location specific technologies are adopted for rain water harvesting under the watershed development programmes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Schemes implemented by Government of India for enhancing water resources in Rajasthan are as follows:

1. National Watershed Development project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA).
2. Soil Conservation for enhancing productivity of degraded lands in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR).
3. Desert Development Programme (DDP).
4. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP).
5. Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP).
6. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development Projects Scheme (IAEPS).
7. Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS).

*[English]***SC, ST, OBC Reservation in FPI**

2239. SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the Department/Sub-ordinate and Attached Offices, Public Sector and Autonomous Organisations/Corporations under his Ministry are not nominating Liaison Officers for SCs, STs, and OBCs for ensuring proper compliance of Government instructions in the matter of reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the total number of Organisations/Offices which function as 'Administrative Units' dealing with establishment and staff matters under his Ministry; and

(d) the total number of Liaison Officers nominated for the above referred purpose as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) Liaison Officer for SCs, STs, etc. have been nominated in this Ministry (HQs), its subordinate office, PSU and autonomous organization under the administrative control of the Ministry.

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

(c) Three, namely, one administrative unit for Ministry and its subordinate office and one each for the PSU and the autonomous organization under the Ministry.

(d) Three.

Airport Project for Navi Mumbai

2240. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal, estimated outlay Rs. 11,000 crore for the Kopar International Airport Project at Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra is pending for clearance;

(b) the factual position of the project and the time by which it is expected to be cleared;

(c) whether his Ministry is thinking to establish Air Cargo Hub Project at Nagpur in Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) 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.

(c) and (d) Government of Maharashtra has appointed Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Ltd. as nodal agency for planning and development of a Multi-Modal International Hub Airport for Cargo and Passengers at Nagpur. MSRDC has appointed M/s Ramboll Engineers Ltd. to undertake a Techno Economic Feasibility Study for the proposed Hub who has submitted their interim report. The proposal at present is at a preliminary stage.

Indian Airlines Faces Spy Plane Hazard

2241. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item under captioned "IA faces spy plane hazard" appearing in Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated October 6, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Mumbai ATC authorities were instructed by the Government not to accept a formal report of the near 'air miss' and the pilot lodged only oral complaint with Indian Airlines Flight Safety Department; and

(d) if so, the preventive measures taken in this regard?

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

(b) Indian Airlines flight IC-974 operating from Muscat to Cochin on 19th September, 2001 had filed a written report indicating that during the flight Traffic Collision Avoidance System got activated and gave an advisory climb which was followed by the pilot. This indicated that there might have been an aircraft nearby. The airmis incident was reported by the Commander of the flight.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

National Wage Policy

2242. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate a National Wage Policy in order to make right to work as a fundamental right;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether a uniform wage policy is likely to be formulated for men and women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) Formulation of a National Wage Policy has not been contemplated on considerations of issues such as prices, employment, productivity, social justice and capital formation as well as structural features of the economy. In view of this, there is no proposal to make 'right to work' as fundamental right.

(c) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 which provides for fixation, revision and enforcement of minimum wages in the scheduled employments, does not discriminate between male and female workers.

The Government have also enacted a legislation namely Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 which ensures equal wages to women workers for the same work or work of similar nature. The Act provides for fine/imprisonment for making discrimination between men and women workers in violation of the statutory provisions of the Act.

Fund Allotted to FPI

2243. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the year-wise (financial year) details of the funds allotted to the Department of Food Processing Industries during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have failed to encourage Food Processing Industries;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to make the department people-oriented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) Plan funds allotted to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries during the last three financial years is given as under :

Year	(Amount Rs. in Crores)
1998-1999	30.00
1999-2000	40.00
2000-2001	50.00

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The Government have taken a number of policy initiatives to promote the growth of processed food sector in the country. Some of these are as under which clearly indicates that the role of Ministry is People-oriented.

(i) Under the plan schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, financial assistance is provided to private industries, public sector undertakings, Non-governmental Organizations, Co-operatives, Human Resource Development Organizations and Research & Development Institutions etc. for the development of processed food sector.

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

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

(iv) Approval for foreign equity in automatic route is available for most of the processed food items except alcohol and beer and those reserved for small scale sector, subject to certain conditions.

(v) From the Budget Year 2001 - 2002, excise duty for processed fruits and vegetables has been brought down to zero from 16%.

(vi) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries 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.

Procurement of Oilseeds

2244. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to procure 5 Lakh tonnes of oilseeds;

(b) the estimated production of oilseeds during the current year;

(c) whether the Government propose to procure more quantity of oilseeds in case of higher production;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have announced the procurement price for oilseeds;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the time by which the procurement price of oilseeds is likely to be announced?

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

(b): The targeted estimated production of Oilseeds during the current year is around 280 Lakh MTs.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, in case, the ruling market price of Oilseeds fall below the Minimum Support Price, the Government agencies will undertake procurement under Price Support Scheme (PSS).

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Government of India has announced the following Minimum Support Prices for various Oilseeds under PSS during the current year, the details are as under:

Sl.No.	Commodity	MSP (Rs. per qtl.)
1.	Rape Seed/Mustard Seed	1200
2.	Safflower Seed	1200
3.	Groundnut (In shell)	1340
4.	Soyabean (Yellow)	885
	(Black)	795
5.	Sunflower Seed	1185
6.	Sesamum Seed	1400
7.	Niger Seed	1100
8.	Copra (Milling)	3300
	(Ball)	3550

(g) Question does not arise.

Development of Tourism in Uttar Pradesh

2245. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI C.N. SINGH :

RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals received by the Union Government from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for tourism development;

(b) the projects of the State approved during the Ninth Plan;

(c) the names of proposal cleared/rejected by the Government along with the funds allocated, project-wise; and

(d) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Financial assistance is provided to State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism projects prioritized in consultation with them every year. Ninety two projects of Uttar Pradesh have been sanctioned during the first four years of Ninth Plan.

(c) and (d) Details of the proposals sanctioned for Uttar Pradesh are as under:

Year	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-1998	13	221.10
1998-1999	33	789.55
1999-2000	30	749.58
2000-2001	16	149.21

In complete/deficient projects not sanctioned in any particular year are considered again when these are reprioritized in the subsequent financial year.

[English]

Bird hits Accident at Mumbai Airport

2246. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the aircraft are facing problem of bird-hit accidents at Mumbai airport; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) There has been no accident at Mumbai Airport due to bird hit. However, 23 bird hits to aircraft have been reported during the current year (till date) as against 28 in the preceding year 2000.

(b) Surveys around the airfields are carried out and appropriate measures are taken by the Airfield Environment Management Committee to check the sources of bird attraction. Besides, continuous efforts are made for scaring the birds and to remove the sources of bird attraction inside the airfields.

Foreign Training to Officers of FPI

2247. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government selects/sponsors/nominates/ deutes Officers for training to reputed Foreign Institutions for improving their academic, managerial, technical and administrative capabilities in various fields and disciplines where cost of such training is borne by the sponsoring countries/agencies under bilateral/ international agreements;

(b) if so, the number of persons under his Ministry who underwent such short/long term courses during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of SCs, STs and OBCs among them and their percentage;

(d) whether adequate representation is being given to SCs, STs and OBCs in selection of officers for training abroad; and

(e) if so, the details thereof during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) Government selects/sponsors/nominates/ deutes officers for training for which cost is borne by the sponsoring countries/agencies under bilateral/international agreements.

(b) During the last three years only one officer underwent short-term training in the year 1999.

(c) One (SC), 100%.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) An officer of SC category was deputed in Nov 99 on a four-week training to participate in TCDC programme in Sri Lanka - "Food Processing as a small business" sponsored by UNDP.

[Translation]

Minimum Support Price by NAFED

2248. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether orders have been issued to NAFED to play active role for providing minimum support price to farmers for their agricultural produce;

(b) whether NAFED propose to purchase rabi produce of farmers at minimum support price this year in different States especially Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chattishgarh and Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Minimum Support Price for major agricultural commodities is declared by the Government of India. NAFED is the Central Nodal Agency for procurement of Oilseeds and Pulses under Price Support Scheme. NAFED will procure these commodities in the country including the States of Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chattishgarh and Madhya Pradesh if the prices fall below the MSP and the quality conforms to Fair Average Quality (FAQ) standards fixed for the purpose.

(d) Question does not arise.

[English]

Soil Erosion on Sea Shores

2249. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to spend Rs.1275 crores to control soil erosion on sea-shores; and

(b) if so, the amount allocated to Karnataka Government so far for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) The Central Water Commission had prepared a consolidated National Coastal Protection Project (NCP) for Rs. 1275.74 crore on the basis of the proposal received from the maritime States. This proposal is undergoing modifications due to revision of the proposals of the maritime States. For finalization of the modified consolidated NCP, by Central Water Commission, the modified proposals complete in all respect are required to be submitted by the participating maritime States/UTs which are awaited.

(b) Since the NCP is at formulation stage, the question of allocating any amount to the Government of Karnataka for the purpose does not arise.

Deployment of Officers in Foreign Countries to Promote Tourism

2250. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether some officers of his Ministry have been sent to foreign countries to promote tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether some of these officers were deputed in violation of the prescribed rules and orders; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and action taken against the erring officials?

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

(b) Details of officers and staff posted in Government of India Tourist Office abroad for the last 3 years are as under:

Post	1998	1999	2000
Regional Director	02	00	01
Director	04	01	01
Assistant Director	04	01	04
Information Assistant	00	00	02

(c) No, Sir. Officers and staff are deputed /posted in Government of India Tourist Offices abroad strictly as per guidelines framed by the Department. Officers and staff who fulfil the eligibility criteria as per said guidelines only they are posted in overseas offices. However, wherever required and the circumstance so warrant officers and staff are posted abroad giving relaxation to the said guidelines duly approved by the Hon'ble Minister. However these are the exceptional cases.

(d) Does not arise.

Oilseeds Production

2251. DR. C. KRISHNAN :

SHRI VAIKO :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have released any funds to NAFED and other agencies to increase the oilseeds production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the gap between oilseed supply and demand in the market;

(d) whether the farmers are switching over to other cash crops: and

(e) if so, the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) Ltd. is a central nodal agency to carry out the purchase operations of oilseeds on Minimum Support Prices (MSP). The State Departments of Agriculture are the implementing agencies for the implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) to whom release of funds is made directly under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP). The States have flexibility to involve other agencies like State Oilseed Growers Federations, State Seed Corporations and State Agricultural Universities and other Cooperative Organizations. Funds are also provided to ICAR for production of breeder seeds and conducting frontline demonstrations.

(c) The country is not self sufficient in the production of oilseeds/edible oils and there is a gap between

demand and supply which is met through import of edible oils. To increase the production of oilseeds in the country, a centrally sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in implementation in 28 States covering 408 selected districts. Under the programme, various incentives by way of subsidy are being provided to the farmers in order to motivate them to take up oilseeds cultivation on a large scale. Recently MSPs of various oilseeds have been increased to motivate the farmers for undertaking the production of these crops on large scale.

(d) There is no report from any state about the switching over to other cash crops from oilseeds but due to the inclement weather conditions the area under oilseed crops has shown a declining trend.

(e) To increase the area under oilseed crops as well as the production of oilseeds, financial assistance by way of subsidy has been increased under various components of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) from the year 2000-2001 and procurement of oilseeds is done under Price Support Operation by NAFED when the market prices fall below MSP.

Financial Irregularity in EPFO

2252. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

SHRI ANIL BASU :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial irregularities amounting to several crores of rupees in acquisition of land and construction of office buildings/staff quarters in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) have come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken in the matter?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Palm Cultivation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2253. SHRI A. P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the existing palm cultivation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands in view of large scope of palm cultivation there;

(b) the total area under palm cultivation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands at present;

(c) whether any proposal for setting up a major project for palm cultivation is pending with the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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. In view of ban imposed by Ministry of Environment & Forests during 1986, the expansion of the existing palm cultivation in Andamans and Nicobar Islands is not possible at present.

(b) The Total area under palm cultivation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is 1593 ha. at present.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Water Source in Western Rajasthan

2254. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether scientists have discovered a 107 km long stretch water source in western Rajasthan in Thar desert;

(b) if so, whether any efforts have been made to make use of this source of water;

(c) the extent to which it is likely to be benefited to the State;

(d) whether the Government propose to constitute a high level study team on this issue including exploitation of water for drought prone areas in Thar desert; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) Ground Water exploration carried out till date has revealed existence of significant fresh ground water deposits in parts of Thar desert.

(b) Ground Water is being used for water supply and also for irrigation purposes. The estimated use of ground water as on 01.01.2001 is 3997.23 MCM (Million Cubic Metre) for irrigation purposes and 548.45 MCM for domestic purposes.

(c) to (e) Government have taken up special contingency plan for Accelerated Ground Water Exploration in water scarcity and drought prone areas in the State of Rajasthan. During drought, the ground water sources constitutes a dependable source of water supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

Appointment by A.S.R.B

2255. SHRI PYARE LAL SANKHWAR :

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ICAR is appointing officers on various Research Management positions on the recommendations of the Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board (ASRB);

(b) if so, the number of such officials appointed during each of the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the details of the terms and conditions of such appointments?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1998-99 - 20

1999-2000 - 31

2000-2001 - 10

(c) The Appointment on Research Management Positions are made on tenure basis for a period of 5 years subject to renewal of tenure for further period not exceeding another 5 years. After completion of tenure(s) the incumbents are liable to be transferred to a matching position in any of the ICAR institutes according to the operational needs of the

Council. Such appointments are subject to rules of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Rules & Bye-laws and other Regulations of the ICAR Society.

Surplus Stock

2256. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to export Onion to clear the surplus stock;

(b) if so, the total tonnes of Onion released by the Government for export; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The Government has decided to allow export of onion within a ceiling of 5 lakh MTs. during the current year 2001-02.

(b) and (c) The Government has so far released a total quantity of 3 lakh MTs. of onion for export. The above quantity of onion has been placed at the disposal of the designated canalizing agencies for export either directly or through registered exporters.

Oilseeds Production Programme in Andhra Pradesh

2257. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of areas of Andhra Pradesh which are covered under Oilseeds production programme (OPP) of the Union Government;

(b) the assistance being provided by the Government for increasing oilseeds production in the State;

(c) the achievements made during each of the last three years;

(d) whether more districts of the State are to be identified for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The districts in the State of Andhra Pradesh covered under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) are Adilabad, Anantapur, Chittoor, Cuddapah, East Godavari, Guntur,

Karimnagar, Khammam, Krishna, Kurnool, Mahboobnagar, Medak Nalgonda, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Rangareddy, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Warangal and West Godavari.

(b) An amount of Rs.805.00 lakhs as central assistance has been allocated to the State of Andhra Pradesh for implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) during the current year to increase the production of oilseeds in the State.

(c) The achievements in the production of oilseeds in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years are as under :

Year	Achievement ('000 tonnes)
1997-98	1424.1
1998-99	2465.8
1999-2000	1470.4

(d) and (e) Under Oilseed Production Programme (OPP), flexibility has been given to the State to identify more districts for expanding the oilseed cultivation.

Diversion of EPF

2258. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether an unauthorised money amounting to Rs.18.61 lakh were diverted from Employees Provident Fund Organisation for a purpose not authorised by the legislature as reported by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG);

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

(c) the action being taken by the Government to the errant officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) In order to publicise the programmes and achievements in the areas of provident fund, pension, and other important decisions/developments in the field of social security for the benefit of the provident fund subscribers and also for information of the general public, the EPF Organisation generally brings out advertisements periodically. The EPFO is a statutory body and under the respective schemes necessary provisions exist to meet the publicity expenses. Achievements of the organisation from part of the achievements of the Ministry of

Labour. Opportunity is availed, at times, to include some other achievements of the Ministry of Labour in the advertisement of the organisation.

[Translation]

Flood Control Scheme in Andaman and Nicobar

2259. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rs. 2 crore allocated for Flood Control Scheme in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, has not been utilized completely;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor whereas the bank erosion in the State is increasing every year;

(c) whether the said amount is being diverted for other purposes;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) whether any survey has been conducted on the bank erosion and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (f) Flood Management being a State subject. flood control projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments and Union Territories themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. The assistance as being rendered by the Central Government are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

As per information available, no flood control scheme costing Rs. 2.00 crore has been received from the U.T. of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Also no information has been received regarding bank erosion.

[English]

Harvesting of Rain Water

2260. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Water harvesting bid hailed" appearing in Hindu dated September 2, 2001;

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

(c) whether the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has appreciated the efforts to conserve water and revive traditional methods of rain water harvesting done by the Government of Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the amount of grants given by the Union Government to the State Government in tackling water harvesting problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A news-item captioned "Water harvesting bid hailed" has appeared in Rajasthan edition of the Hindu - daily newspaper dated 2nd September, 2001. The news-item states that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has appreciated Rajasthan's efforts to conserve water and revive traditional methods of rain-water harvesting and have expressed desire to work together with Rajasthan in areas like land use and water management, drought mitigation, preparedness and risk reduction.

(d) The Central Ground Water Board has approved and sanctioned 13 schemes in the State of Rajasthan for roof top rain water harvesting at a cost of Rs. 71.41 lakhs under its pilot Central Sector Scheme on artificial recharge of ground water.

Bifurcation of ICAR

2261. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bifurcate the ICAR into food and non-food crops;

(b) whether ICAR has not been able to focus on commercial crops;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to improve the present functioning of ICAR;

(d) whether fully autonomy is likely to be given to regional offices of the ICAR; and

(e) the steps proposed to make ICAR more productive and also result-oriented in its research and other activities?

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

(b) No, Sir. ICAR has been able to focus on commercial crops. There is an exclusive Division to Crop

Sciences. The Crop Science Division organises research on Cotton, Sugarcane, Tobacco, Jute and Allied Fibres in addition to other crops. National Research Institutes and Centres for All India Coordinated Research Projects on Cotton, Sugarcane, Jute and a Network Project on Tobacco are established in various parts of the country.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Various steps have been taken for making the research more productive and result oriented. There are eight Subject Matter Division, namely; Crop Sciences, Horticulture, Engineering, Natural Resource and Management (NRM), Animal Science, Agricultural Extension, Education and Fishery Division. The Subject Matter Divisions identify the various priority areas and the work on various research projects is carried out with the objective of enhancing the production and yield of various crops.

Research is conducted at four National Institutes, 45 Central Institutes, 30 National Research Centres, 10 Project Directorates, 4 Project Bureaux and 80 All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRP).

For speeding up research efficiency, many arrangements have been made. Quinquennial Review Teams (QRTs) have been set up and they review the working of the National Institutes, Central Institutes and National Research Centres. Besides, Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and Scientific Research Committees (SRC) and Institute Management Committee (IMC) have been set up for evaluating the progress of the research projects of the Institutes. Thus necessary steps have been taken to make ICAR more productive and result oriented.

Water Quality Assessment Authority

2262. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Water Quality Assessment Authority to oversee the water related issues;

(b) if so, the composition thereof and the guidelines under which such authority function; and

(c) the extent to which the water related issues are likely to be solved?

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

(b) The composition of members of the Authority as per an Extraordinary notification in the "The Gazette of India" dated 22.6.2001 is given below :

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------|
| 1. Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests | - | Chairperson |
| 2. Addl. Secretary and Project Director, National River Conservation Directorate, M/o Environment and Forests | - | Member |
| 3. Chairman, Central Water Commission | - | Member |
| 4. Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources | - | Member |
| 5. Adviser, National River Conservation Directorate, M/o Environment and Forests. | - | Member |
| 6. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation | - | Member |
| 7. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Urban Affairs & Poverty Alleviation | - | Member |
| 8. Chairman, Central Ground Water Authority | - | Member |
| 9. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board | - | Member |
| 10. Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi | - | Member |
| 11. Director, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur | - | Member |
| 12. Commissioner (Water Management), Ministry of Water Resources | - | Member Secretary |

The Authority shall exercise the powers under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for issuing directions and for taking measures with respect to matters referred to in clauses (ix), (xi), (xii) and (xiii) of sub-section 2 of section 3 of the Act.

(c) The Authority shall direct the agencies (government/local bodies/non-governmental) for the following :

(1) to standardize method(s) for water quality monitoring and to ensure quality of data generation for utilization thereof;

(2) to take measures so as to ensure proper treatment of wastewater with a view to restoring the water quality of the river/water bodies to meet the designated-best uses;

(3) to take up research and development activities in the area of water quality management;

(4) to promote recycling/re-use of treated sewage/trade effluent for irrigation in development of agriculture;

(5) to draw action plans for quality improvement in water bodies, and monitor the review/assess implementation of the schemes launched/to be launched to that effect;

(6) to draw scheme(s) for imposition of restriction in water abstraction and discharge of treated sewage/trade effluent on land, rivers and other water bodies with a view to mitigating crisis of water quality;

(7) to maintain minimum discharge for sustenance of aquatic life forms in riverine system;

(8) to promote rain water harvesting;

(9) to utilize self-assimilation capacities at the critical river stretches to minimize cost of effluent treatment;

(10) to provide information to pollution control authorities to facilitate allocation of waste land;

(11) to review the status of quality of national water resources (both surface water & groundwater) and identify "Hot Spots" for taking necessary actions for improvement in Water Quality;

(12) to interact with the authorities/ committees constituted or to be constituted under the provisions of the said Act for matters relating to management of water resources;

(13) to constitute/ Set-up State-level Water Quality Review Committees (WQRC) to coordinate the work to be assigned to such committees; and

(14) to deal with any environmental issue concerning surface and groundwater quality which may be referred to it by the Central Government or the State Government relating to the respective areas, for maintenance

and/or restoration of quality to sustain designated-best-uses.

[Translation]

Deficiency of Potassium

2263. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether deficiency of potassium has been noticed in the soil of agricultural land throughout the country due to the shortage of fertilizers;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check potassium deficiency in the soil of agricultural land; and

(d) the assistance proposed to be provided to the farmers to increase the use of fertilizers in farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) There is no shortage of potassic fertilizers. Based on analysis of soils it is noticed that the crop available potassium is in short supply in some of our soils. The application of potassic fertilizers is recommended in such soils.

(d) Government gives subsidy/concession on fertilizers to keep their prices affordable by the farmers. During 2001-02 a provision of Rs.14170 crores has been made in the Budget for payment of subsidy/concession on sale of fertilizers.

National Pulses and Oilseeds Production Project

2264. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the National Pulses and Oilseeds Production project, less funds have been sanctioned by the Government to Madhya Pradesh in comparison to previous years during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any request from Madhya Pradesh to increase the said funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto and the time by which the required amount is likely to be given to the said state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The allocation of funds as a central share to the State of Madhya Pradesh under Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) and Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) during the last 3 years including the current financial year are as under :

Year	Rs. in lakhs	
	Allocation under NPDP	Allocation under OPP
1999-2000	630.00	1290.00
2000-2001	398.00	960.00
2001-2002	200.00	840.00

(c) to (e) A request for the enhancement of funds of Rs.1020.50 lakhs under National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) and Rs.1997.00 lakhs under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) was received from the State of Madhya Pradesh and it was not possible to increase the allocation of funds. The reduced allocation has been on account of reduction in the outlay for annual plan for oilseeds and pulses due to paucity of fund and has affected all the States. The state of Madhya Pradesh has already been informed about the position.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 737(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2001 making certain amendment in the Notification No. S.O. 60(E) dated 27th January, 1994 issued under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4511/2001]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English

versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4512/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934 :-

- (1) The Aircraft (Third Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 382 in Gazette of India dated the 21st July, 2001 together with an Explanatory Note.
- (2) The Aircraft (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 299 in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2001 together with an Explanatory Note.
- (3) The Aircraft (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 413 in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 2001 together with an Explanatory Note.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4513/2001]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2000-2001.
- (2) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4514/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2000-2001 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 4515/2001]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2000-2001 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 4516/2001]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of
- Co-operative Sugar Factories Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 4517/2001]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 4518/2001]
- (5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Madhya Pradesh State Dairy Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year, 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh State Dairy Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year, 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 4519/2001]
- [English]
- 12.02 hrs.
- MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA**
- SECRETARY-GENERAL :** Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :-
- I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held today, the 28th November, 2001, adopted the following motion in regard to presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 :-

"That the time appointed for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999, be extended upto the last day of the 194th Session of the Rajya Sabha."

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (DELHI SADAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, nine thousand buses have been taken off the road in Delhi. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH (CHHINDWARA) : Please complete your point. Don't keep it incomplete. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : First notice is given by Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Ramji Lal Suman. I have his notice.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice. ... (Interruptions) Sir, and this have happened thrice, I never asked you. ... (Interruptions) You deny of having recorded my notice and when we enquire about it, it happens to be there. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Everybody will be called, I have a list. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : For whom you said during Question Hour.. (Interruptions) Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. You have given me an opportunity to raise such as serious and important issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not disturb the 'Question Hour'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, nine thousand buses have been taken off the road. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You will also be called.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : It will take considerable time.

MR. SPEAKER : You will be called.

12.05 hrs.

RE : REPORTED STATEMENT OF
PRIME MINISTER ON POTO

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr.

[English]

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Fifth Report

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (CANARA) : Sir, I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on 'Functioning of Family Courts.'

[English]

12.03½ hrs.

MOTION RE : TWENTY-NINTH REPORT OF
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS,
MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD
MAHAJAN) : Sir, I beg to move the following :

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 29th November, 2001."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 29th November, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House shall take up 'Zero Hour'. Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak.

(Interruptions)

Speaker, Sir, Notice for adjournment motion can be given at any time. You did not allow us to speak so we kept quite. Reality is that we follow your order because we fully respect you.

My question is a serious and important one. Yesterday, Hon'ble Prime Minister spoke about three things in a huge gathering in Hyderabad. Everybody in the country should fight unitedly for the unity of the country and against the danger at national and international level. But the Prime Minister himself has given such a statement which perhaps impose allegation on people of India, particularly muslims, and the opposition....(Interruptions)

His first point was that opposition was not co-operating with government on POTO to fight against terrorism. (Interruptions) I know that BJP feels uneasy while I speak.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : Mulayam Singhji. If you cooperate, there will be no problem. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the country and opposition is united to fight against terrorism. But the government is too weak and incapable to fight against Terrorism. ... (Interruptions) The first thing he mentioned was that the opposition is doing politics on the issue of the POTO. Second thing is that government is fighting against terrorism but opposition is not cooperating and the third point has been published in Indian Express which is as under :

[English]

"The Centre, Atal Bihari Vajpayee said, was firm on introducing the POTO Bill in Parliament is a section of the people is trying to create unrest in India with the help of a neighbouring country."

[Translation]

It is clear that a section is helping terrorists at the instance of the neighbouring country or with the help of a foreign country. It has kept the muslim community of the country in doubt. ... (Interruptions) In my opinion it provides this meaning. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (OUTER DELHI) : Guilty mind is always suspicious. We did not say so.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Whenever there is any threat to the security of our country, muslims have fought against it whole heartedly. There are not more than two percent muslims in our Army but, Mr. Speaker, Sir, to my

knowledge, 14 to 16 percent muslims laid their lives in Kargil war. As all of you know, there were patriots like Abdul Hamid and Ashfaq-Ullah-Khan. So by doubting muslims, situation will turn dangerous. If you show affection to them and take the people of Kashmir in Confidence. I assure you that the people of Kashmir will themselves uproot the terrorism.

Secondly, your second charge is that we are indulging in politics. I say that the Government and the Bhartiya Janata Party is indulging politics.

Recently in a meeting held in Amritsar, Home Minister was of the opinion that if POTO is passed they will gain political mileage and if not they will also gain political mileage. Who is indulging in politics? When the mosque in Ayodhya was demolished, who was celebrating? When Journalists asked to protect and to provide security you were celebrating at that time? You were saying that this is a great day, eat sweets. Who is doing politics? Bhartiya Janta Party is doing politics.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhji, this is 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It is a weak government, there is no need of POTO. Dasmunsi, POTO is the most dangerous legislation. There was not a law as dangerous as POTO. Congress Party have kept me and you in Jail for 20 months. We should learn from it. Nothing will be gained by blaming the congress. It is being said that it will be reviewed. The review board had said that Shri Mulayam Singhji was burning books in the Jail and uprooting the railways tracks. It is that board who kept you and me in Jail for 20-20 months. You do not repeat this mistake as committed by congress earlier. You will be here in opposition very soon. Do not politicise the issue you do not want to fight against terrorism. Who freed Maulana Azhar Mahmood? I apprehend that it was done to save the citizen but Hon'ble Prime Minister what was the need of sending External Affairs Minister with them. This weak Government is bringing forward dangerous and fascist laws by branding current laws as defective. This Government cannot suppress our voice against its weaknesses by bringing such fascist laws.

As far as terrorism is concerned we, of all people, are dead against it. You are not fighting against terrorism. If terrorism has to be finished, then I had told one and half years ago that they should go and see the training camps where terrorists are getting training and attack them if they have the courage instead of attacking Muslims and committing atrocities on them. They are repeatedly telling Pakistan that our patience is getting exhausted. Why are

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

they losing their patience ? If you want peace and happiness in south-east Asia then you should retrieve that 40% of Kashmir, which is under illegal occupation of Pakistan. ...*(Interruptions)* and tell Pakistan President Mr. Musharraf to return that part of Kashmir to India. You should oppose it with full strength. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not a simple issue, will they raise doubts about our patriotism? You did not get a chance to participate in the freedom struggle. You raise a finger on our patriotism. Therefore, we denounce and oppose this statement of the Prime Minister. Prime Minister's statement reaches across the whole world and is read in every home. The Prime Minister is putting the unity of the country in jeopardy by giving such a message. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : If debate is carried on like this then four people each should be invited to speak from this side and that side.

MR. SPEAKER : Malhotraji, you will be invited to speak.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA) : Sir, I am of the considered view that the Prime Minister was guilty of grave impropriety when he made adverse comments in the context of POTO legislation. I would like to put the record straight. The POTO was promulgated just a few hours before the notification for the Winter Session was issued. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Jaipal Reddy is saying.

*(Interruptions) ...**

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the code of conduct should not be made applicable unilaterally. It should be made applicable bilaterally. It should be made applicable to both the sides. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : All of you will be invited. Raghunath Jha ji, you will also be invited. Take your seat, please.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have to understand the anxiety of other Members also. They are coming at 10 o'clock and

giving notices. But their names are not being called. So, you have to understand their anxiety also, Shri Raghunath Jha, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

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

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : All of you will be called. Why there is so much disorder?

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, it is very clear that the Government promulgated the Ordinance with narrow political motives. I may further say that the NDA itself was not consulted even before the Ordinance was promulgated. We, as political parties, expressed grave reservations about the draconian features of POTO. In spite of that, the Government went ahead with the Ordinance. In fact, we tendered a public advice to the Government not to go in for the Ordinance. The Government wanted to confront the country with a *fait accompli*. It is very clear that the Government was politically motivated. Now, the NDA was consulted after the Ordinance was promulgated. Just when? It was when the Prime Minister offered to consult the Opposition Parties. There was no need for the Prime Minister to have made all those comments. It is in poor taste and reflection on the Office which he is holding. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will you not call us to speak?

MR. SPEAKER : You will be called after Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had told me that you will call me after Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and now you are saying that you will call me after Shri Somnath ji.

MR. SPEAKER : You will also be called.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should call three persons from here also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAGMANI (CHATRA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our issue is important. Bihar police is harassing the Director General of Police of Jharkhand.

MR. SPEAKER : Take your seat. You will also be called.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Sir, I have no doubt that all of us sitting on this side of the House are greatly concerned with the terrorist activities that are going on in this country. But the Prime Minister wishes to make it a partisan issue. Apart from promulgating the Ordinance for which no justification has been shown till today, only on one occasion it has been utilised, that is, in Kashmir and within 12 hours, that order has been withdrawn. What was the urgency? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

You should read the learn something and then speak.

[English]

Do not interrupt others. You have never seen that thing.

[Translation]

He has been made a Minister and has since become hot headed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that Ordinance was passed even without consulting the NDA allies. It appears there are already murmurs in different political parties which are allying with them. I do not know why they are allying with them.

So far as the Opposition was concerned, we found that Home Minister tried to impute motives on the Opposition parties by saying that they were helping the terrorists and making them happy by their opposition. Then, there was a discussion in the Consultative Committee for two days. We were definitely told that Prime Minister is going to call a meeting and that before that it would not be done. The Prime Minister has no patience to call a meeting. We have been waiting for that. Now, he goes to Hyderabad. In the presence of Shri Chandrababu Naidu, with 29 MPs supporting this, suddenly he became so encouraged, he starts abusing the Opposition and accusing the minorities. What is this? What is going on in this country? We strongly object to this. Of course, what is the meaning of this? It has come in quotation in the newspaper. I quote :

"Which is this section of people who are trying to create unrest in India?"

Which is that section of the people that he has in mind? ...(Interruptions) Not only that, he says that a section of the people is creating unrest with the help of a neighbouring country. Is he referring to the Opposition parties that we are taking the help of the neighbouring country to create unrest? I would like to know as to which is this section of people that he has mentioned. Is it not the minority that he is referring to? The Prime Minister of India makes such aspersions against a section of the people without producing any evidence and without keeping his assurance to discuss it with the Opposition parties. The Home Minister has committed that. We cannot but strongly protest against this deliberate attempt to trying to create an atmosphere in this country that only they are patriots and we are not patriots. We can never accept this position. We strongly object to this. Let it be known, once for all, that POTO will be opposed. There is no doubt about that. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, for a long time now, it has become a tradition that a question is raised during Zero Hour without giving a notice, all members of opposition get up. On the question of POTO. ...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Few days back, 50 minutes of the House were wasted when he was discussing on the question of Bangladesh. You did not raise this objection that day. But today, you are making an objection on such a serious question. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : I had given a notice and had taken permission for that and I had spoken after taking the permission. ...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is going to be a comprehensive debate on the issue of POTO in this House. POTO ordinance will be passed and for that POTO Bill will be placed here. ...(Interruptions) At that time all the issues will be put here in to to during the debate. Earlier, meetings of two Consultative Committees were held. The Prime Minister is going to call a meeting where all this discussion will take place. ...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : We are waiting(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : But in the meanwhile what type of things are being said today. ...(Interruptions) If they are mentioned here, the speech of Mulayam Singh ji made outside Parliament struck a different note, the same is

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

the case with the speech of Sonia Gandhi ji, Sonia Gandhi ji said that irrespective of whether a meeting or anything else is held on POTO, the Bill is Draconian and we will keep on opposing it. They will do all this *(Interruptions)* What the Prime Minister asserted. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : What wrong we have done, will we not speak? There is a difference between ours' and Prime Minister's responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : There is a big difference between yours responsibility and that of the Prime Minister.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra's speech.

*(Interruptions) ...**

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, these words uttered by the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : The Prime Minister has to be responsible, it is not necessary for you. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : It is not necessary, this is what he is saying. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the speech of Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

*(Interruptions) ...**

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, There is a report in the newspaper about the number of ISI agents of our neighbouring country caught in Hindustan. Hundreds of ISI agents are arrested everyday. These people are creating unrest in the country on the arrest of all these agents. Will you stand up for the ISI agents also saying that they should not be arrested and should the Prime Minister not say that the ISI is spreading unrest in the country?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Today, the Prime Minister will seek your opinion on what he has to say and he will look into those clauses which are being sought to be deleted from the bill. But, yesterday seven people were shot dead by attacking a Barat in Udhampur.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We strongly condemn the incident.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : 50 people were killed in Udhampur in the last 50 days. Parents of two Muslim persons, who were with the Government, were killed. Houses of Ministers are being blown up in Andhra Pradesh. Is there no need of curbing terrorism in the country? And you are worried about their human right, you are looking at their human rights? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : I will take less time than Somnath ji and only one third of the time taken by Mulayam Singh ji. When this Bill was introduced in America, then nobody from the opposition opposed it. And nobody opposed it when it was introduced in England. When they introduced the Bill on Terrorism while in power, we supported them wholeheartedly while being in opposition. We did not expect that when we would come to power, the opposition would raise the question of human rights of those murderers and those who have been unleashing terrorism. ...*(Interruptions)* Opposition is playing politics and they will keep on politicking till the UP election is over. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : MR. Speaker, Sir, whenever Prime Minister calls a meeting and if the opposition wants to give constructive suggestions, they are free to do so. But they do not want to take any suggestion and their aim is only to oppose in every way. If they say that they want to oppose the Bill, one can understand it. ...*(Interruptions)* Somnathji had said many things. Why the ordinance was prepared there, why do Bhattacharya had made the ordinance there, why the Bill was brought forward in Karnataka, why the Bill has been made in Maharashtra. This bill is quite moderate as compared to those bills and we are ready to soften it further. This kind of dual policy will not work. On one hand, you want to make bills in your own states and on the other hand you want to oppose the same. Here, this will not do. We expect from you to support the Government to check the terrorism. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mulayam Singhji had mainly raised two questions in regard to the speech of the Prime Minister delivered in Hyderabad. One of them is related to POTO, the object of which is to make is legislation to control the terrorism and other is related to the incidents which are being caused by our neighbouring country. But I have a doubt in my mind and that doubt is further getting firmed by the manner in which the opposition is making a hue and cry. It is confirmed that the action is being taken to enact the POTO legislation and the manner in which terrorist activities are taking place in every State of the country. *.....**(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prabhunath Singhji, please conclude your speech.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a lot of noise, how can I put forward my views. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, the Hon'ble Member has levelled a very serious allegation. This kind of attitude is not desirable in the House. Hon'ble Member may either prove his allegation or should apologise. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Akhileshji, you please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Akhileshji, you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prabhunath Singhji, you please conclude your speech.

...*(Interruptions)* **

MR. SPEAKER : Akhileshji, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : No, Sir, the House cannot run like this. Mr. Prime Minister is sitting here and he is witnessing all this like a silent spectator. It is a serious allegation. He should prove the allegations levelled by him. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seat, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If it is objectionable, it would be withdrawn.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude, Shri Prabhunath Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. What are you doing?

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, it is an absolutely false allegation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prabhunath Singh ji, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : He should apologise. He cannot level false allegations like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)* ...*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, you have to speak very carefully.

*Not Recorded.

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. What are you doing?

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH (GONDA) : He has said that the Prime Minister wants to divide the country.
...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have asked Shri Prabhunath Singh to speak carefully. It is an allegation. If it is objectionable, it would be withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, he has made an allegation. If it is objectionable, it would be removed from the records. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, you have to speak very carefully. What are you doing? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my words have hurt the feeling of the people. ... (Interruptions) It was said in this House that Mr. Prime Minister wants to divide the country. Was this not an objectionable thing? When we mentioned it, it became an objectionable thing. ... (Interruptions) *.....* (Interruptions). This may be got examined. ... (Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, please conclude now.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Prime Minister is sitting here. He should tell us. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, please conclude. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Allegations can be removed from the records.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, whatever you speak, you have to speak very carefully.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Kumari Mayawati.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is being said on the floor of the House that we are terrorists. The Leader of the House is present in the House. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (DEORIA) : Prime Minister is dividing the country, you have mentioned it. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have told you that allegations can be removed from the records.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is objectionable, it would be withdrawn.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, you are setting a bad precedent.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no; I have already said that the

...(Interruptions)

..... Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

* Not recorded.

words can be removed from the records. Now, Kumari Mayawati.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI (AKBARPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter relating to terrorism is very serious and it is not good in the interest of the country. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are also not allowing him to reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is going to reply. You are not allowing him to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwala, the Chair has already asked the Member to withdraw those words. Now, Kumari Mayawati.....

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI : Let me speak for two minutes. Our party is against the terrorism. If the NDA Government want to make any legislation against terrorism, like the new legislation made with the name of POTO, we feel that there is no need for such legislation as there are lot of laws already enacted in this regard. Even then a new legislation has been made by the NDA government with the name of POTO. It was very necessary to take all the parties into confidence before making such legislation, but the leaders of all the parties were not taken into confidence. This makes it very clear that we are witnessing the politics of NDA behind this ordinance. The biggest proof of this is that the Home Minister of this country had mentioned in the recent past that the ordinance which has been issued with the name of POTO, whether or not it is passed by the Parliament, our party has got the benefit which it was expecting from it. It means that we witness the politics of NDA behind this ordinance. I believe that if you make any legislation to combat the terrorism and try to include politics in that, the Bahujan Samaj Party will

not allow any politics in that. It is not fair that you play the game of politics in the name of POTO. We want that you may make a legislation to combat the terrorism but you should make that law by taking all the parties into confidence, only then we would support you in every matter, but if you would try to gain the political advantage from this, I believe that it is not fair. The POTO legislation which has been made, the ordinance which has been promulgated in hurry, we oppose it but we are not the supporters of terrorism, we are against it. If any kind of politics is done in the name of terrorism or encouragement is given to the governmental terrorism or to the communal forces in the name of it, I believe that it is not in the interest of this country. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister that whatever legislation you want to make, you should make it after taking all the parties into confidence.

There is a need to put a check by various constituents of the NDA. They also say that the opposition of POTO by all the opposition parties is not in the interest of the country. It implies that we all have turned traitors. This kind of a thing that whosoever opposed POTO is a traitor, has also been voiced by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Rajnath Singh. There is no terrorism except the terrorism by the Government of UP. If there is any terrorism it is in Jammu & Kashmir. Our party is ready to support the Government in every matter but it is not good to do politics on this pretext and dub us as traitors. Hence, the government should take a decision after a lot of thought and deliberations.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Sir, Shri Somnath Chatterjee has mentioned about TDP MPs and our Chief Minister. I want to say something.

Sir, everybody knows terrorism is a main challenge for our country. Since 50 years, India has been facing this challenge. The world has now realised about terrorism. My party and I studied this POTO and MCOCA, Maharashtra Government laws. Even the Government of Karnataka also wants to legislate some laws and everything. So, my Party's stand is very clear. In the Chief Minister's Conference, our Chief Minister has stated categorically that we are supporting the POTO, but we have some reservations. Previous laws were misused by the official authority. We have to make some safeguards. We have to combat terrorism in this country. So, that is our main motto.

For that, we have to discuss this in Parliament. If any safeguards are required, we have to suggest them. But the Government is also willing. Even the State Minister for Home categorically said, 'we are ready to change, we are ready to make any amendment.' So, in the interest of our country, if any safeguards are required by any section of our people, we will suggest. But I am asking this. Even some Acts are legislated by the State Governments whose parties are in

[Shri K. Yerrannaidu]

the Opposition here. I read the statement of your Chief Minister. Even recently, his State Government also wants to legislate an Act to control the organised criminals in Kolkata. ...*(Interruptions)* So, in this context, in the presence of Chief Minister, our hon. Prime Minister made a statement. Already, our Chief Minister, in the Chief Minister's Conference, supported this POTO with some reservations. At the time of discussion, we have to suggest some way.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : It had been heard many a time that the Prime Minister is convening an all party meeting, but that kept on being postponed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a discussion. This is 'Zero Hour'. Please understand this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called the Prime Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called the Prime Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are raising matters, but you are not listening anything even from the Prime Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR) : I thank the Prime Minister for yielding and giving me the opportunity.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, this is not a debate. This is 'Zero Hour'. How can I call all the Members in the 'Zero Hour'?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Our Party objects to the statement made on behalf of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI NAGMANI : Mr. Speaker, I have also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER : Your notice is about Jharkhand. You will get a chance.

[*English*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : The statement indicates that we are opposed to the actions taken against the terrorist movement. Nobody has suffered as much as this Party has suffered at the hands of the terrorists. This should not be forgotten. If any Member say that we are opposing the Ordinance and we are supporting the terrorists, that is a wrong interpretation. That kind of interpretation cannot help. If any Member on the floor of the House gets up and says that you are with terrorists, Sir, simply expunging this remark from the record is not sufficient. He should have been told that this is not the kind of thing which is to be done here. What is coming out and what has happened with respect to POTO is politics.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already told the Member to speak carefully.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shivraj Patil, the hon. Prime Minister has yielded to you. Please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, I am thankful to the Prime Minister; and I am thankful to you also.

What I am saying is that if we consider what happened with respect to the POTO, one fact is coming very clearly. That fact is that a lot of politics is connected with this POTO and it is because of this that people have apprehensions in their minds.

If somebody is saying that double-talk is being made here, we could quote the speeches made by Members of the Treasury Benches who opposed the TADA. That is why we would like that a matter like this should be dealt with in a very careful manner.

[*Translation*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion started over the adjournment motions. There was an accusation that I have hurt the feelings of a particular community in the course of my speech at Hyderabad. An effort has been made to make a clear mention of it in the discussion. It has been said that I am apprehensive of the patriotism of the members. It is wrong. Mentions of this kind in the House is not going to create harmony in the country. The question of raising

question marks over the patriotism of a particular community does not arise. In the course of my speech in Hyderabad yesterday I had said that if there is any apprehension in the minds of the minorities in this regard, it should not be there as it is not against them and will not be used against them. It is the terrorists who are its targets and not thing. It is objectionable to say so? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Yes it is. It is police who will interpret POTO.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : During my speech I had also said that the Government want to take everybody alongwith them in this matter and I exhorted and made an appeal to the opposition to reconsider its decision and stand on this issue and cooperate with the government. Is it also wrong to say so? It is not true that the opposition is not cooperating still? *(Interruptions)* The opposition has yet not specified as to what objections does it. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Akhileshji, what are you doing?

(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : There will be debate in a democracy. The majority will speak its views. Those who are in the minority will also try to express their views strongly. I fail to understand the accusation that politics is being done is wrong? We are here to do politics. *(Interruptions)* Why have we come here? *(Interruptions)* There should be no politics in it. The idea behind it is that we should not set aside national interests and act according to party politics. Has POTO been brought keeping in view the political interests? You can say that it can be misused. When you were in power and we were in opposition we also used to say the same thing. However for them we never created an atmosphere so as to oppose legislation take POTO to this extent. Still protests is being made and it is being replied also, ...*(Interruptions)* Now if the opposition wants me not to speak in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* if the leader of the opposition can speak then why not me. However, objections are being raised over my speech and the question of propriety is being raised.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Objection is raised when you try to provoke. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : People listen to my speech, the question of provocation does not arise. While I was speaking yesterday. I had mentioned that the leader of Telgu Desam supported the legislation in the Chief Ministers Conference but some doubts needed to be cleared and necessary amendments brought its passage. The

Government are ready for that. I want that the Congress party should clarify as to what objections does it have and what shortcomings does it found in this legislation. There are also people in the country who are of the view that the legislation is not that strong as it should have been. Will the country not have a right to express such a view? People believe it honestly. The situation prevailing in the country at present has never arisen earlier in the history of independent India. Just saying that such situation prevailed earlier is not going to serve any purpose. It would have been better had the Government consulted the opposition before issuing the evidence. However, the right to the ordinance cannot be challenged. It could be an issue of protest and a point for the same purpose. Should the entire legislation be opposed? Should there be no law against terrorism in the country? Please tell, what sort of legislation should it be. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that let us take this decision to a higher level. It polttics was done during the question hour in the morning today, what else was it then? All the MPs and Chief Ministers had decided that no protest shall be raised in the question hour - Is this decision not binding on Shri Mulayam Singhji? Had this question been asked at 12 O'clock instead of 11 O'clock however was not going to fall. It was done because he wanted to do politics and project himself as the greatest protester among the opposition ranks.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It is true.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : It it is not politics, then is it social service?

13.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir I had appreciated in the morning. ...*(Interruptions)*...

You have tried, with great efforts and with the cooperation of all, to formulate a code of conduct - "Prathamgrase Makshikápatha" There should be no question hour - why it should be there? One of our former Lok Sabha speakers is present here. When we were in the opposition he used to lay emphasis that there should be no interruptions during the Question Hour but it is politics. However, if one side starts doing politics, soon it will done by other sides also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It was you who started it first.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, right from the beginning we have in favour of deliberations It was suggested that we should invite the leaders of opposition

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

and so are we going to do. The meeting is going to take place at in the evening and this meeting will include the opposition leaders. We will exchange our ideas in it. I am certain that a consensus will be evolved under which the freedom of common man will be protected. We want that no section of the society should be hurt, there should be no apprehensions in everybody's mind and the country's national resolve to combat terrorism should also be fulfilled.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 P.M.

13.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till
Fourteen of the clock.*

14.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at Four
minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Matter under Rule 377 listed for the day are to be laid on the Table since business of Discussion under Rule 193 at 2 o'clock has already been listed on the Order Paper. So, they will be taken as laid on the Table of the House.

14.04½ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

- (1) **Need to provide stoppage of Gonda Agra Fort Gokul Express at Bichhia railway station, U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY (BAHRAICH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 5315/5316 Gonda Agra Fort Express running through my parliamentary constituency has no stoppage for a stretch of 10 kilometres between Mahinapurwa to Tikonia station. Bichhia is an important station. The Government offices like Central State Farm, Post Office, Telephone office, Police Station etc. are located there. Passenger in large numbers come for resuming their journey to different places from here. This express train runs on metergauge. The stoppage of this train at Bichhia station will not affect its speed as the speed of this train running on metergauge is not much. It is neither safe from security point of view for the passengers

of Bichhia to catch train at Tikomia station nor the road traffic is convenient for them.

Therefore, I urge the Central Government to issue necessary directions in regard to providing stoppage of Gokul Express at Bichhia station in the public interest.

- (ii) **Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Gujarat for providing adequate electricity in rural areas of the State.**

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (DHANDHUKA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, electricity has not reached many villages in Gujarat till date, as a result of that even in the twenty first century they are living in darkness. Though Gujarat Vidyut Board is making all the efforts to supply electricity to every household. It is not able to supply adequate electricity due to huge loss suffered by it. The farmers have installed tubewells for irrigation purposes. The cost of tubewell ranges from Rs. 1.5 lakh to 3 lakhs. Despite spending so much money, they are looking for electricity connection. Tubewells are lying idle, crops are drying up and the farmers are reeling under debt burden.

I request the Government to provide special financial assistance to Gujarat Vidyut Board. It should be supplied coal and gas at lower rates to keep the power stations, functioning, so that electricity could be supplied to farmers industries and all the deprived lot.

- (iii) **Need to start air service between Kolkata and Delhi via Ranchi**

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the formation of Jharkhand state, Ranchi became its capital. After becoming the capital, the activities of business centres and State Government have increased rapidly as a result of which demand of air service has increased. Earlier, there was air service between Ranchi and Kolkata, but for the reasons not known it has been stopped. For various reasons, Ranchi and Kolkata are closely connected. In order to speed up business activities, there is a dire need to start air service between Kolkata-Ranchi-Delhi and Delhi-Ranchi-Kolkata.

Therefore, through the august House, I would like to request the Central Government to start air service between Kolkata-Ranchi-Delhi and Delhi-Ranchi-Kolkata.

* Treated as Laid on the Table.

(iv) Need to supply additional electricity to Madhya Pradesh

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (SATNA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after formation of Chhattisgarh, and division of electricity units between Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, most of the electricity generating units have gone to Chhattisgarh. As a result of this which there has been grave power crisis in Madhya Pradesh. The state is not able to supply even half of its requirement of electricity, due to which electricity supply in rural areas has become negligible and the farmers are not getting electricity for irrigation of Rabi crops. The people and farmers of Madhya Pradesh are hit by power crisis.

Therefore, the Government of India should assist Madhya Pradesh in getting electricity from Chhattisgarh and other neighbouring states and also provide financial help to this state for power generation in future.

(v) Need to review the working of Crop Insurance Scheme particularly in Gujarat.

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (BANASKANTHA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Crop Insurance Scheme for farmers. This causes loss to farmers whereas this crop Insurance Scheme was implemented so as to provide relief to farmers in the aftermath of natural calamities. In my parliamentary constituency, Banaskantha, crops were insured for Rs. 10,000 so as to avail the benefits of crops Insurance Scheme in case of drought. But the farmers received only Rs. 2000 or an amount less than that as insurance benefit whereas it should be implemented as accidental insurance policy. The insurance companies do not conduct any survey and do not have the knowledge of natural calamities.

Through the august House, I would like to request that an inquiry should be held. Crop insurance scheme completely reviewed and a policy which would be helpful to farmers in the right earnest in case of a natural calamity, should be formulated.

(vi) Need to resume air services from more places in Bihar

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the formation of Jharkhand State, Patna is the only left airport in the State of Bihar. It may be noted that some decade ago, the airport in Muzaffarpur was operational, and the Indian Airlines and the Vayudoot planes operated their flights from there. Similarly, Vayudoot Services were also available. There is a need to resume air services from both these airports. If air services are available from Gaya and Rajgir

also then tourism linked with Buddhist circuit could get an immediate boost. For this, construction of an airport Rajgir is also needed. There is also a need to resume Vayudoot services, which were earlier available, at Raxol which is situated at Indo-Nepal border. This service would be beneficial in boosting tourism linked with Nepal. There is a need to set up cargo handling facility first at Patna airport and then at Muzaffarpur to send goods by air. Through the House, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and request them to do the needful in this regard at the earliest.

(vii) Need to release another instalment of funds under Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana by Centre to Karnataka

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (GULBARGA) : Sir, under Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana, the Government of Karnataka had requested the Government of India to release second instalment of funds amounting to Rs. 292.25 lakhs for Gulbarga district for the year which is still awaited. On 31.3.2000, the Government of Karnataka has released its share of Rs. 217.50 lakhs where as the share of the Government of India for Rs. 72.50 lakhs to the district is still pending.

State Government of Karnataka has requested Government of India on 24.4.2000 to reimburse the amount released. The Government of India has not responded so far.

I, therefore, urge the Government of India to kindly release the amount immediately to the Karnataka Government.

(viii) Need for all-round development of Uttar Dinajpur district of West Bengal

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Uttar Dinajpur district is a newly born district of West Bengal having no infrastructure for industry. Literacy rate is very low as per last census. Islampur subdivision is having basic problem of urdu medium of instruction. Urdu speaking students don't have sufficient scope and medium of instructions in college and secondary schools at Goalpokhar, Chakulia, Islampur, Panjpara etc. There is no college and exclusive Girls Higher Secondary School in Goalpokhar and Chakulia. These matters are related to the sufferings of minorities. Therefore, Government of India through Minority Commission and Home Ministry must take due cognizance of it before 10th Plan is ready. Uttar Dinajpur must be given special area development status in 10th Plan. Flood management of Uttar Dinajpur

must be examined with the rivers of Bihar and neighbouring country Bangladesh.

(ix) Need to safeguard the interests of workers engaged in Coir industry of Kerala

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : The coir industry in Kerala is facing a very serious crisis. The present tariff policy is very much detrimental to this cottage industry giving employment to nearly 5 lakhs of women workers in the coastal areas of Kerala. The Central Government had stopped all subsidies given to the industry and also the contribution to their welfare fund. The workers have declared a strike because of starvation. I request the Central Government to take urgent steps to save this ancient cottage industry from ruin.

(x) Need to ensure minimum wages to handloom weavers of Tamil Nadu

DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN (ARAKKONAM) : Sir, there are lakhs and lakhs of handloom weavers who are working in the State of Tamil Nadu, particularly in the silk town of Kancheerapuram, Arakkonam, Cheyyar, Walaji, where they are not getting minimum wages, despite agreement made between Handloom Weavers Union and the contractors. More than one lakh handloom weavers families are affected by the non-payment of agreed wages by the contractors. They are in pathetic conditions requiring the attention of the Central Government. They should be given free electricity as being given to farmers.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government, particularly the hon. Minister of Textiles to look into the matter and to take appropriate action to save the handloom weavers and their families from starvation and to ensure minimum wages to them.

(xi) Need to open petrol outlets at certain places in Jahanabad district, Bihar

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (JAHANABAD) : Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas regarding problems being faced by the people of my Parliamentary Constituency Jahanabad (Bihar) due to non-availability of Petrol Pump at following areas/ places.

1. Kurtha Bazar, Kurtha Block
2. Shakurabad Bazar
3. Karpi Bazar in Karpi Block

4. Kako Bazar in Kako Block
5. Ghosi Bazar in Ghosi Block
6. Ataulah Bazar, Karpi Block
7. Makhdumpur Bazar, Makhdumpur Block
8. Imamganj, Karpi Block
9. Tehta, Makhdumpur Block.

Jahanabad is a very sensitive district. The areas are plagued by frequent clash between terrorist groups and innocent people are affected. In view of their convenience and safety, it is most important to have the Petrol Pump at the nearest point to save them from any threat of anti social elements. Under demanding circumstances, we hope that the Government would agree to grant permission to open Petrol Pumps at above places at the earliest.

(xii) Need to provide funds for Panchanganga water project at Kolhapur under river purification programme

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK (KOLHAPUR) : Respected Speaker Sir, my constituency of Kolhapur is covered by Panchaganga Yielding Water for irrigation as well as domestic purposes. There is no proper collection, treatment and disposal due to inadequacy of funds and Panchaganga is getting polluted and hence water quality is becoming bad to worse. This has put the lives of people in danger. The Government of Maharashtra has discussed the issue with the Union Government for providing funds under the River Purification Programme. There was a proposal to get the project revised by competent consultants but the issue not yet is still pending.

Sir, I make a humble request to the Government through your honour to finance the project during the 10th Five Year Plan so that the people of several villages on the banks of Panchaganga are not deprived of quality drinking water.

(xiii) Need to take effective steps to check recurring floods in Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (SITAMARHI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the past many decades Bihar State has continuously been suffering huge loss of lives and property due to floods. This year also more than 200 people have been killed so far. The crops worth Rs. 188 crore have also been damaged. Bihar has to suffer three types of losses due

to flood. First, direct loss due to flood. Secondly, the need of providing relief to flood victims and thirdly, the backwardness in the region due to low rate of development. During the last decades some steps have been taken up to control floods and Rs. 728 crore have been spent for this purpose. 3,454 Km. long embankments have been constructed along the rivers. 336 Km. long nullahs have been constructed but these steps are not sufficient to solve this problem. Taking concrete measures to control the water of rivers originating from Nepal is beyond the jurisdiction of the State Government. The Union Government should come forward to take action in this regard. A Joint Committee has been constituted under the leadership of Secretary of the Ministry of Water Resources, which has visited Nepal once for coordination but this action does not seem to be effective for solving this problem. Therefore, I request the Government to take effective steps to expedite the functioning of the above mentioned committee.

(xiv) Need to link border areas of Bihar and West Bengal on Indo-Nepal border with National Highway

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (ARARIA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the road on Indo-Nepal border which is under P.W.D. of Bihar Government. Linking of this most backward area from Supaul district headquarter to Pipra, Triveniganj, Jadiya, Margama, Raniganj, Araria and N.H.57 to Jokihaat, Gulgaliya via Bahadurganj, Thakurganj upto the Bagdora 31-N.H. will facilitate crores of people of West Bengal in matter of transportation. It will link the three most backward districts upto Bagdogra of West Bengal and provide national highway facility to local people.

I, therefore, request the Government to include this road in National Highway:

(xv) Need to open a Navodaya Vidyalaya in each district for SCs/STs students exclusively in the country

[English]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : There is need to open Navodaya Schools in each district of the country exclusively for SC and ST students which should have facilities for computer education and all other modern facilities.

All necessary support should be extended to reputed and well-established NGOs who are engaged in programmes relating to education/residential schools and other activities for children belonging to these communities.

Adequate hostel facilities should be provided for boys/ girls belonging to these communities which should be attached to educational institutions.

It is requested that necessary action may kindly be taken in this regard immediately.

14.05 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193
AYODHYA ISSUE

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, as you are aware, the Ayodhya issue is *sub judice*. I, therefore, urge upon the House to ensure that nothing is said during the debate, which may prejudice the course of justice in any manner.

I would also urge upon the hon. Members to discuss the matter in as orderly manner as possible and keep the standard of debate high.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Madam, Chairman, I thank you for your observation. I shall abide by your direction. But before I begin my contribution, I would like to point out that the very observation that you have made is being officially flouted both inside and outside the House especially from the Treasury Benches by way of several statements and additions which I can cite. However, it is up to them. I will try to confine my contribution on the very merit of the issue and the latest situation prevailing there.

Madam, this issue is not merely a matter of a particular opinion of a particular group but I sincerely consider that all right-thinking people of this country very sincerely desire a decision in this regard as quickly as possible, as expeditiously as it could be, by the highest Judiciary of this country - the Supreme Court of India. And, cutting across all party-lines, we are all committed that we shall abide by the outcome of the Supreme Court directive and decision in this regard.

Madam, neither you nor me or any Member of this House can question or challenge or can reinterpret the history as to what happened 2,000 years ago or 3,000 years ago or 4,000 years ago. We depend on three specific periods, namely, (a) written document of the history if it is available; (b) the archaeological innovation if it could be; and (c) the matter of collective wisdom to understand an issue.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

Madam, while I say so, I begin with the *Ganga Sagar Mela* in the coast of West Bengal. There was a belief and still Hindus believe that in the *Ganga Sagar*, *Kapil Muni* had the *Ashram* and his all sons sacrificed, got merged and later on came back. So, *Kapil Muni* is considered to be one of the great saints in the Hindu philosophy. But if I desire to construct a temple in the memory of *Kapil Muni*, I cannot do so because the nature had taken away the temple 1,000 years ago in some parts of the Bay of Bengal where it is difficult to detect it. Equally, the right-thinking people having a mind of scientific temper do consider that great Lord Rama whom we all call *Purushottam Bhagwan Ram* who is considered by the literary personalities as a great hero of mercy, and no less than Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore considered him the hero of the Great Epic *Ramayana*. Now, to some people, it could be an epic, literature, to some, it is a religious message which *Ramchandra* gets to a particular community, to a particular civilisation.

In those days when *Ramayana* was written, neither a word called *Hindu* was there, nor a word called *Sindu* was there and nor a word called *vinধ্যa parvat* was there. And, *Ramchandra* emerged in that epic title of *Ramayana* as one of the great heroes of civilisation, of humanity, of kindness and all kinds of great virtues that the human being can possess. We gradually consider such heroes who were born thousand and thousand years ago for the benefit of the mankind as symbol and symptom to fight against evil. Later on, we started practising religion, I do not know on which date it started, I am not a Pandit of the religion. But so far as I understand, the belief of the people in the course of the history makes someone even the representative of the God. No one can dispute Lord Jesus was born even long after Lord *Ramchandra* was born. He was considered to be the representative of God by a big community of the West. They say that Lord Jesus is the representative of God. Equally, this kind of feeling developed in various parts of the world, in various communities.

Now, Madam, no one can dispute that Lord *Ramchandra* and his message should be questioned. No one disputes his eminence in a particular religion. I mean, Hindu religion. In India, cutting across many other religions, it is extremely significant and important.

Madam, you may recall that at one point of time, when *Ramayana* serial was shown in the television every week, how that particular hour was being observed. Every one be it a Hindu or a Muslim or a Sikh or a Christian or others, used to observe that time meticulously with all their love, affection and adoration to *Lord Rama* and his great character in the epic episode of *Ramayana*. I read the story that even in

Faizabad, the Muslim *Rikshawallas* who pull rikshas to earn their livelihood, to have their bread at the end of day used to stop their work, as they had no TV at their homes, to watch the *Ramayana* serial at some tea shop or at somebody's windows at least for 30 to 40 minutes. To them, when the message came that the name *Jai Ram* is not merely a shelter to God who will protect the civilisation but a threat to another community whose life is at stake, the whole concept of Lord *Ramchandra* and his basic message got disturbed deliberately, and the name and fame of tolerance of Hindu religion was questioned by those who are claiming now to be the champion of *Hindutva* and Hindu religion.

Madam, I do not like to go much into the background now. Unfortunately, if I may say so, each political party in this Parliament has a record pertaining to their past. Well, my friends of the socialist movement, be it this side or that side, say that they have got into the politics by the great teachings of *Ram Manohar Lohia*. Some say that they have got into the Congress movement following the legacy of the national movement, the message of *Gandhiji* and *Nehruji*. Some friends in the Communist party say that they are here following the lines of *Marxism* and *Leninism*. But *BJP*, Madam, I am sorry, cannot claim by what background they have come.

I thank the hon. Home Minister for his candid confession in the recently concluded Golden Jubilee Celebration of the then *Jana Sangh* that they are there in this Chair because of the *Ram Janambhoomi Movement*. If a party claims that their existence in the democratic set up to bring them into power is not due to the national struggle, not due to the struggle of the peasants and workers, not due to the struggle of the toiling masses but is all due to the movement of the *Ram Janambhoomi Movement*, which led to the demolition of the mosque, one can understand and read in between how responsible they should be on the very code of secularism as figured in the Constitution of India.

I do not understand at what stage of imagination, the Home Minister *Shri Advani* and the former President *Shri Kusha Bhau Thakre* could say in the meeting that their being in power today is because of *Ram Janambhoomi Movement*. If that is so, does the Home Minister feel that they are practising double standard?

In the 1996 Manifesto, they had said, "Come what may. We shall remove the obstructions and obstacles to create a temple." But later on, they formed the *NDA* and due to the strong objections by their *NDA* constituents, they had suspended the issue from their agenda. Now, they are decisively telling : "We have forgotten this agenda; we have

no desire. We will follow what the Constitution or the Supreme Court says." Therefore, the people have genuine apprehension. Shri Advani will always mind if we say something. We have nothing personal against him. It is not personal to him. We treat him as one of the important leaders of the country. We also do not question his patriotism. But he should please advise us as to how their officers, police force or CRPF or the State Government of Rajnath Singh will carry out the instructions when he is still not cleared by litigation, by a suit in which his name is involved.

This is not you, Shri Advani as an individual, that I am telling this. It is the basic understanding or the functioning of the Government and the propriety. After the demolition of the Mosque in 1993, this very Parliament had passed an Act. That Act gave the total authority to the Government of India and by that authority, the disputed site is under the control of the Government.

The Government took a very casual and a very unfortunate stand in regard to the incident of 17th October. Shri Advani was busy that day, meeting the Foreign Media in his Office. He admitted in his own statement in the other House that when the report of the incident came to him, it took him by surprise. Later on, he tried to inquire. What is that inquiry? It is in defiance of the Supreme Court's directives and in defiance of the security orders that the two leaders Shri Ashok Singhal and Shri Dikshit, with their followers, entered the banned area forcibly—the word used was 'forcibly'; and in the whole estimation of the Indian population, be it Muslims or Hindus or Sikhs or anybody, you tried to show that you have taken them - the constable to the officer - to task by registering a case. A non-cognisable case was registered against Shri Singhal and Shri Dikshit! Shri Advani, can you tell this to the House? The sensitive disputed site of Ayodhya is under the command and control of the Government of India; after the Act of 1993, the security command is jointly operated by the Central Government and the State Government, and the State Government is being run by his own Chief Minister; and for such a great offence committed by Shri Ashok Singhal, the FIR was lodged and a case was registered under non-cognisable offence. Shri Advani, do you not consider it as a cognisable offence, which could lead to disaster and which could lead to many other things? I am not questioning the issues of temple now, but I am now questioning the law of the land. Reluctantly, Shri Advani reports to the Parliament - I can site newspaper reports, if the newspaper reports are correct - and he says,

[Translation]

It is wrong.

[English]

but he does not admit that it was a violation of law; he asks for inquiry from the State Government. What is the distance between Lucknow and North Block? This is again dealing with a sensitive issue of Ayodhya.

The Prime Minister gave a commitment to the nation. I do not know the magic of the Prime Minister. I wish him success. He said that by the 12th of March, he would try to find a solution, though the Prime Minister is not the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Prime Minister might have said that he was trying to achieve a consensus between the communities. It is a good idea and it is a good attempt. We, from the Opposition, never say that the Prime Minister's efforts to talk to the religious leaders and others are wrong. But the fact is that the VHP is threatening, saying that they shall not wait after 12th of March. The Government is very weak; the Government is considering themselves very weak, in spite of being armed by some NDA constituents which claim themselves to be secular. But under the threat and pressure of VHP, the Prime Minister would find a solution by 12th March. Suppose the Prime Minister cannot find a solution by 12th March, will he resign or will he step down? Will he say that he tried to offer a solution, but he could not find any, and so, he is stepping down? We do not want that and we never demanded so. But there is this commitment of the Prime Minister on a very controversial issue like this, where the matter is to be disposed of by the Supreme Court of India and where frequent violent statements are being made by the Bajrang Dal and the VHP every now and then. Yet the Prime Minister committed that by 12th March, he could find a solution.

It is up to you but we, as representatives of the people in the Parliament, also have some responsibility to understand your objective. Why was it done on 17th of October? Shri Ashok Singhal did not do anything on emotions or whims. There was a categorical programme. An agenda was set out. In *Kumbh Mela* the agenda was set out by *Dharam Sansad* specifying that the *Jalabhishek* would conclude on 16th October. On 17th October, Shri Ashok Singhal, in the name of *darshan* reached the *sanctum sanctorum* as if he cannot see Lord Rama without seeing him in that particular spot within 10 years.

These days I find my BJP friends preaching Vivekananda. I wish them well. Let Vivekananda's ideas prevail on them. He said: 'God is not merely in the idols here and there. Serve and love the people. Those who love and serve the people, they see the God with their own eyes'. Shri Advani also carried Vivekananda's photograph in his *Rath Yatra* which was halted by Shri Lalu Yadav at Patna. What is Vivekananda's message? What is Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore's message? Tagore in his famous poetry has said that Lord Rama was not born in a particular secluded place. Lord Rama is born in everybody's heart. He said that those who try to see Lord Rama in a particular place, they do not truly follow his message. In spite of all these contributions of

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

Vivekananda and Rabindra Nath Tagore, some feel that unless on this particular spot where the mosque was there, they cannot get the right to re-establish the history that on this spot only Rama was born and unless a temple is built here the value of *Ramachandra* will be lost. I do not consider them the followers of Hindu religion. Their tall claims of tolerance are also not true.

These days we are hearing a lot of interpretations. Sometimes I feel very sad. Some fanatics of Bajrang Dal asked me.

[Translation]

Dasmunsi! are you not a Hindu?

[English]

I can argue with those fanatics anything from Gita to Ramayana. Our parents teach us Hinduism. We worship Durga, Kali and we also perform the last rites of our father. We do all these things. But we have never read in any book that by threatening or by creating fear or terror one can re-establish *Hinduism* or can glorify *Hindutva*. This has never been the case. Yet this practise is going on. What is the threat? I was coming from Calcutta. In today's *Statesman* I found Shri Giriraj Kishore's statement. Shri Advani still considers these as non-cognizable things. The Vice President, Shri Giriraj Kishore told *The Statesman* :

"We will do whatever we think is correct for the temple construction irrespective of the Government's stand."

"We do not care if the Government goes on this issue." He asserted, "come what may, we will go ahead with the programme". What is the programme? Who is Shri Giriraj Kishore? on the 11th of September, in the United States, a few fanatics of Al-Qaeda backed by Laden hit the WTC. The whole world joined in the war against terrorism. Our dear Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has been, for the last few months, attributing in several of his statements that we have to fight religious terrorism. Who began the religious terrorism? Was it started by the great Mahatma Gandhi, the holy name which you take every day cutting across Party line? He died on the 30th of January, 1948 with a cry of the prayer,

[Translation]

'Ishwar Allah tero nam, sabko sanmati de Bhagwan'.

[English]

When Mahatma Gandhi died, did the Muslims accuse Hindus that they were spreading religious terror? One Hindu called Nathu Ram Godse might have done wrong but the

Hindu civilisation did no wrong. They did not accept it. If the strike of 11th September, is a terror, then what happened to Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992, was also a religious terror. Simply, it was a terror. The terror began in style by desperate and deliberate attempts when Shri Kalyan Singh forgot his affidavit even after filing it in the Court and he allowed the structure to be demolished.

Madam, immediately after that, the President's Rule was imposed. We are not happy even with the style in which our Government functioned on that day in Delhi. We disapprove that. On behalf of my Party, I have the authority to say that this incident was taken up in our party very aggressively. We told our leader that the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, and the legacy of Congress faith in secularism have been questioned by the inaction of Delhi's Government on that day by not attempting to intervene in time. We told Shri Narasimha Rao, that you are a learned figure but we feel that you have to step down from the leadership of our Party. We did say that. We agree that we should have acted more promptly.

But what has been done by Shri Singhal on 17th October? Shri Advani, you might have heard it from the Media Centre where you give interviews. You had enough time to check up what had happened. Shri Rajnath Singh's Government consulted you. For an eyewash, a police officer was punished. Shri Advani, I could tell you, your Government had no courage on that night to arrest Shri Ashok Singhal even for 24 hours. If you had arrested Shri Ashok Singhal on that evening, your Government would have collapsed. Is this the strength by which you are functioning in the Ministry of Home Affairs? Is this the strength by which you are giving confidence to the people of India that everything is all right? The inaction of the Government on that day created a reasonable apprehension in the minds of the people of the country that anything may happen any moment. If I issue a statement as an individual which might lead to communal riot or might hurt a particular community, I think, the Government has every right to detain me. Day-in-and-day-out, Shri Giriraj Kishore and Shri Ashok Singhal are issuing statement after statement. But you are keeping quiet. They want to sanctum sanctorum violating the ban order and you are punishing the poor security people. The Prime Minister gave a statement that

[Translation]

Ashok Singhal has not committed any mistake. This was stated by hon. Prime Minister. Hon. Prime Minister has not said that Ashok Singhal committed a mistake but termed it a security lapse. It was a mistake of security and not Ashok Singhal's. Therefore do not say anything to Ashok Singhal but security should be held responsible for this lapse.

[English]

This is the way you are functioning. Your Chief Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh who is in Lucknow to represent you, also did not have the courage to ask the police to file a cognizable FIR. They have filed a non-cognizable FIR. Madam, I can tell you that — I am not causing any tension — had Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav or Shri Banatwalla or a congressman said that he would go to the site where mosque was demolished come what may, the Government might have taken the property under the Ayodhya Act and they would have detained them under a cognizable offence.

[Translation]

Cognizable case should have been filed in this case but non-cognizable case has been filed because Ashok Singhal was involved in this case. Does Ashok Singhal represent all Hindus.

[English]

Does he alone represent Hindus of India? Do we not belong to the Hindu religion in India? Since when did he become the lord of the Hindu religion?

I condemn the inaction, lethargy and double standards of the Government of India, the Home Ministry in particular and Shri Advani himself who failed to deal with the situation on 17th October. On 18th and 19th October he did not do anything because he had a feeling of guilt. Maybe, a telephone call must have come to him saying :

[Translation]

Advaniji, you have rightly stated that Government of your Party has come to power due to Ram Janambhoomi movement. Therefore this matter should be dealt carefully.

[English]

I do not blame him. He is a human being. He must have always felt that he led the Ram Rath Yatra; he went to the temple area, he himself was arrested and now that he has become the Home Minister, how can he arrest Shri Ashok Singhal? If that is so, then he is not competent enough to handle this threat as a Minister or to take the House into confidence.

Before 12th March they have another programme. Shri Ashok Singhal has said that by February -

[Translation]

There is a function in February.

[English]

millions will gather there, plan their further programme and if things do not improve by then, they will enter on their own. All these things are being said. Did at any time the Government of India say that they wanted him and they shall detain him?

I would like to pose three questions to Shri Advani. My first question is whether or not he as the Home Minister consider Shri Ashok Singhal's entry into the banned area as a cognizable offence? He is not the court and therefore, he is not to give his opinion. It is an administrative action only. If he considers it a cognizable offence, then why are they not apprehended so far?

My second question is as follows. 12th March is the deadline given to the Prime Minister. Somehow if the Supreme Court verdict does not come before 12th March, the Prime Minister also fails to give his so-called decision on this matter after consulting all Parties and if the VHP people take their own stride in the style of Bajrang Dal, what assurance would he give to Parliament today as to how they will protect the status of that site till the matter is not disposed of by the Supreme Court?

My third question is whether the Uttar Pradesh Government convey to the Central Government at any point of time after the 17th October incident that it was only a security lapse and not at all the fault of the VHP and others.

Bajrang Dal is India's new fascists force. It is trying to teach Hinduism not knowing the a,b,c,d of the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Ramayana or the Mahabharata. They know only lathi trainings and shouting slogans like Jal Bajrang Dal. They are semi-fascists. These new fascist forces are the Hindu Al-Qaida to destroy the foundation of Hinduism, that is, tolerance. If Al-Qaida is banned, then Bajrang Dal should also be banned for what they are demonstrating and saying ugly things.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH) : The word 'Al-Qaida' should not come into records. It should be expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Member is mentioning Al-Qaida and Taliban time and again. It is not proper to link the movement of this country with Al-Qaida. ...*(Interruptions)* Whether Dasmunji is on his legs here to advocate Al-Qaida. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Anybody who wants to threaten an opponent in the name of religion belongs to the same hue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has not said anything unparliamentary. If there is anything unparliamentary, it will be expunged. We will expunge what is unparliamentary.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am sorry, they might have misunderstood me. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can reply to it. You will also get a chance to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not disturb. Please do not spoil the debate.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : First of all, one should understand the meaning of the language.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Dasmunsi, you have to conclude now. You have taken 30 minutes.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I can say namaste and somebody can say pranam. Taliban means Talib and Elm.

[Translation]

Students who are imparted training of religion are called Talibans. It is not a derogatory word.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : You are saying Hindu Al-Qaida.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you interrupting, please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Those who try to interpret religion in order to unleash fascism and terror, be it a Muslim or a Hindu, are equally to be condemned. That is our point. Our point is not to defend anybody or topple anybody. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

You have not read it at all then what can I do. Please read it first. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

The Home Minister is, therefore, answerable to the House and the country on the above three questions which I raised. They should say as to when and how the Government will deal with this fanatics. They are spreading communal canards threatening the bedrock of our secularism and also challenging the Government itself saying. "We do not care for you. We will do whatever we like." How will you handle it? These are the few questions I put before the hon. Home Minister. He has totally failed in dealing with the situation.

With these words, I conclude with the request that he must take the House into confidence about what the Prime Minister wants to do on the 12th March. If he failed, then how will he ensure the security of the secular people of this country to prevent all kinds of communal tension till the Supreme Court gives its verdicts?

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (JAUNPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I doubt that in sessions held during 1989 to 2001, there may be any session in which Ayodhya issue was not discussed. It seems that this discussion may continue in future also. It is good that in the beginning of the session itself hon'ble Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has initiated debate on this issue otherwise they had to raise the issue on 4th or 5th of December.

Sir, through you, I would like to say that Dasmunsiji has started his speech with the reference of Kapil Muni, though at the same time he was telling us about his ignorance of even basic things of religion. I think he has conducted a comprehensive study of religion but he could not clarify the concepts of corporeal (Sakar) and incorporeal (Nirakar) God. I would like to make a submission that this country sees Rama present in each and every heart and every particle of the universe at the same time this country sees Lord Rama in Ayodhya, temples and idols too. I would like to quote a couplet of hon'ble Najir Saheb of Banaras :

'Jinhen ankhen khuda ne di,

ve mandir mein khuda dekhen,

Jinka dil ho Patthar sa,

ve bhala Patthar mein kya dekhen.

Sometimes, when our eyes petrify or the eyesight gets weakened then we fail to see the exact or real picture. Since the very beginning, there has been problem that this issue has never been raised here to find out its solution but the intention has always been to take political mileage. He has made this clear. In the beginning itself, I wanted to say that the Chair had given a ruling to maintain the dignity and standard of the debate and I shall follow that. But I would not like at all to follow the standard maintained by Dasmunsiji by uttering the word Hindu Al-Qaida. By the grace of God our language is capable enough to express our views and I do not want to commit any mistake. I hope that like me, he will also listen to my points patiently.

I was saying that he made a mention of Kapil Muni that the temple of Kapil Muni submerged in ocean. Not only the temple of Kapil Muni but whole of Dwarika was submerged in ocean but search of Dwarika is continued even today.

We have not forgotten Dwarika. Therefore, we have built Dwarika on sea-shore for worshipping with a belief that a time will come when we will be able to built Dwarika temple there. The Ram temple of Ayodhya was neither drowned in some sea nor devasted in any natural calamity. It is a historical fact that it was demolished. It is not only a historical fact but 256 evidences proving the facts regarding structure there are safely lying with the court. The case is still under discussion in the court.

Hon'ble member has mentioned about Supreme Court time and again. I would like to tell for his knowledge that this case is not lying with the Supreme Court rather it is under progress in Lucknow bench of Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, dragging Supreme Court in this matter would be inappropriate. At present court is taking witnesses for the 14th issue which includes the fact whether there was any structure like Mandir or Mosque over there before 1528. Our Muslim brothers are aware that we cannot deny the evidences especially the evidences related to any structure. Our Muslim brothers are aware that Mosque is always constructed on a vacant land and not by demolishing the existing structure. As per the belief of our Muslim brothers the sanctity of the Namaj is considered only when it is paid in a mosque constructed on a vacant land.

Today the discussion has been limited only to the issue as to what was there before 1528. Therefore, the discussion should be with reference to the evidences. 265 evidences are in the custody of the court. I would request the Government to constitute an expert committee to study the evidences and decide whether these are acceptable or not. Court should also ponder on these evidences. As far as solution to this issue is concerned, for the first time, hon'ble Prime Minister has given an assurance in the Parliament that the matter would be resolved in a limited time frame. It is a very important assurance given by him. We should understand the dignity of this assurance. One should not talk against it till the due date is over. The month of March is yet to come. I would like to cite an incident in this regard. An ultimatum was given on 19th January 1986 when Shri Vir Bahadur Singh was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. It was said at that time that in case the lock placed on Ram Janam Bhoomi is not opened by the festival of Shivratri, the saints and seers will remove it and go inside for darshan. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is surprising that it was not closed by the orders of any court. I wonder how the lock was placed over there. It must have been decided by the court itself. At that time, neither BJP Government nor the Government of Shri Rajnath Singh was in power in Uttar Pradesh. At that time Congress party was in power there under the Chief Ministership of Shri Vir Bahadur Singh. The case was filed

with the court and was decided within a week. We all are aware of the time taken to settle the civil cases in our country. However, at that time the case was decided within a week that the lock on Ram Janam Bhoomi has no legal entity and the lock was removed before Shivratri. The warning was issued on 19th January 1986 and the lock was removed on 8th February. Similarly, there is time till March for the compliance of the assurance given by the Prime Minister. Prime Minister has stated that he is trying to evolve an out of court settlement to this issue. He has established an Ayodhya cell in PMO under the rules and an IAS officer has also been appointed. He is monitoring and reviewing this issue as to how it can be solved. I feel that although the court has solved issues many a times but ultimately those issues had to be resolved through talks only. The solution to cauvery water dispute in one of the examples. Court gave its judgement on it several times but the matter could be solved only when the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee intervened. I would like to cite one more example. There was a case of 'majars' and graves pending in Banaras. Court gave its decision to remove these structure but the Government failed to do that. There is a need to have a dialogue in this matter also. I would like to say that even if the decision is given by the court that such and such structure should be at such and such place then whether we would be able to follow that order without creating communal harmony among the people. The destruction can take place in frenzy but construction or creation cannot take place in such an atmosphere. Creation takes place only with devotion, trust, harmony and thought. It is possible that a mob can create or construct something. The September 11th incident is being compared with the one of 17th October. There is no similarity between the terrorists attack on WTC on 11th September and the visit of Shri Ashok Singhal to Ayodhya temple for 'Darshan'. It is very strange if both incidents are being compared with each other. ...*(Interruptions)* I had taken assurance from you not to interrupt me. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : All right but please do not misrepresent the facts. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : The main problem with you is that you cannot sit silently even for few minutes. ...*(Interruptions)* in such a situation we should view such incidents in a right perspective. Our approach should be practical and not the sentimental. Otherwise we may not get the true picture of the things. Regarding his going for 'darshan' on 17th September, hon'ble Member has mentioned twice about court and law. Regarding court and law. ...*(Interruptions)* It would have been better had he mentioned the specific court and specific law as I have the judgement given by the court in this regard. Justice Tihari had given a ruling following

[Shri Chinmayanand Swami]

which the devotees had filed a petition requesting permission for 'darshan'. I want to say something in this regard. The site was controversial. Even then the court had allowed devotees to go there for 'darshan' and at the same time the then Minister of Home Affairs Shri S.B. Chavan went there and offered prayers. I was also with him in that delegation. The court directs to do worship on a controversial site. I would like to read the judgement given by Justice Tilhari on 1st January, 1993.

[English]

"Thus considering, the writ petitions are allowed to this extent only that the opposite parties are commanded by issuance of writ of mandamus directing them to allow the petitioners, the Hindus and devotees of Shri Ram Ji to have darshan in a meaningful manner of Ram Janam Bhoomi, Ayodhya from such a distance which may not be disproportionate and too far off. ..."

[Translation]

Sir, I understand that devotees go for darshan from a particular distance. The idol of Lord Rama is of 9 inches only. It is quite difficult for a 70 years old person to view the 9 inch idol from a distance of 51 feet or 15 metres. My submission is that the court has not given any such decision regarding the distance for 'darshan'. The court has clearly mentioned that distance should be fixed in an appropriate manner so that all devotees could have darshan in a meaningful manner. The judgement further stated that :

[English]

"With reference to devotees and pilgrims view and vision from outside but taking note of the security of the idol as well as the surrounding circumstances prevailing."

[Translation]

Here the court has mentioned two points-vision and view. We should understand that there are several saints in Ayodhya who are 70-80 years old and who regularly take dip in the Saryu river and then go for darshan of Ram Janam Bhoomi. On their way to darshan they have to cover 5 km. Zig-zag way. There is another one km road which is only 2 feet wide and where 10 feet long pipes have been installed.

They have to walk through such a narrow path where one can not turn around. One has to cover a distance of five kilometres but even an elderly person is not allowed to take rest while covering that distance. There is a practice in the temples, mosques and gurdwaras that one has to walk barefooted while visiting that place. One the devotees remove

their slippers and have 'darshan' of the deity, there is no arrangement to enable them to put on their shoes again. People have to go upto the place of the deity with their slippers and shoes on.

In the beginning, when the structure was intact, the distance kept for having "darshan" was seven feet, but now the structure is non-existent, the distance for having "darshan", has been increased to 51 feet. Because of this, people have to face difficulties in having "darshan". In addition to it, it has been turned into an office rather than temple. The timing for "darshan" is from seven o'clock to 10 o'clock in the morning and from three o'clock to five o'clock in the evening. "Mangala Aarti" takes place at 4 o'clock in the morning. I remember it clearly when an officer from the commission had taken charge. He left his belt and shoes behind because those items were made of leather. The Aarti at night used to take place at nine o'clock. Now, that practice has been discontinued. People took the matter to Court as they considered that decision wrong, gave his. Then came the judgement of Shri A.P. Vashisth in 1996 which pronounces :-

[English]

"We would like to express in unequivocal terms that, under these proceedings, we are neither scrutinising nor giving directions on each and every matter which is the domain of administrative discretion, and may change from time to time, but having regard to the desirability of maintaining human dignity, permitting meaningful darshan, religious, ceremonial conveniences and such other matters, we have considered and are passing orders in this petition."

[Translation]

What I mean to say is that every devotee of Ram has the right to have darshan of the deity and visit that place. Dasmunsi has declared himself as a Hindu. But he has tried to strike at the very roots of Hinduism by saying that it has no history. I am unable to understand what type of Hindu he is, when he says it has no history. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I did not say all these things. He is just trying to put his words in my mouth. Please check the records to find out that what he is trying to say is correct. I can teach him better Hindu religion than what he is teaching.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Madam, you may go through the records of the proceedings. I was submitting that

a devotee of Ram can have a "darshan" but no provision has been made by the Court regarding the distance to be maintained for "darshan". Another letter has been issued by the Congress also in this regard. Even in that letter there was no mention regarding the distance that should be maintained for "darshan". There are conventions for having a "darshan" which are not being followed here, under the circumstance any person having faith is quite likely to be upset and displeased.

I would like to say that when Ashok Singhal went there to have a "darshan" on 17th October, officers were not present there for granting permission. Constables, can not give him permission for that purpose. He kept on waiting for the officer. When no officer appeared till the time of the closure of the gate for "darshan", he had to perforce exercise the right to have "darshan" by going inside without permission and he indeed went in. But it would be difficult to say that it involved violation of the Court's order.

Another point which I want to make is that Ayodhya is associated with the history, literature and culture of Ram and Ram is associated with the faith of this country. As he said "Ishwar-Allah Tere Nam, Sabko Sanmati De Bhagwan" (Ishwar and Allah are Thy different names, may You bestow good sense upon all'.) Before it, Mahatma Gandhi had said—Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram, Paiti Paawan Sita Ram. ("True to his various opithets like 'Raghupati and Raghav, Lord Ram was the saviour of lowly people and was truly Sita's Ram."). Even today, only the words "Hey Ram" are engraved on the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi. No other word is engraved there. Those were the last words uttered by him. So, we can say that Ram's origin is our origin as well. We shall march upto where Ram is, we are not going to mid-way.

To conclude, I would like to say that in the context of the assurance to the country given by the Prime Minister, it is neither proper nor necessary to create an atmosphere of any kind of tension.

I hope that the programme announced by Vishwa Hindu Parishad are continuing peacefully and will go on peacefully as no information had been received from any State of the country to the effect that anything objectionable happened during their Jal-Abhishek programme. In the same way, no such information has been received regarding their Ram-Naam Yagya which is in progress since 26th November. We shall plead with them to follow the rules and laws and we ourselves express our commitment towards it, but we want to request that there is no need to explain the meanings of words like talibanization of education, 'Hindu Alkaida' which were raised in Rajya Sabha under rule 193. I know that it

may mean something else, but instead of calling one's mother as mother, one can not call one's mother as the wife of his/her father. From the point of view of translation it would be all right to call one's mother as the wife of his or her father but it would not convey the real meaning of the word "mother". So, it would be prudent for honourable Munsiji to call mother as mother and try to refrain from the habit of calling "mother" as the wife of one's father.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not like to repeat the contents of the speech delivered by honourable Priya Ranjan Dasmunsiji, but the forced entry by the leaders of Vishwa Hindu Parishad to the prohibited and disputed area, defined by the Court as such, is quite deplorable, and it should be condemned. This issue should not be viewed from the point of view of politics or political parties, but it is concerned with giving respect to the feelings of all the communities of India. But it is a matter of concern that the Union Government and the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh are making controversial even this issue of the entry of the leaders of Vishwa Hindu Parishad.

14.50 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh openly says that the leaders of Vishwa Hindu Parishad did not go upto the garbha-griha (sanctum sanctorum) and he has said it many times that the leaders of Vishwa Hindu Parishad have not broken any law. The Prime Minister says that it was improper for the Vishwa Hindu Parishad people to have entered that place and they should not have entered that place. But, the Chief Minister still reiterates that they had not made any entry at that place. Then, what was the cause of suspension and transfer of concerned officers? I would like the Home Minister to make a clarification about it. The discrepancy in the statements of the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister should be clarified when a statement about it is given by the Home Minister or the Prime Minister. The matter is being made fully controversial. They should be arrested and sent to jail for breaking law. Why is there any discrepancy in the speech and the statement given at Ayodhya? I would like to say that Vishwa Hindu Parishad and BJP should not be considered as different organisations. They cannot be differentiated. Many of them are Members of Parliament of (Lok Sabha) whom I do not want to name. They belong to Bhartiya Janta Party in the Lok Sabha but they are the leaders of Vishwa Hindu Parishad outside the Parliament. There is Katiyar Saheb of Ayodhya who is a Member of Lok Sabha but he is also the leader of Bajrang Dal. They do not have one face. Bhartiya Janta Party has many faces. Ravana had only ten heads. But one does not know whether

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

15.00 hrs.

BJP has one dozen heads or even more. At some places it is named as Shakti Vahini, at some other places it is called Vidyarthi Parishad or BJP or Bajrang Dal. There are many Sangh Parivars. They have countless faces. But in their hearts they have neither Ram nor the country. They have neither the unity of the country nor patriotism in their hearts. They want only power. You may call them by any name but they have announced at Sangam of their plan to construct the temple from 1st March. ...*(Interruptions)*. They are not religious. A religious person can not be communal and conversely a communal person can not be religious. To call names to a religion and to break religious structures is not religiosity.

If the Prime Minister or the Minister for Home Affairs would have said at the time when they announced the construction of the temple that if the temple would be constructed, it would be constructed on their dead bodies, we could have found some truth in their words. But you cannot say this. We know that when the mosque was demolished, you were celebrating the event. Prime Minister was saying that it is the manifestation of the feelings of the country. He can speak the truth in America but cannot speak the truth in India *(Interruptions)* Here hon'ble Raghunath Jha will say something ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ) : Who got the lock opened, please say something in this regard also.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You are here due to that fault of Congress, otherwise you would not have been there. ...*(Interruptions)* In our opinion, both have done wrong. You used to say it earlier and are saying it today also that they have got the punishment for their mistake but Raghunathji, save yourself. You should not be on either side. Therefore, we want to say that you save yourself from BJP. *(Interruptions)* I want to say to the Minister for Home Affairs that people should have been stopped to do it at that time and the recent entrance should also have been stopped. You relinquish the charge of Home Minister, then you may say whatever you like or do whatever you want to. You said before the Librahan Commission that construction work of the temple is going on. I am proud for that. Now, you would not say that Mulayam Singh is politicizing.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (BUXAR) : It is a matter of votes.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I also want to say the same but we would not say that to you because you have said it yourself and I don't want to repeat. I have already

mentioned it in the morning that you have said that if POTO is passed, we will get its political advantage and if it is not passed, we will get the political advantage. We are aware as to what is your political target? You would also be aware of this fact.

We have a composite culture. I want to congratulate for people of the country for defeating you in the next election for the manner in which you demolished the mosque and its other consequences. Public did not accept that. I do want to say one thing today that if anybody would build a temple there in the name of communalism, or at the cost of communalism or by violating the orders of Supreme court or any other court forcibly on the strength of majority or by force, the people of India will never accept it and we will also fight against it with determination. We have a policy in this regard even today. You say that you would find a solution through discussion. You make a decision. It's solution can be found through discussion with both the communities — Mulayam Singh Yadav was the person who was of this opinion earlier also. I said that it would be better if the solution of this problem is obtained through discussion in the democratic set-up. If it is not possible, there is no other option left except the orders of the court. You should respect the orders of the court but you say that it is the question of our feelings, it is the question of our faith. You have challenged us by saying so. We had said that we can sacrifice the Government but till the time I am the Chief Minister, I would not allow the demolition of mosque even on my dead body. I did not allow the demolition. It was the question of the unity of the country. I did not say anything for pleasing the Muslims. We can't attain the Rule by pleasing the Muslims. We are aware that even if all the Muslims and Sikhs are united and cast their votes in our favour, we can't even come in the Lok Sabha unless and until the Hindus give us their votes, not to think of making a Government. ...*(Interruptions)* You securities were forfeited in elections. There are only three percent Muslims in the Constituencies from where our MLAs have won the elections eight times. Hindus also made your securities forfeited several times. When your Government was there in 1991, efforts were made from all sides. Even then, the Hindus made your securities forfeited. I don't want to go in this, but you must learn a lesson from this. You lost the elections after the mosque was demolished by you on 6 December, 1992. You lost in Uttar Pradesh, in Madhya Pradesh and many other states even if you had fought the election in the name of this incident. You should learn a lesson. If you did not learn a lesson, it might be possible that this number would reduce further and reach to two, which was there in 1980 and 1985. At that time both of us lost the elections. The same situation would prevail again. Therefore, you should learn a lesson. The Government is silent on all these questions. I don't want

to repeat it. But I think that it is also terrorism to say that you would neither abide by the orders of the court nor respect the Constitution or any law. Will the Home Minister tell us what is it, if not terrorism? The atrocities on Muslims and Sikhs in the name of their beards in America is also terrorism. On the issue of temple and mosque, on the basis of such majority, on the basis of strength neglecting the court and not abiding by its orders is also terrorism. You reiterated it time and again that you would fight against terrorism. The person spreading the terrorism himself can neither fight against terrorism in any way nor the terrorism can be rooted out completely. Therefore, how could you fight against it as you are spreading the terrorism yourself. Is it not terrorism? You would not respect the Constitution, you would not abide by the legislation and would say that come what may it is the matter of our faith and sentiments. Then they say to the Chief Minister that he can't win again, therefore the leaders of Vishwa Hindu Parishad have entered the restricted and disputed area to make you Chief Minister again. Whatever statement the Chief Ministers give implies that your eyes are on Uttar Pradesh election and that is why you are inciting the feelings of the people. You have failed at every level. You have ruined the farmers. The shopkeepers and businessmen are against you. Students and youth are all aggrieved. The lawyers were beaten in a brutal manner. No group is with you. You are only trying to find a support. There was a battle in Afghanistan but after that you are continuously trying to commit such acts that can incite the communal feelings of the people. As a result of that you forcibly entered the Taj Mahal complex in Agra. About 24-25 thousand people defaced the Taj Mahal there. Hon'ble Home Minister goes to inaugurate that conference and hon'ble Prime Minister concludes that. After concluding that he comes back to Delhi and in the mean time those people enter the Taj Mahal Complex. They defaced the Taj Mahal. Does the Taj Mahal belongs to Muslims? It is a national property. Taj Mahal has been the identification of India for the last 300 years because it is one of the wonders of the world. Sometimes it was said that we would blot it out, Was it built by the Britishers that you would blot it out? Would you continue to do only this?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are being asked to follow the rule. We clearly say that we neither believe the Uttar Pradesh Government nor the Central Government. We want that a meeting of the National Integration Council should be called. This issue should be raised in this meeting that if they would try to build the temple forcibly, what shall the Government do? There should be a decision on this issue in the meeting of National Integration Council. There is only one solution for this—the decision may be taken through discussion but in the mean time the Prime Minister has said that the solution will be made by 12th March. You please tell us as to what is that solution.

SHRI MANOJ SINHA (GAZIPUR) : If it will be told, how can that be materialised?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we know the construction work has been completed. Only the job installation is left. I know this when you say that it will be known when the Prime Minister will tell. We will stand up to you and extract information from you. If you have deployed police and military there then call them back, call the security forces back. I know that the public will be against it and your vehicle would not get way to pass. I would not like to challenge you in this regard. We are also making statements like you. You are misleading the public. You have fixed the date of 12 March because elections are going to take place till that date. You have said that you will construct the temple if you form the Government in Uttar Pradesh. You formed the Government in Uttar Pradesh but could not construct the temple. Then it was said that the temple would be constructed after forming Government in Delhi but not now the public has realised that construction of the temple and demolition of mosque has only given them pricelike, corruption, unemployment and poverty, neither electricity nor water is available. People are facing severe problems. People want electricity, water, roads and development that is why you will not get any votes on these issues. People have realised that you have spread communalism from place to place. It was done in Gonda. In Agra, people entered Taj Mahal wearing their shoes, they spit there, ruined the grass, tore leaves and made the place dirty by throwing matchsticks after lighting cigarettes there. No one was arrested. I was surprised to read the statement that the supporters of Samajwadi Party entered the Taj Mahal. Had the people of Samajwadi Party entered the Taj Mahal then they would have been lathicharged. Then Satish Fauji was arrested in Banaras while fighting for the cause of the farmers. What was his offence I have asked the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Home Minister.

It was done as an act of vengeance because he participated in the agitation and blocked roads after the assassination of Phoolan Devi. But the real issue against him was that he fought for the farmers and saved their land not only once but twice in Banaras. Now he has been arrested. Who is his father? You will be surprised to know that he is the son of a very great freedom fighter. When his father's condition got critical then many lawyers, political parties and people from your party advised you that Satish Fauji is the son of a great freedom fighter he should be allowed to see his father for the last time but they did not allow him to do so. When his father expired then all the parties demanded to give him permission and I would say that some good people from your party also deemed it right and he was released for four hours to perform the last rites of his father.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mulayam Singhji, please wind up.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please give me some more time. I would understand your signal, now I would wind up soon. I would like to say that the son of such a great freedom fighter could not see his father for the last time. That freedom fighter would not have thought that his son would be in police custody under such harsh sections and he would not get the opportunity to perform his father's rites. Did he struggle for freedom to see this. Such acts are done by the Government.

I asked hon. Prime Minister and hon. Home Minister in the all party meeting even now, threats are being given to collect five crore people and you are not taking any action why are you not taking any action? That is why I am saying that your attention is reverted on the Government and power and you are not paying any attention to the country. I do not want to say anything more but you change your attitude at time when hon. Prime Minister and the allied parties say something. I am not saying that they change when you ask them. But even you have started changing, you have given many such statements, you have made varying statements. But you make these statements according to your suitability. You are aware of the whole thing that is why you have to keep the ruling party as well as the opposition happy. The allurements of power compels you to say such things or give threats. You brand us as supporters of terrorists. In your presence, Prabhunath Singhji has said that all of us are supporters of terrorists and are conniving with them and are responsible for the attack on Kashmir Legislative Assembly. We are in connivance with terrorists that is why the Assembly was attacked. The Chief Minister cried before the members of the Legislative Assembly and it made other Legislators cry too. Say whatever you feel like but poor Mr. Farooq Abdullah can do nothing else but weep. The hon. Prime Minister has not been able to do anything even hon. Home Minister has not been able to save him, if nobody is capable to do anything then Mr. Farooq Abdullah can only cry else. I would like to ask why the Government have not been able to stop terrorists. You can not eliminate terrorism because you have neither will power nor political power and to stop it. The Union Government is very weak. It has become your job to terrorize and threaten by bringing in harsh laws. I want to say this also that Prabhunath Singhji please do not speak in an exaggerated manner about terrorism, do not say many things.

This Sangh Parivar has laid the foundation of terrorism in the country on the same day when Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of Nation was killed and some people supported that act. Sangh Parivar had celebrated the killing of Mahatma

Gandhi in the same manner as was done when Babri Masjid was demolished. The terrorism started on the same day. This is the fact and hence Prabhunath Singh ji has to go on this account. I am telling you that he will not listen to us, he will consider it politics whereas I want to discuss the basic issue. The fact is that the terrorism had started in the country by the killing of Gandhiji. After that mosque was demolished and these people celebrated it all over the country. Similarly, Sangh Parivar had celebrated the killing of Gandhiji and the BJP people over the country have rejoiced the news.

Sir, the terrorism has started in the country on the day Mahatma Gandhi was murdered. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of Nation, was a staunch supporter of democracy. The terrorism started to set root in the country from the day he was assassinated. Therefore, when we called you the followers of America, you got annoyed over us but for our Samajwadi Party leader Janeshwar Mishra, you say that he speaks meaningless. If you are not their follower, then I would like to ask Hon. Home Minister that what was he doing when Pakistan army officers and personnels were fighting alongwith Taliban forces against American army in Afganistan and you were very much aware of it. Similarly, while fighting in Mazar-a-sharif and other cities Pakistan has rescued its personnel safely by sending aeroplanes when talibans were surrounded. Why have not you raised your voice or registered any protest against it, because you are under America's pressure, and that is why you feel bad when we speak the truth and you say that our leader Janeswar Mishra speaks meaningless. You are completely under the pressure of foreign governments, rich countries, and work on their advise. Hence, the present government have harmed the sovereignty, self esteem and the honour of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, all TV channels have reported that when Talibans were fighting against American army, and Pakistan army was fighting along the Taliban side, but when Taliban surrendered, Pakistan has safely withdrawn their army men by sending an aeroplane to Afganistan - but neither the Prime Minister, nor the Foreign Minister and Home Minister have registered any protest to America against this incident - why they have not done so, what are the reasons? Do you want to rule the country under the pressure of foreign countries in the same manner?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that they have given the statement that the war in Afganistan has ended and all Taliban terrorists will now entered into Kashmir and there is a major threat for the country from these terrorists. If there is threat of terrorism and you are aware of it then you have to work alongwith us. You have to set aside law like POTO. You say that America and England have also passed

laws similar to POTO and if such a statement is made by an able person like Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, it is very surprising. I would like to tell you what has been stated in the law passed by America. It is mentioned that POTO will not be applicable on any American. The inquiry will be completed within seven days and if it will not be completed within this period, they will release the person. Would you do this, would you declare that POTO will not be applicable to any Indian, that the POTO will be applicable to all those terrorists that are being sent by the Pakistan and those terrorists who have entered in Kashmir after the end of Afganistan War - can you declare it?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, not to speak of applying POTO on terrorists, they were not even handcuffed and were sent like guests. If they would have been sent alone in an aeroplane, it was all right but our Foreign Minister accompanied with them. What else would be the reason for not taking action against the terrorists. It is not in the interest of the nation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mulayam Singh ji ! please speak all this when there is discussion on POTO. Now you conclude.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding. I will take just two more minutes. Ours is a mixed culture and civilization. Hon. Home Minister when the entire nation is in crisis and there is international crisis, and India is affected by it, then we should work with cooperation and give due regards to the feeling of all so that unity and integrity of the country is maintained and nation can be saved. Don't set your eyes on power only. By coming into power neither can you tackle the terrorists nor Pakistan or Afganistan.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we know that Pakistan is warned every other day. Prime Minister has time and again warned Pakistan that the threshold of his patience is breathed now and he will not tolerate it any further, my patience is running out now.

Such warning is being given to Pakistan but it is not going to result in anything? In this regard, I remember a rural saying in which a newly wedded girl, who is at her in laws place for the first time after marriage, is daily nagged or warned by her husband to do something in some manner or the other.

Poor girl is sometimes abused and threatened and also warned to get something or the other, otherwise to be prepared to face the dire consequences. After coming back to her parents when she meets her friend and pours out her sorrow including the threatening to her which she experienced everyday. One hearing all these her friend advised her

to stand up to her husband after returning her in-laws place and only this would help in changing their attitude towards her. When the girl returned to her in-laws place only to face the same indifferent treatment, she acted according to her friend's advice and this helped in changing the attitude. Similarly, the Prime Minister is also warning and the Government is also doing the same.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, fundamentalism is the actual terrorism. We allege that the fundamentalism which is being spread by inflaming religious sentiments by the people of Bhariya Janata Party should be stopped. You please do not explain about Hindu to us. I have asked great persons like Shankaracharyas that there is no mention about 'Hindu' in our Vedas, Gita or Ramayana. Chinmayanandji is a learned person but he too is aware of this fact. People living near Sindhu river in the East became Hindus whereas no Hindu religion exists anywhere but only exists eternal (Sanatan) religion.

Ayodhya dispute can be settled through negotiations or by Court. Ours is a composite culture. Therefore, we cannot solve this problem by inflaming them against Muslims. I know why all these things are happening. BJP is going to lose, in Uttar Pradesh that is why such environment is being created there. You could not unite the Hindus by dismantling the Masjid on 6 December, 1992 therefore, you should go ahead for negotiations or Court to resolve the issue. If you unite these two communities to resolve this then there would not be any problem because this is the best way in democracy. We have no objection to it but if you do it forcibly in the name of majority then Samajwadi Party with full strength would oppose it.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this issue. I have heard the speech of Mr. Dasmuni, Swami Chinmayanandji and Mulayam Singh Ji carefully. Our Party Trinmul Congress is a constituent of the Government. We believe in secularism. Secularism is the strongest foundation and the biggest pillar of the country. We regard it each and everytime. But there is politics on this issue. I have been elected to the Lok Sabha for the fifth time. This has happened as people of the Constituency have faith on me. I have witnessed the devastating riots on the roads when the Babri Masjid was demolished on 6th December. I have been elected with the blessings of people. Mr. Chairman, Sir, perhaps you may remember that I represent the constituency which was once represented by Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Sahab. None else was re-elected for the second term from that Constituency. But I have been elected with the confidence of the people. I did not want to mention it here

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

but I have to say on 6 December, the incident is somehow taken up for discussion. It is certainly discussed in the house between the 1st and 6th of December.

When the Babri Masjid was demolished on 6th of December, I was a Member of Parliament from the Congress Party. I was a Minister then. I gave my resignation. My resignation was accepted on 18 January, 1992. At that time Shri Narasimha Raoji was the Prime Minister and the present Prime Minister Vajpayeeji was a Member of Parliament, I have heard their speeches too.

Prime Minister and Home Minister have condemned it and not only the Prime Minister and Home Ministers but everyone in the country desire that. The action should be taken according to the law of the land and legal action should be taken against anybody who violates the law and we all agree with it. But this also comes to my mind and I am in the House for the last 15 years and I had been watching that the Governments had fallen in within a year. We have seen that neither any time is given for discussion on economic issues nor social issues in the House but every time there is a debate on the issue of communalism in the House. Some play Hindu Card and some play Muslim Card but we are committed for the national issue.

[English]

Sir, we are playing the communal card for political reasons. But we do play our humanism card and we do not play our rainbow card, the one card which can unite all the people of the country, be they Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians or Parsis or anybody else. They should be together like the colours in a rainbow. It is the national integration of this country.

[Translation]

Should we do all these in the name of politics.

The expediency of politics is such that if our elections are coming closer, we have to play the Hindu card. The expediency of politics is such that if elections are coming closer, we have to play the Muslim card. If there is strength in politics there is no need to play any card. What is needed is the courage. But we have never said this. I do not want to take much time of the House, but I would like to finish my speech after mentioning one or two more things. Mahatma Gandhi who was the leader of our country, was never regarded as a leader of the Hindus or the Muslims, but he was considered as the leader of the nation. No one asks about Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose or Maulana Abul Kalam Azad as to whether they were Hindu or Muslim. Similarly, no

such question has ever been raised for personalities like Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Lal, Bal, Pal, Bhagat Singh etc. who were born in this country and who brought honour for us in the international arena for which, we are grateful to them. But, today, such questions are raised. Why? In this regard, firstly, we will have to go into the root cause of this. Prior to independence, Hindustan, Pakistan and Bangladesh were one nation, but after partition, Pakistan declared itself a Muslim country. Similarly, Bangladesh also became a Muslim country but despite Hindus being in majority. Hindustan did not declare itself a Hindu country but become a secular state.

History, in our country has been divided into three parts. One is ancient history, second is medieval history and the third is modern history. While further dividing the modern history, in two parts, one is sacrifice for the freedom struggle and the second part contains sacrifices which were made for the defence of the country. Out of these two parts, more significant part is with regard to the defence of the country and about independence. If you ask me as to which is the biggest achievement of India, I would say that the biggest achievement is that we are all one. Our unity has remained intact. Hindus are known for their renunciation, Muslims for honesty, Christians for compassion and Sikhs for their sacrifice. This is our dear Hindustan. We can not divide it into parts. Those who sacrificed their entire life for the country, sometimes at the borders of Jammu-Kashmir, sometimes at the borders of U.P. or Nepal, Sikkim, Assam or on the borders of North-East, and those who fight battles are neither Hindus, nor Muslims, neither Sikhs nor Christians. Then we say :

"Pyasi Jamin thi, Lahu Sada diya,
Jism Vatan Ka Karja tha, Unohone Chuka diya"

Sacrificed for the sake of the motherland. But politics is being played, as I have seen in several states. I have seen myself that the opponent party used to ask the voters in the Constituency not to vote for Mamata. They would say that if you vote for Mamata, she would desecrate the holy Kuran and would apply a Bindi on it. I asked them 'would you believe it'. This is also possible. I have never said this. Once in 1990 a Muslim boy struck at me. I fought with life and death. At that time several people said that a Muslim has struck at a Hindu woman. I said, Don't think like that. This is not a Hindu-Muslim issue. This is a political fight. We talk about minority and majority. It is our duty to give protection to the minority. Whether it is not a fact that BJP was being blamed, we did condemn Babri Masjid demolition and two members of the BJP were brought to the seat of governance who were leaders of Hindus at that time. When Babri Mosque was demolished Shri Narasimha Raoji was the Prime Minister. Thereafter, nobody said that on one is the leader of Hindus, none is the

leader of Muslims, we are the leaders of the country. It is necessary to fight against injustice. It is true that differences are cropping up between the minority and the majority communities. We can be wrong also. This was not there earlier in Bengal as to who is Hindu or who is Muslim. We have seen that this feeling is not good for the country. It is our duty to give protection to the minority, similarly it is also our duty to think about the majority. If there are atrocities perpetrated against the linguistic minorities in Bangladesh, no one says that they are Hindus or Muslims and such acts should not be done. It is our duty to protect the minority, but at the same time we should also see that the majority community, whether they are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs or Christians, is also protected.

I would like to submit that the Home Minister has given a very good statement. But the fact is that when a person is in the Government and is in the same party, there is a difference between the party and the government. While in government, the most important thing is to keep the prestige of the government. Advaniji condemned it and at the same time, hon. Prime Minister has also condemned it, but at the same time, legal action should also be taken. If there is some lacuna in the F.I.R. that has been lodged, it should be looked into. There are small and big fingers in our hand but that leader of the country is great who thinks about the progress of the country. You work with courage. You are having blessings and well-wishes of the people with you. I want to say:

"Fanus Bankar Jinaki Hifajat Khuda Kare.

Vah Shama Kya Bujhe, Jise Roshan Khuda Kare"

Lastly, I would certainly like to say that if both the communities arrive at a consensus, it is all right, otherwise both the communities have to accept the verdict of the court.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing here the situation arising out of forced entry by some people into the temple constructed now at the disputed site on 17 October.

Sir, this incident can not be seen in complete isolation. Rather we will have to see it in a perspective. We will have to see it keeping in mind that the politics is being played under some well-planned scheme during BJP rule in this country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is an irony of the history of this country that we saw the country being divided on the basis of religion and the consequences that we faced later on, were perhaps more fatal and dire consequences of last century. In no civilized society, such carnage has taken place and so

much blood has ever been shed as happened at the time of partition. All this happened just because we had divided the country on the basis of religion. Whenever a society is divided on communal basis, the entire structure of the society is affected. Today, we are witnessing the same thing again and it is really an irony of the history of country that today a concerted effort is being made to divide the country on the same communal lines. That is why I said that this incident of forced entry into the temple can not be seen in isolation. We will have to see it in two other perspectives first, you must remember that when the first session of 13th Lok Sabha had commenced and we were discussing President's Address, many of the members from opposition had expressed their apprehension that this government had a hidden agenda and was committed to implement it. The people belonging to BJP want to implement that agenda. But they had their own compulsion and this was their compulsion that there was a coalition Government consisted of 24 parties, most of which considered themselves secularist or secularist party, believed in secular ideologies. Therefore they could not implement that agenda but they started to implement that agenda clandestinely.

Sir, I want to cite some examples which will clear all points. Only after that we will come to this incident, First, history books were tempered with in ICHR. The text books in the syllabus for children in Gujarat were prescribed in a wrong manner over which the Parliamentary Standing Committee on HRD had raised its objection. Only then as action to restore the syllabus was taken. Secondly, there was much hue and cry over Valentine Day at many places in the country. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad clearly made an announcement that it did not care for court orders and would construct temple at any cost. It also told that its activists would enter Taj Mahal and create nuisance and uproar there and sabotage it. The matter of directions by NCERT to CBSE has been discussed recently. Tempering with the books and the saffronization of education went on one after that. Now the incident of coerced entry into the temple has taken place. As a matter of fact, a religious Parliament was organised in Allahabad at the time of Maha Kumbh from 18 to 21 January. In that mela, the whole scheme was announced in a time bound manner. (*Interruptions*). It was a conference of BJP, RSS, Vishav Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal. Now, what is the use of naming all these organisations when all are one. There is no need to cherish any illusion about it. (*Interruptions*) A programme was announced during that conference. I have documents with me. But I do not want to waste time any longer. So I do not want to read it out. But if anybody has any doubts about it, I can read it out. In it, the first programme which was fixed was that Shivocharan and 'Jalabhishek' programme would be conducted from 17 September to 16 October.

[Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi]

Secondly, it was decided to start a campaign for 'Dharam Jagaran' and Yagna which has already begun. Thirdly, the construction of temple was fixed for 12 March, 2002. These were their announcements.

Everyone knows that Shri Ashok Singhal, the executive President of Vishav Hindu Parishad, has already stated that a caution march is to begin from 22 December. The campaign for 'Japa Yagna' and 'Dharma Jagarn' has begun. The incidents at Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has created tension everywhere particularly even in Madhya Pradesh Assembly. The attempts are being made to pitch saffron flag at the house tops of tribal people in Madhya Pradesh. The installation of statues and making tribals wear lockets by them have already begun there. Besides Madhya Pradesh, their programmes have also started in other states. Whatever is happening here is a part of whole plan and I am not ready to accept the plan that Shri Ashok Singhal of Vishav Hindu Parishad alongwith 100-200 people were able to enter the temple and Uttar Pradesh Government and the Union Government had no knowledge about it. Can it be accepted? On that very day the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and Shri Kal Raj Mishra, State BJP President were present there in Faizabad when the incident of entry into the temple occurred. They were there because incase CRPF take any action against them, they all can reach there to help them out. I want to ask you where was your intelligence mechanism then? Either the State Government of Uttar Pradesh or the Union Government should accept that their intelligence had totally been ineffective or accept that they had definite information in this regard. But it was part of their plot and they allowed to organise a programme to provoke the society.

I would like to go into its other background. Elections were held in some states during the last months and the Bharatiya Janta Party and its allies have been defeated in Assam and Tamil Nadu even after their tall claims. None of these parties could open their accounts in Kerala and West Bengal. The MLAs of the BJP toppled the Government of its allies party i.e. Samata Party in Manipur when 19 members defected. Therefore, new equations started emerging within the Bharatiya Janta Party and NDA. It also indicates their feeling of insecurity.

The Government have been criticized in Gujarat and the BJP will remain in power for some days in Gujarat. Whenever the elections would be held in Gujarat, the BJP is going to be wiped out and the Congress party will form the Government there, it is certain. ...*(Interruptions)* You have to see all this in that context. Elections are to be held in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh in near future. In Punjab the Akalis are in power not the B.J.P. The Congress Party would form the

Government in Punjab in near future and if the BJP is defeated in Uttar Pradesh elections then they would not be able to win election themselves in any State in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*...

I do not like to get involved in this controversy. Every party has a right to make tall claims for themselves. I do not have any objection. At least the communal party like Bharatiya Janta Party should not regain power in Uttar Pradesh at any cost. All the secular forces should work in this direction. ...*(Interruptions)* I shall conclude after giving some facts. Main cause is that elections in Uttar Pradesh have become a question of life and death for the Bharatiya Janta Party. BJP constituted a high level group to regain power in Uttar Pradesh. The said group made an assessment. Therefore, the party changed the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal. Once again Hindu sentiments be flared up. Hindutva should be aroused again and religious and communal card should be played to win the elections was a part of that exercise. 12 March was fixed for this purpose. I would like to say with responsibility and I am not ready to admit any other thing. I can quote the statements made by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs. Statement made by Acharya Giriraj Kishore that "we would impart voluntary training to the boys and girls of 18 years of age and the country be made 'Rammaya' before the forthcoming March, 12 so that grand temple be constructed at Ram Janmabhoomi". The President of the Vishva Hindu Parishad Shri Ashok Singhal Ji says, "Either the Government should remove all the obstacles upto March 12, 2002 or be ready to face the struggle". Vishva Hindu Parishad is categorically saying that if you take action against us, your Govt. would not long last. Vishva Hindu Parishad is challenging it. The fact is that it is merely a show off, an illusion *(Interruptions)* Shri Hridya Narayan Dikshit, spokesman of BJP in Uttar Pradesh made a statement. ...*(Interruptions)* All such people made statements. Advani Ji made a statement alongwith Acharya Giriraj Kishore. He clearly admitted before the Librahan Commission that there is already a temple and only a grand temple is to be constructed there. Keeping in view the facts if the dispute with RSS is to be resolved and to win the forthcoming assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, the persons holding responsible posts in the Government thought that Communal sentiments should be flared up again. That day was a part to execute their whole plan. I want to caution you, Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, it is not merely a threat. If you say that you do not have nothing to do with the Mahakumbh programme chalked out by the Vishva Hindu Parisad, if proper security arrangements are not made then it would have dire consequences. Thousands of people will reach there. People are being mobilised from

various quarters, same story will be repeated. You will make a statement, the Prime Minister will make a statement that they could not control the mob, they could not control the public resentment. By saying this you cannot shirk your responsibility. I would like to warn you that make proper security arrangements there before March, 12. Strict punitive action should be taken against the persons involved in the incident. You have taken action against the officers and the Government would take action against the officers involved in Tehlka Scam but the politicians enjoy. Three ministers involved in the Ayodhya-Babri Demolition case are in the Government today. The Supreme Court has to issue a notice today and asked the Government of Uttar Pradesh why it did not issue the notice. It indicates that the Government would like to divide the country once again on communal basis from top to bottom to fulfil their evil designs under a specific plan. It is a serious matter. While warning the Government, I state with responsibility in the House that if you take it lightly the time will not pardon you.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, it seems that the entire opposition is fully obsessed with anti-BJP stance. In this entire Ayodhya episode only BJP and POTO are being focussed at. See through coloured glasses and all you see will be coloured. The position of BJP in Uttar Pradesh under the leadership of Hon. Rajnath Singh is much stabilized now and in fact it is visible in the country. Its impact is so much that even the leader like Hon. Mulayam Singh and other opposition members are only looking two things i.e. BJP and election. Thus, by politicization of Ayodhya episode they are further highlighting the matter.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of Ayodhya is related to Maryada Purushotham Lord Shri Rama and with the sentiment of the people and their faith. All this cannot be changed by making arguments on the basis of court verdict or by giving some other reason. In our country, it is an old saying that one might be able to count the stars in the sky, components of dessert sand, the drops of torrential rain, but one cannot describe the all stories of legendary persons, great men and saints and sages who were born here. Maryada Purushotam Shri Rama who was born in that era, became our ideal. In India country side people chant the name of Lord Rama while sleeping, awake and even while doing daily chores. It is in their faith they greet each other by saying 'Ram Ram'. It is all because of their faith in Rama. Everyone is drawn to Rama whether it is Rama of Valmiki, Rama of Bhavabhuti, Rama of Kalidas, Rama of Shabari or Rama of Nishad of Kevat. Rama is present in the deepest of our heart. Rama, the son of Dasrath, is your ideal and no one can remain detached from having faith and belief in him.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry to say that all these people remember the names of BJP and VHP but do not remember the deeds of minority organisations like Jamayatulvida, Jamayatul Hind, Jamayate Islami or Jamayate Mushwara which have links with Osama Bin Laden or what statement Shahi-Imam had made. These people playing vote-politics are appeasing the minorities and ignoring the majority community while there should be

[English]

appeasement to none and justice to all.

16.00 hrs.

People are trying to create rift between majority/minority and widen this rift. Through you, we want to condemn these things. Today all the parties should be united. After joining NDA, BJP said that we will keep three issues viz. Ramjanmabhoomi, Uniform Civil Code and Article 370 outside the agenda. But whenever 6 December approaches or the hon. Prime Minister talks about manifestation of national feeling about Ram, it creates such an environment around 6 December.

16.01 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

That we remind those people about Ram who have forgotten him. I thank the opposition for this. But I would like to say that after entering the NDA, BJP wants to solve the Ramjanmabhoomi issue on the basis of the decision of the Supreme Court or through negotiations. It will not be exaggeration if I quote from a Sanskrit saying - bhrāmra madhumichanti, vranam ichanti mokṣaika - meaning that a blackbee always sucks honey while people who have got a nature like a fly, they like to rake up wounds. If there is any deformation or defect, they like to reveal it. They talk about national unity regarding which from Kashmir to Kanyakumari from Gujarat to Nagaland all Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christians, we are all Indians, this land is our mother and we are its sons when the feeling of nationalism would be instilled in us then no son would be inclined to betray his own mother. One of such sons has said Janai Janmabhoomisch swargadapi gariyasi. The land where we have taken birth is greater than heaven. Vedas say - matrabhoomi putradah prithivya. This land is my mother and I am his son. I wish this feeling would develop in everyday and we all should love our motherland. In this regard, I want to say that there was a very huge tree and many birds lived there. One day an ignorant person like our friends from the opposition was going from that way. He had got a canister full of kerosene oil. He sprinkled the

Whoever Indian literateurs Artistes, Musicians went to Pakistan from Indies, all of them realised that Pakistan does not have even a semblance of Secularism. Hindu's are secular by their nature and a true Secularism is where all the religions, faith and feeling are respected.

Sir, Indonesia is still a biggest Islamic country but their national symbols are Gurda, Ram and Hanuman. The President there is Meghwati Sukarnoputrio. Their Gods of worship are Ram, Hanumana and other such Gods but the Muslims of that country never say that Ram was Hindu. They always say, he symbolised the culture of their nation. In the same way Ram is the symbol of our faiths and as such Ayodhya can never be a matter of controversy. That is why whatever orders the Government has passed even if that constitutes of laws, get our support.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is true that this House has been discussing Ayodhya issue almost every Session. That shows the importance of the issue. It is because the very secular fabric of the Constitution of our country is dependent on how this issue is handled. The recent provocation, if I may use that expression to indicate the seriousness of the matter, happened on the 17th October this year.

It should not be treated as a mere isolated incident. If somebody thinks that some members of the VHP suddenly had a desire to purify themselves for all the sins they have committed by having a *darshan* of Sri Ramachandra's idol there, then he shall be mistaken. It was part of a calculated scheme to rouse communal passion in this country and the proximity of the Uttar Pradesh election has no doubt energised BJP and its cohorts like VHP, Bajrang Dal and others to try to force the issue so that Hindutva becomes the main plank of the coming elections. I do not know what is the conscience of many of the allies of BJP in responding to this.

I would like to know whether to this country secularism is a mere jargon or whether it is a basic postulate of our Constitution. In a pluralistic society, should religion be the deciding factor in matters of governance or should religion be a private affair and a personal matter with full right to practise religion according to one's own faith and commitment? Nobody can question that right. That is what we have been saying all along. Why must you bring religion in matters of polity, in matters of governance? Then you are trying to attack the very secular fabric of this country.

There are many issues affecting the every day life of

millions of people of this country. It is, in a sense, a matter of agony and anguish that the highest forum of this country is devoting time on maintaining the secular fabric of its Constitution because it is under attack, instead of devoting more and more time to some of the pressing issues like economic slow-down, unemployment, disinvestment, loss of jobs, etc. We have not found time to discuss pressing issues like what is the effect of globalisation and liberalisation and how this country has benefited from it. These are matters of daily importance to millions of people of our country. But, we cannot run away from this issue also. We have to, as Members of Parliament representing the people of this country, take up this issue. It is our bounden duty to raise this issue because there are a large number of people - in fact, I have no doubt, the majority of people of this country - are committed to maintaining the secular fabric of this country and the Constitution. We feel that the Opposition represents these millions of people who are fighting for maintenance of the secular fabric and fighting against communalism, in articulating their views inside the House.

Ayodhya is not just a matter of religion. It has become a political issue. Nobody has expressed it more vividly, in a more expressive language than our Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani. He has openly admitted that he is sitting there because of the Ram Janambhoomi Movement. He has admitted more than once that BJP is in power, BJP has gone up from a mere two seats in Lok Sabha to whatever number they have now, because he had taken out the Ram Rath and Ram Janambhoomi had become a matter of even electoral politics. It had roused the feelings of Hindutva.

We do not know how Hindutva was in danger in this country and how Hindutva was under attack. Just to make it an emotive issue, the question of Ayodhya Temple - that it was a temple and not a mosque - was raised. We have criticized the Congress also because they fell prey to the machinations of a section of people in Uttar Pradesh.

And since the opening of the temple or the mosque, all the problems have started. They have realised it and that is why, they are now sitting here. We have opposed that. We were criticized but we had opposed it and we had never dared from that point of view. But today, we find a calculated attack. It is a well disguised policy. The NDA allies feel very happy because their agenda does not mention anything about Ayodhya Temple but they are doing it and when probably somebody has the temerity to ask a question, they say, "Why are you bothering? In my agenda, there is no mention of article 370, there is no mention of temple. Why are you bothering? I shall come to your city and say something very nice about your leaders. Why do you bother?" This is the

[Shri Somnath Chatterjoe]

tragedy of this country also. The real issue has been kept as a hidden issue and is being utilised for the purpose of perpetuating their rule - the rule of BJP and not the rule of the NDA. This is not being understood. Why are we so agitated?

Shri Advani, as the Home Minister, has no doubt condemned in the other House but we have not heard a word of condemnation from anybody else. He had to condemn because he is occupying the position of the Home Minister, although we have a unique distinction in this country of having a Home Minister who is chargesheeted and a Defence Minister whose deals in the Defence Ministry are under inquiry. This is a peculiar situation in our country. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, the Home Minister decides about the prosecution and the Defence Minister decides about Defence deals. This is the position. It is not that those Ministries are under somebody else. A Commission has been appointed to look into the Defence Ministry's deals. And the officers of the Defence Ministry have to react or respond to the Commission's demands or whatever evidence has to be given. Papers have to be produced. Can we imagine that any Defence Ministry official will produce anything against his Minister? The Minister will decide as to what is to be produced or not. This is a mockery of even pretended justice. I do not know whether the conscience of anybody sitting on the other side seems to be disturbing him or not. The Home Minister will decide whether the prosecution should continue against him or not. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, is it related to the Ayodhya issue? ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Member is a lawyer as well as a senior Member of the House but he is deviating from the Ayodhya issue on which the speech is going on? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Chairman Sir, why am I mentioning all these things? It is to show the type of governance that we are having in this country and that is why, people's faith is shaken in the whole system of dispensation of justice.

Sir, I would like to have any other example when the Prime Minister of India gives a verdict in a matter of pending inquiry for a guilt or otherwise of a person who is the subject matter of investigation. This is a unique occasion. The compulsion of coalition Government cannot decide merits or demerits of an issue and the propriety or otherwise of the matter. You may have your compulsions. But something is greater than your party interests and that is the interest of propriety or probity. That is why, Sir, I said that it should not be treated as a mere stray incident or that it happened because of a sudden inspiration of VHP on 17th of October. We all know, and it was well pronounced, that in Kumbhamela this programme was announced by the *Dharam Sansad* of VHP - this has been already pointed out by some Members - that *Shivacharan* and *Jalabhishek* ceremony will be held from 17th September to 16th October and then from 26th November, *japa Yagyas* will be held. It has been announced - no word has been said against it so far - that third phase of completing Ram temple was to commence after 12th March, 2002. On 24th February, 2001 VHP unequivocally demanded the return of temple land. On 27th March, 2001 Ram Temple Construction Committee reiterated its third phase plan and threat. It was brought to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister who kept a studied silence. What has been said by the leaders of VHP? They said, we will construct temple there only. Then, they say that they will begin construction of temple whenever they wish and they will have the complicity and support of the Vajpayee Government and the protection of armed might of the State for this act. This is what the incident signify. Shri Giriraj Kishore has been quoted saying that laws are for the people and if they do not suit the people, they can break them. The same gentleman, the Vice-President of VHP, said that we will do whatever we think is correct for temple construction irrespective of the Government's stand,

[Translation]

if the Government has to go on the issue, then let it go.

[English]

The following statement is made by Shri Sharad Sharma, media in-charge at Karsevakpuram. ...*(Interruptions)* Yes, it is necessary to repeat it. If you are so upset, you can think of something else.

He said :

"We have elaborate plans involving mass movements before embarking on the construction of the magnificent Ram temple."

The pillars for the first storey, they say, are likely to be completed in fifteen days.

Quite some time back, probably, it has been completed. Why are we referring to this? Is it that part of a grand design? The point is that the court order does not touch us; we are prepared to violate the court orders! If the Government comes and goes, it does not matter. They have said that one million people will gather for the purpose of the construction of the Temple. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHRAJGANJ, BIHAR): Please let me know the name of the newspaper, I shall buy a copy.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I will give all the names. They are : *The Economic Times; People's Democracy, the Statesman; the National Herald* and, maybe, something like *Panchajanya* which I do not read. Shri Prabhunath Singh, you know much of *Panchajanya*. I know about that. ...(*Interruptions*) This is becoming too much.

What I have been trying to say is that the hon. Prime Minister suddenly announced the revival of a cell. Soon thereafter, this happened. Who are the members of this cell? What are the tasks assigned to this cell? The House is not taken into confidence. We repeatedly asked here this question: "What is the cell for?" Everybody has said in this country and accepted the position. The hon. Home Minister will also repeat it. I know about it. The point is that either the court will decide or the parties decide by mutual agreement. It has been decided that the court will decide if the parties, in the mean time, cannot come to an amicable settlement. But the question will always remain: Who are these parties? There are some self-appointed representatives of Hindus. There may be some self-appointed representatives of Muslims. Who decides this question?

The date has been announced. It is 12th of March, 2002. What is the reaction of the Government to that? The hon. Home Minister has said that he does not think that the *Bajrang Dal* is at all responsible for any illegal activity. That is what he said when the dastardly crime was committed, namely, the murder of Mr. Graham Steins and his two boys. The same thing he said again. Even before the question comes up for decision, the Home Minister gives a certificate of clearance! Who is there in this country, which police officer, which investigating officer is there in this country who will take the courage of coming to a conclusion - even *prima facie* - against the Home Minister of India? What happened in this case also? He has condemned it. He will condemn it here also. I have no manner of doubt because that is patently illegal and contrary to the Supreme Court's order.

The Supreme Court has said :

"The status of the Central Government is, therefore, that of a statutory receiver in relation to the disputed area coupled with a duty to manage and administer the disputed area, maintaining *status quo* therein till the final outcome of the long-standing dispute relating to the disputed structure at Ayodhya."

This is the Supreme Court's order. There is some dispute. They are trying to raise a dispute saying what is the *status quo* as on the date of the Supreme Court's order although they had mentioned before the Supreme Court that 6th January, 1993 was the relevant date and not 6th December, 1992. Even on that basis, it has been said :

"Only the priest had the access to the *sanctum sanctorum* to perform certain rituals for the deity and the devotees were not allowed to offer prayers or *darshan* in this prohibited area."

This is the Supreme Court's order which cannot be challenged, which cannot be contested. Therefore, there was the clearest case of deliberate violation of the order of the Supreme Court.

How many people are there? How many battalions are there? How many battalions of PAC etc. are there?

Three companies of CRPF, comprising of 450 men, and another 13 battalions of the PAC could not stop these people. Could it be possible unless they were asked not to interfere or did they not have the courage to interfere because of the so-called high dignitaries, who were there, and representing the VHP, the closest functionaries of the BJP in power?

One hon. former Member of this House had first gone and went on a 'sit-in' strike because he was not allowed to go close-by. Thereafter, he sat like that. Nothing could be done within these two hours to prevent deliberate intrusion into the prohibited area. Can there be more tell-tale evidence of the clearest complicity between the powers-that-be? The powers-that-be in that area are not the security personnel, not the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, but the Prime Minister and the Home Minister because the Central Government is the Statutory receiver. The Supreme Court has said: "How can they go in?" Within two hours, they could not get any information or news. He sits there, two hundred-plus people come in, forcibly enter, forcibly cross the barricades. I hope by that, they could deal with the terrorists! They have not been able to deal with the terrorists. Is it believable that it was a case of unintentional trespass? Now, who were held guilty? The security personnel were found guilty. ...(*Interrup-*

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

tions) When a lot of noise was raised, a token FIR was filed. What does the FIR say? The incident has been described as obstruction of public servants from discharging their duties. This is the position as if they have only interfered. This is their evidence. But no action has been taken

The students arrested for distributing leaflets against the bombing of innocent people in Afghanistan have been charged with sedition and disruption of communal harmony. Is it a deliberate action to disturb the communal harmony in this country when such an emotive issue is there, which is a matter of the Court's jurisdiction, whether it is of the High Court or the Supreme Court? It is being said that 'no'. We have mentioned the Supreme Court's jurisdiction. It is really the High Court's order which has been violated, which is being seized of the matter. Will that exonerate them? This is a pittance of an FIR. This is how laws are applied in this country, selectively; this is how double standards are applied in this country so far as this Government is concerned. One law for them; one law for others who do not toe their line. This is not the civilised form of governance anywhere. No action has been taken until today. On the other hand, they are holding out threats and they say that we do not care for the Court; we do not care for the Government; and the process has started. As rightly pointed out, so many people would be gathering in March, 2002. You are near the election, and therefore that passion would be created. Their only objective is to somehow benefit. I am sure the people of Uttar Pradesh would rightly give their verdict against them.

Sir, we have to protest this deliberate, motivated, and calculated act of committing a crime, not merely a crime, this is a crime against the very secular fabric of this country.

They have committed crimes against the Constitution of India. That is what we are going to object and we shall go on objecting.

I request that, even now, if there is any sense of seriousness in this Government, which I doubt, if they do not wish to utilise this for the purpose of their electoral politics, then, it is the bounden duty of this Government to take the strongest action. The Prime Minister should come here. He should take the people of the country into confidence. How is he telling this country that the things will be resolved by March, 2002? How does he say that? How does he assure it? What is the *mantram*? How will it be achieved? Therefore, we strongly protest against what has been done. It is a part of the deliberate act on their side. It is the clearest violation of the Supreme Court's order. I must express my feeling that the Supreme Court has not taken any *suo motu* action against them for violation of this order of the Court. It has been done

so openly and they are justifying it. I had expected that the Supreme Court would take *suo motu* proceedings for contempt and deliberate violation of this order.

I wish to conclude by saying that whatever may be the provocation, whatever may be their scheme to divide the country on the basis of religion and try to get benefit electorally, the common people of this country will never tolerate the denigration and decimation of the secular fabric of this Constitution which is our greatest pride and possession. Therefore, we shall continue to oppose it. We shall continue to expose them. I am sure, the people of this country will give a proper lesson to this communal outfit that is today ruining the country in so many spheres.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to speak over this contentious issue, when Shri Somnath Da was speaking, initially he made a reference regarding poverty, starvation thirstiness unemployment, illiteracy and illness in the Country. He stressed instead of communal issues raise the issues regarding aforesaid problems atleast it is the issue of communalism that has come under discussion. When the Babari Mosque was demolished in 1992, the Communist Party Government of West Bengal called for a bandh and accused the Congress party for that act. Now when the very same accused are having a tea party with Shri Somnath Da in his own home, we are really surprised at the sight. Their precept and practice differ. I can understand, what Shri Mulayam Singh is telling. He has only one *stam* from the beginning. He is our leader and we do respect him. He argues very sincerely over this issue. When he argues over this we must go to the realities of this issue and must think about the reasons and situation, Why Babari Mosque was demolished? Shri Mulayam Singhji knows much better than we know because he was in Uttar Pradesh Government and is fully aware of the situations of the state at the time.

Mr. Chairman Sir, when idols were installed here on 22nd December, 1949, Pandit Govinda Ballabh Pant was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister of India when the idols were installed there the temple as constructed. Which Government is accountable for that act. The Government comprised of the people & belonging to opposition now sitting over there? Today Shri Dasmunsi was giving a briefless speech.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I will reply to it.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Chairman Sir, the responsibility for atonement of this sin has come over this

Government. I would like to remind this House that the foundation of that temple was laid on 9.11.1989. At that time our Senior Member of Parliament Shri Narayan Dutt Tiwari was the Chief Minister of Uttarpradesh and late Shri Rajiv Gandhi who laid the foundation stone, was the Prime Minister of India. He, after having 'darshan' (holy view) in that temple started his election campaign work. At that Shri Mulayam Singh had opposed it and today he is in their company. I want to tell him that having company with them is going to cost him dearly. I want to urge him that. ...

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We are both anti-B.J.P. as well as anti-Congress.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : It does look like that right now but I want to submit politely that the demolition of the Babri Mosque took place on 6th December 1992 and at that time Shri Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister of India.

He had deployed C.R.P.F. personnel 9 k.m. away from Ayodhya. When the mosque was demolished, he was not aware of that but when he came to know about it, the five State Governments where B.J.P. was in power were dismissed. Thus, not only B.J.P. was punished but President's rule was imposed in those States alongwith Uttar Pradesh. Even after imposition of President's rule, 'Kar Sewa' was going on by 'Kar Sewaks' from 6 to 8 December and the construction work of the temple continued. At that time where were these people? Who was working even after imposition of President's rule? The Government allowed them to do construction work from 6 to 8 December. A legislation was brought by the Narasimha Rao's Government to the effect that *status quo* will be maintained in the cases of places of worship constructed before 15th August, 1947 but why was Ayodhya not included in it? I would like to know from the Government as to why Ayodhya was not included in it while there was a controversy over this issue for such a long time? I want to say that if the *status quo* prior to 1947 had been maintained, the present situation would not have arised. But the Government did not do so. The Government is responsible for that. People do not expect of the Government, such a laxity. It is justified if Shri Mulayam Singhji speak over it but in which capacity he speaks....(Interruptions)

Hon'ble Mulayam Singhji raised a question during zero hour over the statement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in regard to POTO and reply to which has already been given by the Prime Minister. I would like to urge upon the opposition that if the Govt. is ready to remove lacuna, if any, in the ordinance, it should be accepted and all of us should come forward to adopt it for the security of our country. This

ordinance was discussed by N.D.A. and it is ready to amend it accordingly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now please conclude.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : I am concluding within two minutes. We are talking about those things which equally suit to you all. I would like to ask those who are against POTO today. The congress was in power when the similar legislation named Preventive Detention act was enacted in 1950. Defence of Indian Rule was made in 1954. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It is also pertinent here to tell them as to who opposed these legislations. It was Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee who strongly opposed those legislations and said that this is becoming an identification of Nazism. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Let them speak like this. Subsequently, in 1962, Armed Special Power Act was enacted by which police in Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern States, was given power to detain anybody without taking permission of Magistrate. All of you have witnessed that period. Hon'ble Mulayam Singh ji have been in the Central Government and he has also been the Minister of Home Affairs. Ram Vilas ji had also been imprisoned. At that time, Shri Somnath ji, Priyada and myself were organising anti-facist conference. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Leaders of C.P.M. were not imprisoned.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : No leader of C.P.M. was imprisoned. MESA, from which you had also been suffered, was withdrawn in 1977 when your party came into power but when Smt. Indira Gandhi came to power in 1980, MESA was replaced by National Security Act. In 1984, when late Rajiv Gandhi was in power, Terrorist Affected Areas (Special courts) Act, 1984 was enacted in which a provision was made to punish the guilty persons immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak all these things on POTO only. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi enacted Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1985 on the pattern of POTO. All these Acts mentioned above were made during the Government of congress Party for the security of our country. I agree with the fact that sometimes these Acts were misused. But at that time, no amendment was made. Today, Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs and the Prime Minister have said in the House that they are ready to amend that. But why

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

do not you want to amend it. Some of your leaders have said something but it will not serve the purpose. If you want that our nation should function smoothly, you will have to understand its problems first. Please do not hold them responsible for your wrong doings. Come what may, we can say that we are bound to the election manifesto of N.D.A. and secularism. But can anyone from your side say that he will not believe whatever the Prime Minister or Minister of Home Affairs says? We respect them and also believe whatever they say. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has said that elections would be over by 12th of March. In Uttar Pradesh election are going to be held in the month of February. Please tell me as to where elections are going to be held after 12 March due to which you are feeling uncomfortable? Please speak properly. Your own statements have gone against you. The Congress has no moral right to raise such questions. With these words. I conclude.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, Mr. Raghunath Jha was in the Cabinet of Shri Jagannath ji. He has been with us for a long time but today after listening to his speech, it seems that he has forgotten all past things.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (AMROHA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the recent times, in every session of Parliament issue of Ayodhya is discussed. Generally, discussion over Ayodhya issue is taken up at such a time when the situation comes to normalcy. At that time, things are reopened and efforts are made to make the situation grim. In Uttar Pradesh, elections are going to be held shortly. As elections are approaching the necessity to offer prayers to God is increasing. Efforts are being made to offer prayers to God from a very short distance. I have no objection to it. This has not been felt as saint Kabir has clearly said :

"Dukh Mein Sumiran Sab Karein. Sukh Mein Kare Na Koi,

Jo Sukh Mein Sumiran Kare, Dukh Kahe Ko Hoi".

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the B.J.P. Government had done right things during five years, the need to go to the gods would not have arisen. Today efforts are being made to communalize the entire Uttar Pradesh over Ayodhya issue. The issue of Babri mosque has continuously been a big issue for the last 10 years, for which Congress and B.J.P. parties have been equally responsible. Congress is as much responsible to make the issue of Babri mosque as the B.J.P. It is completely right whatever Shri Raghunath Jha has just said about Congress and whatever Congress people are saying about B.J.P. but I am not able to understand as to whom we should believe.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, people in power have no interest in

any temple or mosque. They are interested in power only. A party talks about a temple or mosque only when it feels that it can come into power by doing so. And the reality is that these people have nothing to do with 'Bhagwan' or 'khuda'.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a statement of the Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Advani ji appeared in the newspaper dated 21st October, 2001 which I would like to read out.

[English]

Sir, the statement of the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has been published in The Economic times of the 21st October, 2001. It says :

"Though both the Government and the Party disapproved of the VHP's action, L.K. Advani, the architect of the temple movement made it clear that the party did not regret having launched the movement. Addressing the National Council, Mr. Advani asserted, 'The Party would continue to project the movement in the right perspective and carry it forward.'"

What is more important is that he had said :

"If we had not taken up the *Ramjanmabhoomi* issue as a symbol of cultural nationalism, we would not have progressed so much."

[Translation]

There cannot be a clearer statement than this. They are not interested in constructing the Ram Temple. Had they not fought on the issue of Ram Temple, they would not have come to power. He has stated this truth clearly in his statement. This is a statement of Advaniji which was published in the Economic Times dated 21st October and which makes it clear as to how much they are interested in Ram Temple and how much in grabbing power. I do believe that the moment Bill is convinced that it is not Ram Temple but Babri Masjid which will bring them to power, They will switch over from the issue of Ram Temple to that of Babri Masjid. What they want is only power.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there was a nationwide fight on their part, swearing that they will construct Ram Temple if voted to power, but the day they came to power it was announced by them that Ram Temple was no longer on their agenda. The statements of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and BJP MP's outside Parliament tend to differ from what the BJP MPs state here in Parliament.

The Government people state something else in the Parliament. What type of Purdah it is ! They are sitting near

it in such a way that they are neither totally hidden behind it nor visible. You must say with honesty that if you remain in power you will construct Ram Temple, and you shall not play with the sentiments of the minorities. If you make a mockery of it, the country cannot remain strong. Today you want to bring in a legislation to tackle terrorism. This is an issue of terrorism. The meaning of terrorism is self explanatory. Terrorism is what strikes terror. Terrorism is what creates terror in the country. Was terrorism not spread, was terror not created in the country and was the country's atmosphere not vitiated when Babri Masjid was demolished? For spreading terrorism in the country, the most responsible are Bajrang Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and BJP.

The demolition of Babri Masjid took place ten years ago. I have raised this issue three times in this House. Today the situation in Uttar Pradesh is such that the Chief Minister Rajnath Singh wants to do everything which may ignite communalism there and destroy the secular fabric of the country. He said that he would book anybody who takes the name of Bin Laden. Every Muslim is being linked to Bin Laden. It is being bandied about that all the Madarsas have become hotbeds of ISI. There are many Madarsas on the Nepal border and it is being propagated that terrorists are taking shelter in them. I have already mentioned two places in my constituency where a parliamentary delegation should go and see what is right and what is wrong. There is Vilayat Nagar at a distance of 15 kms. and Fatehpur Vishnoi at a distance of 10 kms from Moradabad. A Parliamentary delegation may go there to see for itself what the Government is doing there. A mosque was demolished in the Congress regime but nothing was done about it. Babri mosque is discussed only for securing votes. You can send an M.P. belonging to any party who will see for himself what is happening there. But the administration there, the Government there is not willing to do anything. People there are not allowed to perform 'Namaj' even during the month of Ramjan despite a mosque being there. If people go to perform 'Namaj' by night the police reaches there to arrest them as if they were dacoits. If there is even a bit of secularism in you, you must try to end all this. This is a secular country. The country got independence in 1947. The contemporary great leaders give this country a secular status. Had they made it a Hindu nation, nobody was there to raise a finger. So it was a well thought out decision to make this country a secular one. In my opinion, Hinduism is a matter of broad intellect, wide heart. Only that has made this country prosper. The countries that got independence simultaneously have been able to prosper. You may see in the map of the world that the countries which are fundamentalists, which have communal leaning, have not been able to prosper. India prospered because it has been liberal. India could prosper because

people here have a broad mind and heart. But it is a pity that BJP is trying to make the people of this country fundamentalist. This will prove detrimental to the interests of the country and push it backwards.

I beg to say that this country got its independence with great difficulty. The way this Government, the Government of Uttar Pradesh is spreading Communalism, be it the issue of SIMI or otherwise, is not good. Nobody in this country even knew the name of SIMI, nor anybody ever knew about its leaders. But by formulating a legislation adverse atmosphere is being created in the country.

The Afghanistan issue came up. Things were done to worsen this situation in the wake of September 11 attack on America.

17.00 hrs.

Unless secularism is strengthened in this country, the country won't be strong. My appeal is addressed to Singhal Saheb of Vishwa Hindu Parishad who violated the law. Personally I have neither any interest in it or grudge against it that Singhal Saheb has 'darshan' (holy view) from a distance of 15 feet or 50 feet. He may do it from wherever he likes, we have no objection to it. But if there is a law in the country and that law is violated by someone, he must face action. On the contrary when the FIR was lodged, action was taken against the police officers. While the culprit is roaming scottfree, the "Thanedar" was suspended. Why was it that no action was taken against the person who broke the law, and so long as no legal action is taken, the country's people will think there are two laws in the country. One is for the big people and the other for smaller ones. I would also like to appeal to the Home Minister whether the number of persons who broke the law may be 20 or 25 but, Singhal Saheb should be arrested immediately and prosecuted against. I make an appeal that the worsening situation in Uttar Pradesh must be set right with the help of any agency, but it MPs' delegation or otherwise. I and my party fully oppose the motion.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR): It is a matter of national importance but this matter has been discussed again and again without any result. As our hon'ble member, Shri Raghunath Jhaji was discussing I do not want to go into the background of history as it would take a lot of time. But, it is a fact that Mr. Jha has said that the disputed premises was locked in the year 1949 by the then D.M Shri K.K. Nair and Shri Govind Ballabh Pant was Chief Minister at that time. Pt. Nehruji was of the opinion that a permanent solution be found out in this matter. What was the solution? It was locked and after this an evaluation was done to know its effects on a particular community and on another

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

community and later on Mr. Nair, D.M. resigned from his post. I do not want to go into more details in this matter. After that it remained closed till January, 1986 and in 1986 when Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister a brace D.M. was posted to Ayodhya. His name was Mr. K.K. Pandey. He got the lock opened. One D.M. gets it locked and another D.M. orders to get the lock opened. Armed forces are removed so that Hindus may offer their prayer or worship and for that purpose lock was got opened. During this period nothing effective could be done by the Court but why it was unlocked? I want to get it recorded here. Dasmunshiji may not agree to it because after the decision of the Supreme Court in Shah Baano case something was to be done to nullify that decision because muslims were in minority and they considered it intervention in their personal law. The result was door got unlocked in favour of Hindus and the

[English]

Muslim Women (Protection of Rights and Divorce) Bill, 1986 was

[Translation]

introduced in favour of Muslims which later on became the Act. I want to affirm that policy of appeasement has its long history. How the one community was appeased and then the other community was appeased. Our country has a secular structure but the Constitution could not be respected. The Constitution is secular and nobody can disagree with it. I want to make it clear that Meenakshipuram conversion had also played a significant role in wider acceptance of feelings of communalism. After that the incident of 2nd November, 1990 took place and the incident of 'Kar Seva' took place on 6th December, 1992. These incidents are a blot on our country. It should be condemned openly. The structure was demolished. Today's discussion in Lok Sabha is on the situation arising out of the entry of V.H.P. leaders in 'Garbh Griha' on October 17, 2001. It is an open violation of Supreme Court's order. How a constituted government can, defend this. The government had not defended it any where. Sawajwadi leader, Shri Mulayam Singhji was saying that the Chief Minister of that State had pleaded them innocent. A committee was constituted, they have said and I have already said that policy of appeasement is being followed. Go in the history, appeasement has strengthen the feelings of communalism and it can not promote the feelings of brotherhood. It is being assessed and evaluated as to how many Hindus and how many Muslims are in favour. It is not in favour of the country. Hon'ble Prime Minister and Home Minister have said it many times that disputed issues such as Mandir-Masjid, Article 370, Common Civil Code, etc. are not in the National Agenda. Whenever such issues would be included in National Agenda the Constituent parties would disagree to it. They will not support it. I want to make it clear. However it will not be included in the Agenda because the Government of India

has never announced to bring these issues in the National Agenda. As I have already said, the parties which were in power earlier followed the policies of appeasement. Fundamentalism, whether it is on the part of Hindus or on the part of Muslims, should be condemned. If the country is to be made great, the secular structure of the country is to be maintained and the integrity of the country is to be strengthened and the fundamentalists, whether they are Hindus or Muslims should be condemned. Therefore, Singhalji or anybody else, has not the permission to enter forcibly on 17th October when the matter is pending before the Supreme Court or the Lucknow Bench. We do not defend it. Action should be taken on it. Rawatji has rightly said that there should be devotion to Ram. Millions of people have faith in Rama and Krishna and millions of people have faith in Mohammad Hajrat Saheb. If the country is divided on the basis of belief, faith and feelings, it can never be strong. The country should never be divided on the basis of feelings. Moreover our country is not so weak. We are considered as one among the strongest democratic countries. It is the biggest democratic country having secular structure. If any act is done for dividing it, we shall agree to it at any cost. So, I want to say that work to divide on the basis of the feelings should not be done.

Sir, we have read about good conductor and bad conductor in Physics. An iron rod falls under the category of good conductor. If one end of the iron rod is heated the other end will also get heated. Iron rod symbolises castes, religions and communities. Therefore, raising these questions lead to increasing riots.

When the matter related to caste is raised it reaches far and wide without publicity and the country gets divided in the name of feelings. That is why the good conductor is discussed. But the bad conductors such as issues relating to starvation, unemployment, corruption and development are not discussed. It is an unfortunate situation. There should be discussion in the House on these positive matters, particularly on starvation, unemployment, economic condition of the country and inequalities being faced by the country. This issue is related to the feelings of the millions of people and also to their livelihood. It is a religious feeling and all have their own faith. But now-a-days it has become a fashion to divert the discussion towards feeling keeping in view the votes and religion has been made a thing of votes. Religion is the long term politics and politics is the short term religion.

Sir, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiyaji had said in 1962 that religion is the long term politics and service, but the politics is short term religion. Issue of politics of short term becomes the religion, creed and feelings and the game of vote politics is played by making discussions on it. It is a matter of sorrow. Therefore, I with a heavy heart want to make it clear that no body has got the permission to interfere with the secular

constitution. Nobody should have the right to temper with the frame of the constitution. Rawat Saheb was discussing about Purshottam Ram Chandraj. The capital of Mithilanchal was Janakpur. Sir, you are also aware that king Janak organised Swayamvar for king Ram Chandra in Janakpur and married Sita with Shri Ram Chandra.

Maryada Purshottam Ramchandra ji traversed from the north of India to Sri Lanka. The journey takes place via Ayodhya. Ram never tried to disintegrate the country rather he worked to unite it. It is my allegation that anyone following the policy of appeasement in the name of Ram or want to divide the country, he is acting against the spirit of Ram or even against Ram. Their Ram belongs to theatre while in reality Maryada Purushottam Ram worked for bringing to an end the atrocity by travelling from north to south in India. ...(*Interruptions*). Krishna, starting from the east reached upto Dwarka, fighting Jarasandh and killing Kansa. Krishna worked for uniting India from east to west. Mohammad Hazrat Saheb worked against the old beliefs regarding humanity and atrocity. Having sympathy for the poor, he travelled to Mecca and Medina. Feeling of hatred was never preached by the great prophets (Paigambers). Religion never encourages us to fight within the society. Therefore, all are one whether one is Hindu or Muslim, Sikh, Christian or a Parsi and we can strengthen the country by having a feeling of oneness only. To divide the sentiments of the country in the name of religion is the greatest crime and it should be checked. We demand this from the hon'ble Home Minister.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Mr. Chairman. Sir, today is the 3rd of December and two days hereafter, the 6th of December will mark the ninth anniversary of the unfortunate *Shahdat* of the five century old *Babri Masjid*. The prevalent situation with respect to the *Babri Masjid* is the outcome, I must say, of sheer deceit and out right crime.

It is a standing symbol of defiance of the rule of law, mockery of the Constitution, and derogation of judiciary. I must stress that the prevalent situation with respect to Ayodhya represents shattering of all the values which a civilised nation stands by.

In the series of criminal acts with respect to Babri Masjid, the latest was the one that happened on the 17th of October. Top Vishwa Hindu Parishad leaders along with their followers forcibly stormed into the prohibited area, and *Arti* was performed. They could easily cross over the cordon and every barricade put up by the Central Reserve Police Force and forced themselves in. This is an arrogant defiance of the administrative orders for the sake of maintenance of the

status quo as ordered by the courts. It is shocking that no action was taken! Of course, under acute national protest, an FIR was later lodged.

Contrast this inaction of the Government, when the *status quo* was violated, with the assurance that the Prime Minister had given to the nation. In his Musings the Prime Minister had promised:

"I wish to make it absolutely clear that the law will take its course. Should any organisation attempt to disturb the *status quo*, the Government will not remain a silent spectator and adopt delaying tactics as unfortunately happened eight years ago."

And, yet, the Government remained a silent spectator despite all these assurances to the nation.

When the *status quo* was so blatantly violated, how did the Prime Minister react to the situation? He only lightly dismissed the entire incident as a mere lapse of security. Such is the situation with which we are confronted. It is crystal clear that this Government has no courage, specially *vis-a-vis* the Sangh Parivar, to maintain the *status quo*. The Supreme Court must take *suo motu* cognizance of this particular fact and take appropriate action. The entire credibility of this Government is at stake. When it comes to Sangh Parivar, this Government develops feet of clay; it gets paralysed; and there is no action. For example, those of the Sangh Parivar repeatedly declare almost everyday, and with impunity they declare, that the temple will be built on the site of the Babri Masjid, without even caring for the judiciary in our country. By this, the communal situation is fuelled and there is total inaction on the part of the Government.

The Sangh Parivar enjoys an open general licence as far as this Government is concerned. How many incidents need I quote of such inaction?

There was no effective action on the heart-rending sacrilegious incident of the burning of the *Quran* which took place in Delhi on the 5th March.

Sir, on 13th October, those of the Sangh Parivar stormed into the Taj Mahal and *vandalised* the monument but no action was taken. Similarly, on the 14th March, *Vishwa Hindu Parishad* activists forcibly tried to do *yagna* at Quwattul Islam Masjid inside Qutub complex, in New Delhi but no action was taken.

In addition to the civil case with respect to *Babri Masjid*, namely, the title case, there are also criminal cases. I must here mention the fact that on the 12th February, 2001, the

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court held that out of 48 accused, notification in respect of the eight accused was defective. These eight accused include top personalities and even three Central Ministers. The learned Judge has held that the defect is curable by a fresh notification, yet nothing has been done. Those eight persons, who, by earlier courts, have been found to be having a *prima facie* charge against them, still continue freely.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please conclude.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will take hardly a few minutes more.

Now, when the *Vishwa Hindu Parishad* has given an ultimatum that if obstructions are not cleared by the 12th March, 2002, and if the site is not handed over to them, they will forcibly take it over and build up a temple, our Prime Minister has weakly surrendered. Though the NDA Agenda does not have *Babri Masjid* in it, yet the Prime Minister has promised that the matter will be solved before 2002. These are the various things which give impetus and encouragement to such forces over here.

Sir, I plead with to the Government and I plead with this House to consider the grim communal situation with incidents like repetition of *Babri Masjid* -like demolition of *masjids* in Asind in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan; the harassment of Muslims under the excuse of ISI agents; the targeting of Madarsas reinforced by the allegation of the report of the Group of Ministers on Reforming the National Security System; the outbreak of so many anti-minority riots in the country; the Bajrang Dal arms training camps; and the distribution of the *trishuls*. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan says that more than four lakh such *trishuls* had been distributed throughout the country, and the State Police says that these *trishuls* are nothing but *Rampuri* knives to kill people with. Such is the explosive situation in the country. We must realise and take stock of the situation.

I appeal to the entire House, to the Government and to everyone to realise that the destiny of India lies in the unity of all sections of the people. Let the Government be true and honest to the nation and to the Constitution. Let the Government take action against anyone who violates the rule of law or throws away the *status quo* as ordered by the Court to the wind. In that way alone, justice can prevail in our country.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, demolition of Babri Masjid at Ayodhya on the 6th December 1992 is an unfortunate and a painful event. At that time, the Telugu Desam Party condemned the incident.

We blamed, at that time, the then Ruling Party at the Centre, the Congress Party and also the Ruling Party in Uttar Pradesh. The whole nation expressed its concern on this matter.

We have been discussing this issue in this august House continuously every year, since 1992. Many times, the hon. Prime Minister has categorically said that the issue is pending before the Supreme Court and so, we have to follow the verdict of the court or the mutual agreement of the aggrieved parties or that we have to follow something with the consent of all the political parties.

Even now, on the 17th October 2001, VHP leaders, Shri Ashok Singhal and Shri S.C. Dikshit, along with some others, entered the disputed site. The Telugu Desam Party condemned this incident. A statement also came in *The Hindu* saying that whatever the VHP has done was wrong. Shri Advani also said the same thing. Even the Prime Minister of this country said that there was security lapse and so, the Government of Uttar Pradesh could take stringent action against those who entered and broke law.

Even last time, my Party suggested this. Every year, we are discussing this issue. Every year, during Winter Session, we are through the month of December and before that date, that is, 6th December, we are spending a lot of time discussing this. If you take other countries of the world, every country is discussing the issues or the challenges faced by them in economic front or in other areas. But we are spending a lot of time discussing this issue which is pending before the Supreme Court.

Now, India is facing the challenge of terrorism. We have problems facing economic front; we have poverty, illiteracy, high population growth, etc. These are the issues that we are having in our country. We have no time to discuss these issues, but every year since 1992, we get time to discuss this issue. Unity and integrity of our country is dependent on the principle that our country is a Secular Democratic Republic. Secularism is the basic principle of democracy. In India, we are living like brothers and sisters; we are all together; and we are giving respect to all the religions. So, nobody could violate that principle. Religion is a private affair. Every one of us belongs to one particular religion or the other. Our actions in political life and public life are not to be dictated or influenced by our religious identities. We have taken note of the statement of the hon. Prime Minister that he will find a solution to the Ayodhya dispute by March next year. Only three months are left for that. Sometimes, it may not be possible; and we appreciate the complexity of the issues involved in the dispute. It is certainly a delicate affair and everybody has to act in a responsible manner. Though we

are not aware of the details of the methodology that is being adopted by our hon. Prime Minister in his effort to find a solution, we can only hope that he is talking to all the parties concerned because the deadline suggested by the hon. Prime Minister to solve this issue is hardly three months away from now.

Given the shortage of time, I am sure, the hon. Prime Minister's efforts must have entered an important and a crucial stage; and not many in this august House are aware of the consultations that the Prime Minister and the representatives of the Government are engaged in.

The hon. Prime Minister has given a promise to settle this issue by March next year. We have to direct all the organisations so that they abide by the law of the land. The issue is pending in the court. We have this NDA Government, which came to power on the Common Minimum Agenda. The BJP may have its own Agenda and in its own Agenda, there is this item of construction of Ram Temple at Ayodhya. But now, the Government is functioning based on the Common Minimum Agenda of the NDA. In this Agenda, the construction of Ram Temple is not mentioned.

Everybody knows it. They should govern the country based on the common minimum agenda. If any person breaks the law, if any organisation breaks the law and enters into the disputed site, to create faith among the people of this country, the Government should initiate proceedings in the court against that organization. I hope, as wished by the hon. Prime Minister, the matter will be solved before 12th of March 2002. If it is not possible, as a number of complex issues are involved, the Government should consult all the political Parties as also the affected parties or it may leave it for the Supreme Court to give a judgement. Till then we will have to implement the law of the land.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having allowed one more M.P. from Uttar Pradesh to speak in detail about an indecent incident which took place in Ayodhya recently. It hardly needs to say why the Babri Masjid was demolished on 6th December. There is no need to say that in our State only within three-four months.

17.31 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

Elections to the Legislative Assembly are going to be held and the leaders of BJP know this very well, whether it is

the UP Government or the Chief Minister of UP. Everybody know how BJP has lost its reputation in our State during the last four and half years. Whether it is farmers' front, Industries front, business front - this Government has flopped miserably on all the fronts.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we do not want to say much about the present law and order situation in our state today. It seems that there is nothing like Government in Uttar Pradesh which is apparent from the fact that nobody tried to stop Shri Ashok Singhal and his companions when they entered the premises in October which was prohibited. Next day the Chief Minister gives a statement that whatever reports that have been received and the reports given by the newspaper to the effect that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad workers entered there under the leadership of Shri Ashok Singhal are all wrong. Nobody entered that prohibited place in that premises. He even constituted an inquiry team under the leadership of a high level officer the same day. But, unfortunately that high officer had sent the reports of his findings wherein he has accepted that in fact some workers of Vishwa Hindu Parishad did enter the premises but it was the fault of security forces who did not try to stop them and action should be taken against them for their negligence. The hon'ble Chief Minister tried to hide this incident of terrorism. The hon'ble Chief Minister did not feel the need of giving information about those terrorists. I would like to ask the Government that POTO Ordinance has been issued. POTO has been implemented in the country and with great pride the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh declares that POTO will be implemented in our state at all costs. Through this House, I request you that there is this provision in the POTO that anyone who will try to hide the terrorist incidents.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, why this is not made clear that action under POTO will be taken against anybody who will provide information to the terrorists. That is why we oppose POTO but this Government has issued the POTO ordinance and has implemented POTO in the country. Did not the Vishwa Hindu Parishad workers enter Ayodhya under the leadership of Shri Ashok Singhal and if they entered, then how officers of Uttar Pradesh stated in their report that some workers entered the premises but they entered due to negligence of security personnel. Will some action be taken against the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh under POTO in this case of hiding of the terrorists and providing them cover? Sir, we know that no action will be taken. We know, you too know, the whole country knows and the Parliament knows that these things are done only to protect their reputation in the elections.

Sir, Babri Masjid incident took place. This incident took place only because the BJP leaders knew that if such an

[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

incident could happen, then they would create a vicious environment of communalism in the country and win the elections under its cover and this proved to be true. Mischief was created in the minds and hearts of the innocent and religious people of Uttar Pradesh and political mileage was taken out of that. So, this incident took place in this way and the leaders of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and BJP would have thought that if they would take such a step, then they can gain the sympathy of the people of Uttar Pradesh and communal tension will spread throughout Uttar Pradesh. But I would like to congratulate the people of Uttar Pradesh, the innocent people of Uttar Pradesh, who at some point of time helped this Government win elections after getting swayed emotionally but today, they have understood their tactics very well. The BJP elements tried hard to incite out this time it has not effect on the people of Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole country is aware of the incidents which took place at Taj Mahal in Agra. With so much shamelessness the workers of one of their communal organisations tried to decimate the glory of the Taj by entering the Taj Mahal. We do not call it as the pride of Agra only but the pride of the country. This news would have spread all over the world that the citizens of this country itself tried to disfigure the Taj Mahal which is visited by the people from all corners of the world. You can imagine to which extent this might have added to our country's honour!

An incident took place in Orissa wherein an Australian missionary was killed. It was a brutal murder and prima facie it came to notice that a person related to Bajrang Dal was behind this inhuman act. But no action was taken. The whereabouts of that activist are not known. There is no information about how many persons were arrested and how many persons were proceeded against.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to request you that the kind of activities Bhartiya Janata Party is initiating under the cover of its Govt. from time to time in order to increase its political vote bank and for the benefit of the States ruled by it, will not deliver any good.

Perhaps they fail to realise its far-reaching ill consequences. If the communal harmony of our country weakens, if our mutual brotherhood weakens, who will get elected to the Parliament, who will form the Govt., how the democracy will survive, how the system will survive and how the Constitution will be protected? The imagination of all this is quite terrible.

Today, I want to say to these leaders of Bhartiya Janata Party and to the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh that you may do your level best but this time the people of Uttar Pradesh will not

get caught in your communal web. The incident of 6th December took place and after that FIRs were lodged against certain persons. A notification was also issued and the Lucknow bench had held that there were certain technical errors in that notification. The Govt. should issue the notification only after removing those technical errors. As the top most leaders of Bhartiya Janata Party, who are part of the Cabinet today, were coming in the grip of that, that is why neither the errors of that notification were removed nor the fresh notification was issued. It is a matter of great shame that the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh says that the notification will not be issued again. What kind of message do you want to give to the people of Uttar Pradesh and to the people of our country that two different types of legislations are in force here, one legislation is meant for those people who are there in the Govt. and the other is for those who are outside it. Efforts are being made to destroy the secular form of our country.

The Government of India has put a ban on SIMI in the recent past. I am not aware as to what extent SIMI is communal. If the Govt. of India has put a ban on SIMI, it might have received some information about it. But I want to ask the Government what have the Bajrang Dal, the Vishva Hindu Parishad, Durga Vahini and Rastriya Swayam Sewak Sangh been doing for the last 40 years? If it was necessary to ban SIMI, then why it was not considered necessary to ban these four organisations?

If efforts continue to be made to run the Govt. in this country with such discriminations, then the day is not far off when our secular form would be destroyed for which we had liberated our country, for which we had waged the freedom struggle for hundreds of years. If that form does not survive, nobody knows where our Parliament, our Constitution and our Government would rest. Therefore, efforts should be made to solve these problems not the least with political considerations but with the aim to do the just things by rising above politics. Stringent action should be taken against the culprits and those who are guilty.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL) :

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I don't know why discussion is being made on this issue in the House whereas no violation of law was made there. Our colleague Somnath Chatterjee is not present here right now. When he was speaking, he said that the lock was got opened by the Congress Party.

The fact is that the lock of the temple was got opened by the court. When India attained freedom, the percentage of Hindus at that time was 83. But Hindus have to agitate for the temple which is a very unfortunate thing. The then Prime

Minister Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had visited there and launched his election campaign from there. It was locked way back in 1949. Even then, the priest used to go to the temple and worship there. After that the lock was opened in 1986. There was a man named Pandey who moved the court and the lock was opened. Verdict to this effect was given in 1993. No challenge was made against this. It was not wrong to get there. Ashok Singhalji went there and worshipped. I want to congratulate him on behalf of Shiv Sena. I respect you, Mulayam Singhji. You are an outspoken person. But at the same time, we also want to put here the words of our Shiv Sena Supreme Shri Bal Thakareji. ...*(Interruptions)*. One thing is important that he has respected the feelings of all Hindus by entering the temple. By doing so, Ashok Singhalji has done proud to all the Hindus. Hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs had embarked on the 'Rath Yatra'. Advaniji, you proceed further, we are with you. Shri V.P. Singh had interrupted it. ...*(Interruptions)* Do we require anybody's permission to meet our own mother? It is the temple of our Lord Shri Rama, that is why they went inside. Mulayam Singhji is an outspoken person but the leader of opposition Shivraj Patilji is sitting here, he is not aware and Dasmunsiji has left the House. I have been listening to this since 1992. I have been listening to his speeches with rapt attention but today I am feeling that he has lost all his charm. Mulayam Singhji, Shivraj Patilji and Somnathji are sitting here. I want to ask them a question that if the court delivers a verdict, whether all of them are ready to accept the same? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Yes we are ready. Whatever decision the court will give we are ready to accept it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rawleji, you please continue your speech.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Today, Congress is talking of court. They had given support to the Congress. When Sonia Gandhi ji staked her claim to become the Prime Minister, our Hon'ble Somnath Chatterjee had supported her. The verdict in the Shah Bano case was also given at that time. ...*(Interruptions)* If tomorrow those people say that the mosque belongs to them, will you be able to stop them? ...*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are in the Chair at this moment. I have a lot of respect for you.

I am not the person to put forth my views in a loud voice.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR) : I am ready to reply to what you are saying provided you are ready to listen. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please do not take notice of any thing while ensconced in your seat.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : They have changed the verdict. They will agree with the temple of Lord Rama. They will say that this was the feeling of the people, what shall we do. What happened in the case of Shah Bano. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI : We all are ready to accept the verdict of the court. Whether Shiv Sena will accept it or not? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I say that we will accept it, the House is ready to accept it. ...*(Interruptions)* In the case of Shah Bano, she is the wife of somebody, she is the sister of somebody, she is the mother of somebody but how mercilessly she is thrown out of wedlock by just pronouncing 'Talaq' three times. Rajiv Gandhi ji, said that he would bring forth the civil code but did not abide by the court verdict. Some follow-up was done but later said that we would not go by it. The people who wanted Babri Masjid, followed the path of agitation. I would like to let you know that never a Namaz was offered in the so called mosque. You show me even a single mosque in the world where Hindu Gods are worshipped. How can 'pooja' be offered in a mosque. You go and see beside it, there is a temple of 'Sita Mata', there is a temple of 'Laxman' and there is a temple of Hanuman, there are temples of Hindu gods and goddesses how can it be possible. These people want to play politics. Once a mention about Somnath temple was made. Dr. Rajendra Prasad got the Somnath Temple renovated despite Congressmen's apathy to it. In this case also, there is temple of Lord Rama and feelings of all persons are associated with it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please conclude your speech. Address to the Chair only.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Priyaranjan Dasmunsiji and Satyavratji have expressed their views. Shahi Imam has said that 'he is an agent of the ISI' but nobody spoke against him. Nobody is ready to speak about Bin Laden. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I have spoken against that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only the speech of Shri Rawale will go on record.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : In Afghanistan, the statues of Gautam Buddha were demolished. Even then, these people did not protest. If these people agitate, their Muslim votes shall be lost. In Bangladesh, atrocities were committed

[Shri Mohan Rawale]

on Hindus. Shri Madan Lal Khurana had raised this issue but nobody supported him on this matter. All were present but nobody said anything. ...*(Interruptions)* They did not agitate on the matter of rape of the Hindu women. Many temples had been desecrated. Thousands of other temples had also been desecrated in India. Thousands of other temples were broken. Who was Babar ...*(Interruptions)*

* Babar was a foreigner. Why are we commenting on him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : When discussion under Rule 193 was held in the House, the Chair had indicated that the high quality of discussion should be maintained. Objectionable things should be expunged from the record.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Just for your information I would like to tell you that Babar was Akbar's father...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Babar had no relation with India, he was a foreigner. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are giving wrong information to the House. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : He has not studied history. ... *(Interruptions)*. He has not completed his primary education. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I can show you the book in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Except the speech of hon. Shri Rawale, nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Shri Ram Krishna Paramhans used to wear saffron clothes. Grant-in-aid are given to his institution ...*(Interruptions)*. But did it saffronise them? The father of Shri Som Nath Chatterjee had been elected to Hindu Mahasabha twice. Was that saffronisation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Ramkrishan Paramhans had never worn saffron clothes. He does not know that.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I would like to tell you the history.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir, I would have liked to say much more but due to the paucity of time, I would like to conclude by felicitating Shri Ashok Singhal. I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my views.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Sir, an issue had been raised in the House that in Bamiyan the statue of Lord Buddha were broken. When a call for destruction of these statues was made, a question was raised in the House demanding that intense diplomacy can save the structures from destruction. But I am astonished that the people in power today have demolished an old Masjid in the country. How could they muster such courage, morality and authority to appeal to the fundamentalists of other country not to demolish the statues of Lord Buddha? Why should these statues have not been broken? All the fundamentalists of the world have the same kind of thinking. As the Taliban, Osama, Mullah Omar had demolished statue of Lord Buddha in Afghanistan, similarly, such people under whose leadership the mosque was demolished have no moral right to raise such things.

Sir, I was told a story. A saint was requested to advise a child not to eat jaggery. He asked him to come after a month. When after a month the child was brought to him, he advised the child not to eat jaggery as it could cause sickness. When asked why he did not give the same advise to the child on the previous visit, the saint replied that he himself was eating jaggery and at that time, his advise could prove worthless. Communal forces are in the Government. That is why there are communal divides in India. They are helpless. They maintain that they have no courage. They can do such things. I would like to read out the reply of the Government. According to an information received from the U.P. Government, Shri Ashok Singhal and Shri S.C. Dixit alongwith twenty odd supporters forcibly entered the disputed site in Ayodhya on 17.10.2001. When the local authorities intervened and mollified them, they went away from that place. The State Government has also informed that despite such action undertaken by these people, the verdict of the Supreme Court of maintaining status-quo has not been violated. So the State Government is saying that the Supreme Court verdict had not been violated. In Ayodhya, the Central Government has been entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining status quo in the disputed site as per the Acquisition Act 1993 and the verdict of the Supreme Court on 24.10.1994.

18.00 hrs.

The Supreme Court has ordered the Central Government to maintain status quo. It is the order of the Supreme Court. It included controlling the mob and law and order situation. Hence, the Security of the disputed site has

to be maintained by the State Government. However, the Central Reserve Police Force has been deployed to assist the State Government. Such is the reply of the Government. It is a sensitive issue and when the mosque was demolished, there was a communal flare up in various parts of the country. These people too feel about it during their discourse and admit that it was a folly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is 6 o'clock and many hon. Members want to express their views. If the House agrees the time of the House can be extended for one more hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It would be nice if we get the reply tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The proceedings of the House are extended till the reply comes from the Government.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I read out the statement of hon. Advaniji which had appeared in the newspaper. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs Shri L.K. Advani has condemned the attempt of the VHP leadership to enter the disputed site by violating the verdict of the Supreme Court. Then, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh today said that the safety of the sanctum sanctorum will be ensured at all costs. He has issued a statement to the press. But hon. L.K. Advani has stated that he was not aware what law have the VHP people violated by having darshan of Ramlala in the sanctum sanctorum. In reply to a question of disturbing public order inside the Taj Mahal by Yuva Morcha activists, he only said that it was not a fundamentalist reaction. It is not in good taste if the Government says that it does not know whether it was a violation of the law or not. The State Government says that it was not a violation of the law while the Central Government had been given the responsibility of maintaining *status quo* by the Supreme Court. It seems that their such statements are only strengthening communal elements. If such forces disturb the peace in the country, they would not be able to contain them because they hope to derive electoral benefits therefrom.

Now there is a statement by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. The President, Vishnu Hari Dalmia has declared that the construction of Ram Mandir would be started in March and they would revolt if the Government hampers their resolve. He said that it was at the instance of Lord Rama that World Trade Centre had been attacked on 11 September. Is he a devotee of Lord Rama or an enemy. He was addressing the media persons at the inauguration prakalp area of Nagla village by Shri Krishna Janm Sthan Sansthan. The devotees of Rama are stating that the lord himself was responsible for the destruction of the World Trade Centre. So, according to

their standards Lord Rama was a supporter of terrorism. This is dangerous. There is a similar incident in Ram Charit Manas. When Hanumanji was going to bring Sanjeevani Booti, he came across with a devil named Kalnemi on his way who was chanting Rama Rama. Seeing him chanting name of Rama, Hanumanji thought him to be a devotee of Rama. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a Parliamentary question, but it is not an un-parliamentary effort at the same time.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Just before he entered the pond for a bath a heavily voice told him that the demon is not a devotee of Rama but posing like one. Now Hanuman was alert. Kalnemi attacked Hanumanji, when he was going to take bath as Hanumanji already knew about his reality, he defeated Kalnemi in the fight ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever you have said will not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (SIRSA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful for the opportunity you have given to me to participate in the discussion on Ayodhya issue. The issue is constantly being discussed for last 7-8 years. All the pros and cons have been discussed. And the conclusion is one and the same that the issue has become a matter of political gains for all the political parties. Ours is a secular country. All the communities, religions and castes play an important role for the unity and integrity of the country. India is a country of Valmiki and Ved Vyasa, Tulsī and Raskhan, Rama and Shyama. I do not think that lineage of such a great country should fight over issue that there should be a temple or a mosque in Ayodhya. If we study the life and character of Rama, we find that he does not represent a person or a caste, he is an ideal. He is regarded as do gooder. We can learn a lot from him about the family relations. If it comes to wife-husband relationship, he was an ideal husband. He personifies the ideal of Ramrajya. He is always known as Maryada Purushottam. Talking about the current situation, if a political party or its senior leader says that he has reached the present position by way of communalism, it would be wrong.

No single community or caste shares any special place in the rise of a political party or leader. Farmers and labourers of the country are also involved in it. Hardwork of farmers and labourers are behind the rise of a leader. Above all, they represent the sentiments of the common men. People of the country choose the person their leader who could fulfil their

*Not recorded

[Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora]

daily needs, takes care of them who could lead the nation towards right direction.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as it was frequently discussed that those who went there and said that was not a controversial place, then why the CRPF was deployed there? Otherwise, common man could freely go there and express his feelings, could show his devotion. We condemn it if a senior leader of any party or the Sangh goes there violating rules and we condemn the way Shri Ashok Singhal and Acharya Giriraj Kishore of Vishwa Hindu Parishad went there. There was a news item regarding it that FIR has been lodged whosoever dare to insult the Constitution, action should be taken against him.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given notice on this matter that I should be given some more time. Our party has been a symbol of love and brotherhood by knitting India together away from communalism. Late Ch. Devi Lal made his best efforts to keep unity and integrity of India intact, the farmers and the labourers may feel attached.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Tajmahal is our national heritage. May be, some anti-social elements have had created problems there, tried to spoil it, we condemn that.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Prime Minister has said that negotiations are going on to solve this issue. We are pleased that efforts has been made to solve the issue respecting the sentiments of the common people of the country. But both Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Muslim Law Board, who are responsible for all this, deny the fact that some negotiations are going on between them. This is disilluding. I would like to know the actual current position. View it logically. Hon. Prime Minister has said that it would not be good to make it public issue in the interest of the nation. He will discuss the issue in the House when the time comes. We also want the same. Let public know the clear picture of this situation.

Sir, as Shri Praveen Bhai Togodia, International General Secretary of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, had announced that millions and millions of people of Vishwa Hindu Parishad would march to Ayodhya and build the temple before February 17, 2002 on Basant Panchami is all political propaganda. It creates social tension and a feeling of terror all over the country. I urge upon the Government that action should be taken against such people and such organisations which is associated with Government in one way or the other. Since, it is NDA Government, at present, it may have its propensity towards some community or some religion. Any party may have its own agenda. But National Democratic Alliance (NDA) have its own agenda, which has been kept before the people categorically.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, concluding this I would like to say that this matter is subjudice. We also want that it should be solved through court. But the verdict of court always goes in the favour of one party and against the other. Then the problem arises whether the other party would readily be agree to accept the decision. I, therefore, request that the issue should be solved through negotiations. A Committee should be constituted comprising people, who think about the interests of the nation, not inclined towards any religion and think of the common man. They can handle the situation in a better way. And, finally, I would like to suggest that the disputed structure or the place should be taken as National Heritage. Hindus and Muslims both should be allowed to worship there according to their respective beliefs or traditions. It may be treated as national heritage. I am grateful for the opportunity you have given to me. We shall always regard the feelings of the people by keeping unity and integrity of the country intact.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE) : Sir, I am very much aware of the time constraints. In spite of that, I request you to please allow me to speak for some more time so that I can express my views and the views of my Party also.

We are dealing with the problems of Ayodhya. So far as I know, in the Ramayana, it is mentioned that Ayodhya is the birthplace of Lord Rama. I think Rama is not the only Deva. So far as Hindu Purana is concerned, there are 33,000 crore Devas. I think our hon. Home Minister might be knowing all the birthplaces of 33,000 crore Devas. I would be obliged if he kindly places the list of the birthplaces of 33,000 crore Devas.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please come to the point.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : I am coming to the point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should not go into the background.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : This is very much pertinent. Please allow me. I am a new man. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no need to go into the background of the history.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Lord Rama is the legendry figure of the Epic. He is not a historical figure. Hon. Member, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi quoted Rabindranath Tagore. I am not going into that. Tagore told that the birthplace of Rama is in the mind of the poet, *ॐ*।miki. Many things happened

about Ayodhya. The demolition of Babri Masjid and other points have also been covered. I am not going into that. But my point is about the violation of laws that happened, took place and it is clear. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order please.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Let them first come to the point of punishment of those persons who have violated the law.

It has been revealed that those persons who have violated the laws have not yet been punished, not yet been caught and not yet been put in jail. Rather, they have been exonerated by the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. The point is that they should be charged with criminal trespass on property whose ownership has not yet been settled. They have also committed a contempt of court by violating the ruling and performing the puja. I would like to know what sort of a punishment has been given to them. Why have those culprits not yet been caught and put in jail?

The most important point, to me, is that these several outfits that form the Hindutva parivar have declared their programmes. They have announced their programmes saying that whatever may be the results or consequences, they would face them. They are organising their programmes. The RSS has asked people to take up arms; they have given a call to mobilise arms. I would like to know, through you, from our hon. Minister of Home Affairs what sort of measures he is thinking of taking against them. He has to assure this august House that those culprits would not get any opportunity to go to the disputed land. This is very important to us.

Many things have been said about national sentiment and national culture. What is our culture? Do we say that our culture is the Hindu culture? Do we say that our culture is an Islamic culture? We are proud that we have a composite culture. Indian culture is a composite culture. May I quote Shri Rabindranath Tagore in this connection. He wrote a poem called Bharat Tirtho in Bengali. In that poem, he has written, 'Nobody knows from where so many people have come here and by whose call. They came like a fast current and mingled into the sea. Nobody knows how many streams of human beings with different identities came to this land and at whose call.' In the same poem, he has also written, 'Here came the Aryans, the non-Aryans, the Shaks, the Huns, the Pathans, the Mughals and all of them have submerged themselves into one. This India is for the Aryans; this land is for non-Aryans, for the Dravidians, for the Huns, for the Mughals and for the Pathans. India is for all streams of human beings.'

So, we have unity in diversity. They are now trying to demolish this culture. This is very serious and so we are very much concerned.

When we got our Independence, at that time, in the British House of Commons, the then British Prime Minister Winston Churchill commented that India would not be united and that it would split into several parts because there were many languages, many ideologies and many religions but India is still united. The great people of our country have stood united as a nation. The credit for this must go to the people of our country. So, I would request, through you, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to be resolute and strong enough. I would request him not to proceed with a hidden agenda. I would like to know what happened to the so-called 'National Agenda'. Common minimum programme.

They are going back. It is nothing, but they have done it deliberately. It is their tactical line so that their hidden agenda would come and their open agenda and declared agenda would go away. So, this is very important.

Sir, with these few words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak. With great pain I rise to speak on this issue. I belong to tribals community. My ancestors were tribals and they were the first tribals. Bairang is our ancestor. Bajrang had seen God Ram in his heart. He was so much devoted. They are using the name of God for political motives.

There is a temple of Lord Rama in Nasik. A statue of Lord Rama is there, when he had gone to exile. Nobody from Bhartiya Janata Party had visited that temple. I visit this temple frequently. Just now Shri Rawale was saying that mosque should be demolished. I want to say that by demolishing it, our Constitution has been violated. It should not be done. People who are responsible for this should be punished. The people who are in power, should not have done this. I want to request you that people who had done this should be punished.

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL (SANGLI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on Ayodhya issue. I want to know as to why so much importance is being given to this issue. Today such issues are in various countries of the world but no country has been able to remove communalism. Jews and Arabs are fighting in Jerusalem. Peace has not been restored there. Same thing is happening in our country. Hindus who are interested in spreading Hinduism are being misled by

[Shri Prakash V. Patil]

BJP. It is said that Shri Rajiv Gandhi had got opened the temple. But at that time Shri Vir Bahadur Singh, the then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh was also there. Today his son is in Bhartiya Janata Party. The then Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Arun Nehru is also now in Bhartiya Janata Party. Now changes are coming in Hindu religion. Various Hindus have become Buddhist. Today, Buddhism is better than Hinduism. Hindus have become narrow minded.

Rawaleji was saying that Hindus are 83 per cent. But he does not know that many Hindus have become Buddhist because of atrocities committed on them. Now we are only 33 per cent. Except upper caste nobody is Hindu. There was a reason behind what Rajiv Gandhi had done. He wanted religious harmony like King Akbar. Akbar had brought revolution in Muslim religion. He founded Din-e-illahi at that time. He ruled for 52 years with the support of Hindus. Rajiv Gandhiji wanted that Ayodhya should be a monument like Taj Mahal in Agra. Therefore, we should talk about Din-e-illahi and should not meant it wrong. Besides this there are various other issues in our country today like economy. Our Government should concentrate on this issue. Action should be taken against the person who are responsible for Ayodhya incident.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as hon. Members have mentioned that for the last 9-10 years, we discuss the issue of Ayodhya every year, opposition may consider it an older issue but I do not consider it so. In my view since 1987-88 started to discuss this issue. I want to express my views in this regard. There is no doubt that after freedom struggle, no other movement has affected the politics, thinking and mentality of India so much as the Ayodhya movement has affected.

18.32 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Gandhiji had undertaken Dandi March and it was not a great event in itself but through this he wanted to highlight that how Britishers were committing atrocities on Indians. But today discussion would be better if it has been limited. The main point of the proposal of Shri Dasmunsi was that what is the view of the Government on what Vishwa Hindu Parishad had done in Ayodhya on 117th October but this has become very big issue. Several persons including Raghunath Jha and Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav have made a new interpretation here and asked why Rajiv Gandhiji had done all this there, Shri Patil has given reply to that. I do not

know whether Dasmunsi or Congress party is agreed to that. But I can only say that from the time since this NDA Government come to power in 1998, it has announced that in this coalition, Government where people are of different views, we will govern on the basis of a common minimum programme. So we have not raised this Ram Janam Bhoomi issue. When the Librarian Commission called me and asked me questions, for six days I told it my views. Just now as some Members said that when Home Minister of the country says that I am in power because of Ayodhya movement and they told others also that they are in power due to Ayodhya movement. I want to make it clear that I consider Ayodhya movement very important and I think it was the best movement and if some people have brought communalism in it, it is their fault but it was not communal, this was basically non-communal and it was to satisfy cultural nationalism. But I also believe in this view. Please listen to me. ... (*Interruptions*) Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi I listened to you. Now you listen to me. Chinmayanandji has given reply of your query now I do not need to give you any reply. I believe that on the history of fifty years from 1951 from the time of Jansangh till date if there would be any conference of party, we have to explain everything there. Shri Somnathji is not here, I would say that there are two sources of my strength. First source of my strength is Kashmir integration movement which was organised under the leadership of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Shri N.C. Chatterjee, the father of Shri Somnathji. Second source was movement for democracy against emergency organised by Jai Prakash Narayan. That was started to reinstate democracy in the country.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan started the movement before emergency.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am recollecting the whole time whoever came in contact with Jai Prakashji or Lohiaji whether he is Shri Raghunath Jha or Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, they always talk in a balanced manner whenever they talk about Ayodhya. They speak everything about it. Nobody deny the fact that most of the people call it mosque but in Government documents no officer call it mosque. It is called Ramjanam Bhumi - Babri Mosque disputed site. Nobody call it mosque in Government documents. But we call it mosque again and again and publicise in the world that mosque has been demolished. Mosque is injunction of court order from 1949 only that it should not be demolished ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : It was mosque from 1947 to 1949.

Namaj was offered there five times a day. After independence it became disputed land. It was not disputed site before independence.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I can oppose this too but I do not want to do so because right now I am giving the reply as a Home Minister. Now I will give the reply about the incidence that occurred in the month of October. In this context, I have presented all my views elaborately in front of Liberhan Commission. I am not amongst those who feel that since Government has to formed, so Ayodhya should not be talked about. Since, Government has to be constituted, that is why I gave up the Ram Janam Bhumi agenda. Who said that? Did somebody say that it had been dropped? Today I do not talk about Uniform Civil Code. Although I have an opinion on Uniform Civil Code, and it is part of the Constitution, but I do not talk about Uniform Civil Code while sitting in this Government because we do not have common programme. Having no common programme is one thing and its decorum is another which I respect.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was in the Press Conference on 17th October, when I received the information. Some people told here that there is connivance. All are one, if it had been one, I was not required to criticise without taking information publicly. I did it but may be for the first time.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You have very honestly said that the Ayodhya movement was not at all a communal thing and that it was a national cultural movement. As the Home Minister, you still consider that Ayodhya movement was a national cultural movement. I think, that is your understanding.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : That is right. There is nothing wrong about it. I want to add that I have also said this before the Liberhan Commission. I have already said –

[Translation]

December 6, 1992, was the saddest day of my life.

[English]

It was the saddest day of my life. That is not what I have said today. I said it barely a fortnight after that incident in a written article in *The Indian Express*, not today.

[Translation]

That is why I will include these two things in that. The agitation was a good thing but whatever happened on 6th

December put a set back to it. That is why I do not agree with those who think that whatever happened on 6th December was good. May be, some people of this type are there in the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. May be, some of my colleagues has the same view. But my view point, is shared by the Government and Prime Minister and that it is what occurred on 6th December that was harmful for the dignity of the country. I called Ayodhya's movement noble and that too got set-back. After presenting this fact, I have to say that Mahatmaji was the leader of public agitation, but Chori-Chowra took place and he withdrew this agitation thereafter. Many people treated this incident in a very casual way, but he condemned it. If somebody says Chori-Chowra was a part of independence struggle, this will be wrong. Likewise it will be wrong to call 6th December, Ayodhya agitator. After identifying these facts, I have to say about 17th October that I am answerable to Constitution and Democracy and I am also conscious of the fact that Central Government is receiver in this case, and it is the Government's responsibility. We do not run the general administration of Ayodhya.

[English]

"The Central Government has been charged with the responsibility of maintaining the *status quo* as on 7.1.93 in the disputed area. The meaning of maintenance of a *status quo*, as on 7.1.93 on the disputed site has been clarified by the Supreme court in its order of 6.8.93 which says that no addition, alteration or other structural changes will be carried out in the make-shift structure situated in the disputed area, but normal maintenance work can be carried out."

[Translation]

We are answerable and Government will not go back in fulfilling this responsibility. If someone challenges that he would change the *status-quo*, the Government shall definitely take necessary steps. I want to give this assurance to the Parliament. When this incidence occurred, then I immediately condemned it publicly. Immediately order had been issued to U.P. Government that action should be taken against those person who did this. ... (Interruptions). It had to be seen that which action was to be taken ... (Interruptions). Because I knew that till date the order of Supreme Court is only of *status quo* and it mean, whether arrangement there has been violated, and if so, in what manner, what legal action can be taken against those. Only those people could decide and not me. After that they took action, they felt that in this situation, action can be taken against them. Government officers on duty were obstructed and they were not allowed

[Shri L.K. Advani]

to work. But I said that this was not enough and that there should be more security in future and for that they were required to call a meeting which was held on 31st October. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Junior Officers were suspended but no action was taken against higher officers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Officers were suspended because of security lapse ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : When the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh says that nothing happened there then what action will the State Government take. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : When nothing happened then why this was so ... *(Interruptions)*. May be it was said that order of the Supreme Court has been violated as it is said. But action was taken and I condemned it publicly. After that section 144 was imposed.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Condemnation is a different thing. Why no action was taken under law? Why were they not arrested? Why was it treated as a non-cognizable offence?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : That is a question that is to be decided ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Why was Ashok Singhal not arrested?

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete. You can seek clarifications after his reply is completed.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Priya Ranjan Dasji, I was happy to learn after knowing that hon. Somnathji is an eminent M.P. and a very good lawyer. But he said that he had a complaint against Government of Uttar Pradesh and Central Government that they did not take action. But he also said that even he had a complaint regarding the violation of Supreme Court's order and that it did not take any action thereafter. He has a grudge against all three. I felt while hearing this, that may be he does not have whole information. They will go there by crossing the barricades like this and whether by this action the order of Supreme Court has been violated or not, is not to be decided by us or you. Those

people who are present there can only decide. That is why when I was asked on the very first day then I said that I condemn it because I feel that this type of mismanagement should not take place. Somebody told me whether this thought came to their mind suddenly? It seems that they have done this with something planned for future.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH) : Sir, the hon. Home Minister is defending the offenders.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am not defending any offender. If an offence has been committed, the State Government is taking action about it. If there is anything in which the Central Government is responsible, we would also take action.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Time and again Vishwa-Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal are threatening that they would go with five crores of people and build the temple. There is much crisis in India and you have also admitted that people of Afghanistan can come here and dangerous incident can take place and why do not you stop them to give out statements, can't you take action against them. Do you find only Muslim boys to be put in jails in the name of "SIMI"? If those people are charged with treason then I feel that these people are also charged with treason and in this time of crisis, whole country should face this as one. If they are like this then these people are also engaged in the activities of treason.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : When rest of the people talked about "SIMI" then I was ready to ignore that but now honourable Mulayam Singhji, who was Defence Minister of the country talks out things like "SIMI" and whatever happened on 17th October in Ayodhya or Bajrang Dal then I wonder in which period he is living. Do you know that people of this country too were tried to be associated with the recent incident in America? Some persons were sent for flight training to Australia or England and who were the people who acted there. I am highly surprised when you speak in favour of "SIMI".

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I do not speak in favour. I have said that you should call an All Party Meeting. You said in Lucknow that you do not have any proof. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am not yielding.

[Translation]

Mulayam Singhji, I am prepared to give out all proofs. You are the leader of a prominent party and I do not think that publicly these things. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You must prove that they were ISI's agents.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am ready to tell you personally about this.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : If there is any proof we would raise our voices against it. In Lucknow you said there are no proofs. If you give some proof we would come with you.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : We would assign it to judicial tribunal. Then there will be no contradiction. All members can go along it.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Do I have any brother in SIMI? A case has been filed, we had to seek stay order from the Court. What are you talking about?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I have not levelled any charges on your brother. I have levelled charges on SIMI. I think SIMI is an anti-national institution which operates through our enemies. It is instrumental to terrorism and ISI activities. No one should forget this.

Something has been said regarding Bajrang Dal. I have some disagreements too, with the activities of Bajrang Dal. Sometimes I criticise it too. In 1992-93 it was banned, when this case had been submitted before the tribunal there was some confusion that Bajrang Dal had contributed towards the destruction of that structure on December 6, 1992. But there was no proof with the Government in this regard and the ban on the Bajrang Dal was lifted. We should take all these things in consideration.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It is our opinion that you must be impartial. A case had been filed against my brother and we had to seek stay order from the Court. He was linked with SIMI. People sometimes gets confused with the views of Shri Singhal and Giriraj Kishore. People are doubting your impartiality. You should have independent

views. I would like to make you alert. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : You should inform me about the case. You would get justice. As far as SIMI is concerned, I would like to inform the House that as per information with the Government, this institution is anti-national and pro-terrorist without doubt.

I was mentioning that Vishwa Hindu Parishad people who went there and tried to have close access to the structure. Shri Chinmayanand ji have also mentioned in this regard. Normally all the devotees have to talk a long distance with their shoes on. Such conditions are there. The people resorted to High Court against the existing arrangements. The decision of the High Court is very lengthy.

[English]

I would like to quote a few lines. The hon. High Court says :

"On the complaint that the distance between the point from where what is required to have the darshan and the place where the idol of the God is installed, is more than 15 metres which hinders the sight and visibility because of the small size of the idol, we are of the considered view that this distance can be easily halved, if not reduced more to facilitate a worthwhile darshan to the devotees without infringing the security aspect, as by that time the devotee reaches that point, he or she must have passed through, at least, two check points."

[Translation]

I am mentioning all this that Vishwa Hindu Parishad people are having resentment over this issue because even after the order from the High Court the situation remains the same. I explained the reason for that, that appeal has been made against this and the final judgement is yet to be delivered. It has been said in the appeal that we would see that whether this decision of High Court is correct or not. And till any decision is taken, the status quo shall be maintained. Supreme Court has given this mandate. It seems that all that happened only because you did not wait for the judgement and tried to alter the *status quo* by yourself. Supreme Court had forbidden it. All the people who have taken oath of Constitution be the Members, Ministers or someone else must obey the orders of the Court. We have to make arrangements so that no one can violate the orders of the Court. That is why, I would understand the reasons for

[Shri L.K. Advani]

your dissatisfaction. If you again seek the verdict of the Court regarding the inconvenience of the devotees, I think it is not logical. We are vigilant and were always vigilant. If the Court had not permitted in 1992, nobody from BJP would have gone there. Kar Sewaks had thought the it would be a symbolic Kar Sewa. It would be the duty of this Government to get the verdict of the Court implemented and this has been intimidated to the concerned people.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I have only two points for clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : It is not possible every time.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is our right.

[English]

The question was whether the Home Minister inquired into the matter as to why the violation of that nature were not treated as cognisable by the State Government. Secondly,

I asked the Home Minister, but he did not reply. I said that time and again, they were threatening the Prime Minister and the Government of India that before 12th March, if it is not decided in their favour, they would break law, etc. If at all, the Prime Minister cannot give a formula by the 12th of March and if they react to it, what would be the steps that the Government would take to ensure that the area is secured, till the matter is disposed of by the Court? To this point, the Home Minister did not reply.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I would not like to make any declaration but whatever I said is very clear and I would not like to say anything more.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House now stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

18.57 hrs.

The Lok sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 4, 2001/ Agrahayana 13, 1923 (Saka).

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