

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 3, 2003/Phalgun 12, 1924 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now Q. No. 161 - Shrimati Nivedita Mane

...(Interruptions)

FELICITATION TO INDIAN CRICKET TEAM FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN WORLD CUP TOURNAMENT

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Indian Cricket Team should be congratulated on behalf of the Parliament. It should be congratulated on entering super six stage. On behalf of Parliament, we would also congratulate Sachin Tendulkar for completing 12000 runs and the whole team should be welcomed.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Parliament, Indian Cricket team should be congratulated for its grand victory.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Sir, on behalf of the House, from the Chair you kindly congratulate the Indian cricket team for their victory against Pakistan. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: A large number of Members have given me a notice and they have desired that we should congratulate the Indian Cricket team for a grand victory against Pakistan.

As the hon. Members are aware, the Indian cricket team has registered convincing victories against England and Pakistan.

The House may congratulate the Indian cricket team on their spirited performance and wish them all the success in the remaining matches for the World Cup.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): Sir, India defeated Pakistan and Congress defeated BJP.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (FARIDKOT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the prices of diesel and fertilizers have been hiked sharply. ...(Interruptions) I have given a notice for an Adjournment Motion on the issue. It is a serious issue. Farmers are a distressed lot today. ...(Interruptions) Government are doing nothing for farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will allow you only during Zero Hour.

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Incentives to New Industrial Units by KVIC

+

*161. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has been given responsibility to provide incentives to new industrial units for creating new job opportunities in rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of new industrial units provided incentives in the country during 2000-01 and 2001-02, State-wise;

(c) the estimated number of persons provided with the jobs as a result thereof;

(d) the targeted number of new units to be set up following the incentives given for the purpose during the current financial year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) provides incentives to new industrial units

by way of Margin Money (MM) under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP).

(b) The State-wise details of number of new industrial units provided incentives in the country during the year 2000-01 and 2001-02 is at Annexure.

(c) The estimated number of persons provided with jobs as a result are 3.50 lakhs and 3.43 lakhs in the years 2000-01 and 2001-02, respectively.

(d) It is targeted to set up about 30,000 new units under REGP during the current financial year.

(e) The committees at the Central and State level regularly monitor the implementation of the programme to ensure achievement of targets.

Annexure

State-wise number of new industrial units provided incentives by the KVIC during 2000-01 and 2001-2002

S.No.	Name of the States/UTs	2000-2001	2001-02
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	5388	797
2	Arunachal Pradesh	202	5
3	Assam	120	199
4	Bihar	155	37
5	Goa	837	482
6	Gujarat	356	83
7	Haryana	2078	511
8	Himachal Pradesh	250	594
9	Jammu & Kashmir	2471	790
10	Karnataka	3083	1311
11	Kerala	1601	1432
12	Madhya Pradesh	8038	1049
13	Maharashtra	6354	2564
14	Manipur	359	11
15	Meghalaya	623	157

1	2	3	4
16	Mizoram	302	09
17	Nagaland	4119	162
18	Orissa	199	619
19	Punjab	3215	1118
20	Rajasthan	3735	2647
21	Sikkim	03	0
22	Tamil Nadu	1629	598
23	Tripura	20	25
24	Uttar Pradesh	7745	1863
25	West Bengal	781	2892
26	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	25	50
27	Delhi	37	31
28	Chandigarh	-	119
29	Dadra Nagar Haveli	06	1
30	Pondicherry	59	6
31	Lakshadweep	-	1
32	Daman & Diu	-	-
33	Chhattisgarh	79	191
34	Jharkhand	6	139
35	Uttaranchal	44	269
Total		53919	20767

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Khadi and Village industries occupy an important place in the economy of our country. Keeping this in view, what parameters Government are adopting to allocate funds to the states for development of Khadi and Village industries. Are the Government discriminating in the allocation? Through you, I would like to know from the Government about the effective steps taken by the Government to promote Khadi and Village industries in Maharashtra.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir,

Government of India are not discriminating against any state Government. As for the question relating to parameters for fund allocation, we take into account the number of units, those functional among them, their fund requirements, their production, their sale and the number of people working there. All these factors are taken into account while making state-wise allocation of funds.

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government provided Rs. 12 crore to Gujarat for the purpose while Maharashtra was provided only Rs.3.51 crore. Even a small state such as Haryana was given Rs. 5 crore and Himachal Pradesh was given Rs. 3.86 crore. What is this if not discrimination?

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the states, where the number of units is more and more work is undertaken, are given higher allocation while states having lesser number of units and consequently less work, are given less allocation. Apart from this, Government have no other criteria for fund allocation.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the misuse of funds meant for implementing projects relating to Khadi and Village industries has become common. It has been revealed even by KVIC. The misuse of funds is not possible without the involvement of officers. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the number of cases of misuse of funds detected in the country, the names of the persons found involved and also the steps taken by the Government to prevent misuse of funds in future. My second question is that in answer to part (a) of the question, it was said that.

[English]

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Let me reply to your first part. Then, you can ask another supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: My question is related to it, I wanted to know about the margin money you provide to an industry and also what parameters are adopted for the purpose? How much amount has been given to the States on the basis of units located there? Is hon'ble Minister aware of the instances of misuse of funds by the State Governments or its officials? Is it true that the funds allocated to the States are being used in building parks instead of being provided to units - units are only on paper?

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question he has asked is not one question rather the single question contains many queries. I will answer some of them

in 'Yes' and some in 'No'. I will answer some questions in detail, so my reply ought not to be misunderstood.

Sir, the cases of misuse are reported from all over the country and Government take steps to check such incidents. Any one interested in setting up a unit, first approaches a bank. The system has been changed number of times, but it is often revealed that margin money is deposited in the bank directly by the KVIC, but through the units do not exist margin money is taken. Inquiries into such cases were made, action was taken against guilty officials and employees and money was recovered from them. In some cases, it also happened, that in order to get a share in the margin money, the bank officials or the Director certified a particular case. Such cases were also investigated and action was taken against guilty officials. If the hon'ble member wants to have details, I will make them available to him.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I would like to have the details.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: I will make them available.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Sir, I would like to know the number of officials against whom action was taken? And also the total number of cases which came to light.

MR. SPEAKER: The information may be provided to him later on.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I welcome the hon. Minister first.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Thank you.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: But I had seen you that you were one of the most vocal Members in Rajya Sabha. As a Minister, you are very active. You allow us to put our questions first and then your answer.

Khadi and village industry is one of those industries which can give its help to the rural people for getting various job opportunities as well as for encouraging different products which are wasted. I have seen it in Kerala during my tour as a Member of the Standing Committee. In Kerala, it is a well-knitted organisation. In Assam, of late, it has picked up. After having come in this Ministry, will you try to make an in-depth study of those areas where there is an ample opportunity to invest money and encourage employment in the rural areas like in Assam and in the entire North-Eastern region? I also request you to give a package to the North-Eastern States for getting employment in the rural areas.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: The suggestion is welcome and it is well-taken. So far as the question of North-Eastern Region is concerned, my Ministry and my Government are already very much aware, very much conscious of it and we have already taken certain measures to advance the activities of KVIC in the North-Eastern States. The margin money is enhanced from 25 per cent to 30 per cent in the North-Eastern States. The age criterion has also been relaxed there. We give them training; we give them financial assistance; we create awareness also; and we go to the places where the raw material is available. If there is viability and feasibility of starting of a new project, we try to pick up the persons who are willing to carry out certain projects. Then they are prompted to go to the banks and the banks are requested to advance loans to them. Certainly, I have taken note of whatever you have suggested.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Question and Answer should go concurrently.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether same efforts are also being made to boost efficiency, competitiveness and marketing of Khadi and Village Industries as for their set up.

[English]

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: During the last few years, Sir, there have been so many changes, and various suggestions have come from various quarters.

Firstly, there was some amendment in the Act itself in 1988-89, in this direction.

Secondly, there was a High Power Committee set up under the leadership of the then hon. Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimharao which submitted a Report and gave various suggestions. Subsequently, two conferences of the Industry Ministers of all the States were held in 1997 and 1998.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, his question is very specific.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: I am coming to that, Sir. The KVIC and the Ministry have taken many steps to modernise khadi and other things.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, may I tell you his question once again?

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: I have understood his question, Sir. He has asked what steps the Government has taken to promote, advance the activities of these areas. I am

telling you, Sir, about modernisation of the outlets, then, design and fashion technology advancement, then, about workers who are working in this field, provide them insurance scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: He is pointing out monitoring and marketing.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, modernisation and marketing.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Sir, so far as marketing is concerned, we are trying to create clusters. Then there are common facility centres set up by KVIC. So far as the question of market is concerned, we are giving due publicity. We are holding exhibitions. These products are sold in the exhibitions and we are arranging from our *khadi bhandar* also the sale of these products. In Mumbai, 5000 private outlets are selling the products of KVIC.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Thank you, Speaker, Sir. The Khadi and Village Industries' Commission has to ensure the development of rural economy in India. Sir, in the rural areas, we have crores of unemployed youth with full of energy and they seek bank's loans to start a new industry. Sir, when we see the margin money given in different parts of the State. In 2000-01 for Tamil Nadu it was 1629 units. Why is it reduced to 598 units this year? I would say, Sir, that it is the primary duty of the Khadi and Village Industries' Commission to open a centre in all the collectorates to get a census of all the unemployed youths - all the persons - who are seeking loans from different nationalised banks to start a new industry. Sir, I want to ask the Minister whether RLEGP - an employment generation programme of the centre - is sufficient to meet or combat the unemployment problem?

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Sir, so far as the first part of his question is concerned that why there is a retardation in Tamil Nadu, I would like to tell the hon. Member that in the beginning the focus was paid on the increasing number of projects. Now, big projects are also being installed. Therefore more money, now, is being invested in the big projects. This is number one. Therefore, the number of projects have come down. It is because more money is now being invested in the big projects.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether Members of BJP are observing 'Shok Diwas' today? Most of them are absent.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: You seem to be happy.

MR. SPEAKER: Since you arrived late, they are unhappy.

[English]

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: So far as the second part of the question is concerned, there are various centrally-sponsored schemes for providing employment both in rural and urban areas.

My Ministry provides employment through the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana. That is done by my Ministry; but so far as the KVIC is concerned, it provides employment either in khadi or in village industries. The number is increasing day by day.

Setting up of Cold Storage Plants

*162. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been providing assistance to private entrepreneurs in setting up cold storage plants for non-horticultural products;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance given for such storage plants;

(c) the details of funds released for this purpose during 2002-2003.

(d) whether there is a proposal to expand this scheme to boost marketing in rural areas; and

(e) if so, the details of the plans to encourage storage of non-horticulture products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has assisted the setting up of four cold storage plants for non-horticulture products in the 9th Plan period. Total assistance provided by the Ministry to these 4 cold storage plants was Rs. 125 lakhs. In the year 2002-03, Rs.75 lakhs have been released for another 2 such projects.

(d) and (e) There has been a significant enhancement in the 10th Plan outlay for the Ministry of Food processing Industries, a substantial part of which is earmarked for development of infrastructure. Infrastructure development includes strengthening of integrated cold chain, setting up of value added centres and other post-harvest handling systems for horticulture and non-horticulture produce, which

is expected to provide a boost to marketing of agro-produce of rural areas.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is generally agreed that at least 20 per cent of the foodgrains grown in the country perish due to lack of good storage facilities.

As far as fruits, vegetables and many other products are concerned, the wastage is very high. The Government has been frequently saying that it has sufficient storage facilities but the storage facilities are inadequate, especially in the rural areas. In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, what are the figures with respect to storage required for non-horticultural products in various States.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member.

As per the Mackinsey Report on Food Processing, the estimated wastage is about eight per cent to thirty-seven per cent. The money value of this wastage is roughly about Rs.25,000 to Rs.50,000 crore annually. My Ministry is encouraging and providing assistance to the food processing industry for cold storage for non-horticultural products, cold storage in food parks, cold storage which is an integral part of the food processing industry and modified atmospheric cold storage. Apart from this we are going to formulate a Food Processing Policy, which would definitely create an enabling environment for the food processing industry.

We are also rationalising the tax structure. In 2001 and 2002, food processing industries of fruits and vegetables were exempted from excise duty. In addition, as per the hon. Prime Minister's directive, we are now going to formulate an integrated food law, which would also definitely help the food processing industry grow more. Now, a GOM has been constituted to formulate the law. We are also setting up food parks in various parts of the country where we are creating cold storage facilities. That would also help in reduction of wastage and more utilisation of vegetables, fruits and other food products. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, let him ask the next Supplementary. You can give further reply in the Supplementary.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has been talking about this matter. Even in the Budget and in the whole Plan, only Rs.1.25 crore have been allocated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I agree, it is a very small amount.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What a small amount it is and what are they harping on!

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: I would like to know to what extent the Central Government involves the banks and other financial institutions in lending money at concessional rates to people who want to build such cold storage facilities in various States.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Sir, our Ministry is a promotional one. We are promoting the setting up of cold storage facilities in various parts of the country. The food processing sector is in the priority sector in bank lending. Therefore, it is for the private industry and also for the public sector undertakings and the NGOs to approach the banks. We are also here to help them, to give them assistance and also to ask the banks to give assistance for setting up such cold storage facilities.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

As you are aware coconut is one of the major agricultural products of rural areas in India, especially in Kerala and other south Indian States.

Of late the price of coconut has crashed very low leading to the misery of the farmers who are investing in the coconut sector.

Sir, here in the statement, the hon. Minister has given the answer that there has been a significant enhancement in the Tenth Plan outlay for the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. Against this background, I would like to know whether any plants are actually being envisaged by the Ministry for giving incentive to the agro-based, that is, coconut-based products, especially food items, and also for drinks produced out of the tendered coconut water, which is very nutritious. If the Government has not already envisaged any plants, I would like to know whether the request would be considered to have plants to encourage and give incentives to the coconut sector.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is giving assistance for setting up food processing industries and also for modernisation and expansion of the food processing industries.

But as far as coconut industry is concerned, they can prepare tender water from coconuts. We are giving assistance for that. They can also manufacture powder from the coconuts. We are giving assistance for that also. Therefore, for setting up an industry, we are giving 25 per cent of subsidy for the plant and machinery and for technical and civil work. A maximum of Rs. 50 lakh we are giving in the general area and in the hard area, we are giving 33.3 per cent, maximum

of Rs. 75 lakh for setting up industries in places like Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and also in the North-Eastern States. Therefore, they can utilise this facility and create more infrastructure, which will reduce the misery.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister is not giving clear reply to the question asked. The question asked was about the details of agriculture production from horticulture and non-horticulture sector. The question also related to the measures taken to protect the produce of farmers. In the reply, it was said that an assistance of Rs. 125 lakh was provided. They have to provide the boost to the two types of production - fruits and vegetables grown here. What measures have been taken for it? Besides, I would also like to know as to whether storage of vegetables and fruits would be arranged in the existing cold storages only. Please also apprise the House of your proposals for Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand. You just read out from a voluminous book. You seem to be unconcerned with the question.

[English]

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: The hon. Member is concerned only with the answer that is given. I have given the answer for non-horticulture cold storage plants. The total assistance provided by the Ministry to these four cold storage plants was Rs. 125 lakh in the Ninth Plan. In the year 2002-03, Rs. 75 lakh have been released for two such projects. So, in total, Rs. 2 crore have been given for the non-horticulture products.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, hon'ble Minister should not give wrong statement. Reply puts the figure of Rs. 75 lakh and not Rs. 75 crore. If there was Rs. 75 crore I would have been satisfied or asked a different question.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: So, in total, we have given Rs. 2 crore for the non-horticulture products. So far, we have assisted 53 units.

We have given Rs.1486.91 lakhs. Therefore, now approximately in the Ninth Plan we have created a capacity of 70,000 metric tonnes. The total number of cold storages available in the country as on 31.12.01 is 4146 and the capacity available is 14.96 million tonnes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I don't know from where hon'ble Minister is reading out his answer. The question is about setting up of cold storage plants for non-horticulture produces and hon'ble Minister is replying about fruits. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Malaisamy.

SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM: For horticulture and non-horticulture products, we have 4146 cold storages.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Malaisamy I have called your name three times. Why are you not getting up to ask your question?

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I will ask a simple and general question so that it can be easily answered. I would like to know from the Minister whether any potential survey has been made with reference to the possibility of establishing cold storage facilities state-wise.

If it is so, how much has been exploited? Suppose there is 100% potentiality, whether 1% has been exploited or 2% has been exploited? According to me, only a marginal percentage has been exploited. If so, is it due to want of finance or due to want of will?

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: It is true, Sir, that only a small quantity of raw material has been processed, only about 2% of raw materials in food products has been processed. Therefore, we are here for assisting plants for setting up cold storage and also creating environment for the food processing industry by creating food parks in various parts of the State thereby anybody can start food parks. We are also giving assistance of Rs.4 crore for food parks for setting up cold storage, warehouses, godowns, analytical laboratory and also common effluent treatment. We are also creating common infrastructure in all the areas of the State. Therefore, anybody can come and start an industry in food parks. For that we are giving 25% assistance, to the maximum of Rs. 50 lakh.

The Tenth Plan working group has assessed the additional capacity of four million tonnes as necessary for the Tenth Plan; also the modernisation of one million tonnes is necessary. Therefore, we are creating and making environment for creating infrastructure for food processing.

[English]

Encroachments Near Monuments

*163. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the boundary walls of Jahapanah consisting of Qila Rai Pithora, city of Siri and Lal Kot has been encroached upon extensively eliminating the very character of Jahapanah built by Emperor Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq in the 14th Century;

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

(c) the measures taken by the Government to safeguard the said monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Over the last decade or two, a number of encroachments have been taking place on public land in Delhi including the area covered by Qila Rai Pithora, Jahapanah, Siri, Tugalqabad, Lal Kot, etc. While primary responsibility for clearance of encroachments is that of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Development Authority and other local agencies, the Archaeological Survey of India/Department of Culture has also a role to play with regard to prevention of encroachments within the 'prohibited' or 'regulated' area in terms of the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The area up to 100 metres from the protected limits and further beyond up to 200 metres near or adjoining protected monuments fall under prohibited and regulated areas, respectively.

As regards the action to be taken under the law by the Archaeological Survey of India/Department of Culture, a drive has recently been launched to rid the monuments of the encroachments. Lal Kot/Qila Rai Pithora has largely been cleared and radically improved and conserved. Likewise, a lot of clearance has been done from Tughlakabad area and the complex improved/conserved. Action to improve the matters further is in hand.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister in his reply has admitted that encroachments have been taking place in Qila Rai Pithora, Jaha Panah, Siri, Tugalakabad, Lal Kot, etc. over the last decade or two. The reply of the hon. Minister is an example of how responsibility is shifted to other departments in the Government, which further states that the responsibility to remove encroachments lie with Delhi Municipal Corporation, Delhi Development Authority and other local agencies. It means it is the responsibility of several institutions. Responsibility of several means responsibility of none. There-

after hon'ble Minister says that as per the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, it is the responsibility of his department. It means that statutorily, his Department is responsible and he is shifting it to other departments. In such circumstances, how can we hope to save our historical, cultural and old heritage which are pride to us?

Sir, we have evidence that the heritage is not being protected and hon'ble Minister is not owning up responsibility for that, instead he is following the principle of 'passing the buck' and holding other institutions such as MCD, DDA and other agencies responsible whereas the reality is that as per the Act, it is the responsibility of his department. They have tried to remove some encroachments. Some have been removed also, but I would like to know the encroachment area still not cleared and the efforts to be undertaken to clear them?

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Sir, the hon. Member has asked question in three parts. First, whose responsibility is it? The answer given is that it is the primary responsibility of the municipal corporation because nobody can put up any construction without first getting the plan sanctioned. So, all these illegal constructions and encroachments have taken place in violation of the Municipal Corporation Act. Secondly, DDA is also responsible in the sense that land uses are prescribed by the DDA, zoning regulations are also prescribed by DDA and any violation of this can be prosecuted by DDA. That is the second authority responsible. For anything which falls within the area, the responsibility has to be taken by the DDA.

So far as Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act is concerned, there are limitations in taking action. If the area is a protected monument and if it falls within a radius of 100 metres from the protected limits, then it is a prohibited area for construction and nobody can construct there. But if it is beyond those 100 metres, up to 200 metres, then it is a regulated area where with permission, some construction can be allowed. It depends upon the merit of the case. So, the reply given is that for constructions in areas which fall within 100 metres in the prohibited area the responsibility has to be taken by the Archaeological Survey of India also in addition to the other authorities concerned, but I am not shelving the responsibility of the Department.

The point is that everybody in the House knows what is my attitude towards illegal construction and unauthorised construction. I have always treated it as a great cancer in our civic life. Therefore, there should be no reservations about it. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me explain.

The second point which I would like to make is that a lot of improvements have been made during the last few months in the area, which I have mentioned, we have done complete clearance in the Lal Kot area and a very beautiful park and Qila Rai Pithora have been developed. The ancient wall has been dug up and brought out and a statue of Prithviraj Chauhan has been put there. All that past history has been documented and a Documentation Centre-cum-Interpretation Centre-cum-Information Centre has been built there. Now, a green park around it of about four acres has been developed where thousands of people go early morning for a walk, that is, the people from Saket colony and the colonies around it. They really see not only the past heritage of India but the contemporary use is also available.

Secondly, Tughlaqabad area is also concerned, a lot of encroachments have been removed from Tughlaqabad and in this House, as Urban Development Minister, I had to answer a very large number of questions on why Tughlaqabad was being done like this.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Shri Madan Lal Khurana is not present in the House today.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: But you are present. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

My point is that even in that area, a very large number of encroachments have been removed in Tughlaqabad. The area has been green and it has been improved.

About Red Fort, you must have read in the newspapers that a lot of work has been recently done. Even if you go to Tughlaqabad in the night, you will see that from Tughlaqabad to Suraj Kund, a new development has taken place during the recent past. It is all lighted. We have even put lights on so that you can see all the conservation and all the restoration work that has been done. Green development has also taken place around Tughlaqabad and Red Fort.

We are also doing it similarly in Humayun Tomb. In the area called Hazrat Nizamuddin, where a large number of construction is there, a lot of work is being undertaken and for the first time during the last 50 years, we are going to clean up the *baoli* in the Hazrat Nizamuddin area. All these things have been done. These encroachments have been there for the last 25 years to 30 years and we have now taken the major areas first. The major areas are Humayun Tomb, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Red Fort, Lal Kot, Qila Rai Pithora and Tughlaqabad. All these areas have been cleared. There are

minor things here and there and I assure that we will certainly take action.

I have already held a meeting with the Lt. Governor and the Police Commissioner. They have all assured me that they will take action and they will activate the police force for that because after all, we depend upon the police force.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, your reply was interesting and convincing but the only question which is not replied is that how much unauthorised construction still exists. That was the question.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: It is true. There is unauthorised construction within the 100 mts radius to the protected area. So far as we are concerned, in Jahapanah, there is practically no construction within the radius because the whole wall is not a protected monument. Only 1/3rd of the Jahapanah wall is protected and the other area which is in Qila Rai Pithora, there is only a portion which is protected. So, within 100 meters we have practically cleared everything except in two cases, which are pending in the High Court. The High Court has put up a Court Commissioner to visit the place and find out whether it falls within the area or not. I will assure you that if there is anything, I will remove it.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. speaker, Sir, House will be assured after the interest expressed by The hon'ble Minister in protecting historical heritages. Wherever our heritage, history and culture exist, it should be protected and not be encroached. The 'Bhiksha Patra' of Lord Buddha was taken to Afghanistan in the second century by Kanishka and an ex-chief Secretary Shri Vasudeo Soni has written an article that it is still there. I had written a letter in this regard. Would hon'ble Minister inquire into it and the department in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs and Department of culture bring back the Bhiksha Patra of Lord Buddha, which is a world heritage and which he had returned to Vaishali at the time of his Nirvana.

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN: There is two parts of the question. Firstly, he has asked what action is being taken to protect and preserve other monuments of our cultural heritage. We have taken a very large number of steps throughout the country and you yourself are aware as to what has been done in Jahapanah. A large number of encroachments have been removed, nearly 300 of them and a new area has been developed.

In every world heritage monument, all these

encroachments are being removed and I have written personally to all the Chief Ministers that no Central assistance from the Tourism and Culture Department would be available unless they cooperate in the removal of these unauthorised constructions around these monuments. And it applies to Bihar as well, Sir.

So far as the idea of bringing back our heritage, which has been taken out, we depend upon the Ministry of External Affairs. We are in touch with them. We have also requested them to help us in this regard and we will do our best to bring back as much as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I represent Pandharpur. Shirdi and Pandharpur are two large areas in Maharashtra. I have been trying for the last three years that the two areas are developed as tourist places by the Government. They need to be included in the list kept for the purpose by the Government. Hon'ble Minister had made an announcement to this effect also. Every year about 40-50 lakh devotees from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh visit Pandharpur and my question is whether Government propose to include it in its list or not? Please make announcement to this effect without delay.

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Sir, this I have already announced at the special function which was attended by the hon. Prime Minister that the Pandharpur Yatra, in that a lot of people experience a lot of difficulties because of rain and other things. I have said that we will take up that area and as far as possible, and we will try to improve it on the same lines as Vaishno Devi shrine. All the passages will be improved and I have committed myself to go there personally and you are also welcome and all those who are interested are also welcome. Our idea is to improve the passage and also give all the facilities to the people on their way, including medical facilities, so that nobody is inconvenienced. I have already earmarked certain amount of money for this purpose. During the recess period, I will visit that place.

MR. SPEAKER: Is the Speaker also welcome to visit that place?

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Definitely, Sir.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. Even an encroacher enjoys the fundamental right to get a protection and the Supreme Court has said that no encroacher can be evicted without due process of law.

Sir, you may know, about 18 years ago the pavement dwellers in Mumbai refused to be evicted, and the matter went to the Supreme Court, that is, the *Volga Telly's Case*. The Supreme Court said that citizens have a right to shelter. Now, the trend is that before encroaching or occupying a place, they get an injunction saying that they are living in that particular area; they get an anticipatory injunction. Will the Department, the Delhi Municipal Corporation and the Delhi Development Authority pre-empt those moves and watch and protect the public land that is lying vacant here in Delhi?

SHRI JAG MOHAN: The question is really related to the Delhi Municipal Corporation and the Delhi Development Authority, and what action they have taken to prevent this. Although it pertains to the Urban Development Ministry, I will be very happy to answer this. The question is that the High Court has itself said that those encroachers should not be given any alternative land. Practically, in all such cases, special arrangements were made, and they are still in operation that if anybody goes to court, it should be effectively countered straightaway; *Caveat* should be introduced in the court so that if anybody, tries to get an *ex-parte* stay order, that should not be allowed. In fact, the courts now have a trend of not allowing *ex-parte* stay order, and they are themselves issuing orders for the removal of encroachments.

Development of Tourism Circuits

*164. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to develop tourism circuits by connecting cultural and tourism hubs in each State as a joint venture with the State Governments;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to include Thiruvananthapuram under the proposed tourism circuit; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) With a view to providing an elevating image of India's culture and promoting healthy and sustainable tourism, during the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture has drawn up proposals to develop hubs which synthesize the elements of culture, tourism and clean civic life. There would be at least one such hub in every State and

Union Territory. Under this plan, both destination and domestic tourism is being promoted. Thiruvananthapuram is included in one of the identified tourism circuits. The other prominent places covered by the circuit are Cochin-Kumarakom (Backwaters) - Kottayam-Quilon-Trivandrum (Kovalam).

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Sir, in the reply, the hon. Minister has enunciated that Trivandrum-Cochin circuit has been included in the proposals of the Tourism Ministry. Will you be pleased to enunciate the provision or the outlay earmarked for the proposed project during the Tenth Five-Year Plan?

Sir, a recent study conducted by the World Travel and Tourism Council, which was already submitted to the Government of India, revealed that Kerala is the fastest growing tourist destination in the world. In this context, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India will consider the entire Kerala State as a tourist destination under the proposed tourism circuit, as recommended by the Government of Kerala?

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Sir, as I have answered in reply to the Question that this circuit has already been sanctioned by us.

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Sanction has already been given to the Trivandrum-Cochin circuit.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: The policy which we have now carried out is that one great hub of culture, tourism and clean civic life should be given to each State, at least, one, and that is the policy that we will be following in the Tenth Five Year Plan. Kerala has, no doubt, done very good work in the field of tourism. We have already sanctioned for this circuit, which includes Trivandrum, an amount of Rs. 8 crore and that amount has been made available to the Government and other agencies who have to execute it. It includes forts, heritage walkways and all those provisions are there, which I will send it to you in detail if you like because I have got all those figures. The total amount has been given to the Government.

Apart from that, a lot of money has been given for the backwater development. We also have a programme of what is called 'Yatra' that is, Sankara Yatra, Gandhi Yatra and Vivekananda Yatra. These are three great historic 'Yatras' which we are wanting to link up with the tourism circuit because from the birth place of these great personalities, who have regenerated the culture of India, we want to have these 'Yatras'. Under the 'Sankara Yatra', a lot of projects are being given to Kerala State: for example, Kalady; Guruvayoor Temple is another. Kerala is getting a lion's share from our project.

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Sir, even though Kovalam in

Kerala is the first international tourist destination in India, there is not even a single direct international flight either from Europe or USA to Trivandrum, the Capital City of Kerala till date. Will the Union Minister, in consultation with the Civil Aviation Minister, he is here, take necessary steps to start direct flights from various international destinations, both from USA and Europe, to Trivandrum to increase the international tourist flow to Kerala?

SHRI JAG MOHAN: I will certainly take it up with my distinguished colleague, but a large number of chartered flights and other flights have also been given to Kerala up to Cochin and other places.

MR. SPEAKER: Your reply is enough. The hon. Member can take up this matter with the Minister of Civil Aviation.

DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Tourism sector is very promising in our country and Government is doing well to promote this sector. At the same time the qualified professionals, especially tourism professions at managerial levels are not adequate number. So, our State Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed to establish a National Institute of Hospitality Management and Tourism. For this, Central Government has agreed to assist this.

I would like to know, whether you are going to expedite the project.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Sir, there is a project which has been recommended by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and I myself had personally gone there. We have already sanctioned the Central share of this project. Now they have to draw the blue print and other things.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Thank you, Sir. Tourism industry is regarded as a smokeless industry in the world. In the midst of dismal performance of this Government especially in the economic field the only silver lining on the horizon is service sector.

Sir, West Bengal is such a State which inherits a panoply of exquisite charm as far as tourism is concerned. Ranging from majestic Himalayas in the North, lush green area that is called Terai region at the foothills to the South it is a bountiful sea, let alone umpteen number of religions and historical places of interest.

Sir, in today's world eco-tourism has emerged as a new trend in the world and on that score Sunderbans area which is the greatest deltaic region in the world with its fascinating environment can deliver lot of opportunities to the tourism sector. May I ask the hon. Minister whether any such proposal has been mooted from the State of West Bengal or whether

you on your own are taking any endeavour how to develop particularly the delta region?

MR. SPEAKER: No long questions will be permitted. How long will you go on with your question? You must be very quick.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Sir, I would like to make it clear that we are now treating tourism as a special sector for development. We are now treating tourism not only for the purpose of bringing more tourists but as an instrument of removal of poverty, of creating more employment and enhancing the quality of life and what is called ecologically sound tourism which you said eco-tourism. It is a part of our system. Eco-tourism is inherent in the Indian tradition because from the very ancient times we have been saying that we should not dig out from the earth more than the mother earth can recover from itself. That is the policy that we are following. The first Veda scripture is incorporated in our eco-development sector and I have already made it clear.

So far as West Bengal is concerned, Sunderbans is one of the projects which I have myself suggested to the State Government that they should prepare a comprehensive plan because it is ideally suited for eco-development purposes. There is water body, there are forests, there are other adventures where lot of things can be done. They are already working on it. They have appointed some consultant to do the job. I am already in consultation with them and we will definitely do something for it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The State of Kerala is always described as Western Ghat. Trivandrum has been identified as one of the tourist circuits. Now, you have given an idea that it will be connected by certain different places. Now, in the case of Western Kumarakom, Kottayam, Quilon and Trivandrum via Kovalam, what are the ingredients - back water development, road development and air traffic? All these may be included.

What are the schemes now in your Ministry for the development of this particular circuit?

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Sir, it all depends upon the problem which a particular area has. For example, for backwaters, jetty constructions, block-ways, approaches, power. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am asking about the expenditure, the money that is given?

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Money depends upon the plan that is drawn up and the need of that area. We would like to provide for the project in all aspects so that the project is complete in

all respects, including the approach, air-connectivity, facilities, jetties. After all, this project has to be. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am asking about Quilon and Thiruvananthapuram. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 165 - Shri Saiduzzama.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, I want to ask a specific question in respect of Punjab. Please allow me. Please, Sir, may I ask a specific question in respect of Punjab?

MR. SPEAKER: Ask him. Without my permission you can ask him!

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Thank you, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I said that he could ask a question without my permission.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, this privilege should be given to all the Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: I want to congratulate the hon. Minister for Culture for being one of our best Culture Ministers since 1947.

The Punjab Government has moved a case for the Golden Temple. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ask the question straight away.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Yes, Sir. The Government of Punjab has moved a case for the Golden Temple Complex to be declared a heritage site. Has the case been sent to UNESCO in Paris so far or not? If not, why not, and when will it be sent? Thank you.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: The question is limited to the declaration of *Durbar Saab* Complex as a heritage site. A detailed proposal has been received from the State Government. It has been discussed with the Minister, INTACH and other authorities concerned. UNESCO takes only one item in two years. We will definitely be writing to them as early as possible.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: The scheme is running out, Sir.

National Dairy Development Board

*165. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Former Chairman of National Dairy

Development Board (NDDDB) has recently criticised on NDDDB's ties with MNCs;

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

(c) whether NDDDB has been losing heavily on its Fruits and Vegetables Project in Delhi; and

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

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NDDDB does not have any Joint Venture with Multi National Companies. Mother Dairy Foods Limited, a wholly owned Company of subsidiary of NDDDB has offered to form Joint Venture Companies with the State Cooperative Dairy Federations for the purpose of strengthening the marketing of their milk and milk products. This offer is purely voluntary in nature.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: The purpose for which questions are asked, are twisted here. My question was correct, but the Department altered it which is improper. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been informed by the print and the electronic media that a dispute has arisen between Dr. Kurien and Ms. Amrita Patel. It is adversely affecting cooperative movement. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what action has been taken in this regard? Amul dairy converted the mild powder and butter oil received as a gift from other countries, into Dairy food and sold it at higher price, it is not proper. I want to know what action has been taken in this regard by the Government and whether Government would recover crores of rupees which accrued on the selling of the above mentioned product. There is also the second part of my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Only one question be asked at a time or else reply would not be given for the paucity of time.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Hon. Member has asked two questions. One, what has been done in regard to the funds received by NDDDB from abroad and also the milk powder imported and sold by it. NDDDB was not provided any funds by the Government when it was set up under a legislation by Parliament in 1987. There was a provision under which NDDDB was permitted to import milk powder and sell it under the

operation flood and promote the dairy in India by the profit assumed from it. An investment of Rs. 1750 crore was made in NDDB during period from 1970 to 1996 out of which 30 per cent grant was given to States and the rest 70 per cent was provided as loan. NDDB is undertaking the dairy development work in the country with the interest of this loan. The second question of the hon. Member was regarding the reservation expressed by the former Chairman of NDDB on the proposed joint venture of NDDB in this connection. I would like to inform the hon. Member that India has become the largest milk producing country in the world but there is problem of its marketing, as cooperative federations are not in a position to undertake the marketing of the milk. Now NDDB propose to enter into a joint venture with Mother Dairy that is basically meant for marketing. State Federations can also enter into joint venture if they are willing to do so. There is no constraint on their part. State Government of Kerala and Andhra Pradesh have expressed their desire to enter into joint venture. U.P. and Punjab are also willing for the same with Mother Dairy to sell the milk procured from the farmers and the talks are going on in this regard.

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Hon. Minister, Sir, Dhara is the product of NDDB. When hon'ble Kuriën Saheb was chairman of both Mother Dairy and Amul Dairy then the right of sole distribution of Dhara was given to Amul Dairy without floating any tender and without any quotation. I would like to know as to whether he will try to return it back to Mother Dairy so that Amul Dairy can be run properly also. Secondly, I would like to know as to what action has been taken by the Government in regard to the various cases of fraud which are under trial against Kuriënji?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: The Court would decide about it and the Court's decision would be final in this regard.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have read in the newspaper that the hon. Minister propose to withdraw the price hike on fertilizers. I want to know by when it would be done. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Saiduzzamaji, you please resume your seat, how can you ask the question. Hon. Minister will send you the written reply.

[English]

Insurance Scheme for Indian Workers

*166. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently announced any compulsory insurance scheme for the Indian workers migrating to the Persian Gulf; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Prime Minister on the occasion of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, on 9th January, 2003, had announced that Indian workers going to Gulf countries to take up employment will be insured. Consultations have been held with the Ministry of External Affairs and the New India Assurance Company to prepare an Insurance Scheme for the unskilled workers emigrating to these countries for employment. The details are under finalisation.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Sir, it is about two months now when the NRI Conference was held. But so far, no action is forthcoming.

So, my first Supplementary is that when this scheme of compulsory insurance is likely to be finalised and made effective?

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Prime Minister has announced an insurance scheme for the Indian workers migrating abroad. Thereafter two meetings between the representatives of the Labour Ministry and the External Affairs Ministry and the New India Insurance Company have been convened on 7th and 13th February and many schemes have been formulated therein. I am ready to give the detail about all schemes. I hope that all the schemes would be implemented in the next six months.

[English]

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Sir, there are a number people - who were taken to the Gulf and other countries for employment by some unscrupulous agents - who are left over there to their fate without providing them any job. There are a number of such cases. So, whether the Government of India has got any proposal to safeguard their interests, more so of the women employees who are put to the untoward mines including sexual exploitation.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: I would like to tell him that the Government are itself concerned about it and it has already formulated a scheme in this regard. We recruit agents at the state level and the action against them is taken from time to time. There licences are cancelled and FIR is lodged and they are punished also whenever complaint of any kind against

them is received. We have 8 officers for immigrants in our Ministry wherein their grievances are redressed.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, in the Question, it should not have been the 'Persian Gulf countries'. It should have been 'Arabian Gulf countries'. There is no country in the Persian Gulf which is allowing Indians to work there. Only the Arabian Gulf countries are allowing Indians to work there.

There are various types of employees working in the Gulf countries. There are private agents who are sending them. As a manpower agent they are working. But they are not providing whatever legally they ought to do.

With the consent of the hon. Speaker, I also raised this issue the other day that 19 Indians have been stranded in Oman. But our Embassies are not taking it up with local Governments properly.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri E. Ahamed, please ask your Supplementary. Otherwise, time will be over and you will not get the reply.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Therefore, I would like to ask this. Even before employees have been sent to Gulf countries for work, this insurance scheme should be made available. It should not be done after they go over there; but before they go over there, they should be insured.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, this scheme is meant for those who would get employment abroad. The basic purpose of the scheme was to make available benefits of the scheme to the persons living abroad and facing hardships and lose their job as a result of becoming handicapped in the accidents and suffering from disease. I would like to inform the hon. Member that the scheme is applicable to the persons who get employment abroad.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Water Cess

*167. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government and State Governments have agreed in principle to levy water cess to recover operational and maintenance costs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Parliament enacted the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977, providing for levy of Water Cess from every person carrying on any specified industry and every local authority, to augment the resources of the Central and State Pollution Control Boards for the prevention and control of Water Pollution. Upto 80% of the Water Cess collection is reimbursed to the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) for meeting their approved expenditure requirement and the balance 20% remains with the Central Government for undertaking specific projects in any part of the country through Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Of the amount reimbursed to the SPCBs, upto 25% can be utilized for office operations and establishment cost and the remaining amount on programmes and activities directly related to the prevention and control of pollution.

[Translation]

Promotion of Agro and Rural Industries

*168. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have reviewed the implementation of the Centrally sponsored schemes for the development of agro and rural industries;

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

(c) whether there is any coordination with the State Governments for the implementation of these schemes;

(d) if so, the details indicating the allocation of funds for the purpose, targets fixed and achieved in terms of setting up of Agro and Rural Industries vis-a-vis employment generation and industrial production during the said period, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken to achieve the targets and promote the ARI sector in each State of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) The Government regularly reviews the

performance under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), a Central Plan Scheme being implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for the development of Agro and Rural Industries.

(b) Based on reviews, the State-wise details of number of units set up, employment generated, production and funds utilised in the past three years and thereafter is given at statements I to V respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) These details are enclosed as statement I, II, III, IV and V.

(e) In order to achieve the target, KVIC has placed margin money advances with State KVI Boards as well as Public Sector scheduled commercial banks. Regular quarterly meetings involving Public Sector scheduled commercial banks, State KVI Boards and KVIC officials are conducted to review the progress in achievement and target. A Task Force has been formed with Secretary-Incharge of Rural Industries in each State as Chairman to review implementation of the programme at the State level. Besides, the implementation of the scheme is also regularly reviewed at the National level.

Statement-I

State-wise projects sanctioned by the KVIC during 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (up to Jan. 03)

S. No.	Name of the States/UTs	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003 Up to January
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	2032	5388	797	915
2	Arunachal Pradesh	9	202	5	32
3	Assam	67	120	199	294
4	Bihar	189	155	37	74
5	Goa	357	837	482	300
6	Gujarat	169	356	83	33
7	Haryana	399	2078	511	576
8	Himachal Pradesh	55	250	594	45
9	Jammu and Kashmir	2472	2471	790	390
10	Karnataka	4290	3083	1311	969
11	Kerala	1914	1801	1437	574
12	Madhya Pradesh	5864	8038	1049	376
13	Maharashtra	3350	6354	2564	965
14	Manipur	50	359	11	1
15	Meghalaya	1940	623	157	170
16	Mizoram	176	302	9	133

1	2	3	4	5	6
17	Nagaland	312	4119	162	0
18	Orissa	297	199	619	389
19	Punjab	2625	3215	1118	1161
20	Rajasthan	10895	3735	2647	1276
21	Sikkim	1	3	0	17
22	Tamil Nadu	1048	1629	598	449
23	Tripura	1	20	25	136
24	Uttar Pradesh	652	7745	1863	1221
25	West Bengal	6230	781	2892	1732
26	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	29	25	50	18
27	Delhi	39	37	31	0
28	Chandigarh	19	0	119	3
29	Dadra Nagar Havell	0	6	1	0
30	Pondicherry	10	59	6	1
31	Lakshadweep	0	0	1	0
32	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
33	Chhattisgarh	0	79	139	91
34	Jharkhand	0	6	191	59
35	Uttaranchal	0	44	269	519

Statement-II*Year-wise/State-wise Employment under REGP (Nos.)*

S. No.	States	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (Up to Jan. 03)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	14224	33328	23308	11474
2	Arunachal Pradesh	63	1212	157	444
3	Assam	469	1720	2878	4075
4	Bihar	1323	930	552	897
5	Goa	2499	5022	5511	4156

1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Gujarat	1183	2136	795	457
7	Haryana	2793	13468	16786	8031
8	Himachal Pradesh	385	2500	14845	635
9	Jammu and Kashmir	17304	14826	8052	4217
10	Karnataka	30030	30082	20459	13740
11	Kerala	13398	9606	28325	8450
12	Madhya Pradesh	39048	50228	21492	5231
13	Maharashtra	23450	40124	31613	13369
14	Manipur	350	2154	54	13
15	Meghalaya	13580	3738	1908	2356
16	Mizoram	1232	1812	214	1767
17	Nagaland	2184	24714	2931	0
18	Orissa	2079	1194	5711	5281
19	Punjab	18375	20290	27115	15802
20	Rajasthan	66265	24410	46724	16568
21	Sikkim	7	18	0	236
22	Tami Nadu	7336	11774	11011	6284
23	Tripura	7	120	702	1885
24	Uttar Pradesh	4564	48470	43002	17033
25	West Bengal	42610	4686	16159	23930
26	Chhattisgarh	0	474	4445	1261
27	Jharkhand	0	36	1308	831
28	Uttaranchal	0	264	5333	6038
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	203	150	376	182
30	Chandigarh	133	0	805	88
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	36	14	0
32	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
33	Delhi	273	222	299	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
34	Lakshadweep	0	0	46	0
35	Pondicherry	70	354	80	1
Grand Total		305437	350098	343010	174732

Statement-III*State-wise Production under R.E.G.P.*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	States/Union Territories	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	28989.55	33915.08	6777.94	7781.45
2	Arunachal Pradesh	9.13	155.72	57.23	366.27
3	Assam	4047.85	4671.91	731.12	1080.15
4	Bihar	16166.76	16656.40	195.65	391.30
5	Goa	1116.99	2405.31	1609.97	1002.06
6	Gujarat	17895.93	40371.22	244.21	97.10
7	Haryana	7194.23	8736.82	5696.42	6421.01
8	Himachal Pradesh	10724.53	9965.63	4844.84	367.03
9	Jammu & Kashmir	9831.96	12263.77	2277.42	1124.30
10	Karnataka	50314.10	46465.65	5478.24	4049.13
11	Kerala	18877.27	21275.91	9116.22	3641.41
12	Madhya Pradesh	34080.41	41024.43	5594.72	2005.35
13	Maharashtra	100351.69	119476.84	7896.95	2972.14
14	Manipur	5382.36	5328.77	15.65	1.42
15	Meghalaya	2119.12	2862.45	568.76	615.85
16	Mizoram	2277.93	3007.27	88.36	1305.76
17	Nagaland	2535.31	4101.73	865.50	0.00
18	Orissa	4392.95	5468.62	1531.34	962.34
19	Punjab	22942.95	25456.67	7301.81	7582.65

1	2	3	4	5	6
20	Rajasthan	51059.93	57122.41	11344.94	5468.89
21	Sikkim	223.31	206.80	0.00	62.45
22	Tamil Nadu	53064.85	58035.05	2943.23	2209.88
23	Tripura	1055.24	1279.92	248.78	1353.36
24	Uttar Pradesh	93948.96	102377.82	13773.26	9026.92
25	West Bengal	18157.26	20336.44	4208.14	2520.23
26	Chhattisgarh	0.00	218.51	1507.26	986.77
27	Jharkhand	0.00	40.83	254.20	78.53
28	Uttaranchal	0.00	307.47	1632.97	3150.60
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	168.48	252.60	120.23	43.28
30	Chandigarh	853.82	1085.00	239.18	6.03
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	12.97	0.00
32	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Delhi	2920.86	3351.65	99.71	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	6.15	6.45	15.75	0.00
35	Pondicherry	630.50	937.81	34.45	5.74

Statement-IV

*Utilisation of funds under REGP during 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02
and 2002-03 upto January 2003*

(Rs. In Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the States/UTs	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (Up to Jan. 03)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	381.81	842.04	1307.02	853.18
2	Arunachal Pradesh	6.00	39.00	11.21	21.44
3	Assam	15.78	67.94	142.51	100.62
4	Bihar	22.47	28.65	37.46	4.65
5	Goa	81.16	160.58	311.95	143.61
6	Gujarat	22.67	41.47	46.85	26.32
7	Haryana	218.35	642.28	1130.47	712.71

1	2	3	4	5	6
8	Himachal Pradesh	124.92	371.67	953.73	83.68
9	Jammu & Kashmir	105.00	83.95	436.50	135.00
10	Karnataka	599.38	849.34	1067.94	1444.15
11	Kerala	761.39	1063.20	1789.10	956.26
12	Madhya Pradesh	876.67	787.06	1096.50	523.42
13	Maharashtra	837.13	955.79	1538.08	826.88
14	Manipur	42.00	0	2.98	0
15	Meghalaya	75.93	53.12	110.50	58.64
16	Mizoram	23.00	0	16.83	135.02
17	Nagaland	4.32	180.74	168.89	0
18	Orissa	69.74	58.32	292.98	150.19
19	Punjab	904.74	1093.61	1438.62	1209.04
20	Rajasthan	1015.24	1133.20	2211.91	1097.56
21	Sikkim	1.00	11.91	0	2.00
22	Tamil Nadu	321.02	547.68	567.34	384.28
23	Tripura	1.14	7.17	49.54	27.42
24	Uttar Pradesh	1547.73	1917.53	2706.95	1130.56
25	West Bengal	142.61	191.06	822.20	368.93
26	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	1.71	22.90	15.41
27	Delhi	40.05	15.82	19.35	0
28	Chandigarh	5.06	4.84	47.56	5.44
29	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	2.47	0
30	Pondicherry	1.56	9.21	7.06	0.08
31	Lakshadweep	0	0	3.00	0
32	Daman & Diu	0	2.50	0	0
33	Chhattisgarh	0	2.94	297.99	54.76
34	Jharkhand	0	12.37	49.34	9.87
35	Uttaranchal	0	13.98	318.00	53.46

Statement-V

State-wise No. of Projects Target and Achievement and Funds Utilised during 2002-03 (Up to January 03)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Target	Achievement	Funds Utilised
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	2244	915	853.18
2	Arunachal Pradesh	439	32	21.44
3	Assam	872	294	100.62
4	Bihar	1575	74	4.65
5	Goa	432	300	143.61
6	Gujarat	1315	33	26.32
7	Haryana	851	576	712.71
8	Himachal Pradesh	611	45	83.68
9	Jammu & Kashmir	565	390	135.00
10	Karnataka	1278	969	1444.15
11	Kerala	1258	574	956.26
12	Madhya Pradesh	2011	376	523.42
13	Maharashtra	1544	965	826.88
14	Manipur	435	1	0.00
15	Meghalaya	613	170	58.64
16	Mizoram	425	133	135.02
17	Nagaland	345	0	0.00
18	Orissa	1018	389	150.19
19	Punjab	1225	1161	1209.04
20	Rajasthan	2202	1276	1097.56
21	Sikkim	140	17	2.00
22	Tamil Nadu	1195	449	384.28
23	Tripura	460	136	27.42

1	2	3	4	5
24	Uttar Pradesh	3691	1221	1130.56
25	West Bengal	1348	1732	368.93
26	Chhattisgarh	508	91	54.76
27	Jharkhand	656	59	9.87
28	Uttaranchal	339	519	53.46
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	54	18	15.41
30	Chandigarh	56	3	5.44
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	61	0	0.00
32	Daman & Diu	65	0	0.00
33	Delhi	99	0	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	50	0	0.00
35	Pondicherry	94	1	0.08

Deaths Due to Environmental Pollution

*169. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Centre for Science and Environment in its recent study has revealed that environmental pollution is the cause of excessive deaths occurring in major cities of the country;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the percentage of the total annual increase in the environmental pollution and the comparative increase in the number of deaths which took place during the last two years;

(c) the strategy being formulated by the Government to gear up the measures of controlling environmental pollution; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to implement the above strategy alongwith the progress made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, this Non-Governmental Organisation, published an article in its magazine "Down to Earth" wherein incidences of morbidity

and mortality based on the studies done in few cities in India and across the world were mentioned. However, there is no conclusive data available to establish cause-effect relationship between the environmental pollution and manifestations of various diseases.

(c) and (d) With several steps taken for prevention and control of environmental pollution in major cities, the ambient levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) and Sulphur Dioxide have come down. The strategies adopted and measures taken for control of environmental pollution include Comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution, supply of improved auto-fuel, tightening of vehicular and industrial emission norms, mandatory environmental clearance for specified industries, management of municipal & bio-medical wastes, promotion of cleaner technologies, setting up of net-work of air & water quality monitoring stations, assessment of pollution load, preparation and implementation of action plans for major cities & critically polluted areas.

Global Warming Due to Increased Air Traffic

*170. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA:

SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether temperature of earth and atmosphere is increasing rapidly due to the fast growing air traffic world over as per the opinion of environmentalists;

(b) if so, whether the hazard of global warming is taking alarming shape as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the concrete measures taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Air traffic is one of the sources of greenhouse gases contributing to global warming. Global warming due to air traffic is projected to increase slightly over the next fifty years as per the estimates of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

According to the estimates of IPCC, the Earth's surface temperature has risen between 0.4 and 0.8 degree centigrade and the world-wide measurements of sea level show a rise of 0.1 to 0.2 metres over the last century. It has also been projected that globally averaged surface temperature would rise between 1.4 and 5.8 degree centigrade and the global

mean sea level may rise between 0.09 and 0.88 metres over the next century.

The steps taken by the Government to address green house gas emissions include measures relating to energy efficiency, energy conservation, power sector reforms, renewable energy programmes, fuel switching to cleaner energy, afforestation and conservation of forests, efficient utilization of coal, reduction of gas flaring, installation of heat recovery system in oil and power sector, standardization of fuel efficient irrigation pump sets and better cultivar practices.

[English]

Harvesting of Rain Water

*171. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have encouraged the State Governments and NGOs to promote rain water harvesting;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes formulated by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to provide additional assistance for the purpose;

(d) if so, the funds released to State Governments during the last three years and the current year; and

(e) the funds utilized by the State Governments/ NGOs in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (e) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources including rain water harvesting. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is providing technical assistance to State Governments and Non-Governmental Organisations to promote rain water harvesting. CGWB is organising training courses on "Rain Water Harvesting including Roof Top Rain Water harvesting" and mass awareness programmes throughout the country, which are attended by representatives of State Government Organisations, Non-Government Organisations, Voluntary Organisations, etc.

During IX Plan, CGWB had taken up demonstrative rainwater harvesting and recharge projects in the country under its Central Sector Scheme for 'Study of Recharge to Ground Water'. Under this scheme, a total number of 174 projects were approved for implementation in 27 States/Union Territories at a cost of Rs. 35.81 crore. A sum of Rs. 26.30 crore was released during 1999-2000 to 2002-2003 for completion of these schemes.

CGWB has received large number of additional proposals from State Governments for consideration. No funds have been released for these additional proposals, as presently there is no approved scheme under which these proposals can be considered.

**Laws to Deal with Spurious Seed
Manufacturing Companies**

*172. SHRI SHASHI KUMAR:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing laws to deal with the spurious and bogus seed manufacturing companies in the country;

(b) whether the existing laws are insufficient to bring them to book;

(c) if not, the details of such manufacturing companies brought to book in the country particularly in Karnataka and Maharashtra during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government are planning to introduce new legislation in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH):

(a) The Seeds Act, 1966 regulates the quality of seeds of notified kinds and varieties. The Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 regulates the production, supply and distribution of all types of seeds.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A list of dealers/seed producers whose seeds were found sub-standard during the years 1999-2000 to 2001-02 is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) Government propose to amend the Seeds Act in order to regulate the quality of seeds of non-notified

kinds and varieties and to provide for more stringent penalties for infringement.

Statement

List of seed dealers/seed producers whose seeds were found sub-standard during the last three years (1999-2000 to 2001-02).

Karnataka

1. Karnataka State Seeds Corporation
2. Mahyco
3. Amareshwara TSR Seeds
4. National Seed Corporation
5. Karnataka Seeds Basavanagudi
6. Bisco Seed Tech
7. Karnataka Agro Seeds
8. Hindustan Lever
9. Amareshwara Agri Tech
10. Spic PHI
11. Green Tech
12. Nath Seeds
13. ECI Agri Tech
14. Sun Agro Seeds
15. Golden Seeds
16. Solar Seeds
17. Zuari
18. Yaganti Seeds
19. Maharashtra State Seeds Corporation
20. Travik Seeds
21. Monsanto Technologies
22. Kaveri Seeds
23. Goverdhan Seeds - Baroda
24. Vinayak Agro Agency
25. Multiplex Fertilizers
26. Nunhems Proagro
27. Somnath Seeds
28. Hindustan HI Tech Agro Product
29. Proagro Seeds
30. Namdhari Seeds

31. Preethi Seeds
32. Bhadra Hy. Seeds
33. Kinara Seeds
34. Spic Seeds
35. Season seeds
36. Sai Krishi Kendra
37. Seed Markfed
38. Ganga Kaveri
39. Sagar Seeds
40. Solar Seeds
41. Multiplex Laxmi Fert.
42. Consolidated Seeds
43. Indo American Seeds
44. Kaveri Kodai Seeds
45. Nuziveedu Seeds
46. SSCI, Haveri.
47. Sri Seeds Corpn.
48. Sri Amareshwara Hy. Seeds
49. Aruna Seeds

Maharashtra

1. Bharat S Line Hyderabad
2. Nav Bharat Seeds Pct. Ltd., Jalna

*[Translation]***Cow Slaughter**

*173. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States where slaughter of cow and its progeny is legally banned;

(b) the steps the Government propose to take to completely ban the cow slaughter throughout the country;

(c) whether slaughter of cow and its illegal transportation is on the rise in some States; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The following States/Union Territories have enacted legislation for banning/restricting the slaughter of cow and its progeny:

Sl No	State	Union Territories
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2.	Assam	2. Chandigarh
3.	Bihar	3. Dadra & Nagar Haveli
4.	Goa	4. Daman & Diu
5.	Gujarat	5. Pondicherry
6.	Haryana	6. National Capital Territory of Delhi
7.	Himachal Pradesh	
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	
9.	Karnataka	
10.	Madhya Pradesh	
11.	Maharashtra	
12.	Orissa	
13.	Punjab	
14.	Rajasthan	
15.	Sikkim	
16.	Tamil Nadu	
17.	Uttar Pradesh	
18.	West Bengal	
19.	Manipur	
20.	Uttaranchal	
21.	Jharkhand	
22.	Chhattisgarh	

(b) It is in the State list. Even then the Government of India is examining the issue.

(c) and (d) There is no evidence that slaughter of cow and its illegal transportation is on the rise. In regard to the transportation of animals, Government of India have notified the Transport of Animals (Amendment) Rules, 2001 on 26.3.2001. Rule 96 of the said Rules reads as under:

"96 - Issue of certificate before transportation"

[English]

A valid certificate issued by an officer or any person or Animal Welfare Organization duly recognized and authorized for this purpose by the Animal Welfare Board of India or the Central Government shall be procured by any person making transport of any animal before transportation of such animals verifying that all the relevant Central and State Acts, rules and orders pertaining to the said animals including the rules relating to transport of such animals have been duly complied with and that the animal is not being transported for any purpose contrary to the provision of any law.

In the absence of such certificate, the carrier shall refuse to accept the consignment for transport.

If any transporting agency transports animals without the said certificate they are liable to be punished.

Setting up of Horticulture Products Exports Zones

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up Horticultural Products Exports Zones in the country; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith the funds proposed to be allocated for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Based on the proposals received from the State Governments, the Central Government has approved setting up of 45 Agri-Export Zones (AEZs). The Zones have been approved for various agricultural products including horticulture products.

(b) The State-wise, product-wise details of all the AEZs alongwith the proposed allocation of funds is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

List of Approved Horticulture Agri Export Zones

(Rs. In crore)

S.No.	State	Product	AEZ Sanctioned	Support from State/Centre/Private			
				State Govt.	Central Govt.	Pvt.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1.	West Bengal	1	Pineapple	Darjeeling, Uttar Dinajpur, Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri	0.51	4.15 (APEDA 1.22)	30.93
		2	Lychee	Districts of Murshidabad, Malda, 24 Pargana (N) and 24 Pargana (S)	2.25	6.12 (APEDA 1.93)	2.07
		3	Potatoes	Districts of Hoogly, Burdwan, Midnapore (W), Uday Narayanpur and Howrah	3.24	4.82 (APEDA 1.71)	28.59
		4	Mango	Malda and Murshidabad	7.70	5.25 (APEDA 3.27)	18.23
		5	Vegetables	Nadia, Murshidabad and North 24 Parganas	3.60	3.85 (APEDA 1.45)	21.55
2.	Karnataka	6	Gherkins	Tumkur, Bangalore Urban, Bangalore Rural, Hassan, Kotar, Chhitraddurga, Dharwad and Bagalkot	NA	3.20 (APEDA 3.02)	7.75

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		7	Rose Onion	Bangalore (Urban), Bangalore (Rural), Kolar	0.56	1.92 (APEDA 0.85)	3.62
		8	Flowers	Bangalore (Urban), Bangalore (Rural), Kolar, Tumkjur, Kodagu and Belgaum	7.37	11.71 (APEDA 6.92)	10.20
3.	Uttaranchal	9	Lychee	Udhamsingh Nagar, Nainital and Dehradun	0.74	4.52 (APEDA 2.21)	3.44
		10	Flowers	Districts of Dehradun, Pantnagar	1.43	1.55 (APEDA 0.55)	10.78
		11	Basmati Rice	Udham Singh Nagar, Nainital, Dehradun and Haridwar	1.73	1.34 (APEDA 0.00)	3.26
		12	Medicinal & Aromatic Plants	Districts of Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Dehradun and Nainital	4.23	5.53 (APEDA 1.53)	9.05
4.	Punjab	13	Vegetables	Fatehgarh Sahib, Patiala, Sangrur, Ropar & Ludhiana	0.60	11.23 (APEDA 3.80)	14.94
		14	Potatoes	Singhpura, Zirakpur (Patiala), Rampura Phul, Muktsar, Ludhiana, Jalandhar	0.74	8.19 (APEDA 0.92)	1.48
		15	Basmati Rice	Districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur and Nawanshahar	1.85	11.85 (APEDA 0.00)	9.60
5.	Uttar Pradesh	16	Potatoes	Agra, Hathras, Farrukhabad, Kannoj, Meerut, Aligarh and Bagpat	0.24	8.19 (APEDA 0.92)	1.99
		17	Mangoes	Lucknow, Unnao, Hardoi, Sitapur & Barabanki.	1.10	15.38 (APEDA 9.04)	28.23
		18	Mango	Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Bijnour, Meerut, Bhagpat and Bulandshahar	1.15	17.78 (APEDA 5.75)	17.18
		19	Basmati Rice	Districts of Bareilly, Shahajahanpur, Pilibhit, Rampur, Badaun, Bijnor, Moradabad, J B Phulnagar, Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Bulandshahar, Ghaziabad	9.46	10.79 (APEDA 0.00)	19.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
6.	Maharashtra	20	Grapes and Grape Wine	Nasik, Sangli, Pune, Satara, Ahmednagar and Sholapur	1.15	2.35 (APEDA 0.87)	0.00
		21	Mango	Districts of Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Raigarh and Thane.	16.17	9.94 (APEDA 6.04)	9.01
		22	Kesar Mango	Districts of Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed, Latur, Ahmednagar and Nasik	2.92	4.69 (APEDA 0.61)	10.95
		23	Flowers	Pune, Nasik, Kolhapur and Sangli	NIL	7.23 (APEDA 4.39)	10.66
		24	Onion	Districts of Nasik, Ahmednagar, Pune, Satara and Solapur	12.99	6.13 (APEDA 0.58)	13.12
7.	Andhra Pradesh	25	Mango Pulp & Fresh Vegetables	Chittor District	6.41	11.29 (APEDA 11.71)	10.44
					3.11	8.67 (APEDA 0.00)	13.76
		26	Mango & Grapes	Districts of Ranga Reddy, Medak & Parts of Mahaboobnagar Districts	3.38	12.05 (APEDA 5.65)	14.78
		27	Mangoes	Krishna District	4.23	3.77 (APEDA 2.32)	9.89
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	28	Apples	Districts of Srinagar, Baramula, Anantnag, Kupwara, Badgaum and Pulwama	NIL	27.65 (APEDA 4.30)	57.70
		29	Walnut	Kashmir Region - Baramulla, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam, Kupwara and Srinagar Jammu Region - Doda, Poonch, Udhampur, Rajouri and Kathua	NIL	17.36 (APEDA 6.80)	19.57
9.	Tripura	30	Pineapple	Kumarghat, Manu, Melaghar, Matabari and Kakraban Blocks	1.16	8.11 (APEDA 2.01)	6.39
10.	Madhya Pradesh	31	Potatoes, Omon and Garlic	Malwa, Ujjain, Indore, Dewas, Dhar, Shajapur, Rattam, Neemuch and Mandasaur	NIL	20.72 (APEDA 1.00)	28.73

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		32	Seed Spices	Guna, Mandsaur, Ujjain, Rajgarh, Ratlam, Shajapur and Neemach	8.43	8.06 (Spices Board 2.68)	15.44
		33	Wheat	Three distinct and contiguous zones: Ujjain Zone comprising of Neemach, Ratlam, Mandsaur and Ujjain Indore Zone comprising of Indore, Dhar, Shajapur and Dewas Bhopal Division, comprising of Sehore, Vidisha, Raisen, Hoshangabad, Harda, Narsinghpur and Bhopal	27.55	9.03 (APEDA 0.00)	49.84
11.	Tamil Nadu	34	Flowers	Dharmapuri	2.91	3.48 (APEDA 3.48)	18.46
		35	Mangoes	Districts of Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, Virudhunagar and Tirunelveli	4.12	6.56 (APEDA 1.51)	13.92
		36	Flower	Nilgiri District	2.00	5.23 (APEDA 1.99)	8.65
12.	Bihar	37	Lychee	Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Hajipur, Vaishali, East and West Champaran, Bhagalpur, Begulsarai, Khagaria, Sitamarhi, Saran and Gopalganj	0.18	4.45 (APEDA 1.49)	7.50
13.	Gujarat	38	Mango & Vegetables	Districts of Ahmedabad, Khaida, Anand, Vadodra, Surat, Navsari, Valsad, Bharuch and Narmada	5.34	10.02 (APEDA 5.11)	18.36
14.	Sikkim	39	Flowers (Orchids) & Cherry Pepper	East Sikkim	2.40	8.09 (APEDA 0.20)	21.82
		40	Ginger	North, East, South & West Sikkim	10.06	6.67 (APEDA 4.12)	7.88
15.	Himachal Pradesh	41	Apples	Shimla, Sirmour, Kullu, Mandi, Chamba and Kinnaur	17.80	9.77 (APEDA 3.42)	29.50
16.	Orissa	42	Ginger and Turmeric	Kandhamal District	1.49	1.51 (APEDA 0.65)	3.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
17.	Jharkhand	43	Vegetables	Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Lohardaga	1.93	1.93 (APEDA 0.97)	3.23
18.	Kerala	44	Horticulture Products	Districts of Thrissur, Ernakulam, Kottayaam, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kollam, Thiruvanthapuram, Idukki and Palakkod	8.03	9.98 (APEDA 0.80)	11.86
19.	Assam	45	Fresh and Processed Ginger	Kamrup, Nalbari, Barpeta, Darrang, Nagaon, Morigaon, Karbi Anglong and North Cachar districts	4.93	2.27 (APEDA 0.70)	10.33

National Tourism Policy

*175. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to revise the existing National Tourism Policy to attract more investment for its rapid development and employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any suggestions from various State Governments on new National Tourism Policy have been received by the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the draft new policy has been cleared by the Union Government;

(f) if so, the salient features thereof alongwith the suggestions of the State Governments incorporated therein; and

(g) the time by which it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (g) The Government has announced a National Tourism Policy in May, 2002. Before the announcement, the draft of the Policy was discussed at various forums including meeting of State Chief Ministers, Tourism Ministers and State Tourism Secretaries and their views have been considered in finalising the policy. The National Tourism Policy attempts to:-

- Position tourism as a major engine of economic growth;

- Harness the direct and multiplier effects of tourism for employment generation, economic development and providing impetus to rural tourism;
- Focus on domestic tourism as a major driver of tourism growth.
- Position India as a global brand to take advantage of the burgeoning global travel trade and the vast untapped potential of India as a destination;
- Acknowledge the critical role of private sector with Government working as a pro-active facilitator and catalyst;
- Create and develop integrated tourism circuits based on India's unique civilization, heritage, and culture in partnership with states, private sector and other agencies;
- Ensure that the tourist to India gets physically invigorated, mentally rejuvenated, culturally enriched, spiritually elevated and "feel India from within".

[Translation]

Inclusion of States in Special Tourism Area

*176. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include certain States in special tourism area;

(b) if so, the criteria for including such States;

(c) whether Bihar and Jharkhand are proposed to be included in special tourism area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the assistance given to the State Governments for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Department of Tourism, Govt. of India has no proposal to include certain States in the Special Tourism Areas. With a view to providing an elevating image of India's culture and promoting healthy and sustainable tourism, including eco-tourism, during the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture has drawn up proposals to develop hubs which synthesise the elements of culture, tourism and clean civic life. There would be atleast one such hub in every State and Union Territory.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Situation Assessment Survey

*177. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first phase of Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) on the Indian farmer has revealed that reforms have failed to benefit poor and marginal farmers;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government has taken any remedial steps in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Situation Assessment Survey is being conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization as Phase-II of the Study titled "State of Indian Farmers - A Millennium Study", with agricultural year, 2002-2003 as the reference period. The field work for the Survey commenced in January, 2003 and is planned to continue till December, 2003. The report of the Survey is expected to be available after about 12 months from the date of completion of field work of the Survey.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Bonded Child Labour

*178. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has initiated action for the implementation of the Direction of the Supreme Court for rehabilitation of child workers in silk industry;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate these children;

(c) whether the bonded child labour in silk industry as well as other industries is also increasing; and

(d) if so, the details alongwith the steps the Government propose to take to check exploitation of children, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) In pursuance of the directives of the Supreme Court, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has been overseeing the enforcement of directives of the Supreme Court on child labour including rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work in hazardous occupations like silk industry.

(b) Government of India has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of Child Labour working in hazardous occupations including child workers in silk industry to reduce the incidence of child labour in a particular district through the Scheme of National Child Labour Project (NCLP). Under the Scheme, special schools have been set up in the child labour endemic districts with the provision for non-formal/formal education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition, health-care etc. So far, NCLPs have been sanctioned in 100 districts of 13 child labour endemic states.

(c) and (d) No specific case about children being employed in the silk industry as bonded labour has been reported.

Violation of Air Space

*179. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently there have been a spurt in incidents of violation of Indian Air space including flying over no-fly zone;

(b) if so, the details of such violations noticed during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty crew members;

(f) the authority responsible for monitoring the no-fly zone;

(g) the reasons for its failure to check the violation of no-fly zone; and

(h) the action proposed to be taken against the negligent officers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the last 3 years, only 26 incidents of violation of Indian airspace by foreign aircraft have occurred during the period from 17th January 2000 to 3rd February 2003. Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) On 20.11.2002 Lufthansa Cargo Flight DLH 8443 flew over no fly zone designated as Prohibited/VIP area. The incident was investigated and it was found to be due to an error of judgement by the pilot. Lufthansa airlines has been informed of the lapse of their pilot and advised to take corrective action.

On 3.2.2003 an American registered Boeing 757 aircraft N610G while flying from Karachi to Male was noticed flying on air route N-519 when the route was not available for civil operations. Investigations were carried out by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Air Force, Intelligence Bureau, Customs and Immigration. It was found that the ATC Karachi did not guide the pilot correctly and they had no knowledge about operating time of the route. The crew and aircraft were released for operations to Seychelles after questioning. Other incidents of violations pertaining to

Ministry of Defence were handled as per their standard procedures.

(f) and (g) Airports Authority of India and Indian Air Force are responsible for monitoring the No Fly zones at radar covered areas. In non-radar covered areas it is ensured that the flight paths approved by ATC do not infringe No Fly zones. The Radar Controllers have been continuously monitoring the violation of No fly zones.

(h) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of violations of airspace by foreign aircraft during the period from January, 2000 to February, 2003.

Sl. No.	Date of violation	Area of violation	Country of Origin
1	2	3	4
2000			
1.	17 January	Balurghat	Bangladesh
2.	27 January	Cooch Behar	Bangladesh
3.	25 February	Kargil	Pakistan
4.	4 April	Kishanganj	Nepal
5.	26 June	Balurghat	Bangladesh
6.	16 August	Gorakhpur	Nepal
7.	16 September	Gurdaspur	Pakistan
8.	16 September	Gurdaspur	Pakistan
9.	6 October	Dehradun	China
10.	25 October	Bahraich	Nepal
11.	7 November	Lakhimpur	Nepal
2001			
1.	19 February	Chhamb	Pakistan
2.	19 February	Jammu	Pakistan
3.	21 March	Jammu	Pakistan

1	2	3	4
4.	14 September	Nepalganj	Nepal
5.	24 September	Darbhanga	Nepal
6.	2 November	A & N Islands	N/K
7.	2 November	Mechuka	China
8.	19 November	Mechuka	China
9.	23 December	Munnabao	Pakistan

2002

1	8 January	Jammu	Pakistan
2.	13 January	Tangdhar	Pakistan
3.	11 February	Gurdaspur	Pakistan
4.	15 April	Gorakhpur	Nepal
5.	20 November	Delhi	Malaysia

2003

1.	3 February	Mumbai	Pakistan
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Pollution in Ground Water

*180. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that pollution in ground water has assumed serious proportion in many States;

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

(c) whether the ground water reserves which are depleting contain arsenic, mercury and other harmful chemicals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check ground water pollution?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (e) The Central Ground Water

Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources monitors ground water quality throughout the country on regular basis. The studies carried out by the CGWB indicate that the ground water in major parts of the country is by and large potable. There are, however, areas which have poor quality of ground water mainly due to the contamination from industrial and domestic effluents, excessive use of fertilizers, mining wastes, saline water ingress and due to the nature of the ground water bearing rock formations. The names of States and locations where ground water has been found contaminated and reasons thereof are given in the enclosed statement.

As per studies conducted by the CGWB in West Bengal, arsenic has been found in shallow aquifers in eight districts of that State. Deeper aquifers in these areas have, however, been found free from arsenic.

Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to take steps to check ground water pollution. However, the Union Government has also taken following measures to mitigate the problem of ground water pollution:-

(i) The Central Government has set-up Central Ground Water Authority to regulate and control ground water management and development.

(ii) Mass awareness and education programme have been launched on the significance of water economy, efficient utilization, health, hygiene and sanitation.

(iii) Central Pollution Control Board has adopted several measures like directing the industries through State Pollution Control Boards to limit the discharge of effluent within the stipulated standards, initiation of scheme to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants and taking up of quality scheme of monitoring in critically polluted areas.

(iv) The Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, under the Ministry of Rural Development, has also been assisting and guiding the States in the provision of safe drinking water to the rural population under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and exclusive Sub-Mission project in areas having serious ground water quality problems like Fluoride, Iron, Arsenic, Nitrate and Brackishness. In such quality affected areas, where ground water is unfit for drinking, the safe drinking water is supplied either through alternative sources, tapping surface water or by other means by undertaking remedial measures like de-fluoridation, iron removal and arsenic removal.

Statement

State-wise Details of Contamination of Ground Water in some areas of the Districts due to various contaminants

Sl.No.	State	Salinity	Iron	Fluoride	Nitrate	Arsenic	Heavy Metals
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Easi Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam	Northern Bank of Brahmaputra	Prakassam, Nellore, Anantapur Nalgoda, Rangareddy, Adilabad	Vishakhapatnam, East Godavari, Krishna, Prakasam, Nellore, Chittoor, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Mehboobnagar, Rangareddy, Medak, Adilabad, Nalgonda, Khammam		Anantapur, Mehboobnagar, Prakasam, Visakhapatnam, Cuddapah, Nalgonda
2.	Assam						Digboi
3.	Bihar	Begusarai	Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Munger, Deoghar, Madhubani, Patna, Palamu, Nalanda, Nawada, Banka	Giridih, Jamui, Dhanbad	Palamu, Gaya, Patna, Nalanda, Nawada, Bhagalpur, Sahebganj,		Dhanbad, Muzaffarpur, Begusarai
4.	Gujarat	Banskanantha, Junagadh, Bharuch, Surat, Mehsana Ahmedabad Surendranagar Kheda, Jamnagar		Kachch, Surendranagar Rajkot, Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Banaskanantha, Sabarkantha			
5.	Haryana	Sonepat, Rohtak Hisar, Sirsa Faridabad, Jind Gurgaon, Bhiwani Mahendragarh		Rohtak, Jind, Hisar, Bhiwani, Mahendragarh, Faridabad	Ambala, Sonepat, Jind, Gurgaon Faridabad, Hisar, Sirsa, Karnal Kurukshetra, Rohtak, Bhiwani, Mahendragarh		Faridabad
6.	Himachal Pradesh				Kulu, Solan, Una		Punwano, Kalaamb
7.	Karnataka	Bijapur, Belgaum, Raichur, Bellary, Dharwar		Tumkur, Kolar, Bangalore Gulbarga, Bellary, Raichur			Bhadrawati
8.	Kerala	Ernakulam Trichur, Alleppey		Palghat			
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior Bhind, Morena, Jabua, Khargone, Dhar, Shivpur, Shajapur, Guna, Mandsoor, Ujjain		Bhind, Morena, Guna, Jabua, Chhindwara, Seoni, Mandla Raipur, Vidisha	Sehore		Bastar, Korba, Raitlam Nagda

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10. Maharashtra	Amravati, Akola			Bhandara, Chandrapur, Nanded, Aurangabad	Thane, Jaina Beed, Nanded, Latur, Osmanabad, Solapur, Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, Dhule, Jalgaon, Aurangabad, Ahmednagar, Pune, Buldana, Amravati, Akola, Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli			
11. Orissa	Cuttack, Baleswar Puri	Parts of Coastal Orissa	Bolangir					Angul, Taicher
12. Punjab	Bhatinda, Sangrur, Faridkot, Ferozpur	Ludhiana, Faridkot, Bhatinda, Sangrur, Jalandhar, Amritsar						Ludhiana, Mandi, Gobindgarh
13. Rajasthan	Bharatpur, Jaipur, Nagaur, Jaore, Sirohi, Jodhpur	Bikaner, Alwar, Dungarpur	Jalore, Nagaur, Pali, Sirohi	Jaipur, Churu, Ganganagar, Bikaner, Jalore, Barmer, Bundi, Swai Madhopur				Pali, Udaipur, Khetri
14. Tamil Nadu	Karaikal, Pondicherry, Nagapattanam, Quide-Millet, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, North-Arcot, Arnedkar, Dharampuri, Salem, Trichy, Coimbatore	Dharampuri, Salem, North Arcot-Ambekar, Villipuram, Padayatchi, Muthuramalingam, Tiruchirappali, Pudukottai			Coimbatore, Periyar, Salem			Manali, North Arcot
15. Tripura	Dharannagar, Kauleshaher, Khowari, Ambasa, Amapur and parts of Agartala Valley							
16. Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Mathura, Mainpuri, Banmada	Bulandshahar, Aligarh, Agra, Unnao, Rae-Baerli						Singrauli, Basti, Kanpur, Jaunpur, Allahabad, Saharanpur, Aligarh
17. West Bengal	Midnapore, Howrah, Hooghli, Bankura	Birbhum						Durgapur, Howrah, Murshidabad, Nadia
18. NCT of Delhi	Najafgarh, Kanjhawala and Mehrauli Blocks	City Shahdara and Mehrauli Blocks						Alipur, Kanjhawala, Najafgarh, Mehrauli City and Shahdara Blocks

*[English]***Indo-Russian Project**

1664. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asiatic Society has shelved a prestigious Indo-Russian Project on the evolution of ties between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Report by Commission Cow Progeny**

1665. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cow Progeny Commission constituted for cow breeding in the country has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Government constituted the National Commission on Cattle to review the relevant laws of the land (Centre as well as States) relating to protection, preservation and well being of cow and its progeny and suggest measures for their effective implementation. The Commission has submitted its report. An Expert Group has been constituted to examine the recommendations of the Commission and to suggest measures to implement them. The Group has been asked to submit its report by 15 March, 2003. The salient features of the recommendations of the Commission are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement***The Salient Features of the Recommendations made by the National Commission on Cattle***

(1) The prohibition for slaughter of cow and its

progeny should be included in the Fundamental Rights to make it enforceable by the Court of Law.

(2) The Constitution should be amended to empower Parliament to enact a Central Law for prohibition of slaughter of cow and its progeny and its transport from one State to other. This may be done by shifting the subject to Central list or atleast to the concurrent list in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

(3) Any violation of this law should be made non-bailable and cognizable offence and provide for trial by a Session Court. The minimum punishment for violation should be three years rigorous imprisonment, which may extend to ten years with fine. The onus of proof should be on the accused to prove his innocence.

(4) The Central Government should constitute a permanent National Cattle Development Commission or Rashtriya Goseva Ayog for the country as a whole to provide it adequate funds for its functioning.

(5) A separate Ministry for Cattle Preservation and Development should be formed independent of the Department of Animal Husbandry.

(6) Animal Husbandry Department should be re-organized and the subject allotted to it should be for preservation and development of animals and not for animal food by way of meat etc.

(7) No financial assistance should be given by the Animal Husbandry or Agriculture Department for the construction or maintenance etc. of slaughter houses in the country.

(8) There should be complete ban on the export of beef and veal.

(9) The Central Government should ensure constitution and functioning of Goseva Ayogs in each State and also provide them adequate funds for their functioning. These Ayogs should be monitored by the Rashtriya Goseva Ayog at the Centre.

(10) Central Cattle Protection - Rapid Task Police Force with regional offices in each States should be created. It should have a special force deputed on the Kerala and Bangladesh Border to check exodus of cattle.

(11) Appropriate direction may be given under Article 355 of the Constitution to the Government of Kerala and northeastern States to enforce prohibition of slaughter of cow and its progeny.

(12) Special protection may be given to Kerala to stop receiving cattle from neighbouring States for slaughter.

(13) The cruelty to cattle during their transport by rail/trucks etc. and extraction of milk by giving oxytocin should be prohibited.

(14) A circular should be issued by the Government for banning production of leather of slaughtered cattle. The export of goods made of such leather should be banned.

(15) Penal law like POTA should be amended to detain smugglers/mafia of cow and its progeny who indulged in large-scale exodus to Kerala and Bangladesh.

(16) Cross breeding from imported cattle like Jersey and their import should be prohibited.

(17) Indigenous breeds should be encouraged and Government should provide sizeable financial assistance for their development and preservation throughout the country. A National Breeding Policy should be evolved and special plans should be developed and implemented.

(18) The report of the Organic Manure Task Force Committee 2001 should be accepted and its recommendations implemented in toto.

(19) The use of production of chemical fertilizers and chemical pesticides should be discouraged.

(20) The recommendation of the XI Sub-Group (on Meat Sector) set up by the Planning Commission for the 10th Plan proposals should be rejected outright.

(21) Gaushalas; Gosadans and Pinjrapoles should be organized through voluntary organizations both by Central/State Governments. The Government should give financial assistance/grants for construction and maintenance of such Gaushalas and their day-to-day expenses.

(22) The information and Broadcasting Ministry should undertake programmes for awareness campaign of qualities and virtues of cow milk, cow products etc.

(23) The State should be asked to ensure production of fodder and feed in proportion to cattle population.

(24) Burning of standing crop residues in States like Punjab and Haryana that can be used, as fodder should be made a penal offence.

(25) Fodder Corporation of India should be established with its branches in each State on the pattern of the Food Corporation of India.

(26) Special fodder production drive should be undertaken by the Agriculture Universities and Agriculture Ministries in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(27) The Central/State Governments should subsidise the fodder sale on the pattern of subsidy given to people below poverty line from ration shops.

(28) A circular should be issued to the State Governments, Gram Panchayats & Municipal Committees to regulate and maintain the stray cattle.

(29) Every State must have a breed centre which should concentrate on the development of local breed alone.

(30) The Cattle Laws Enforcement Directorate should be constituted which shall be incharge of the movement of cows, bulls etc. from place to place and State to State.

(31) Export and Import of beef should be totally banned.

(32) Cow should be declared as National Animal and killing of cow and its progeny should be made constitutional offence.

[English]

Use of Synthetic Flavours/Colours in Soft Drinks

1666. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Central Government to ensure that the various artificial colours and flavouring agents particularly those manufactured by the Small Scale Industries which are at present being indiscriminately used not only in soft drinks but also in confectionary, strictly adhere and comply with the provisions of the Food Products Norms;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to discourage the use of such synthetic flavours and colouring agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) As per the provisions of Fruit products Order, 1955, only permitted artificial/synthetic colours or a mixture thereof can be used in specified fruit products including soft drinks in specified quantities. The permitted artificial/

synthetic colours when used in food products shall be pure and free from all impurities. Further, under the provision of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955, all the manufacturers, whether in small scale or large scale have to manufacture the synthetic / artificial food colours under compulsory certification scheme of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and are required to conform to the specifications laid down under these rules. As per the labelling provisions prescribed under PFA Rules 1955, it is mandatory to declare on the label of the food products, the use of synthetic food colours and added flavours, as the case may be, if used in any food product. PFA Rules, 1955, also provide the list of prohibited flavours, which cannot be used in any food products,

(b) and (c) Any complaint in this regard are looked into by the concerned regulatory authority who implement Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 and Fruits Products Order 1955 and action initiated for violation.

Request of A.P. for Exemption in Royalty

1667. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought exemption of royalty and licence fee, payable to the Union Government on very high frequency radio sets/shore communication stations used by the fishermen; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto and the relief proposed to be given to fishermen in this regard?

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

(b) The Ministry of Communications charges a licence fee of Rs.100/- and royalty of Rs.4800/- per annum per link for communications over a distance of 50 to 60 Kms. But for fishing vessels, only 250/- per annum per vessel as licence fee (no royalty) which is quite moderate, is charged for issue of Maritime Mobile Station licence.

Creation of Jobs

1668. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was steep fall in creation of jobs during 1994-2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the estimates available from labour force surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation, estimated employment which was of the order of 374 million during 1993-94 has gone up to 397 million during 1999-2000. Employment grew at an average rate of approximately 0.98% per annum during 1994-2000.

[Translation]

Drip Irrigation Scheme

1669. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) funds allocated under drip irrigation scheme to Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) whether the State Government have sought hike in the said allocation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any report on utilization of funds has been sought from the State Government;

(e) whether the State Government have informed the Central Government regarding drought prevailing in Mehsana and Banaskantha; and

(f) funds allocated to the State Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Funds earmarked for drip irrigation in the Work Plan of Government of Gujarat under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture - Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan during the last three years is as follows:-

Year	Amount (Rs. In lakh)
2000-01	252.00
2001-02	315.00
2002-03	340.00

(b) and (c) No, Sir. 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 the Work Plans.

(d) Yes, Sir. It is mandatory for the State Government to furnish the Utilization Certificate for funds released.

(e) In December 2002, the Government of Gujarat declared 13 districts of the State as drought affected which included Banaskantha district also.

(f) The entire Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund for the year 2002-03 amounting to Rs.133.46 crores have been released to the State Government.

[English]

Coconut Research Centres

1670. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coconut Research Centres have successfully found a remedy for the disease affecting the coconut tree in various parts of the country, especially in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the assistance provided to each State in this regard?

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

(b) The control measures are available for all the major diseases of coconut. For coconut root (wilt) disease in Kerala, management practices have been formulated for ameliorating the ill effects of the disease and for improving productivity. Disease tolerant palms have been identified for further use in development of disease tolerant lines.

To control the coconut diseases, the assistance provided to different states by Coconut Development Board under the Technology Mission on Coconut is as follows:

State		Rs. in Lakhs
Kerala	=	65.09
Karnataka	=	42.98
Orissa	=	29.18

[Translation]

Development of Catchment Areas

1671. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by the Union Government to Madhya Pradesh Government for development of catchment area during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, district-wise;

(b) whether ponds are unfit for storage of water due to sub-standard construction; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a programme of Soil Conservation for enhancing the productivity of degraded land in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP&FPR) through Macro-Management Mode. The following are the catchments covered under the programme in Madhya Pradesh:

Sl. No.	Catchments	Districts covered
1.	Chambal	Dewas, Dhar, Indore, Mandasaur, Ratlam, Shajapur and Ujjain
2.	Mahi	Dhar, Jhabua and Ratlam
3.	Matatila	Bhopal, Guna, Raisen, Shivpuri, Sagar and Vidisha
4.	Ukai	Khandwa, Betul and Khargaon
5.	Tawa	Betul, Chhindwara and Hosnangabad
6.	Rengali Mandira	Raigargh
7.	Sardar Sarovar	Khandwa, Hoshangabad, Ujjain, Khargaon, Betul, Dewas, Raisen, Jhabua, Sehore and Chindwara
8.	Sone	Satna, Shahdol, Jabalpur, Rewa and Ambikapur
9.	Banas	Mandsaur

‡ State Government of Madhya Pradesh implements this

programme and funds are released under Macro-Management mode to the State Department of Agriculture as per Work Plan proposal prepared by the State. Rs. 782.00 lakh and Rs. 500.60 lakh have been provided during 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively to the State Government under RVP & FPR programme.

- (b) No, Sir.
(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Development of Sundarbans

1672. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of West Bengal has sent any proposal to the Union Government for development of tourism in Sundarbans;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the amount released to West Bengal Government during 2002-03; and
(d) the action taken thereon?

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

- (b) The proposal consists of following components:-
- (i) Upgradation of a part of the State owned Great Eastern Hotel;
 - (ii) One non-propelled Houseboat with 16 double bedded air-conditioned cabins with modern luxurious facilities;
 - (iii) One fast ferry with catamaran hull to carry 40/50 persons;
 - (iv) Five small inflatable/rigid hull FRP boats for local movement;
 - (v) Development of other infrastructural facilities.
- (c) No amount has been released to West Bengal Government for tourism project in Sundarbans during 2002-03 so far.
- (d) Keeping in view the fragile eco-system of Sundarbans, the Tourism Department of West Bengal has

been requested to suggest names of suitable officers and experts for constitution of a Task Force to suggest the extent of development and to identify specific components of development project for this area.

[Translation]

Pending Proposal of Pisciculture in Jammu and Kashmir

1673. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for the development of pisciculture in Jammu and Kashmir lying pending with the Government;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the efforts made by the Government to clear the said proposal expeditiously?

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

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

[English]

National Tourism Day

1674. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether January 25, 2003 was observed as National Tourism Day in North-East with special reference to the North Eastern Region as a major tourist attraction;
(b) if so, the salient feature thereof alongwith the details of tourist attractions highlighted on the Tourism Day; and
(c) the steps the Government propose to take to develop these places to attract domestic/foreign tourists?

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

(b) The salient features of the activities by North East States on the National Tourism Day are:

- Mass awareness campaign by way of advertisements in media to publicise the major tourist spots.
- Cultural programmes to enhance awareness about the State.

- Painting Competition and Photo Exhibition.
- Decoration and illumination of tourist lodges/spots.
- Banners and traditional welcome of foreign tourists at the airport.
- Distribution of literature about the major tourist attractions to tourists

(c) The Government proposes to take the following steps in North East area for development of tourism:

- An eco-tourism circuit namely Shilling - Guwahati - Kaziranga - Tezpur - Bhalakpung - Tawang - Majuli- Sibsagar - Kohima has been identified for integrated development in the North East region. Besides this, it has been decided to take up one major destination in each North East State for development.
- A meeting was held with all the North East States to review the sanctioned projects.

Assistance to Grape Growers

1675. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NABARD has decided to lend Rs.150 crore for buying water for the grape growers of Maharashtra;

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

(c) whether the NABARD propose to provide some lending facilities to the orange growers of Vidharbha region of Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has formulated a refinance scheme in consultation with the State Government and Financing Banks for the grape growers to meet the additional cost of irrigation in selected eight districts of Maharashtra, which is operative during the year 2002-03. The rate of interest on refinance is 6.75 per cent and no limit has been fixed by NABARD for providing refinance.

(c) to (e) NABARD extends refinance facilities to the

participating banks for financing plantation and horticulture activities including orange plantations in Vidharbha region of Maharashtra.

The refinance disbursement made by NABARD to the participating banks towards plantation and horticulture activities in Maharashtra during the year 2001-02 is to the tune of Rs.5049.00 lakhs.

Investment in Civil Aviation

1676. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the investment made in Civil Aviation sector during the last three years;

(b) the details of the major project proposals received from State Government's during the last three years; and

(c) the details of major project proposed to be taken/completed during the Tenth Plan period in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) During 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, a total of Rs. 5.182, 344.14, 1399.51, 1028.79, 29.82 and 24.32 crores have been invested by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, Air India, Indian Airlines, Airports Authority of India, Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. and Hotel Corporation of India respectively, on various schemes relating to new Photo Identity Card (PIC) system, acquisition of aircraft and helicopters, development of airport infrastructure, renovation of hotel rooms etc.

(b) Government has already approved in principle, the proposals from State Governments for setting up of new international airports at Devenahalli near Bangalore, Shamshabad near Hyderabad and Mopa (Goa). Proposals have also been received from State Governments for construction of new airports at Kannur in Kerala, Taj International Aviation Hub in Uttar Pradesh, Ajmer in Rajasthan, Pune (Chakan) and Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra, Pakyong near Gangtok in Sikkim and for upgradation of Nagpur Airport as a multi-national international passenger and cargo hub.

(c) Air India has provided a total outlay of Rs. 2661.39 crores during the Tenth Five Year Plan period which includes an outlay of Rs. 1623.50 crores for repayment of

aircraft loans, Rs. 277.89 crores towards acquisition of two A-310-300 leased aircraft and Rs. 750 crores for non-aircraft projects. Indian Airlines have provided an outlay of Rs. 3166.90 crores for aircraft schemes and Rs. 1073.60 crores for other supporting facilities. Airports Authority of India has provided an outlay of Rs. 500 crores for construction of new terminal buildings, Rs. 220 crores for expansion of terminal buildings, Rs. 110 crores for development of new civil enclaves, Rs. 580 crores for construction, extension and strengthening of runways and associated pavements, etc. at various airports. These schemes are at various stages of implementation.

[Translation]

Setting up of National Environment Protection Agency

1677. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Environment Protection Agency in the country as the Central Pollution Control Board has not been able to protect the environment effectively; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment & Forests is considering a proposal to constitute a National Environment Authority and Regional Environment Authorities under section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to deal with environment and forestry related matters in a comprehensive manner.

[English]

Procurement of Tobacco

1678. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to procure excess tobacco production without penalty;

(b) if so, the total procurement of tobacco made by the Government from the Karnataka State;

(c) whether the Government have decided that a service tax of one percent would be charged on the produce;

(d) if so, whether the Government had also issued a notification to this effect;

(e) if so, to what extent the farmers of tobacco growers has been helped by procuring excess tobacco produce from them;

(f) whether the Government propose to continue the procurement of tobacco in future also; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Levy of Rs.2/- per Kg. as extra fee plus 2 per cent of the sale proceeds has been notified by the Government on the marketing of the unauthorized Flue Cured Virginia tobacco of unregistered growers in Karnataka during 2002-03 crop season.

(e) The Government have not procured excess tobacco from the Karnataka growers.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Training of Bio-Technology to Scientists

1679. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research had decided to train its young scientists in "frontier areas" of Bio- Technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The training is envisaged for young and middle level scientists primarily from Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs). ICAR institutes/SAUs have been identified for their training needs. Priority areas in biotechnology in crops, horticulture, fishery and animal sciences have been identified. The identified areas comprise development of transgenics.

molecular breeding, genomics, bio-informatics, edible vaccines, molecular diagnostics, disease diagnostics, gene isolation and related aspects.

[Translation]

**Master Plan for Utilisation of
Water Resources**

1680. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any master plan to utilize the conventional water resources;
- (b) if so, the names of States for which master plan have been formulated; and
- (c) by when the process of water conservation is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Water being a State subject, water resources schemes, including master plans, are formulated, planned, executed and funded by the respective State Governments. Master Plans are prepared taking into consideration the availability of water resources and needs of the areas for which the Master Plan is prepared.

Conventional methods of rain water harvesting, construction of dams and minor tanks, restoration of old tanks, watershed management etc., are being practised in the country. Central Ground Water Board under Ministry of Water Resources has prepared a 'Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water', which envisages recharge of 36453 Million Cubic Metre volume of water through 2.25 lakh artificial recharge structures in rural areas like percolation tanks, check dams, sub-surface dykes, gully plugs, gabion structures, nala bunds, contour bunds, recharge shafts etc. In addition to this, roof-top rain water harvesting structures in urban areas is proposed through 37 lakh structures. The estimated cost of this Master Plan covering all States and Union Territories is around Rs. 24,500 crores.

Water conservation by roof-top rainwater harvesting, selective lining in the conveyance systems, minimising losses, modernisation and rehabilitation of existing systems and

sprinkler and drip irrigation techniques are also being adopted.

Setting up of Kisan Vidya Peeth in Ranchi

1681. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up Kisan Vidyapeeth in Ranchi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government so far in this regard?

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

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Agricultural Education is a State subject, opening of Kisan Vidyapeeth comes under the purview of concerned State Government.
- (d) Not applicable.

[English]

Farmers Agro Service Centres

1682. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether farmers Agro Service Centres have been established by the Government in the country particularly in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the performance of these centers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement**1. Establishment of Farmers Agro Services Centres, State-wise, their functions and performance as reported by State Governments.**

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of ASCs	Functions of ASCs	Performance
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	21	- Supply of agricultural equipment	Turnover of these centers was at Rs.192.06 lakh against the target of Rs.205.92 lakh during 2001-02 (till October 2001)
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3	- Custom hiring services of agricultural equipment	These centers have performed well.
3	Assam	82	- Popularisation of agricultural equipment	The centers have fulfilled their objectives to popularize agricultural equipment.
4	Gujarat	18	- Custom hiring service of the agricultural equipment - Repair & manufacture services	Some of the centers are functioning satisfactorily. Others are making efforts to increase their business.
5	Haryana	128	- Custom hiring, supply of agricultural machinery and other inputs	From the year 1979-80 onwards these centers have either closed or become independent because no assistance was available to them from the Government.
6	Karnataka	16	- Training in repair & maintenance work of agricultural equipment, - Supply of agricultural implements	The State Government has reported that these have been closed down.
7	Kerala	1047	- Custom services of agricultural equipment - Supply of agricultural equipment - Providing remedial services for plant protection, drainage, soil & water conservation	The performance has been found satisfactory.
8	Madhya Pradesh	50	- Custom hiring of agricultural equipment	The MP State Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd informed that most of the centers have been wound up.
9	Maharashtra	258	- Custom hiring of agricultural equipment - Supply of agricultural implement & providing technical guidance for their use - Supply of spares of agricultural implements.	130 ASCs could continue their business and remaining have been closed down
10	Manipur	2	- Training of repair & maintenance of agricultural equipment and supply of agricultural inputs. - Processing of agricultural products.	The performance of these centers has not been satisfactory during last 2 - 3 years because of financial constraints.

1	2	3	4	5
11	Orissa	242	- Custom hiring service of agricultural equipment	The State Government have observed their performance to be satisfactory and encouraging results in terms of repayment of loan.
12	Sikkim	6	Custom services of post harvest operations	The performance of the centers has been reported satisfactory.
13	Tamil Nadu	418	- Custom hiring of agricultural machinery and repair & maintenance thereof. - supply of agricultural inputs. providing related technical services	The State Government has reported that ASCs are no more functional.
14	Uttaranchal	8	- Supply of agricultural inputs dissemination of technical know-how - custom hiring services of agricultural equipment - procurement of foodgrains	The performance of the ASCs has been reported to be satisfactory.
15	West Bengal	450	- Supply of inputs	No ASC is functioning at present. However, out of 450 ASCs, 36 are dealing in agricultural inputs as free traders.

2. All the remaining States have informed that no Agro Service Centres (ASCs) have been established therein.

Bilateral Agreements

1683. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines is expected to benefit from the proposal to grant its larger share of earnings from bilateral agreements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Airlines has been barred from all future expansion; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) No proposal to grant Indian Airlines a larger share of earnings from bilateral agreements is under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Rejuvenation of Coconut Industry

1684. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of coconut in Kerala has come down to 5,747 nuts per hectare due to a combination of pests and diseases;

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

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for rejuvenation of coconut sector with an outlay of Rs.576 crores; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The productivity of coconut in Kerala has increased from 5,747 nuts per ha. in 1999-2000 to 5,870 nuts per ha. in 2000-2001.

(b) For management of root wilt disease in Kerala, the Coconut Development Board is implementing the programme on integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement which includes cutting and removal of diseased palms, laying out demonstration plots; productivity improvement and organic manuring units. Coconut Development Board since its inception has sanctioned Rs.110.94 crores to Government of Kerala for various programmes for increasing production and productivity of coconuts in the State. For control of coconut mite which was first reported in Ernakulam district in 1998, an assistance of Rs.30.09 crores has been provided to the State exclusively for management of mite.

(c) and (d) Government of Kerala submitted a Project for "Enhancing Productivity of Coconut Holdings in Root Wilt Diseased Areas of Kerala" with an outlay of Rs.576.14 crores for a period of 5 years with emphasis on cutting and removal of diseased trees in border districts of Thrissur and Thiruvananthapuram; supply of seedlings for replanting and adoption of improved crop management etc. The project was examined in Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. For similar programmes, Government of India has sanctioned Rs.110.94 crores to Government of Kerala, through Coconut Development Board since its inception. Funds for such a project requiring high investment within a time frame cannot be provided from the meagre financial allocation available with Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. Government of Kerala has been advised to send the revised project to Planning Commission directly for funding or identified external agency with detailed justification for strategies and components proposed to be implemented, time frame for each activity alongwith Techno-economic and financial viability etc.

Setting up of Forest Development Agency

1685. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up Forest Development Agencies in every State in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such agencies set up in each State;

(c) whether the Government have received and approved any proposals to set up some Forest Development Agencies in the country including Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) All the State Governments except the

Governments of Assam, Meghalaya and Goa, have set up Forest Development Agencies in select Territorial/Wildlife Divisions in their respective States for implementing the National Afforestation Programme.

(b) A statement indicating State-wise details of Forest Development Agencies set up is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The State Governments do not require the approval of the Central Government to set up Forest Development Agencies in their States.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Forest Development Agencies Set up
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17
2.	Chhattisgarh	12
3.	Bihar	3
4.	Goa	0
5.	Gujarat	12
6.	Haryana	18
7.	Himachal Pradesh	3
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	21
9.	Jharkhand	4
10.	Karnataka	30
11.	Kerala	15
12.	Madhya Pradesh	24
13.	Maharashtra	27
14.	Orissa	28
15.	Punjab	1
16.	Rajasthan	8
17.	Tamil Nadu	14
18.	Uttar Pradesh	31
19.	Uttaranchal	5

1	2	3
20.	West Bengal	12
North Eastern States		
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	8
22.	Assam	0
23.	Manipur	4
24.	Mizoram	18
25.	Meghalaya	0
26.	Nagaland	15
27.	Sikkim	6
28.	Tripura	9
Total		345

Illegal Processing of Old Lead Acid Batteries

1686. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale illegal processing of used lead acid batteries for recovery of lead despite a ban;

(b) if so, the action taken against such activity; and

(c) the steps taken to allow only those registered units to recover lead from old batteries, which are equipped with environment friendly facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) There have been press reports regarding illegal processing of used lead acid batteries for recovery of lead.

(b) and (c) All the SPCBs/PCCs have been asked to check and close down backyard lead smelters/fly-by-night operators so that reprocessing of used lead acid batteries is undertaken only by Units registered with this Ministry. In addition, awareness is being created regularly among all stake-holders about management of lead acid batteries through the print and electronic media.

Availability of Khadi at Cheaper Rate

1687. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND

RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the steps the Government propose to take to make khadi available to common person at an affordable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): The Khadi package announced by the Government on 14.05.2001, which inter-alia provides for market development assistance, packaging and design facilities, brand building, technology upgradation etc., is aimed at facilitating availability of khadi products to all at competitive rates. Besides, 10% rebate on Khadi has been extended from 90 days to 108 days in a year.

Conservation of Monuments

1688. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified 753 Centrally Protected Monuments for structural, conservation, chemical preservation and development under the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, names of the identified monuments; and

(c) the total amount of funds earmarked and allocated so far for such developmental activities, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) The Archaeological Survey of India had identified over five hundred centrally protected monuments for structural conservation, chemical preservation and development under the Tenth Five Year Plan.

As there has been an increase in the revised estimates, a fresh exercise is under way for allocating the monument-wise requirement of funds for the current year as well as for the remaining years of the Plan period.

[Translation]

Reduction in Cost of Limestone and Dolomite

1689. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has taken any steps to reduce the cost and improve the quality of limestone and dolomite produced at Bhavnathpur limestone mines of raw material division of SAIL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not implementing the works

even after awarding tenders for the raising work of limestone and dolomite in Bhavnathpur limestone mines;

(d) whether SAIL has followed the policy of open tender for said works; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to bring down the cost and improve quality of Limestone and Dolomite, SAIL has taken the following measures:

- i) Reduction in Expenditure on Power.
- ii) Rationalisation of Manpower and
- iii) Quality Improvement by Effective Mining with Improved Supervision.

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

[English]

Assistance for Strengthening of Poultry Farming

1690. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are providing 100 percent central assistance for strengthening poultry farming in States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided to the State Governments particularly Andhra Pradesh, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) This Department is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance to State Poultry Farms" in all the States/UTs of the country during the Xth Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07). The pattern of assistance is 100% for North Eastern States including Sikkim and on 80:20 Centre to State basis for other States. Under the scheme one time financial assistance is provided to selected State poultry farms to suitably strengthen them for strictly maintaining low-input technology breeding stock.

(c) No proposal has been received under the scheme from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The assistance provided to the States under this scheme are as under:

State	Amount sanctioned (Rupees in lakhs)
Assam	170.00
Chhattisgarh	68.00
Himachal Pradesh	59.87
Jharkhand	25.48
Mizoram	70.00
Uttaranchal	68.00
West Bengal	68.00

Market-Intervention Scheme for Arecanut

1691. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have extended the Market Intervention Scheme for the growers of arecanut in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof including total quantum of arecanut procured;

(c) whether all the growers have been paid;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) This Department has sanctioned the MIS for procurement of 3.250 MTs of arecanut in A&N Island from 1.6.2002 to 31.8.2002, which was later on extended upto 31.10.2002. Upto 31.10.2002 a total quantity of 756.73 MTs of arecanut amounting to Rs.4.16 crores was procured.

(c) to (e) As per the final accounts submitted by the A&N Cooperative Supply & Marketing Federation (procuring Agency), an amount of Rs.2.67 crores has been paid to the farmers and the balance of Rs.1.49 crore is payable to the farmers.

[Translation]

Child Labour

1692. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a constant increase in the number of child labourers in the country particularly in Rajasthan and children are being employed to work in hazardous industry;

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

(c) whether the industrial units are not being inspected due to lack of inspectors in the Labour Department;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the trend of employing children in such jobs;

(e) whether the Government have recently made any efforts to identify the major reason for this social evil; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) The 1981 Census recorded the number of child labour to be 13.64 million, while the 1991 Census recorded the number to be 11.28 million. Over the decade, there has been a decline in child labour both in absolute numbers as well as in percentage terms. The State wise position is given in the enclosed statement.

As per the estimates of the 55th Round of NSSO survey conducted in 1999-2000, the estimated number of working children in the country is 10.4 million.

(c) and (d) The state governments are responsible for enforcement of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 in all areas except establishments under the control of Central Government or a Railway administration or major port, or a mine or oil field. Regular monitoring is being carried out by the State Governments as well as Central Government regarding enforcement of the provisions of the Act and necessary action is initiated wherever necessary.

(e) and (f) Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem to be dealt through sustained efforts over a period of time. Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour beginning with the children working in hazardous occupations.

Statement

State-wise Distribution of Working Children According to 1971, 1981 and 1991 Census

		1971	1981	1991
		1	2	3
		4	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	1,627,492	1,951,312	1,661,940
2	Assam	239,349*	**	327,598
3	Bihar	1,059,359	1,101,764	942,245
4	Gujarat	518,061	616,913	523,585
5	Haryana	137,826	194,189	109,691
6	Himachal Pradesh	71,384	99,624	56,438
7	Jammu and Kashmir	70,489	258,437	**
8	Karnataka	808,719	1,131,530	976,247
9	Kerala	111,801	92,854	34,800
10	Madhya Pradesh	1,112,319	1,698,597	1,352,563
11	Maharashtra	988,357	1,557,756	1,068,418
12	Manipur	16,380	20,217	16,493
13	Meghalaya	30,440	44,916	34,633
14	Nagaland	13,726	16,235	16,476
15	Orissa	492,477	702,293	452,394
16	Punjab	232,774	216,939	142,868
17	Rajasthan	587,389	819,605	774,199
18	Sikkim	15,661	8,561	5,598
19	Tamil Nadu	713,305	975,055	578,889
20	Tripura	17,490	24,204	16,478
21	Uttar Pradesh	1,328,726	1,434,675	1,410,086
22	West Bengal	511,443	605,263	711,691
23	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	572	1,309	1,265
24	Arunachal Pradesh	17,925	17,950	12,395
25	Chandigarh	1,086	1,986	1,870
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3,102	3,615	4,416
27	Delhi	17,120	25,717	27,351
28	Daman and Diu	7,391	9,378	941

	1	2	3	4
29 Goa				4,656
30 Lakshadweep		97	56	34
31 Mizoram		***	6,314	16,411
32 Pondicherry		3,725	3,606	2,680
Total		10,753,985	13,640,870	11,285,349

* Includes figures of Mizo district also which then formed part of Assam

** Census could not be conducted.

*** Census figures of 1971 in respect of Mizoram included under Assam.

NB: Figures for 1991 relates to workers of age group 5-14 years.

[English]

Reconstruction of Afzal Khan Smarak

1693. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have granted clearance for development of Afzal Khan Smarak at Pratapgarh Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to withdraw the NOC in the face of public demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) On an application by the Government of Maharashtra on 19.04.2002, the Central Government has approved diversion of 0.2218 hectare of forest land for renovation of dharamshala and public road to Afzal Khan Memorial Society on 23.09.2002 under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. This diversion has been approved for ten years when it will be reviewed for further continuance. New construction and tarring of road has not been allowed.

(c) No such proposal for withdrawal of the approval has been received from the State Government.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Chilka Lake

1694. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chilka is losing its beauty and charm due to man-made circumstances;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names and number of migratory birds of rare species which flock here?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) It is not a fact that Chilka is losing its beauty and charm due to man-made circumstances.

(c) The rare, threatened species of migratory birds which flock Chilka in large numbers are: Spoonbilled Sandpiper, Asian Dowitcher, Spotbilled Pelican, Dalmatian Pelican, Barheaded guise etc.

Financial Assistance to Cottage Industries

1695. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the share of the cottage industries in every State including Uttar Pradesh in the total industrial production of the country State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have provided any financial assistance to these industries;

(c) if so, whether assistance from World Bank has also been taken;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) The state-wise details of production in Khadi and Village Sector including cottage industries during 2000-01 and 2001-02 is given in the statement enclosed. The share of cottage industries in the total industrial production of the country is estimated to be 1.74%.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The cottage industries programme is presently being implemented with full financial assistance provided from the budgetary source of Government of India and the Banks and does not require recourse to any external borrowings.

Statement*State-wise Production under K.V.I. Sector during 2000-01 and 2001-02*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sr. No.	States/Union Territories	2000-2001			2001-2002		
		Khadi	V.I.	Total	Khadi	V.I.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I. States							
1	Andhra Pradesh	2204.22	33915.08	36119.30	1856.46	34776.33	36632.79
2	Arunachal Pradesh	5.00	155.72	160.72	4.18	212.95	217.13
3	Assam	421.62	4671.91	5093.53	403.39	5039.68	5443.07
4	Bihar	1543.81	16656.40	18200.21	1543.81	16656.40	18200.21
5	Goa	0.00	2405.31	2405.31	0.00	2586.35	2586.35
6	Gujarat	2416.05	40371.22	42787.27	1857.24	40371.22	42228.46
7	Haryana	1634.92	8736.82	10371.74	2007.16	12450.88	14458.04
8	Himachal Pradesh	296.92	9965.63	10262.55	296.92	16547.23	16844.15
9	Jammu and Kashmir	702.35	12263.77	12966.12	702.36	15154.38	15856.74
10	Karnataka	3300.24	46465.65	49765.89	3273.55	58295.20	61568.75
11	Kerala	969.28	21275.91	22245.19	992.73	27308.37	28301.10
12	Madhya Pradesh	392.54	41024.43	41416.97	339.30	44849.82	45189.12
13	Maharashtra	2703.09	119476.84	122179.93	3489.91	119476.84	122966.75
14	Manipur	35.00	5328.77	5363.77	35.00	5477.45	5512.45
15	Meghalaya	3.60	2862.45	2866.05	1.60	3329.00	3330.60
16	Mizoram	40.84	3007.27	3048.11	40.80	3110.00	3150.80
17	Nagaland	69.55	4101.73	4171.28	54.89	4174.52	4229.41
18	Orissa	208.81	5468.62	5677.43	221.89	7770.08	7991.97
19	Punjab	1252.57	25456.67	26709.24	1063.41	31845.20	32908.61
20	Rajasthan	2497.57	57122.41	59619.93	1278.90	64731.87	66010.77
21	Sikkim	6.93	206.80	213.73	8.73	259.41	268.14
22	Tamil Nadu	6040.32	58035.05	64075.37	5408.04	59961.89	65369.93
23	Tripura	3.40	1279.92	1283.32	3.40	1822.07	1825.47
24	Uttar Pradesh	11290.99	102377.82	113668.81	9920.86	101167.51	111088.37

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25	West Bengal	4222.01	20336.44	24558.45	4612.38	22279.48	26891.86
26	Chhattisgarh	436.89	218.51	655.40	584.22	3438.37	4022.59
27	Jharkhand	314.99	40.83	355.82	154.24	350.87	505.11
28	Uttaranchal	0.00	307.47	307.47	808.64	3834.22	4642.86
Total-I		43013.46	643535.45	686548.91	40964.01	707277.59	748141.60
II Union Territories							
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.00	252.60	252.60	0.00	349.97	349.97
2	Chandigarh	0.00	1085.00	1085.00	0.00	1278.97	1278.97
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.37	28.37
4	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Delhi	113.27	3351.65	3464.92	106.96	4195.67	4302.63
6	Lakshadweep	0.00	6.45	6.45	0.00	15.75	15.75
7	Pondicherry	30.66	937.81	968.47	28.93	906.03	934.96
Total-II		143.93	5633.51	5777.44	135.89	6774.76	6910.65
Grand Total		43157.39	649168.96	692326.35	41099.90	714052.35	755152.25

[English]

Types of Aircraft

1696. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India is considering to acquire 18 single-aisle planes in the near future;

(b) the sectors on which these aircrafts will be inducted;

(c) the reasons for preferring single-aisle planes to wide bodied planes by Air India;

(d) the cost of acquisition of 18 single-aisle planes by Air India along with the sources of fund;

(e) whether Indian Airlines plans to remove all the wide bodied planes from its operational fleet; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Air India has not taken a final decision on acquisition of single aisle planes.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The wide bodied aircraft inducted in the late seventies and early eighties are no longer in production. These aircrafts with over 20 years of service in Indian Airlines require more frequent scheduled checks as per DGCA stipulations leading to an increase in maintenance workload and higher maintenance cost. They are also required to undergo mandatory inspection and modification entailing heavy expenditure and grounding for fairly long period of time.

Diversion of Forest Land

1697. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had allotted 16.17 hectare of forest land against the original demand of 61.2

hectares for laying Bagha-Chitoani Railway line in 1990, resulting in blocking the water flow of Rahva and Koteriva streams whereby 1691 hectare of forest land continues to remain under 6 to 7 feet deep water;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Bihar originally objected for the same and has been constantly taking up the issue with his Ministry demanding Rs.75.35 lakhs from Railway Ministry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action so far taken by his Ministry to resolve this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) As recommended by the Government of Bihar, the Central Government has granted in-principle approval with certain stipulated conditions for diversion of 61.17 ha. of forest land for construction of Chhitauni- Bagha - Rail - cum - road link in West Champaran District of Bihar on 21-1-1992. The State Government had submitted the compliance report of the stipulated conditions on 10-8-1992. In the compliance report, the State Government had intimated that the Department of Water Resources of the State has conveyed that Government of Bihar will bear the cost of its share for flood control measures and for control of soil erosion arising due to the construction of Rail-cum-road-bridge. In view of the said compliance report, the Central Government had issued formal approval to the project under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and therefore, there was no commitment made by Government of India in this regard.

Contaminated Ground Water

1698. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a recent research, more than 449 million residents along the Gangetic basin are exposed to arsenic poisoning through contaminated ground water;

(b) if so, whether the wells surveyed in the region contain five times more arsenic than the permissible levels;

(c) if so, whether a deeper region-wise study on ground water quality has been suggested; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) As per studies conducted by the Central Ground

Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, arsenic contamination in ground water in the lower Gangetic Plain of West Bengal has been identified sporadically in a linear tract extending from southern part of Malda district (North of Ganga River) through Murshidabad, Nadia, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas districts to the East of Bhagirathi and Bardhaman, Howrah and Hoogly districts to the West of Bhagirathi. At present 67 blocks of eight districts of West Bengal have been identified to have arsenic contamination in ground water more than the permissible limit of 0.05 mg/l.

(d) Action taken to contain the problem of arsenic contamination in the State of West Bengal include the following:-

1. The State Government of West Bengal, in collaboration with and financial support from the Government of India have sanctioned ~~scheme~~ for supply of surface water based water supply for Malda district, South 24 Parganas district and has prepared a perspective plan to tackle arsenic contamination.
2. The All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health under, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has undertaken epidemiological Study in arsenic affected areas.
3. Several Research & Development projects, as given below, have been sanctioned under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission of the Ministry of Rural Development:-
 - (i) Sub-Mission Project on arsenic pollution in ground water in West Bengal.
 - (ii) Study of arsenic contamination in six districts of West Bengal.
 - (iii) R&D project on epidemiological Study for assessing toxicity in chronic arsenic affected areas.
 - (iv) R&D projects on control of arsenic and other chemical pollutants.
 - (v) Development of low-cost filtering medium for removal of arsenic from ground water.
 - (vi) Study of geology and geo-chemistry of arsenic occurrences in ground water of six districts in West Bengal.

*[Translation]***Shortage of Manpower in Directorate
General of Mines Safety**

1699. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a shortage of inspectors and other officers in the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS);

(b) if so, the extent to which the functioning of DGMS has been affected owing to the shortage of manpower;

(c) whether this factor has been responsible for mine accidents in the recent few months; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) has sanctioned strength of 167 inspecting officers with 133 persons in position and 34 posts lying vacant.

(b) to (d) The mine managements are responsible for ensuring safety in their mine as laid down under Section 18 of the Mines Act, 1952. The role of inspecting officer of DGMS is limited to oversee the status of compliance of the safety provisions through inspection of these mines. The reduction in number of accidents in both Coal as well as Non-coal mines illustrates that the safety situation has improved. The Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) has also been asked to make a fresh assessment of the manpower requirement of DGMS.

*[English]***Unclaimed Cargo at Airports**

1700. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the time limit for removal of cargo by its legal owner from the airport;

(b) the cargo lying unclaimed at various airports for the past three years; and

(c) the amount realized from the sale of unclaimed cargo from April 1998 to December 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL

AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) As per Customs Act, 1962, the import cargo can be cleared by its legal owner within 30 days from the date of its landing. Airports Authority of India provides five working days as free period within which the import cargo may be cleared without payment of any demurrage charges.

(b) The number of cargo packages unclaimed for the past three years from April 2000 to December 2002, lying at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata airports are 8090, 15986, 121 and 1886 respectively.

(c) The airport-wise amount realized from the sale of these unclaimed cargo at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata are Rs.5.76 crore, Rs.5.67 crore, Rs.2.47 crore and Rs.0.33 crore respectively.

Private Participation in River-linking Project

1701. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have invited private participation for funding river-linking project;

(b) if so, whether river-linking project is expected to generate employment;

(c) if so, whether the Government have chalked out any scheme in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) A Task Force on Inter-Linking of Rivers under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha has been constituted on 13.12.2002. The terms of reference of the Task Force inter alia include consideration of the various modalities for project funding. The Task Force has been given a time table for preparation of an Action Plan by 31st July, 2003 for giving alternative options for funding and execution of the project as also the suggested methods for cost recovery, etc.

*[Translation]***Research and Development of Sugarcane**

1702. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to utilize sugarcane related Research and Development in order to promote food processing industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries encourage utilization of modern technology and processes for promotion of food processing industries in the country. Financial assistance to the extent of 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in respect of difficult areas is provided for setting up, expansion and modernisation of food processing industries and such assistance is available to proposals which are found technically feasible and financially viable.

[English]

Strike by AI Employees

1703. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India Employees Association have given a strike call;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government invited the Air India Employees Association leaders for negotiation; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and if not, the steps taken by the Government to resolve the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) There is no Association by the name of Air India Employees Association in existence in Air India. However, a National Action Committee consisting of various Unions/Associations/Guilds of airlines had given a notice to go on one day token strike from 0600 hrs. of 20 Feb. 2003 to 0600 hrs. on 21 Feb. 2003 to protest against Income Tax on free/concessional passage utilised by Airline employees. The proposed strike was subsequently called off following an assurance from the Ministry of Finance that the matter has been favourably considered.

Financial Loss to Farmers due to Jowar Seeds

1704. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Jowar seeds supplied to the farmers of Maharashtra has failed miserably leading to huge financial losses to the farmers;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ordered any inquiry into the matter; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Maharashtra State Seeds Corporation Ltd. has reported that 144 Qtls. of certified seeds of Jowar c.v. M-35-1 supplied by them to farmers showed poor field emergence. Maharashtra State Seeds Corporation has reimbursed the cost of seed to the affected farmers.

Winding up of Directorate of Maize Research

1705. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Maize Research, Pusa a constituent of ICAR is proposed to be windup;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the performance of DMR recorded during each of the last three years in physical and financial terms; and

(d) the fate of the employees likely to be rendered surplus after its winding up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No such proposal has been initiated by the ICAR regarding windup of DMR in future.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) The Directorate of Maize Research 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 enclosed statement-I and statement-II.

(d) Not applicable.

Statement-I

Objectives:

- A. To undertake basic and strategic research activities with respect to germ plasm enhancement like tolerance to abiotic and biotic stresses, quality improvement, specialized uses etc.
- B. To Co-ordinate interdisciplinary research activities as follows:
 1. Strategic and applied research for genetic improvement in yield, quality and resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses.
 2. Development of efficient package of practices for increasing productivity.

3. 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 demonstration 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 16 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 2060 Kg/ha in 2001. The total production has also increased from 9.1 million tonnes in 1994 to 13.51 million tonnes in 2001-2002 which is a significant increase. Special emphasis was laid on development of nutritionally superior quality protein maize hybrids Accordingly, single cross hybrids Shaktiman-I and Shaktiman-II were released. These hybrids will provide nutritional security to the tribal and poor strata of the society and also better feed for poultry industry. **Maize has exceeded the targeted production (12 mt) to 13.5 mt, an increase of 1.5 mt. in the year 2001-2002.**

Statement-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 Agriculture 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-I. The allocation during IX Plan and expenditure year wise are given in Table 2 below:

VIII Plan (Table-I)		(Rupees in Lakhs)
Year	Remittance from Council	Expenditure
1994-95	0.40	0.30
1995-96	1.44	0.76
1996-97	2.90*	2.85*

*Including AICRP

IX Plan (Table-2)		(Rupees in Lakhs)
Year	Allocation	Expenditure
1997-98	1.57	1.57
1998-99	1.07	1.07
1999-2000	1.17	0.96
2000-2001	1.26	1.26
2001-2002	668.11**	666.70**

** Including AICRP

Tour Performed by Officials of DMR

1706. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of foreign/domestic tours performed by the officials of Directorate of Maize Research, Pusa during the last three years alongwith the country/State visited with the purpose of each visit;
- (b) the expenditure incurred on each of the visit alongwith the designation of each participant;
- (c) the achievements made as a result of such tours; and
- (d) if not, the steps taken to stop such tours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The details of the tours (foreign/domestic) performed by the officials of the Directorate of Maize Research (DMR), Pusa, New Delhi during the years 1999-2000 to 2001-02, country-wise and state-wise are given in Annexure-I & II. The foreign tours had been conducted for planning the on-going research of the Asian Maize Biotechnology Network under the International Collaboration Research Programme in Maize in the country. The Scientists of the DMR were also deputed for participation in the International workshops/seminars and for attending training programmes abroad. The tours within the country had been conducted for collection, evaluation and characterization of maize germplasm from different states and also for monitoring and evaluation of Maize improvement activities at different centers of the projects. The scientists and other officials of the DMR had to undertake periodic tours for organising and conducting different farm and training activities besides coordinating with State Government Agencies.

(b) The details of expenditure on each visit along with designation of officials are given in enclosed statement-I and statement-II.

(c) The participation in the meeting abroad helped in interaction with the various maize workers and planners of different countries as well as in evaluation and selection on large scale of tropical, sub-tropical and high land germplasm from Mexico, Thailand and other countries. These visits also benefited the scientists with their exposure to the latest technologies available. The domestic tours helped in monitoring and coordinating activities at different centers

towards meeting the targets of research work.

The visits abroad as well as the domestic tours were conducted in the interest of overall improvement of maize programme. It is pertinent to mention that the production of the Maize Crop has increased from 11.15 million tonnes in 1998-99 to 11.84 million tonnes in 2000-01. The productivity has increased from 1797 kg per hectare in 1998-99 to 1806 kg per hectare in 2000-01.

(d) Not applicable.

Statement-I

*Details of Foreign Tours (1999-2000 to 2001-02)
undertaken by officials of DMR.*

S.No.	Name of Scientist	Purpose	Expenditure
1	2	3	4
1.	Dr. N. N. Singh	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To participate in the AMBIONET planning meeting from 26-30th April, 99 held at Beijing, China. 2. To participate in the Project Advisory Meeting of Quality Protein Maize held from 22-27 August, 1999 in Brazil. 3. To participate in the meeting on AMBIONET activities held from 7-12 November 2000 at Philippines and Indonesia. 4. To participate in the Indian-Iraq Work Plan meeting held from 26-4-00 to 8-5-00 in Iraq. 5. 4th Annual workshop of the Asian Maize Socioeconomic workshop group at Kathmandu. 6. To have fruitful interaction and discussions with CIMMYT maize staff to get information and guidance on maize germ plasm that will be useful for Indian Maize Programme and also to strengthen research collaboration between DMR and CIMMYT. 7. To AMBIONET activities in Philippines. 8. To participation in the national maize symposium being organized by Nepal Agricultural Research Council in Nepal. 	Nil (All the expenditure was incurred by host Institution)
2	Dr. R. P. Singh	For importing training on "Geographic information systems" (GIS) for the period of six weeks from Nov. 6 to Dec. 16, 2000 at Mexico.	

1	2	3	4
3	Dr. Sangam Lal	To participate in Maize Pathology programme held from 25 Sept. 99 to 20 Oct. 99 to CIMMYT, Mexico.	
4	Dr. H.O. Gupta	To participate and present papers in the 3rd ICSC meeting future Human Need held at Hamburg, Germany from 17-22nd Aug. 2000	
5	Dr. P.H. Zaidi	Boy SCAST fellowship award under the sponsored by DST CIMMYT, Mexico from 25.2.2002 to 19.2.2003.	

Statement-II*State-wise details of Domestic Tours performed by officials of DMR (1999-2000 to 2001-02)*

(1999-2000)

Andhra Pradesh

S.No.	Designation of Officer	Period of visit	Expenditure Incurred	Purpose	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Principal Scientist	3-4-99 to 11-5-99	Rs. 7474/-	To oversee the harvesting of maize planted at Amberpet farm, Hyderabad	
2	Technical Assistant	2-4-99 to 22-5-99	Rs 5465/-	To assist in harvesting Maize material at Hyderabad.	
3	Technical Assistant	20-4-99 to 11-5-99	Rs 3425/-	To assist in harvesting of maize material at Hyderabad.	
4	Principal Scientist	24-04-99 to 17-05-99	Rs.9.000/-	To oversee the harvesting work and seed putting material at Amberpet farm, Hyderabad.	
5	Principal Scientist (Agro)	24-04-99 to 17-05-99	Rs. 12500/-	To attend NATP meeting at NAARM, Hyderabad.	
6	Technical Officer	2-5-99 to 14-5-99	Rs.1950/-	To harvest maize pathological material planted at Amberpet farm, Hyderabad	
7	Technical Officer	2-5-99 to 21-5-99	Rs 2767/-	To help in harvesting in Maize material at Hyderabad.	
8	Technical Assistance	2-5-99 to 22-5-99	Rs. 6475/-	To discuss in harvesting and arranging trials at Amberpet farm, Hyderabad	
9	Project Director (Maize)	6-5-99 to 9-5-99	Rs. 12760/-	To attend harvesting of maize planted at Amberpet farm, Hyderabad.	
10	Principal Scientist	6-5-99 to 16-5-99	Rs. 471/-	To evaluate and harvest maize breeding material planted at Amberpet, Hyderabad	
11	Technical Officer	6-5-99 to 16-5-99	Rs. 1070/-	To help in harvesting of maize material grown at Amberpet farm, Hyderabad	
12	Principal Scientist	6-5-99 to 21-5-99	Rs. 7000/-	To evaluate and harvest winter nursery maize material planted at Amberpet, Hyderabad	
13	Technical Officer	6-5-99 to 21-5-99	Rs. 6000/-	To help in harvesting of Maize material at Amberpet farm, Hyderabad	

1	2	3	4	5	6
14	Project Director (Maize)	23-6-99 to 26-6-99	Rs. 17420/-	To monitor and evaluate breeding material and trial at Hyderabad	
15	Scientist	6-9-99 to 12-9-99	Rs. 4369/-	Hybrid seed production training programme in maize at Hyderabad	
16	Principal Scientist	27-11-99 to 10-12-99	Rs. 3401/-	To attend Hindi Annual Workshop at NAARM and winter Nursery planting at Amberpet Farm, Hyderabad	
17	Principal Scientist	27-11-99 to 11-12-99	Rs. 10000/-	To attend Hindi Workshop and for planting of Rabi Winter Nursery at Hyderabad.	
18	PPSS (NATP)	1-12-99 to 5-12-99	Rs. 13000/-	To participate in IXth Annual Nutrition Conference at Hyderabad.	
19	Technical Assistant	17-12-99 to 31-12-99	Rs. 6000/-	To assist in sowing and weeding work at Hyderabad.	
20	Technical Assistant	17-1-2000 to 11-2-2000	Rs. 6820/-	To help in pollination work at Hyderabad.	
21	Technical Assistant	17-1-2000 to 11-2-2000	Rs. 6805/-	To help in pollination work at Hyderabad.	
22	Principal Scientist	28-1-2000 to 13-2-2000	Rs. 10051/-	To attend hybrid workshop at Amberpet farm, Hyderabad	
23	Principal Scientist	28-1-2000 to 21-2-2000	Rs. 11129/-	To attend hybrid workshop at Amberpet Farm, Hyderabad.	
24	Principal Scientist	28-1-2000 to 8-2-2000	Rs. 10028/-	To attend meeting of NATP mission mode project on development of Hybrid in maize and to record observation on maize entomological breeding material at Hyderabad.	
25	Dr. N. N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	29-1-2000 to 3-2-2000	Rs. 13347/-	To attend hybrid workshop at Directorate of Rice Research Hyderabad.	
26	Sh. O. P. Bhagat, Technical Assistant	1-2-2000 to 3-3-2000	Rs. 10480/-	To help in pollination work at Hyderabad.	
27	Dr. Iqbal Singh, Principal Scientist	11-2-2000 to 28-2-2000	Rs. 12269/-	To oversee the pollination work at Hyderabad.	
28	Sh. Sushil Dutt, Technical Assistant	20-2-2000 to 11-3-2000	Rs. 8000/-	To help in pollination work at Hyderabad.	
29	Sh. Vishwanath, Technical Assistant	20-2-2000 to 16-3-2000	Rs. 1599/-	To help in harvesting work at winter maize Nursery, Hyderabad.	
30	Sh. S. L. Sharma, Technical Assistant	21-2-2000 to 14-3-2000	Rs. 3501/-	To help in silking and pollination work at Winter Nursery, Hyderabad	
31	Dr. P.H. Zaidi, Principal Scientist	22-2-2000 to 1-3-2000	Rs. 7000/-	To observe the experiments at Winter Nursery, Hyderabad.	
32	Dr. N. N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	10-3-2000 to 12-3-2000	Rs. 12570/-	To monitor winter maize programme at Hyderabad.	

1	2	3	4	5	6
Bihar					
1	Dr. Rajpal Singh, Principal Scientist	3-5-99 to 15-5-99	Rs. 5019/-		To oversee the harvesting maize isolation at Kushmohut.
2	Sh. Satish Rai, Technical Assistant	3-5-99 to 16-5-99	Rs.3721/-		To help in harvesting maize isolation a Kushmohut.
3	Sh. Satish Rai, Technical Assistant	15-6-99 to 23-6-99	Rs.3000/-		To help in harvesting maize isolation at Kushmohut.
4	Dr. Rajpal Singh, Principal Scientist	7-8-99 to 13-8-99	Rs.4342/-		To monitor the maize isolation at Kushmohut.
5	Sh. Satish Rai, Technical Assistant	7-8-99 to 13-8-99	Rs.3882/-		To help the maize isolation fertilizer application at Begusarai.
6	Dr. Sangam Lal, Principal Project. Investigator	29-8-99 to 1-9-99	Rs.1762/-		To visit two village of Lalitpur under World Bank project.
7	Sh. Satish Rai, Technical Assistant	12-11-99 to 16-11-99	Rs.3000/-		To help sowing in maize isolation at Begusarai.
8	Dr. Rajpal Singh, Principal Scientist	12-11-99 to 16-11-99	Rs.4000/-		To oversee the maize isolation sowing at Begusarai.
9	Sh. Salish Rai, Technical Assistant	15-11-99 to 26-11-99	Rs.3000/-		To help maize isolation sowing at Begusarai.
10	Sh. Bindeshwar Saini, SSGr. I	18-12-99 to 23-12-99	Rs.1000/-		To supply the demonstration seed maize at Dholi.
11	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	22-1-2000 to 25-1-2000	Rs.7192/-		To visit maize regional research station Begusarai.
12	Dr. Rajpal Singh, Principal Scientist	22-1-2000 to 26-1-2000	Rs.4606/-		To visit maize regional research station Begusarai.
13	Dr. V.K. Yadav, Scientist	22-1-2000 to 7-2-2000	Rs.6997/-		To help in organizing training programme at Bihar.
14	Dr. Rajpal Singh, Principal Scientist	21-2-2000 to 1-3-2000	Rs.5000/-		To visit Regional Research Station and for selection of EM line isolation plot at Kushmohut., Bihar.
15	Dr. V. P. Ahuja, Principal Scientist	3-3-2000 to 13-3-2000	Rs.5000/-		To monitor the experiments at Kushmohout.
Total			Rs. 70556.00		
Rajasthan					
1	Dr. K.L. Meena, Scientist	29-4-99 to 4-5-99	Rs.3902/-		To collect the AUC for grant in Aid to the Centers and FLD's AUC

1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Dr. N. N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	16-5-99 to 16-5-99	Rs. 135/-		To visit farmers field at Banswara, Rajasthan,
3	Sh. Vinod Paswan, Driver	16-5-99 to 16-5-99	Rs.55/-		To accompany P. D. (Maize) at Banswara.
4	Dr. Iqbal Singh, Principal Scientist	6-9-99 to 17-9-99	Rs.5031/-		To monitor the maize trials of breeding programme at Udaipur, Banswara.
5	Sh. V.K. Yadav, Scientist	25 12-99 to 1-1-2000	Rs.3144/-		To help in organizing training programme of FLD at Banswara
Uttar Pradesh					
1	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	11-5-99 to 14-5-99	Rs.2715/-		To accelerate the process of opening of centre and discuss the requirement of staff at Pantnagar.
2	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	19-5-99 to 19-5-99	Rs.135/-		To discuss characterization of rice wheat system under NATP at Pantnagar.
3	Sh. Vinod Paswan, Driver	21-7-99 to 23-7-99	Rs.405/-		To take P. D. (Maize) to GBPUAT, Pantnagar.
4	Principal Scientist	19-7-99 to 25-7-99	Rs.185/-		To collect maize leaf sample under AMBIONET project at Pantnagar.
5	Sh. Vinod Paswan, Driver	29-8-99 to 1-9-99	Rs.220/-		To accompany a scientist to Pantnagar.
6	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	21-7-99 to 23-7-99	Rs.1674/-		To monitor the maize programme at GBPUAT, Pantnagar.
7	Sh. S.N. Rai, Technical Assistant	29-8-99 to 1-9-99	Rs.480/-		To help in pathology trials at Pantnagar.
8	Dr. S.B. Singh, Principal Scientist	18-9-99 to 29-9-99	Rs.6000/-		To visit and monitor maize trials and on farm experiments at Pantnagar
9	Dr. R.C. Sharma, Principal Scientist	29-9-99 to 30-9-99	Rs.270/-		To visit maize trial at Pantnagar.
10	Dr. S.B. Singh, Principal Scientist	29-9-99 to 30-9-99	Rs.270/-		To visit maize trial at Pantnagar.
11	Dr. V.P. Ahuja, Principal Scientist	29-9-99 to 30-9-99	Rs.332/-		To visit maize trial at Pantnagar.
12	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	14-10-99 to 15-10-99	Rs.270/-		To Participate in SAP meeting at Modipuram.
13	Sh. Vinod Paswan, Driver	14-10-99 to 15-10-99	Rs.110/-		To accompany P.D. (Maize) at Modipuram.
14	Sh. J.K. Gulati, Asstt. Finance & Accounts Officer	15-10-99 to 15-10-99	Rs.105/-		To help in organizing SAP meeting at Modipuram.
15	Sh. Deepak Baweja, Technical Officer	15-10-99 to 15-10-99	Rs.816/-		To help in organizing SAP meeting at Modipuram.

1	2	3	4	5	6
16	Dr. N. N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	21-10-99 to 27-10-99	Rs.2772/-		To attend brain storming session at Almora on highland maize and to monitor NATP programme at Faizabad and Lucknow.
17	Dr. R.P. Singh, Principal Scientist	25-11-99 to 30-11-99	Rs.1500/-		To attend Brain Storming session at Lucknow.
18	Sh. V.K. Yadav, Scientist	25-11-99 to 2-12-99	Rs. 981/-		To attend Brain storming session at Lucknow.
19	Dr. Sangam Lal, Principal Investigator	8-2-2000 to 24-2-2000	Rs.2356/-		To help in organized training at Bulandsaher and Lalitpur
20	Sh. V.K. Yadav, Scientist	8-2-2000 to 24-2-2000	Rs.3233/-		To help in organized training at Bulandsaher and Lalitpur
21	Sh. Deepak Baweja, Technical Officer	9-2-2000	Rs.728/-		To help in training programme held at Bulandsaher.
Haryana					
1	Dr. V.P. Ahuja, Principal Scientist	2-4-99	Rs.464/-		To visit maize trials and demonstration at Yamuna Nagar.
2	Dr. R.P. Singh, Principal Scientist	7-4-99 to 9-4-99	Rs.3256/-		To see the roughing inbreeds seed plots at Karnal.
3	Dr. V.P. Ahuja, Principal Scientist	14-5-99	Rs.464/-		To accompany a scientist at Karnal.
4	Sh. Anand Singh, Technical Assistant	21-5-99 to 22-5-99	Rs.408/-		To collect the seeds for experimental trials from Karnal.
5	Dr. R.C. Sharma, Principal Scientist	31-7-99	Rs.135/-		To visit maize trials and demonstration at Yamuna Nagar.
6	Dr. S.B. Singh, Principal Scientist	31-7-99	Rs.135/-		To select the CM135 and CM 36 inbreeds harvest at Karnal.
7	Johar Abbas, Driver	3-9-99	Rs.55/-		To visit drought experiment at Uchani, Karnal.
8	Dr. P.H. Zaidi, Scientist	3-9-99	Rs.120/-		To visit drought experiment at Uchani, Karnal.
9	Dr. N. N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	17-1-2000	Rs.135/-		To visit the Farmers field for Rice and Wheat Research Station at Karnal.
10	Sh. Vinod Paswan, Driver	17-1-2000	Rs.55/-		To accompany project Director (Maize) to Karnal.
Punjab					
1	Dr. V.P.S. Panwar, Principal Scientist	6-9-99 to 17-9-99	Rs.3000/-		To monitor the Kharif experiments and FLD planted at Ludhiana, Solan
2	Dr. V.P.S. Panwar, Principal Scientist	22-9-99 to 23-9-99	Rs.2524/-		To visit maize trial at Ludhiana.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Dr. R.C. Sharma, Principal Scientist	22-9-99 to 23-9-99	Rs.2410/-	To take observation on maize trials at Ludhiana.	
4	Sh. Bindeshwar Saini, SSGr I	10-12-99 to 11-12-99	Rs.418/-	To bring seed of inbred lines from Ludhiana.	
Tamil Nadu					
1	Dr. R.P. Singh, Principal Scientist	2-4-99 to 8-4-99	Rs.7045/-	To attend annual workshop of maize at Coimbatore	
2	Dr. S.B. Singh, Principal Scientist	3-4-99 to 12-4-99	Rs.8000/-	To attend Kharif Maize Workshop at Coimbatore.	
3	Dr. H.O. Gupta, Principal Scientist	3-4-99 to 13-4-99	Rs.6000/-	To attend and present annual report of maize quality in Maize Workshop at Coimbatore.	
4	Dr. N.P. Gupta, Principal Scientist	3-4-99 to 11-5-99	Rs.7474/-	To attend annual maize workshop to Coimbatore.	
5	Dr. Rajpal Singh, Senior Scientist	4-4-99 to 29-4-99	Rs.10000/-	To attend Maize Workshop at Coimbatore.	
6	Sh. S. Vankatesh, Scientist	4-4-99 to 13-4-99	Rs.245/-	To participate 42nd maize workshop at Coimbatore.	
7	Dr. Sai Dass, Principal Scientist	4-4-99 to 12-4-99	Rs.4391/-	To attend the Maize Workshop at Coimbatore.	
8	Dr. Dayanand, Principal Scientist	4-4-99 to 12-4-99	Rs.13189/-	To attend annual workshop of maize at Coimbatore.	
9	Dr. R.C. Sharma, Principal Scientist	5-4-99 to 12-4-99	Rs.6872/-	To visit maize trial and to harvest maize materials at Coimbatore.	
10	Dr. V.P. Ahuja, Principal Scientist	5-4-99 to 12-4-99	Rs.8500/-	To attend Maize Workshop Group Meeting held at TNAU, Coimbatore.	
11	Dr. Sangam Lal, Principal Investigator	5-4-99 to 14-4-99	Rs.10000/-	To participate in the maize Workshop at Coimbatore.	
12	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	6-4-99 to 12-4-99	Rs.20254/-	To organize maize workshop at Coimbatore.	
13	Sh. A.K. Khanna, Senior Clerk	4-6-99 to 13-6-99	Rs.4000/-	To attend IJSC meeting at Willington.	
14	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	9-9-99 to 11-9-99	Rs.17865/-	To monitor and evaluation maize material and trial at Coimbatore.	
15	Dr. N.P. Gupta, Principal Scientist	6-9-99 to 17-9-99	Rs.9000/-	To monitor the maize experiment at Coimbatore.	
16	Dr. R.P. Singh, Principal Scientist	25-12-99 to 31-12-99	Rs.17000/-	To attend Indian Science Congress at Coimbatore.	
17	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	1-1-2000 to 10-1-2000	Rs.16360/-	To discuss with VC about the problem at the centre and to monitor maize crop at Coimbatore.	

1	2	3	4	5	6
18	Dr. R.C. Sharma, Principal Scientist	1-1-2000 to 10-1-2000	Rs.18199/-		To visit maize trial at Coimbatore.
Madhya Pradesh					
1	Dr. Iqbal Singh, Principal Scientist	24-4-99 to 16-5-99	Rs.9000/-		To attend group meeting for Forge crop at Jhansi.
2	Sh. Bindeshwar Saini, SSGr I	25-5-99 to 29-5-99	Rs.796/-		To collect maize seed from IARI Regional Station at Indore.
3	Dr. R.P. Singh, Principal Scientist	30-7-99 to 31-7-99	Rs.2073/-		To see planting and Shelling machine at Bhopal
4	Dr. V.P. Ahuja, Principal Scientist	30-7-99 to 31-7-99	Rs.2143/-		To see planting and shelling machine at Bhopal.
5	Dr. Sangam Lal, Principal Investigator	29-8-99 to 1-9-99	Rs.1762/-		To visit Lalitpur near Jhansi to participate in AMDP Ministry of Agriculture meeting.
Himachal Pradesh					
1.	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	16-4-99 to 19-4-99	Rs.13649/-		To attend IVLP meeting of NATP under Irrigated Agro-Eco System at Kullu
Karnataka					
1.	Sh. A.K. Khanna, Senior Clerk	4-6-99 to 13-6-99	Rs.4000/-		To attend NC meeting Wellington.
2.	Dr. N.P. Gupta, Principal Scientist	6-9-99 to 17-9-99	Rs.6000/-		To monitoring different Kharif experiment at Mandya hill.
3.	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	22-9-99 to 30-9-99	Rs. 18133/-		To monitor and evaluate material at Mandya.
4	Dr. N.N. Singh, Director (Maize)	1-1-2000 to 15-1-2000	Rs.14000/-		To finalize plan of construction work at Bangalore.
5.	Dr. R.C. Sharma, Principal Scientist	1-1-2000 to 15-1-2000	Rs.14000/-		To finalize plan of construction work at Bangalore.
Maharashtra					
1.	Dr. R.P. Singh, Principal Scientist	7-4-99 to 9-4-99	Rs.3256/-		To collect Data on Maize seed from public and private seed industries from Nagpur.
2	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	7-8-99 to 11-8-99	Rs.1268/-		To organize seed production programme of QPM at Kolhapur
3.	Dr. R.C. Sharma, Principal Scientist	7-8-99 to 13-8-99	Rs.13000/-		To visit maize materials and trials at Kolhapur.
Jammu & Keshmir					
1.	Dr. Dayanand, Principal Scientist	9-9-99 to 19-9-99	Rs.11449/-		To visit Sri Nagar with monitoring team.

**2000-01
Andhra Pradesh**

S.No.	Name and Designation of Officer	Period of Visit	Expenditure (Rs.)	Purpose	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Sh. O.P. Bhagat, Technical Officer	30 March to 22 April, 00	4427		To help in harvesting of maize at Hyderabad
2	Dr. N.P. Gupta, Principal Scientist	3 April to 18 April, 00	4083		To harvest maize crop at Hyderabad
3	Dr. Rajpal Singh, Principal Scientist	10 April to 3 May, 00	4195		To attend the maize workshop at Hyderabad

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Sh. Vishwanath, Technical Assistant	7 April to 11 May, 00	105		To assist in harvesting at Hyderabad.
5	Sh. S.L. Sharma, Technical Officer	17 April to 9 May 00	2866		Do
6	Sh. V.K. Yadav, Scientist	25 Aug. to 24 Dec.00	7469		To attend 71st FOACARS training of NAARM, Hyderabad.
7	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	5 Sept to 7 Sept.00	12570		To monitor maize experiments seed production activities and FLDs maize Research station at Amberpet Farm Hyderabad.
8	Dr. J.C. Shekhar Scientist	17 Oct. to 4 Nov. 00	7315		To discuss maize planting for 2000 at Hyderabad.
9	Dr. P.H. Zaidi, Scientist	25 Nov. to 1 Dec.00	878		Sowing and drought and water logging experiments at winter nursery Hyderabad.
10	Dr. K.P. Singh, Scientist	28 Nov. to 31 March 01	8000		To attend the 72nd FOACARS (TA) Programme at NAARM Hyderabad.
11	Dr. N.R. Gupta, Senior Scientist	5 Dec. to 18 Dec-00	8000		To conduct the planting of maize at Amberpet farm Hyderabad.
12	Dr. V.P.S. Panwar, Principal Investigator	20 Jan to 30 Jan. 01	3641		To help in pollination work at Amberpet, Hyderabad.
13	Sh. S.N. Rai, Technical Officer	2 Feb to 24 Feb. 01	7814		To help in pollination of maize pathological materials planted at MRS Amberpet Hyderabad.
14	Dr. N.P. Gupta, Sr. Scientist	9 Feb to 23 Feb.01	4320		To Organize pollination work in winter nursery at Amberpet Hyderabad.
15	Sh. Vishwanath, Technical Assistant	10 Feb. to 1 March, 01	3127		To assist in silking and pollination work at winter Nursery Hyderabad.
16	Dr. Sujay Rekshit, Scientist	13 Feb. to 2 March, 01	1623		To conduct the experiments on maize materials at Hyderabad.
17	Dr Rajpal Singh, Scientist	20 Feb. to 10 March, 01	6000		To oversee the pollination maize material at Amberpet Farm, Hyderabad
18	Sh. Nanak Chand, Technical Assistant	26 Feb to 21 March-01	2763		To help in pollination and field work at Hyderabad.
19	Sh. O.P.Bhagat, Technical Officer	27 Feb. to 26 March 01	6000		To help in pollination of maize at Hyderabad.
Bihar					
1.	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	25 to 28 May, 00	7669		To discuss about civil work at Begusarai with Chief Engineer, CPWD, Patna.
2	Sh. Deepak Baweja, Technical Assistant	25 to 28 May, 00	4178		To accompany PD (Maize) at Patna
3	Dr. P.H. Zaidi, Scientist	25 to 28 May, 00	4178		To discuss construction works under taken at Kushmahut and Bishnupur, Begusarai.
4	Sh. J.K. Gulati, Assistant Finance & Accounts Officer	25 to 28 May, 00	4127		To discuss construction works under taken at Kushmahut and Bishnupur, Begusarai.

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5	Sh. Kamal Vats, Technical Assistant	14 to 20 June, 98	1278	To carry seed and other material for Begusarai	
6	Dr.V.K.Yadav, Scientist	17 to 23 June, 00	973	To organise FLD at Begusarai	
7	Dr. Rajpal Singh, Senior Scientist	17 to 27 June, 00	818	To visit RRS for isolation plot at Begusarai	
8	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	24 to 27 June, 00	9430	To organize maize training programme and to visit maize research station at Kushmahut, Begusarai	
9	Dr. Sangam Lal, Principal Investigator	24 to 28 June 00	3500	To see the maize inbreds at Kushmahut Farm, Begusarai	
10	Sh. Satish Rai, Technical Assistant	24 to 29 June, 00	3585	To see the maize inbreds at Kushmahut Farm, Begusarai	
11	Dr. Sangam Lal Principal Investigator	24 to 29 June, 00	1484	To participate in Krishi Ghosti and training programme at Begusarai	
12	Dr. R.P. Singh, Senior Scientist	24 to 29 June, 00	4164	To attend Krishi Ghosti and training programme at Begusarai	
13	Dr. V. P. Ahuja, Senior Scientist	25 to 29 June, 00	3953	To visit DMR MRS Kushmahut Centre at Begusarai	
14	Dr. V.P.S. Panwar, Senior Scientist	25 to 29 June, 00	4018	To visit DMR MRS Kushmahut Centre at Begusarai	
15	Dr. Rajpal Singh, Scientist	25 to 29 June, 00	3945	To visit DMR MRS Kushmahut, Begusarai	
16	Sh. Bindeshwar Saini, SSGr I	14 to 24 July, 00	4198	To deliver the maize seed at Begusarai	
17	Sh. Satish Rai, Technical Assistant.	14 to 25 July, 00	4000	To help in sowing maize crop at Begusarai	
18	Sh. A.K. Khanna, Senior Clerk	8 to 19 August, 00	7000	To ascertain first hand information about the problem faced by the staff working at Bihar.	
19	Dr. Rajpal Singh, Scientist	11 to 21 Sept., 00	4326	To visit field demonstration plot at Begusarai	
20	Sh. Satish Rai, Technical Assistant	11 to 21 Sept. 00	424	To see the demonstration on maize at Begusarai and Electrical work at Samastipur	
21	Dr. R.P. Singh, Senior Scientist	18 to 28 Sept. 00	6321	To attend training programme and monitoring FLD Begusarai	
22	Dr. Sangam Lal, Principal Investigator	18 to 28 Sept. 00	6391	To conduct training programme at Begusarai.	
23	Sh. Satish Rai, Technical Assistant	4 to 13 Oct. 00	3040	To help in maize isolation selection at Kushmahaut, Begusarai	
24	Dr. Rajpal Singh, Scientist	4 to 16 Oct. 00	4000	For harvesting and selection of maize isolation at Kushmahaut, Begusarai	
25	Sh. Deepak Baweja, Technical Officer	5 to 7 Dec. 00	4433	To inquire theft at Begusarai and other work	
26	Dr. R.C. Sharma, Senior Scientist	5 to 7 Dec-00	4403	To find out fact of dacoity at Kushmahut	

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27	Sh. J.K. Gulati, Assistant Finance & Accounts Officer	5 to 7 Dec. 00	3741		To inquire theft at Begusarai and other work
28	Sh. Satish Rai, Technical Assistant	5-10 Dec-00	3095		Sowing of breeding material at Begusarai, Bihar
29	Dr. R.P. Singh, Senior Scientist	20 to 24 Jan, 01	4620		To discuss with chief engineer CPWD at Begusarai
30	Sh. J.K. Gulati, Assistant Finance & Accounts Officer	20 to 24 Jan., 01	3029		To discuss with chief engineer CPWD at Begusarai
31	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	21 to 23 Jan., 01	8890		To select the site for Kisan Mela and discuss about the construction of RRS complex with the Chief engineer CPWD at Begusarai
32	Dr. N.P. Gupta, Scientist	2 to 9 Feb. 01	3500		To see the FLDs management activities at Kushmohaut, Begusarai
33	Sh. Satish Rai, Technical Assistant	7 to 13 Feb. 01	3462		To attend Krishi Mela at Katihar, Bihar
34	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	21 to 23 Feb. 01	8730		To monitor maize programme and organize visit of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug
35	Dr. V.P.S. Panwar Principal Investigator	2 to 8 March, 01	5000		To oversee rabi trials on maize at Pusa and Begusarai
36	Dr. S.B. Singh, Senior Scientist	2 to 8 March, 01	5000		To see the farmers demonstration on maize at Pusa and Begusarai
37	Sh. Satish Rai, Technical Assistant	2 to 8 March-01	2695		To attend Krishi Mela at RAU, Samastipur
38	Sh. V.K. Yadav, Senior Scientist	2 to 9 March, 01	3500		To visit rabi programme at Pusa and Begusarai
Haryana					
1	Dr. N.N. Singh Project Director (Maize)	8 April, 00	135		To monitor maize trials at Panipat, Khalilabad
2	Sh. Vinod Paswan Driver	8 April 00	55		To accompany PD (Maize) for field visit at Panipat, Khalilabad
3	Sh. Bindeshwar Saini, SS Gr I	13 to 15 May 00	149		To accompany PPSS Irrigated Agro Eco System for Karnal and Hisar
4	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	20 May 00	135		To evaluate maize crop planting at Uchani
5	Sh. Deepak Baweja, Technical Assistant	20 May, 00	120		To assist PD (Maize) at Uchani Karnal
6	Sh. J.K. Gulati, Assistant Finance & Accounts Officer	20 May, 00	105		To collect the first hand information of AICRP Maize at Karnal
7	Johar Abbas, SS Gr I	20 May, 00	55		To accompany PD (Maize) for Karnal visit
8	Dr. N.N. Singh Project Director (Maize)	11 Aug. 00	135		To visit seed production plot at IARI Reg. Station Karnal

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9	Sh. Vinod Paswan, Driver	24 Feb-01	55	To accompany P.D. (Maize) to Yamunanagar	
1	Dr. S.B. Singh, Senior Scientist	4 April, 00 to 25 April, 00	5557	To attend workshop at Dharwad	
2.	Dr. Om Prakash, Scientist	8 April, 00 to 18 April, 00	1517	To participate in 43rd annual maize workshop at Dharwad	
3	Dr. Dayanand, Principal Investigator	9 April, 00 to 18 April, 00	4988	To attend annual workshop at Dharwad	
4	Dr. K.P. Singh, Scientist	9 April, 00 to 18 April,00	1517	To attend the annual maize workshop at Dharwad	
5	Sh. V.K. Yadav, Scientist	9 April, 00 to 18 April, 00	1390	To attend annual workshop at Dharwad	
6	Dr. R.P. Singh, Senior Scientist	9 April, 00 to 18 April, 00	581	To attend maize workshop at Dharwad	
7	Dr. P.H. Zaidi, Scientist	9 April, 00 to 26 April, 00	3230	To attend the 43rd annual maize workshop at Dharwad.	
8	Dr. V.P. Ahuja, Principal Scientist	10 April, 00 to 18 April, 00	5262	To attend annual maize workshop at Dharwad	
9	Dr. R.C. Sharma, Senior Scientist	10 April, 00 to 21 April, 00	3356	To attend workshop at Dharwad	
10	Dr. Sangam Lal, Principal Investigator	11 April, 00 to 16 April,00	10368	To monitor the crop planting at Arbhavi and to participate in the maize workshop	
11	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	12 April, 00 to 17 April, 00	14830	To organize the Annual maize workshop at Dharwad and evaluation maize at Hyderabad	
Punjab					
1	Dr. R.P. Singh, Senior Scientist	1 to 6 April 00	857	To visit location of on farm trail in Punjab	
2	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	3 to 4 Oct. 00	2285	To attend meeting and discussion with VC PAU Ludhiana authority regarding NATP project	
Madhya Pradesh					
1.	Sh. A.K. Khanna, Senior Clerk	30 May to 6 June 00	3000	To attend IJSC meeting Indore	
2	Sh. A.K. Khanna, Senior Clerk	18 to 26 June, 00	1182	To attend IJSC meeting at Indore	
3	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	20 to 24 June, 00	8824	To attend IJSC meeting at Indore	
4	Dr. R.C. Sharma, Senior Scientist	4 to 7 Dec. 00	2648	To see maize planter and other farm experiments at CIAE Bhopal	
Himachal Pradesh					
1	Dr. R.K. Sharma, Scientist	9 to 15 July, 00	2000	To record observation in entomological traits on cotton at Bajaura	

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2	Dr. H.O. Gupta, Senior Scientist	1 to 6 Nov. 00	2000		To present lead paper entailed post harvest technology food products in the national seminar on science at Bajaura
3	Dr. Iqbal Singh, Project Director (Maize)	1 to 6 Nov.00	1161		Do. and also to attend National Seminar on agriculture Industries interface at Palampur
5	Sh. Vinod Paswan, Driver	2 to 4 Nov.00	165		To Drive the Staff car with PO (Maize) attending symposium at Palampur
Maharashtra					
1	Dr. S.B. Singh, Senior Scientist	4 to 10 July, 00	5033		To visit Kolhapur for formulation of trials and sowing of isolation of QPM
2	Dr. S.B. Singh, Senior Scientist	14 to 20 Oct. 00	7843		To Visit seed production plot and see the harvesting material at Kolhapur
3	Dr. H.O. Gupta, Senior Scientist	26 Feb. to 7 March,01	7812		To participate & present paper in the National Symp. on Relevance of Plant Biochemistry & Biotechnology Modern Trend Kolhapur.
Rajasthan					
1	Dr. V.P.S. Panwar, Senior Scientist	15 to 26 Sept.00	5000		To monitor kharif experiment and FLD planted by various research centres at Udaipur, Banswara
2	Dr. R.C. Sharma, Senior Scientist	2 to 6 Oct. 00	4000		To conduct training programme under TMOP&M at Banswara
West Bengal					
1	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	19 June, 00	12663		To discuss about civil work at Kushmahut Begusarai with Sr. Architect CPWD, Calcutta
2.	Sh. A.K. Khanna, Senior Clerk	28 Oct. to 4 Nov. 00	5000.		To attend IJSC Meeting at RS Kalimpong
Assam					
1	Dr. R.C. Sharma, Senior Scientist	29 to 31 Aug. 00	17105		To oversee the maize pathological trials at Jorhat
2.	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	29 Aug. to 2 Sept 00	17105		To monitor maize trail at research station and FLDs at farmers' field and also discuss various problem of staff with VC at Jorhat 34210.00
Orissa					
1	Sh. Vinod Paswan, Member IJSC	26 Feb to 09 March-01	8336		To attend central joint staff meeting at Bhubneshwar
Utter Pradesh					
1	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	18 to 24 April, 00	5145		To monitor rabi and spring FLDs at Lucknow
2	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	12 to 17 May, 00	5155		To select site for opening of maize centre in Deoria/ Ghorakhpur
3	Dr. Sangam Lal, Principal Investigator	5 July 00	135		To visit Loharaha village to finalize IPM trial under UNDP programme

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4	Dr. V.K. Yadav, Scientist.	5 July, 00	120	Do	
5	Sh. V.K. Yadav, Scientist	15 July, 00	120	To attend Krishi Ghosti at Bulandshahr	
6	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	19 to 23 July, 00	4471	To monitor maize programme at Deoria Gorakhpur/Bahraich/Lucknow	
7	Dr. S.B. Singh, Senior Scientist	18 to 19 Sept, 00	470	To conduct training programme on maize and to visit Farmers fields at Bulandshahr	
8	Dr. R.C. Sharma, Senior Scientist	18 to 19 Sept. 00	470	To conduct training programme under UNDP at Bulandshahr	
9	Johar Abbas, SSGrl	18 to 19 Sept. 00	55	To accompany the scientists to visit at Bulandshahr	
10	Dr. V.P.S. Panwar, Senior Scientist	1 to 6 Oct. 00	2000	To conduct training programme on maize seed production technology at (Bahraich and Kanpur)	
11	Dr. S.B. Singh, Senior Scientist	1 to 10 Oct. 00	5517	To conduct training programme at Bahraich	
12	Dr. Sangam Lal, Principal Investigator	9 to 11 Oct. 00	2462	To help in organizing training programme under UNDP at Jhansi/ Lalitpur	
13	Sh. Sunil Mehto, Junior Clerk	19 to 21 Oct. 00	582	To help in SAP meeting at Lucknow	
14	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	20 to 21 Oct. 00	5540	To attend SAP meeting at Lucknow	
15	Dr. R.P. Singh, Senior Scientist	24 to 27 Dec. 00	8650	To visit centre regarding rabi experiments and bring materials from Varanasi	
16	Dr. P.H. Zaidi, Senior Scientist	26 to 31 Dec. 00	2356	To discuss about water logging project on maize at NDUT Faizabad	
17	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	24 to 31 Jan. 01	5624	To monitor FLDs at Faizabad	
18	Dr. N.N. Singh, Project Director (Maize)	7 to 8 Feb. 01	7340	To organize Dr. Borlaug's programme in India	
19	Dr. R.P. Singh, Senior Scientist	4 to 8 March, 01	2522	To organize field experiment and Kisan Mela at Bahraich	

**2001-02
Andhra Pradesh**

1	Dr. Sujay Rakshit Scientist	23-4-01 to 3-5-01	7791	To harvest materials at Hyderabad and to discuss the bioinformatic network.
2	Dr. N.P. Gupta Principal Scientist	30-4-01 to 15-5-01	16975	To harvest Winter Nursery Maize at Hyderabad
3	Sh. Satish Rai, Technical Officer	1-5-01 to 18-5-01	4773	To assist in harvesting at Hyderabad.
4	Sh. Jai Ram Technical Assistant	1-5-01 to 18-5-01	4788	To assist in harvesting at Hyderabad

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5	Dr. Rajpal Singh Principal Scientist	1-5-01 to 18-5-01	11488	To harvest maize breeding materials at Hyderabad.	
6	Dr. R.K. Sharma Principal Scientist	12-5-01 to 19-5-01	3000	To participate in National workshop for updating IPM Package on maize and to collect Germ plasm from Bhopal.	
7	Sh. Vishwanath Technical Assistant	1-5-01 to 20-5-01	6000	To assist in harvesting on maize crops.	
8	Sh. O.P. Bhagal Technical Assistant	1-5-01 to 20-5-01	7000	To help in harvesting of maize.	
9	Dr. R.C. Shamra Principal Scientist	30-4-01 to 9-5-01	12282	To undertake harvesting of maize pathology materials.	
10	Dr. N.N. Singh Project Director (Maize)	15-1-02 to 16-1-02	14990	To monitor the harvesting process.	
11	Dr. Iqbal Singh Principal Scientist	20-1-02 to 25-1-02	4679	To assist Project Director (Maize)	
12	Dr. Iqbal Singh Principal Scientist	16-2-02 to 28-2-02	7000	To undertake harvesting of maize pathology materials.	
13	Dr. S.B. Singh Principal Scientist	16-2-02 to 28-2-02	10343	To undertake harvesting of maize pathology materials.	
14	Dr. N.P. Gupta Principal Scientist	10-3-02 to 16-3-02	10035	To Monitor the harvesting process	
15	Dr. Sujay Rakshit Scientist	8-2-02 to 16-3-02	10592	To collect the maize data	
16	Dr. R.C. Shamra Principal Scientist	10-3-02 to 17-3-02	7000	To monitoring the maize seeds	
17	Sh. Vishwanath Technical Assistant	8-2-02 to 5-3-02	7659	To assist in harvesting process.	
18	Sh. S.N. Rai Technical Assistant	12-2-02 to 5-3-02	9429	To help in harvesting maize crops.	
19	Dr. Rajpal Singh Principal Scientist	16-02-02 to 7-03-02	13140	To monitor the Maize Kharif.	
Uttar Pradesh					
1	Dr. J.C. Shekhar Scientist	5-4-01 to 14-4-01	7740	To discuss winter nursery programme and to attend annual workshop at Kanpur.	
2	Sh. Vinod Paswan Technical Assistant	16-4-01 to 16-4-01	55	To carry Project Director (Maize) from IARI to Kashitola for field visit.	
3	Dr. P.H. Zaidi Scientist	31-3-01 to 16-4-01	2352	To attend annual maize workshop at Kanpur	
4	Dr. N.N. Singh Project Director (Maize)	2-4-01 to 5-4-01	1152	To attend annual maize workshop	
5	Dr. N.N. Singh Project Director (Maize)	7-4-01 to 10-4-01	9179	To attend maize workshop at Kanpur	
6	Dr. R.P. Singh Principal Scientist	7-4-01 to 11-4-01	2220	To attend maize workshop at Kanpur	

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7	Dr. V.P.S. Panwar Principal Scientist	7-4-01 to 12-4-01	2597	To attend maize workshop at Kanpur	
16	Dr. S.B. Singh Principal Scientist	7-4-01 to 12-4-01	2687	To attend maize workshop at Kanpur	
17	Sh. Ashok Kumar Stenographer	7-4-01 to 12-4-01	2211	To assist in the secretarial work in the workshop	
10	Dr. Sujay Rakshit Scientist	7-4-01 to 12-4-01	2332	To attend maize workshop at Kanpur	
11	Sh.V.K.Yadav Scientist	7-4-01 to 12-4-01	2179	To arrange the maize workshop at Kanpur	
12	Dr. A. S. Sethi Principal Scientist	7-4-01 to 9-4-01	2255	To attend maize workshop at Kanpur	
13	Sh. Bindeshwar Saini SS Gr. I	7-4-01 to 12-4-01	874	To help in maize workshop at Kanpur	
14	Dr. N.P. Gupta Principal Scientist	7-4-01 to 12-4-01	2657	To attend maize workshop at Kanpur	
15	Dr. Om Prakash Principal Scientist	7-4-01 to 12-4-01	2332	To attend maize workshop at Kanpur	
16	Dr.P.H. Zaidi Scientist	6-2-02 to 13-2-02	2405	To assist the Project Director (Maize)	
17	Dr. N.N. Singh Project Director (Maize)	1-1-02 to 5-1-02	7355	To see the maize crops.	
18	Dr. N.N. Singh Project Director (Maize)	22-1-02 to 24-1-02	6935	To see the maize crops	
Bihar					
1	Dr. N.N. Singh Project Director (Maize)	20-4-01 to 22-4-01	10385	To see the FLD's	
2.	Satish Rai Technical Officer	13-8-01 to 21-8-01	2855	To see the FLD's progress	
3.	V. K. Yadav Scientist	24-12-02 to 5-1-02	6830	To conduct FLD's tests	
4	Dr. N.N. Singh Project Director (Maize)	19-2-02 to 20-2-02	9690	To see the FLD's crops.	
5.	V.K. Yadav Scientist	21-4-01 to 30-4-01	5385	To look after seed production activities and FLD at Begusarai	
Haryana					
1	Dr. P.H. Zaidi Scientist	28-4-01 to 30-4-01	630	To select Drought tolerance line	
2.	Dr. H.O. Gupta Principal Scientist	12-2-02 to 16-2-02	2234	To select Drought tolerance lines	
Kolhapur					
1	Sh. R.B.Thakur Technical Assistant	20-5-01 to 8-6-01	2000	To see maize crops at Kolhapur	

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Coimbatore					
1	Dr. V.S. Upadhyay PPSS (NATP)	8-4-01 to 12-4-01	17939		To attend the technology assessment and through IVLP
Yavatmal					
1	Dr. P. Kumar Principal Scientist	11-1-02 to 13-1-02	4500		To collect the IVLP Projects
Madhya Pradesh					
1	Dr. S.B. Singh Principal Scientist	31-8-01 to 2-9-01	2977		To see the maize crops at Jhansi.

**All India Conference of State
Agriculture Ministers**

1707. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Conference of State Agriculture and Cooperation Ministers was held at Delhi on 11 December, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to implement the resolutions adopted at the conference;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All India Conference of State Agriculture & Cooperation Ministers was held at New Delhi on 11th December, 2002 to discuss the credit related issues. Almost all the State Agriculture & Cooperation Ministers attended the Conference. After deliberation important resolutions relating to Agriculture Credit and Crop Insurance were passed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Resolutions passed in the conference have been sent to all concerned including the Ministry of Finance for taking necessary action in the matter.

(e) Does not arise.

Irregularities in Awarding of Contracts by DMR

1708. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether gross irregularities have been reported in the matter of awarding contracts by Directorate of Maize Research, Pusa during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the remedial steps taken by the Government;

(d) the salient features of the work contracts awarded by the DMR during each of the last three years; and

(e) the status with progress reports of each of the contract as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The external Audit by the Principal Directorate of Audit (Scientific Department) has already has been done. No irregularities have been reported in matter of awarding contracts by the Directorate of Maize Research (DMR).

(b) Not Applicable.

(c) Not Applicable.

(d) The original works of DMR including the petty ones are being carried out by the works section of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI). The works have also been awarded on the basis of rate contract made by IARI. The works regarding construction of farmers Guest house, levelling of land etc. of regional centre of DMR at Begusarai have been awarded to CPWD, Patna in consultation with the Director (Works), ICAR.

(e) The work awarded in the DMR (HQ) as well as at Begusarai are satisfactory.

Production of Bio-fertilizers

1709. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to increase production of bio-fertilizers like Vermi-Compost etc. and encourage farmers to use these bio-fertilizers and undertake organic farming;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any subsidy is being given to farmers for encouraging them to produce as well as use bio-fertilizer; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) During 10th Plan it is envisaged to implement a new scheme, "National Project on Organic Farming" which includes setting up of a National Institute of Organic Farming (NIOF) and its Regional Centres to promote and facilitate various aspects of organic farming in the country. The scheme includes inter-alia support to commercial production units of organic inputs like fruit and vegetable waste compost units, bio-fertilizers production units and hatcheries for vermiculture etc.

(c) and (d) To make available bio-fertilizers at reasonable rate and also as to encourage the use of bio-fertilizers among farmers the Government has provided a non-recurring grant upto Rs.20 lakhs during 9th Plan for setting up for Bio-fertilizers production units. This activity is proposed to be continued during 10th Plan under the National Project on Organic Farming.

National Conference on Plant Biotechnology

1710. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a three day national conference on 'plant biotechnology' role in sustainable development was held recently in Jaipur;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the matter discussed therein; and
- (c) the outcome thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) "The National Symposium on Plant Biotechnology: Role in Sustainable Development" was organised by University of Rajasthan, Jaipur on behalf of Plant Tissue Culture Association of India. The Symposium was held at Jaipur during February 17-19, 2003.

- (b) The issues related to plant tissue culture,

secondary metabolites, metabolic engineering and molecular biology, genetic transformation system, resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses, tree biotechnology, embryogenesis, regeneration and micro-propagation, genomics and biotechnology and sustainable development were discussed.

(c) No recommendations of the workshop have been received so far by the Department of Biotechnology which is the nodal department for biotechnology.

Security Passes for Chargesheeted Officers

1711. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of applications for airport entry passes which are valid till December 31, 2004 processed by Air India Security both for officers and staff working in Air India at Delhi station;
- (b) the number of applications related to both departmental as well as police case;
- (c) whether the applications were accompanied by the copies of relevant documents as required under the Rules;
- (d) if so, the total number of such applications; and
- (e) the number of applications, sent to BCAS for processing and how many were not processed and reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) So far, at Delhi Air India has processed 1779 applications for airport entry passes under the new system.

- (b) 8 applications.
- (c) and (d) The applications were submitted in the prescribed form.
- (e) 1778 applications were sent to Bureau of Civil Aviation Security and one application has been withheld by Air India for want of additional information.

Loss of Air Traffic by IA

1712. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI:

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any recent review has been undertaken by the Government to assess the extent to which the Indian Airlines have been losing in passenger load factor to other airlines operating in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the extent of loss suffered by the Indian Airlines on this account during the last three years;

(c) the reasons for such losses, and

(d) the steps being taken by the Indian Airlines to compete with the Private Airlines and regain market share?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The passenger load factor (seat factor) during the last three years is as under:

Year	Indian Airlines	Jet Airways	Sahara Airlines
2000	64.0%	71.8%	39.71%
2001	63.4%	63.1%	40.09%
2002	58.9%	61.6%	51.70%

During the last few years, capacity induction has been much in excess of demand by the private airlines in domestic aviation market. This has led to a decline in seat factors for the industry as a whole. The induction of capacity by the private airlines, has led to decline in Indian Airlines capacity share and a consequent decline in seat factor and profitability.

The profit/(loss) of Indian Airlines for the last three years is given below:

Years	Net Profit/(Loss) (Rs. in crores)
1999-2000	51.42
2000-2001	(159.17)
2001-2002	(246.75)

It is not possible to separately estimate the impact of variation in load factor (capacity utilisation) on the profitability of the Company as the operating margins are affected by a combination of factors such as increase in input prices, variation in revenue yields, capacity utilisation, utilisation of aircraft and others resources.

(d) Indian Airlines maintains its services competitively with other operators through introduction of promotional fares and by upgrading, as also adding value to its product.

New Airport for Taj Economic Zone

1713. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to develop a new international airport near Delhi as a part of the Taj Special Economic Zone;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the techno-economic feasibility report for the proposed international airport has been obtained;

(d) if so, whether the feasibility, viability, safety and security of an international airport barely 80 Km from the existing international airport in Delhi has been examined;

(e) if so, whether the airport infrastructure policy lay down that no airport within an aerial distance of 150 km of the existing airport be allowed; and

(f) if so, the final decision taken by the Government about the development of such an airport near Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (f) There is a proposal from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to develop Taj International Airport Hub. Final decision on the proposal will be taken after taking into consideration techno-economic feasibility of the project and the existing policy guidelines.

Cultural Exchange Programme

1714. SHRI AMBAREESHA:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

SHRI Y.V. RAO:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed cultural exchange programmes with some foreign countries particularly with Italy recently;

(b) if so, the salient feature of the agreement; and

(c) the benefits that are likely to be accrued to India as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The sixth Cultural Exchange Programme with the Government of Italy was signed on 25th January, 2003.

(b) The agreement with Italy enables reciprocal exchanges in the fields of education, culture & art, protection of cultural heritage, museums, archaeology, archives, libraries & publishing and cinema, radio & television.

(c) The Cultural Exchange Programme is for strengthening of bilateral cultural links and for projecting India's cultural image abroad.

[Translation]

Accidents in Coal and Other Mines

1715. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of caving in fire and flooding of water in the Coal and other mines during the last three years, till date including the losses of life and property, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether one of the closed mine in the Jharkhand (Distt. Hazaribagh) had caught fire recently;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the safety measures adopted to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) A statement giving the State-wise and year wise details in regard to accidents and losses of life is enclosed. The details regarding loss of property is not available.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, a fire accident in Banagarha seam of the Kananpura Khas Colliery of M/s Central Coalfields Limited had occurred on 6.12.2002. The mine was started in the year 1983 and workings were discontinued on 28.12.1999. While discontinuing, the management sealed off all the seams except one seam, namely, Banagarha seam, which was standing on pillars. The incidence of fire occurred due to non-sealing of workings in this seam. After the incidence of fire the air supply to the working has been cut off temporarily. The management proposes to construct isolation stoppings in all the openings to deal with the problem permanently.

(d) Safety measures required to be taken to check occurrence of accidents in the mines have been laid down in the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. These safety laws are kept under constant review and amended from time to time. The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) also issued guidelines in the form of circulars to the management for improving safety measures. The safety provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The inspecting officers of DGMS inspect the mines to oversee the status of compliance and take the following action in case of default:

(i) Warning to the delinquent.

(ii) Suspension of the certificate.

(iii) Modification in the method of working.

(iv) Action by the management against their employees on the basis of finding of the Directorate General of Mines Safety.

(v) Prosecution in the court of law.

Government also takes various other measures by way of organizing Conferences of Safety, Safety Weeks and declaring National Safety Awards to improve safety awareness among the miners.

Statement

Coal mines

State	2000		2001		2002	
	No. of cases	No. of death	No. of cases	No. of death	No. of cases	No. of death
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	2	4	-	-	1	-
Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	1	-

Caving in/Subsidence

- Nil-

Fire

Andhra Pradesh

2

4

-

-

1

-

Chhattisgarh

-

-

-

-

1

-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	1	-
Madhya Pradesh	1	1	-	-	-	-
Maharashtra	-	-	1	-	2	-
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	1	-	-	-
West Bengal	-	-	1	-	1	-
All India	3	5	3	-	6	-

Filing of Water

Andhra Pradesh	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bihar	1	-	-	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	1	-
Jharkhand	-	-	2	30	1	-
All India	2	-	2	30	2	-

Non-coal

Caving in/Subsidence

-Nil-

Fire

Assam	2	-	1	1	-	-
Gujarat	-	-	1	3	1	-
Jharkhand	-	-	1	4	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	-	-	1	1	-	-
All India	2	-	4	9	1	-

Filling of Water

-Nil-

[English]

Restrictions on Agricultural Trade

1716. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to ease the restrictions on agricultural trade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Government has removed restrictions on farm sector for export of wheat & wheat products, grain and flour of barley, maize, bajra, ragi, jowar (excluding hybrid jowar grown as

Kharif crop), butter; and on types of pulses, lentils, grams and flour made therefrom with effect from March, 2002. Registration requirement of export of non-basmati rice and requirement for export of non-basmati rice and requirement of export of pulses in package of 5 kg have also been removed.

Further, the restrictions on exports of cashew to Russia, groundnut oil in 5 kg packs and above; and agricultural seeds except cashew, jute and onion, have also been lifted with effect from 31.03.2002. The registration requirement on export of butter and wheat & wheat products have also been removed with effect from 31.03.2002.

The Central Government has also removed restrictions under the Essential Commodities Act on purchase, stocking,

transport, etc. of various agricultural commodities, sugar and edible oils. The requirement of licensing in respect of several commodities has also been removed.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts Under SCs/STs Category

1717. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any posts of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in different categories in various Departments and Undertakings under his Ministry are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees working in the said departments and undertakings under his ministry have been timely promoted and fresh recruitment have also been made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details of recruitment made under the various categories during said period so far and in the current year and till date;

(e) whether the prescribed roles have been followed with regard to the recruitment and promotion of persons belonging to SCs/STs categories; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) The following vacancies in the Ministry of Steel (Secretariat) earmarked for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are lying vacant as on date during the years indicated against them:

Name of post	Particulars of vacancies		Year of the vacancy
	SC	ST	
Section Officer	-	1	2002
Steno Grade 'D'	-	1	2001
LDC	1	-	2001

(c) Promotion and fresh recruitment are made depending upon the availability of vacancies and the suitability of incumbents.

(d) The year-wise and category-wise details of

recruitment made in the Ministry of Steel (Secretariat) under the various categories during the years 2000, 2001, 2002 and upto 31.1.2003 are given below:

Fresh recruitment

Name of post	2000		2001		2002		2003 (upto 31st January, 2003)	
	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
Peon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Promotion

Name of post	2000		2001		2002		2003 (upto 31st January, 2003)	
	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
Datry	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

In so far as the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCI&S) organization and the PSUs under the Ministry of Steel, are concerned the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reduction in Number of Employees of I.C.A.R.

1718. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the number of employees in the I.C.A.R.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) There is no proposal from Government specific to ICAR to reduce the number of employees in ICAR. However Government of India guidelines regarding reduction of staff are applicable to ICAR. Action has already been taken by ICAR as per Government of India guidelines relating to reduction of staff.

Cultivation of Medicinal Plants in Maharashtra

1719. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a centrally sponsored scheme is being

implemented in Maharashtra for the development of agricultural techniques and cultivation of medicinal plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan under which the State Governments can take up developmental programmes as per their felt needs including cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. An outlay of Rs.50 lakhs has been earmarked by the Government of Maharashtra during 2002-03 in their Work Plan for development of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants in the State. The Deptt. of ISM&H under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has provided assistance to Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri and Dr. Punjab Rao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola under their Central Sector Scheme for development of Agro-techniques & cultivation of medicinal Plants.

[English]

Smuggling of Timber in Orissa

1720. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the killing of one volunteer and thrashing of three others by the mafia, when they tried to stop mafia from stealing timber as reported in the Hindustan Times dated January 6, 2003;

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

(c) whether the mafia is enjoying free run in connivance with forest officials; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to take on the mafia and save the forests in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) The Government are aware of the killing of one person and injury to one other by the timber smugglers while they were performing their bonafied duties.

(b) The incident took place on 31.12.2002 when Late Shri Chandra Mani Nayak of Raghunathpur village of Nayagarh district, a member of the Anchalika Sulia Van

Surakshya Committee was patrolling the Sulia Reserved Forest (Compartment no.4) alongwith Shri Maguni Behera and Shri Puran Ch. Behera. They were attacked by four armed timber smugglers in which Shri Chandra Mani Nayak was killed, Shri Maguni Behera was injured while Shri Puran Ch. Behera escaped unhurt. A Forest case was booked against the offenders by the forest officials of the Nayagarh Range and an FIR was also lodged in the Nayagarh Police Station. The offenders absconded and there whereabouts are not known.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Fall in Production of Crops due to Global Warming

1721. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any estimate of the probable fall in the productivity of the crops in northern India including Punjab and Haryana as a result of Global warming; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government to apprise the State Governments and farmers of this crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There is considerable uncertainty in the magnitude of global warming. The probable effect of global warming on Indian agriculture therefore, remains very uncertain and would depend upon the actual change in temperature and other climatic features together with adaptation and mitigation strategies.

(b) There do not appear any immediate crisis. Nevertheless, greater efforts to understand the probable impacts of climate change and adaptation measures are in progress. Also, several ongoing resource conservation programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture are likely to help in mitigating effects of the climate change.

Financial Assistance to NCDC

1722. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether risk free financial assistance of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is provided through state Governments;

(b) whether interest rate payable on such risk free assistance is excessive in view of current falling interest rates;

(c) if so, whether Union Government would directly provide loan to the cooperatives at competitive interest rates; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken in this regard?

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

(b) The lending rates of NCDC depend upon cost of borrowing and are reviewed from time to time. The interest rates of NCDC have since been reduced with effect from 1.12.2002 and now the effective rates of interest on loans through State Governments is 11.5% per annum. These rates are quite competitive.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Indian Seed Industry Association

1723. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:

SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Seed Industry Association has requested the Union Government to buy the seed technology and source them through agricultural research system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the multinational companies are gradually monopolizing the country's seed market;

(d) if so, whether any remedial steps have been taken by the Union Government in this regard;

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

(f) whether the Government have any proposal to bring amendments to the draft Seeds Act, 2000; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Seed Industry Association has requested the Government of India buy technology from abroad and make it available to the seed industry on payment of royalty.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The private seed industry is free to approach banks and financial institutions to raise the requisite capital to purchase seed technology for its commercial use.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Government propose to amend the Seeds Act in order to be able to regulate the quality of all types of seeds and to provide for more stringent penalties for infringement.

[Translation]

Provision of Mini-Kits of Seeds

1724. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide Mini-Kits of various varieties of seeds of Groundnut, Til, Ramtil and Castor released during last ten years to Jharkhand under Oilseeds Production Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to remove condition of last ten years in distribution of seeds mini-kits under said programme;

(d) if so, by when final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) the reasons for delay in taking the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Under the existing Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) being implemented in 28 States including Jharkhand, there is a provision of distribution of minikits of various varieties of seeds of Groundnut, Til, Ramtil and Castor released during last ten years to the farmers free of cost along with printed material for package of practices.

(c) The aim for the distribution of minikits to the farmers is to introduce and propagate new varieties of oilseed crops for the benefit of the farmers. Therefore, there is no proposal to remove the condition of last ten years in distribution of seed minikits under the said programme.

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

[English]

FDI in Civil Aviation

1725. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to open the Civil Aviation infrastructure to foreign direct investment; and

(b) if so, the specific proposals in this regard that have been cleared by the Government indicating details of privatization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) As per Airport Infrastructure Policy foreign equity participation in airport project is permitted upto 74% with automatic approvals and up to 100% with special permission. Government has accorded 'in principle' approval for setting up of Greenfield airports at Bangalore, Hyderabad and Goa. For Bangalore airport project, a consortia led by Siemens has been selected by the state government as strategic joint venture partner, which will hold 74% equity in the joint venture company. Regarding Hyderabad airport project, a consortia led by GMR Vasavi has been selected by the state government as the preferred bidder. Both the projects are in various stages of implementation. In addition to this Government has approved restructuring of the airports of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) through long-term lease route, as and when found

The composition of the Task Force on 24.2.2003 is as under:

1.	Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament (LS)	Chairman
2.	Shri C.C. Patel, Retd. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources	Vice-Chairman
3.	Shri Deepak Das Gupta, Retd. IAS Officer	Full-Time Member
4.	Shri K. V. Kamath, MD & CEO, ICICI Bank	Member
5.	Shri RK. Pachauri, Director General, Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi	Member
6.	Shri Piyush Goyal, Chartered Accountant, Mumbai	Member
7.	Shri K. Kasturirangan, Chairman, ISRO, New Delhi	Member
8.	Shri G.C. Sahu, Retd. Engineer-in-Chief, Government of Orissa	Member
9.	Dr. C.D. Thatte, Retd. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources	Member-Secretary

suitable. At the first instance, the international airports located at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata have been taken up for the restructuring exercise. This restructuring process is likely to attract substantial Foreign Direct Investment also.

Linking of Himalayan Rivers with Peninsular Rivers

1726. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH:

DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO:

SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government have set up any group to study the feasibility of linking of Himalayan rivers with peninsular rivers;

(b) if so, by when this group was set up alongwith members and when it is likely to submit its report; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred and by when the work is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Union Government has set-up a Task Force on December 13, 2002 with a view to bringing about a consensus among the States and provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects and modalities for project funding, etc., for implementing the interlinking of rivers.

The Task Force is to prepare Action Plan by 30th April, 2003 giving the outline of the time schedules for the completion of the feasibility studies, detailed project reports, estimated cost, implementation schedule, concrete benefits and advantages of the project etc. It will suggest alternative options for funding and execution of the project as also the suggested methods for cost recovery by July, 2003.

(c) As per the present tentative estimate, the cost of implementation of identified inter-basin water transfer link schemes, both in Peninsular and Himalayan Component at 2002 price level is Rs.5,60,000 crore. The Task Force is working to suggest and guide the task of achieving the goal of inter-linking of rivers by the end of 2016.

Water Sharing Disputes

1727. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are disputes between Kerala and Tamil Nadu on sharing of rivers water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to settle such disputes?

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

(a) to (c) The dispute regarding sharing of Cauvery water among the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Union Territory of Pondicherry was referred to Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) under the provisions of Inter-State Water Disputes (ISWD) Act 1956 in June 1990 for adjudication. The CWDT has passed an interim order in June 1991, which has been published by the Central Government in the official gazette. Other than the Cauvery water dispute, no request under the provisions of Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 either from the State of Tamil Nadu or Kerala has been sent to the Central Government about the existence of water dispute between the States.

Linking of Brahmaputra River with Farakka

1728. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken a feasibility study regarding linking of North Eastern Brahmaputra river with Farakka in West Bengal via Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have been consulted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c) The Central Water Commission in 1982 had prepared a Feasibility Report on Jogighopa Barrage and Brahmaputra-Ganga Link Canal Project flowing through Bangladesh by gravity, as the first phase of development/augmentation of the flows of the Ganga during dry season by diversion of Brahmaputra waters to the Ganga. The second phase of the proposal envisages creation of backup storages by construction of two dams on major northern tributaries of the Brahmaputra river, viz., Dihang & Subansiri. The proposal was placed before the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission. However, due to reservations expressed by the Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, the proposal was not pursued further.

Problem with Smaller Aircraft

1729. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the ATR-42, fifty seater planes introduced recently in Dimapur are incapable of carrying accompanied baggage of more than 15 kgs. resulting in lot of inconvenience to Businessmen and tourists both domestic and international;

(b) if so, whether the Government plan to press private airlines which use large aircraft into service in this sector; and

(c) if so, by when these are likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK):

(a) In the case of ATR 42-320 aircraft, the maximum payload available is 4.3 tons. With a full complement of 48 passengers on board, and accounting for 3600 kgs. as passenger weight @ 75 kgs. per passenger, the balance payload available for carriage of baggage and freight is approximately 700 kgs. This works out to an average of 15 kgs. per passenger.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. All scheduled airline operators are free to operate on any sector in accordance with Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by Government and subject to traffic demand and commercial viability. However, Alliance Air is considering the feasibility of providing a twice weekly B-737 service between Kolkata and Dimapur subject to availability of capacity.

[Translation]

**Misappropriation of Funds in
Tourism Offices Abroad**

1730. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tourism offices located in foreign countries are indulging in misappropriation of Government funds;

(b) if so, the names alongwith the amount thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into the matter; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government against erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Airport in Jodhpur

1731. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) by when a civil airport in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan is likely to be constructed;

(b) whether Civilian Aircraft are not allowed to land at the present airport at night as the airport belongs to defence; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Jodhpur airport in the State of Rajasthan belongs to Indian Air Force (IAF), where Airports Authority of India maintains a Civil Enclave. Civil Flights land at Jodhpur airport at night with prior permission of IAF.

(c) Does not arise.

Declaration of 2003 as Fresh Water Year

1732. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER:

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to declare 2003 as the year of fresh water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the schemes formulated by the Government in this regard and the funds provided to the State Governments for the purpose?

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

(a) and (b) Government of India has declared 2003 as 'Freshwater Year' in keeping with the United Nations' Resolution declaring the year 2003 as "International Year of Freshwater". The objectives are:

- Increasing awareness among stakeholders regarding scarcity value of freshwater.
- Conservation and efficient use of Freshwater.
- Preservation of Freshwater-quality and its ecosystem.
- Augmentation of freshwater resources.
- Community partnership for informed decision making.

(c) To meet the objectives mentioned above, activities to create awareness about the need for Freshwater conservation, preserving Freshwater eco-system and initiating new programmes on freshwater has been taken up. This will target various groups in the country such as youth and children, women, farmers and villagers as well as policy and opinion makers. The State Governments are also to initiate similar activities with their own resources in their states with technical support from Central agencies.

[English]

Shortage of Rainfall in Country

1733. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States which experienced shortage of rainfall in the country during the last one year:

(b) whether this shortage of rainfall has affected country's overall agriculture production;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the comparative figures for the last two years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per India Meteorological Department (IMD), States which receive rainfall with deviation of -20% to -59% from the normal is termed as Rainfall Deficient while the State which receive rainfall with deviation -60% or more from the normal is called Scanty.

In Monsoon-2002, major rainfall Deficient States were Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh while Rajasthan was scanty.

At All-India level, Monsoon-2002 rainfall was 81% of the normal.

(b) and (c) According to the second advance estimates, production of foodgrains oilseeds, Sugarcane and Cotton this year is lower than the levels attained last year. The following table gives the figures for 2002-03 vis-a-vis previous two years.

(In million tonnes)

	2002-03 \$ (IInd Adv)	2001-02 (Final)	2000-01
Foodgrains Production	183.17	212.02	199.53
Oilseeds	15.44	20.46	18.44
Sugarcane	285.36	300.10	295.96
Cotton*	8.94	10.09	9.52

\$ 2nd Advance Estimates

* In million bales of 170 kg each

(d) Taking into account the increase in input cost caused by drought, the Government have announced one-time Special Drought Relief varying from Rs.5 to Rs.20 per quintal for Kharif crops of 2002-03. Similarly, one-time special drought relief varying from Rs.5 to Rs.10 per quintal was announced for rabi crops of 2002-03. Other measures include promotion of watershed development, development and

promotion of new technology etc. As regards oilseeds, in addition to the measures aimed at promoting production and productivity, import of edible oils is allowed freely to bridge the gap between domestic production and availability.

Objectives of Centre for Academic Excellence

1734. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IARIs objective of Centre for Academic Excellence could not be achieved in full despite the fact that the strength of faculty members during 1995-2001 was three times the number of students admitted for different courses;

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

(c) the number of in-house projects undertaken during 1995-2001 and number of projects for which final reports were available;

(d) whether many of the projects achieved partial objectives resulting in wasteful expenditure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of remedial steps taken by the Government?

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

(b) IARI achieved its objective as a Centre of Academic Excellence and has retained its status as a premier institution. It is evident from the recently held ARS examination results where more than 50 students of IARI have succeeded in getting selected against the 71 vacancies in Agriculture. In addition to their participation in the teaching activities, our faculty members are also involved in the research and extension activities of the Institute.

(c) In the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) there were 402 in-house projects under implementation during 1995-2001. Out of these, 210 projects were started from April 1994 and the final reports of 199 projects are available in IARI. During the course of discussion by competent authority at various divisions, a number of projects were re-mandated.

(d) No, Sir. Objectives were achieved for all the projects.

During the last few years more than 100 varieties have been developed in cereals, pulses and oilseeds, vegetables, fruits and flowers. The Institute developed a number of farm

implements, agrochemicals, biocontrol strategies for pests and various agro-production and production technologies.

Significant achievements have been made in genetic engineering for biotic and abiotic stress tolerance, molecular mapping and DNA fingerprinting, Methodology to forecast wheat production for different states of India employing WTGROWS model.

(e) Not applicable.

Growth in Agriculture

1735. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have targeted a growth rate of 8 per cent during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether during the last five years the agriculture has grown by only 2 per cent;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure agricultural growth at 8 per cent during the said Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Tenth Plan overall growth rate is targeted at 8 per cent per annum. For agriculture the targeted annual growth rate is 4 per cent. During the last five years ending 2001-02 value addition in the Agriculture Sector grew at the average annual growth rate of 1.8 per cent. The year to year fluctuations observed during this period were largely due to changes in weather conditions.

In order to facilitate in the achievement of the targeted growth in agriculture, various crop production schemes like Integrated Cereals Development Programmes for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, National Pulses Development Programme, Sponsored Oil seeds Production Programme and Seed Mini-kit Scheme are being implemented during the Tenth Plan. To reduce water run-off from major catchment areas, improve land capability and moisture regime the Government are implementing the schemes, 'Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in Catchments of River Valley Projects/Flood Prone Rivers' and 'Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas'. Besides, the Regionally Differentiated Strategy adopted during the Ninth plan would be continued during the Tenth plan. As a new initiative, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India' has been launched in March, 2002 for the year 2001-02 and

the Tenth Five Year Plan. The objective of the scheme is to exploit ground/surface water and promote efficient water utilization and management for increasing crop production in eastern India. Apart from these, the Government have launched various other initiatives such as emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network, National Agriculture Insurance Scheme etc. The Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price, procurement by public agencies etc.

Jute Cultivation

1736. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jute cultivation in the jute growing zone of India have shown a decline due to unstable prices and lack of initiative on the part of jute mills; and

(b) if so, the details of the measures initiated by the Government to encourage the jute growers during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. The area under jute cultivation during the past three years is as follow:

Year	Area (Lakh hectare)
1999-2000	8.47
2000-2001	8.28
2001-2002	8.73

(b) Question does not arise. However, in order to increase the productivity and quality of jute in the country, a centrally sponsored scheme of Special Jute Development Programme was implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture till October 2000. Since October 2000, this scheme along with other 26 schemes of the Ministry has been subsumed under Macro Management mode of Agriculture to give flexibility to the States for extension and developmental activities as per their requirements/priorities.

Modernisation of Airports

1737. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has asked for funds from the Ministry of Finance for the upgradation and modernisation of airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures Government propose to take to modernise and upgrade airports in the country during the current plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Modernisation and upgradation of airports is a continuous process and is taken up depending upon traffic requirements, availability of funds, economic viability, availability of lands, and social considerations etc. A number of major modernisation/upgradation schemes have been planned during the plan period 2002-2007. These include:

Construction of new terminal complexes (International / Domestic); modification & expansion of existing terminals; construction of integrated cargo terminals; construction of hangar; replacement of aerobridges; strengthening of runway; remote parking bays; strengthening & improvement of secondary runway etc. at the major airports in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Trivandrum.

Similar works like strengthening/extension of runway, construction / modification of terminal building and associated facilities are taken up at Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Gaya, Vizag, Calicut, Madurai, Coimbatore, Trichy, Jaipur, Aurangabad, Khajuraho, Agartala, Jabalpur, Imphal, Varanasi, Srinagar, Porbandar, Dibrugarh, Dehradun, Jaisalmer, Bhubaneswar, Pathankot, Purnea (Civil Enclave).

Besides above, the following schemes are also included in the plan:

Satellite Based Augmentation System for Satellite Navigation, Establishment of Dedicated Speech Communication Network, Automation of ATC Systems with Flight Data Processing System at all major airports.

Networking of Radar at Delhi, Bombay, Kolkata, Chennai and ATC Centers.

VHF Radio Communication Equipment with Data Link capability, modernisation of CNS facilities and security equipments at all airports.

In addition to above, there are plans for provision of

Crash Fire Tender, X-Ray baggage system, Flight Information Display System and computerisation of cargo management system at the airports.

[Translation]

Oilseed Production Programme

1738. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of oil seeds after the introduction of Oil seeds Production Programme has increased;

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

(c) whether Oilseeds Production Programme is being run by the Government in 40 districts of the country;

(d) if so, the States under which the said districts comes;

(e) whether inspite of the implementation of the said programme the target fixed for the oilseeds production during Ninth Five Year Plan could not be achieved;

(f) if so, the short fall in production in comparison to the target;

(g) whether the Government propose to incorporate comprehensive reforms in the said scheme keeping in view of the aforesaid fact; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, After the introduction of Oil seeds Production Programme (OPP) by the Technology Mission on Oilseeds set-up during the year 1986, the production has increased from 10.83 million tonnes in 1985-86 to the level of 24.75 million tonnes in 1998-99. Since 1999-2000 the production of oil seeds has been showing declining trend due to unfavourable weather conditions prevailing in the country. State-wise production of oil seeds from 1998-99 to 2001-02 is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) Oil seeds Production Programme (OPP) is being implemented in 28 States covering 408 selected districts. The States under which the said districts comes are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal & West Bengal.

(e) and (f) The production of oil seeds for the terminal year of Ninth Five Year Plan i.e. 2001-02 was 204.60 lakh tonnes against the target of 280.00 lakh tonnes fixed by the Planning Commission. The shortfall in production is due to severe drought conditions prevailing in the country.

(g) and (h) Keeping in view the experiences in the implementation of the scheme, certain modifications are contemplated.

Statement

State wise production of Oilseeds from 1998-99 to 2001-02

('000 Tonnes)				
State/U.T.	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	2465.8	1375.2	2510.9	1613.4
Arunachal Pradesh	23.9	25.7	25.6	28.2
Assam	154.2	147.9	160.0	155.6
Bihar	189.8	156.6	131.1	125.8
Chhattisgarh	-	-	88.5	114.8
Goa	2.5	2.3	3.2	2.5
Gujarat	3883.2	1733.3	1661.7	3362.6
Haryana	714.3	607.0	570.7	806.9
Himachal Pradesh	9.9	10.2	10.1	10.1
Jammu & Kashmir	51.0	53.4	28.1	41.8
Jharkhand	-	-	28.0	28.0
Karnataka	1671.3	1192.5	1538.2	1064.1
Kerala	8.1	5.8	3.5	3.2
Madhya Pradesh	5675.9	5811.3	4096.2	4442.6
Maharashtra	2573.0	2668.6	2098.8	2225.9
Manipur	1.0	1.2	1.3	0.5
Meghalaya	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4
Mizoram	7.5	7.2	5.4	5.1
Nagaland	35.4	43.3	46.1	53.2

1	2	3	4	5
Orissa	160.6	160.8	117.9	142.3
Punjab	170.5	111.7	87.4	95.1
Rajasthan	3815.4	3405.8	2032.6	3127.1
Sikkim	5.1	7.6	6.9	6.9
Tamil Nadu	1644.0	1481.5	1440.4	1433.6
Tripura	5.5	4.2	4.7	4.0
Uttar Pradesh	1088.7	1286.7	1144.6	1046.9
Uttaranchal	-	-	14.5	17.7
West Bengal	382.5	406.2	571.0	493.4
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Delhi	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7
Pondicherry	2.2	2.6	2.3	2.3
All India	24748.2	20715.5	18436.8	20460.8

Development of Civil Aviation during Tenth Plan

1739. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of approved projects for the development of Civil Aviation facilities in various parts of the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of the projects which are likely to be executed; and

(c) the total amount sanctioned for the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The approved outlay for the Tenth Five Year Plan in respect of Civil Aviation Sector is Rs.12,928 crore which includes a budgetary support component of Rs.400 crore. The scheme-wise details have, however, not been finalized.

Incentives to States Involved in Protection of Environment and Forests

1740. DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating any separate policy for the States which are actively engaged in protection and conservation of environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering to provide adequate financial assistance to certain States particularly Uttaranchal which have more than 60 per cent of the total area covered with forests and the State is contributing maximum to the environment protection and conservation;

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

(e) the time by which this policy is likely to be announced and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government are not formulating any separate policy for the States in this regard. Article 48-A of the Constitution of India already provides that State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, during the course of hearing of I.A. No. 424 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/95 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the Amicus Curiae had suggested

for imposing a cess on imported wood and wood products and distribution of the funds so collected amongst the forest rich States as an incentive/compensation. No decision on the proposal mooted by the Amicus Curiae has so far been taken by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

[English]

Wage Policy for Unorganised Labourers

1741. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to revise the existing wage policy for the benefit of the labour force in the unorganised sector and in hazardous industrial jobs; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) A National Wage Policy has not been formulated so far on considerations of issues such as prices, employment, productivity, social justice, capital formation and the structural features of the economy. However, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 has been enacted primarily to safeguard the interest of unorganised sector workers who are vulnerable to exploitation due to illiteracy, and lack of bargaining power. The Act provides for fixation, revision and enforcement of minimum wages in scheduled employments both in the Central and State spheres.

There are widespread disparities in the minimum wages across the country due to variations in factors like socio-economic and agro-climatic conditions, productivity, paying capacity, prices of essential commodities and local conditions. In order to reduce the disparity, the Central Government mooted the concept of national floor level wage and fixed it at Rs.35/- per day in 1996 based on the recommendation of National Commission on Rural Labour (1991). The national floor level wage has been subsequently raised over the years reflecting rise in the consumer price index, the last revision being Rs.50/- per day w.e.f. 1.9.2002. The Central Government has been urging the State Governments from time to time to ensure that in none of the scheduled employments the minimum wage is below the national floor level wage.

[Translation]

Tourism Offices in South-East Asian Countries

1742. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken any decision to establish tourism offices in South-East Asian

countries including China and Indonesia to explore the possibilities for inflow of foreign tourists in India;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when the tourism offices are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism has proposed to open three offices in South-East Asian Countries viz. Beijing, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok. The proposal is at advanced stage.

[English]

Decline in Price of Cotton

1743. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the price of cotton has declined sharply since 1995;
- (b) if so, the details of price of cotton since 1995 to 2002, year wise;
- (c) whether due to adverse climatic conditions cotton crops were destroyed in various cotton growing areas in the country;
- (d) if so, whether the Government carried out any survey to ascertain the impact on the cotton growers;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (f) whether the Government announced any relief measures to the distressed cotton farmers; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Annual Average Prices of some important varieties of cotton from 1995-96 to 2001-2002 are given below:

(Rs. per candy spot)

Year	Cotton varieties	
	J-34	H-4
1	2	3
1995-96	16119	17776
1996-97	16041	19003

1	2	3
1997-98	18792	20261
1998-99	16828	18964
1999-2000	16099	18461
2000-01	17963	19676
2001-02	14203	15559

(1 candy = 355.62 kgs)

From the above data it will be seen that there was a fluctuating trend in the prices of cotton from 1995-96 till 2001-02. Cotton prices registered rise in some years and fall in certain other years.

(c) to (e) While no survey is reported to have been undertaken, the Government has taken note of report of dearth of rains and scarcity of water in a few cotton growing states. However, adverse impact of drought and water scarcity has been somewhat compensated due to lower incidence of pest and diseases in different states.

(f) and (g) To protect the interests of cotton cultivators, the Government has announced in addition to the Minimum Support Price (MSP) a Special Drought Relief Price (SDRP) of Rs. 20/- per quintal for cotton for 2002-03 season payable in all cotton growing States. The SDRP would be payable whenever price support operations are undertaken by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). The CCI is required to undertake price support operation in cotton, whenever the market prices rule below the MSP.

[Translation]

Indus Water Treaty

1744. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand to abrogate the Indus-Water Treaty was raised during the workshop organised by National Water Policy, 2002; and

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

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

(a) Yes Sir, though it was not a part of the agenda of the said workshop.

(b) The Indus Water Treaty does not have any provision to abrogate it.

Promotion of Horticulture Sector

1745. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to promote Horticulture Sector in the country;

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

(c) the funds released to the States for the purpose during the last three years and for the current year, State-wise;

(d) the progress achieved by the sector during the said period;

(e) the States in which the Government have made efforts to increase production and export of horticulture produces alongwith the names of such horticulture produces; and

(f) the value of the horticultural produces exported during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government has been implementing various schemes for the development of horticulture sector in the country. Under the schemes, various activities such as supply of good quality planting material, area expansion with improved high-yielding varieties, productivity improvement measures, training programmes, coverage under drip irrigation, greenhouse construction, plastic mulching, etc. are taken up. These activities are now being implemented under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture - Supplementation/ Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans. Under this Scheme, the State Governments can priorities their activities as per their felt needs and requirements. The State-wise details of funds released during the last three years and the current year under Horticulture Development Schemes and Macro Management Scheme is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(d) The production of horticulture has been registering consistent increase as per the information given below:

Year	Production (million tonnes)
1998-99	145.16
1999-2000	149.93
2000-01	152.50

(e) The Government has been implementing the Macro Management scheme in all the States and Union Territories of the country covering all horticultural crops. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is providing assistance for

promoting exports of horticultural crops under their scheme on Agri Export Zones. The State wise details of crops covered under the scheme is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(f) The value of the horticultural produces exported during the last three years is as given below:

Year	Value (Rs in crores)
1998-99	4830.89
1999-2000	6424.54
2000-01	6050.93

Statement-I

Funds released to various State Governments for Promoting Horticulture

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No	States/UTs	Funds released under Horticulture Schemes		Funds released under Macro Management & HRD in Horticulture Schemes	
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	1560.22	204.25	2250.00	1900.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	195.35	41.35	219.50	396.00
3	Assam	42.55	21.44	523.50	350.00
4	Bihar	26.55	31.42	1800.00	1250.00
5	Jharkhand	-	-	1095.00	600.00
6	Goa	150.05	21.62	200.00	150.00
7	Gujarat	346.40	216.71	1900.00	1600.00
8	Haryana	262.88	97.38	1620.00	1600.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	93.28	45.87	1800.00	1280.00
10	Jammu & Kashmir	266.73	132.38	900.00	1600.00
11	Karnataka	3111.00	354.94	5850.00	4640.00
12	Kerala	1426.35	177.74	2315.54	2400.00
13	Madhya Pradesh	473.70	140.34	5000.00	4350.00
14	Chhattisgarh	-	-	1339.02	998.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
15	Maharashtra	3573.80	385.97	9000.00	6560.00
16	Manipur	145.78	45.03	345.00	300.00
17	Meghalaya	59.96	39.02	204.74	581.00
18	Mizoram	148.69	42.89	722.00	720.00
19	Nagaland	196.82	45.25	779.80	500.00
20	Orissa	1802.13	285.38	1487.00	1250.00
21	Punjab	59.40	75.23	1035.00	850.00
22	Rajasthan	535.26	213.15	5252.00	5360.00
23	Sikkim	220.55	55.96	425.00	250.00
24	Tamil Nadu	1572.53	213.92	4500.00	3360.00
25	Tripura	91.42	38.87	630.00	800.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	507.91	162.48	7501.00	5508.00
27	Uttaranchal	-	-	1400.00	1120.00
28	West Bengal	45.85	35.41	2500.00	1200.00
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	24.96	22.94	90.00	100.00
30	Chandigarh	5.00	0.88	50.00	Nil
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	11.41	6.10	135.00	100.00
32	Daman & Diu	11.00	5.07	45.00	Nil
33	Delhi	6.30	13.38	-	80.00
34	Lakshadweep	17.09	5.01	90.00	100.00
35	Pondicherry	11.00	20.62	135.00	100.00

Statement-II*State-wise Details of Crops Covered under Horticulture Agri Export Zones*

S.No.	State	Crops covered
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Mango, Grapes & Fresh Vegetables
2.	Assam	Brinjal

1	2	3
3.	Bihar	Lychee
4.	Gujarat	Mango & Vegetables
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Apples
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	Apples & Walnut
7.	Jharkhand	Vegetables
8.	Karnataka	Gherkins, Rose, Onion & Flowers

1	2	3
9.	Kerala	Horticulture Products
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Potato, Onion, Garlic & Seed Spices
11.	Maharashtra	Grapes, Mango, Onion & Flowers
12.	Orissa	Ginger & Turmeric
13.	Punjab	Vegetables & Potatoes
14.	Sikkim	Flowers, Pepper & Ginger
15.	Tamil Nadu	Flowers & Mango
16.	Tripura	Pineapple
17.	Uttar Pradesh	Potatoes & Mangoes
18.	Uttaranchal	Lychee, Flowers and Medicinal & Aromatic Plants
19.	West Bengal	Pineapple, Lychee, Mangoes, Potatoes & Vegetables

[English]

Assistance to India Under Kyoto Protocol

1746. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has received any help under Kyoto protocol from developed countries to cut down emission of green house gases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any plan has been prepared for getting down emission of these gases; and

(d) if so, the details indicating the major sectors and industries involved in letting out green house gases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The major sectors which constitute the sources of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are Energy, Industry and Agriculture. Under the existing provisions

of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, developing countries including India do not have any specific commitments to reduce anthropogenic green house gas emissions. However, Government of India has taken several steps to address greenhouse gas emissions, which include, inter-alia, measures relating to energy efficiency, energy conservation, power sector reforms, renewable energy programmes, fuel switching to cleaner energy, afforestation and conservation of forests, efficient utilization of coal, reduction of gas flaring, installation of heat recovery system in oil and power sector, standardization of fuel efficient irrigation pump sets and better cultivar practices.

Tourism Vision-2020

1747. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a "Tourism Vision-2020" blue print envisages arrival of about 40 million foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) The document "Tourism 2020 Vision" prepared by the World Tourism Organization forecasts international tourist arrival of 19 million to the South Asian region by the year 2020.

Linking of Ganga-Cauvery Rivers

1748. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former director of Asian Development Bank has submitted any study report on linking the Ganga and Cauvery Rivers;

(b) if so, the estimated cost likely to be involved therein;

(c) the present status of Ganga-Cauvery link project;

(d) whether the Government have convened any meeting of Chief Ministers of beneficiary States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) No Study report on linking the Ganga and Cauvery

Rivers by the former director of Asian Development Bank has been received. However, the Ganga-Cauvery link as proposed by Dr. K.L. Rao was examined by Central Water Commission and found to be grossly under estimated. Besides, the proposal was also devoid of any flood control benefit and required large block of power for lifting water, therefore, the proposal was not pursued further. The Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in 1980 which envisages inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carry out water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National Perspective Plan for preparation of the feasibility reports and has completed feasibility reports of 6 links under Peninsular Component. As per the present tentative estimate, the cost of implementation of identified inter basin water transfer link schemes, both in Peninsular and Himalayan Component at 2002 price level is Rs 5,60,000 crore. The Central Government has set up a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh Prabhu, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) on December 13, 2002 with the following terms of reference:

- (i) Provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socio-economic impacts, environmental impacts and preparation of resettlement plans;
- (ii) Devise suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States;
- (iii) Prioritize the different project components for preparation of Detailed Project Reports and implementation;
- (iv) Propose suitable organizational structure for implementing the project;
- (v) Consider various modalities for project funding; and
- (vi) Consider international dimensions that may be involved in some project components.

The Task Force is working to suggest and guide the task of achieving the goal of interlinking of rivers by the end of 2016.

Construction of Aquariums

1749. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether vast potential of our fish industry is still untapped;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government have received a number of proposals from the State Governments for construction of aquariums;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the action taken by the Union Government on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Against an estimated marine fisheries resources potential of 3.9 million tonnes, 2.8 million tonnes is being exploited annually. The potential from coastal waters is more or less fully exploited. In order to augment production from the offshore and deep sea waters "Guidelines for Fishing Operations in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)" has been notified by the Government in November, 2002.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Schemes for Agricultural Graduates

1750. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is running schemes like Agro-Clinic and Agro-Business for the welfare of agricultural graduates;
- (b) if so, the salient features of these schemes; and
- (c) the number of beneficiaries during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Sector Scheme 'Establishment of a Network of Agri Clinic & Agri Business Centres' aims at extending opportunities to all eligible agriculture graduates to support agriculture development through economically viable ventures which will be set up by them with the help of bank loan. The centres would provide advice to farmers on crop selection, best farm practices, pest management and key agricultural information like price trends, market news, crop insurance, phytosanitary considerations etc. which the farmer has to keep in mind for producing agriculture commodities of high quality. The scheme, thus, provides

opportunities for self-employment to agriculture graduates in agricultural and allied enterprises and helps the farmers in getting extension services and technical advice from technically qualified persons on payment basis.

(c) The scheme envisages a comprehensive training of candidates before they start their ventures. Training of the Agriculture Graduates commenced from April 2002. Out of 16,471 applications received (till 10th February 2003) from Agriculture Graduates for training, 1865 Agriculture Graduates have already completed the training and 1200 are presently undergoing training in various institutes.

Erosion due to Ganga River

1751. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of massive erosion due to Ganga river in West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the preventive steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check river erosion and flooding?

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

(b) and (c) The Government of West Bengal has informed about the erosion problem caused by river Ganga in the districts of Malda & Murshidabad. The maximum area eroded was 480 ha. during each of the years 1999 and 2000.

Flood Management including river erosion being a state subject, investigation, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the State Government. The Central Government renders assistance which are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

As informed by the State Government different schemes are undertaken from time to time by them under various programmes to check river erosion and flooding. With a view to assist the State Government, the Government of India had approved a scheme in January, 2001 namely "Critical anti erosion works in Ganga Basin States" during IX Plan. Four schemes in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad have been included in the above scheme against which an amount of Rs. 22.15 crore has so far been released as the Central Assistance. This scheme is also being continued during Xth Five Year Plan.

Steel Plants Under Construction

1752. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of steel plants under construction in the country at present;
- (b) their state-wise location; and
- (c) the progress of each plant as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) As per available information, presently no major green-field steel plant is being set up. However, small induction furnace based steel plants are reportedly being set up in different parts of the country basically to meet localised steel demand and to make use of existing infrastructure facilities.

Rehabilitation of Narmada Dam Project Outstees

1753. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been any in-ordinate delay in the rehabilitation of land oustees of Narmada Dam Project;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to expedite the rehabilitation work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) In the Narmada Basin 30 major projects are proposed and Sardar Sarovar Project is the terminal inter-State project. The Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) of the Project Affected Families (PAFs) of the, Sardar Sarovar Project is the responsibility of the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. These States have been trying their best for the R&R of the PAFs in a time bound manner. However, there has been delay in the R&R and construction of the dam due to the Writ Petition filed by the Narmada Bachao Andolan in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in 1994. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 18.10.2000 has laid down a mechanism for further raising of the dam height pari-passu with the R&R of PAFs by the respective States and approved an action plan for further raising the height of the dam. As per this plan the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam has to be raised upto elevation (EL) 100 metre by June, 2002 and 110 metre by June, 2003. At present the dam height has been raised upto EL 95 metre and all the PAFs upto this height have already been resettled. The process of R&R of

PAFs between EL 95 to 100 metre has almost been completed in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and R&R of few PAFs in Maharashtra including development of civic amenities at one resettlement site are in progress. As soon as these are completed to the satisfaction of the monitoring agencies the Narmada Control Authority (NCA) will permit the raising of Sardar Sarovar Dam height from EL 95 to 100 metre. The Union Ministry of Water Resources and NCA are pursuing the matter with the concerned State Governments for early completion of R&R of PAFs as per the approved action plan. Further, the State Governments are also pursued for early completion of the R&R of PAFs upto the full reservoir level of the Sardar Sarovar Dam so as to complete it as early as possible for raising the dam to full height.

Problems Faced by Coconut Farmers

1754. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problem of the coconut farmers in the Coastal States in the country especially in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to resolve their problems;

(c) whether the Coconut Development Board has initiated any scheme to assist the coconut growers; 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 has taken following steps to resolve problems of coconut farmers:-

- An amount of Rs.5799.83 lakhs was released to the States of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Orissa exclusively for control of eriophyid mite of coconut during the year 1998-99 to 2000-2001. Of this, the release to Karnataka was Rs.1350.40 lakhs.
- In order to ensure remunerative prices to coconut farmers for their produce, Government of India fix Minimum Support Price (MSP) every year for milling copra and ball copra and undertake price support operations. The MSP fixed for the year 2002 is Rs.3300/- Qtl. for milling copra and Rs.3550/-Qtl. for ball copra.
- The Coconut Development Board had encouraged market promotion activities for diversified coconut products to stabilise the trend in the price of coconut.

- Productivity increase per tree and adoption of coconut based farming system are stressed for sustainable income per unit area.
- The Coconut Development Board encouraged diversification of coconut products and value added products.

(c) and (d) The Coconut Development Board under Ministry of Agriculture is implementing programmes, viz., production & distribution of quality planting material, expansion of area under coconut, integrated farming for productivity improvement; technology demonstration; market promotion and statistics; information & information technology; infrastructure and administration. Besides, Scheme for Technology Mission on Coconut has been launched during 2001-2002 for giving focused attention on management of insects, pest and diseases; processing and product diversification and market research and promotion. The funds released for implementation of various programmes of the Board during the last three years is as under:

Year	Funds released (Rupees in crores)
2000-2001	70.00*
2001-2002	27.40
2002-2003	40.00

(Budget Estimate)

* Include Rs 44.85 crore for control of coconut mite and Rs 5.15 crore for assistance to cyclone affected coconut trees in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.

Losses Suffered by NAFED

1755. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the year-wise BE and RE for MSP operations by the NAFED during the years 1996-97 to 2002-2003;

(b) the year-wise losses incurred by the NAFED in MSP operations during the said period;

(c) whether NAFED could not undertake MSP operations for a considerable time during 2002-03, particularly in copra due to lack of funds as it could not re-pay its dues to banks and was declared defaulter on account of non-reimbursement of losses by the Government in time.

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for timely reimbursement of losses of the NAFED for effective MSP operations in future; and

(e) whether the Government would consider to create a revolving fund for timely reimbursement of losses incurred on MSP operations by the NAFED?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) A statement showing details of the year-wise BE and RE and losses incurred by NAFED in MSP operations from 1996-97 to 2002-03 is enclosed.

(c) Due to prices of oilseeds ruling below the Minimum Support Prices declared by the Government, from 1999-2000 to 2002-03, NAFED had to procure a large quantity of various oilseeds. The working capital for NAFED was arranged by this Department through cash credit limits sanctioned by RBI. As on 1st April, 2002, NAFED was to pay Rs.298.48 crore to the SBI. The rates of mustard seed and copra were ruling below the MSP. NAFED was facing financial problem because of the non-disposal of the stocks. After great persuasion at various levels with RBI and Ministry of Finance, the RBI sanctioned cash credit limit in June, 2002. The rates of copra later ruled above the MSP in major copra producing States

(d) and (e) The B.E. for the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-03 were Rs.1.00 crore, Rs.25.00 crore and Rs.100.00 crore which were increased to the tune of Rs.26.00 crore, 353.00 crore and Rs.300.00 crore respectively, at R.E. stage. The creation of revolving fund to support MSP operations may be considered.

Statement

Details of the year-wise BE and RE and losses incurred by NAFED in MSP operations from 1996-97 and 2002-03

(Amount in Rs. Lakh)

Year	BE	RE	Tentative Profit/Loss
1996-97	1.00	1.00	(+)25.89
1997-98	100.00	95.00	(+)0.24
1998-99	100.00	1090.00	(-)12.73
1999-2000	100.00	100.00	(-)5578.64
2000-01	100.00	2600.00	(-)53921.64
2001-02	2500.00	35300.00	(-)13428.04
2002-2003	10,000.00	30,000.00	(-)3667.84

(up to 30.9.02)

Maintenance of Monuments by IOC

1756. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) - whether Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has started a foundation for restoration and maintenance of Archaeological Monuments in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any request from Government of West Bengal to undertake some restoration projects in the State;

(c) whether the Government have considered the request of Government of West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Indian Oil Corporation has set-up a non-profit trust "Indian Oil Foundation" with an objective to protect, preserve and promote the national heritage in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India and the National Culture Fund of the Department of Culture, Government of India.

(b) No such request has been received from the Government of West Bengal.

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

[Translation]

Smuggling of Cattle

1757. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of cattle at large scale is going-on, on the borders of India-Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the persons involved therein; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check cattle smuggling on the borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Since there is no complete ban on cow slaughter in West Bengal, the cattle are transported to West Bengal and may be smuggled to Bangladesh illegally. The international

border with Bangladesh is manned by security forces to check smuggling of cattle also.

[English]

Impact of Cold Wave on Rabi Crop

1758. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ICAR has warned that the cold wave in the country is likely to take a toll on the Rabi Crop;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ICAR has conducted any survey to estimate the loss of crop; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the ICAR issued a Hindi News Bulletin on January 13, 2003 and again released a press note on January 22, 2003 regarding occurrence of cold wave, its likely impact on rabi crops and the strategies to be adopted to reduce the effect of cold wave/low temperature.

(c) and (d) The Agricultural Universities located at Ludhiana, Hissar and Pantnagar have made an estimate of the likely impact of prolonged cold wave and foggy weather from end December to 3rd week of January on crops. Continuation of cold wave for about 3 weeks decreased the rate of growth in Rabi crops. Effect on wheat is reported to be negligible as the crop recovered and gained desired growth rate from last week of January onwards. The loss in mustard seems to be 15-20 percent. Sensitive vegetable/fruit/plantation crops such as tomato, potato, field pea, brinjal, guava, papaya, ber etc. were adversely affected and loss is predicted to vary from 20-30 percent in some pockets.

Nagarjuna Sagar Reservoir

1759. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has received any proposal under Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal (KWDT) Award from Nagarjuna Sagar Reservoir in Andhra Pradesh for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be accorded approval?

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

(a) No proposal under Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal Award has been received in the Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal from Nagarjunasagar Reservoir in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Linking of Rivers

1760. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether ecologists have expressed their apprehension against linking of rivers as it may upset natural river water systems, causing irreparable damage to bio-diversity, robbing rivers of their unique properties and adversely affect river habitats;

(b) if so, whether all these aspects have been taken into consideration;

(c) whether any meeting is being contemplated with the State Governments for arriving at a consensus in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether views of Environmentalists and Geologists have been taken into consideration;

(f) if so, whether they too have expressed their opposition to the proposals; and

(g) if so, the reasons the Government intends to go ahead with the project?

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

(a) to (g) Ecologists have been expressing their apprehensions against water resources projects due to impacts of these projects on micro climate, resulting in water logging and diseases and irreparable damage to bio-diversity etc. Since the inter-linking of rivers involves transfer of large quantity of water, the related environmental issues will also have to be addressed in respect of components involved in inter-linking of rivers. The Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in 1980 which envisages inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and

Himalayan Rivers for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carry out water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. National Water Development Agency has identified 30 links under the National Perspective for preparation of the feasibility reports and has completed feasibility reports of 6 links under Peninsular Component. In National Water Development Agency studies, a minimum lean season flow of 10% of the total inflow at diversion structure after meeting downstream requirements is being provided to maintain the environmental and ecological needs of the river regime. Geological surveys and Environmental and Ecological aspects form part of the Feasibility Studies of the link projects being prepared by National Water Development Agency. Geological surveys are usually carried out by the Geological Survey of India while the Environmental and Ecological aspects are studied through consultants. The findings of these surveys/studies are duly considered in finalising the link proposals. Besides, the Central Government has set-up a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh Prabhu, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) on December 13, 2002 with the following term of reference:

- (i) Provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socio-economic impacts, environmental impacts and preparation of resettlement plans;
- (ii) Devise suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States;
- (iii) Prioritize the different project components for preparation of Detailed Project Reports and implementation;
- (iv) Propose suitable organizational structure for implementing the project;
- (v) Consider various modalities for project funding; and
- (vi) Consider international dimensions that may be involved in some project components.

The Task Force is working to suggest and guide the task of achieving the goal of interlinking of rivers by the end of 2016.

Water Crisis

1761. SHRI S. MURUGESAN:

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Expect Water emergency in 2003" appearing in the Times of India dated December 11, 2002;
- (b) if so, the names of States expected to be effected by drought in 2003;
- (c) the arrangements being made in the States which were worst affected by drought in 2002 and are still suffering from recurrent drought; and
- (d) the pro-active action plan the Government propose to take to tide over water crisis?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 2002-03, 18 States, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal had reported drought situation. 17 States (except West Bengal) had submitted Memorandum for assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for drought. The drought position in States during the year 2003, however, shall depend on the meteorological events during the year especially during monsoon.

(c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned for undertaking immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. However, assistance is provided under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), to which the Central and State Governments concerned contribute in the ratio of 3:1. In addition, assistance is considered from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for natural calamities of severe nature in accordance with a set procedure. Further, foodgrains are allocated under the special component of Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) scheme for relief employment. The State Governments have however, been advised to make judicious use of water available in the reservoirs giving priority to drinking water supply. States have also been advised to take over the exploratory wells drilled by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) for enhancing their water supply.

(d) To help the State Governments in their efforts to harness the water from natural resources and accelerate the creation of irrigation potential by early completion of

ongoing schemes. Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97. Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. For meeting future requirements of the water, as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking of Himalayan and peninsular rivers for transfer of water from surplus areas to water deficit areas.

[Translation]

Alcohol Test for Crew

1762. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory under the safety rules framed by the Director General Civil Aviation that Alcohol test of the operating crew of Indian Airlines should be conducted before taking off on domestic and international flights;

(b) if so, whether liquor is served in the flights of the Indian Airlines in violation of the safety rules;

(c) the names of various places abroad where alcohol test of the crew members is conducted before operating international flights by Indian Airlines alongwith the timings at which this test is conducted;

(d) the full details of the alcohol test conducted at various foreign stations during the last six months alongwith the method used;

(e) whether such tests are not being regularly conducted abroad; and

(f) if so, the reasons for risking safety and life of thousands of Indian Airlines passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) All air crew are subjected to pre-flight medical examination before undertaking a flight. This practice is in vogue on the basis of the recommendations of the Court of Enquiry, which enquired into a HS748 crash at Delhi in 1973. Since then, the air crew are subjected to a pre-flight medical examination on all domestic flights by Indian Airlines.

(b) Indian Airlines serves liquor only to the passengers on board its flights on some select international sectors, where similar service is offered by other Airlines.

(c) to (f) As per the guidelines issued by Director General of Civil Aviation, 4 random pre-flight medical examinations are to be carried out at foreign stations in a month. No pre-flight medical examination at foreign stations could be carried out during the last 6 months as the modalities of conducting pre-flight medical examination on the pattern followed by Air India was being studied. Indian Airlines has since studied this option and will soon resume conducting the pre-flight medical examination at foreign stations on the pattern followed by Air India.

Maintenance of Temples

1763. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the temples in Vrindavan area are in dilapidated condition due to negligence on part of the trustees of those temples;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned by the Union Government for maintenance of historical temples in Mathura and Vrindavan during the last three years;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated for maintenance and beautification of temples and their surrounding; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Archaeological Survey of India has been protecting, conserving and maintaining all the four Centrally Protected Monuments, namely the Govind Dev Temple, the Jugal Kishore Temple, the Madan Mohan Temple and the Radha Ballabh Temple at Vrindavan, in the district of Mathura in Uttar Pradesh, with the active co-operation of the temple trustees.

(b) A sum of Rs.24.25 lakhs has been spent during the last three years towards the maintenance and conservation of these temples.

(c) and (d) A five year Perspective Plan in respect of the (1) Madan Mohan temple, (2) Govind Dev temple and their surroundings with an outlay for Rs. 35.00 lakhs has been prepared.

Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Schemes

1764. SHRI RAM RATI BIND: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development implemented in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the assistance provided by the Union Government for the preservation, protection and development of animal breeds and eradication of animal disease during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Department of Animal Husbandry, and Dairying is implementing number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to Animal Husbandry & Dairy Development in Uttar Pradesh. The details of these schemes and the fund released to Uttar Pradesh during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of the fund released to Uttar Pradesh during last three years (Rs. in lakhs)

	Schemes	Year		
		1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1.	National Project on Cattle & Buffalo Breeding	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	National Ram/Buck Production Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assistance to States for Integrated Piggery Dev.	29.34	0.00	0.00
4.	Assistance to States for Poultry Development	0.00	0.00	36.00
5.	Assistance to States for Fodder Development	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Assistance for Control of Animal Diseases	61.74	79.00	184.36
7.	Professional Efficiency Development	3.72	4.64	5.17
8.	National Project on Rinderpest Eradication	19.33	37.67	30.00
9.	Modernisation of Slaughter Houses/CUC	5.57	20.00	50.00
10.	Integrated Sample Survey for estimation of Livestock Production	34.33	42.30	33.00
11.	Integrated Dairy Development Project	0.00	186.30	217.58

[English]

Opening of New Hotels

1765. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new hotels alongwith locations opened at tourist places in various States and the expenditure incurred on each of them;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to open new hotels at each of the tourist place during 2003-2004; and

(c) if so, the likely time schedule for their completion?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Setting up of hotels is a private sector activity. However, the Government of India, Department of Tourism has a voluntary scheme for approval of hotels at projects stage. 41 hotels projects have been approved in 2002 in various States.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Decline in Production of Oilseeds in A.P.

1766. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite being a major oil seeds producing State, the production of oilseeds in Andhra Pradesh has decreased considerably during the last three years;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;
- (c) the reasons for decrease in the production; and
- (d) what incentives the Government propose to give to motivate the farmers of Andhra Pradesh, to take up cultivation of oilseeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The production of oilseeds in Andhra Pradesh during the last 3 years is as under:

(in '000 tonnes)	
Year	Production
1999-2000	1375.2
2000-2001	2510.9
2001-2002	1613.4

The decrease in the production of oilseeds in the State has been due to severe drought conditions, which prevailed in the State during the last 3 years.

(d) The Centrally Sponsored Oil seeds Production Programme (OPP) is being implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh to increase the production of oilseeds. Under the Scheme various incentives by way of financial assistance are given for different activities in order to motivate the farmers to take up the cultivation of oilseeds on a large scale.

[Translation]

New Airports in Bihar

1767. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to construct new aerodromes in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) There is a proposal to construct a civil enclave at Purnea Air Force Aerodrome. Proposal to develop the existing Muzaffarpur airport, is also being examined.

[English]

Additional Flights to Emirates Airlines

1768. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Emirates Airlines sought India's permission to fly additional flights during the peak season of tourists i.e. January to March, 2003;

(b) if so, the number of additional flights permitted to Emirates Airlines;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of Emirates flights operating on different sectors in India, Sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Since January, 2003, Emirates Airlines has been permitted to operate two additional flights between Dubai and Mumbai.

(d) Emirates are presently operating a total of 40 services per week to India of which 18 are to Mumbai, 7 to Delhi, 4 to Chennai, 8 to Hyderabad and 3 to Cochin.

Improvement in Tourism Industry

1769. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where tourism industry has shown better results during the last one year;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to improve the situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) As per the latest information available, there has been a positive growth in the visits of the domestic tourists in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Jharkhand, Lakshadweep, Rajasthan and Daman & Diu during the year 2002 as compared to the year 2001.

(b) and (c) The Department of Tourism, Govt. of India, has formulated new schemes for development and promotion of tourism which include integrated development of tourist circuits, product/infrastructure & destination development, large revenue generating products and capacity building. A series of measures to develop infrastructure with emphasis

on integrated circuits, creating cultural and tourism hubs and converging elements of tourism, culture and civic governance have been initiated.

Erosion and Flood Control in Assam

1770. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared projects for flood control and erosion in Assam caused by Brahmaputra year after year;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the costs and schedule for completion; and

(c) the steps taken so far in respect of each project?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Flood Management including river erosion being a state subject, investigation, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the State Govt. The Central Government renders assistance which are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

As informed by the Government of Assam, 51 number of flood control and anti erosion schemes for river Brahmaputra during 1995 to 2003 have been cleared to combat the menace of flood erosion from river Brahmaputra in Assam. In addition to the above, two more projects have been taken up by Brahmaputra Board under Central Sector Schemes.

The details of costs and schedule for completion of each scheme are given in the statement enclosed. The schemes are at different states of implementation as per the availability of funds.

Statement

Flood Control and anti erosion schemes for river Brahmaputra being implemented by State Government of Assam and Brahmapurta Board

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Estimated Cost (Rs.in lakh)	Tentative Target date completion
1	2	3	4
A. State Government of Assam			
1	Construction of embankment from Malakhonighat to Kathalbari to protect Hatsingimari area from the flooding of river Brahmaputra and Zinjiram Phase-I	162.81	Completed
2	Protection of Garal area from Garal to Mazirgaon from the erosion of river Brahmaputra Phase-I	345.67	2004
3	Protection of Dainigoan (Hatisal Neamati) and adjoining area against the erosion of river Brahmaputra	3189.00	2004
4	Anti erosion measures for protection Nagaghuti Maijan area from the erosion of river Brahmaputra	1074.00	2004
5	Protection of Kanirjan area from the erosion of river Brahmaputra	194.00	2003
6	Anti erosion measures for protection of B/dyke from Khatiaputa Check Bund No. N.R. dyke Phase-I against erosion at Kalbori.	149.36	2003
7	Strengthening of Anti erosion works at Arimarasuti to protect B/dyke from Imaguri to Kharoi outfall (providing check bund at 29 th. Km.)	208.44	2004
8	Anti erosion measures to protect B/dyke from Palasbari to Gumi (construction of deflector at Ch. 20,800 m. including construction of check bund at Old Kulsimukh)	204.14	2003

1	2	3	4
9	Construction of dike along PWD Road from Kamalabari to B/dyke from Dakhingpat to Kamalabari, Phase-I	310.00	Completed
10	R/S to P/dyke from Khuntiputh Check bund to N.R. dyke Phase-II	336.95	Completed
11	Protection of Kaniajan area from the erosion of river Brahmaputra	194.00	2003
12	Strengthening of check bund at Dakhinpat	179.00	2004
13	Constructin of land spur including provision of a short retirement to protect B/dyke from Boadati to Jamuguri at 15 th. km.	340.63	2003
14	Construction of retirement from Ch. 33.45 km. to 39.75 km. of B/dyke from Balikuchi to Fakirganj at Jaldaswar Beldub	332.11	2005
15	Construction of retirement from Ch. 19.46 km. of B/dyke from Khormaza to Balikuchi at Beratal-Phatingapara area.	343.61	2003
16	R/S of B/dyke from Neamati to Gohingoan (Bindali) (Revised)	298.95	2003
17	Protection of Guwahati town from Suhkeswar to Bharalumukh from the erosion of river Brahmaputra from Ch. 0 m. to Ch. 530 m. phase-I.	231.21	2003
18	Protection of Kakilamukh area against the erosion of river Brahmaputra (strengthening of spur No. V)	246.84	2003
19	Strengthening of extension of protection of Dhubri town from the erosion of river Brahmaputra (u/s of from ch. 0 m. to 460 m.)	152.85	Completed
20	Extension of protection of Suakuchi town from the erosion of river Brahmaputra	139.32	2003
21	R/D to B/dyke from Rongamati to Kurua from Ch. 0 m. to 2050 m. including protection work at 1st Km.	118.96	2003
22	R/S of the B/dyke from Telidanga (Niskatoni) to Jhanjimukh from Ch. 9600 m. to 17100 m.	315.53	2003
23	Strengthening of Dhubri town protection works from Siva Mandir to Sikh Temple Stone Spur No. 3 and 7 including construction of revetment and apron in between Timker downpower No. 2 to 5 for a reach of 280 m.	290.59	2004
24	A/E measures against bank erosion of B/dyke of river Palgadiya from Bijalighat to Adabari (1st Km. of Korim, 2nd km. of Bihotia and 4th km. of Honapara)	192.91	2003
25	Anti erosion measures to protect the Brahmaputra dyke on L/B from Palasbari to Gumi (providing boulder apron with revetment of u/s of land spur No. 6)	165.55	2003
26	A/E measures to protect B/dyke on L/B from Gumi to Kalatabi at Jahirpur Borklata area (Construction of deflector with u/s and d/s protection works.)	347.00	2003
27	R/S to B/dyke from Dizmore to Sonarigaun (3rd R/S Phase-I) from 14th to 18th km. including pro-siltation measures.	188.20	2004
28	R/S to B/dyke from Dizmore to Sonarigaon (3rd R/S Phase-II) from 18th to 23.15 th km.	154.83	2004

1	2	3	4
29	Protection of Guwahati town from Sukeswarghat to Bharalumukh from erosion of river Brahmaputra from Ch. 530 m. to 1055 m. (from ecological part to Bharalukukh) Ph. II.	236.62	2003
30	R/S of B/dyke on L/B from Gumi to Katatoli from 30 th. km. to 15 th km. (1st R/S)	233.47	2003
31	R/S of B/dyke from Biswanath to Panpur	487.86	2005
32	Anti erosion to protect Singri Siparia area from the erosion of river Brahmaputra under Sunitpur District	188.86	2004
33	Strengthening of Gopalpara town protection work from the erosion of river Brahmaputra from Ch. 0 m. to Ch. 414 m. including Stone spur No.1	179.47	-
34	Strengthening and extension of Goalpara town protection from the erosion of river Brahmaputra from Stone spur No. 2 to its d/s, Phase-I	348.30	2005
35	Protection of Guwahati town from the erosion of river Brahmaputra (from Kachuri Bazar to D.C. Court)	369.11	2003
36	Protection of Matmora area including Dhakuakhama town from erosion of river Brahmaputra (construction of Bull-Heads Phase-I)	598.61	2004
37	A/E measures to protect Larkuchi area from the erosion of river Brahmaputra (Breach closing and protection work at 29 th. km. of B/dyke)	421.45	-
38	A/E measures against the bank erosion of river Brahmaputra at different reaches of North Guwahati town from Aswaktanta hill to Dhing Satra (ch. 0 m. to 150 m. and Ch. 950 m. - 1570 m.)	431.93	2004
39	R/S and A/E measures to Bhagdoi bund L/B from J.B. road to Chengellati	438.92	2003
40	Strengthening of B/dyke on L/B from Palasbari to Gumi from Ch. 19500 m. to Ch. 21200 in alongwith A/E measures at Ch. 19690 m. to Ch. 20280 m. and at Ch. 20490 m. to Ch. 20590 m.	407.56	2004
41	Protection of Niatimora area including Dhakuakhana town from the erosion of river Brahmaputra Ph-II (Construction of Bull hard and land spur)	541.70	-
42	Strengthening of Dhubri town protection work from Siva Mandir to Sikh-Temple, stone spur No. 3 and 7 including construction of revetment and apron in Timker down power no 2 and 5 for a reach of 280 m.	388.95	2004
43	A/E measures to protect Hatsingmore and its adjoining area from the erosion of river Brahmaputra and Jinjiram.	429.90	2004
44	Construction of retirement from ch. 27800 m. to ch. 31150 m. to B/dyke on L/B from Gumi to Kalatoli to link the breach portion of embankment at Alikash.	542.20	2004
45	A/E measures to B/dyke on R/B of Brahmaputra from Hatimora to Adabari to protect Siliguri village and its adjoining areas.	317.16	2004
46	Strengthening of Kohai spur (Stone spur No.2) to protect Dibrugarh town from the erosion of river Brahmaputra	624.98	2003

1	2	3	4
47	R/S to B/dyke from Dizoma to Sonarigaon (3rd R/S) from Ch. 14 th to 23.15 th km. including Proslitation and A/E measures	632.40	-
48	Protection of Kapurpura area including Bhuragaon town from the erosion of river Brahmputra (Construction of land and spur and tie Bundh) Ph.I	739.03	
49	Protection of Kapurpura area including Bhuragaon town from the erosion of river Brahmputra (Construction of land and spur and tie Bundh) Ph.II	737.21	
50	Protection of Dhubri town from the erosion of river Brahmputra on Bahadutiri and Namighat area	518.30	
51	A/E of river Brahmputra at Assam Bongiya Saraswati Math Kakilamukh	408.37	-
52	A/E measures to protect South Sulpara and Tumni area from the erosion of river Brahmputra	374.24	-
B. Brahmputra Board			
1.	Pagladiya Dam Project	54290.00	12/2007
2.	Avulsion of Brahmputra at Dhola Hatighuli (Measures for diversion of river to its original course with ancillary anti erosion measures)	1071.00	3/2003

Development of Food Processing Industries

1771. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been carried out by the Indian Food Trade and Development Organisation for the development of Food Processing Industries (FPI);

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) This Ministry has not received any such study report.

(c) Question does not arise.

New Tourism Projects

1772. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourism projects approved and implemented for the development of infrastructure in tourism sector during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the funds sanctioned/released to each of the project so far, State-wise;

(c) the achievements made so far in this regard; and

(d) the new tourism projects proposed to be sanctioned during the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned 967 projects amounting to Rs.239.05 crores to the State Governments/UT Administrations during last three years i.e. 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 for development and promotion of tourism in the country. A statement-I showing number of projects sanctioned and amount released during the last three years to the State Governments is enclosed.

(c) Out of 967 projects, 282 projects have been completed.

(d) During the current year, the Department of Tourism has taken up Integrated Development of Identified Tourism Circuits. Details are given in the statement-II enclosed. It is also planned to develop Tourism Hubs in the States/UTs which synthesise elements of Culture, Tourism and clean civic life. Details are given in the statement-III enclosed.

Statement-I**State-wise Central Financial Assistance Sanctioned
During the years 1999-2000 to 2001-02 (As on 31.12.2002)**

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		No. of Project Sancd.	Amt. Sancd.	No. of Project Sancd.	Amt. Sancd.	No. of Project Sancd.	Amt. Sancd.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	222.22	13	299.50	6	167.85
2.	Assam	15	357.35	12	338.35	7	397.50
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	11	233.24	6	49.75	14	321.90
4.	Bihar	5	89.71	13	324.48	1	1.35
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	4	120.28	3	35.00
6.	Goa	11	279.82	10	93.30	9	93.73
7.	Gujarat	13	327.64	18	469.20	11	305.50
8.	Haryana	7	238.33	6	123.31	7	125.44
9.	Himachal Pradesh	17	691.79	19	397.29	12	157.64
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	16	311.43	12	474.93	3	65.50
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	6	206.49	2	80.00
12.	Karnataka	38	890.70	19	489.30	8	254.76
13.	Kerala	15	772.28	14	717.60	11	680.08
14.	Madhya Pradesh	16	435.85	12	262.33	11	256.37
15.	Maharashtra	31	1033.90	10	282.69	10	1128.20
16.	Manipur	9	229.00	18	782.77	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	6	80.72	5	105.59	5	87.87
18.	Mizoram	13	297.23	14	311.19	6	73.25
19.	Nagaland	15	281.80	8	156.53	5	41.54
20.	Orissa	20	305.43	4	156.94	4	38.05
21.	Punjab	8	175.00	6	203.50	3	17.50
22.	Rajasthan	12	131.22	22	454.96	2	5.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23.	Sikkim	14	127.93	31	368.62	5	108.83
24.	Tamil Nadu	27	531.95	9	122.83	20	533.67
25.	Tripura	7	340.76	12	333.23	5	114.40
26.	Uttaranchal	0	0	7	70.19	3	65.51
27.	Uttar Pradesh	33	749.57	18	423.74	5	55.74
28.	West Bengal	6	194.01	23	432.99	17	229.85
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	32.37	1	1.78	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	4	68.44	5	22.13	2	8.00
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	30.00	1	8.00	1	3.70
32.	Delhi	2	24.50	2	17.70	6	55.01
33.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	1	5.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	1	17.00
35.	Pondicherry	10	163.89	3	26.18	3	78.61
Total		395	9648.08	363	8647.67	209	5609.35

Statement-II

List of Tourism Circuits Identified for Integrated Development

- (i) Eastern Region - (Buddhist Circuit)
Bodhgaya-Rajgir- Nalanda-Varanasi
- (ii) Northern Region - (Himalayan Circuit)
Route I - Chandigarh-Bilaspur-Kullu-Manali-Rohtang
La-Key Long-Sarchu-Upshi-Leh
Route II - Shimla-Sangla-Kaza-Chatru-Keylong-
Sarchu- Yashi-Leh.
- (iii) Central Circuit - (Heritage, Nature & Wildlife Circuit)
Gwalior-Shivpuri-Chanderi-Orcha-Khajuraho-Jhansi-
Bhopal-Sanchi and surrounding Buddhist areas -
Bhimbetka-Pachmarhi-Kanha Jabalpur (Bhedaghat)
- (iv) Western Circuit - (Konkan Riviera Circuit)
Bombay-Alibagh (Mandva) - Muradjanjira-
Ganapatipule- Vijaydurg- Mithibad- Kunkeshwar -
Mochetmad - Sindhudurg- Tarkarli -Shiroda-
Savantwadi - Amboli - Goa-Coastal Karnataka - Bekal
- v) Southern Circuit - (Backwater and Beach Circuit)
Cochin-Kumarakom - (Backwaters)- Kottayam-Quilon-
Trivandrum (Kovalam)

- (vi) North-East Circuit - (Eco- Tourism Circuit)
Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga- Tezpur-Bhalakpong-
Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima

Statement-III

Some of the hubs of culture, tourism and civic governance that are being created are:

S.No.	Name of the State Union Territory	Hub of culture, tourism and civic governance
1	2	3
1.	Tamil Nadu	Mahabalipuram
2.	Pondicherry	Arikamedu
3.	Karnataka	Hampi
4.	Kerala	Fort Cochin
5.	Maharashtra	Ajanta
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhimbetka and Gwalior Shivpuri Complex

1	2	3
7.	Rajasthan	Kumbhalgarh Fort and Chittaurgarh Fort
8.	Haryana	Kuruksheetra
9.	Gujarat	Dholavira and Modhera
10.	Uttaranchal	Rishikesh - Badrinath - Kedarnath - Gangotri
11.	Orissa	Udaygiri - Khandigiri and Raghurajpur
12.	Bihar	Bodh Gaya
13.	Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	Leh, Leh Palace, Monasteries Dal Lake
15.	Andhra Pradesh	Nagarjuna Konda
16.	Himachal Pradesh	Upchi-Manali Road and other areas
17.	Punjab	Amritsar: Darbar Sahib complex
18.	West Bengal	Sunderban
19.	Assam	Kamakhya and Majuli Islands
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	Tawang
21.	Meghalaya	Shillong
22.	Sikkim	Monasteries, Kanchenjunga and Tiesta River
23.	Tripura	Buddhist Sites (Pilak)
24.	Delhi	Red Fort and Quila Rai Pithora
25.	Goa	Beaches and water sports
26.	Chandigarh	City Centre
27.	Daman and Diu	Diu Fort
28.	Lakshadweep	Island tourism
29.	Post Blair	Cellular Jail and area around
30.	Jharkhand	Palamu National Park
31.	Dadar Nagar Haveli	Dadar

1	2	3
32.	Mizoram	Aizwal
33.	Nagaland	Kohima
34.	Chhattisgarh	Baster & Eco-tourism projects
35.	Manipur	Imphal and Loktak Lake

Environmental Scenario

1773. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in an effort to take stock of the environmental scenario in the States, the Union Government have decided to come out with a State of Environment report for all States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, whether the Government have signed an agreement with four institutes that will assist the States in making these reports;

(c) if so, the details alongwith the cost of this project; and

(d) the extent to which it has helped and will help the State in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (d) A plan scheme has been incorporated in the Xth Five Year Plan to design and operationalize a participatory and scientifically rigorous State of Environment (SoE) Reporting System in India. An outlay of Rs. 6.00 crores has been provided for the scheme in the 10th Five Year Plan. Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with four National Host Institutions viz: Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi; Development Alternatives, New Delhi; Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad and EPTRI Hyderabad. Different States and UTs have been assigned to each National Host Institution for carrying out activities under the scheme.

The State of Environment Reports would provide an overview of the environmental scenario for policy formulation and decision making. State Governments and Union Territories are being sensitized on preparation of State of Environment Report for integration of environmental considerations in socio economic planning. The State of Environment reporting will help in assessment of physical parameters, sensitization of development planners and introduction of corrective measures in mainstreaming environmental concerns at the State level.

Foot and Mouth Disease

1774. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether livestock population in the country is around 60 crore of which 50 crore are susceptible to the foot and mouth disease;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if so, whether by using traditional methods, the entire livestock population in the country cannot be vaccinated;
- (d) if so, whether a method developed by Scandinavian Scientist Frankel has proved to be more effective;
- (e) if so, whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has also tested the said method; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per 1997 - All Indian Livestock Census Estimates, the country's livestock population is about 48 crore, of which the livestock, namely, cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats and pigs, susceptible to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is approx. 47.76 crore.

- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) No, Sir. It is an obsolete technology and is not being used at present.
- (e) and (f) Yes, Sir. After the development of Frankel vaccine in Netherlands during 1953, the same procedure was followed in India for vaccinating the livestock population. Shortly after the introduction of Frankel system, tissue culture methods were developed and vaccine production was started in primary cells. At the same time, a cell line of Baby Hamster Kidney (BHK) cells become available which turned out to be better host cell system for production of FMD vaccine. This system has now become the most familiar and globally accepted methods for the production of FMD vaccine. The vaccine in India is also being produced by this method and is being utilized for vaccinating the susceptible livestock population of the country. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) makes efforts to modify the present vaccine, resulted introduction of an oil adjuvant vaccine for protecting livestock population against FMD which has better immune response.

[Translation]

Civil Aviation Schemes in Jharkhand

1775. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Civil-Aviation Schemes introduced during the 9th Plan particularly in Jharkhand;
- (b) the progress made in these schemes, till date;
- (c) whether the work of these schemes is going on as per the schedule;
- (d) if not, the measures proposed to be taken to step up the work; and
- (e) the amount spent on the schemes alongwith the amount sanctioned for these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (e) During the Ninth Plan the Runway soil erosion control work at Ranchi Airport in the State of Jharkhand was completed as per schedule at an estimated cost of Rs.2.42 crore, out of sanctioned amount of Rs.2.92 crore.

[English]

Outstanding Dues from Defaulters Companies

1776. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) the total outstanding dues in regard to ESI and EPF to be recovered from the defaulting companies as on January 31, 2003, till date;
- (b) whether this amount has increased as compared to February 2001;
- (c) if so, the total recovery of defaulting amount made by the Government from these companies during 2001 to 2003; and
- (d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to recover the amount expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) The total outstanding ESI and EPF dues to be recovered from defaulting companies are Rs.894.11 crore and Rs.2179.19 crore respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the period (2001 to 2003) the amount recovered from defaulting companies, ESI and EPF dues are Rs.140.24 crore and Rs.1370.33 respectively.

(d) Non payment of ESI & EPF contributions under the ESI Act, 1948 and the EPF & MP Act, 1952 respectively is an offence. Under the EPF & MP Act, 1952, action under Section 7A, 8F, 8B to 8G, 14 (1) (D), 14(B) & 7Q, under Section 110 of criminal procedure code whereas action under Section 45 C to 45 E, Section 39(5) (a) and Section 35(b) of ESI Act, 1948 and under Section 406/409 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) are taken against defaulters to recover the outstanding dues.

Schemes for Development of Fishermen

1777. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the State Governments particularly Maharashtra for development of fishermen and other facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government on the said proposal;

(c) whether there is any proposal to grant facilities to fishermen in Maharashtra like other States; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Certain proposals have been received from the State Governments, particularly Maharashtra for Development of Fishermen and other facilities.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Statement

Proposals received	Action taken
1. Proposal for construction of 7 harbours and 26 Jetties	1. Technical evaluation and site visits of major proposed sites completed. State has been advised to furnish full fledged proposals after obtaining necessary clearances.
2. Proposal for construction of 289 houses, 4 tubewells, 2 community halls at a total project cost of Rs.120.29 lakh in Maharashtra.	2. The proposal has been received recently and is under examination.
3. Proposal for establishment of awareness centre at Ratnagiri amounting to Rs.17,70,300/- (80% Centre & 20% State)	3. The State of Maharashtra has sent a Project Proposal in January, 2003 for establishment of an awareness centre at Ratnagiri under fisheries training and extension scheme at a total cost of Rs.17.70 lakh which is to be shared between Government of India and State Government on 80:20 basis. The proposal is under examination.
4. A freshwater Hatchery Project with French assistance to be taken up for implementation at District Thane, Maharashtra.	4. A fresh water Prawn Hatchery Project with French Assistance has been taken up at DAPCHARI Distt. Thane, Maharashtra.

Criteria for Excess Baggage

1778. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Airlines allows excess baggage to certain category of passengers on its flights frequently;
- (b) if so, criteria for allowing excess baggage to such passengers;
- (c) the average excess baggage allowed on each flight and financial loss occurring to Indian Airlines as a result thereof during last three years; and
- (d) the steps proposed to fix guidelines to regulate excess baggage on Indian Airlines flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Research Project to Increase Agricultural Production

1779. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to implement any new research project for increasing agricultural productivity under the Tenth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the projects, State-wise; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Department has proposed to the Planning Commission, research projects on emerging areas viz.

- i. Impact of climate change in Agriculture
- ii. Network Project on Organic Farming
- iii. Network Project on Transgenics
- iv. Institute for Veterinary Type Culture
- v. Network on Bio-systematics of Insects
- vi. National Research Centre for Agricultural Extension

The funds will be allocated after receiving the approval

from the Planning Commission. Further, the DARE/ICAR do not allocate funds State-wise.

- (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Diversion of Ravi River Water

1780. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Pakistan is constructing dams on Ravi river to divert flow of water towards India; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government to prevent loss being caused every year by said river water in border areas of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. Construction of certain works on the Pakistan side on river Ravi, adverse country slope towards India and also the meandering of the river, have the effect of diverting the flow of the river Ravi towards India.

(b) Counter protective works to save likely loss of land and property are undertaken by the Government of Punjab from their own resources and also with the financial assistance in the form of special loan and grant-in-aid, as well as the technical expertise, provided by the Union Government. A committee constituted by the Central Government also visits various sites on the river before and after monsoon every year, examines the proposals of the Government of Punjab and recommends specific works to be executed on priority.

[English]

Awareness Camps on the Dangers of Pesticide

1781. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hold awareness camps on the dangers of pesticide consumption and use; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Central Government and State Governments conduct awareness campaigns for safe and judicious use of

pesticides through various training programmes for extension functionaries and officials of Agriculture Departments of Central and State Governments at National Plant Protection Training Institute, Hyderabad and other locations, who in turn train farmers across the nation regarding this aspect.

Further, under the Integrated Pest Management approach Farmers, Field Schools are organized to train farmers in safe and judicious use of pesticides with the aim of preventing misuse or excessive use thereof.

The labels, leaflets and packaging of pesticides, approved by the Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 also contain detailed instructions/information on safe use of pesticides.

Strength of Indian Forest Service

1782. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of the Indian Forest Service as on date alongwith their State-wise break up;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration to increase the annual intake of IFS officers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) The total strength of the Indian Forest Service as on date alongwith their State-wise break-up is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

The State-wise Authorised Strength of Indian Forest Service as on date

S.No.	Cadre	Total Strength
1	2	3
1.	Agmut	156
2.	Andhra Pradesh	132
3.	Assam-Meghalaya	118
4.	Bihar	43

1	2	3
5.	Chhattisgarh	115
6.	Gujarat	104
7.	Haryana	69
8.	Himachal Pradesh	102
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	100
10.	Jharkhand	130
11.	Karnataka	165
12.	Kerala	94
13.	Madhya Pradesh	270
14.	Maharashtra	185
15.	Manipur-Tripura	87
16.	Nagaland	33
17.	Orissa	121
18.	Punjab	45
19.	Rajasthan	112
20.	Sikkim	30
21.	Tamil Nadu	145
22.	Uttar Pradesh	199
23.	Uttaranchal	84
24.	West Bengal	112
Total Authorised Strength		2751

Agricultural Insurance Corporation

1783. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agricultural Insurance Corporation is likely to take off in January 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the corporation has started funding; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Agricultural Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AICIL) promoted by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and four Public Sector General Insurance Companies has been registered under Companies Act on 20th December, 2002.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The new company has not yet started functioning. It will start functioning as soon as the license for transacting Crop Insurance business is received from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA).

Development of Tourism

1784. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the sizeable outbound tourist traffic originating from China;

(b) if so, whether some South East Asian Countries have adopted the concept of neighbourhood tourism with Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and China jointly by promoting tourism circuit along the Mekong River route.

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to promote the Buddha circuit jointly with Sri Lanka and Nepal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

Scheme for SCs/STs and Other Farmers

1785. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any specific scheme for SCs/STs and other farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds made available for the implementation of the scheme for the last five years alongwith year-wise and scheme-wise details of the beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) is not implementing any special scheme for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers in the country. The DAC is primarily responsible for increasing production and productivity of agricultural output through implementation of various agriculture development schemes. The schemes are production oriented and area specific in nature which benefit farmers of all categories including farmers of SC/ST communities. In view of the above, there is little scope for formulating schemes/programmes particularly focused on specific communities. However, wherever possible, the State Governments/Implementing Agencies are advised in the Administrative Approvals of Schemes/Programmes to provide allocation/funds for Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for Scheduled Tribes as per the Government Guidelines on the subject.

[Translation]

Cutting of Trees

1786. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the environment friendly trees and plants are being cut down indiscriminately in the country;

(b) if so, the details of trees/plants cut down during the last three years and current year, till-date, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check this practice with special reference to Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) There is no specific report with the Government regarding indiscriminate cutting down of environment friendly trees and plants in the country. However, cases of illegal felling of trees are detected in notified forest areas and action is taken by the State Government concerned under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and other relevant Acts and rules for the time being in force. In order to further consolidate the forest protection efforts, the Central Government has requested the State Governments to involve the local forest dwellers and people living in nearby villages in the protection, conservation and regeneration of forests, through the guidelines on Joint Forest Management issued to the State Governments from time to time since 1990 for protecting the forests through involvement of local people. The State Governments have also been requested by the Central Government to strengthen their forest protection machinery

in order to deal with organised crime like smuggling and poaching in forest areas.

Productivity of Hot Strip Mill of Bokaro Steel Plant

1787. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the productivity of Hot Strip Mill of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP) is not in accordance with the norms laid down for modernisation of the industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the mechanised work role changing system is functioning as per the norms laid down;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the total losses suffered by BSP from April, 2002 to February 15, 2003 as a result thereof; and
- (f) the measures taken to increase the productivity of hot strip mill during the last three years and the expenditure incurred thereon, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) No extra expenses have been incurred to increase the productivity of Hot Strip Mill during the last three years. The increase in productivity is mainly due to modernisation of mill and quick work roll change system.

[English]

Kerosene and Diesel Allowances for Fishermen

1788. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there was a long standing Demand for Kerosene and diesel allowances by the traditional fishermen;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made an assurance with the fishermen in July last year to provide Rs.250 crore as kerosene and diesel assistance;

(c) if so, whether the said assurance has yet to be fulfilled;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the same?

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

(b) to (e) No assurance has been given by the Government to provide Rs.250 crore as kerosene and diesel assistance. However, in a meeting taken by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 23.7.2002 to discuss the demands of National Fishworkers' Forum on this matter, it was agreed that the fishermen development rebate on diesel should be given.

Import of Genetically Modified Food Articles

1789. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether the import of genetically modified food articles and other products are increasing in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have convened an inter-ministerial meeting to address these issues; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the meetings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) Any product containing genetically modified organisms cannot be produced, sold, imported or used without the prior approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) under the provisions of "Manufacture Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganism/ Genetically Modified Organism or Cells 1989" notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. As an ongoing process, inter-ministerial meetings are convened to improve the inter-sectoral coordination of various Ministries involved in the evaluation of GMOs, the latest meeting having been held on 26th February, 2003.

Security Passes for Suspended AGM

1790. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Assistant General Manager Security of Air India at IGI Airport who was placed under suspension in case of travel of two Afghan Nationals to London on AI-111 of October 28, 2001 has been issued with airport entry pass;

(b) if so, whether his application was accompanied by documents like chargesheet/punishment order for issuing the airport entry pass as required under part (d) (1) of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security application format; and

(c) if not, the reasons for issuing him the pass?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Photo Identity card of the Assistant General Manager Security of Air India at IGI Airport was withdrawn after his suspension. A new airport entry pass was issued to him subsequent to his reinstatement as per prescribed procedure.

Use of Edible Oil

1791. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Research and Development wing in his Ministry has made any efforts to find out ways and means to economize use of expensive edible oils in food preparations;

(b) if so, the result thereof;

(c) whether result of research has been made operational; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has given grant to CFTRI, a research institution under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for number of R&D projects. CFTRI has reported that they have done extensive work on conservation of expensive edible oils in food preparations. Expensive edible oils are blended with cheaper vegetable oils, which in addition to economy improve nutritional value of oil.

(c) Yes, Sir. These oils are available in the Indian markets.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of International Tourist Destinations

1792. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn any master plan for development of international tourist destinations in the country to give boost to tourism industry;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to expand the Kovalam in Kerala as an International Tourism Hub by providing modern facilities to attract foreign tourists; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Deptt. of Tourism has introduced a scheme for Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development in order to improve existing tourist destinations and develop new tourism products. The scheme would result in integrated destination development. The destinations are selected in consultation with the State Govts.

(b) and (c) The Deptt. of Tourism has not received any such proposal from the State Govt. of Kerala for development of Kovalam destination under this scheme during the current year.

Preservation of India Gate

1793. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Gate is not included in the list of protected monuments under the care of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of the present agencies taking care of this historical structure;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for preservation of the structure and maintenance of environment around it;

(e) whether these agencies follow the guidelines fixed for preservation of historical/protected monuments;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The India Gate built in 1920 in New Delhi has not been included in the list of protected monuments under the care of Archaeological Survey of India.

(b) Ancient monuments which are less than one hundred years are not considered for protection as per Section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

(c) and (d) The main structure of India Gate and the environment around it, are preserved and maintained by (i) the Central Public Works Department, (ii) Amar Jawan Jyoti is maintained by the Military Engineering Service and (iii) maintenance of the adjoining area is done by the New Delhi Municipal Corporation.

(e) to (g) The concerned agencies responsible for the maintenance and environmental development of India Gate follow the norms laid down by their respective Departments.

Cauvery Water Sharing Dispute

1794. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the meeting of Water Resources Ministers of various States, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has directed the Karnataka and Tamil Nadu Ministers to find a lasting solution to the Cauvery Water Sharing Dispute; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) No such meeting of Water Resources Ministers of States, in which Hon'ble Prime Minister directed Karnataka and Tamil Nadu Ministers to find a lasting solution to the Cauvery Water Sharing Dispute, was held. However, during the Curtain Raiser of Freshwater Year 2003 held on 5th February, 2003 wherein Chief Ministers and Water Resources Ministers of various States were also present, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had mentioned inter-alia about Cauvery Water Dispute while referring to the water disputes in general all-over the world.

[Translation]

Increase in Women Labourers

1795. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the women labourers are increasing in the country:

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

(c) whether the Government propose to impart compulsory training to them to hone their skill;

(d) if so, the number of such training schools opened or proposed to be opened in the country, State-wise, and

(e) the number of women registered with these schools so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The total female workforce as per 1971 Census was 3,12,98,000. According to 1981 and 1991 Census, the total female work force in the country was 4,50,00,000 and 8,97,67,563 respectively. State-wise details of these workers as per 1991 Census are indicated in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) to (e) The Government has been running a number of Programmes/Schemes with a view to enhance and broaden the employment opportunities including self-employment and development of entrepreneurial skills of women. A number of Institutions have been set up by the Central Government in different parts of the country which include 1 National and 10 Regional Vocational Training Institutes. State-wise details are given in the statement-II enclosed.

In addition, various State Governments have also set up 765 exclusive Women Industrial Training Institutes and Wings for Women in General ITIs/Private WITIs. State-wise details are given in the statement-III enclosed.

These Training Institutes have the capacity to provide skill training in various trades to 2360 and 46744 women beneficiaries in Central and State Sector respectively.

Statement-I

State-wise Number of Female Worker (1991 Census)

S.No.	State/U.T.	No. of workers
1	2	3
	India	89,767,563
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11,252,643
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	149,789
3.	Assam	2,324,535

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	6,116,974
5.	Goa	117,977
6.	Gujarat	5,180,886
7.	Haryana	821,299
8.	Himachal Pradesh	888,985
9.	Karnataka	6,472,816
10.	Kerala	2,347,268
11.	Madhya Pradesh	10,430,890
12.	Maharashtra	12,617,454
13.	Manipur	350,134
14.	Meghalaya	302,853
15.	Mizoram	143,964
16.	Nagaland	215,722
17.	Orissa	3,241,991
18.	Punjab	418,646
19.	Rajasthan	5,744,129
20.	Sikkim	57,790
21.	Tamil Nadu	8,236,872
22.	Tripura	184,333
23.	Uttar Pradesh	8,019,310
24.	West Bengal	3,662,855
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	16,584
26.	Chandigarh	29,443
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	32,944
28.	Daman & Diu	11,584
29.	Delhi	3,14,076
30.	Lakshadweep	1,906
31.	Pondicherry	60,911

Note: Census was not held in Jammu and Kashmir in 1991.

Statement-II

Details of National/Regional Vocational Training Institutes for Women in Central Sphere as on October, 2002.

Sl.No.	Institute	State
1.	National Vocational Training Institute	Uttar Pradesh (Noida)
2.	Regional Vocational Training Institutes	Maharashtra (Mumbai), Karnataka (Bangalore), Kerala (Trivandrum), Haryana (Hissar), West Bengal (Kolkatta), Assam (Tura), Uttar Pradesh (Allahabad), Madhya Pradesh (Indore), Gujarat (Vadodara), Rajasthan (Jaipur)

Statement-III

State-wise distribution of Women Industrial Training Institutes & Wings for Women in General I.T.Is / Private WITIs.

(data as in January 2001)

State	Total WITIs/Wings
1	2
Delhi	39
Bihar	11
Himachal Pradesh	16
Rajasthan	16
Chandigarh	1
Uttar Pradesh	71
Madhya Pradesh	20
Haryana	41
Punjab	78
Jammu & Kashmir	27
Karnataka	36
Kerala	11

1	2
Tamil Nadu	23
Andhra Pradesh	38
Pondicherry	03
Nagaland	03
Meghalaya	01
West Bengal	08
Orissa	29
Assam	08
Manipur	01
Tripura	01
Gujarat	42
Maharashtra	241
Total	765

[English]

Effects of Advertisements on Ecology

1796. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

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

(a) whether the 500 million year old rocks in Chhattisgarh along the Kankar Rd. upto Keskul in Bastar have been defaced with advertisements of a Cement Company;

(b) if so, whether it is in violation of the ruling of the Supreme Court in the case of defacement of rocks along the Rohtang-Manali bye-pass;

(c) if so, whether any action has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (d) In compliance to the order of the Supreme Court dated: 23-9-2002 in I.A. No.780 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995, the Central Government has sought the

information from all the States and Union Territories regarding rock paintings and hoardings in forest lands in a prescribed format. In response, the Government of Chhattisgarh has submitted 'Nil' information on 9-10-2002.

Problems of Ferro Alloys Manufacturers/Traders

1797. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the problems being faced by Ferro Alloys Manufacturers and Traders in the country;

(b) if so, whether lowering of import duty on raw material/semi-finished products/finished products every year is continuously affecting all manufacturers of the Ferro Alloys;

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

(d) whether Kelkar Committee Recommendations are detrimental to the existence of Ferro alloys traders with regard to import of raw material; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures being adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. Some of the problems being faced by Ferro Alloys Manufacturers and Traders in the country are (i) high power tariff; (ii) excess capacity and stagnant domestic demand; (iii) cheap imports from China, Russia, Kazakhstan and South Africa; (iv) imports from neighbouring countries, such as Bhutan and Nepal which do not attract counter valuing duty, sales tax etc.; (v) high excise duty; and (vi) increase in input cost, road and railway freight.

(b) and (c) Lowering of import duty will lead to increase in imports and affect the domestic industry.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Basic custom duty on ferro alloys has remained unchanged since 2001-2002. Further, import duty on metcoke for the manufacturers of ferro alloys has been reduced to 5% and anti-dumping duty on Chinese metcoke has also been withdrawn. These measures will help the Ferro Alloys Manufacturers and Traders in the country.

[Translation]

Vacant Post Under SCs/STs Category

1798. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any posts of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in different categories in various Departments and undertakings of his Ministry are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any fresh recruitment have been made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the years-wise and category-wise details of recruitment made during the said period and till date;

(e) whether the prescribed rules have been followed with regard to the recruitment and promotion of persons belonging to SCs/STs categories; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two posts of Junior Inspecting Officer (Fruit & Vegetable Preservation) in Group B Gazetted category one each belonging to SC and ST are lying vacant. One post of Inspector (Fruit & Vegetable Preservation) in Group C belonging to ST category is also lying vacant.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of direct recruitment made under various categories during the last three years and till 28.02.2003 are as follows:

2000-2001 Group A- 1 Post of ST
Group B-1 Post - General
Group D - 2 Posts- Both SC

2001-2002 Group C - 2 Posts - General
Group D - 5 Posts - General

2002-2003 Group A - 3 Posts including one OBC
Group D - 1 Post - SC

(e) Prescribed Rules have been followed in the case of both Direct Recruitment and Promotion.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Wild Animals

1799. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that three new born leopards were found in a village near Bhopal;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the action taken for their rehabilitation;

(c) the number of such cases where wild animals have been captured in habitat areas during the year 2002; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that wild animals are prevented from crossing over to villages and cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Three new born cubs of tiger, and not leopard, were found in village Gautampur Colony on 29-1-03 near Bhopal. These cubs, since only about three months old and cannot survive in wild on their own, are being maintained in captivity at Van Vihar National Park at Bhopal.

(c) Some cases from Maharashtra and Uttaranchal States have come to the notice where wild animals have strayed out of their natural habitat into the human habitation area and were to be captured.

(d) The steps taken to prevent wild animals from crossing over to villages and cities include:

1. Habitat improvement works undertaken in national parks and sanctuaries.
2. Erection of physical barriers like stone wall/chain link fence/RCC wall in some sensitive areas.
3. Vigorous patrolling by mobile squad during identified seasons.

[Translation]

Study on Inter-Linking of Rivers

1800. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Development Agency had conducted a study for inter-linking the rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the date on which it was conducted;

(c) the names of the rivers which were proposed to be inter-linked;

(d) the average quantum of water proposed to be supplied to water scarce areas; and

(e) the States likely to be benefited therefrom?

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

(a) to (e) The Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in 1980 which envisages inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carry out water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National Perspective for preparation of the feasibility reports and has completed feasibility reports of Six links under Peninsular Component by June 2002. The statement showing the name of the rivers proposed for inter-linking is enclosed. As per the water balance studies conducted by NWDA, about 174 Billion Cubic Meter of water is available for diversion to the water deficit areas. While the Himalayan Component of the inter-basin water transfer proposal envisages benefits to Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Assam, West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar and Jharkhand and enrichment of the peninsular component from the surplus waters of Brahmaputra, the Peninsular Component envisages benefits to Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra & Gujarat.

Statement

Peninsular Rivers Development Component

1. Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link
 2. Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) link
 3. Godavari (Inchampalli Low Dam) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar Tail Pond) link
 4. Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link
 5. Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link
 6. Krishna (Srisaillam) - Pennar link
 7. Krishna (Almatti) - Pennar link
 8. Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link
 9. Cauvery (Kattalai) - Vaigai (Gundar) link
 10. Parbati - Kalisindh - Chambal link
 11. Damanganga - Pinjal link
 12. Par-Tapi-Narmada link
 13. Ken-Betwa link
 14. Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link
 15. Netravati-Hemavati Link
 16. Bedti-Varda link
- Himalayan Rivers Development Component
1. Kosi-Mechi link
 2. Kosi-Ghaghra link
 3. Gandak-Ganga link
 4. Ghaghra-Yamuna link
 5. Sarda-Yamuna link
 6. Yamuna-Rajasthan link
 7. Rajasthan-Sabarmati link
 8. Chunar-Sone Barrage link
 9. Sone Dam-Southern Tributaries of Ganga link
 10. Brahmaputra-Ganga link (Manas-Sankosh- Tista-Ganga)
 11. Brahmaputra-Ganga link (Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka)
 12. Farakka-Sunderbans link
 13. Ganga-Damodar-Sunemarekha link
 14. Subernarekha-Mahanadi link

[English]

Death of Olive Ridley Turtles

1801. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that more than 3,000 Olive Ridley Turtles have died in Orissa coast as reported in Times of India dated January 9, 2003;

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

(c) whether the State Government has been directed to take immediate action in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether State Fisheries department is also involved in continued killing of the turtles; and

(f) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to protect the turtles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Apart from natural deaths, injuries sustained from the sea going vessels have been identified as the cause of mortality of Olive Ridley turtles. The details are as under:

Location	Number of Dead Turtles Counted
Gahirmatha sanctuary	707
Dighe and Paradip Coast	2,155
Paradip to Ghumsur South	168

(c) and (d) The state government has been addressed in this regard vide letter dated 23-1-2003 for immediate action on protection of turtles at the nesting site, strict enforcement of use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) by trawlers, round the clock patrolling of the area, and, striking coordination among the various enforcement agencies in the state.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Service Condition of Airline Allied Services Limited

1802. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some employees from Indian Airlines are on a deputation to Alliance Airlines, a subsidiary of Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the total number of such deputationists;

(c) whether the deputationists cannot continue on deputation more than four years and have to be reverted to their parent organisation on completion of the deputation period;

(d) if so, the employees on deputation from Indian Airlines to Alliance Airlines who have already completed 4 to 6 years but are still continuing as deputationist; and

(e) the reasons for not reverting them back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seventy (70) officials from Indian Airlines are on deputation to Alliance Air.

(c) to (e) Employees from Indian Airlines are taken on deputation in Alliance Air on need basis. The period of deputation is decided mutually by Indian Airlines and Alliance Air. As and when the services of these employees are required by Indian Airlines they are reverted back, irrespective of the deputation period.

Heritage Hotels in Rajasthan

1803. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of heritage hotels set up in Rajasthan, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to encourage heritage hotels in the States; and

(c) if so, the details alongwith steps taken in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) A total number of 34 heritage hotels have been classified in Rajasthan. A statement giving the district-wise break-up in the State of Rajasthan is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Heritage Hotels in India, offer a unique holiday experience and add value to the Indian tourism product. The heritage hotel projects approved prior to 1.4.2002 are eligible to avail Interest Subsidy at an enhanced rate of 5% on loans taken from designated financial institutions.

Statement

District-wise List of Approved Heritage Hotels in Rajasthan as on 31st January, 2003

S.No.	Name of District	Number of Heritage Hotels
1	2	3
1.	Ajmer	1
2.	Alwar	1
3.	Bharatpur	1
4.	Bikaner	5

1	2	3
5.	Jaipur	7
6.	Jaisalmer	1
7.	Jodhpur	4
8.	Jhunjhunu	1
9.	Pali	3
10.	Rajasmad	1
11.	Sawai Madhopur	1
12.	Sirohi	3
13.	Udaipur	5

[Translation]

Funds to NGOs under Garbage Management Projects

1804. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government and non governmental organisations have applied for financial assistance for garbage management projects;

(b) if so the details of the applications received in this regard and approved by the government during the last three years and current year, till date so far;

(c) whether the scheme to crack awareness about environment are being regulated by the Ministry; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has provided financial assistance to the Central and the State Pollution Control Boards for strengthening their infrastructure for the implementation of environmental regulations including the Municipal Solid wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 2000. An amount of Rs. 250.53 Lakhs has been released to thirty-three Pollution Control Boards/committees in the past two years. Proposals have been received from various organisations including Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi; National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur; Environmental Protection Training and Research Institute, Hyderabad; Pollution Control Research

Institute, Haridwar; Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi; National Productivity Council, New Delhi as well as NGOs like Chintan Environmental Action Group, New Delhi. In this regard, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has released Rs. 113.24 lakhs for undertaking various projects and programmes related to garbage management. Also, the CPCB has provided financial support to NGOs for creating awareness relating to garbage management. Rs 2.6 lakhs has been released in the past three years for this purpose.

Besides this, during 1999-2001, the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Co-operation under the scheme on balanced and integrated use of fertilisers, provided financial support to the extent of 399.52 lakhs for setting up of compost plants.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests through its National Environmental Awareness Campaign is creating awareness amongst the public Rs. 414 lakhs has been earmarked for the current financial year and 8061 proposals have been recommended for implementation under this scheme. Further, for creating mass awareness about the environment through electronic media during 2002-2003, Ministry of Environment has entered into an arrangement with Doordarshan and the Discovery channel.

Small Agricultural Watersheds

1805. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small agricultural watersheds are not being properly utilized in the country;

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

(c) the efforts made by the Government for the purpose and optimum utilization of the small agricultural watersheds; and

(d) the degree of success achieved by the Government following these efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government of India have accorded high priority to the development of watershed area through integrated watershed approach wherein watershed community plays a decisive role in planning, implementation and monitoring of watersheds.

Small watersheds (about 500 ha.) are being treated under the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) of Ministry of Agriculture and Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme of Department of Land Resources (DOLR).

(d) Evaluation Studies conducted by the MoA through different agencies have indicated that these programmes have, in general, resulted in increase in cropping intensity changes in cropping pattern, and increase in ground water recharge.

[English]

Pending Irrigation Projects of Gujarat

1806. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of on-going irrigation projects in Gujarat at present; and

(b) the number of irrigation projects awaiting/pending with the Union Government?

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

(a) The details of ongoing irrigation projects of Gujarat are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) As on 15th February, 2003, two irrigation projects formulated by the Government of Gujarat were under techno-economic appraisal in the Central Water Commission. Out of these 2 projects, one project namely Modernisation of Machhu-I Irrigation has already been accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources subject to concurrence from State Finance Department and the second project namely Bakrol Water Resources project is under appraisal.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of Project	District Benefited	Latest Estimated Cost	Expenditure up to end of IX plan
1	2	3	4	5
A	Major Projects			
a)	Externally Aided Projects			
1.	Hydrology Projects (WB)		66.30	54.43
2.	Scheme for provision of Hydro Plus Mechanisation towards augumenting shortage capacity		105.00	26.29
b)	Inter-State Projects			
1.	Mahi Bajaj Sagar	Counted in Rajasthan	2.57	
2.	Sardar Sarovar	12 Districts	13160.62	13076.63
c)	Pre-Fifth Plan Projects			
d)	Other Projects			
1.	Sidumber	Valsad	205.35	0.28
2.	Zankari	Surat	90.00	5.07
B	Medium Projects			
1.	Aji-IV	Jamnagar	96.00	81.34
2.	Balgot	Sabarkantha	23.86	8.97

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bhadar-II	Rajkot	107.00	67.62
4.	Demi-III (NABARD)	Jamnagar	32.50	30.97
5.	Goma (P)	Panchmahal	47.59	12.66
6.	Gunda (Utvalli)	Ahmedabad	37.00	29.04
7.	Koliyari	Panchmahal	26.00	15.00
8.	Limd-Bhogavo-II	Surendranagar	43.00	34.67
9.	Man	Vadodara	8.72	0.58
10.	Mukteshwar	Banskantha	52.50	40.97
11.	Ozat-II	Junagarh	82.00	66.73
12.	Singor	Panchmahal	20.00	3.10
13.	Und-II (Guntal)	Jamnagar	64.00	59.07
14.	Varanasi	Kheda	24.00	9.60
15.	Vartu-II	Junagarh	58.00	52.45
16.	Kuntall	Valsad	43.99	5.09
17.	Brahmani-II	Surendranagar	41.50	36.97
18.	Chinchal Lift Irrigation	Valsad	18.10	7.65
C	ERM Projects			
(i)	Modernisation of canals			
1.	Bhadar (S)	Rajkot	55.50	37.48
2.	Modernisation of Kachhu-I	Rajkot	35.36	26.08
3.	Restoration of Mitti	Kutchh	32.00	28.16
(ii)	Drainage Projects			
4.	Extension of distribution system from 40 ha to 8 ha block		30.00	20.84
5.	Extn. & Improvement of Medium Irrigation Projects		42.00	41.02
6.	Prevention of salinity ingress (HLC-I & II)	Saurashtra & Kutchh	1185.15	330.48
7.	Rehabilitation old canal scheme		111.00	88.88
8.	Mod. of Irr. Schemes for old canal system		51.00	39.31

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Kadana Right Bank Canal System	Panchmahal	30.50	27.73
10.	Kadana spreading channel	Panchmahal	471.00	0.06
11.	Link canal of uz kai to Godhra river		44.36	4.89
12.	Link of Bhadar main canal with KZRBC	Panchmahal	4.13	0.08
13.	I.R.B.P. & M. Sabarmati river	Mehsana	13.00	0.04
14.	Water Resources consolidated projects (WRCP)	Mehsana	800.00	0.00
15.	Augumentation of surface water in North Gujarat		400.00	25.00
16.	Kadana Left Bank High Level canal	Panchmahal	35.00	1.07
17.	Extention of Dharoi RBMC	Mehsana	112.00	11.83
18.	Ukai Puma JLLB link canal	Surat	58.00	8.47
19.	Banas valley (Dantiwada) Modn. Conjuctive use of ground and surface water	Banaskantha	0.50	0.00
20.	Drainage for North Gujarat		20.00	2.00
21.	Gajansar canal works	Kutchh	2.00	0.05
22.	Dharoi Left Bank High Level canal	Mehsana	36.89	0.01
23.	Dharoi project Sipor loop canal	Mehsana	8.00	0.03
24.	Dantiwada Sipu link canal		7.87	0.00
25.	Panam High Level Canal	Panchmahal	133.00	0.37
26.	Lining of main canal Singoda	Amreli	1.10	0.00
27.	Prevention of Salinity (South Gujarat)		230.00	2.46

National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding

1807. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Central funds sought and funds released for implementation of the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) by the State Governments particularly Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Union Territories during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, State-wise;

(b) the target fixed and achieved thereunder during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of NPCBB;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the decision to be taken to refurbish the project indicating improvements to be introduced thereon; and

(g) the target fixed under the project and the

allocation proposed to be made for the purpose during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise, Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The reply statement to (a) and (b) of the question is enclosed.

(c) Andhra Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh have utilised the amount in full.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Project Steering Committee has reviewed the progress of the Scheme on 05.03.2002. Suitable action has been taken on the recommendations of the Steering Committee.

(g) No, Sir. No State-wise physical target and allocation of funds have been made under the scheme during the 10th plan, since these will vary from State to State as per their proposals and central guidelines.

Statement

(a) Central Funds sought and released during 2001-02 and 2002-03

State	Funds sought by the State (Rs. in crore)		Fund released (Rs. in crore)		Remarks, if any
	2001-02	2002-03	2001-02	2002-03	
Andhra Pradesh	53.82	12.36	7.42	4.17	-
Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	The State Govt. has not constituted State Implementing Agency, which is a pre requisite for the project.
Madhya Pradesh	15.26	13.34	8.29	-	-
Union Territories	-	-	-	-	No proposal was received from the Union Territories.

(b) Target and Achievement under the 9th Plan

State	Components	Target	Achievement
Andhra Pradesh	1. Conversion/setting up of mobile artificial insemination units	2009	2009
	2. Establishment/strengthening of Sperm Stations	4	4
	3. Establishment/strengthening of Frozen Semen Banks	4	4
	4. Establishment/strengthening of training centers	9	9
Madhya Pradesh	1. Conversion/setting up of mobile artificial insemination units	1965	1965
	2. Establishment/strengthening of Sperm Stations	2	2
	3. Establishment/strengthening of Frozen Semen Banks	-	-
	4. Establishment/strengthening of training centers	2	2

*[Translation]***Private Employment Exchange**

1808. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the opening of Private Employment Exchanges;

(b) if so, whether several Private Employment Exchanges are already operating without the permission of the Government;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the unemployed persons from being cheated by these Private Employment Exchanges; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (d) Employment Exchanges function under the administrative and financial control of the State/UT Governments and operate as per the provisions of the Employment Exchanges' (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959. Private placement agencies are operating under the jurisdiction of the State/UT Governments. There is no system of permission/registration/recognition of such private placement agencies by the Government, excepting for private manpower exporting employment agencies which come under the Emigration Act, 1983 and labour contractors who come under the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 and Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. Cases of cheating, if any, are dealt with under the normal provision of the law.

*[English]***Permission for Landing**

1809. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign airlines have been permitted to land their new flights at various airports in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of landing applications pending with the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Requests of other countries for operation of their airlines to different airports are examined as part of an ongoing process, depending upon traffic demand etc., and designated airlines of the following countries have been granted access to various airports in India since January, 2002:

Name of the Country	Airports for which permission was granted.
Iran	- Delhi
Sri Lanka	- Bangalore, Gaya, Cochin
Singapore	- Hyderabad, Bangalore
Qatar	- Hyderabad, Cochin
Kenya	- Delhi
Saudi Arabia	- Cochin

Withdrawal of IA from Unviable Sectors

1810. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines propose to pullout of 50 unviable sectors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the list of such sectors that are going to be withdrawn from Indian Airlines service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Museums**

1811. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of museums with Archaeological Survey of India and out of these the number of museums currently closed down;

(b) the reasons for closure of museums alongwith revenue loss to the Government consequent upon their closure since date of closure, till date; and

(c) by when the closed museums are likely to be reopened for general public and tourists by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) There are 35 museums which fall under, the jurisdiction of the Archaeological Survey of India. All the museums are open to the public except the one at Salimgarh Fort and another at the Purana Qila.

(b) and (c) The Salimgarh Museum is closed due to security reasons while the Purana Qila Museum is closed as the work of reorganization has been taken up, which is likely to be completed within the current financial year. As neither of these two museums are ticketed, the question of revenue loss does not arise.

[English]

Funds under Elephant Corridor Scheme

1812. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the money put into the Elephant Corridor Scheme by the Government since 1991, till date; and

(b) the money spent out of that so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) There is no separate scheme for the elephant corridors. However, the Government of India provides financial assistance to the major elephant-bearing states in the country under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Project Elephant' for the protection and development of corridors for elephants. Since the inception of the Project in February 1992, an amount of Rs. 3.33 crores has been released by the Government of India for elephant corridors, which has been fully utilized.

Report on Condition of Farmers

1813. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Institute of Economic Growth has drafted a study report which highlights the poor condition of the farmers;

(b) if so, whether the institute has prepared its report for the first phase study and submitted to the Government;

(c) if so, the salient features of the report; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Institute of Economic Growth had organized a Seminar on 4-5 February, 2003 to review and discuss the draft reports on 26 studies conducted by experts as part of Phase-I of the Study titled "State of Indian Farmers - A Millennium Study", which has been sponsored by the Government. As the reports are yet to be finalized on the basis of the comments/observations made at the Seminar, the Government have not yet received the final version of the reports on the studies.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Crop Forecast System

1814. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of crop forecast system;

(b) whether updating of crop forecast reports is underway;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the State which have been asked to update crop forecast reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) prepares the forecast of production of principal crops with reference to the agriculture year (July - June) four times during a year, primarily on the basis of the information obtained from the State Governments. These forecasts are referred to as the First Advance Estimates, the Second Advance Estimates, the Third Advance Estimates and the Fourth Advance Estimates, and are released at quarterly intervals. For example, with reference to the agriculture year 2001-02, the time schedule of the estimates was as under:

First Advance Estimates: September 2001

Second Advance Estimates: January 2002

Third Advance Estimates: April 2002

Fourth Advance Estimates: June 2002

In the beginning of an agricultural season, when the sowing operations are at initial stages, the assessments of the State Governments about the area coverage under different crops are generally based on visual observations made by the field officers. However, with the passage of time, more specific information, including that of area coverage based on Timely Reporting Scheme (TRS) and yield rates based on Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs), flows to the State Governments, who update their estimates based on this information and forward the same to the DAC.

The DAC holds a weekly meeting of Crop & Weather Watch Group (CWWG), in which the crop prospects are discussed on the basis of latest position of crop and weather situation in different parts of the country. In these meetings, which are attended by representatives of India Meteorological Department, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, Central Water Commission, and experts from various Divisions of DAC, detailed deliberations take place on the various aspects having bearing on crop production like rainfall, temperature & other weather conditions, availability of water in major reservoirs and availability/ supply of inputs like seeds, fertilizers, credit and pesticides. The estimates of likely production of crops received from the States are reviewed in light of the information obtained in the meetings of the CWWG. These inputs are supplemented/ complemented, with the information received from the Space Application Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad based on remote sensing technology as also the past practices and trends prevalent in various States.

During the agriculture year 2002-2003, the sowing of Kharif crops had been delayed in many parts of the country, due to which the Government had released only a Quick Assessment of Kharif production in September 2002. The First Advance Estimates, covering the kharif crops of 2002-03 were released on 12.11.2002, while the Second Advance Estimates, covering both kharif and rabi, were released on 10.2.2003. The next forecast for 2002-03 would be made during April 2003, coinciding with the holding of the National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign, 2003-04. All the major States have been requested to furnish the updated information by middle of March 2003.

Kargil Airport

1815. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have decided to hand over Kargil Airport to the Defence Ministry;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether civilian traffic would be adversely affected by this decision; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to strategic location of Kargil near the Indo-Pak border, the operational control of Kargil airport has been handed over to the Ministry of Defence (Indian Air Force) by Airports Authority of India (AAI).

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Indian Air Force (IAF) have decided to start their flights for civil passengers in their aircraft from Jammu and Srinagar to Kargil, for which AAI has extended all necessary assistance.

Profit Making Routes of AI

1816. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of domestic/international profit making routes of Air India flights at present;

(b) whether the Private Indian/Foreign Airlines have also been permitted to operate their flights on such routes;

(c) if so, the names of such airlines, country-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to issue guidelines to increase Air India Flights on such routes instead of permitting private airlines;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) From April 2001 to October, 2002, Air India has made profit on Gulf routes only.

(b) and (c) Private Indian airlines are not permitted to operate on international routes, while foreign airlines are not permitted to operate on domestic routes. The international operations of foreign airlines to India are in accordance with the rights exchanged between India and other foreign countries which is on the basis of the principle of reciprocity and fair and equal opportunity. Therefore, equal rights are available to the foreign airlines to operate on all the routes where Air India is operating. Actual operations are decided by airlines concerned according to their commercial judgement and comparative yields on different routes.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Agriculture Target in Ninth Plan

1817. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the output of agriculture has fulfilled the target of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being considered to overcome such deficiencies in Tenth Five Year Plan, especially on the issue of drought, floods and lack of irrigation opportunities in the affected States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. The production of major crops like foodgrains, oilseeds, sugarcane and cotton during the Ninth Five Year Plan was lower than the targets, as is evident from the following table:

Targets and Production in IX Plan

(million tonnes)

Crop	Target	Production
Foodgrains	1052.00	1017.22
Oilseeds*	135.50	105.68
Sugarcane	1535.00	1463.64
Cotton#	73.60	54.28

* Includes groundnut, castorseed, sesamum, nigerseed, rapeseed & mustard, linseed, safflower, sunflower and soyabean.

In million bales of 170 kgs.

(b) Realisation of targets depends on a number of factors such as performance of monsoon, 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 60% of net area sown is dependent on rains for water. Deficient rainfall also adversely affects the irrigation potential

(c) The National Agriculture Policy envisages a growth rate of agriculture in excess of 4% per annum. To achieve this target, various crop production schemes like Integrated Cereals Development Programmes for Rice, Wheat & Coarse Cereals, National Pulses Development Programme, Sponsored oil seeds Production Programme and Seed Minikit

Scheme are being implemented during the Tenth Plan. To reduce water run-off from major catchment areas, improve land capability and moisture regime the Government are implementing the schemes 'Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in Catchments of River Valley Projects/ Flood-Prone Rivers' and 'Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas'. Besides, the Regionally Differentiated Strategy adopted during the Ninth Plan would be continued during the Tenth Plan. As a new initiative, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India' has been launched in March 2002 for the year 2001-02 and the Tenth Five Year Plan. The objective of the scheme is to exploit ground/ surface water, and promote efficient water utilization and management for increasing crop production in eastern India. Apart from these, the Government have launched various other initiatives such as emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network, National Agriculture Insurance Scheme etc. The Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price, procurement by public agencies etc.

[Translation]

Production of Steel

1818. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether steel production is more than the domestic requirement in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether steel plants have achieved significant increase in the production of steel and its sale during the last one year;

(d) if so, the increase in production and sale achieved during the said year;

(e) whether the Government have managed to tap new foreign markets for the sale of steel;

(f) if so, the names of the countries importing steel from India and the quantity thereof during the last one year; and

(g) the income earned from total sales both in the domestic and foreign market during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of Steel is more than the domestic requirement in the country as indicated below:

	(in '000 tonnes)	
	Production	Demand
1999-2000	28462	24595
2000-2001	30322	26635
2001-2002	31625	28925

(c) and (d) In the year 2001-2002, production of Carbon & Alloy Steel has gone up by 4.3% as compared to the production of the previous year. However, as far as sale is concerned, there are indications of a mixed result. Whereas SAIL, TISCO, ISPAT INDUSTRIES, LLOYDS Steel and ESSAR Steel show slightly lower level of sales as compared to the previous year, other steel companies like Jindal Vijaynagar Steel Limited, Jindal Strips, National Steel etc. have shown improvement over the previous year. However, in the first nine months of the current financial year, most of the steel companies have achieved a higher sales turnover as compared to that of the last year.

(e) It is reported that Indian Steel Industries have managed to tap some new foreign markets in Asia including China, Nepal and Srilanka.

(f) The names of the countries importing steel from India and the quantity thereof during the period (April 2001 to March 2002) is indicated below:

Country	Quantity (In tonnes)
1	2
Bangladesh	116484
Belgium	29325
China PRP	35181
Ethiopia	95743
Hong Kong	51581
Indonesia	153955
Iran	134231
Italy	113621

1	2
Japan	59599
Korea RP	92952
Malaysia	129499
Myanmar	63545
Nigeria	54617
Saudi Arab	49097
South Africa	30957
Spain	92536
Sri Lanka	101895
Thailand	202632
UAE	149126
USA	170607

(g) In a free market economy, prices are determined by the prevailing market conditions including demand, supply and other factors. These factors are dynamic and keep on changing, however, the income from the sales during last year was depressed due to recessionary trends in the Global market. The income from sales has picked up significantly during the last three quarters of the current fiscal year both in the domestic and international markets.

[English]

Efficiency Development Fund

1819. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up an Efficiency Development Fund to increase efficiency of the employees of the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c)

No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Water Harvesting Projects in Tamil Nadu

1820. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any plan to start new projects in Tamilnadu for water harvesting;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the existing lakes and ponds in Tarnilnadu are highly silted and needs to be desilted;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the total amount allocated, disbursed and utilized by the State Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The State Government of Tamil Nadu has not submitted any project proposal to the Central Water Commission envisaging new projects for water harvesting. During IX Plan, the Central Ground Water Board had taken up demonstrative rainwater harvesting and recharge projects in the country under its Central Sector Scheme on 'Study of Recharge to Ground Water'. Under this scheme ten number of projects were approved for implementation in the State of Tamil Nadu and Rs. 137.94 lakh allocated during the last three years upto 20.2.2003.

(c) to (e) Government of Tamil Nadu has not sent any proposal to the Central Water Commission regarding desilting of lakes and ponds. Irrigation being a state subject, the responsibility of planning, investigation, funding alongwith priority, execution, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects, including desiltation of rivers and ponds primarily rests with the concerned State Governments themselves.

[Translation]

Dependence of Agriculture on Rain

1821. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether two-third of agriculture land in the country depends upon rain for irrigation;

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

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment of average rainfall in such areas;

(d) if so, the details of areas assessed as scanty rainfall, average rainfall and above average rainfall area separately;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for ensuring optimum use of rain water in the said areas;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to implement the said scheme?

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

(b) The Government of India has accorded high priority to the development of rainfed areas through integrated watershed management approach.

(c) and (d) The rainfed areas can be broadly classified into arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid region.

The arid areas, forming 19.6% of the total geographical area, are characterized by low and erratic rainfall (less than 500 mm mean annual rainfall).

Semi arid areas can be further classified into dry and wet. Dry semi arid areas, having 12% of the total geographical area, receive mean annual rainfall ranging from 500 mm to 700 mm and Wet semi arid areas, having 25.9% of the total geographical area, receive mean annual rainfall ranging from 750 mm to 1100 mm. Dry sub-humid region, constituting 21.1 % of the total geographical area, receives mean annual rainfall ranging from 1100 mm to 1600 mm.

(e) to (g) Several ongoing programmes, such as National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), Watershed Develop Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA) of the MoA and Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) of the DoLR, aim to ensure optimum use of rain water. A statement giving physical and financial achievements of these programmes is enclosed.

Statement*Physical and financial achievement under Integrated Watershed Development Projects/Scheme*

S.No.	Watershed Scheme (year of Start)	Up to VIII Plan		During IX Plan (1997-2002)		Area treated since inception upto March 2002	
		Area Treated (Lakh ha.)	Total Investment (Rs. Crores)	Area Treated (Lakh ha.)	Total Investment (Rs. Crores)	Area Treated (Lakh ha.)	Total Investment (Rs. Crores)
I	Min. of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources						
i	DPAP (1973-74)	68.60	1109.95	29.64	658.29	98.24	1768.24
ii	DDP (1977-78)	8.48	722.79	15.34	519.79	23.82	1242.58
iii	IWDP (1988-89)	2.84	542.96	14.49	496.80	17.33	1039.76
iv	WDTF	0.01	4.74			0.01	4.74
	Sub-total	79.93	2380.44	59.47	1674.88	139.40	4055.22
II	Min. of Agri., Department of Agri. & Coopn.						
i	NWDPRA (1990-91)	42.23	967.93	26.19	1005.92	68.42	1973.85
ii	RVP&FPR (1962 & 81)	38.89	819.95	8.17	470.14	47.06	1290.09
iii	WDPSA (1974-75)	0.74	93.73	1.30	63.40	2.04	157.13
iv	EAPs	10.00	646.00	5.00	1425.00	15.00	2071.00
	Sub-Total	91.86	2527.61	40.66	2964.46	132.52	5492.07
III	Ministry of Environment and Forests						
i	IAEPS (1989-90)	2.98	230.12	1.23	141.54	4.21	344.66
	Grand Total	174.77	5111.17	101.36	4780.88	276.13	9892.05

Details of abbreviations

NWDPRA	-	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.
RVP&FPR	-	Watershed Development in Catchments of River Valley Projects & Flood Prone Rivers.
WDPSA	-	Watershed Develop Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas
EAPs	-	Externally Aided Projects
DPAP	-	Drought Prone Area Programme
IWDP	-	Integrated Wasteland Development Project
WDTF	-	Wasteland Development Task Force
IAEPS	-	Integrated Afforestation & Eco-development Project Scheme

Drying up of Water Resources

1822. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme formulated by the Government to make up water resources to solve water crises in various States including Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan and the funds allocated for the purpose;

(b) whether the water level of wells, ponds and reservoirs has declined due to drying up of traditional water sources and this problem has further aggravated in irrigated areas due to inadequate supply of water in the canals; and

(c) if so, the details of new projects initiated by the Government to tackle water crisis?

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

(a) to (c) Water being a State subject, water resources schemes including the schemes to overcome the shortage of water resources are formulated, planned, executed and funded by the concerned State Governments as per their own priorities.

As the rainfall distribution has either been deficient or scanty in many of the states, the water levels of wells, ponds and reservoirs have declined. The State Governments have however, been advised to make judicious use of water available in the reservoirs, giving priority to drinking water supply. States have also been advised to take over the exploratory wells drilled by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) for enhancing their water supply.

Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has taken up a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis.

To help the State Governments in their efforts to harness the water from natural resources and accelerate creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 to provide central loan assistance. Accordingly, the Central Loan Assistance (CLA) amounting to Rs.466.17 crore to the State Government of Rajasthan and Rs.1114.86 crore to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh have been provided under AIBP upto end of

2001-02 and an amount of Rs.92.06 crore to the State Government of Rajasthan and Rs.155.25 crore to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh have been released so far during the year 2002-2003.

As a long term measure, National Perspective Plan for water resources development has been formulated which envisages inter-linking of rivers by transferring of water from surplus basins/areas to water deficit basins/areas. Under the Himalayan component of the Plan, Sarda-Yamuna-Rajasthan and Rajasthan-Sabarmati link canals are envisaged to provide benefits of irrigation, drinking water, etc. to Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Implementation of Schemes of Animal Husbandry

1823. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schemes pertaining to animal husbandry are being implemented properly;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to ensure the proper utilisation of livestock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government is implementing number of schemes for the development of Animal Husbandry. The performance of the schemes are reviewed on regular basis and necessary corrective steps are taken, if required, from time to time to achieve the objectives of the schemes.

[English]

Enhancement of Wage Ceiling

1824. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees State Insurance Corporation Review Committee has recommended enhancement of wage ceiling for coverage of social and medical security benefits from the current level of Rs.6500/- to Rs.9000/- a month;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken a decision not to open new ESI Hospitals/Dispensaries but to outsource such services from private medical institutions and clinics; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Review Committee, headed by Shri M.C. Verma has recommended enhancement of wage ceiling from the present Rs.6500/- per month to Rs.9000/- per month for coverage of the Employees State Insurance Scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Rural Godown Scheme

1825. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Godowns set up under Rural Godown Scheme in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu at present, State-wise; and

(b) the number of Godowns proposed to be set up during 2002-03, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Central Sector Scheme of Capital Investment Subsidy for construction/ renovation/ expansion of Rural Godowns is being implemented through national Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). Under this scheme, there is no allocation of funds to State Governments/ Union Territory Administration. The entrepreneurs are free to construct godowns anywhere in the country on the basis of commercial consideration and economic viability of the project.

NABARD has sanctioned 601 projects with a total capacity of 46.859 lakhs tonnes upto 31st January 2003. No project has been sanctioned in Tamil Nadu (Statement-I).

NCDC has sanctioned 1575 projects with a capacity of 7.41 lakh tonnes, out of which 103 godowns of 10300 tonnes capacity have been sanctioned in Tamil Nadu in the Cooperative Sector (Statement-II).

Statement-I

Projects Sanctioned by NABARD upto 31st January, 2003

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Number of Schemes	Capacity (In lakh MT)
1	Andhra Pradesh	252	13.150
2	Haryana	72	10.440
3	Karnataka	92	0.579
4	Madhya Pradesh	04	0.052
5	Maharashtra	04	0.028
6	Punjab	174	22.540
7	Chhattisgarh	03	0.070
Total		601	46.859

Statement-II

Projects Sanctioned by NCDC upto 24th February, 2003

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Number of Schemes	Capacity (In lakh MT)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58	5050
2.	Assam	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	14	3800
4.	Bihar	285	28500
5.	Chhattisgarh	110	359800
6.	Gujarat	0	0
7.	Haryana	139	13900
8.	Himachal Pradesh	40	2800
9.	Jharkhand	49	4900
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	191	179950
12.	Manipur	9	900
13.	Meghalaya	19	1700

1	2	3	4
14.	Karnataka	26	4850
15.	Kerala	160	21850
16.	Maharashtra	6	61000
17.	Nagaland	65	3250
18.	Orissa	2	200
19.	Punjab	0	0
20.	Rajasthan	22	1850
21.	Tamil Nadu	103	10300
22.	Tripura	0	0
23.	Uttar Pradesh	31	3100
24.	West Bengal	207	21000
25.	Uttaranchal	39	12900
Total		1575	741600

Profits Earned by ITDC Hotels

1826. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total profits earned by India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) Hotels in the country during 2002, till-date;

(b) the loss to ITDC Hotels during 2002, quarter-wise till-date; and

(c) the reasons for variations in the profit and loss of Hotels?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) After disinvestment of 18 hotels, ITDC is owning and operating 08 hotels. These hotels incurred losses during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (upto January, 2003) as per details given below:

(Rs. in Crores)	
2001-02 (Prov.)	(-)28.66
2002-2003 (Prov.) (upto January, 2003)	(-)11.58

(b) Quarter-wise profitability position is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The factors responsible for improvement in

performance inter-alia include better focus on management & marketing efforts; motivation of employees; cost control by exercising economy in expenditure and improvement in tourism scenario.

Statement

Quarter-wise Details of Profit Earned/Losses Incurred by ITDC Hotels

Quarter	Profit/Loss of ITDC 08 Hotels		Variation over
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2001-2002
I (April-June)	(-) 695.75	(-) 738.60	(-) 42.85
II (July-September)	(-) 818.96	(-) 738.31	80.65
III (October-December)	(-) 619.47	79.42	698.89
IV (January only)	(-) 266.87	239.12	505.99

Setting up of Wine Board in Karnataka

1827. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Wine Board in Karnataka which is a major grape producing State on the lines of the Coffee Board and the Tea Board to formulate policy on wine production, marketing and other related matters; and

(b) if so, whether the State Government has agreed to allot land required for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) is actively considering the setting up of a Wine Board for facilitating promotion and development of indigenous wine industry. The proposal in this regard is still to be firmed up.

Development of Existing Fishing Harbours

1828. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has sought financial assistance from the Union Government for the development of existing fishing harbours in the State;

(b) if so, the assistance sought by the State Government; and

(c) the amount sanctioned by the Union Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Orissa had submitted a proposal for development of the existing fishing harbour at Dhamra at an estimated cost of Rs. 640 lakhs and sought 50% financial assistance from the Union Government.

(c) The proposal has been approved under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the entire central share of Rs.320 lakhs has been released to the State.

[Translation]

Agricultural Information Centres

1829. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up Agriculture Information Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the network and the names of those places where such centres have been opened, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have given any assistance to the State Governments for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Government have set up Agriculture Information Centres in the country as indicated below:-

Statement-I

State-wise Location of Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) and Details of Budget Released up to January, 2003

State	Sl. No.	Centre	Budget Released (Rs. in lakhs)	
			Centre-wise	State-wise
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	1	Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad	42.06585	42.06585
Assam	2	Assam Agricultural University Jorhat	47.58	47.58

i. Twenty Eight State Agriculture Universities and 16 Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) institutions have established Agriculture Technology Information Centres (ATICS) to provide technology products, diagnostic and advisory services and information to farmers and other end users under National Agriculture Technology Project with World Bank assistance are given in statement-I enclosed.

ii. The ICAR has set up eight Agricultural Research Information Centre (ARIC) as a central source of information on all research project/schemes financed by Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR). The list of centres is enclosed as statement-II.

iii. Farm Information and Advisory Centres (FIAC's) are in different stages of being established under each block of 28 Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA)s districts in 7 States as indicated in statement-III enclosed under Innovation in Technology Dissemination (ITD) component of World Bank assisted National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP).

iv. A NICNET based Agricultural Informatics and Communication Network (AGRISNET) connecting the national, state and district headquarters have been initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture.

v. A system of Computerized registration of pesticides and dissemination of related information (www.cibrc.nic.in) has been established by the Ministry of Agriculture.

vi. Agricultural marketing, information system (www.agmarknet.nic.in) to facilitate generation and transmission of prices and arrivals information from agricultural produce markets has been created. A total number of 810 markets/institutions have been provided hardware and software support as detailed in the statement-IV enclosed.

1	2	3	4	5
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3	Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair	37.82972	37.82972
Bihar	4	Rajendra Agricultural University Samastipur	40.5175	40.5175
Chhattisgarh	5	Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur	35.28566	35.28566
Delhi	6	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi	36.32388	36.32388
Gujarat	7	Gujarat Agricultural University, Banaskantha	40.82812	40.82812
Haryana	8	National Dairy Research Institute, Karnak	33.95	74.48109
	9	Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar	40.53109	
Himachal Pradesh	10	Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Krishi Vishwa, Vidyalaya, Palampur	42.59815	112.03814
	11	Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan	35.83883	
	12	Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla	33.60116	
Jammu and Kashmir	13	Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Srinagar	39.13998	39.13998
Jharkhand	14	Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi	34.68769	34.68769
Kerala	15	Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur	42.40928	
	16	Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut	39.49566	
	17	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Ernakulam	33.62027	190.89869
	18	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod	40.99148	
	19	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin	34.382	
Karnataka	20	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore	40.60849	
	21	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	38.35827	115.43741
	22	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore	36.47065	
Madhya Pradesh	23	Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur	36.11925	71.44823
	24	Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal	35.32898	
Maharashtra	25	Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani	43.74642	
	26	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Ahmednagar	39.25564	
	27	Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola	34.76	194.07148
	28	Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur	34.68142	
	29	Bala Sahib Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Ratnagiri	41.628	
Meghalaya	30	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Barapani	34.0644	34.0644
Orissa	31	Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar	34.05636	70.91886

1	2	3	4	5
	32	Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar	36.8625	
Punjab	33	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana	40.73965	40.73965
Rajasthan	34	Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur	35.47284	
	35	Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner	33.70566	106.02869
	36	Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur	36.85019	
Tamil Nadu	37	Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai	42.55555	82.40955
	38	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	39.854	
Uttar Pradesh	39	Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur	34.58646	
	40	Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Faizabad	40.66092	145.27238
	41	Indian Veterinary Research Institute Izatnagar, Bareilly	31.275	
	42	Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi	38.75	
Uttaranchal	43	G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar	39.58	39.58
West Bengal	44	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Nadia	35.154	35.154
	Total		1666.8005	1666.8005

Statement-II

<i>List of Agricultural Research Information Centres (ARIC)</i>		5.	National Research Centre for Equines, Hisar (Haryana)
1.	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi	6.	National Institute of Research on Jute & Allied Fibre Technology, Kolkata (West Bengal)
2.	Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi	7.	Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres, Barrackpore, Kolkata (West Bengal)
3.	National Centre for Agricultural Economics & Policy Research, Pusa, New Delhi	8.	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, Kolkata (West Bengal)
4.	Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Hisar (Haryana)		

Statement-III

List of Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMA)s Districts in 7 States established under ITD Component of NATP

Name of the State	First Phase District	Second Phase District	Third Phase District	Fourth Phase Districts
Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool	Prakasham	Adilabad	Chittoor
Bihar	Muzaffarpur	Madhubani	Munger	Rural Patna
Jharkhand	Dumka	Jamtada	Palamu	West Singhbhum
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Hamirpur	Kangra	Bilaspur
Maharashtra	Ahmednagar	Amravati	Aurangabad	Ratnagiri
Orissa	Khurda	Koraput	Ganjam	Sambhalpur
Punjab	Gurdaspur	Jalandhar	Sangroor	Faridkot

Statement-IV**AGMARKNET Nodes Covered during IX Plan**

Sl.No.	State	DMI	SAMB/DOM *	No. of Markets	Grand Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	1	54	57
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	1	0	1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	1	5	6
4.	Assam	1	2	13	16
5.	Bihar	1	1	24	26
6.	Jharkhand	0	2	13	15
7.	Chandigarh	0	1	1	2
8.	Chhattisgarh	0	2	26	28
9.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	0	1	1	2
10.	Daman & Diu	0	1	2	3
11.	Delhi	1	2	5	8
12.	Goa	1	1	6	8
13.	Gujarat	1	2	54	57
14.	Haryana	0	2	34	36
15.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	14	16
16.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	1	24	26
17.	Karnataka	1	2	50	53
18.	Kerala	2	1	18	21
19.	Lakshadweep	0	1	0	1
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1	1	46	48
21.	Meghalaya	1	1	6	8
22.	Maharashtra	2	2	64	68
23.	Manipur	0	1	5	6
24.	Mizoram	0	1	6	7
25.	Nagaland	0	1	8	9

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Orissa	1	2	27	30
27.	Pondicherry	0	1	2	3
28.	Punjab	1	3	47	51
29.	Rajasthan	1	2	48	51
30.	Sikkim	0	1	3	4
31.	Tamil Nadu	1	1	28	30
32.	Tripura	0	1	8	9
33.	Uttaranchal	0	1	15	16
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	48	50
35.	West Bengal	1	2	30	33
36.	Head Office, DMI, Faridabad	5	0	0	5
Total		27	48	735	810

* SAMB - State Agricultural Marketing Board

* DOM - Directorate of Marketing

Languages Recognised by Sahitya Academy

1830. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include Bhojpuri language in the list of languages recognised by Sahitya Academy like other regional languages; and

(b) if so, by when this language is likely to be included in the list of languages recognised by Sahitya Academy?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Legislation for Maintenance of Pilgrim Centres

1831. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have directed the State Governments to enact a legislation to regulate maintenance of pilgrim centres; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith States which have implemented the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) In order to improve the management and administration of the important places of worship in the pilgrim centres, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture has suggested to the State Govts. to consider enacting suitable legislations on the model of Jammu & Kashmir Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Act, 1988.

A letter has been written to the Chief Ministers of the States to take suitable action in this regard.

National Drought Preparedness Act

1832. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been mooted for bringing forward a National Drought Preparedness Act, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No such proposal is at present under the consideration of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

Extinction of Endangered Dolphins

1833. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether the highly endangered dolphins are facing a serious threat from mechanised boats used by tourists and others;

(b) if so, their latest population indicating comparative figures pertaining to the three earlier censuses; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken to protect and promote this endangered species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) While entanglement in the fishing nets, reduction of habitat and pollution are the major threats to dolphin populations, there are reports of serious adverse impact of mechanized boats used by tourists on dolphins.

(b) Although no systemic population survey for dolphins has been done so far but some population estimates are available. During late 1980s the population of Ganges river dolphin was estimated to be around 3000 to 4000, and, as per a recent survey conducted by World Wide Fund for Nature - India (WWF-India) the population is between 1800 and 2000. Population estimate of Irrawaddy dolphin found in coastal waters of India is available only for Chilika lake in Orissa. While there were about 79 dolphins in Chilika lake in 1998, the present population estimate is around 60 dolphins.

(c) The steps taken to protect and promote dolphins include:

1. All the species of dolphins have been put in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (protection) Act., 1972 thereby providing the highest degree of protection under the law.

2. Protected Area network has been established in the country for conservation of dolphins.

3. Education and awareness programmes have been conducted to promote conservation of dolphins at more than 1000 locations along the riverbanks. Chilika Development Authority has also conducted awareness programmes involving Non Government Organisations (NGOs) for fishermen in Chilika area.

Release of Water to Karnataka from Maharashtra

1834. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Government of Maharashtra to release 2 TMC of water from Koyana river to tide over water crisis in Chikkodi, Royabaga and other places in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to intervene into the matter and help Karnataka to get supply of water as per requirement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. As reported by the Government of Karnataka the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka in his letter dated 31.01.2003 has requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra to release 2 thousand million cubic feet of water every month during the months of February, March, April and May, 2003.

(b) and (c) The Central Government was not received any request in this regard from the Government of Karnataka.

Charter of Demand by Fishermen Community

1835. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fisherman community have submitted a charter of demand to the Government last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether their demands have not been fulfilled;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to redress their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A charter of demands has been received from the Fishermen organisations relating to various problems in carrying out fishing operations. The demands have been examined in consultation with the concerned agencies and appropriate steps have been taken on major issues as stated in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	Demands	Action Taken
1	2	3
1.	Supply of diesel to fishermen	A Fishermen Development Rebate on high speed diesel oil has been proposed in the 10th Five year Plan scheme.
2.	Enhancement of Kerosene quota to traditional fishermen	The fishermen organisation has been asked to furnish state-wise information regarding the additional requirement of kerosene for fishing purpose.
3.	Saving Cum Relief Scheme for fisherwomen	Fisherwomen and inland fishers are already covered in the Saving-cum-Relief component of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Welfare of Fishermen.
4.	Withdraw Aquaculture Authority Bill	Aquaculture Authority Bill, 2000 already introduced in the Rajya Sabha in February, 2000 is to take care of the issue arising from the judgement of Supreme Court relating to coastal aquaculture.
5.	Release of Indian Fishermen and their boats	The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of External Affairs to sort out the problem for early release of fishermen and their boats.
6.	Uniform ban on trawling during monsoon	Ban on trawling during monsoon period has been decided in consultation with the coastal States.
7.	Sea Safety Measures during fishing	Sea safety measures are already in operation under the relevant provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act. The Coast Guard is also assisting fishermen in times of distress.
8.	Check on poaching by foreign fishing vessels	The Indian Coast Guard is entrusted with the responsibility of the guarding our maritime zones and to prevent poaching by foreign fishing vessels.
9.	Import of fish into the country	The present import of fish is very negligible mainly for hotel sector and re-export for value addition.
10.	Development of infrastructure for fishing and post harvest facilities	A scheme is under implementation for construction of fishing harbours, fish landing centres facilities
11.	Lift ban on sharks and rays	Only the selected species of sharks and rays have been banned, which are considered as endangered species.
12.	Implementation of coastal regulation zone (CRZ) per notification removing the impediment for construction of dwelling houses by fishermen people	The CRZ notification has been issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests and the regulations are enforced as the provisions of this Notification.

1	2	3
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- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 13. | Aquatic Reforms in the country | The matter is within the jurisdiction of the State Governments. |
| 14. | Retention of rights of fishermen in Jambu Island (West Bengal) for transient fishing and fish drying. | The matter has been taken up by the Government of West Bengal with the Ministry of Environment & Forests. |

[Translation]

Fodder for Livestock in Drought Affected Areas of Rajasthan

1836. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangements made to make available fodder in drought hit areas of Rajasthan till date in order to protect the livestock alongwith the amount incurred thereon;

(b) whether due to the scarcity of fodder in drought hit areas the cattle breeders have shifted their cattle to other States;

(c) if so, the facilities/assistance provided to these cattle breeders; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to set up cow sheds (Gaushalas) and provide grants in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The following arrangements have been made to make available fodder in drought hit areas of Rajasthan.

- 30,000 MT cattle feed grain have been allotted.
- The Government of Rajasthan has been delegated power under Essential Commodities Act-1955 to regulate the fodder prices and restriction on unauthorized hoarding of fodder in order to make available more fodder to the affected animals.
- All State Governments have been advised to stop burning of straw/stovers so that more fodder may be made available to the Rajasthan.
- The surplus fodder availability in the neighbouring States has been informed to the Rajasthan for its procurement.
- Governments of M.P and U.P have been requested not to impose the ban on the inter State movement of fodder.

(b) Migration of livestock from Rajasthan to other States is a regular phenomenon. However, it accentuates during drought period.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs.11.66 crores have been made available from NCCF to Rajasthan to provide facilities for drought affected cattle in gaushalas.

[English]

Production of Rails by SAIL

1837. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for the production of rails by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) whether the target has been achieved;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the projection made for 2003-2004 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The target set for the production of rails by Bhilai Steel Plant during the year 2001-02 and 2002-03 was 480,000 tonnes and 650,000 tonnes of Ultimate Tensile Strength (UTS-90) rails respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The production of UTS-90 rails during the year 2001-02 was 519,594 tonnes. During the year 2002-03, production of UTS-90 rails (for the period April, 2002 to January, 2003) is 567,782 tonnes as against the target of 542,000 tonnes for this period.

(d) The projection made for production of UTS-90 rails for the year 2003-04 is 650,000 tonnes.

National Action Plan for Development of Tourism

1838. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Action Plan for Tourism envisage a suitable policy for increasing foreign tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings;

(b) if so, whether the target of earning Rs. 10,000 crores foreign exchange by the end of the 20th century has been achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken recently by the Government to promote tourism in the country;

(e) whether the objective of the action plan is to generate employment opportunities; and

(f) if so, the success achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) The National Action Plan formulated in the year 1992 envisaged a suitable policy for increasing foreign tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Department of Tourism, Govt. of India, has formulated new schemes for development and promotion of tourism which include integrated development of tourist circuits, product/infrastructure & destination development, large revenue generating products and capacity building. A series of measures to develop infrastructure with emphasis on integrated circuits, creating cultural and tourism hubs and converging elements of tourism, culture and civic governance have been initiated.

(e) and (f) The current National Tourism Policy seeks to enhance employment potential within the tourism sector and to harness the direct and multiplier effects of tourism for employment generation. As per one estimate, the contribution of tourism in employment, both direct and indirect, is 6%.

Amendment In Relief Code

1839. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have submitted proposal to the Union Government to amend the existing relief code;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the proposals; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Identification of Saraswati River

1840. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any high powered committee of historians and experts to locate the source of origin of Saraswati river and the places it passed through;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the said committee is likely to submit its report to the Government; and

(d) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have constituted an Advisory Committee of experts for the multi-disciplinary study of the Saraswati. The Committee's Charter is to locate the source of the river, define its course, and identify items for geo-technical study and archaeological research.

(c) and (d) The tenure of the Advisory Committee is for two years. As of now, the only expenditure incurred has been on the travel and stay of the Non-Official members. The Committee could submit interim reports any time within the said period of two years.

Development of Babatpur Airport

1841. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop the Babatpur airport at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh;

- (b) if so, the funds allocated for this purpose; and
- (c) by when the runway of the airport is likely to be expanded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plan to develop Babatpur Airport at Varanasi in the State of Uttar Pradesh by way of construction of a New Terminal Building to handle 500 Domestic and 300 International passengers at a time and extending the runway up to 9000 feet for operation of wide bodied aircraft.

(b) Funds allocated for the above purposes is 2.5 crore in Revised Estimates 2002-2003, and Rs.12 crore in Budget Estimates 2003-2004.

(c) For extension of runway, diversion of Babatpur - Mongari Road is to be completed first by the State Government. After diversion of the Road, extension work will be completed in a period of two years.

Scheme to Raise Ground Water Level

1842. SHRI RAM RATI BIND: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in association with his Ministry has decided to implement various schemes to raise the ground water level in various States;

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

(c) the time by which the said schemes are likely to be implemented alongwith funds allocated/released for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources is implementing demonstrative rainwater harvesting and recharge projects in the country under its Central Sector Scheme for 'Study of Recharge to Ground Water'.

(b) and (c) Under this scheme, a total number of 174 projects were approved for implementation in 27 States/Union Territories at a cost of Rs.35.81 crore. State-wise details of the funds allocated under the scheme are given in enclosed statement. The projects are expected to be completed by March, 2004.

Statement

Details of Funds Allocated under the Central Ground Water Board's Scheme on 'Study of Recharge to Ground Water'

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Funds allocated
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54.55
2.	Assam	63.50
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.00
4.	Bihar	10.52
5.	Gujarat	20.05
6.	Haryana	107.17
7.	Himachal Pradesh	81.65
8.	Jharkhand	25.73
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	78.96
10.	Karnataka	43.30
11.	Kerala	88.18
12.	Madhya Pradesh	53.85
13.	Maharashtra	126.63
14.	Meghalaya	20.32
15.	Mizoram	28.00
16.	Nagaland	116.43
17.	Orissa	1473.54
18.	Punjab	361.92
19.	Rajasthan	135.66
20.	Tamil Nadu	176.41
21.	Uttar Pradesh	142.57
22.	Uttaranchal	2.00
23.	West Bengal	156.99

1	2	3
24.	NCT of Delhi	96.07
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	12.92
26.	Lakshadweep	19.85
27.	Chandigarh	64.23
Total		3581.00

[English]

Production of Foodgrains and Fruits in U.P.

1843. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any target for the production of foodgrains and fruits during the Tenth Five Year Plan in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and investments proposed to be made by the Government in this regard in the State; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve this target?

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

Haze of Asian Brown Cloud

1844. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

SHRI Y.V. RAO:

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

(a) whether Global Ministerial Environmental Forum at its recent meeting held in Nairobi have expressed serious concern about haze of Asian Brown Cloud (ABC) hanging over the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly the manner in which the cloud gathered;

(c) whether the ABC adversely affects human health, crop yields and rainfall pattern of the India sub-continent; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (d) The United National Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its recent meeting held in Nairobi discussed the issue of Asian Brown Cloud. The Asian Brown Cloud mentioned in the UNEP study refers to the haze observed in the Indian Ocean Research Experiment (INDOEX). The haze is not only characteristic of the Asian region but is also observed over other parts of the world as well. The haze is not a permanent feature of the atmosphere and occurs only during January - March, the season in which INDOEX observations were made in 1999. Most of the concerns expressed in the UNEP study are not well substantiated by reliable modeling exercises or experimental observations. The impact of haze on climate and weather patterns of the region, on the rainfall and crop yields and on human health is not well founded. The existing legal and policy framework, supported by several initiatives to protect and improve the environment, addresses the concerns of air pollution in the country.

[Translation]

Special Package to Bihar

1845. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide special package to Bihar for the development of Animal Husbandry, Poultry and Fisheries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said package is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government has not provided any special package to Bihar for the development of Animal Husbandry, Poultry and Fisheries. However, the on-going schemes of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying are implemented in the State of Bihar.

(c) Question does not arise.

*[English]***Drawing of Water from Dams by Tamil Nadu**

1846. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that water from dams located near the border of Kerala is drawn by Tamil Nadu in violation of the agreement between the two States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the remedial steps taken in this regard?

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

(a) The Government of Kerala has not reported to the Central Government that water is extracted by Tamil Nadu from the dams located near border of Kerala in violation of agreement between the two States.

(b) Does not arise.

Positioning of Runway Lights

1847. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the positioning of runway lights as per the present ICAO guidelines at Hyderabad have been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on positioning of runway lights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The runway lights comprising of runway edge, threshold and runway end lights for both the circuit of runway 27 and 09 at Hyderabad airport are positioned within 3 metres of edge/end marking. The installed locations of runway lights are in line with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) guidelines.

(c) An amount of Rs.6.81 lakhs was spent on positioning of the runway lights.

Procurement of Chillies

1848. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NAFED had undertaken procurement

of chillies in the recent past in Andhra Pradesh under Market Intervention Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions approved by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. However, the procurement of Chillies was made by the A.P. Markfed under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) during the year 2001.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The copy of the sanction of MIS is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

No. L-15016/8/2000-MPS(Pt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Agri. & Coopn.

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated the 17th April, 2001.

To,

The Managing Director,
National Agricultural Cooperative
Marketing Federation of India
NAFED House,
No.1 Sidhartha Enclave, Near Ashram Chowk,
New Delhi-110014.

Subject: Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for Red Chillies in Andhra Pradesh during 2001 season.

Sir,

I am directed to convey the approval of this Department for Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of Red Chillies in Andhra Pradesh during 2001 season indicated as under:-

(i) The procurement of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of chillies be made at the Market Intervention Price (MIS) of Rs.2400/- per qtl.

(ii) A quantity of 15,000 MTs of chillies will be purchased under MIS by the Central and State designated agencies i.e. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing

- Federation of India (NAFED) and A.P. MARKFED on 50:50 basis.
- (iii) The scheme would be in operation from the 20th March to 15th June, 2001.
- (iv) Overhead Expenses may be kept to the barest minimum 25% of MIP or actual, which ever in less.
- (v) The stocks procured under the scheme will be disposed @ Rs.2100/- per qtl. or the actual ruling market price which ever is higher. Efforts be made to export the stocks to fetch a better price.
- (vi) Chillies under MIS should be purchased from the farmers, farmers Cooperatives and Registered farmers' Organizations.
- (vii) Number of Centres and the areas in the States to be covered under the scheme may be mutually decided between the NAFED and the State designated agency.
- (viii) NAFED may evolve a marketing strategy so as to ensure the best price for the stocks procured under MIS. Efforts to be made to sell directly to consumers, Consumers' Cooperative Outlets and retail outlets of Cooperative Marketing Societies.
- (ix) NAFED may furnish a detailed action plan for purchase, grading and packing, transportation, storage and sale of chillies to cut down avoidable losses in the operations. The profit and loss accounts in respect of each transaction may be furnished.
- (x) Due publicity may be given through the mass media so that farmers in the vicinity are aware of MIS.
- (xi) The losses/profits, if any, incurred on the operation will be shared equally by the Central and State Government.
- (xii) NAFED/State Designated agencies may make arrangements for working capital with the Central/State Governments respectively for undertaking the operations.
- (xiii) The Central/State designated agencies may furnish weekly reports indicating purchases made and the ruling market prices to this Department.
- (xiv) At the end of the operations, the concerned agencies should submit audited accounts for Market Intervention Operation for settlement of accounts. State agency should submit the audited accounts through their State Govt. However, NAFED will submit the accounts directly to this Department.

- (xv) Service charges to NAFED will be paid as per the norms of Cost Accounts Branch (CAB) of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

Sd/-
(J.P.Meena)
Chief Director (Cooperation)

Copy for information and necessary action:

1. Principal Secretary (Cooperation), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
2. The Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
3. The Managing Director, A.P. MARKFED, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
4. Resident Commissioner, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh Bhavan, New Delhi.

Copy also to:

PS to AM/PS to MOS/Secy.(A&C)AS(M)/FA/ESA/Hort.
Commissioner/Joint Secretary (Co-op)

Sd/-
(J.P.Meena)
Chief Director (Cooperation)

Role of Regional Offices of Forest Department

1849. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the role of the Regional Offices of the forest department at Bangalore and other places in the country;
- (b) whether such offices have an active role to play in ensuring forest development;
- (c) if so, the specific role of office of RCCF;
- (d) whether the Government are aware that no positive proposals emanate from such offices; and
- (e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to review the functioning and utility of office of Regional C.C.F.S. of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (e) The Regional Offices of the Ministry primarily monitor and evaluate the ongoing projects with specific emphasis on conservation of forest and follow up action on

the implementation of the conditions and safeguards laid down by Ministry while granting clearance to developmental projects under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980/Environment (Protection) Act 1986. The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests are empowered to decide cases for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes up to the extent of 5 hectares except mining and regularization of encroachment and examine cases involving forest land 5 hectares to 40 hectares in consultation with the State Advisory Group. They have also been delegated power to approve Working Plans of the State Governments.

While application of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 has arrested large scale diversion of forest land, scientific management of forest on sustainable basis as per approved Working Plans will help improve forest cover. The Regional offices are directed to work in accordance with the mandate given to them; however, their workings are reviewed by Ministry from time to time.

National Labour Institute

1850. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Labour Institute undertakes any studies for other departments of the Government;

(b) if so, the details of such studies undertaken in 2002-2003;

(c) the remuneration received as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to reduce funding to the NLI; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken to ensure that NLI becomes financially self-sufficient?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) As per Memorandum of Association & Rules and Regulations of National Labour Institute, the Institute is mandated to collaborate with other institutions, organisations, associations and societies in India and abroad interested in providing education, training, study and research in labour and related subjects. During the year 2002-2003, the Institute has not undertaken any study for other departments of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Keeping in view the recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission, National Labour Institute has created a Corpus Fund out of the savings affected through in-house activities to meet some requirements, which could not be covered under the fund received under Grants-in-aid from the Government. It is expected that this Corpus may be further strengthened in future. More emphasis has been given to organise paid programmes in order to attain self-sufficiency in the coming years.

Development of Tourism in Andhra Pradesh

1851. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop Sagar, Nagarjuna, Bhattiprolu and Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh as Buddhist tourist centres;

(b) if so, whether by developing these places a lot of foreign exchange can be earned; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to develop these tourist spots?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has no proposal to develop Nagarjunasagar (Nagarjunakonda), Bhattiprolu and Amaravati as Buddhist tourist centres. Since these sites are protected by ASI, regular conservation works are being carried out to keep them in presentable condition.

(b) The ASI has already introduced ticket system at two places viz. at Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda levying Rs.5.00 each for Indian visitor and \$ 2 or Rs.100.00 each for foreign visitors.

(c) Does not arise.

National Livestock Policy

1852. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was held in February, 2003 with the State Agriculture Ministers to discuss the National Livestock Policy in the face of challenges of free world trade;

(b) if so, the matter discussed therein;

(c) whether any concrete proposals have been finalised on issues pertaining to animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of unanimity achieved on issues which form part of the World Trade Organisation agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The State Minister's Conference on Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries held on 3rd February, 2003 interalia discussed the draft National Livestock Policy and recommended the need for improving the quality of livestock and livestock products to world standards.

(c) and (d) The Conference interalia focused on enhancing the investment in the animal husbandry sector, genetic improvement of livestock, extension of Animal Health Services, regulation of inter-State transportation of diseased animals, provision of milk and milk products under the mid-day meal programme, promotion of in-land water aquaculture and deep sea fishing.

(e) The Conference expressed concerns about the challenges to Livestock and Fisheries Sectors in the context of World Trade Organisation and recommended for taking necessary measures to protect the interest of farmers.

[Translation]

Allocation in Tourism Sector

1853. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state The budgetary allocation for the development of tourism during 2003-2004, State-wise, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): This would be known after the Budget has been passed.

Payment of Compensation by Bokaro Steel Plant

1854. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the persons displaced due to acquisition of land for Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP);

(b) the number of the displaced persons provided compensation as on February 15, 2003;

(c) the amount deposited by the Management of BSP with the State Government as payment of compensation, till date; and

(d) by when the compensation is likely to be provided to the remaining persons?

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

[English]

Appointment in A.A.I.

1855. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the appointment of superannuated persons to head the Airports Authority of India as reported in the Hindustan Times dated January 10, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor including the number of such officers appointed during the last three years;

(c) whether these appointments have been approved by Appointment Committee of Cabinet; and

(d) if so, the grounds therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Maintenance of National Zoological Parks/Sanctuaries

1856. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) the names of the recognised and non-recognised National Zoological Parks/Sanctuaries/Forest Reserves at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of guidelines issued by Central Zoo Authority for their maintenance and upkeep;

(c) whether some of these parks/sanctuaries/forests reserves are in a poor condition;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government for their proper development and maintenance alongwith fund allocation, if any; and

(f) the details of external financial assistance received for promotion and setting up of National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuaries/Bird Sanctuaries in the country particularly Tamil Nadu during the last three years and thereafter, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) State-wise lists of recognised zoos, derecognised zoos, national parks and sanctuaries are given in the statement-I to IV enclosed.

(b) The maintenance and upkeep of Zoological Parks constitutes the mandate of the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) and is regulated as per the provisions of the Recognition of Zoos Rules, 1992. However, maintenance and upkeep of Sanctuaries/ Forest Reserves does not fall within the purview of the Central Zoo Authority.

(c) to (e) The zoos where the maintenance, upkeep and health care of animals was not satisfactory have been derecognised by the CZA. Further, the CZA has decided to

reconsider cases for re-recognition of such zoos and has requested the state governments to apprise about their present status and to work out a strategy for better maintenance and upkeep of animals in them so that the same could be considered by the CZA for re-recognition.

Maintenance and upkeep of national parks and sanctuaries on day-to-day basis rests with state governments. Central government also provides technical and financial assistance to the states for effective conservation of such areas. The funds provided to the states under various centrally sponsored schemes during the current financial year are given at statement-V enclosed.

(f) No external financial assistance has been received for improvement of the zoos during last three years and thereafter. Regarding external financial assistance received for promotion of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and bird sanctuaries information is being collected from the States.

Statement-I

List of recognized Zoos in the country as on 31.3.2002

S.No.	State	Zoo Name	Location
1	2	3	4
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Mini Zoo, Haddo	Port Blair
2	Andhra Pradesh	Deer Park - Satyam Technology Centre	Ranga Reddy
3		Deer Park, Chittoor Reserve Forest	Chittoor East Division
4		Deer Park, Kesoram Cement	Basant Nagar
5		Deer Park, NFCI Green Belt	Kakinada
6		G.V.K. Industires	Hyderabad
7		Himayat Sagar Mini Zoo	Distt. Ranga Reddy
8		Indira Gandhi Zoological Park	Visakhapatnam
9		Jawahar Lake Tourist Complex	Shamirpet
10		Kinnerasari Deer Park	Kinnerasari
11		Janas Sarovar-Nature Park	Takellapadu, Guntur
12		Mahavir Harina Vanasthali Deer Park	Vanasthalipuram
13		Mrugaya-NI Chilkur Deer Park	Chilkur
14		Nehru Zoological Park	Hyderabad

1	2	3	4
15		Pitalemarri Deer Park	Mahabub Nagar
16		Sakaligattu Deer Park	Nagarjun Sagar
17		Sanghi Deer Park	Sanghinagar
18		Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park	Tiruvoti
19		Vanavigyan Kendra, Hunter Road, Hanamkonda.	Warangal
20		Vijay Vihar Deer Park	Nagarjun Sagar
21	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar Zoological Park	Itanagar
22	Assam	Assam State Zoo Cum Botanical Garden	Guwahati
23	Bihar	Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park	Patna
24	Chhattisgarh	Kanan Pandari	Bilaspur
25		Maitri Baagh Zoo	Bhilai
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Deer Park	Satmaliya
27		Vasona Tiger Safari	Vasona
28	Delhi	Deer Park	Hauz Khas
29		National Zoological Park	Delhi
30	Goa	Bondla Zoo	Usgao
31	Gujarat	Fertilizer Nagar Deer Park	Baroda
32		Indroda Nature Park	Gandhi Nagar
33		Kamla Nehru Zoological Garden	Ahmedabad
34		Nature Park	Surat
35		Rajkot Municipal Corporation Zoo	Rajkot
36		Sakkarbaug Zoo	Junagarh
37		Sayaji Baug Zoo	Vadodara
38		Nature Education Centre	Jamnagar
39		Sundervan Nature Discovery Centre	Ahmedabad
40	Haryana	Deer Park, Hissar	Hissar
41		Mini Zoo, Pipil	Pipil
42		Rohtak Zoo	Rohtak
43	Himachal Pradesh	Dhauladhar Nature Park	Gopalspur

1	2	3	4
44		Himalayan Nature Park (Kufri)	Kufri
45		Pheasantry & Aviary & Musk Deer Form	Sarahan
46		Pheasantry At Chail	Solan
47		Renuke Zoo/Lion Safari	Sirmur
48	Jammu & Kashmir	Manda Mini Zoo	Ramnagar
49		Mansar Mini Zoo	Mansar
50		Srinagar Deer Park Cum Zoo	Srinagar
51	Jharkhand	Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park	Ranchi
52		Birsa Mrig Vihar	Kalamati
53		Chandrapura Deer Park	Chandra Pura
54		Deer Park	Maithon Dam, DVC
55		Jawaharlal Nehru Biological Park	Bokaro
56		Satsang Zoo For Children Education	Deoghar
57		Tata Steel Zoological Park	Jamshedpur
58	Karnataka	Bellary Childrens Park-Cum-Zoo	Bellary
59		Bhutanal Deer Park	Bijapur
60		Children Park & Zoo	Gadag
61		Deer Park, N.M.D.C.Ltd.	Bellary
62		Indira Priyadarshini Sangrahalaya	Aragodu, Davangere Taluk
63		Kittur Rani Cannamma Nisarg Dhama	Bhutramanhatti, Belgaum
64		Kudremukh Mini Zoo	Chickmagalur
65		Mini Zoo A. M. Gudi Balvana	Chitradurga
66		Mini Zoo At Gendekatte	Hassan
67		Mini Zoo Cum Children Park	Gulbarga
68		Namadachilume Deer Park	Tumkur
69		National Park, Bannerghatta Zoological Garden	Bannerghatta
70		Pitlikula Wildlife Safari At Madushedde	Mangalore
71		Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens	Mysore
72		Tiger & Lion Safari, Thyarekoppa	Shimoga

1	2	3	4
73		Tungabhadra Dam Mini Zoo	Bellary
74	Kerala	Hill Palace Zoo, Ernakulam	Thiruvananthapuram
75		Lion Safari Park At Nayyar Dam	Thiruvananthapuram
76		Sri Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash Narayan Smrity Van	Walayar
77		State Museum & Zoo	Thrissur
78		Thiruvananthapuram Zoo	Thiruvananthapuram
79	Madhya Pradesh	Gandhi Zoological Park	Gwalior
80		Kamia Nehru Prani Sanghralalay Zoo	Indore
81		Van Vihar National Park	Bhopal
82	Maharashtra	Aurangabad Municipal Zoo	Aurangabad
83		Maharaja Shahaji Chhatrapati Zoo	Kolhapur
84		Maharajbag Zoo	Nagpur
85		Mahatma Gandhi Rastriva Udyan Zoo	Solapur
86		Nature Park	Karanja
87		Pai Wild Animal Orphanage	Jaigaon
88		Pratapsingh Udyan & Zoo	Sangli
89		Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park And	Pune
90		Sanjay Gandhi National Park	Borivali (East)
91		Snake Park, Shikshan Mandal	Kolhapur
92		Somnath Prakaipa Zoo	Chandra Pur
93		Vasant Smruti Mrig Vihari Umarsara	Yeotmal
94		Veer mata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan & Zoo	Mumbai
95		Nisargakavi Bahinabai Choudhary Pranisangahalay	Pune Pimpri
96	Manipur	Manipur Zoological Garden	Imphal
97	Meghalaya	Lady Hydari Park, Animal Land	Shillong
98	Mizoram	Aizawl Zoo	Aizawl
99		Deer Park, Thenzawl	Thenzawi
100	Nagaland	Zoological Park, Kohima	Kohima
101	Orissa	Gandhamardan Deer Park	Balangir

1	2	3	4
102		Gharial Research & Conservation Unit	Tikarpara
103		H.A.L. Deer Park, Koraput	Sunabeda
104		Indira Gandhi Park Zoo & Deer Park	Rourkela
105		Kapilash Zoo	Dhenkanal
106		Kuanria Deer Park Nayagarh Forest Division	Nayagarh
107		Motijharan Deer Park	Sambalpur
108		Nandankanan Biological Park	Bhubaneswar
109	Punjab	Deer Park, Bir Moti Bagh	Patiala
110		Deer Park, Bir Talab	Bhatinda
111		Deer Park, Neelon	Ludhiana
112		Mahendra Chaudhury Zoological Park	Chhatbir
113		Tiger Safari	Ludhiana
114	Rajasthan	Bikaner Zoo	Bikaner
115		Deer Park, Shri Goverdhan Trust	Udaipur
116		Jaipur Zoo	Jaipur
117		Jodhpur Zoo	Jodhpur
118		Panchwati Deer Park	Pilani
119		Safari Park, Haridasji-Ki-Magri	Udaipur
120		Udaipur Zoo	Udaipur
121	Sikkim	Himalayan Zoological Park, Bulbuley	Gangtok
122		Rustomji Deer Park	Gangtok
123	Tamil Nadu	Amirdhi Zoo	Vellore
124		Arignar Anna Zoological Park	Vandalur
125		Chennai Snake Park Trust	Guindy
126		Children's Corner	Guindy
127		Crocodile Rearing Centre	Amaravathi Nagar
128		Deer Park, Udhagai, Nilgiris	Ooty
129		Gangakondan Deer Park, Nelliai	Kattabomman
130		Hogainakkal Mini Zoo	Dharmapuri

1	2	3	4
131		Kurumbapatti Zoological Park	Salem
132		Madras Crocodile Bank Trust/centre For Herpetology	Mahabalipuram
133		Shivganga Garden Mini Zoo	Thanjavur
134		V.O.C. Park Mini Zoo	Coimbatore
135		VOC Park Mini Zoo, Erode	Madras
136	Tripura	Sepahijala Zoological Park	Sepahijala
137	Uttar Pradesh	Aranaya Vihar, Walipura	Buland Shahar
138		Ban Devi Recreation Park	Mau
139		Cheetal Park, Khatoli	Muzaffar Nagar
140		Deer Park	Moradabad
141		Deer Park - Kukrail	Kukrail
142		Deer Park, Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Sunbhadra
143		Gharial Rehabilitation Centre	Kukrail
144		Indira Manoranjan Van (Deer Park), Mehewa	Lakhimpur Kheri
145		Kanpur Zoological Park	Kanpur
146		Lucknow Prani Udyan	Lucknow
147		Nawabganj Deer Park	Unnao
148		Sarnath Deer Park	Varanasi
149		Triveni Environment Park, Allahabad	Allahabad
150		Van Prani Udyan, I.V.R.I.	Bareilly
151		Vinod Van Mini Zoo, Ramgarh	Gorakhpur
152		Deer Park At IFFCO, Bareilly	Bareilly
153	Uttaranchal	Deer Park, Narain Tewari Dewal	Almora
154		Malsi Deer Park	Dehradun
155		Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant High Altitude Zoo	Nainital
156		Rampur Mandi Deer Park & Aviary	Kalsi
157	West Bengal	Alipore Zoological Garden	Calcutta
158		Calcutta Snake Park, Zoological Garden	Badu
159		Deer Park(Mini Zoo)	Jhargram

1	2	3	4
160		Deer Park Dow Hill	Kurseong
161		Kumari Kangsabuti Deer Park, Bonpakuria	Bankura
162		Life Science Corner, Bidhan Nagar	Burdwan
163		Marble Palace Zoo	Calcutta
164		Mini Zoo Science City	Caluctta
165		Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park	Darjeeling
166		West Bengal Snake Park & Laboratory, Badu	24-Parganas North

Statement-II*List of Zoo not recognized as on 31.3.2002*

S.No	State	Zoo Name	Location
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	Deer Park, Municipal Park	Rajahmundry
2		Deer Park, Tirumala Hills	Chittoor
3		Himabindu Deer Park (Pullaiah Deer Park)	Kurnool
4		Sabari Mini Zoo, Prathipadu	Minerva Nagar
5	Arunachal Pradesh	Miao Mini Zoo	Miao
6		Mini Zoo	Roing
7	Bihar	Chitrakoot (Runkun Vihar) Park, Paharpur	Gaya
8		Jaiprakash Udyan	Bhagalpur Town
9	Chhattisgarh	Indira Udyan	Bilaspur
10	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Khanvel Deer Park	Silvassa
11		Mini Zoo Silvassa	Khanvel
12	Daman & Diu	Deer Park	Diu
13	Delhi	Deer Park	Dilshad Garden
14			Jhilmil
13	Gujarat	Balbhavan Zoo	Rajkot
16	Himachal Pradesh	Mini Zoo, Kalapul	Dharmasalla
17		Nehru Pheasantry	Manali
18		Rewalsar Wildlife Zoo	Mandi
19	Jharkhand	Mugger Breeding Centre	Muta

1	2	3	4
20	Karnataka	Antharagange Children Park	Kolar
21		Childrens Mini Zoo	Dharwad
22		Children's Park Sirsi Division	Sirsi
23		Deer Park At Haliyal Town	Uttar Kannada District
24		Deer Park At Shri Kshetra Sogal	Soundatti
25		Kaiwara Tapowana Chintamani Talluk	Kolar
26		Karadigudda Deer Park	Karjagi
27		Kempambudi Deer Park	Bangalore
28		Kempegowda Vanadhana, Savanadurga,	Magadi Taluk
29		Mini Deer Park	Chickmaglur
30		Mini Zoo At Induval Nature Park (Prakruti Vana)	Mandya
31		Mini Zoo At Kondajji Deer Park	Chitradurga
32		Mini Zoo At Minakanagurkai	Kolar
33		Nature Park	Raichur
34		Sorakavalahalli Children & Deer Park	Kolar
35	Kerala	Crocodile Farm	Calicut
36		Crocodile Farm At Nayyar Dam	Thirunvanthapuram
37		Deer Park At Calicut	Calicut
38		Deer Park, Ponmudi	Thirunvanthapuram
39		Mini Zoo	Kodanadu
40		Parassinikkadavu Snake Park	Kannur
41	Madhya Pradesh	Gharial Rearing Centre, Deori	Morena
42		Katayghat Soormya At Katni	Katni
43		Mrignayani Deer Park	Panchmarhi
44		Nandan Van	Raipur
45		S.F.R.I. Zoo	Jabalpur
46		Vikram Vatika, M.C. Ujjain	Ujjain
47	Maharashtra	Amita Zoo & Breeding Farm	Bombay
48		Arnte's Animal Park & Orphanage Cum Rescue Home	Gadchiroli, Allapalli

1	2	3	4
49		Aviculture And Captive Breeding	Thane
50		Esselworld Snake Park	Worli, Mumbai
51		Suryavan Zoo	Raigad
52		Tikuji-Ni-Wadi Zoo	Thane
53	Meghalava	Ram Krishan Zoo	Shilong
54		Tura Zoo	Akhongini Tura
55	Orissa	Chilka Deer Park Puri	Puri
56		Deer Park, Papadahandi	Nawarangpur
57		Harishankar Deer Park	Balangir
58		Municipality Deer Park	Cuttack
59		Panthanivas Deer Park, Chandipur	Balasore
60		Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar	Bhubaneswar
61		Taptapani Deer Park	Parlakhemundi
62		Tribal Museum	Koraput
63		Deer Park, Berhampur University	Berhampur
64	Rajasthan	Kota Zoo	Kota
65		Mrig Van	Chittorgarh
66	Tamil Nadu	Manjunatha Mini Zoo (Mobile), Nesapakkam	Madras
67		Mini Zoo	Courtallam
68	Uttar Pradesh	Cheetal Grand Motels Pvt Ltd.	Muzaffar Nagar
69		Deer Park. Air Force	Memaura
70		Indira Park	Bijnor
71		Katerniaghat Gharial Rehabilitation Centre	Bahraich
72		Laxman Pahari Mrig Vihar. (Deer Park)	Banda
73		Little Scholars Academy, Amroha	Amroha
74		Mini Zoo & Breeding Farm	Meerut Cantt
75		Van Chetna Kendra	Agra
76		Van Chetna Kendra, Kumarganj	Faizabad
77		Van Chetna Kendra, Vrindavan	Mathura

1	2	3	4
78		Van Vihar	Jaunpur
79	Uttaranchal	Van Chetna Kendra, Brook Land Estate	Mussoorie
80		Vanya Janti Vihar, Dak Pathar	Dehradun
81	West Bengal	Bellilius Park	Howrah
82		Chitra Touring, J.N. Sarkar Street	Calcutta
83		Corporation Park, Jogmaya	Howrah
84		Deer Park, Belari Sri Ram Krishna Ashram	Howrah
85		Garchumuk (Ulughata) Deer Park	Ulughata
86		Garmandaran Hooghly Zila Parishad	Hooghly
87		Krishna Sayer Park Snake Park	Burdwan
88		Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Student Home	Narendrapur
89		Rapheal Academic & Vocational School, Darjeeling	Darjeeling
90		Snake Park Reptile, Research & Snake Bit Treatment	Digha Midnapore

Statement-III*List of National Parks***Andaman**

- 1 Campbell Bay
- 2 Gallathea
- 3 Mahatma Gandhi Marine
- 4 Middle Button
- 5 Mount Harriet
- 6 North Button
- 7 Rani Jhansi Marine
- 8 Saddle Peak
- 9 South Button

Andhra Pradesh

- 10 Kasu Brahma Reddy
- 11 Mahavir Harina Vanasthali
- 12 Mrugavani
- 13 Sri Venkateshwara

Arunachal Pradesh

- 14 Mouling
- 15 Namdapha Tiger Reserve

Assam

- 16 Kariranga
- I Addition
- II Addition
- III Addition
- IV Addition
- V Addition
- VI Addition
- 17 Manas (Tiger Reserve)
- 18 Nameri
- 19 Dibru Saikhowa
- 20 Orang
- Bihar**
- 21 Valmiki Tiger Reserve

Chhattisgarh

22 Indravati (Tiger Reserve)

23 Kanger Valley

24 Guru Ghassidas

Goa

25 Bhagwan Mahavir

Gujarat

26 Gir

27 Marine

28 Vansda

29 Velavadar

Haryana

30 Sultanpur

Himachal Pradesh

31 Great Himalayan

32 Pin Valley

Jammu & Kashmir

33 City Forest

34 Dachigam

35 Hemis High Altitude

36 Kishtwar

Jharkhand

37 Betla (Palamau)

Karnataka

38 Anshi

39 Bandipur (Tiger Reserve)

40 Bannerghatta

41 Kudremukh

42 Nagarhole

Kerala

43 Eravikulam

44 Periyar (Tiger Reserve)

45 Silent Valley

Madhya Pradesh

46 Bandhavgarh

47 Fossil

48 Kanha Tiger Reserve

49 Madhav

50 Panna

51 Pench

52 Satpura

53 Van Vihar

54 Sanjay

Maharashtra

55 Gugamal (Tiger Reserve)

56 Navegaon

57 Pench

58 Sanjay Gandhi

59 Tadoba (TR)

Manipur

60 Keibul Lamjao

Meghalaya

61 Balphakram

62 Nokrek

Mizoram

63 Blue Mountain (Phawngpui)

64 Murlen

Nagaland

65 Intanki

Orissa

66 North Similimpal (Tiger Reserve)

67 Bhitarkanika

Rajasthan

68 Sariska Tiger Reserve

69 Ranthambhore

70	Keoladeo NP	6	Benette
71	Desert National Park	7	Bingham
Sikkim		8	Bliter
72	Khangchendzonga	9	Bluff
Tamil Nadu		10	Bondovile
73	Guindy	11	Brush
74	Indira Gandhi	12	Buchanan
75	Gulf of Mannar Marine	13	Channel
76	Mudumalai	14	Cinque
77	Mukurthi	15	Cithbert Bay
Uttar Pradesh		16	Clyde
78	Dudhwa Tiger Reserve	17	Cone
Uttaranchal		18	Curlew
79	Corbett Tiger Reserve	19	Curlew (B.P)
80	Gangotri	20	Defence
81	Nanda Devi	21	Dot
82	Valley of Flowers	22	Dottrel
83	Rajaji	23	Duncan
84	Govind Pashu Vihar	24	East
West Bengal		25	East of Inglis
85	Neora Valley	26	Egg
86	Singalila	27	Elat
87	Sunderbans (TR)	28	Enterance
88	Buxa (TR)	29	Galathea Bay
89	Gurumara	30	Gander
Statement-IV		31	Goose
<i>List of Wildlife Sanctuaries</i>		32	Gurjan
Andaman		33	Hump
1	Arial	34	Interview
2	Bambo	35	James
3	Barren	36	Jungle
4	Battimalve	37	Kwangtung
5	Belle	38	Kyd

39	Landfall	72	Sir Huge Rose
40	Latouche	73	Sister
41	Lohabarrack crocodile sanc.	74	Snake
42	Mangrove	75	Snake
43	Mask/Bask?	76	Snake
44	Mayo	77	South Brother
45	Megapode	78	South Reef
46	Montgomery	79	South Sentinal
47	Narcondum	80	Spike
48	North	81	Spike
49	North Brother	82	Stoat
50	North Reef	83	Surat
51	Oliver	84	Swamp
52	Orchid	85	Table (Delgrano)
53	Ox	86	Table (Excelsior)
54	Oyster	87	Talabaicha
55	Oyster	88	Temple
56	Paget	89	Tillenchong
57	Parkinson	90	Tree
58	Passage	91	Trilby
59	Patric	92	Turf
60	Peacock	93	Turtle
61	Pitman	94	West
62	Point	95	Wharf
63	Potanma	96	White Cliff
64	Ranger		Andhra Pradesh
65	Reef	1	Coringa
66	Roper	2	Eturnagaram
67	Rose	3	Gundla Brahameshwa
68	Rowe	4	Kaundinya
69	Sandy	5	Kawal
70	Sea Serpent	6	Kinnersani
71	Shearme	7	Kolleru

- 8 Krishna
- 9 Lanjamadugu
- 10 Manjira
- 11 Naqarjunasagar
- 12 Nelapattu
- 13 Pakhal
- 14 Papikonda
- 15 Pocharam
- 16 Pranahita
- 17 Pulicat
- 18 Rollapadu
- 19 Sri Lankamalleswara
- 20 Sri Penusila Narsimha
- 21 Sri Venkateswara
- 22 Kambalakonda

Arunachal Pradesh

- 1 Dibang
- 2 Eagle Nest
- 3 Itanagar
- 4 Kamlang
- 5 Kane
- 6 Lali (D'ering)
- 7 Mehao
- 8 Pakhui
- 9 Sessa Orchid
- 10 Tale valley
- 11 Yordi Supse Rabse

Assam

- 1 Barnadi
- 2 Barodebum Beelmukh
- 3 Burachapori
- 4 Chakrashila
- 5 Deepar Beel

- 6 Garampani
- 7 Gibbon
- 8 Laokhowa
- 9 Pabitora
- 10 Padumani Bergen Borajan
- 11 Panidihing
- 12 Sonai Rupa
- 13 East Karbi Anglong
- 14 Karbi Anglong
- 15 Nambor

Bihar

- 1 Bareila Jheel Bird Sanctuary
- 2 Bhimbandh
- 3 Gautam Budha
- 4 Kaimur
- 5 Kanwar Lake
- 6 Nagi Dam
- 7 Nakti Dam
- 8 Rajgir
- 9 Udaipur
- 10 Valmiki (TR)
- 11 Vikramsila Gangetic Dolphin

Chandigarh

- 1 Chandigarh city Bird
- 2 Sukha

Chhattisgarh

- 1 Achanakmar
- 2 Badalkhol
- 3 Barnawapara
- 4 Bhairamgarh
- 5 Gomarda
- 6 Pamed
- 7 Semarsot
- 8 Sitnadi

- 9 Tamor Pingla
10 Udanti Wild Buffalo

Daman & Diu

- 1 Fudam

Dadra Nagar Haveli

- 1 Dadra Nagar Haveli WLS

Delhi

- 1 Bhatti
2 Indira Priyadarshini

Goa

- 1 Bhagvan Mahavir
2 Bondla
3 Chorao (Dr Salim Ali)
4 Cotigao
5 Madie
6 Netravealli

Gujarat

- 1 Balaram Ambaji
2 Barda
3 Dhumkhal (Shoolpaneshwar)
4 Gaga (GIB)
5 Gir
6 Hingolghadh
7 Jambughoda
8 Jessore
9 Kachch Desert
10 Khijadiya
11 Kutch Bustard
12 Marine
13 Nalsarovar
14 Narayan Sarovar
15 Paniya
16 Porbandar

- 17 Purna
18 Rampura
19 Ratanmahal
20 Thol
21 Wild Ass

Haryana

- 1 Abubsher
2 Bhindwas
3 Bir Baraban
4 Bir Shikargarh
5 Chhilchhila
6 Kalesar
7 Khaparwas
8 Nahar
9 Saraswati

Himachal Pradesh

- 1 Bandli
2 Chail
3 Churdhar
4 Daranghati I & II
5 Darlaghat
6 Dhauladhar Sanctuary
7 Gamgul Siya-Behi
8 Gobindsagar
9 Kalatop & Khajjar
10 Kanawar
11 Kias
12 Kibber
13 Kugti
14 Lippa Asrang
15 Majathal Hasarang
16 Manali
17 Nainadevi

- 18 Nargu
 19 Pong Dam Lake
 20 Raksham Chitkul (Sai)
 21 Renuka
 22 Rupi Bhaba
 23 Sachu Tuan Nala
 24 Sainj
 25 Shikari Devi
 26 Shilli
 27 Shokhan
 28 Simbalbara
 29 Simla Water Catchme
 30 Talra
 31 Tirthan
 32 Tundah

Jammu & Kashmir

- 1 Baltal (Thajwas)
 2 Changthang
 3 Gulmarg
 4 Hirapora
 5 Hokersar
 6 Jasrota
 7 Karakoram
 8 Thajwas
 9 Lachipora
 10 Limber
 11 Nandani
 12 Overa
 13 Overa-Aru
 14 Surinsar Mansar
 15 Tirkuta

- 16 Ramnagar Rakha

Jharkhand

- 1 Dalma
 2 Hazaribagh
 3 Koderma
 4 Lawalong
 5 Mahuadandanar
 6 Palamau (Betla)
 7 Palkot
 8 Parasnath
 9 Topchachi
 10 Udhwa

Karnataka

- 1 Adichunchunagiri
 2 Arabithittu
 3 Attiveri
 4 Bhadra
 5 Biligiri Ranga Swamy Temple
 6 Brahmagiri
 7 Cauvery
 8 Dandeli
 9 Doraji Bear Sanctuary
 10 Ghataprabha
 11 Gudavi
 12 Melkote Temple
 13 Mookambika
 14 Nugu
 15 Pushapagiri
 16 Ranebennur
 17 Ranganthittu
 18 Sharavathi Valley
 19 Shettihally
 20 Someshwara

21 Talakaveri

Kerala

1 Aralam

2 Chimmony

3 Chinar

4 Idukki

5 Neyyar

6 Parambikulam

7 Peechi Vazhani

8 Peppara

9 Periyar (TR)

10 Shenduruny

11 Thattekad

12 Wayanad

Maharashtra

1 Ambabarwa

2 Andheri

3 Aner Dam

4 Bhamragad

5 Bhimashankar

6 Bar

7 Chandoli

8 Chaprala

9 Deulgaon Rehekari

10 Dhyanganga

11 Gautala Autramghat

12 Great Indian Bustard (Nanag)

13 Jayakwadi

14 Kaisubai Harish Chandragarh

15 Karnala

16 Katepuura

17 Koyna

18 Malvan (Marine)

19 Mayureshwarsupe

20 Melghat (TR)

21 Nagzira

22 Naigaon Mayur WLS

23 Nandur Madmeshwar

24 Narnala

25 Painganga

26 Phansad

27 Radhanagari

28 Sagarashwar

29 Tansa

30 Tippeshwar

31 Wan

32 Yawal

33 Yedshi Ramalinghat

Madhya Pradesh

1 Bagdara

2 Bori

3 Fen

4 Gandhi Sagar

5 Gangau

6 Ghatigaon GIB

7 Karera GIB

8 Ken gharial

9 Kheoni

10 Narsingarh

11 National Chambal

12 Neoradehi

13 Orchha

14 Pachmarhi

15 Palpur (Kuno)

16 Panpatha

17 Pench

- 18 Ralamandal
- 19 Ratapani
- 20 Sailana
- 21 Sanjay Dubri
- 22 Sardarpur
- 23 Singhori
- 24 Son gharial
- 25 Veerangana

Manipur

- 1 Bunning
- 2 Jiri Mafru
- 3 Kaihlam
- 4 Yangoupokpi Lokchao
- 5 Zeilad

Meghalaya

- 1 Baghmara
- 2 Nongkhyllam
- 3 Sijju

Mizoram

- 1 Dampa (TR)
- 2 Khawnglung
- 3 Lengteng
- 4 Ngenpui
- 5 Tawi
- 6 Thorangtlang

Nagaland

- 1 Fakim
- 2 Puliebadze
- 3 Rangapahar

Orissa

- 1 Baisipalli
- 2 Balukhand-Konark
- 3 Bhitarkanika

- 4 Chandka-Dampara
- 5 Chilka
- 6 Debrigarh
- 7 Gahirmatha Marine
- 8 Hadgarh
- 9 Karlapat
- 10 Khalasuni
- 11 Kotgarh
- 12 Kuldiha
- 13 Lakhari Valley
- 14 Nandankanan
- 15 Satkosia Gorge
- 16 Simlipal
- 17 Sunabeda
- 18 Ushakothi (Badrama)

Punjab

- 1 Abohar
- 2 Bir Aishwan
- 3 Bir Bhadson
- 4 Bir Bunerheri
- 5 Bir Dosanjh
- 6 Bir Gurdialpura
- 7 Bir Maheshwala
- 8 Bir Motibag
- 9 Harike Lake
- 10 Takhani Rehampur

Rajasthan

- 1 Bandha Baretha
- 2 Bassi
- 3 Bhensroadgarh
- 4 Darra
- 5 Jaisamand
- 6 Jamwa Ramgarh

- 7 Jawahar Sagar
- 8 Keladevi
- 9 Kesarbagh
- 10 Kumbhalgarh
- 11 Mt. Abu
- 12 Nahargarh
- 13 National Chambal
- 14 Phulwar-Ki-Nal
- 15 Ramgarh Visdhari
- 16 Ramsagar
- 17 Sajjangarh
- 18 Sanska (TR)
- 19 Sawai Mansingh
- 20 Shergarh
- 21 Sita Mata
- 22 Tal Chappar
- 23 Todgarh Rawli
- 24 Van Vihar

Sikkim

- 1 Barsey (Rhododendron)
- 2 Fambungla
- 3 Kyongnosla Alpine
- 4 Maenam
- 5 Shingba (Rhododendron)
- 6 Pangolakha

Tamil Nadu

- 1 Anamalai (Indira Gandhi)
- 2 Chitrangudi
- 3 Kalakad Tiger Reserve
- 4 Kanjirankulam
- 5 Karaivetti
- 6 Kankili
- 7 Koonthankulam/Kandankulam

- 8 Melasanuvannoor-Kilaselvanoor
- 9 Mudumalai
- 10 Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve
- 11 Point Calimere
- 12 Pulicat Bird
- 13 Snvilliputhur Grizzeld Squirrel
- 14 Udayamarthandapuram
- 15 Vaduvor
- 16 Vallanadu Black buck
- 17 Vedanthangal Bird
- 18 Vellode Bird WLS
- 19 Vettangudi
- 20 Vettangudipatti

Tripura

- 1 Gumti
- 2 Roa
- 3 Sepahijala
- 4 Trishna

Uttar Pradesh

- 1 Bakhira
- 2 Chandra Prabha
- 3 Hastinapur
- 4 Kaimur
- 5 Katerniaghat
- 6 Kishanpur
- 7 Lakh Bahosi
- 8 Mahavir Swami
- 9 National Chambal
- 10 Nawabganj
- 11 Okhla
- 12 Parvatiarga
- 13 Patna
- 14 Ranipur

Statement-V*Details of Fund Released to States/UTs during 2002-03
under Centrally Sponsored Schemes*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

	S.No.	State/UTs'	Funds released during Current Financial Year		
			Development of NP/WLS	Project Elephant	Project Tiger
	1	2	3	4	5
15 Saman					
16 Samaspur					
17 Sandi					
18 Sohagibarwa					
19 Sohelwa					
20 Surahatal					
21 Sursarovar					
22 Turtle					
23 Vijay Sagar					
Uttaranchal					
1 Askot	1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	20.75	NA	NA
2 Binsar	2.	Andhra Pradesh	82.72	50.00	21.10
3 Govind Pashu Vihar	3.	Arunachal Pradesh	97.69	35.00	35.875
4 Kedarnath	4.	Assam	133.25	108.00	65.70
5 Mussoorie	5.	Bihar	00	NA	25.00
6 Sonanadi	6.	Chandigarh	14.00	NA	NA
West Bengal					
1 Ballavpur	7.	Chhattisgarh	74.05	NA	32.48
2 Bethuadahari	8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	15.25	NA	NA
3 Buxa (Tiger Reserve)	9.	Gujarat	67.07	NA	NA
4 Chapramari	10.	Haryana	18.75	NA	NA
5 Halliday	11.	Himachal Pradesh	91.30	NA	NA
6 Jaldapara	12.	Jammu & Kashmir	99.90	NA	NA
7 Jorepokhri	13.	Jharkhand	29.89	4	18.00
8 Lothian Island	14.	Karnataka	515.83	80.00	175.705
9 Mahananda	15.	Kerala	147.55	111.88	63.75
10 Narendrapur	16.	Madhya Pradesh	191.13	NA	637.798
11 Bibhutibhushan (Parmadan)	17.	Maharashtra	168.20	NA	404.287
12 Raiganj	18.	Manipur	64.50	00	NA
13 Ramnabagan	19.	Meghalaya	40.25	41.00	NA
14 Sajnakhali	20.	Mizoram	208.20	00	98.32
15 Senchal	21.	Nagaland	107.84	49.00	NA
	22.	Orissa	78.45	98.928	32.88

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Rajasthan	229.48	NA	294.92
24.	Sikkim	116.45	NA	NA
25.	Tamil Nadu	136.11	71.20	125.00
26.	Tripura	89.89	3.00	NA
27.	Uttar Pradesh	131.31	NA	32.75
28.	Uttaranchal	76.79	82.00	168.00
29.	West Bengal	161.46	86.47	168.33
Total		3208.06	861.478	2399.895

Pending Development Projects

1857. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
 SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI:
 PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
 SHRI R.L. JALAPPA:

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

(a) the details of different developmental project/schemes relating to E&F sector cleared/started by the Government during each of the last three years as well as current year, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the funds allocated/released alongwith the extent of their utilization, State-wise and project-wise;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of these projects/schemes;

(d) if so, the achievements made in this regard, project/scheme-wise;

(e) the details of proposal/projects received in this regard and pending with the Government for Environment and Forestry clearance alongwith the reasons for their pendency indicating the year since when these are pending, State-wise;

(f) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared;

(g) whether Hon'ble Supreme Court has delivered its verdict in regard to implementation of Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 by State Governments; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) A total of 473 developmental projects in the sectors of Industry, Thermal Power, Mining, River Valley & hydroelectric and Infrastructure projects were accorded environmental clearance during the last three years and the current year under the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification of January, 1994. The year-wise and state-wise break-up of the number of approved proposals is given in the statement-I enclosed.

More than 350 major proposals, i.e. those involving diversion of more than 20 ha. of forest land, were received for forestry clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the last three years. Of these 194 proposals were cleared, 14 were rejected, 6 were rejected for want of information, 23 were returned/withdrawn by states, 33 presently under consideration of the Ministry and for 81 proposals details have been sought from the States. State-wise status of the proposals received for forestry clearance during the last three years is annexed.

(b) to (d) Projects accorded environmental and/or forestry clearances are implemented by the respective project proponents who also arrange for necessary funds. Conditions stipulated by the Ministry while according environmental/forestry clearances are monitored by the Regional Offices of the Ministry.

(e) Presently 138 proposals are awaiting environmental clearance mainly due to non-submission of complete information. State-wise break-up of number of pending proposals as on 24th February 2003 is also given in statement-II and III enclosed. 33 major proposals are presently under consideration for forestry clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(f) Usually, decision on project proposals is taken within 90 days of receipt of complete information.

(g) and (h) The Hon'ble Supreme Court have issued orders from time to time regarding implementation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 which mainly relate to compensatory afforestation, ban on regularization of encroachments on forest land, ban on de-reservation of National Parks/sanctuaries without the permission of the Court, etc.

Statement-I

State-wise number of projects accorded environmental clearance during last three years and current year

A. Environmental clearance

S. No.	State	2000	2001	2002	2003 (upto 24th Feb. 2003)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	16	18	4
2.	Assam			1	
3.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2	1	3	
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	1		
5.	Bihar	3	4		
6.	Chhattisgarh		4	6	
7.	Delhi	1		1	
8.	Goa	4	6		
9.	Gujarat	17	9	8	2
10.	Haryana	2	4	3	1
11.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2	3	
12.	Jharkhand			1	
13.	Karnataka	10	10	9	2
14.	Kerala	3	7		1
15.	Lakshadweep			1	
16.	Madhya Pradesh	3	1	5	1
17.	Maharashtra	15	19	27	4
18.	Meghalaya		2		
19.	Mizoram		2		
20.	Orissa	2	4	7	
21.	Pondicherry		1		
22.	Punjab	4	2	5	
23.	Rajasthan	7	5	10	

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Tamil Nadu	22	31	36	16
25.	Tripura		1		
26.	Uttar Pradesh	9	8		
27.	Uttaranchal	2	1		
28.	West Bengal	2	2	5	1
29.	Others	7	3	6	1
	Total	139	146	155	33

Statement-II

Status of various proposals involving diversion of more than 20 ha. of forest land received for forestry clearance during 2000-2002. (as on 31.1.2003)

S No.	State	No. of Proposals received	Sanctioned	Rejected	Rejected for want of information	Returned/withdrawn by State	Under Consideration of Ministry	Details sought from the States
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Assam	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	21	18	1	0	0	0	2
3	Andhra Pradesh	18	10	1	0	2	2	3
4	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4	1	1	0	0	0	2
5	Bihar	4	3	0	0	1	0	0
6.	Chandigarh	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	28	6	0	0	1	2	19
8.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Goa	14	0	0	0	0	0	14
11.	Gujarat	7	3	0	0	2	2	0
12	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Himachal Pradesh	11	6	0	0	1	1	3
14.	Jharkhand	12	7	0	1	0	1	3
15	Karnataka	28	18	1	1	1	5	2
16	Kerala	6	1	0	1	0	1	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
17.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Meghalaya	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Madhya Pradesh	27	12	1	0	1	8	5
20.	Maharashtra	68	42	3	0	4	5	14
21.	Mizoram	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Punjab	5	0	0	0	0	0	2
23.	Orissa	28	19	1	2	3	1	2
24.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Rajasthan	13	6	1	0	1	3	2
26.	Tamil Nadu	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
27.	Tripura	14	11	2	1	0	0	0
28.	Uttar Pradesh	13	10	1	0	1	1	0
29.	Uttaranchal	23	15	0	0	5	0	3
30.	West Bengal	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total		354	194	14	6	23	33	61

Statement-III

Statement-III			1	2	3
<i>State-wise number of projects awaiting environmental clearance as on 24th February 2003</i>			9	Gujarat	27
			10	Haryana	2
			11	Himachal Pradesh	
			12	Jammu & Kashmir	1
			13	Jharkhand	1
			14	Karnataka	9
			15	Kerala	3
			16	Lakshadweep	1
			17	Madhya Pradesh	2
			18	Maharashtra	25
			19	Manipur	
			20	Meghalaya	

S.No.	State	Number of Proposals awaiting Environmental Clearance
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	19
2	Assam	1
3	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3
4	Arunachal Pradesh	1
5	Bihar	
6	Chhattisgarh	4
7	Delhi	1
8	Goa	1

1	2	3
21	Mizoram	
22	Orissa	2
23	Pondicherry	1
24	Punjab	
25	Rajasthan	4
26	Sikkim	
27	Tamil Nadu	16
28	Tripura	
29	Uttar Pradesh	5
30	Uttaranchal	
31	West Bengal	6
32	Others	3
Total		138

[English]

Acute Price Fluctuations in Aquaculture

1858. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that aquaculture is reeling under acute price fluctuations thereby causing serious losses to the fishermen;

(b) if so, whether Marine Produce Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and Department of Fisheries are unable to protect the fishermen; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard aquaculture in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There is no report of any acute price fluctuations in aquaculture causing serious losses. However, processed shrimp was facing price fluctuation in the international market.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has taken market promotional efforts to get better prices for our seafood products in the international market. Steps taken to safeguard aquaculture in the country

by the Government include reducing the import duty on artemia cyst, package of training and inputs to aqua farmers on sustainable farming practices, distribution of water testing kits, setting up of disease diagnostic laboratories, mobile laboratories and product testing facilities for detecting anti-biotic residue.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts under SC/ST Category

1859. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some posts of SCs/STs under various categories/ grades are lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various categories of the employees working in these departments and undertakings under his Ministry have been given promotion and fresh recruitment have also been made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details of fresh recruitments made under various categories during the said period and so far in the current year, year-wise and category-wise;

(e) whether the prescribed rules have been allowed with regard to the recruitment and promotion of persons belonging to SC/ST categories; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM) : (a) to (f) Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries came into existence on 1.9.2001. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is the cadre controlling authority in respect of staff in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries, and as such all Promotions and recruitments under various categories/grades are made as a whole and not specifically for the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries. There is no attached/subordinate office and any Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries.

[English]

Winter Sports Complex

1860. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tourism during winter in Kashmir has not picked up due to terrorist activities;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have drawn up any plans to set up winter sports complexes in other parts of the country to promote tourism;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) As per the information received from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Winter tourism has appreciably picked up during the current winter season. The Indian Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering has restarted after a gap of about 13 years and two Ski Courses have been conducted by the Institute. The State Government has taken a number of steps for attracting Winter Sports enthusiasts to Gulmarg.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Damage to Valley of Flowers

1861. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have given any directions to the Uttaranchal Government to take action to check the likely harm to be caused to the environment and the valley of flowers as per the report published in the 'Hindustan' dated December 22, 2002;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the follow up action taken by the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttaranchal and the Nodal Officer of Uttaranchal have not approved the proposal of the State Public Works Department for construction of the Govindgarh-Ghangria road near Valley of Flowers.

Assistance to Indian Oilseed Producers

1862. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether oilseed produce is cheaper in USA and European countries in comparison to the Indian yield;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps Government propose to take to face the international competition; and
- (d) the subsidy being given to the oilseed producers as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Some of the oilseed produce are cheaper in international market as compared to the indigenous oilseed produce. The production and productivity of these oilseeds in India is much less because of the following reasons:

- (1) Oilseeds are mostly grown in rainfed conditions.
- (2) Oilseeds are grown by small and marginal farmers.
- (3) Oilseeds are prone to many pests and diseases.

Besides oilseeds production is highly subsidized in USA and European countries.

(c) and (d) In order to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and to face the international competition, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in implementation in 28 States covering 408 selected districts. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided on various inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, rhizobium culture and micro nutrients etc. In order to disseminate the production technology amongst the farmers frontline demonstrations are organized by the I.C.A.R.

[English]

Declining Prices of Agricultural Goods

1863. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the prices of agricultural goods have been declining while the cost of agricultural production is rising day by day;
- (b) whether cheaper agricultural goods have been

flooding the country after lifting of quantitative ban on import by Government;

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take for the welfare of farmers; and

(d) whether there is any proposals to increase the plan outlay for agriculture in order to complete the pending agricultural schemes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) According to the Wholesale Prices Index (WPI) with base 1993-94=100, WPI for agricultural commodities increased by 5.9% as against 4.8% for non-agricultural commodities during the year ended February 8, 2003. The increase in WPI for agricultural commodities during the corresponding period of 2001-02 was also higher at 3.6% than the 0.5% increase in respect of non-agricultural commodities. According to the index of terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors (Base: Triennium ending 1990-91), though there have been fluctuations in the index of terms of trade, the index remained above 100 during 1991-92 to 2000-01, which indicates that the terms of trade remained favourable to agriculture.

(b) and (c) In order to safeguard the interest of the indigenous producers, imports are being constantly monitored. In value terms the import of sensitive items covering, inter alia, foodgrains, edible oils and fruits and vegetables, registered a growth of 12% during April - November, 2002 over April - November, 2001. The major factor contributing to the growth in the import of sensitive items has been the increase in the value of import of edible oils, which has helped in bridging the gap between domestic availability and demand. A significant feature of edible oil import is that while import of crude palm oil has gone up, that of refined palm oil has gone down leading to better utilization of processing capacity in the country.

(d) The Planning Commission has allocated an outlay of Rs.2167 crore against the proposed outlay of about Rs.3290 crore for implementing the plan schemes for the year 2003-04 relating to Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

[Translation]

Maintenance of Sikri

1864. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Fatehpur Sikri ki durdasha dekh nirash huye UNESCO pratinidhi" appearing at page- 7 of 'Navbharat Times' dated December 16, 2002;

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

(c) the amount of funds provided by the UNESCO for renovations of Fatehpur Sikri alongwith the date on which such funds were provided; and

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

THE MINISTER TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir; however, the news item is incorrect. Deputy Director, World Heritage Centre alongwith a consultant to UNESCO visited Fatehpur Sikri and inspected important protected monuments and the site where a tourist facilitation centre and a parking lot are being contemplated. She only suggested that the development activities should not interfere with the integrity and authenticity of the World Heritage Site, which in any case are always kept in view.

(c) UNESCO has not provided any funds for renovation of Fatehpur Sikri.

(d) A long-term perspective programme has been drawn to take up requisite structural repairs, to develop the environs and a master plan has been drawn up to develop a shopping plaza, a car park, an interpretation and documentation centre.

[English]

New Norms on Food Management and MSP

1865. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether new norms on food management necessitates a review of current Minimum Support Price system;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any action in this regard;

(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) to (d) The Government intends to continue with the present price policy for agricultural commodities which envisages

announcement each season of Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities and organizing purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India (F.C.I.), Cotton Corporation of India (C.C.I.), Jute Corporation of India (J.C.I.), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and Tobacco Board, besides other agencies designated by the State Governments. The price policy for agricultural commodities is constantly reviewed and necessary action is taken wherever required.

Unorganised Labour

1866. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of unorganised labour on daily wages and on permanent basis in the rural sectors during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) whether these workers have no social security provisions and do not enjoy any support system during their old age;
- (c) if so, whether the Second National Labour Commission has suggested effective measures for their old age provisions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) As per the survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1999-2000, there are about 36.9 crores unorganised sector workers out of which 23.7 crore are in the agricultural sector.

(b) The Government has implemented Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana w.e.f. 1.7.2001 to provide Social Security protection to the agricultural workers. There are also various welfare schemes for certain categories like bidi workers, non-coal mine workers and cine workers.

(c) and (d) The Second National Commission on Labour has recommended an Umbrella Legislation for the unorganised sector workers. The Government intend to bring a Bill in the current Budget Session of Parliament which envisages social security measures including old age pension for the unorganised sector workers.

Illegal Trade in Peacock Feathers

1867. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that peacock feather sellers cut the shaft of the feathers so that the blood in the shaft which shows the bird has been killed is hidden;
- (b) if so, whether any survey on the feathers available in the market has been conducted;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken against sellers of deshafted peacock feathers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (d) Peafowl is found over major area of the country. Peacock tail feathers are naturally shed, annually, and are collected by local people, in rural and urban areas, for religious and other purposes. Incidents of deaths of peafowl due to consumption of seeds laced with pesticide, and that of poaching, largely for meat, have come to the notice of the government. However, there are no evidences to suggest that peacocks are being killed solely for obtaining tail feathers. Further, the State Governments and law enforcing agencies have not reported that the shaft of tail feathers of peacock are cut before selling for hiding the bloodstains. There is no organised market of peacock tail feathers. No survey for sale of shaft-cut peacock tail feathers has been conducted.

Prices of HR Coil

1868. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether prices of HR Coil have gone up by nearly 50% since April last;
- (b) if so, whether this hike of prices has affected the related industries seriously; and
- (c) if so, the action being taken by the Government to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) Not applicable. After de-regulation and liberalisation of the steel sector, prices in an open market are

determined by the interplay of market forces and fluctuate accordingly. The Government has no role to play over such movement of prices.

National Water Policy

1869. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Consultative Committee has been formed with experts which seeks to incorporate the views of NGOs in the National Water Policy; and

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal with the Ministry of Water Resources for forming any National Consultative Committee with experts which seeks to incorporate the views of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the National Water Policy. However, Policy Action Dialogue was held with NGOs on Action Plan for implementation of National Water Policy. 2002 through a series of seven workshops held at various places during August-October, 2002. The Action Plan has been finalized after taking into account the views of the NGOs expressed in these workshops.

Victims of Recruitment Agencies

1870. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labourers who went to Qatar in search of a better future have been victimised by the recruitment agents in India who gave them short-term visas instead of long term visas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the issue was highlighted during deliberations in Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas organised recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to look into their problems and bring them back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Complaints have been received by the Government from time to time from workers deployed in Qatar about getting short term visas instead of promised long term visas.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, matters concerning the NRIs in the Gulf region were raised during Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations in general terms.

(e) Complaints regarding irregular visas, as and when received, are taken up by the Embassy of India, Doha, Qatar with the concerned Qatari Company. In case the Company fails to resolve the problem, the matter is taken up with the appropriate Qatari authorities for remedial action.

Decline in Flow of Water in Cauvery River

1871. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the flow of water in Cauvery river in Tamil Nadu has declined considerably over the last ten years;

(b) if so, the details regarding the total water flow during the said period;

(c) whether existing water sources and tributaries of Cauvery are silted and needs to be desilted;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total amount allocated, disbursed and utilized by the State Government for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The average inflow into the Mettur Reservoir of Tamil Nadu on Cauvery river during the Water Years 1980-81 to 1989-90 is 229.16 Thousand Million Cubic Feet (TMC Ft.) Compared to this, the average inflow during the Water Years 1992-93 to 2001-2002 in Mettur Reservoir of Tamil Nadu is 261.9 TMC.

(c) to (e) Like other rivers the Cauvery also gets silt deposits. In Cauvery delta silt gets deposited especially during floods in rivers, drains and channels. The expenditure incurred during the last three years for desilting in the Cauvery delta by the State Government of Tamil Nadu is given below:

Year	Amount of expenditure (Rs. in lakh)
1999-2000	924.42
2000-01	264.07
2001-02	60.60

Cut in Expenditure

1872. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India and Indian Airlines have followed the directives of the Government to cut expenditure and adopt austerity measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the result achieved during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Both Air India and Indian Airlines have implemented austerity measures and steps to cut expenditure.

The measures taken by Air India include abolition of vacant posts, lowering of retirement age, downsizing or closing of foreign stations, reduction in agency commission etc. Similarly, the measures taken by Indian Airlines include freeze on recruitment, reduction in overtime payment, fuel tankering, saving in material consumption, reduction in retirement age etc.

(c) As a result, Air India and Indian Airlines have saved Rs. 23.68 crores and Rs. 73 crores respectively during the year 2001-2002.

[Translation]

Special Performing Arts Project

1873. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes, activities and schemes being implemented by his Ministry under "financial assistance to professional groups and persons for special performing arts projects"; and

(b) the details of assistance for the said programmes, activities and schemes during the last five years, from 1-4-1998 till date, year-wise and scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Under the Scheme of "Financial Assistance to professional groups and individuals for specified performing art projects" financial assistance is provided to theatre groups, music ensembles and to solo artists of all genres of performing art activities on a non-recurring adhoc basis to promote Guru-Shishya Parampara and creativity in the field of Performing Arts. The other details are available in the Annual Report of

the Department of Culture which is laid in both the Houses of Parliament every year.

(b) The expenditure incurred under the scheme during the last five years is as follows:-

Year	Plan	Non-Plan
1998-99	477.84 Lakhs	90.43 Lakhs
1999-2000	641.85 Lakhs	99.90 Lakhs
2000-2001	729.46 Lakhs	99.23 Lakhs
2001-2002	709.00 Lakhs	94.68 Lakhs
2002-2003*	755.40 Lakhs	-

* Till date, including approved expenditure to be incurred during the financial year.

[English]

Lending of Money by NABARD

1874. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD is lending money to State Cooperatives at the rate of six percent whereas agricultural loans are being disbursed by the cooperative banks at an interest rate ranging from 16-18 percent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether interest rate on loan given for industrial and business purposes are much lower than on the agricultural loans;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to bring down the interest rate on agricultural loans in parity with the interest rate on the industrial and business loans;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

and (b) NABARD provides refinance to Cooperative Banks at 5.5% to 7.5 rate of interest for short-term Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) loans. However, the refinance constitutes only about 22% of the total lending by the Cooperative banks which have to raise other costly resources. Secondly, NABARD provides refinance to the State Cooperative Banks which further pass on to the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACs) after retaining some margin. The rate of interest charge from the ultimate borrowers, however, ranges from 13% to 16%.

(c) and (d) The rate of interest charged on loans for industrial and business purposes are less in some cases. The main reason is the perceived lower risk cost and the lower supervision cost per unit.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The matter for dispensation of agriculture credit at comparatively lower and affordable rates of interest has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance at the level of the Agriculture Minister.

(g) Does not arise.

[English]

Viability of Bangalore/Hyderabad Airport

1875. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangalore and Hyderabad Airports are considered as unviable by the promoters;

(b) if so, whether the projects are likely to be delayed due to this;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to overcome this problem;

(d) whether the Government of Karnataka has approached the Union Government in this regard;

(e) if so, whether the Government have agreed to offer a sum of Rs.100 crore as long term zero interest loan to Bangalore International Airport Company Limited;

(f) whether the Government are initiating steps to amend AAI Act for exclusion of Airports built with private fund from the control of AAI; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The promoters of the Greenfield airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad considered the projects to be unviable without appropriate state support.

(c) The Government of Karnataka has committed a state support of Rs.400 crores for the Bangalore airport project besides providing land and other associated infrastructure at concessional rates. Government of Andhra Pradesh is yet to finalise the state support for the Hyderabad airport. Central Government has announced a package of concessions for these greenfield airports in Budget 2002-2003.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) No Sir.

(f) and (g) The present Airports Authority of India Act is applicable to all airports other than airports belonging to armed forces of the Union. A comprehensive Amendment Bill is proposed to be introduced in the ongoing session of the Parliament which will, inter-alia, provide for exemption of private airports from the purview of the present Airports Authority of India Act, except for security and Air Traffic Control.

Production of Rails

1876. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has received order from Railway for production of Rails during 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action being taken by SAIL thereon; and

(d) whether Indian Steel Industry finally seems to be emerging from a prolonged troubled period with a rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It would not be in commercial interest of the company to provide this information.

(c) SAIL has supplied 80% against the order and the balances are planned for supply during the remaining period.

(d) Indian Steel Industry seems to be emerging from a prolonged troubled period with a rise in prices in respect of most of the items of iron and steel.

Impact of Dams on Endangered Species

1877. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of dams and reservoirs in the country located near National Parks and Birds Sanctuaries, State-wise; and
- (b) the remedial steps being considered by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(b) As per notification issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests in January, 1994, the environmental clearance is statutory for hydroelectric, major irrigation and flood control projects costing more than Rs.50 crores (later revised to Rs. 100 crores during June, 2002). While according the environmental clearance to these projects, the Ministry of Environment & Forests stipulates certain environmental safeguards. In order to ensure proper implementation of the safeguards, a National Level Environmental Monitoring Committee for River Valley Projects under the Ministry of Water Resources monitors the water resources projects all over the country. This Committee is assisted by various State Level Environmental Management Committees.

Sick Sugar Factories

1878. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NABARD has been sanctioning financial assistance to sick sugar factories in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the number of sick sugar factories in Karnataka who have been provided assistance by NABARD and the amount provided to each sick sugar factory in Karnataka; and
- (c) the details of the proposals pending regarding sick sugar factories in Karnataka for financial assistance from NABARD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) As per information given by NABARD, it does not provide financial assistance to sugar factories, whether sick or otherwise.

Harvesting of Rain Water

1879. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has initiated any steps to promote rain water harvesting in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of projects launched in every State for the purpose; and
- (c) the assistance sanctioned/released to each State Government during the last three years to implement rain water harvesting projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute scheme for augmenting water resources, including rain water harvesting. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is providing technical assistance to State Governments to promote rain water harvesting. CGWB is organising training courses on "Rain Water Harvesting including Roof Top Rain Water harvesting" and, mass awareness programmes throughout the country, which are attended by representatives of State Government also.

During IX Plan, CGWB had taken up demonstrative rainwater harvesting and recharge projects in the country under its Central Sector Scheme on 'Study of Recharge to Ground Water'. Under this scheme, a total number of 174 projects were approved for implementation in 27 States/Union Territories, at a cost of Rs. 35.81 crore. State-wise details of the number of projects approved and the funds allocated under the scheme are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of the Number of Projects Approved and the Funds Allocated under the Central Ground Water Board's Scheme on 'Study of Recharge to Ground Water'

S. No.	Name or State/ Union Territory	No. of projects approved	Funds allocated (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	54.55
2.	Assam	1	63.50
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	20.00
4.	Bihar	2	10.52
5.	Gujarat	3	20.05
6.	Haryana	8	107.17
7.	Himachal Pradesh	6	81.65

1	2	3	4
8.	Jharkhand	5	25.73
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	78.96
10.	Karnataka	2	43.30
11.	Kerala	13	88.18
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5	53.85
13.	Maharashtra	4	126.63
14.	Meghalaya	1	20.32
15.	Mizoram	1	28.00
16.	Nagaland	3	116.43
17.	Orissa	8	1473.54
18.	Punjab	17	361.92
19.	Rajasthan	18	135.66
20.	Tamil Nadu	10	176.41
21.	Uttar Pradesh	10	142.57
22.	Uttaranchal	1	2.00
23.	West Bengal	7	156.99
24.	NCT of Delhi	18	96.07
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3	12.92
26.	Lakshadweep	2	19.85
27.	Chandigarh	7	64.23
Total		174	3581.00

[Translation]

Cultivation of Herbal Medicines in Bihar

1880. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to cultivate herbal medicines in Bihar and also set up allied industries there; 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 Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan under which the State Governments can take up developmental programmes as per their felt needs including cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. Assistance is also being provided to the Rajendra Agricultural University, Samastipur under this scheme for taking up programmes like establishment/maintenance of herbal gardens and establishment/maintenance of nursery centres. Besides, the National Medicinal Plants Board is also implementing schemes for cultivation of herbal medicinal plants in the country including Bihar.

[English]

Cotton Cultivation in Orissa

1881. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the soil testing has proved that certain areas in Orissa particularly the KBK districts are suitable for Cotton cultivation;

(b) if so, whether any effort has been made by the Government during the last three years to promote cotton cultivation in that part of Orissa; and

(c) if so, the assistance extended to the Cotton growers to bring additional areas of land under Cotton cultivation?

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

(b) In order to popularise the cotton cultivation amongst the farmers, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme under Mini-Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton is being implemented in 13 States of the country including Orissa. A total of Rs.64.00 lakh were allocated to the State out of which Rs.45.00 lakh are earmarked exclusively for utilization in the KBK districts during 2002-03.

(c) Under the scheme, assistance is being provided to the State for the transfer of technology through Demonstration on production technology, Integrated Pest Management and Training of farmers/extension workers as well as Supply of inputs to the farmers such as Seeds.

Sprayers, Bio-agent, Pheromone traps and Water Saving devices like Sprinkler sets and Drip Irrigation system. The funds allocated to the State as Central share during last three years are as under:

(Rs. in Lakh)	
Year	Allocation
2000-01	144.45
2001-02	219.49
2002-03	64.00

Setting up of Vegetable Purchasing Centres

1882. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that small farmers carried out an agitation in Kolar, Bangalore and Hassan cities in Karnataka against steep fall in the prices of potatoes, tomatoes, brinjals and other vegetables:

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether the Union Government propose to set up some vegetable purchasing centres in the State at reasonable rates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

[Translation]

Demand and Production of Milk and Milk Products

1883. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and production of milk and milk products in the country at present;

(b) the estimated requirement of milk and milk products during the next two years:

(c) the quantity of milk products exported during the last three years alongwith the value thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate any comprehensive plan to promote milk production and its export; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The anticipated milk production for the year 2002-03 is 88 million tonnes. No data on demand/ requirement of milk and milk products is available.

(c) Export of milk product for the last three years is as under:

Year	Quantity	Qty. Mts.
		Value: Rs. Crores
1999-2000	6134.42	37.21
2000-2001	11068.86	83.90
2001-2002	24773.13	182.45

(d) Yes, APEDA is initiating steps to promote export of milk and milk products.

(e) For the purpose of promoting exports, the following steps have been taken:

(i) Standards have been laid down under export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 for export of milk products. Export Inspection Agency (EIA) has been nominated as competent authority for inspection and approval of plants.

(ii) Regular contribution in the deliberation for formulating standards by the Codex Alimentarius Commission to ensure that India's interests are reflected

(iii) Financial assistance is provided to the exporters for setting up of in house quality control laboratories, implementation of international Quality System such as HACCP, ISO 9000 etc packing development, Market Development etc

(iv) Participation in trade fairs to create awareness of Indian products.

[English]

**Seminar by International Water
Management Institute**

1884. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Colombo based International Water Management Institute has organised a seminar recently in India and deliberated on India's water conservation problems;

(b) if so, whether the experts have opined that India's mega project on inter-river linking has serious drawbacks;

(c) if so, whether the experts have estimated that the total cost of the mega project is more than Rs.5.76.000/- crores with a gestation period of 40 years;

(d) if so, whether the seminar concluded that India should go for small/localised solutions closer to users rather than unviable mega projects; and

(e) if so, the remedial steps proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) The information for answering the question is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rate of Production

1885. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a difference in the rate of production on irrigated and non-irrigated land in the country;

(b) if so, the average rate of production on the irrigated land;

(c) the assessment regarding the average rate of production on the non-irrigated land; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the production on the irrigated and non-irrigated land?

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

(b) and (c) According to the information furnished by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the average rates of production on the irrigated and non-irrigated land for some of the principal crops are shown in the table below:

Crop	Productivity in Kg. per hectare	
	On Non-Irrigated land	On Irrigated land
Rice	951	2421
Coarse Cereals	888	1524
Oilseeds	538	766
Pulses	746	919
Cotton	177	315

(d) In order to improve the agricultural production and productivity, the Government have taken a number of initiatives such as promotion of watershed development programmes, on farm water management for increasing production in Eastern India, emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme etc. Besides, the Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price and Market Intervention Schemes. Apart from these, the Government have also adopted macro-management mode for providing assistance to the States which gives flexibility to States to address specific problems faced by them depending on local requirements, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim at all round development of agriculture.

Indo-French Bilateral Agreement

1886. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have established Indo-French bilateral relation in the Aviation Sector;

(b) if so, whether any high level talks were held recently in the above matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) India had signed bilateral Air Services Agreement with France on 16th July, 1947. Last round of Government level talks between the two countries to review air services matters was held on 25-

26 November, 1997 in New Delhi. During these discussions, matters such as capacity entitlement for both sides, route schedule, code-sharing cargo services and alliance between Air India, Indian Airlines and Air France were discussed.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Antiques from Ruins of Khajuraho

1887. SHRI SADASSHIV RAO DADODA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have approved construction of Archaeological museum to check large scale smuggling of antiques lying among the ruins in Khajuraho;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the funds allocated by the Government for this purpose; and
- (d) by when the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved the construction of an archaeological museum at Khajuraho in which the antiquities which are in the possession of the Archaeological Survey of India will be displayed. No case of theft has been reported from the centrally protected area of Khajuraho.

(b) A piece of land measuring 2.234 hectare is in possession of the Archaeological Survey of India at Khajuraho. A boundary wall with a grill is at present under construction for which an amount of Rs.31.16 lakh has been sanctioned.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. two crores has been sanctioned for the construction of the museum building at Khajuraho. No time frame for its construction can be given at this juncture as the plans are still under formulation.

Pending Proposals for Development of Animal Husbandry and Horticulture

1888. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of proposals relating to Animal Husbandry and Department of Horticulture in Uttar Pradesh lying pending with the Union Government;
- (b) the time since when these proposals are pending and the reasons for their pendency; and

(c) by when these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No proposal relating to Animal Husbandry and Horticulture from the Government of Uttar Pradesh are pending with the Ministry of Agriculture.

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

[English]

Setting up of Rescue Team

1889. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent a proposal to the Union Government for setting up of a Rescue Team to undertake the relief work during natural calamity like drought, flood;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government are aware that some parts of West Bengal are drought prone and hundreds of people die every year due to non-availability of Rescue Team; and
- (d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to raise any such rescue team to undertake relief work as and when required in any part of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

(c) Four districts in West Bengal are covered by the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) implemented by the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development. No report regarding such deaths has been received from West Bengal.

(d) No such proposal is at present under the consideration of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

[Translation]

Preservation of Monuments in Bihar, Jharkhand and Rajasthan

1890. SHRI RAJO SINGH:

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise and monument-wise details of expenditure incurred on the preservation of monuments in Bihar, Jharkhand and Rajasthan during the last three years; and

(b) the details of allocation made by the Central Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The year-wise and monument-wise expenditure on maintenance and conservation of the centrally protected monuments in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand and

Rajasthan incurred during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Funds allocated in the current financial year, (2002-2003) are tabled below:

	(figure in lakhs)
Bihar	90.00
Jharkhand	10.80
Rajasthan	114.00

Statement

State: Rajasthan

S.No.	Name of Monument	Amount Spent for Conservation during three years		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
Ajmer District				
1.	Adhai Din-K-Jhopra Ajmer	22,861	23,797	7,25,000
2.	Badshahi Haveli, Ajmer	-	-	35,000
3.	Gate of Taragarh Hill, Ajmer	10,788	15,087	5,75,000
4.	The Marble Paillions and Balustrade on the Ana Sagar Bund and the Ruins of the marble Hamam behind the Ana Sagar Bund, Ajmer	1,75,993	56,285	2,90,000
5.	Sahet Bazar Buildings, i.e. Daulat Bagh, Ajmer	-	-	4,81,000
6.	Tombs of Abdullah Khan and his wife, Ajmer	-	-	4,98,000
7.	Kos Minars Erected by Emperor Akbar, Ajmer Jaipur Road	-	-	3,20,000
8.	Mahal Badshahi, Purshkar	6,600	5,613	6,40,000
Aiwar District				
9.	Ancient Site, Bhangarh	25,03,347	36,79,772	22,94,235
10.	Shiva Temple, Neelkanth	9,93,179	9,91,025	21,17,441
11.	Lal Masjid, Tijara	5,27,536	6,55,492	6,64,995
Banswara District				
12.	Siva Temple and Ruins, Arthuna	2,63,238	93,318	2,32,669
Baran District				
13.	Ruins of Temples, Atru/Ganesh Ganj	43,889	2,35,056	1,21,098
14.	Ancient Ruins and Structural remains Krishnavilas	1,90,754	50,291	1,15,339

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Old Temple, Statues and Inscription, Shergarh	11,805	7,013	19,940
Bharatpur District				
16.	Ancient fort with its Monuments, Bayana	1,00,000		38,415
17.	Jahangir's Gateway, Bayana	1,00,000		
18.	Saraj Sad-ul-lah, Bayana	1,75,100	14,880	
19.	Usha mandir, Bayana	71,348	11,628	15,250
20.	Fort walls including Chowburja gate and approach bridges at the Chowburja and Ashtadhatu gates, Bharatpur	4,41,251	73,563	79,960
21.	Deeg Bhawans (Palace), Deeg	4,81,835	4,00,594	4,98,673
22.	Kathcha Bagh, Deeg	-	50,950	1,19,894
23.	Chaurasi Hambha Temple, Kanan	7,465	32,287	24,933
24.	Colossal Image of Yaksha, Noh	45,769	5,591	2,765
25.	Lal Mahal, Rupvas	4,298	7,506	3,020
Bhilwara District				
26.	Mahal Kal and Two other Temples, Bijolia	20,988	498	9,490
27.	Rock Inscription (12th Century), Bijolia			25,000
28.	Rock Inscription within the parasnath temple (12th Century), Bijolia			75,000
29.	Ancient Temple known as Kaneri Ki Putli, Khadipur	5,454		11,040
Bundi District				
30.	Wall paintings of Hardoti School in the Palace, Bundi	1,80,448	1,14,260	70,043
31.	Ancient Mound, Keshwarai Patan	-		1,337
Chittaurgarh District				
32.	Groups of temples at Badoli	14,317	438	25,020
33.	Fort of Chittaurgarh as a whole, Chittaurgarh	3,11,332	6,67,414	14,61,390
34.	Mahanal Temples, and Math, Mentel	1,14,909	97,250	3,13,946
35.	Ancient site and remains Nagri	9,000	2,47,400	1,80,741
Dausa District				
36.	Baori, Amaneri	1,47,013	40,680	58,409
37.	Harsat Mata-Ka-Mandir, Abaneri	28,515	25,331	49,320
38.	Banjaron-ki-Chhatri, Lalsot	51,274	5000	2,24,000
Dholpur District				
39.	Babur's Garden, Dholpur/Jhor	8,448	5,532	12,090

1	2	3	4	5
Dungarpur District				
40.	Somnath Temple, Dev Somnath	2,74,202	1,74,458	1,49,533
Sri Ganganagar District				
41.	Ancient mound in Ganganagar distt. Ganganagar		-	19,000
Hanumangarh District				
42.	Ancient Mound, Bhadrakali	11,331	7,511	
43.	Fort Bhatner, Hanumangarh	1,79,519	2,50,708	3,00,000
44.	Ancient Mounds, Kalibangan	14,874	-	1,30,000
45.	Ancient Mounds, Pilibangan	-	-	49,984
Jaipur District				
46.	Jama Masjid, Amber	5,46,522	5,94,250	7,49,000
47.	Laxmi Narainji's Temple, Amber	39,916	42,766	45,000
48.	Sri Jagat Siromani Temple, Amber	9,41,449	6,33,176	6,99,000
49.	Sun Temple, Amber	-	4,50,000	7,07,009
50.	Excavated Site Bairat	4,31,428	8,62,288	1,45,000
51.	Excavated Site			7,95,410
52.	Punderikji-ki-Haveli Paintings in a room, Brahmpuri	2,10,293	59,220	1,19,816
Jaisalmer District				
53.	Fort including Ancient Temples, Jaisalmer	18,00,827	39,27,749	12,31,142
54.	Ancient Site, Lodruva Patan	4,636	26,932	23,990
Jhalawar District				
55.	Buddhist caves and pillars, Binnayagaga/Dag	14,567	10,685	22,817
56.	Buddhist caves, Hathiaigor	13,086	12,243	22,156
57.	Old temples near the Chandrabhaga, Jhalrapatan	81,443	81,138	44,399
58.	Buddhist caves, pillars, Idols, Kolvi/Dag	93,196	20,405	61,098
Jodhpur District				
59.	Fort, Mandore	3,66,663	2,82,643	10,74,881
Kota District				
60.	Siva temple and two unpublished Gupta inscription, Charchoma	11,770	10,080	25,003
61.	Temple, fortwall and Statues, Dara/mukandara	4,82,438	17,495	5,38,788
62.	Temple with inscription, Kanswa	1,14,620	42,229	4,97,682
Rajasmad District				
63.	Archaeological Site and Remains, Gilund	3,445	2,800	28,570
64.	Fort of Kumbhalgarh as a whole, Kumbhalgarh	7,85,354	3,64,226	6,79,391

1	2	3	4	5
65.	Ghat with Inscriptions, Pavillions and Toranas, Nav Chowki/Rajasmand	78,726		49,153
Sawaimadhopur District				
66.	Ranthambhore Fort	7,42,770	12,53,123	11,00,000
Sikar District				
67.	Harshnath Temple, Harshnath/Sikar	8,61,770	5,60,958	11,67,122
68.	Bisal Deoji's Temple, Bisalpur	9,128	2,018	1,00,000
69.	Hathi Bhata, Khera/Karore	1,609	3,212	20,000
70.	Excavated sites, inscriptions in fort and Yupa pillars in Bichpuria temple, Nagar	25,785	3,582	70,000
71.	Excavated site, Raigarh/Newai	3,936	4,941	40,000
72.	Groups of monuments, Todarai Singh	1,08,800	18,665	1,90,000
Udaipur District				
73.	Ancient Runis, Kalyanpur	49,349	10,292	14,960
74.	Sas Bahu Temples, Nagda	1,39,186	31,829	59,639

Bihar

S.No.	Name of monuments	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Residential House of Dr. Rajendra Prasad	739228.00	31641.00	17632
2.	Excavated remains at Nalanda	2174262.00	2545624.00	1866429
3.	Hasan Shah Suri tomb, Sasaram	319139.00	21276.00	627903
4.	Excavated remains at Kumrahar	1139293.00	563063.00	
5.	Excavated remains at Kolhua	469349.00	696256.00	622104
6.	Sher Shah Suri tomb, Sasaram	1160027.00	761739.00	788308
7.	Excavated remains at Antichak	916516.00	1034045.00	1305644
8.	Buddhist remains at Rajgir	405550.00	40454.00	413126
9.	Buddha Stupa, Kesariya	117869.00		205410
10.	Reje Stupa, Vaishali	60680.00	21793.00	86821
11.	Loose Sculptures, Dattiyana	46934.00		191868
12.	Makhdum shah Maneri tomb, Maner	51932.00		575510
13.	Graham's house Patna	497909.00	421573.00	120560
14.	Mundeshwari devi temple, Ramgarh	46814.00	467388.00	49428
15.	Loose Sculptures, Ghejan	13517.00		
16.	Chaurashi Muni cave, Pattharghatt	28232.00	144118.00	110936
17.	Rock cut temple, Kahalgaon	7497.00	4100	24530

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Buddhist sculpture, Kursarai	6308.00		405407
19.	Shamsher Khan tomb, Shamsher Nagar	6308.00		
20.	Ibrahim Bau's tomb, Biharsharif	792.00	755	339644
21.	Rukmini Asthama Jagdishpur, Nalanda	312.00	410	3000
22.	Raja Bali Ka Garh, Madhubani	6402.00		
23.	Ruined fortress, Chankigarh	5100.00		15725
24.	Newly excavated Stupa at Rajgir	68472.00		
25.	Ancient Mound, Nalanda	8963.00	106074	
26.	Ancient site. Kurkihar, Gaya	73851.00		
27.	Shiva Temple, Konch	60000.00	4500	6000
28.	Excavated remains Gosaikhanda, Sandalpur, Patna	298143.00	121263	168513
29.	Excavates remains, Bulandibag	184535.00		31369.00
30.	Excavated remains, Kesariya		577029.00	
31.	Griyak, Rajgir		144000.00	179783.00
32.	Excavated Mound, Rajgir		269033.00	
33.	Surat Kutir, Bakraur		100000.00	85000.00
34.	Colossal Stupa, Nandqangary		5712.00	
35.	Ashokan Pillar, Rampurwa		6426.00	6663.00
36.	Rohtas Fort, Rohtas		19744.00	17599.00
37.	Kurkihar		10607.00	8800.00
38.	Barbar & Nagarjuna cave, Brabar		30000.00	4400.00
39.	Ashokan Pillar, Areja		3978.00	11663.00
40.	Mir Ashraf Mosque, Chouksikarpur		5860.00	82942.00
41.	Bakhtiyar Khan Tomb, Chainpur			5930.00
42.	Loose Sculpture at Guneri			200742.00
43.	Buddhist Temple, Ghejan			164001.00
44.	Burial Mound at Nandangarh			243688.00
45.	Raja Vishal ka Garh at Vaishali			5807.00

Jharkhand

S.No.	Name of monuments	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	Jama Mosque, Hadaf	71,672.00	2,28,288.00	2,63,966.00
2.	Loose Sculpture, Benisagar	14,000.00		
3.	Loose Sculpture at Ranchi		15,000.00	
4.	Loose Sculptures & ancient tank at Benisagar			2,28,084.00

*[English]***Relaxation of Norms for Sanction of Airports**

1891. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are instances when norms were relaxed for sanction of airports in special cases during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Research in Bio-Technology

1892. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set aside Rs. 40 crore for research in bio-technology for maximum utilisation of genetic engineering in agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have so far formed three committees to identify institutions that can be part of bio-technology functioning;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government also propose to change the structure of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC); and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Research in biotechnology in agriculture is being carried out by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Agricultural Universities (SAUS) and other agencies. Besides, there are several projects funded by the Department of Biotechnology. In the ICAR, the National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi and National Research Centre on DNA Fingerprinting, New Delhi are exclusively working on biotechnology and related aspects supported by other crop-commodity institutes. In addition to these, ICAR has proposed Rs. 40 crore for Network on Transgenics in crop plants to the Planning Commission.

(c) and (d) For identification of institutions for Human Resource Development in Biotechnology, one committee has been constituted.

(e) There is no such proposal at present in the Ministry of Environment and Forest under which the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) functions.

(f) Question does not arise.

Setting up of Joint Venture Company

1893. SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA:

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mother Dairy Foods Limited, a company set up by a subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is trying to set up joint venture companies with the State Dairy Cooperative Federations/Unions;

(b) if so, the number of joint venture companies set up so far;

(c) the pattern of equity holding in the joint ventures;

(d) whether it will not result in dilution of member control and autonomy of Cooperative Dairy Federations/Unions;

(e) if so, whether NDDB has suggested to the Government plans to make joint ventures with cooperatives the cooperatives should retain majority control in joint venture; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two joint venture companies are in the process of incorporation, so far.

(c) The equity holding in the joint venture is in the ratio of 51:49 between Mother Dairy Foods Ltd., and the concerned State Cooperative Dairy Federations.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us complete the Papers Laid on the Table and then take it up. Please sit down.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 7055/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): On behalf of Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Public Enterprises Survey (Volumes I to III) for the year 2001-2002 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 7056/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2001-2002 under section 19 of the Coir Industries Act, 1953.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing

reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 7057/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coif Board, Kochi, for the year 2001-2002 together with Audit Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 17 of the Coif Industry Act, 1953.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 7058/2003]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 7059/2003]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 7060/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 7061/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA) : I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, 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 Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 7062/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Airports Authority of India (Lost Property) Regulations, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 28 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th January, 2003 under section 43 of the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 together with an explanatory note thereto.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 7063/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 7064/2003]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): On behalf of Shri Dilip Singh Judev, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 133 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2003 notifying Matheran and its surrounding region in the State of Maharashtra as the Matheran Eco-sensitive Zone issued under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 7065/2003]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 7066/2003]

12.03 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2003, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th February, 2003 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th February, 2003 agreed without any amendment to the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 19th February, 2003."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th February, 2003 agreed without any amendment to the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2003 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th February, 2003."

12.04 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Forty-third to Forty-fifth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2002-2003):-

- (1) Forty-third Report on Action Taken on the

recommendations contained in 12th Report of PAC (11th Lok Sabha) relating to "Lower Categorisation leading to loss of Rs. 352.30 lakhs"

- (2) Forty-fourth Report on the Action Taken on the recommendations contained in 7th Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) relating to "Procurement of 2GHz Microwave System"
- (3) Forty-fifth Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in 22nd Report of PAC (11th Lok Sabha) and 23rd Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) relating to "Excesses Over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (1995-96) and (1998-99)"

12.04½ hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Forty-seventh Report

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Sir, I beg to present the Forty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.05 hrs.

RE: SITUATION ARISING OUT OF INCREASE IN THE PRICES OF FERTILIZERS AND DIESEL IN THE BUDGET THUS ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE FARMERS

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I want to regulate 'Zero Hour' also in the most disciplined manner. I am sure that if you cooperate, every hon. Member who has asked for priority, will be given; and all issues can be taken up. This is my request. I will take up one issue after another. Every hon. Member will be allowed to speak only for two minutes, and nothing beyond two minutes. When one hon. Member is allowed to speak, the other hon. Members will be allowed to

associate. I am not going to allow debates on the issues. Therefore, please cooperate; let me go as per the list before me. Leaders will always be given priority. This is the procedure. The leaders will get the priority automatically. Let me start with the list. The first subject is to be raised by Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Otherwise I would have expressed my views in this matter during the general discussion on the budget. The prices of fertilizers and diesel have increased due to the recent budget, the farmers, all over the country, have reacted strongly thereon.

The cost of Urea bag which was Rs. 50 has now been increased by Rs.12 and DAP bag by Rs. 10. Similarly the prices of Potash has also been increased. The price of diesel has also been increased by 25 percent in this very financial year. The day the increase in price was announced it made the diesel dealer in Delhi and it reached at Rs. 21.21 and effected an increase of one rupee and sixty three paise in Mumbai and one rupee and thirty seven paise in Calcutta to reach at the level of Rs. 22.60 per litre and one and a half rupees to reach at the level of Rs. 23.28 per litre in Chennai. This way it has put on an additional burden of rupees 500 crore on the farmers. The prices of fertilizers and diesel have also increased. On one hand the farmer was adversely affected due to drought and floods and on the other an additional burden has been put on his shoulders, which in my opinion is certainly not justified at any cost. The prices of agro-products are not increasing. Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has fixed the prices of kharif crops but the prices of wheat and barley have not been increased. It is a serious matter. Not only the people of Samajwadi party, Congress Party and Left Parties but the President of RJP Shri Venkainaidu, Yerranaidu of TDP, Samta Party, Shiv Sena, the Minister of Agriculture Shri Ajit Singh, the Minister of Food Shri Sharad Yadav, the Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Om Prakash Chautala, the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Kumari Jayalalitha, former Chief Minister Shri M. Karunanidhi etc. have also submitted to the Government of India. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no need to name all. Everyone is aware.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : They have submitted that the prices of diesel that have been increased should be immediately withdrawn. The most important thing is that the

statement of the Finance Minister was reported in the newspapers that he would not withdraw the hike in fertilizer's prices at any cost and it has evoked sharp reaction among the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER : Ramji Lal Sumanji, I won't give more than two minutes. Please resume your seat.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : If the Government of India do not withdraw the price hike then it would lead to struggles both outside and inside the House and farmers would also fight against it. Hence I want your protection.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Sir, we are all associating with it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I have four notices on this subject - Shri Raghunath Jha, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and Shri Jagjit Singh Brar have also given notices in this regard. I ask everybody to associate in normal course but as it is an important subject. I would give two minutes each to all the three Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You resume your seat. You can speak when the discussion on budget takes place.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : At least you pay heed to what I am saying.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The Statement of the Finance Minister has been reported in the newspapers that he won't withdraw the price hike of fertilizers at any cost and it has evoked sharp reactions ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The discussion on this subject of the farmers is to take place, despite I have given two minutes to each to speak.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Ramji Lal Suman, I have given you time to speak, hence you co-operate a bit. Everybody will get one chance to speak. I want to cover all notices but your colleagues are not listening.

SHRI J.S. BRAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am going to represent the views of crores of farmers on behalf of the Congress Party. The farmers of those states which brought the green revolution in the country have reacted strongly on the price hike of fertilizers and diesel. Today when farmer is reeling under the crisis, facing drought and floods and is forced to commit suicide, the report of the Economic Survey states that the agricultural growth has come down from 4.9 percent to 2.5 percent. It is not fair to be unjust to farmers at this juncture. I am quite surprised. The Minister of Agriculture is present here. I would like to submit that this is a strange budget. Luxuries like air conditioners, mobile phone, cars, computers etc. have been made cheaper but the prices of the essential commodities has been made costlier. The Government have also failed to provide credit to the farmers. I demand that the hike in fertilizers and diesel be withdrawn otherwise there would be agitation on large scale. It may also be because of danger for the country hence this price rise should be withdrawn.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with what Shri Sumanji and Brarji said in the House and my party openly opposes the step of the Government, which has hurt the interest of the farmers. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me speak.

MR. SPEAKER : You let him speak. Jhaji you address the Chair.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : You allow me to express my views. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this budget is beneficial to the big industrial houses. Our State Bihar is affected by drought and flood also. However the farmers are not getting the remunerative prices. The condition of the sugarcane farmers is very bad. The Government have been quite harsh to the farmers by putting this burden on them it has crossed all limits. I want the hon. Finance Minister to come and announce in the House that price hike would be withdrawn. If it is not done then it would create acute resentment among the farmers. Hence we vehemently oppose this price hike.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Indian farmer is facing crisis. He has been affected badly by floods and drought and the Government is further adding fuel to the fire by frequent hike in prices of diesel and fertilizers. This budget has ruined him further. When this question of price hike was raised, the Finance Minister declined to withdraw the hike in fertilizers and diesel prices. This has caused widespread resentment among the farmers. The farming community in the entire country is dejected. This budget has made them realise that the prices of only luxury items like gold, diamond and jewellery have been reduced

but the prices of farming inputs have been increased. Hence I demand that the Government should withdraw this hike. It has ruined the farmers. If the hike is not withdrawn we would not allow the House to run. Farmers would stage dharnas and gheraos. A country wide movement against it would be launched.

MR. SPEAKER : As I said earlier that this subject is very important and this subject was raised by you. I have 19 other subjects in the list. I am of the view that this issue can be taken up for discussion during the budget and the other issues before the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please let me complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: A Special Resolution is also going to be moved on the same issue. Therefore, there is a lot of scope for the hon. Members to speak on this issue: But since four Members have given notices, I have allowed them to speak. If I open it to the entire House, I am sure that a number of Members would like to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, you please allow the leaders. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You are aware that the Minister will not be able to say anything about the Budget provisions. The hon. Minister could only say that he has taken cognisance of this issue. What else can he say? Therefore, during the Budget discussion, you can raise this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise this issue during the discussion on the Budget. There is also going to be a special Resolution moved on this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR : Hon. Minister of Agriculture is sitting here, he can reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, you can allow only one minute each to leaders of all parties. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM) : It is a very big issue.

[English]

Sir, we have to discuss this issue threadbare. The Prime Minister's Relief Package has not been implemented....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Andhra Pradesh Government is forcibly realising the loans disbursed to the farmers. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Renukaji, you address from your chair.

[English]

Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think that the hon. Members are desirous of putting other issues before the House.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: You give assurance of the roll-back. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : My party is already demanding it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You need not reply to her. You please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Renukaji, you are such a nice Member. You are co-operating with the Chair. Yes, Shri Yerrannaidu, please continue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please resume your seat.

[English]

Let him complete.

[Translation]

Please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, agriculture is the growth

engine for the economy. Indian farmers are the backbone of this country. 'The Economic Survey' for 2003-04 says that if the Government wants to achieve a growth rate of eight per cent, then there should be more investment in the agricultural sector and we have to give a lot of boost to agriculture. ...(Interruptions) But instead of giving a boost to agriculture, they have increased the price. ...(Interruptions)

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL): Sir, when the hon. Member is speaking, he should not be interrupted. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Jagannath, I agree with you.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, 14 States are facing drought situation at the present moment. That is why we have requested for re-considering the roll-back of prices of fertilizer and even of diesel immediately. That is the demand of the TDP.

Sir, recently, thousands of tobacco farmers in the State of Andhra Pradesh have resorted to agitation and *rasta roko* for lack of remunerative prices to the tobacco farmers. Therefore, I would like to request the Government, through you, to give remunerative prices to the tobacco farmers. The Tobacco Board has raised a fund worth Rs. 50 crores by way of cess. Now, a market intervention scheme is necessary to give more remunerative prices to the tobacco farmers. Thousands of farmers are agitating and have resorted to *rasta roko*. Seven express trains have been stopped. So, the Government should intervene in the matter.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please be seated. All of you resume your seats. What has happened Shri Sunil Khan ji? if nothing has happened why you do remain on your feet.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR). Urea is called the poor farmer's fertilizer. Farmers were expecting more from this Budget. As per the hon. Speaker's direction, while we were expecting a reply from the Finance Minister after the discussion on the General Budget, yesterday we saw in the newspapers our hon. Finance Minister's statement that he is not going to withdraw the fertilizer price increase. That is why, even though we are partners of this Government, we want to raise this issue in the House. Farmers are already bearing the burden of drought and other problems. So, they want immediate withdrawal of the rise in fertilizer price. On behalf

of my Party, DMK, I urge upon the Finance Minister to roll back the hike in the price of fertilizer. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 75 per cent people of the country are dependent on agriculture. I would like to know as to why the Government are failing at all fronts and are creating problems for the farmers of country by increasing the prices of fertilizers and diesel. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, though 75 per cent of our population is dependent on agriculture, however the prices of fertilizers and diesel have been raised without paying any attention to their interests and it has caused acute resentment among the farmers. Through you, I would like to submit to the Government that unless this hike is withdrawn, our protest would continue. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have witnessed the sentiments of the allies of the Government and the Government is also aware of this fact. Hence the price hike in fertilizers and diesel be reconsider and a proposal be brought in the House seeking to withdraw this prices hike and also that the hike be withdrawn immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : These Members are all partners of the NDA Government and still they are speaking against the Government. Why do they shout here? They are peculiar allies. They only shout here and then settle with the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (REWA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request that an all party meeting in your leadership should be called and the Government should be compelled to roll back increase in prices of fertilizers & diesel. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I would like to make an appeal to you. The entire problem will be solved if only they are sincere to the cause.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : We are very very sincere.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Let them withdraw their support to the Government. Let them say either the

Government should withdraw the rise in fertilizer price, otherwise they will withdraw their support to the Government. Let them say that.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : That is not the solution.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Let them withdraw their support, if the Government does not withdraw this measure.

MR. SPEAKER : You are the leader of your Party. How can you do this?

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.) : Sir, all allied parties of NDA Government who are opposing the increase in prices of fertilizers and diesel and pressurising the Government to roll back the increase in prices of diesel and fertilizer, should vote against the financial bill as the Government is not paying heed to them. So that the Government may realise and is forced to roll back the increase in prices. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to request all of you to sit down. I have granted permission to Shri Chandrakant Khaire to speak. Would you like to raise issues of Public interest in Zero Hour or not. Zero Hour is for raising most important public issues. Raghunath Jha ji, please sit down. I would like to request all hon'ble Members to take their seats. Khaire ji, please begin your speech and address the Chair.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA): Dasmunsi ji, Mr. Speaker has given me permission to speak. You should sit down, when I rise to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khaire ji, please, address the Chair.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the prices of items like diesel and fertilizers which are used by farmers have been increased. In this regard, I would like to say that we are with the farmers, the Government should not increase the prices of these two items. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Other than whatever Shri Khaire says will not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the

prices of items like fertilizers, diesel and kerosene, which are used in agriculture by Indian farmers have been increased. 75 percent farmers of the country have been burdened by it. ...*(Interruptions)* For them, NDA Government has presented very good budget. I would like to request the Finance Minister to provide some relief to the farmers so that doubts about NDA Government are cleared. The hon. State Finance Minister is also present here. I would like to request him to provide some relief to the farmers. Shiv Sena would like to demand that some relief in regard to kerosene and diesel should also be provided. ...*(Interruptions)* You should not try to teach me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Khaire ji, now please sit down.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, farmers are reeling under drought and flood and they are committing suicide. ...*(Interruptions)* They are not getting remunerative prices. ...*(Interruptions)* At such a time, this Government has declared a war against the farmers of the country. ...*(Interruptions)* It is a strange spectacle that partners of this Government are speaking in one voice here, demanding withdrawal of the increase, but their Finance Minister is saying outside that he will not withdraw it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

They should not act, they are acting. ...*(Interruptions)*
Acting is going on. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : I respect you, but you are wrong in saying that we are acting.

[English]

SHRI S. PALANIMANICKAM : On this particular issue, all the allies are speaking in one voice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Palanimanickam, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an issue concerned with farmers....*(Interruptions)* Sir, hon'ble Member of Congress are playing politics. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon'ble Members of Congress are playing politics on farmer's issues. They do not have any concern for farmers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Janardhana Reddy may speak now. He is the former Chief Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me listen to a senior Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (NARASARAOPET): Sir, I am a disciplined Member. I am waiting for my chance.

The country is passing through unprecedented drought. Everybody knows that. The farmer who is giving food to others is now begging for food. When such is the situation, the Government has presented a worst Budget and a shameful Budget to the farmer. Even the Minister of Agriculture has gone on record saying that this increase in the price of fertiliser is unjustified. Shri Yerrannaidu, who is supporting the Government with 29 Members of his Party has also gone on record saying the same thing. But unfortunately, they tell something and vote for something else. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, voting is not a solution for every problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Similarly, Shri Palanimanickam also opposed this increase. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, I want to go to your subject now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandian may please speak now

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, no walk out on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: This has become the practice of this NDA Government to increase the price and give BJP a chance to represent and roll back. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: On behalf of my Party, we support the farmers. Farmers are the backbone of the Indian economy. Farmers are producing food. In that, the essential raw material for the farmer is fertiliser. Without manure, he will not be able to cultivate. About two years back, the same issue was raised when the same kind of hike was given effect to. After a heated

argument and after a heated debate in this House, it was rolled back. The farmers are unorganised. Even in villages and districts the farmers are unorganised.

I would like to submit that we have to extend an organised parliamentary support to the farmers who are unorganised. So, I would appeal to all the Members and also the Government to come to the rescue of the farmers and reduce the hike in fertiliser price. ...*(Interruptions)* The fertiliser price hike will seriously affect farmers and if the hike is not rolled back, they will lose interest in farming. So, to promote farming and to produce more foodgrains, we have to support the farmers. My party is supporting the farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is present here, he himself has opposed it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking the Minister to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you like to say something?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You do not listen anything, but just oppose them.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are walking out in protest of the hike in the price of fertilisers.

12.31 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and some other hon. Members left the House.)

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : They are not concerned about the interests of farmers, but just pretend to be so. They want to play politics with farmers and do not want to do anything. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : What do you know about farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : We are here because of farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Congress Party need not teach any lessons to all of us. We are not walking out. All the allied parties are united on the issue of the hike in fertiliser price. We are putting pressure on the Government and we are demanding the Government to roll back the increase in the price of fertilisers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want to sit inside Parliament and debate this issue. The hike in the price of fertilisers should be rolled back. We have a definite stand on this issue. The interests of the farmers should be protected. My leader, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu said that the increase in the price of fertilisers should be rolled back. We have to support the farmers and without them we cannot have enough foodgrains in the country. If they do not produce foodgrains, there will not be any existence of human life in the country. So, on behalf of AIADMK, we appeal to the Government to roll back the hike in fertiliser price, as they had done two years back.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Prahlad Singhji, please begin.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (BALAGHAT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India towards a big levy scam. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Parliamentary constituency, I have been representing is a major paddy producing area. In year 2001 and 2002, 5,57,366 metric tonne and 4,45,869 metric tonne of paddy was produced respectively. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the area is affected by drought, but even then levy is continuously being increased. I have also written to the District Collector in this regard. Paddy production has been less and despite drought levy has been increased and traders, whose names I have mentioned to have given one thousand quintal of levy despite their mills not having husking capacity of even 100 quintal of paddy, such evidential facts have come to light. I would like to submit to the Union Government that when paddy production has decreased due to drought, how levy has been increased. How ten thousand quintals of levy is charged from the industrialist, having the husking capacity of paddy of just one thousand quintal. The State Government has not taken any action in this regard. I want your protection. Five and a half lakh metric tonne of paddy is produced in district, from where I hail, but even after drought 2 lakh tonnes of levy was taken and farmers have not been given any benefit. Rice from Punjab

was sent over there. The paddy purchased by Union Government for labourers was polished and sent there. I would like to demand that the Union Government should send its team to enquire into this scam.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan is the biggest State of the country in terms of area. Despite its being the biggest state, it is not having adequate number of national highways. In this regard the State Government have dispatched 28 proposals to the Government of India. Unfortunately, the Union Government have provided sanction to only one proposal so far. I would like to request that the Government should pay attention to the remaining projects, grant permission for construction of national highways and also provide funds for them.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (BUXAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I gave notice on 27th of the previous month. I want that I should be given permission to speak, I would like to tell the House, what happened with me. How far the police can go with a MP.

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait for a minute: Let me check what information the State Government has sent.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (KHILTI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the news related to murders of journalists in a planned manner by the organised crime mafia have come to light during the recent past. Shri Chandrabhan Chourasia, a journalist of 'Amar Ujala', daily was shot dead in my parliamentary constituency Kheri on evening of the 9th January, 2003, because he had revealed the sinister alliance of corrupt Police, Administration, organised criminals and corrupt Political leaders in his articles. Shri Devendra Prakash Mishra, another journalist of 'Amar Ujala', has also been threatened for his life by this mafia. The saddest aspect of this matter is that the criminal network is being protected by the police. Instead of putting the real culprits behind the bars innocent people have been sent to jail, and the file has been closed. Though, the real culprits have been exposed.

Kheri district is a border district. I apprehend that criminal mafia having hold in this area and far reaching results of providing protection to them by corrupt police administration would be very devastating. Therefore, through House I would like to request that CBI inquiry should be held in regard to the killing of journalist, Shri Chandrabhan Choursia, so that nexus of corrupt political leaders, corrupt Police Officers and criminals could be exposed. The citizens and journalists unions from all over the district have sent their messages and representations in this regard to the Prime Minister and the President. The immediate action in that regard should be ensured.

MR. SPEAKER: Chaubeyji, you have raised very important issue. But the State Government has been asked to provide information in this regard, which has not been received so far. After I receive information, I will grant you permission to express your views. I understand, by tomorrow, information would be received. Today, I will send them fax.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of sugarcane growers has been discussed many times in the last few days in the House. I am sorry to say that today crores of rupees of sugarcane growers are outstanding against the sugar mill owners. The sugarcane growers all over the country are distressed due to wrong policy of the Government of India. Today the situation has deteriorated so much that the sugar mill-owners have misappropriated funds allocated to them by Government of India from Special Sugar Development Fund for clearing outstanding dues of sugarcane growers and labourers.

Outstanding amount of crores of rupees have not been paid to the sugarcane growers by the sugar mill owners so far. I would like to present the case of three sugar mills as an example. More than seven crore rupees of sugarcane growers are outstanding against the Kapan Ganj sugar mill of Kushi Nagar Janpad. Similarly, crores of rupees of sugarcane growers are also outstanding against Siswa bazaar sugar mill of my parliamentary constituency. 5 crore 37 lakh rupees of farmers, 6 crore 55 lakh rupees of labourers and 7 lakh rupees of sales tax is outstanding against M/s Khalilabad sugar mill of Santkabir Nagar. The said mill has misappropriated the funds to the extent that despite receiving 27 crore and 66 lakh rupees through different banks and Sugar Development Fund, the sugar mill owner has not paid outstanding money of farmers. The group of officers of Uttar Pradesh have sanctioned a loan application of Rs 35 crore for above mentioned sugar mill and forwarded it to the Government of India in this regard. I have personally written a letter to the Prime Minister and met the Finance Minister. The Finance Minister has directed the related Department of Government of India not to allocate them funds at any cost.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The State Government, by crossing the limits of decency, has decided to allocate 12 crore rupees to M/s Khalilabad Sugar Mill, who still have an outstanding amount of 27 crore 66 lakh rupees against financial institutions and 12 crore rupees to pay to labourers and farmers. Despite that, the Uttar Pradesh Government is depriving the farmers of their due by giving 12 crore rupees, to them this misappropriating public money. I would like to submit to the Government of India that if the State Government allocate funds to M/s Khalilabad sugar mill which is alleged to

have not paid an outstanding amount of 27 crore 66 lakh rupees which include interest and penalty of different financial institutions, it would definitely be a wastage of public money. Therefore, the Government of India should direct the Uttar Pradesh Government not to allocate funds to said sugar mill and the sugar mill should be made to pay outstanding amount of farmers.

In this context, the Government of India had assured last year that sugarcane growers would get remunerative price of their produce. Yesterday, the Finance Minister had given a statement that in Uttar Pradesh, sugarcane would be procured at the rate of Rs. 95-100 per quintal, but nowhere in Uttar Pradesh, payment at this rate is being made, due to which farmers are agitated and those agitating at various places are being fired upon and lathicharged. I would humbly request that when decision has been taken in the House, then its compliance should be ensured and action should be taken against the persons who have ordered firing and lathi-charge on agitated farmers to save the democracy and farmers.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM): Sir, I associate myself with this.

12.42 hrs.

RE: REPORTED HARASSMENT OF PEOPLE FROM
RAIGANJ PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY IN
VARIOUS PARTS OF U.P., HARYANA AND DELHI

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker Sir, I seek your protection as well as the protection of the entire House and I expect a response from the Government, especially from the Home Ministry.

I gave the notice purposefully, with a copy to the Home Ministry, with regard to a serious situation. I do not like to take much time of the House but maybe it is the beginning of my movement to defend the rights of the genuine Indian citizens through this intervention.

Sir, Punjab and Bengal are the two States, which witnessed the brunt of partition of India as well as riots during the national struggle. Several hundreds of people have been displaced from Pakistan to Punjab, from Punjab to Pakistan, from Pakistan to Bengal, from Bengal to Pakistan and later on Bangladesh.

Sir, we are all opposed to occupation by the illegal immigrants in this country. We are all opposed to those who are acting on behalf of ISI and Al-Qaida in India. But it is the

solemn duty of the Government of India to see that no *bona fide* citizen of India are harassed. A large number of Bengali-speaking people, Muslims and Hindus, from Bengal, Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam have been working in various jobs in Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and various parts of the country for the last two decades. They are from small walks of life like daily wage earners, brick-kilns, *khans* in Delhi, tailoring, embroidery, etc. For the last one month a serious kind of harassment has been started to them. Though they produce their identity cards, Election Commission cards, ration cards, school leaving certificate, Head Master's certificate, certificates from Members of Parliament or Zila Parishads, they are being harassed.

Sir, for the last one month, people in Gurgaon, NOIDA and Panipat, and even people from marriage pandal have been picked up by the police on the ground that they must be Bangladeshis because they speak in Bengali language. Even when they produced all their identity documents, they were not released. One month before, I had been to the Gurgaon police station and met the Superintendent of Police. I gave the identity of people who belong to my constituency. I also told him that their forefathers took part in the national struggle. Yet, they were not protected. Yesterday, when I contacted Gurgaon Superintendent of Police, he said that he was doing his national duty. He tried to teach me a lesson that we are not doing our national duty. I told him: "This is too much. You must verify whether these people, who belong to West Bengal or Tripura, are having the *bona fide* citizenship of the country or not." He refused to listen.

Sir, people, who are serving the nation and bringing up the nation from the day of our Independence, are being punished like this. I demand the Government, through you, Sir, especially the Minister of Home Affairs - I wrote a letter to Shri Advani - to invite all the MPs of the border States to know their views, explain the Government's views and understand the situation. Otherwise, it will lead to a serious situation.

I give you a specific example. In a place called Ratwa and Anand Tola, people belonging to a particular community called '*chain mandal*' are here from the dawn of Independence. The family members of those people have been picked up even from marriage *pandal* and police have beaten them. They have also been abused in a foul language.

Yesterday, in Gurgaon, people of Chakolia, who belong to my constituency, have been picked up because they speak in Bengali language. They have been tortured in the police station. Police say that they have got this direction from the Government. If this is the way to remove all the Bengali-speaking people, it will send a wrong message.

I am proud of being in West Bengal, which teaches national unity. It never looked at the people as to which language they speak. Sir, this is the treatment that is being meted out to Bengali-speaking people in this country.

Sir, I demand the Home Minister to explain the Government's policy clearly and to inform us whether the Government is sticking to the Indira Gandhi - Mujib-ur-Rahman Accord. I also want the Government to clarify its stand as to whether this rule applies to those who came within the purview of that Accord.

If the Government does not call a meeting of all the MPs of the border States immediately to explain its position, it will go beyond control, and we will have no other option but to lead a *morcha* in Delhi. This will send a bad message. Sir, the Government is keeping quiet on this issue. Bangladeshi does not mean whoever is speaking in Bengali language. What is the treatment that they are giving? Therefore, I want the Home Minister - I gave a notice in the morning - to respond to it and to call a meeting of the MPs of the border States immediately to understand our problems.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Sir, in the name of illegal immigrants, the Government is persecuting the Bengali-speaking people throughout India. Bengali backlash may take place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This issue was discussed during the 'Zero Hour'. I cannot allow further discussion on this.

Now, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, this is not a question of chauvinism at all.

I am thankful to Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi for raising it once again because it is proper that it has to be brought in the highest forum of this country. Both myself and Shri Hannan Mollah have written to the hon. Deputy Prime Minister giving the details of the names of the people. An FIR has been lodged against one Mr. Lakshman Mandal saying he is "Lakshman Khan", thereby trying to show that he is a Muslim, as if all Muslims have to be hounded out of this country. That cannot be the policy. Similarly, Muslim surnames are being given to those who have got Hindu Christian names, as we call it the first name. Similar FIRs have been lodged. They are not even produced before the court. They have been beaten physically in the police station lock-up, in the custody of police. Such incidents are happening one after another.

Are we going to divide the country again on the basis of

language? Therefore, I am appealing to all sections of the House, through you, Sir, that this matter should not be allowed to be treated as a routine manner. This matter is much more serious. We had raised it before also when it had happened in some other States. Now it is happening near the capital of India-Gurgaon and in large areas of Noida. A terror situation is prevailing. I earnestly request the Government to immediately respond.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you like to say something?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as directed by you, I would bring the entire matter raised by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and Somnathji to the notice of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMAM) Sir, I want to appeal, through you, to the whole House and particularly to the Government that there has been a completely unimaginative insensitive attitude towards the farmers. There cannot be a bigger insult to us, as a farming community, to be told by this Government which has no comprehension of what the impact of drought and biotechnology means on this country.

Last year, after much debate, Bt. Cotton was allowed to come into this country. Today, to our utter horror, we have found that the Bt. Cotton, which has been brought to us, is not giving us the yield that we need. At Mallapur in Mahbubnagar district, the cotton crop has failed after Bt. Cotton seed was given to us. To compound our injury, we had to spend large sums of money on the additional pesticide to keep this crop going at a high premium. We did not ever recover that. The 10-12 quintals that were promised and assured came down to one quintal of produce. So, until the Central Government will conduct surveys of what is happening in our Bt. Cotton growing areas to see if it is really cost-effective for our production, we have to have a policy approach on this problem.

Also, in today's drought situation the Government has not taken into consideration that we have large poultry and fish farming, both of whose seed is not available today. We have a crop failure in our corn and maize. I have written to the Prime Minister, to the Government and to the Minister of Agriculture that the import of maize and corn should be allowed as one-time drought measure with no import duty so that our livestock can be fed and kept alive. This Government has to wake up from its stupor syndrome of Rip Van Winkle. They

will wake up one day and realise that the country has gone by then.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your and also the attention of this august House to a very important issue. The border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka is going on for last 45 years. The Marathi speaking people of that area have been making efforts to include Marathi speaking area in Maharashtra. They are making demand to this effect. I would like to urge the Government of India to consider the proposal of 'Vishal Gomantak' to solve the border issue between Maharashtra and Karnataka. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Balasaheb Thakre has also supported the proposal regarding 'Vishal Gomantak'....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The two parties are playing the scam role

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I demand that the problem should be solved by creating 'Vishal Gomantak'. We want reply from the Government of India in this regard.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are also allowed to associated with this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support this issue. Injustice is being done with Marathi people. This dispute should be immediately solved.(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, when you were the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, you too had made efforts in this regard.

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (JALPAIGURI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me a chance to raise an important issue in Parliament. You know, Sir, since 1996, the Women Reservation Bill is hanging before us to get approval of Parliament. The Government had introduced the Bill in the House in December, 1999 and the House as well as the whole nation witnessed in shame as to how the passing of this Bill was resisted by some vested interests.

The Government has also taken advantage of the situation and kept the Bill in the cupboard. We do not understand why the Government is dilly-dallying on this. I therefore urge upon you to direct the Government to place the Bill for consideration and passing in this Session itself.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thousands

of tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh are resorting to agitation. They are going in for *rasta roko* and such other agitations because they are not getting remunerative prices.

The Gujral Committee recommendations are there for a price stabilisation fund for intervention of the Government to ensure a minimum support. The traders have also formed a syndicate and are controlling the prices at the lowest levels. All the farmers have boycotted this move of the traders and formed a platform for agitation. This is the scenario prevailing in Andhra Pradesh.

Recently, the Ministry of Commerce of the Government of India appointed a Prabir Sengupta Committee to go into the functioning of the Tobacco Board and everything; but instead of asking for a price stabilisation fund and market intervention schemes to ensure remunerative prices for farmers, the Prabir Sengupta Committee recommended the abolition of the Tobacco Board. The Tobacco Board was started in 1975 after a big agitation by the farmers. In this scenario, we request the Government not to implement the Sengupta Committee recommendations and demand the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Gujral Committee Report to provide for a price stabilisation fund to ensure more remunerative prices to the tobacco farmers.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT): Sir, the entire nation is proud of the glorious victory of the Indian cricket team against Pakistan in South Africa in the cricket World Cup.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We have already congratulated the team.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: We are also proud of the excellent performance of our players in the World Cup. We convey our heartiest congratulations to the players of the Indian cricket team. I urge upon you and also request my hon. colleagues that we should adopt a Resolution to be moved from the Chair to express our gratitude and congratulations to our cricket players.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We have already sent the message.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: This would boost the morale of our players and our players would be encouraged and we shall win the World Cup.(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Recently, there was a police firing against adivasis in Kerala where one adivasi died and many others are missing. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes visited the places and they have asked for an inquiry into the incident. The Kerala

Government is very adamant and does not want to order a judicial inquiry. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI): Sir, I may also be permitted to speak on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ahamed, I will allow you to associate yourself.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, I am not associating but I am dissociating because the hon. Member is misleading the House with half-truths and untruths, Everybody is sympathising with adivasis but Shri Radhakrishnan is maligning the State Government in that pretext. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The police firing is quite unjustified. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: The present State Government has assigned land to adivasis but the previous Government of my friend's party did not give them even one acre of land. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: There is a hunger strike by a leader in the State. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: His own party Secretary has spoken about armed brutalities by some people in the name of adivasis. The State Government has shown sympathy towards adivasis.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, there is a hunger strike by an MLA, who is also the Secretary of the CPI (M) Legislature Party. He is staging a hunger strike in front of the Secretariat. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: His own Party Secretary has pointed out that they do not agree with the armed conflict of the adivasis. Therefore, the hon. Member speaking about it here is misleading. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The hunger strike has entered the fourth or the fifth day. So far, the Government has not taken any step. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: The question of ordering an inquiry is within the jurisdiction of the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, the central jails of India which have now been elevated to the status of correctional centres have become the nerve centre of criminal and terrorist activities. ...*(Interruptions)* Even after being incarcerated, terrorist organisations of diverse denominations are virtually cocking a snook at all stringent measures

supposed to have been employed against such activities. One of such incidents has been recently revealed in West Bengal. It has been found that Altaf Ansari, who was extradited from the UAE after persistent persuasion, after having masterminded the terrorist attack on the American Centre and having hogged the limelight by the abduction of the owner of Khadim Shoe Company Shri Partho Ray Burman, has been continuing his nefarious activities by using his cellular phone and directing his accomplices in distant Dubai.

Therefore, it is a matter of major concern that even after being lodged in jail, they can execute their underground activities. So, the entire purpose is likely to be defeated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for lunch to meet again at 2 pm.

13.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up Legislative Business.

CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1975."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II Section 2, dated 3.3.2003

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President

STATEMENT RE: CUSTOMS TARIFF
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE*

[English]

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I do not have any objection whether the Minister is in the charge of Finance Department or not and if he is in the charge of it then he will have to say that he begs to move. It can be said about the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs or the Minister of any other Department however he will have to say that he begs to move. ...*(Interruptions)* If he is in the Department of Finance, then he himself will say.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): The Minister of State cannot do it 'on behalf' of his senior Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rather, he has introduced the Bill now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is that it should not be taken easily. If he is in the charge of the Department of Finance then he has this right. If the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs or other Ministers are absent then he can propose. He himself will move, why will he move on behalf of his colleague. He himself will speak that he begs to move. I do not have any objection if he introduces the Bill, however he himself should say. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the observation that is raised is that it is an economic Bill, relating to a matter under the Ministry of Finance. The Bill is listed in the name of the Finance Minister. The Minister of State is well within his right to take part, to intervene or to answer. I only seek your guidance whether on a Finance Bill of this nature, exclusively dealing with a finance matter, the Minister in charge, not dealing with the subject, can introduce the Bill. That is all.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister through his letter has conveyed to him to introduce the Bill and has also given a copy of it. So he may introduce the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whether the Minister concerned with this Department will introduce this or any other can do this. Your point of order in this regard is required. So I would request you to give your ruling in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR): Sir, he is the Minister in charge of Customs and Central Excise. He is the Minister of State of the concerned Ministry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has sought permission from the Chair to introduce this Bill Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran. So, I have permitted.

14.10 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to depute a Central Team to Madhya Pradesh to assess the extent of damage caused to opium crop in the State**

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, several crops in various districts especially Nimach, Mandsaar and Ratlam of Madhya Pradesh have been damaged due to untimely heavy rainfall and devastating hailing last month. It has also caused heavy damage to opium crops. There is 60 to 70 per cent damage in some places of these opium producing districts. Though the information regarding the damage has been given to the departmental officers however it is due to the inaction of the officers regarding the spot assessment of the damage that there is much discontent among opium growers and they are apprehensive that if the assessment of damage is not made in time, then in the event of non payment of average fixed by the Government by them, their license can be cancelled. In this case opium growers will have to bear heavy financial loss first on account of damage of their crops and second due to cancellation of their license thus they will have to suffer double loss.

* Laid on the Table of the House and also Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7067 of 2003

So, I urge upon the hon'ble Minister of Finance to immediately depute Central team to assess the extent of damage so that relief may be provided to opium growers who have suffered heavy financial loss and thus they may be saved from impending damage.

(ii) Need to provide more facilities at Jalgaon Railway Station, Maharashtra

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN (JALGAON): The headquarter of my Parliamentary constituency, Jalgaon is an important industrial city of Maharashtra and is a railway junction station under the Bhuswal Division of Central Railway. World famous Ajanta Caves are located only 50 kms away from Jalgaon city. Large number of tourists from various parts of the country and abroad visit Jalgaon to see Ajanta Caves. In order to provide more facilities to passengers at Jalgaon railway station and to develop the railway station, there is need to provide the status of sub city station to Jalgaon Railway Station of Bhuswal. The discussion was also held with the officers of the Central Railways in Nagpur regarding this and they had also given assurance in this regard.

Sir, through you I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Railways that keeping in view the importance of Jalgaon station kindly provide it the status of subcity station of Bhuswal.

(iii) Need to move Supreme Court to review its judgement declaring lawyers right to strike as illegal

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL (NAINITAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Supreme Court in its judgement in December, 2002 has declared the right to strike of the lawyers in all the courts as illegal. It is not in the interest of the lawyers. I would like to request the Central Government to move the Supreme Court to review its judgement in this regard. If the problem could not be solved in this manner then we can make amendment in the constitution so that the justified demand of lawyers could be met with and they can enjoy their rights in the democratic manner. The lawyers in our country function as watch dog of our constitution and help in proper functioning of the court so as to provide due justice to the people.

So, through you, Sir, I would like to request the Government that the judgement of the Supreme Court should be reviewed and if essential, constitution should be amended to meet their justified demands and to give them their rights through the democratic means.

(iv) Need to bring Kerala Hi-Tech Industries Limited, Trivandrum under the control of Ministry of Defence

[English]

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Sir, I would like to raise an important matter regarding taking over of Kerala Hi-Tech Industries Limited (KELTEC), Trivandrum in my constituency by the Ministry of Defence.

KELTEC was specially set up to cater to the high-tech hardware needs of Defence and Space. It has performed well technically and the quality of product has been appreciated. The technologies in the production of hardware were developed in-house by a team of engineers and technicians who can make up further complex jobs warranting high quality. However, due to various reasons, the company became sick and it was referred to BIFR.

However, considering the importance of this company in realising the hardware needs of defence and space, DRDO and ISRO came forward with help. Now, the company is free from all heavy burden and marching forward for achieving a coveted position amongst the aerospace industries. It had great potential for expansion and diversification and as a first step, the company has undertaken some strategic work at Defence Research and Development Lab at Hyderabad.

I, therefore, request the Government to take necessary action to merge this unit with any of the defence organisations.

(v) Need to Provide Opportunities to Indian Construction Industry for Undertaking Reconstruction Work in Afghanistan

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI (PEDDAPALLI): Sir, as the Indian Government has offered to provide funds for reconstruction in Afghanistan, the Indian construction industry can work on reconstruction in Afghanistan and show its talents. For this purpose, Indian contractors could be selected and the works can be got implemented through them. Instead of cash assistance to Afghanistan, the payment for works should be released to the contractors directly thus providing Indian construction industry opportunities to work overseas and show its capabilities.

The Andhra Pradesh Government, under the initiative of its Chief Minister, has established National Academy of Construction at Hyderabad headed by a retired IAS officer. It is conducting training programmes for Engineers, Technicians, skilled workers and tradesmen, etc. The Institute has also proposed to conduct a training programme to the Engineers of Government of Afghanistan. I request the Government of

India that, as suggested by Andhra Pradesh Government, the National Academy of Construction, Hyderabad should be involved in working out the modalities for reconstruction in Afghanistan and also for undertaking training and construction work for Afghanistan.

(vi) Need to Allocate more Funds for Development of Animal Husbandry

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is essential for the individual, family or for that matter all the people of the country to march on the path of development but it is possible only when path of development is chosen by them according to their resource, capability and requirement. The capability of the country is its 94 per cent unsettled labourers, toil of the youths is its means and the maximum opportunities of employment is the need of the hour. So we will have to select such industries in the country where unskilled labourers could work and which can be started with small capital and which may provide employment to maximum number of people. The animal husbandry meets all the above conditions. Presently 19 millions people of the country are employed in this industry. Six to eight per cent of the Gross Domestic Products (GDP) are received from this industry. In Ninth Five Year Plan period 1.1 per cent amount was allocated for this sector. In Tenth Five Year Plan only 0.6 per cent has been allocated which is extremely less. So, I urge upon the Government to immediately review the Animal Husbandry Industry and to enhance the existing percentage of allocation to atleast 3 per cent.

(vii) Need to convert Achalpur-Murtizapur-Yawatmal Narrow gauge Rail line in Maharashtra into broad-gauge

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (AMRAVATI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on several occasions, I have raised the issue of conversion of Achalpur-Murtizapur-Yawatmal narrow gauge line into broad gauge in the House under Rule 377 and have written letters to the hon'ble Minister of Railways in this regard.

The said line which is 75 years old has become quite important in the 21st century. Major towns like Segkar, Anjangaon, Surj, Daryapur, Achalpur and rural centres are located alongwith this line which contributes significantly in agriculture produce. Oranges, bananas, sugarcane, wheat, soybean are produced here in large quantity. Shahanur dam provide water for irrigation in this region. The condition of Railway stations along this narrow gauge line is very bad. The Indian railway run this train having paid royalty to the English company.

I urge upon the hon'ble Minister of Railways to start survey work of this route for gauge conversion of the said line.

(viii) Need for early Commissioning of National Bureau of Agriculturally important Micro Organism at Mau, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (GHOSI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the proposed transfer of infrastructure of National Sugarcane and sugar technology Institute in my Parliamentary constituency Ghosi, district Mau (U.P.) to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research as per the recommendation of the Ministry of Finance on 27th January, 2000.

In reply to questions regarding the said transfer time and again it was said that it is being considered. In spite of the transfer of NISST Mau to ICAR in principle after pondering over for more than three years, the National Bureau of Agriculturally important micro organism (NBAIM) proposed by ICAR could not be commissioned as yet due to which there is great discontentment among the people of this region.

So, I urge upon the Government to immediately commission the NBAIM Institute of ICAR.

[English]

(ix) Need to include 'Peddanayakkan Palayani' town in Rasipuram Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu in the Integrated Small and Medium Township Development Scheme and allocate adequate funds for it

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Central Government is implementing the scheme of Integrated Small and Medium Township Development. In my Parliamentary constituency, 'Peddanayakkan Palayam' is a medium town and it lacks in infrastructural development. It is centrally located. But there are no enough roads and water available in the town. The town Panchayat have passed several resolutions requesting for central assistance for the development of the town.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to allocate, at least, Rupees one crore for the development of infrastructural facilities in 'Peddanayakkan Palayam' and its surrounding areas. The local body can not only develop infrastructural facilities but also build a shopping complex to generate its source of revenue.

I once again request the Government of India to include 'Peddanayakkan Palayam' in the scheme and allocate adequate funds.

(x) Need to upgrade Raninagar railway junction in Jalpaiguri district, West Bengal

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (JALPAIGURI): Sir, Raninagar is a key railway junction border entire North-East States including Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim. It is otherwise known as Gateway of the North East region of India. Recently, the Government of India, the State Government and the multinational have taken a venture to open industry of different forms and size after the Government of West Bengal earmarked the area as one of its industrial zones. Many of these industries started its production and exported the same to different parts of India by road for want of adequate railway facility to transport the goods through train from Raninagar. Had the Raninagar junction station been provided with loco-shed, extra booking office, accommodation of rakes and introduction of more super fast trains from Haldibari to Kolkata via Raninagar, the Railway department would have earned more revenue than it presently has. The most important thing is that the station should be modernised to cope with the need of the hour.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to make a spot survey of its feasibility and to take action for upgradation of Raninagar railway junction in the NFR between Jalpaiguri and Belakoba, in the district of Jalpaiguri.

(xi) Need for all-round development of Chanchal sub-division of North Malda, West Bengal

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, time and again I have been repeating in this House that neither the State Government nor the Planning Commission is giving any cognisance to the required infrastructural support for the new sub-divisional headquarters, Chanchal, in my Constituency in the district of Malda. It is the main centre of North Malda which, in every alternate year, gets adversely affected by floods.

Till date, sub-divisional hospital, engineering college, modernisation of the Chanchal College Science Stream and Laboratory, flood management in North Malda, measures against river erosion of Ganges and Phulohar in Ratua block, etc., have not yet been finalised in the Annual Plan, causing untold miseries and uncertainties in the sub-division.

The State Government, Planning Commission and the Union Government, specially the Desk of Water Resources, H.R.D., should address the issue immediately with a view to solve the problems.

I, therefore, request the Ministry of Planning to have a meeting with the State Government for appropriate action for development of Chanchal sub-division of the North Malda immediately.

14.24 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

AND

CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item Nos. 14 and 15 together.

Shri Basu Deb Acharya: Not present

Shri Prabodh Panda.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

"That this House disapproves of the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (No. 1 of 2003) promulgated by the President on 20 January, 2003."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister to move the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, the Minister is absent. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, what is happening in the House, I would like to know. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: It seems, he has gone for some other business. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Minister just introduces the Bill and leaves the House. ... (Interruptions) Now, the Statutory Resolution has been moved, and another Minister is here to reply. To get it for consideration, now another Minister is standing. ... (Interruptions) This is not the procedure. It is an insult to the House. It is dereliction of duty and total abuse of power of the Government. Is this the way Parliament should function? ... (Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, till the Minister comes back, no business can be transacted here. This is not the way. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Adsul, the other Minister of Finance is here.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): Sir, there is some little problem. He is coming back here just now. But I will move the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I just like to inform you one thing. We are told that the Finance Minister in whose name the item of business is listed, has authorised Shri Gingee Ramachandran. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, Sir. Please allow me to submit. The item of business was listed in the name of the Finance Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh. But he has authorised Shri Gingee Ramchandran. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SUSHMA SWARAJ): He was here....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No. He was not here. He came now. But another Minister got up and said he would introduce. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: He was here and he just now left for a while. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is the way, this Government functions! It is like musical chair! ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, now, that Minister has to withdraw his comments and then only, he should introduce the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: I also belong to the same Department. What is the wrong in it? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is not the way.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after introduction, the matter under Rule 377 were going on so he thought that he may go to drink water and he went to drink water. He did not know that in between the matters under

Rule 377 were finished. It is a normal mistake still I would like that the hon'ble Minister should begin after tendering his apology.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, now you can just express your regrets.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I apologise; I just went for a few minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is okay. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Matters under Rule 377 was going on; and I just went out for a few minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We have all the respects for you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may please move the Bill for consideration.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I moved the Resolution because it is going to replace the Ordinance, which has been promulgated just a few days before the Budget-Session had been called. The Government knew that the Budget Session was coming, but still it did it. I do not understand that was the hurry, because just a few days before this important Budget session, it was promulgated. So, it is as good as 'Ordinance Raj'.

In the last Winter Session of Parliament, many hon. Members of this august House raised this point and said that this practice should not be followed. Broadly, this sense has been brought forward in this House and it was expected that henceforth, the Government would not follow such methods. But it is unfortunate that just before this Budget Session had been called, this Ordinance had been promulgated. It is just like ignoring the Parliament and ignoring the democratic norms of Parliament. They are just doing something by 'Ordinance Raj'. So, I am against it.

Customs duty continues to be a major source of tax revenue not only for India but also for most of the developing

countries of the world. Therefore, it should not be handled piecemeal. High levels of subsidy being given to the agricultural sector by developed countries results in uncompetitive high tariff rates which can be used effectively as the bargaining instrument. We should have a strategic tariff policy. It should not be taken up piecemeal. It is not the question of nomenclature facility or digit classification alone. It is only to facilitate the foreign players, the multinationals. So, it is an important aspect which should be taken as a whole.

It could easily be understood that there is a talk of pressure from the WTO regulations which call for slashing of import duties, digit classifications, nomenclature facilities so as to make it easier and more lucrative for the multinational players to trade in India. So, it is for facilitating the multinationals, the foreign players. Customs duty is a very important part of the Budget. Even before the deliberations on Budget has started, the Government had come out with this Bill, which is quite unfortunate. As I have said earlier, in my view the matters relating to customs tariff should not be taken piecemeal. But it has become a regular practice of this NDA Government.

This National Democratic Government, NDA, has lost its literal meaning. The connotation is, it is called the National Government whereas it is pursuing the anti-national policies. It is called Democratic, but is ignoring the democratic methods. It is called Alliance, in fact it is manipulating everything to bring to fore its hidden agenda. It seems that there is no alliance any more. Today itself during the 'Zero Hour' not only the Members of Opposition but also the Members of the partners of this so called NDA Government raised a number of issues making us think as to whether there is really an alliance between them.

I wish the Minister, the Government, to reply as to what was the hurry to bring this Ordinance just before the Budget Session, a few days before the House was called. So, I move this Resolution and hope that the House would accept it.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we introduced this Bill replacing the Ordinance due to the urgency of trade and commerce and other related departments of the Commerce Ministry. They have referred the matters to the customs because there are a number of classifications in the Tariff code, especially the Customs Duty.

There are too many organisations in the international market. The idea was to have a system of nomenclature, and to harmonise the matters relating to customs duty, commerce, etc. That is the reason why it was talked about previously also. The Ministry of Commerce and the Export Promotion

Board had also recommended this for facilitating trade, industry, exports, import, etc. They had also recommended that this matter should be taken up immediately. After considering all these important aspects, we have brought the classification of items. We are adopting the six digit statistics for customs and tariff. At the international level, they take eight digits as base and some take ten-digits as base. If we do this, it would reduce the transaction cost. We could then feed the data into the computer. It is essential for us to introduce this kind of measure.

Therefore, the NDA Government had to issue this Ordinance. We do not have any intention to dishonour Parliament or the democratic process. We issued the Ordinance as there was urgency. Now, we have introduced this Bill that replaces the Ordinance which was promulgated in January. It came into force on 1st February. The whole idea was to reduce the transaction cost of trade and industry. We can easily get the correct information. There would be prescribed trade and industry people who would be engaged in this. It would help in collecting the data urgently. Hence we have taken a policy decision to introduce the Bill.

I also express my thanks to the hon. Member who has expressed his views about customs duty. I may make it clear that this Bill is not for increasing or decreasing the duties. This Bill only seeks to simply certain procedures and to facilitate data collection from trade and industry. That is the only objective. It will not result in any revenue loss. It is not to disturb the tax structure. It will not have any impact on the revenue collection. I will ensure proper compliance of the importers and exporters. It would be easy to know how much have been imported, the types of goods imported, its quantity, etc. Everything will be reflected clearly. As there was an urgency to introduce those measures, that Ordinance was promulgated.

I thank the hon. Member for giving his suggestions and I request the hon. Members to pass this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (No.1 of 2003) promulgated by the President on 20 January, 2003."

"That the Bill further to amend the Customs Tariff Act 1975, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ). Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very unfortunate that the Government -- and that too the Ministry of Finance -- is trying to bring in

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

legislation one after another through the corridor of Ordinance without explaining the reasons for urgency.

Sir, the hon. Minister has just now stated that it is not a Bill to effect any reduction or increase in the import duty. It is just to facilitate trade management in the country by changing the Schedule of certain items and also to facilitate the Statistical Department of Commercial Intelligence in the Ministry of Commerce.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the very volume of this Bill. It is more than the size of a dictionary! The hon. Minister expects that he would circulate the Bill 72 hours before it is discussed in the House and the hon. Members would go through every page of this Bill and then come back to take part in the debate. I wonder if the hon. Minister himself has gone through all the provisions of this Bill. I would not like to embarrass the hon. Minister by quoting the pages and chapters. I am sure the hon. Minister will not be able to respond to those.

Sir, is it the way the Parliament should be treated? Is it the way the NDA Government should treat the Parliament on a vital matter of classification of goods and items in the respective Schedules? What is the essence of the Bill? The Bill is only to amend section 11 and add another section 11 (A) to substitute the First Schedule. It is nothing more than that. Now, if the hon. Members were to go and find out as to what are the times that have been added to the Schedule to facilitate trade in six and eight digits, then they would have to go through the entire Bill. That is why, the Parliament, in its wisdom, had constituted the Standing Committees. The Standing Committees have enough time to go into the whole matter and give suggestions. A few bureaucrats in the Ministry of Commerce in Udyog Bhawan and in the Ministry of Finance have prepared this document and has asked the Minister to issue an Ordinance and later on to get it endorsed by the Parliament. The Parliament should not be taken so lightly. We also can contribute to it. There are eminent experts in this House who have worked for a long time in the Ministry of Finance and in the Department of Customs or even in public life and who would know as to what is to be done and what is not to be done and which are the areas that could have further been brought in this. We could have given good suggestions to improve upon this whole concept. But the time is limited. If the Government had the sincere intention of broad-basing the tariff regime by accommodating the classifications in a proper manner, both in the six and eight digits, and substitute it in the First Schedule, then they should have welcomed the proposal of introducing the Bill - without promulgating an Ordinance - and sending it to the Standing Committee with a mandatory direction from the Chair to bring it back to the House

in the next part of this Budget Session, that is after the recess period, and to be taken up before the Demands for Grants and the Finance Bill is voted. In that case the whole thing could have been done in a more proper and harmonious manner in the Standing Committee. But now the hon. Minister thought that he would circulate the Bill just before 72 hours, no hon. Member would be able to read it, they would just have a cursory reading and then give their consent to the Bill and he would then go before the television and say that he has carried this Bill. This is not the way.

Sir, sometimes the Media accuses the Opposition saying that the Opposition takes away too much time of the House and obstructs the proceedings of the House and the Government cannot transact its business. This time the Media should note as to how the Government is transacting its business. A Bill of this voluminous size has been circulated just before 72 hours and the Members even cannot go through it properly, even the hon. Minister is not aware of all the provisions contained in the Bill. Could the hon. Minister explain to me as to why Madhubani Paintings and Kalamkari Paintings have been clubbed in eight digit and are to be done in England and are to be imported here. What is the basis of this? Would the hon. Minister kindly explain to me? ...*(Interruptions)* He cannot explain this because he has not gone through it. The import of bovine animal meat has been categorised in one particular category and has been barred in another category. Why has it been done so? Now, if we start asking you all these questions, then the time allotted for discussing this Bill would not be enough.

Sir, I have every sympathy with the hon. Minister. I would neither like to blame him nor embarrass him and nor disregard him. But this is not the way to come to the House and take the sanction of the House. Therefore, I strongly feel that there was no hurry, no exigency and no emergency neither to promulgate this Ordinance nor to bring forward this Bill in this manner. Heavens would not have fallen if he had not brought the Ordinance, the proposals could have come in the form of a normal Bill. We also could have given our ideas. I had worked in at least one Ministry, the Ministry of commerce, where the classification and categorisation had started a long time since to facilitate the Director of Commercial Intelligence.

But there are many areas we could not even ponder over, except to vomit whatever you desired from us. Therefore, this is a very bad tactic of the NDA Government to always bypass the Parliament to get this kind of Bills passed hurriedly without explaining the urgency or exigency of taking the ordinance route. How much trade volume has been increased from 1st February to 28th February by bringing this ordinance with effect from 1st February? What are the special facilities

that you have ensured? I will demand from you to give statistics up to 28th February, from 1st February, from the DGCIR Report on the specified items of meat, animal husbandry, milk, footstock and bird import. Can you give the statistics on the total arms import; how you have categorised these arms installations and the import duty in a separate regime? You cannot. As an intelligent Minister you will say that this is not your job, the Commerce Minister will reply to these queries, you are here to satisfy the technical facilities. But that I will not satisfy the Members here. Had it been a normal Bill, I would not have questioned these things. But, since you have brought an ordinance, you have got to explain the urgency.

Urgency can be explained on four counts. Firstly, if you would not have brought the ordinance, the trade regime should have been adversely affected from 1st February till the presentation of the Budget. You may please explain as to how it would have affected and in the present case it has not affected. Secondly, you have said in the objects and reasons that no additional income would be generated nor any expenditure will be incurred because the duty has not been reduced or increased. I fully share your perception. But, did you compare the concession given by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech on the tariff regime of customs? Are they in compliance with the WTO declarations and the Doha Agreement? You should explain to the House all these points after going into details all the provisions.

Thirdly, you have also got to satisfy the House that after amending clause 11(a) and the First Schedule, no other areas will be left out which have not been classified in this regime either in the eighth digit or in the sixth digit. Otherwise, if you say still there is an opportunity to amend and replace, I do not mind it. Or else, you say, everything has been broad-based and everything has been taken care of and facilitated.

The fourth point is that in future in the given context of globalisation and in the given context of Indian requirement of the farming industry and agro industry, which are the areas where the Government feels strongly that dependence on imports should be reduced or duty should be more and which are the areas where the Government feels that the regime should further broad-based making a substantive compliance with the WTO. Because, further Ministerial meeting has not been held and it will be held later in the next year. You have got to take into account all these aspects and then come up with the Bill putting across your view. Otherwise, you cannot just say that this ordinance will facilitate the trade and simplify the procedure, without explaining to us all these things. Because you do not know how to simplify the procedure. Only officers will inform you all this at one point of time. Though we are not obstructing and objecting to your getting this Bill

passed, we strongly feel that this is not the way you should take the House so lightly on a vital matter of customs Tariff regime.

In the beginning you made a mistake. You said that it is replacing the old Act. It is not replacing the Customs Act of 1962 or the Customs Tariff Act of 1975. It is an amendment of the 1975 Act and that too limited to section 11, just to substitute the First Schedule. Therefore, this is not a replacement of the Act altogether. So, I feel that the Minister owes an explanation to the House on the four counts that have just mentioned to the satisfaction of the House before passing this Bill. Or else, if the Government feels that transparency is the order of the day, it should refer the Bill to the Standing Committee. Heavens will not fall if this Ordinance elapses; you can issue another ordinance after this part of the Parliament Session gets over and carry on to facilitate the trade. But the whole Bill should be examined in detail by the Standing Committee of Parliament and report back to the House.

This is my submission from the Congress Party.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA): Sir, I stand here in support of the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

Shri Dasmunsi has laboured hard to say that it was not necessary to bring in this amendment at this stage without taking, I think, everybody into consideration and confidence. Sir, I think, the volume has caused the daunting affair. The huge volume has created problem as it seems. But it is a very simple thing. We might be seeing people with big body but otherwise, they are innocent fellows. This one also is something like that.

We have passed Information Technology Bill. I think, in the last Session itself or before that. Computerisation is the order of the day. There should not be any repetition and confusion. For example, take the case of footwear in this Bill itself and I would like Shri Dasmunsi to kindly lend me his ears for a few minutes. Footwear could be of different sizes. If you have seen the Sun God in the Parliament House Annex, you may find that He is the only God in the Hindu pantheon who puts on boots. No other God puts on boots called the galoshes which is upto the knee. And there is Narad who puts on the wooden *khadaun*. But they should come under the same category of footwear. That is what this Bill is trying to do. All types of footwear should come in one category and one chapter. There should not be any type of confusion in the minds of different types of people.

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

Now, I come to section 11 (A), as he was mentioning about it, and the Schedule. The Schedule itself says:

"The titles of Sections, Chapters and Sub-Chapters are provided for ease of reference only; for legal purposes, classification shall be determined according to the terms of headings and any relative Section or Chapter, ..."

I come to one chapter to show how simplification has been made. Since he is a person from West Bengal, he would be more interested in fish and other aqua products. I think it would be better for me to refer to sea products. Let us see how interestingly the nomenclature has been indicated so that there may not be any difference or confusion in one Department or the other in deciding about the different species of articles which are to come within the Customs Act of 1975. Nomenclature is only simplified. Take for example live animals, meat, edible meat, fish and aquatic invertebrates. That is one item.

Let me come to the item of fish and aquatic invertebrates. Now, in the invertebrates, there could be many other things. So, there should be some simplification. What are the simplifications which they have brought in? Oysters is a very good sort of dish for people who are interested in it. And our hon. Deputy Speaker also knows that French people like oysters than anything else. Snails are invertebrates. But we have not explained it in any other tariff matters. Now, it is being explained in a very beautiful manner. Oysters and snails are invertebrates and they should come in one category. That is why, each chapter has a different definition.

I come to definition of some things for the information of our learned friends themselves. In Kolkata, people would like to have prawns and lobsters. They are the best dishes available there. Rock lobsters are also there. If anybody had seen the Discovery Channel about 15-20 days back, he might have seen different species of lobsters which crawl in the seabed, how they are caught, etc. And this is what the Bill is trying to say, that is, it should come in one category only.

I come to another example. I would not deal on fish now because his mouth also might be watering. I come to footwear and other things, as I have said. Even rubber footwear could be included in that, although the colour might have changed. Plastics also are to be taken into account. The sole could be different and the upper portion could be different. All these things have been taken into account so that different Ministries which are dealing with these kinds of things do not have any confusion and a simplified, streamlined procedure could be adopted. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it has been very clearly indicated that the need to expand the existing

Harmonised System of Nomenclature. It is Harmonised System of Nomenclature. Let us have a harmonisation.

It is not a Finance Bill. Let there be no thinking that it is a Finance Bill. It has nothing to do with the Finance Bill. My fiscal changes and other things will come in the Finance Bill. Any tariff changes will come in the Finance Bill. It is only to change the heading. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it has been indicated:

"there is no change proposed in the existing rates of customs duties, as such it does not involve any revenue implications."

So, it has nothing to do with the Finance Bill and it has got nothing to do with the Budget as such. Only the 'nomenclature.' will be changed. Now, from six digit we go to eight digit for simplification of procedures. There are different Departments and they have different interpretation for different articles. We should have one system of definition. And definition can come only with the nomenclature. Take, for example, copper and alloys. Clearly, Chapter 74, talks about 'refined copper'. It has been indicated that copper could be used in industry and for other works also. Even in laboratories, copper could be used. They have given a very elaborate indication of the nomenclatures that are to be taken into account, like refined copper, copper alloys, master alloys, bars and rods, profiles, wire, plates, sheets, strips and foils. There could be some sub-heading also. There could be some differences and difficulties among the different Departments. To overcome these kinds of differences and difficulties, this Bill has taken into account the sub-headings. A note has been given for different sub-headings so that so that the quality or the other aspects that is required can be taken into consideration.

Since we are in the WTO regime an liberalised system of work, we must immediately find out what is to be done, instead of going into the interpretation part of it. There will be a lot of legal difficulties. That is why this Ordinance has been brought with all good intentions. An Ordinance has been brought to tackle a particular programme at a particular given moment of time. I am telling this in a very common way. I am not going into the constitutionality of it. It has to be tackled in a proper manner at a particular given moment of time. The Ordinance has to be placed in Parliament so that the Bill is passed and everything gets streamlined. This is what is to be done now itself. The Statement of Objects and Reasons has been very clear about it. Maybe the bulkiness of it has taunted the appreciative gestures of our good friends because they have to go into all the details. There are a number of them. It is very simple. From six digit, we go to the eight digit and we

give definitions of different articles, different alloys, and different derivatives.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will you please yield? I will take just a minute.

You please refer to page 461. There, you find the description of goods for horticulture or forestry machinery for soil preparation or cultivation; lawn or sports ground rollers. That is one category. In the same page, you please refer to item no. 8432. There, again 'lawn or sports ground rollers' has been mentioned. This is in another category. This is where, we want an explanation. This is not correct. You mentioned something. I am giving you an example.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: I fully agree with you.

For example, take sickle. I will come to that. Of course, it is not my duty to explain it. Now, sickle can be used in the lawn. It can be used for other purposes also. They are completely different. It can be different. The import of that particular item has to depend on the sub-head.

15.00 hrs.

I am not talking about the Chapter itself. We have also to go through the Sub-Head and then say about this. I would request the hon. Member Shri Dasmunsi to go through the Sub-Head also. It cannot stand in isolation. It is not a matter of argument but sharing information. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Shri Sahu, you are suffering from a nomenclature confusion. I am saying that if it had been debated in the Standing Committee, then we could have much more constructive things to be offered on Sub-Head and classification also. It is not a quarrel. That is why, I have given an example. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU: It is not at all a quarrel. All right, I now come to the repealing Acts. The Parliament, in its wisdom, thought that all those repealing Acts should be referred to the Standing Committee. There were about 1,100 repealing Acts which were not in vogue. I am a Member of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs. What has the Standing Committee done? It did nothing because there was nothing to do in that. We were able to go through 950 Acts. We said that they should be repealed. This will be exactly the same thing if it goes to the Standing Committee also because the Standing Committee has nothing to do with the nomenclature itself. The nomenclature has been given in a proper manner. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would like to cite

an example. In 1975, the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill was discussed in a Select Committee in depth. It was then brought forward before the House. I was in the House at that time. It was discussed in the Select Committee in-depth and then it was brought before the House. You may differ with me but I am submitting the facts. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU: I beg to differ with Shri Dasmunsi on the question of interpretation itself. What would they do? From six digits, it will go to eight digits. The fiscal responsibility matters and all such things would not go into discussion at all. We have passed the Bill relating to Information Technology and computers. We have passed a lot of Bills so that we come into the simplified procedure. We have even changed the Indian Evidence Act itself. We have changed the Companies Law. We have brought computers, liberalisation into vogue. Here, since a different Department will be involved, let there be no confusion. Let one Department not give one interpretation and let another Department not give another interpretation. So, simplification of the procedure is the order of the day.

Then, what is the necessity of referring this simple Bill to the Standing Committee? There is no necessity. Thousands of such interpretations are there. This is a computerised thing. In my own opinion, the rule-making power of the Government could have been utilised to change all these things. Maybe, the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs might have gone through the Bill. They might have said that it would be better to place it in the form of a Bill. But, in my own opinion, there was no necessity at all to do that. They have to change the interpretation part of it only. In the Schedule itself, it could have been given and the rule-making power of the Government could have been taken into account. The general Explanatory Notes could have been taken into account. Rules could have been framed and the rules could have been placed on the Table of the House within thirty days so that the Members could have seen all these things. They have brought forward such a bulky and voluminous Bill. That is why, it is getting some sort of a disenchantment with the Members. Otherwise, it is a very simple Bill.

I would finally suggest that this Bill should be passed. I think Shri Dasmunsi has left in a huff. But I would suggest that this Bill should not be opposed and it should be passed.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOGLY): Sir, at the very outset, I would like to say that just before 27 days, to be precise, of the commencement of this Parliament Session, this Ordinance was promulgated. What was the hurry in it? I do

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

not know about it. Nor, could the hon. Minister convince us about it. The Heaven would not have fallen had they waited till the Session started. We could have well taken it up as a Bill itself.

Bringing about uniformity and simplicity in a system is a welcome thing particularly when our trade and economy has been integrated with the global economy. We may agree or we may not agree. We have serious reservations about the way we have entered into the WTO agreement and have subjugated ourselves to the provisions of the WTO which are against our national interest.

But the integration clauses should have taken into account certain country-specific problems, particularly problems faced by our country. First, the classification, re-classification and mis-classification of several goods and commodities in the process of import as also in the process of export have been one of the grey areas which has been used, rather misused by several Governments in the past to cater to the interests of their friendly lobbies and also to just influence certain other sections. On the other hand, certain business lobbies having knowledge of these classifications, re-classifications or interpretations of potential areas of dispute exploited the situation. By indulging in irregularities in the invoicing system, they derived benefits and they are being patronised. There is a concrete case to prove this. M/s Florida Research Group have come to the conclusion that India is such a country where their exporters have accumulated foreign exchange to the tune of \$ 8 billion in one year only by indulging in several irregularities in the invoicing system and that too they derived benefits by their own way of interpreting this classification.

Then, there are importers who have an obligation to export. We have seen 100 per cent export-oriented units importing goods by exploiting the grey areas of mis-classification and they have never fulfilled any obligation for export. There are reports of important committees which say that such obligations for export have never been fulfilled, particularly by export-oriented units involved in importing gold for making jewellery.

Sir, the tariffs that have been fixed through such classification have created confusion not only in the minds of certain Business community, but also among the common people at large. For example, garments can be interpreted in various ways, like two-piece garments, three-piece garments, garments for the upper part of the body, for the lower part of the body, etc. They can be classified in innumerable ways. Now, we have decided to integrate our economy into the multilateral system to get more benefits. The remarkable

feature to be noticed here is that although one of the key reasons given for our joining the World Trade Organisation and following the path of economic reforms was that we would benefit from our export and we would benefit from what we import for export, in terms of overall global export performance, we account for less than half per cent. Even after a decade of economic reforms, we have not been able to perform well on the export front, but we have been importing what we should not import. For example, as a result of our joining the multilateral system, quantitative restrictions in respect of 1,429 items, which we can produce, have been removed.

The things are coming even where we have tried to put restrictions. Things are being imported under the garb of different classifications although they mean the same thing. Such a move - universally practised six-digit to eight-digit nomenclature - I think, may add to a little bit of more transparency in the system. Our trade statistics and real quantum of imports vis-a-vis the quantum of exports can also be accounted for in a better manner if we go for this internationally accepted nomenclature. In that sense, it is a welcome measure.

But there are many other areas of dispute. Take, for example, the unit of measurement. The unit of measurement varies not only from country to country, but also from item to item. Even within the same group of articles and commodities, we find that the things are being measured in ways that do not give any sense of transparency in the system. In that sense, this move to bring about the eight-digit system may be helpful. I am not very sure because through practice only, we learn whether this particular sort of legislation is going to help us or not.

I fully agree with my esteemed colleague that had it been given to the Standing Committee maybe for 10 or 15 days or for whatever little time possible, they would have applied their mind in a better way rather than bringing the Bill on the same day and asking us to discuss the Bill on the same day. You are passing the Bill on the same day as if it is a very insignificant piece of legislation. Customs is a very important area in the matter of our revenue generation. Although it does not involve any change of tariff but classification, reclassification, misclassification, six-digit to eight-digit nomenclature, harmonising, integrating to the international system, different units of measurement, yet bringing about uniformity is, of course, a welcome measure. I have stated that in the beginning. To ensure simplicity is a welcome move. Under certain compulsions, we move to integrate a system. We must move forward. But there are some problems specific to India. I have mentioned about the mindset of some of our importers and exporters. I have made a reference to the

irregularities being indulged in the matter of invoicing. We are suffering as a result of our joining the WTO. We have been pressurised. Being primarily an agricultural country with more than 75 per cent of the people engaged in agricultural activities, the removal of the quantitative restrictions is such that a large measure agri products will come. What we call 'milk products', they would give it a different name. So many related things are to be looked into. I think, that even after what has been brought forward, there will still be areas which need to be examined further. I am not elaborating it. But I find from a first look at the things that there have been areas which have been considered by certain other Committees. I still think that this piece of legislation should go to the concerned Committee. Maybe they may be asked to submit their report within 10, 15 or 20 days or as early as possible. But it would be in the fitness of things that such an important Bill should not be passed in a hurry.

It should not have been promulgated through an Ordinance just 27 days before the beginning of the Session. Once again, I caution this Government that in such a cavalier manner, such important things should not be taken up. This is a complex area. In such areas they should step in very cautiously and the collective wisdom of the Committee would have been more helpful.

I am not opposing the Bill because six-digit to eight-digit nomenclature will be helpful. It will add to the transparency, bring about uniformity and simplify things. It is a welcome move. As a part of our integration, we have a compulsion to do this. But still, I think, there are many related areas which could have been taken care of in a better way had it been referred to the Standing Committee. So, still I urge upon the Government to let it go to the Standing Committee and wait for a few days. Before the end of the Session, if the hon. Minister so likes, he can again bring it and get it passed.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (DEORIA): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Customs Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

This Bill is mainly to amend the Customs Traffic Act 1975. It is a consequential Bill. It is consequent to certain factors and consequent to certain actions already accepted and taken by certain Departments of the Government of India. So, the compulsions were of a consequential nature.

There is some merit in what Shri Rupchand Pal and Shri Dasmunsi have said that perhaps the urgency was not of such a nature that we could not have referred it to a committee to consider it more. But I feel that the Bill is of such nature and all of us have worked in the committees where the nitty-gritty

details are required. The committees are also in equal pressure. Sometimes very few Members are present where the nitty-gritty is required to be considered, and when it is considered, they too have roughly the same kind of time and resources available to them. Therefore, ultimately, it falls on the Parliament to consider it and to give it a 'yes' or 'no'.

With regard to the concept why an was brought and the Parliament was bypassed again and again, I would say that I do not agree with that kind of concept because there is no way to bypass the Parliament. Whether you pass an Ordinance or you do not pass it, the Bill has to come before the Parliament. It has to be considered by the Parliament. So, in such conclusion that this was being presented to the Parliament as a *fait accompli* and the Parliament was in some kind of a pressure to definitely pass it, I would consider it a bit misplaced because the Bill has to come to the Parliament. The only thing that can be in question is how urgent it is or how necessary it is that you must pass an Ordinance and thereafter you bring it before the Parliament. These are the points that can be discussed. But anybody thinking that this could be an effort to bypass the Parliament would be misplaced. Also, there is this statement that we are bending in front of the WTO to meet this requirement. Indeed it is time that we became proactive in this subject and not only respond to the requirements of the WTO. This is one of the cases wherein eight-digit standardisation is something that we, ourselves, must ask for. The number of items has increased. A question is also asked whether this is the final thing and there will be some additions or subtractions and so on. It is not at all the final thing. It keeps on getting updated, increased, included and so on as the items increase. And as the content and the scope of international trade increases, and our platform with the national trade comes up, this will keep on undergoing a certain amount of change. But, those are accounting changes. What we are talking of and what we are concerned with correcting here and passing here is the basis that the following basis must be there for these changes. We must have a look at it and it is the job of the Standing Committee to look at the various specific nitty-gritties of the whole thing. But, the Parliament should be, and we are concerned with the basis of change. That basis of change has been extremely well articulated in the report which all of us have read. One or two things that I do want to read is that:

"This is based on harmonised system nomenclature developed by Department of Revenue in consultation with Department of Commerce, Ministries dealing with industry and trade-related matters as well as industry, associations and experts "

[Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi]

So, it is inter-disciplinary. It is not as if it is of one Department. To harmonise it, to standardise it and then to make it a modern thing based on which we can progress in the international trade of customs, and customs' scope is going to increase every day. That is the main object of this Bill.

Now, the main object of this graduation from six digit to eight digit is almost akin to adding two to the telephone numbers. You are increasing the number of digits to be able to increase the scope and span of the items. We have added two because more numbers are likely to be coming and you want to get into another set of this thing.

Now, the main objective of expansion, of code is to furnish the rate of customs duty and the improbability of the commodities' coherent classification. It is a part of ongoing effort to simplify import procedures and documentation. But the basic point that I wish to make is that this Bill is really all about simplifying the procedures and the documentation. We are getting modern methods to be able to do so, but at the same time, we must have the backing of this Parliament to be able to carry out those changes.

Now, most of the points have been covered by speakers who spoke before me. The standardisation, the requirement of increased foreign trade, the requirement of opening up the span and the requirement of basically this harmonised system is the basic requirement of this Bill.

Therefore, from the point of view of the Government, there is sufficient urgency and that is why, this Ordinance was brought. This is as urgent as that. I can see why the urgency was there because it was inter-disciplinary, inter-departmental, and certain Departments had already moved to eight-digit harmonised code. It was very difficult to interact with those Departments unless this Bill was passed. Therefore, to remove that lacuna, there was an Ordinance placed here.

Now, the Bill has been considered. I agree that if time were to be allotted in proportion to the number of pages that are contained in the Bill, it would appear not to have given enough time to the Members to consider it. But, as long as we have got the principles correct and the urgency requirement correct, I think, there is every case for this Parliament and for us to pass this Bill without any further problem.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to show that by way of bringing this Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 2003, the customs tariff is made *status quo*.

The hon. Finance Minister, during his Budget speech, has said:

"The economy has not only weathered the removal of quantitative restrictions on imports and the reduction in customs duty rates but has responded to improving its competitiveness and demonstrating the inherent strength of its external balance of payments."

This was the appreciation, which the hon. Finance Minister, has made during his Budget speech.

There is another side of the coin, and that is the tears of the common man, the poor people. About 70 per cent of the population, who are living in the rural areas, backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were butchered by way of customs duty which is now coming again and again in Parliament just as if there are only digital changes and nothing more than that.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government that a military trained person has come forward with the Budget for the first time. He may not know about the rural people. He may not know about the backward classes, Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes. But there are two other Ministers of State, who come not from *Raja's* family but from the family of poor people. I hope, they have no power in telling that the customs tariff is again killing the common man and the rural people. I will show how it happened. Now, the customs tariff amendment is the obligation of WTO. We have to make laws and report it to WTO. That is our obligation. That obligation has to be fulfilled. Otherwise, we will be taken to task when we go in for any further discussion. Article 22 says:

"National Legislation:

Each member shall ensure not later than the date of application of the provisions of this Agreement for it, the conformity of its laws, regulations and administrative procedures with the provisions of this Agreement."

This obligation is now fulfilled by way of passing this Bill. But at the same time, we have got a right to have the protection of the domestic industry if there is any injury caused. Article VI of GATT says:

"Unless their effect is to come or threaten material injury to an established domestic industry or to 'retard materially' the establishment of a domestic industry, 'threat' of injury, serious injury..."

These are all qualifications, which can make the Government to sit along with other Governments and see that our people are protected.

I would like to know whether the Government of this

day has done it or not. No, they have not done it. They want to repeatedly kill the farmers. They want to make them jobless. They want to make them as people with less purchasing power. They want to make them live on the *annadaan* which is going to be given to only a quarter of the BPL people. Even though the rest of the people may be having one acre of land or five acres of land or even 20 acres of land, they will not be classified under BPL, but at the same time, they will be termed as people living below the poverty line. Such is the situation of farmers and the people living in the rural areas. In such a way, ordinary widows, handicapped people, blind people and disabled people are living upon dairy food. They are living upon the corns. They are living upon the cattle. What is the customs duty that they are going to impose upon the multinational companies who are going to dump their milk and cream here? They are going to impose only 30 per cent duty upon them. The Backward Class, the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people are living upon dairy products, birds' eggs, natural honey and everything. They are charged only 30 per cent duty. But a customs duty of 60 per cent is imposed upon skimmed milk and milk food for babies because they are coming from organised people, from multinational companies. They are the products of Nestle. They can lobby the Government and bring up the customs duty to 60 per cent. But the poor people, the farmers, who voted for this Parliament, are just suffering with 30 per cent because their milk is not going to be sold in the market. The reason is, foreign milk is coming here. The customs duty on wholesome milk and milk for babies is 30 per cent because the poor people are producing and bringing it.

In the same way, let us take meat. Let us see how the ordinary people, the cattle rearers, that is, the *Yadavas*, are living upon meat. What is the production of their meat? Meat from foreign countries is going to be charged only at the rate of 30 per cent. Boneless hands, shoulders and cuts thereof are charged 30 per cent because they do not eat these types of things with bone. Meat of goats, sheep, tongues, livers and all other waste materials from the Western countries are going to be dumped here for 30 per cent. It is 30 per cent on poultry, either fresh or chilled, but not cut in pieces. A duty of 100 per cent is imposed on fresh or chilled cuts and offal. A duty of 30 per cent is imposed on frog legs waste. A duty of 30 per cent is imposed on reptiles, including snakes and turtles. These are all banned here under the Wild Life Protection Act. The People, who cannot even export it from here, are going to import it. They are allowed with a 30 per cent duty.

In the same way, a 30 per cent duty on the ivory powder and its waste is imposed. We call them *narikuravas*, but they are gypsies. These people and the Scheduled Caste people live on hooves, claws, nails and beaks of birds. A duty of 30

per cent is imposed on them. Again, 30 per cent duty is imposed on buffalo horns. The duty on tortoise-shell is 30 per cent to 25 per cent. The duty on coral and similar materials unworkable is reduced, even in the Budget, to less than 30 per cent.

The cut flower market of the ordinary people who are having gardens is down because only 30 per cent customs duty is charged for the imported cut flowers. I can prove each and everything. But at the same time, I want to give one example to show how the people are killed. Soyabean is one of the agricultural products that the people produce. As a bean seed, they are charging only 30 to 20 per cent. When they are imported here, they are converting it into crude oil, refine it, re-pack it and then they are selling it here at the highest rate. Now, an excise duty of eight per cent is imposed. Within a day, its price has been increased by Rs.60 per tin more. The consumers have to pay Rs.60 more. In the same way, I can show you that we are depending upon soyabean oil. Our consumption is about 10 million tonnes every year. Out of this, 55 per cent of the requirement is met by importing. Why? It is because the agriculturists are not given the proper price. They were asked to go away from sowing soyabean. None of the oilseeds are getting the proper price in the market.

Our agriculturists are committing suicide but we are allowing the foreigners to dump all their materials here in our markets. Malaysia and other countries are dumping their products into India. We are converting it into oil and selling to our own people who have no purchasing power. This is the situation we are now facing.

In the same way, our people engaged in fishing activities are also harassed. For fish, molasses and other aquatic invertebrates, the customs duty is only 20 per cent. So far as prawns are concerned, it is 30 per cent. Here, we are not allowed to have our own prawns because they are prohibited for environmental reasons. For jellyfish and other things also, it is only 30 per cent. Our local fishermen are jobless because they do not have any protection in the seashores and offshore areas. When they go for fishing, they are thrown away because multinationals are coming in with their mechanised boats and all that. They cannot even go for fishing because they are prohibited by the wildlife Act and such other laws, but when it comes to imports, they are being allowed with 30 per cent customs duty.

When it comes to Indian cotton, it attracts a duty of ten per cent and there is a duty of 20 per cent on cotton yarn. Most of the cotton growers are committing suicide every day. We are reading in the newspapers about peasants from Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu committing suicide.

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

When import of cotton is allowed with ten per cent customs duty, how can they survive? This is how ordinary people who are dependent upon cotton farming for their livelihood are killed.

By simply allowing the import duty to come down to the level of 30 per cent and having a three-tier system, they want to show as if everything is done properly. I would like to state that 210 per cent is the duty imposed for spirits such as whiskey, rum and vodka. This is because they are well organised and can lobby with the bureaucrats, Ministers and other people concerned. There is a 170 per cent duty for other alcoholic preparations; 60 per cent for milk and cream, and cane sugar and beet sugar; 50 per cent for bitumen, coal and wheat; 45 per cent for sweet biscuits; and 40 per cent for butter and cheese. The 35 per cent duty is on meat, fish, dairy products, flowers, vegetables, dyeing and tanning substances, soyabean, groundnut oil, olive oil, sugar, confectionery, tobacco preparations, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fertilisers, cosmetics and soaps. The duty on these items could be reduced to 35 per cent because they are lobbying.

I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members of Parliament to the fact that agriculturists do not have a lobby. They are not well organised but we the people who have got elected by them have to lobby for them. We have to see that the customs duty for rice and agricultural products and for fishing-related products should be upgraded. It should come at least to the level of duty on alcohol. It is only then that agriculturists can sow their own seeds, come out with their produce and sell them in the local market. America is giving protection for agriculturists; the UK and the European countries are giving pension to agriculturists, but we are allowing our people to starve. At the same time, products from America, European countries and other countries are being dumped here because there is no lobby for agriculturists. So, about 90 per cent of the people are now dying. They have lost all their purchasing power.

The poor people engaged in fishing do not have any lobby. They can agitate and go on higher strike but nothing would happen in this country. Why is the customs duty not raised for the benefit of these people? The hon. Minister might say that the WTO would not allow it. The WTO would allow it if you apply the same clauses that I read earlier. If you do that, you can increase the customs duty and allow people to engage properly in agriculture. What has the Budget given to the people engaged in agriculture? They are asked to pay four per cent interest on loans given to them.

Is any financial help given to the agriculturists? The answer is 'no'. But it is given to the industrialists who are not

asking for any money and who are not worried about the share market. They are allowed to have all these things in their hands. The interest is reduced on the entire small deposits like Savings Bank Accounts etc., and the interest on the poor labourers' Provident Fund is also reduced by one per cent.

Sir, agriculturists are paying 13 per cent to 18 per cent for their agricultural loans, mid-term loans, short-term loans and long-term loans. They are indebted. Nobody bothers about them. When we are shouting when we are in the debate and when we are talking about the agricultural problems, Members are hearing about it and going out. But what is the position? Why the customs duty is not increased for those materials? We are doing injustice to the people. We are doing injustice to the common men who have voted for us. People who have not voted for us are getting all the benefits by way of customs duty.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the hon'ble Members have supported the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill in which there is a proposal for 8 digit classification code in place of 6 digit classification code because it will be convenient from the point of view of computerization as it will ensure uniformity in internal as well as international trade and in a way it is correct also. I have seen that the general rate of 35 per cent has been reduced to 30 per cent. In the first Chapter 20 per cent tariff has been imposed on 'donkey' (Gadha).

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPAPPE (THANE): You please take half from Bihar then there will be no need to import.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please address the Chair.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our country is rich in agricultural products. Thus custom duty imposed on agricultural products should be enhanced so that the imported products are more costly. This will serve the twin purpose of adding to the state revenue and protecting the agriculture industry. Therefore this percentage should be raised. The items which are in short supply should be imported on a lesser duty so that the consumers have to pay less. However, sometimes the rate is of 14 class and sometimes it is of 15 class and sometimes it is done from 30 to 35. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what is the target for the year 2002-2003? I know that there is expectation of 20 per cent decline in revenue this year. There is also corruption in its implementation. What is the reason for this 20 per cent loss in revenue? What action is being taken by the Government to bring improvement in it? I feel that it has been reduced from 35 per cent to 30 per cent without

any consideration to it. There should have been balanced rate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, farmers produce milk but they do not get remunerative price of milk. If the customs duty on imported milk is reduced more milk will come and it will be dumped in Indian market. In that condition what will happen to the milk producing farmers? The rate that has been fixed by the Government is not justified, so it should be made rational. The text of the Bill is voluminous and all the items are covered in that. It is mentioned there - the chicken leg is not eaten in foreign countries because it contains more fat. They eat rest of the chicken meat and preserve leg piece in freezers. If the custom duty on leg piece of chicken is reduced, it will be dumped in Indian market. Then in that condition what will happen to poultry farmers?

15.45 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

If the rate is increased they will send it here free of cost because just keeping them in freezer is of no use then how can we compete with them. WTO should provide proper protection. That is the only way. The custom duty should be higher on the items which are in abundance in the country. Under the pressure of WTO the custom duty in foreign countries is being reduced. So in competition they have also decided to reduce the customs duty. How the domestic agricultural products and small scale industries of the country will be protected? Therefore, the proposed custom duty does not seem rational. The experts should consider this and item wise custom duty should be fixed. They propose that it should be reduced from 35 percent to 30 percent. Earlier it was 35 percent and now it has been reduced to 30 percent. On some item it is 5 per cent, on the other it is 15 per cent and on certain item it is 25 per cent. However, I find that on most of the items it is 30 per cent. I am apprehensive that it is due to such flexible formula on the pressure of the WTO that the products which are already in abundance in the country will be dumped in Indian market and it will adversely affect the interest of the farmers. So, I feel that in their regime the interests of the farmers are not going to be protected. The lobby interested in it is also active in this case. A hint was given at the beginning that the custom duty was going to be reduced and due to that all the traders became cautious. You see at Sahara airport, there is rampant corruption. Whether it is airport or the seaport, where foreign goods are imported, the post of custom officers in those places has become saleable. Those officers who pay maximum bribe are posted there. It is on account of that, there is 20 per cent shortfall in our targeted revenues. The corruption is the only reason.

My first apprehension is that it is not going to protect the items which are produced by our farmers. Secondly, there is 20 per cent loss in our targeted revenue from customs duty. Thirdly there is rampant corruption in airports and seaports where corrupt officials get posting by way of paying bribes. I would like to know the reaction of the Government in all the above mentioned issues. The Government should clarify it. The Government have reduced the custom duty on imported wine. Does the Government have any reply to this. ...*(Interruptions)* The mango will be imported. Why the Government are reducing the custom duty on the item which are in abundance in our country and which we export to other countries. The wine will be imported - whether the number of foreigners in our country is more? Why did you reduce the custom on that. The Government will also have to suffer loss on account of this. Suppose any one is a habitual drinker then he should purchase it at higher price. The revenue of the Government will increase thereby. But I would like to know as to which mathematician's economics has influenced him. Though Shri Yashwant Sinha has left the Ministry of Finance but the Government are still adopting his economic theory.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Minister should give clarification on all these questions only then we will support it. This Bill is so voluminous that it takes much time in reading. It is a very dangerous situation. I agree with Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and other hon'ble Members who have said that after proper consideration this Bill should be passed. I would also like to submit that the ordinance in this regard has been issued hurriedly. It should have been brought after analysis of every item. This Bill should have been introduced in the House after proper consideration of all these questions as to what would be in the interest of country and what would be harmful for the country. But the government have not done like that and promulgated this Ordinance in haste and now want to get this Bill passed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government should tell us as to what effects this ordinance has left on the country from 1st February, since this ordinance has been implemented. Whether the revenue has increased or decreased as a result of fluctuation in custom rates or whether there is any positive effect on agriculture and industry, whether the Government have reviewed it, if so, the Government should inform the House that they are on right track or not? The interests of people are not being protected rather it is proving harmful for the country. The people of the country are apprehensive as to how their interests would be protected. I would like to know as to how the interest of the country would be protected by the goods produced by small scale industries. Unless and until the Government clearly tell about these things we will not allow this Bill to be passed and we will create obstruction in this regard.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (BIJNOR): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill further to amend Custom Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 2003 and Customs Tariff Act, 1975. It is a very good Bill. Hon'ble Member Shri Dasmunsiji and several other hon'ble Members, who have spoken prior to me, have said that this Bill has been introduced in haste and the ordinance in this regard has been issued in February. It should have not been done. What was the urgency. At the same time they have also submitted that this Bill should have been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for consideration.

Sir, I would like to say that it was very essential. That is why, it had to be brought immediately in the form of an ordinance. Now, the Bill has been introduced in the House for passing. Had it been referred to the Standing Committee it would have got delayed because. ...*(Interruptions)** The main reason for delay in introducing the Bill in the House is that Parliamentary Standing Committees take much time in considering various sections of the Bill. Therefore the main purpose of the Government is to bring all commodity in one category and computerise it and in that the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Member is saying about the Members of the Standing Committees. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that it was very essential to take this massacre. Therefore Ordinance had to be issued in this regard. Had it been referred to the Standing Committee, it would have taken lot of time in getting it passed. It has been brought to feed the date into the computer so that the information in this regard can be made available in the entire country and world as well and the problems coming in the way of contacting one another can be solved. If this Bill is passed, it would be helpful for the new systems which have been introduced and to do away with manipulations in various items. Their names have been changed and corrected. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing you. Please take your seats.

*Not Recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajo Singh, please take your seat.

[Translation]

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL (NAINITAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Mahendra Sing Pal, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Member who is speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, this Bill has been introduced in the House for passing to amend various new systems and the arrangements in the country and if this Bill is passed it will enhance custom duty and. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What you are saying is not being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You stand up without the permission of the Chair therefore what you are saying will not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. A. K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): That should not be the criteria.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: That Member's remarks

*Not Recorded.

should be removed from the records. How can he make such a statement? It should be removed from the records. It is a shame. A Member of this House is saying that Members are not attending the Standing Committee, so the Bills should not be sent to the Standing Committees. How can a Member say that? How can a Member make such a statement? It should be removed from the records.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What has been said by the hon'ble Member regarding Members of Standing Committee will not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: How can a Member say like that. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: That has been expunged, now you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Sir, this Bill has been introduced here to cover watches and many other items under one category and it has been implemented from 1st of February. I feel that this Bill is related to all the Departments and the country therefore it should be passed. I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI). Mr. Chairman, Sir. I rise to support the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill 2003. Sir, India today is in the WTO regime, and global trade has to be followed, and today I rise to speak, Sir. ...(Interruptions) The idea of this Amendment Bill is not to deal with the regulation or de-regulation of customs duty to be imposed on imports, the main objective of the Bill is that six-digit classification code has to be made into eight-digit classification code. The reason is to simplify and to do away with trade problems which are being faced by this six-digit classification, and they are, now, made into this Bill which envisages to make it an eight-digit classification so that the import and export procedures are further simplified. Besides, it also tries to harmonise the system of nomenclature of a particular product. Sir, this has been decided by the Department of Revenue and Department of Commerce. They

have sat together and they have thought of processes and procedures to simplify trade.

I would like to ask the Congress Party here that in 1993 when the WTO Agreement was signed, what action had the Congress Government taken then? Sir, after the NDA Government has come to power, we have made trade-related legislations like plant varieties, like the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights, etc. A lot of legislations in relevance with WTO has been brought.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: In 1995, WTO Agreement made this obligation, but that was not a duty in 1991.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: You did not say. Today, the Congress Party also is saying that the agriculturists are committing suicide. It is because of whom? It is because of the Congress Party. When the WTO was signed in 1993, the Agreement on agriculture was left blank and up till today you have not been able to resolve. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR): They have been in power for the past four years. Now, you are in power for the past four years. They can change this. They can change and amend this. Why don't you change it?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: We have taken a lot of steps to save the agriculturists. We have provided crop loans, we have given Kisan Credit Cards. We are trying to protect the interest of the farmers.

16.00 hrs.

If the farmers are committing suicide, it is not because of our four-year rule, but it is because of 42-year misrule of the Congress Government and the Members sitting on that side.

The main objective of the Bill is expansion of the code for harmonising the nomenclature: for example, gold. If you take the main product 'gold', there are so many by-products, like gold-dust, gold-ash etc. There has been a uniform duty on all these products. The main point of this Bill is to get harmony between the main product and its by-products. Suppose, jewellery work is going on or lapidary work is going on, there is a lot of diamond dust, and that same diamond dust has got a value. However, the customs duty is same on both the main product as well as its by-products because this diamond dust can be used for making bore-wells and rigs.

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

This Bill does not enhance or the lower the customs duty and it mainly tries to harmonise it. It is basically simplifying the procedures of trade with other countries because we have entered the WTO regime. There was a time when we had to mortgage gold, but today, I am proud to say that we have got US \$ 75 billion in foreign exchange reserves. It is because of the progressive trade policy being pursued by the NDA. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. Though I am supporting this Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 2003 on behalf of Shivsena, however I would like to say that this Bill, infact, does not have any provision to change the existing custom duty rates.

It has been mentioned in the Bill that demands have been raised by business and industry that common commodity categorisation code based on internationally adopted co-ordinated system of nomenclature to facilitate domestic and international trade of all sorts of transactions be adopted. Though 8 digit standardization, classification or code has been adopted from April 1, 2002, earlier this system was six digit. The main objective of the expansion of the code is to rationalise custom duty and to provide import capacity to the goods covered under the above categorisation.

The hon'ble Members have already put forth their views with regard to the items to be imported in our country. If milk is imported from Norway it will harm the interests of milk producing farmers of the country because we presume that it will cost Rs. 7/- per litre and then who would purchase the milk of farmers in the country at the rate of Rs. 12 to Rs 14 per litre and once it happened in Mumbai also.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Whether or not Custom Duty be imposed?

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: This is what I am telling that custom duty has not been imposed. If milk is available at the rate of Rs. 7/- per litre then our middle class consumer would prefer to buy that milk only. Then what would happen to milk producers of our country. Now he can sell his milk at the rate of Rs.12/- or Rs.13/- per litre but after that who would purchase from him. Consequently, the farmers have to sell their livestock and their condition would deteriorate and their problems would increase.

I would like to tell you that last year, the Government prohibited the import of old vehicles. At that time our Speaker, Shri Manohar Joshi was Minister and import of old vehicles

was prohibited during his period. It was prohibited because the indigenous auto industries had organised a symposium on the issue. If we want to close down our industries then only we should allow import of old and new vehicles. All Auto Industries of our country for example Bajaj in which 10,000 people are working are facing closure. If a Japan or China made scooter is available at the cost of Rs. 17,000/- who will buy Indian scooter or motorcycle which costs Rs. 38,000/- to Rs. 48,000/- That is why the industrialists have said that these items should not be imported. I want to submit that the Government should enhance import duty.

I would only say that there is rampant corruption in the matters of increasing or decreasing the duty at officer level as just now Shri Raghuvanshji has said. Controversy arises while making posting at officer level. The Government should take some steps to control it. Through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that more custom duty should be imposed on all foreign materials to be imported in the country so that cottage and small scale industries in our country could be encouraged. If this is not done, then our domestic industries will wind up.

[English]

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very much thankful to the hon. Members who have expressed their concern over the hike in custom tariffs of some items, the WTO commitment and other related issues.

The Bill under discussion deals with computerisation and coding. The purpose behind bringing this Bill is to have a uniform system of coding instead of the present three modes being followed by different Departments. That is the only reason why we have promulgated this Ordinance.

I want to bring to the attention of this august House.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Why Ordinance? A normal Bill could have been brought. You explain why the Ordinance was considered necessary?

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: I want to bring to your knowledge that the Directorate of Foreign Trade in the Commerce Ministry, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, the Directorate of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics have recommended that there should be an uniform entry code for computing the actual quantities of imports, the type of goods the heads under which they are imported. This code is issued by the Commerce Ministry for imports. They are following eight-digit codes; in Customs we are having six-digit codes; and some other agencies at international level are having ten-digit codes.

The main purpose behind this legislation is to bring uniformity in the methods of assessing the actual quantities of imports and the amount of money involved. In order to ensure that data entry is clear and transparent we are introducing computerisation. It is for that purpose only that we have issued this Ordinance, after consultation with the concerned Ministries that are handling trade, industry, imports and exports and related issues. It is in view of the obligations of the Commerce Ministry and the benefits that we are going to get that we have promulgated this Ordinance, we are bringing in a harmonised system of nomenclature also.

Hon. Member Shri Dasmunsi has already stated that through this classification in the First Schedule, we have given power to the Government to reschedule and give eight-digit codes.

If any new entry comes, it will also come under eight-digit code. That is the purpose for which we have brought this legislation for the approval of this august House.

Various hon. Members have expressed their concern about the import duty on the agricultural products and other related issues. But those issues are not related to this legislation. It is purely bringing about the common number code for all items which are covered for import.

Let me categorically bring to the knowledge of the hon. Members that there is no change in stock notes; there is no change in chapter notes; there is no change in sub-head. Nothing is changed in the items or classification in the book.

Sir, this Bill will also control and reduce the transaction cost. So far, the Ministry of Commerce is doing one type of code; our revenue people are adopting another type of code; and other people of various Ministries are following some other codes. Therefore, we want to have one code. This will reduce the transaction cost and also bring transparency in all other matters.

Sir, we have also introduced a measurement unit for knowing as to how much we are importing; what is the quantum of imported materials, etc. We have integrated all these things.

Everything will come into force from 1st April. The Ordinance was issued on the 1st February which is already in existence.

Sir, several hon. Members, while participating in the debate, mentioned about WTO. Let me make it very clear that we were not at all under any compulsion to bring this Ordinance. There is a clear understanding between the Ministries about the imported materials and calculating the real amount, as to how much we import.

It was recommended by the Ministry of Commerce. The reputed organisations including the World Customs Organisation have also recommended this. So, it is as per their recommendation that we have introduced this Bill.

Several hon. Members including Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh spoke about agriculturists and various other related issues. Similarly, Dr. Natchiappan made a mention about WTO, and some other imported customs items. Let me reiterate that such issues are not directly related to this. If they want, they can raise such issues, while participating in the debate on the General Budget. On the agricultural side, we have not hiked any items. Wherever necessary, the Government will take appropriate steps.

Sir, I want to categorically bring to the notice of the hon. Members that this Government is very transparent. I am proud to say that we have increased our revenue collection by 12 per cent as compared to what was in the previous year. So, the Government is very vigil and taking all possible steps to collect revenue without fail.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he is not replying on the main question.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Shri Rupchand pal, Shri Anadi Sahu, Shri Prakash Mani Tirpathi, Shri S. Natchiappan, Shri Sheesh Ram Singh Ravi, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri B.K. Deo and Shri Chandrakant Khaire have participated in this debate. They have expressed their concern as to what was the hurry in issuing this Ordinance. In this regard let me bring to the notice of this august House that this Ordinance was issued on the recommendation of several organisations including Trade and Commerce Associations. The Ministry of Commerce had already recommended for the same. There is a need to facilitate the traders and importers. The World Customs Organisation had already recommended to take this measure immediately. Then only the people who are engaged in import business will be facilitated.

For this purpose we had issued this Ordinance.

With these words, I would request this august House to pass this Bill unanimously.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Hon. Chairman, Sir, it is quite unfortunate that nothing has been answered by the hon. Minister regarding the questions raised in regard to this Bill. The hon. Members raised many questions.

Firstly, what was the hurry in issuing the Ordinance when

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

there was no problem or complexity? Why did they not bring this Bill to this House afresh? Why was the Ordinance needed, that too just a few days before the commencement of the Budget Session?:

Secondly, several hon. Members of this House raised the point of harmonisation of nomenclature. But all these things should have been discussed in the meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance. At least the collective wisdom could be very useful for this important Bill. But, Sir, it is very unfortunate that even the Minister could not respond to this Bill properly.

I hope that in the coming days, the Government would think and consider all these important points which have been raised here in regard to the strategic customs tariff policy and other related issues.

So, I am not pressing my Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri Prabodh Panda be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Customs Tariff Act 1975, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause-2 Insertion of new section 11A

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, line 9 -

For "thirty"

substitute "sixty" (1)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the amendment to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause - 3 Substitution of new schedule for First Schedule.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 32, line 28,

for "10%"

Substitute "40%" (2)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the amendment to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.23 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS - Contd.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we can take up Motion of Thanks on President's Address. Hon'ble Prime Minister.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I regret that I was not present in the House while discussion on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address was going on. I had to go to Kuala Lumpur to attend the summit of the Non-Alignment Movement. But as far as possible I have tried to read the speeches of hon'ble Members. Over all, the discussion was good. In the beginning comments were made on one point that the Address was very lengthy. Shri Somnathji has said that it was not only lengthy but it had no depth also.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): It was lengthy and had no depth at all.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Since when you have started finding depth in the President's Address?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is the 'Vajpayee formula', not to answer any question.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I do not agree to it. The address is good and it covers most of the subjects. It calls for the country to do hard labour so that our target for increasing growth rate can be achieved. I was having a look at the old Addresses delivered by former Presidents which were more lengthier than the present Address.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: But the translated version was not read.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I was also among one of them who listening to those speeches. I do agree that all subjects should be covered but in brief so that the chairman of Rajya Sabha i.e., the Vice President does not face any difficulty. I will try to reply the issues one by one which have been raised here however it would not be possible for me to give reply to all the questions.

During the course of discussion, serious concern has been expressed on the drought hit areas of the country and this concern is natural. 14 States are affected by drought and there is acute scarcity of drinking water. There is no fodder for animals. At many places people are leaving their hearth and home in search of employment. But we should accept that we have been able to control the situation cropped up as a result of drought of such a magnitude. Prices have not gone up. Full efforts have been made to make grains available to the people through 'Antodya Yojna'. Now the Government have

resolved to extend benefits under 'Antodya Yojna' to 1.5 crore families out of approximately 6 crore families living below poverty line. Orders have been issued for enhancing allocation of foodgrains from 25 kgs per month to 35 kgs per month with effect from 1 April. Hon. Finance Minister has made an announcement to this effect in his speech.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Why four and a half crore families have been left out.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: For me it is easy to say so. Sonia ji has raised an issue and I would like the House to ponder over that issue seriously. It is regarding those who are separated from their families and who do not get employment. And if they get employment they are not able to take it up so how can they earn their livelihood? When we talk of food security we should consider them also. I would like to discuss this matter with leaders of all the parties. We should find out some way out. Our godowns are full of foodgrains but still people die of hunger. It means the system is faulty somewhere but it is not only because of failure of system but the conditions are also such.

The issue of employment was raised at a large scale. Before that I would clarify one thing that the Government have made no discrimination in allocation of foodgrains to the States nor will it do so. It is a matter of honesty for me. We cannot discriminate on Political lines in providing relief to drought affected people. Neither the Government can adopt such policy nor it has adopted it in past as it would be inhumane to do so. We want every hungry person to get food but people level allegations against us.

Soniaji wrote a letter to me regarding Rajasthan which I had replied. I have some figures which I would like to place before the House. Rajasthan was allocated 29 lakh tonnes of foodgrains which is the maximum quantity allocated to any state and amounts to 44 percent of total allocation. But we have not obliged them in any way. The situation is such in Rajasthan. Perhaps Rajasthan is the worst hit state by drought. Therefore, I had toured Rajasthan before taking up relief measures. There I had announced a relief package of Rs. 50 crore. People asked me since the state is yet to be declared drought affected then why have you announced relief package? I said that situation seems to be serious and it may turn more serious in the days to come. Current relief package is almost three times more in comparison to package provided in 1987. No doubt, the drought is more serious this year. This allegation is baseless that the allocation of foodgrains has been delayed. The Government try to release second instalment only after first one is exhausted and second instalment is demanded. Demand for second consignment

from Rajasthan was received even before exhausting the first consignment. Second instalment was released before the first instalment exhausted. Foodgrains component under Food for work programme has not been reduced, only some figures were made available. There is a provision of providing 5 kg. foodgrains per day under 'Sampurna Rojgar Yojana'. But it has been increased to 8 Kgs per day in severely affected areas whereas elsewhere it is 6 kgs. Perhaps, this difference may have created some misunderstanding. The criteria adopted for this purpose is same as envisaged by the State Government in their special package. Since we have plenty of foodgrains so I do not think it is befitting for the Government to make any sort of discrimination in allocation of foodgrains. Moreover, this type of criticism lowers the dignity of the nation. Whereas, in fact, Antodya Yojana is most comprehensive food security programme in the world.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Soniaji had raised the issue of food security whereby a question was raised which was placed before the House by me. The House will have to find out an answer to that. In south, there are certain 'mutths' where anybody can have food which are not run by the Government. These are run by the society round the clock. It is their tradition which they are carrying out. We cannot wipe out hunger completely unless there is awakening in our society that we should feel more concerned about our neighbour than ourselves.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Please make law.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The foodgrains to be provided to one fourth of the families, living below poverty line would be at the rate of Rs. 2 kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 for rice. I would not like to repeat the same question that as to what about those who have no money to buy foodgrains even at the rate of Rs. 2 per kg. wheat and Rs. 3 kg for rice? Efforts have been made at large scale by the Union Government and the State Governments as well.

A remarkable job has been done at many places under 'Food for work' programme. I would like to make a mention of Andhra Pradesh not because they are our ally. This alliance is not merely of BJP. But Soniaji says, it is 'BJP led Government.'

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: It is right.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: All right, but they want to break the alliance by defaming the other parties in such a manner. It is not as simple as has been said. BJP led Government is an alliance Government which is performing well and it is going to complete its term. ...*(Interruptions)* I think as far as foodgrains are concerned.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Sir, I would like to submit, with all the emphasis at my command, that his impression about the work done in Andhra Pradesh is absolutely incorrect and unfounded.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): You please go and see the works that have been executed in the State of Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaaidu, I have not permitted you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: The Chief Ministers of even Congress ruled States had sent teams to the State of Andhra Pradesh to see the works done. It has come in the newspaper also.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You had your turn.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my friend has different views about Andhra Pradesh. But I am not surprised over it. His silence over this issue would have gone against him. Under "Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana", foodgrains to the tune of Rs. 8000 crore have been distributed free of cost to the states for Food for Work Programme. Besides, financial assistance of Rs. 5000 crore has also been provided. The Government are tackling the situation created by drought and suggestions are invited in this regard. It is also the responsibility of representatives of people to make 'Antodya Yojana' a success. If Members of Parliament tour their constituencies and monitor implementation of this scheme, I think it would be greatly beneficial.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the health of economy of the nation has been reflected in the Budget and Economic Survey. There are certain good aspects which cannot be overlooked. It is a matter of concern that the growth rate has come down but the Government are determined to achieve 8 per cent growth rate. The continuous drought of last two years has affected agriculture sector which has an overall impact on national income. However, there are some positive signs also. Our foreign exchange reserve has surged to 75 billion dollars. As per economy Magazine of 1st March it is more than that of America, Russia, France and Germany. This year it has increased by 25 billion dollars which is equal to our total foreign exchange reserve during 1998. Since, the situation has improved on this front we are repaying the loan before time. It also indicates

that the situation in the country is suitable for investment. The foreign investors as well as International Capital Organisations have also accepted this fact. ...*(Interruptions)* When it is said that investors would hesitate in investing in India as our relations with Pakistan are tense, I may state that the Government has not so far come across such a situation.

Though we are a nuclear state, we are a responsible nation too and the entire world accepts this fact. No country has questioned our intentions. Rather, doubts have been raised on the intention of neighbouring nation. But if anyone says that it is not good then we did not create tension. If America is unable to put pressure on Pakistan it is America's weakness. If assurances given to us by Pakistan could not be fulfilled then we will bear this fact in mind while framing our foreign policy in future. But it is not good to not believe anyone. We have always tried to avert war. However, when things reached a climax and there was an attack on our Parliament, it was felt that the nation would retaliate. Then tremendous international pressure was put on Pakistan at that time. We were also given assurances. There after anti-terrorism statement started emanating from Pakistan and it seemed that Pakistan will rein in terrorists and would stop cross-border terrorism. But utterly confusing picture emerged from there. Sometimes it looked as terrorists activities have decreased but at the same time we also witnessed spurt in terrorist activities. However, we were always on guard.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPUR, WEST BENGAL): But no decisive war was fought.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I would reply to it also. I had said that if there is a war it would be a decisive one. Since our purpose was served without war, there was no need for it.

We defeated our enemies at diplomatic levels. We got world wide support. Though it was not enough but there were some good signs also and keeping that all in view we have taken decisions for the future. We would act according to the changes in the situations.

I would also like to make it clear that the issue of terrorism was widely discussed during NAM conference. It is a topic of discussion in our country also. People ask us is it not fair to resort to terrorism if injustice is being done to you. But, we say that terrorism is a bad thing in itself so resorting to it for any cause will demean that cause.

I would like to quote extract from the speech of Dr. Mahathir:

[English]

"Truly the world is in a terrible mess, a state that is worse than during the East West confrontation, the Cold War. All the great hopes following the end of the Cold War have vanished. And with the terrorists and the anti-terrorists fumbling blindly in their fight against each other, normalcy will not return for quite a long time.

Surely, at some stage, we must ask ourselves why this is happening to the world. Why is there terrorism? Is it true that the Muslims are born terrorists? How do we explain the pogroms, the inquisitions and the holocaust which characterise Christian Europe for almost 2000 years?

The Christians too were terrorised, not by Muslims but by fellow Christians who condemned them as heretics.

So, it Cannot be that Muslims are the sole cause of all these problems. If they are not, then is it a clash of civilisation, a clash of the Muslim civilisation against the Judea Christian civilisation that is responsible?

Frankly, I do not think so. I think it is because of a revival of the old European trait of wanting to dominate the world. And the expression of this trait invariably involves injustice and oppression of people of other ethnic origins and colours."

[Translation]

The countries that assembled in Kuala Lumpur were quite concerned about the problem of terrorism. Their presence in large numbers and their efforts to solve the burning problems give strength to the fear that a unipolar world is going to take shape due to world war. Serious efforts are on for creation of a multi-polar world. I think terrorism is a challenge in this regard. A resolution on Iraq was also passed whereby it was hoped that Iraq will implement all provisions of the resolution. Then only the embargo and sanctions imposed on it would be lifted. I ask every foreign dignitary visiting our country as to whether there would be war. No one says, 'No'. We have prepared ourselves to face the outbreak of war in Gulf as our interests are linked to the situations prevailing in Gulf. About 40 lakh Indians are working there. I would like this issue to be taken up separately. I would like that it is taken up separately and I would be very happy if you wish to discuss about NAM.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if permitted, I would like to lay the copy of my speech delivered on the Table of the House. I am laying a copy of my speech delivered at NAM Conference. I am also laying a copy of resolution passed there alongwith it. I had a discussion with my colleagues before I left for Kuala Lumpur

but need for a formal meeting was not felt. These are very delicate issues which are a litmus test for our diplomacy. Entire nation and the House will have to stand united and come forward to face the present crisis prevailing the world over. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): The Prime Minister gave an information. After the interaction, you are convinced that there is a possible attempt to attack Iraq that the Indian people should be ready for any eventuality. The life of forty lakhs of Indians is at stake in the Gulf. Where do we stand if such a situation arises? Of course, we all stand together; there is no problem. But where do you stand? Where does the Government stand today?

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The Government have made its stand clear and if the need arises again I may call them all for consultation. But I do not think we have divergent views in this regard. Only the difference is how to express them. Now it is said that present situation does not call for non-alignment. I was a supporter of the policy of non-alignment even when I was in opposition. No doubt, now the world order is changing and the cold war has come to an end. Now militarily the world is not divided into two groups and all other countries will have to come together to ponder over seriously the sovereignty of a country under threat.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Recently, one of the leading newspapers in USA, in its editorial said that there are two sides. One is the USA and the other is world opinion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chatterjee, I am going to take up amendments.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: These are the two sides, one is the USA and the other is world opinion.

Sir, throughout the world, including the USA, huge public protests are being made. The definite policy of the other countries, like France, Germany and Russia is very well known. They are all opposing these threats to Iraq and the preparations for going to war. What is our stand on this? Do you not hail those protests which are being made all over the world?

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am

aware of the views of Somnath ji and his party. But he goes too far, we are not ready for that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No, we have to go into this.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We look for a middle path to get a way out. This is an old policy. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: How can it be maintaining *status quo*? ...*(Interruptions)* You must say it in a fortnight manner. You should express our views and concerns. In this situation, you cannot simply sit quiet and maintain *status quo*. The voice of one billion people is there.

[Translation]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): There is no middle path in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You can hold discussion. No, this is not the question. I am ready to discuss it. If we have to call all those people back who have gone to foreign countries, we will make arrangements for it. I would like to assure you that we will not put them in any problem. A lot of discussion has taken place in this regard. Not only in the context of Hon. President's address but also during the questions and i.e. about the situation of employment. How much job opportunities have been created and how many people have got employment. When on that day I submitted that as per my knowledge and calculation, about, 70 lakh people have got jobs then this was challenged. I am ready to hold discussion on it. Employment does not mean government jobs and this number of 70 lakh, if you want I can tell you item-wise that in which field and where people have got employment. This includes Government schemes as well as non-Governmental schemes.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: But you had said about providing 1 crore employment opportunities every year. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ramdasji, please take your seat.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Nine lakh 60 thousand opportunities have been created in the field of construction, 20.30 lakh in trade and hotel industry and 7.5 lakh in the field of transport and communications. Though, there is some decline but even then our data confirms that approximately 80 lakh, more than 70 lakh employment opportunities have been created, but I believe. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (AMETHI): Hon. Speaker, Sir, when we raised the question of *Berozgari*, that is, unemployment or under-employment, we were referring to the promise made by the Prime Minister, by the NDA, by the BJP coalition. Before they actually formed the Government, they promised during the elections that they would give one crore jobs per year. That was what we said on that day. It means that you should have given at least three-and-a-half crore jobs. You should have been able to give jobs to that extent. ...*(Interruptions)* If you have to fulfil your promise, you should have given three-and-a-crore jobs. That was our point made on that day.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when it was said that we will try to give employment to 1 crore people that did not mean that the Government would call 1 crore people and offer them jobs. Have you taken it like this?

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI: What does it mean? That is the promise made to the people. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Listen to the Prime Minister. When your leader has put a question, let the Prime Minister reply.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It was said in the context of accelerated economic development and that too in such a way that it generates job opportunities. We want that people should get job and it is an independent process. Again I have received same data which confirms my statement.

[English]

"The net job creation in 2002-2003 is accordingly nearly 84 lakh."

17.00 hrs.

Similarly, last year, nearly 9 lakh jobs were created and the year before that, more than 75 lakh jobs were created.

[Translation]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: How do you get these data? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I do not understand that when Government says that people are getting jobs and you

contradict it, what is the politics behind this? ...*(Interruptions)* What kind of scientific view is this? You cannot challenge the Government data. ...*(Interruptions)* even then I do not think that it is satisfactory. If you say that 1 crore is not enough because much more people than that are unemployed then we are prepared to discuss it with you. We will try to find a way out. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (AKOLA): This figure has not decreased, on the contrary it is static. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I remember that the question of employment has been raised in this House time and again. What should be the per capita income but everybody will accept the fact that the number of people living below poverty line has decreased. These are Government data. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Ministry of Labour is not prepared to accept that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Poverty is increasing in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise one more issue, which is about the statement of leader of Opposition.

[English]

"The Government is using terrorism as a pretext to polarise our society."

[Translation]

This sentence is very unfortunate. ...*(Interruptions)* One has many choices for politics. At last the people will give their verdict. Just like they did in Himachal and before that in Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)* who is talking about division of the country. Where conspiracy is being hatched for the disintegration of the country, who is doing this. ...*(Interruptions)* this is wrong. You exaggerate the facts that is why it appears that there is a severe crisis. The Government is capable of facing any situation because, it has the support of people. The country will never leave its secular nature. Now Sonijai have objection over it that secularism was mentioned in a single sentence. Whether a sentence is not enough? When the constitution was framed for first time secular word was not used for once in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: It was not needed at that time. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Yes it was not needed, therefore, whatever we are doing or saying in that also it is not needed. It is not correct that we should shout the slogans of secularism, organise morcha and gather everybody, break our supporting parties and divide our own country. ...*(Interruptions)* We should not bring the issue of terrorism in it because it will malign our position in world scenario. The world community will say that you do not have the problem of terrorism in your country it is your mutual tussle which is given the colour of terrorism. Do we really want this to happen. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have supported them on all issues relating to terrorism, except POTA which is being misused now and everybody admits that.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, he is not yielding. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ask them to stop the running commentary. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have stopped that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think I have touched many issues and I would like this vote of thanks to the President's Address to be passed unanimously.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister's Statement is taken as laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Re: Visit to Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) for 13th NAM Summit - 24-25 February, 2003

* THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): I led the Indian delegation to the 13th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Kuala Lumpur on February 24 & 25.

The specific theme of the summit was 'the continuing revitalization of NAM'. It is widely felt that NAM has to rediscover its relevance in the face of a changing international environment. India believes that NAM's salience has always been that it provides room for independent judgment and autonomous action in international affairs. If this was necessary in a bi-polar world, it has become even more necessary in a uni-polar world. For NAM to be relevant, it has to focus on the current realities and contemporary challenges.

My statement at the Summit outlined our thinking and approach. A copy of that statement is also being placed on the Table of the House.

We suggested that NAM should focus on key issues of common concern to its member states—issues that unite, rather than divide the 116 countries. NAM should not get embroiled in bilateral issues between member states.

In all our interactions, we also stressed that NAM should adopt a positive and forward looking agenda with emphasis on multilateralism, combating terrorism, reform of the UN system, North-South engagement and South-South cooperation. It should promote the fundamental values of democracy, human rights and multiculturalism. The Movement has to adopt an objective and pragmatic position on global issues. We should position NAM as a major pole in a multi-polar world.

International terrorism was one of the most hotly debated issues at the Summit. NAM includes countries which are accused of international terrorism, as well as those which are victims of it. There were, therefore, attempts to blur the focus of the international debate on terrorism by raising diversionary issues such as the definition of terrorism, its differentiation from freedom struggles and the relevance of its root causes. As a victim of terrorism, we stressed that NAM must take an unequivocal line, avoiding double standards and not offering excuses for terrorism by investigating its justifications. It was a difficult debate, but I am happy to state that we were able to ensure that our viewpoint on this subject was adequately reflected in the NAM Communique.

Our ideas are largely reflected in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration issued at the end of the Summit. The Declaration is abundantly clear on the principles that NAM should focus on global issues, avoid divisive debates, reject moves for intra-NAM conflict resolution, strengthen existing mechanisms (rather than create new ones) and effectively address contemporary challenges. We can derive some satisfaction from the fact that we were able to play a major and constructive role in the eventual outcome of the Summit.

* Laid on the Table of the House along with his Statement made at the XIII NAM Summit and the declarations made at the summit. [Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 7068/2003]

Apart from the final Communique and the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, the Summit also issued statements on Iraq and the Palestinian issue. It was a significant achievement that NAM arrived at a balanced consensus text on Iraq. There was unity in the Movement on the need for a continuation of multilateral efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Iraq crisis. There was also a clear exhortation to Iraq to fully comply with its obligations under the Security Council Resolutions.

As Hon'ble Members are aware, President Musharraf included in his statement some totally unwarranted, remarks about Jammu & Kashmir, contrary to NAM's long-standing and healthy tradition of steering clear of bilateral issues. I responded to his unacceptable statements by highlighting the irony of his talking about an international humanitarian order, while his country encourages and incites the terrorists who perpetrate violence every day against innocent civilians in Jammu & Kashmir.

Pakistan got no support for its views from any other country at the Summit. It was isolated to the point of even being denied a right of reply. We can only hope that Pakistan will draw the right conclusions from this experience and understand the futility of such efforts at multilateral conferences, which only vitiate further the atm. sphere of Indo-Pakistan relations.

A non-governmental organization in Malaysia organized, in association with the Malaysian Government, a NAM Business Forum on South-South Cooperation. I addressed the Forum at a session, which was also attended by the Presidents of South Africa and Indonesia and the Prime Minister of Thailand. At this session, we announced the launch of a NAM Business Portal, a website, designed and maintained by our business and industry, to facilitate closer interaction between business and industry of NAM countries through real time information exchanges. This would, of course, require wide participation from other NAM countries.

In Kuala Lumpur, I had useful meetings with several leaders, including our host, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad; the Presidents of Cuba, Iran, Mali, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Zimbabwe; the Prime Ministers of Nepal and Mauritius; and the first Vice President of Sudan. We discussed a range of international and bilateral issues.

I have come away from these meetings with the impression that many world leaders feel that we are today at the threshold of a new, uncertain period in international relations. The future is fraught with many dangers for developing countries, particularly those which are weak and vulnerable. There is a search for clarity, but answers are as

yet not available. We shall have to carefully monitor and assess the impact of unfolding developments.

**Statement by the Prime Minister of India
Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee
At the XIII NAM Summit
[Kuala Lumpur; February 24, 2003]**

**Mr. Chairman,
Your Majesties,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As a number of distinguished colleagues before me have already done, I congratulate Malaysia on its assumption of the Chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement. We are at a critical point in international relations. Perhaps we are also at a defining moment in the life of this Movement itself. We are seeking to revitalize its agenda in a global environment profoundly different from that in which it was created.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has presided over the destinies of Malaysia, as it transformed itself from underdevelopment into an economic powerhouse of South East Asia. We hope he will bring the same sure hand and deft touch to the transformation of NAM.

I would also like to warmly compliment South Africa for chairing the Movement with such distinction during a period of flux in international relations. President Mbeki has invested considerable energy in guiding the Movement towards a new equilibrium between the interests of developed and developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

The tectonic shifts in international relations over the last decade have challenged NAM to adapt itself to effectively tackle the new contemporary challenges. Even while preserving independence of judgement and autonomy of action – which are its defining characteristics – NAM should take a close, hard look at the realities of today.

India has participated in the various deliberations within our Movement on the theme of its revitalisation. We believe that certain principles are fundamental to this process:

One, NAM should have a clear consensus on key issues of common concern to all of us. Multilateralism, combating global terrorism and reform of the UN system would be the political elements of this agenda. Developmental issues, democratisation of international financial

institutions, constructive North-South engagement and South-South cooperation would be its main economic planks.

- **Two**, NAM should concentrate on issues that unite, rather than divide us. In a Movement of one hundred and sixteen members, it is inevitable that there are some differences or even disputes, among us. We would be losing time, energy and focus if we involved ourselves in these issues. This principle is accepted in the Charters and practice of successful organizations like the OIC and ASEAN, NAM's outlook and its agenda have to be global.
- **Three**, in projecting our view on global issues, our tone has to be objective and pragmatic. We should position NAM as a major pole in a multi-polar configuration.
- **Four**, we should use cooperation between ourselves as, an effective tool to promote our national development. South-South cooperation has to move from the political lectern to the economic market place.
- **Five**, NAM should develop a progressive agenda on the fundamental values of democracy, human rights and multiculturalism. The preservation and consolidation of democracy throughout our membership is a major challenge.

Mr. Chairman,

The threat of global terrorism presents our Movement with an immediate test of its commitment to its core principles. It is imperative that we take a clear and unequivocal stand on this scourge. There can be no double standards, no confusion between terrorism and freedom struggles, and no implicit condoning of terrorism through an investigation of its 'root causes'. There can be no justification for terrorism. No political, ideological, religious or ethnic grounds can justify the shedding of the blood of innocent people.

We should finally conclude the negotiations at the UN on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. It is a matter of the greatest shame to all of us that while terrorism continues to claim its victims with one brutal act after another, we cannot conclude an international agreement because we cannot find a universally acceptable definition of terrorism!

Mr. Chairman,

The world's attention - like that of this Summit - is riveted

on Iraq. Like every other non-aligned country, India fervently wishes for a peaceful resolution. We also support the multilateral route of the United Nations to address this issue.

But objectivity - and not rhetoric - should govern our actions. Weapons of mass destruction do need to be eliminated. It is essential that Iraq complies fully with the obligations it has accepted, including disarmament, and that it cooperates fully in implementing Security Council Resolution 1441. As a fellow member of NAM, this is our sincere advice to Iraq. We also expect that if Iraq fully complies, the sanctions against that country should be lifted.

We should also not lose sight of the humanitarian dimension of the suffering of the Iraqi people. Apart from the immediate consequences of military action, there are long-term implications for stability and security in an already volatile region.

Mr. Chairman,

NAM is at a historic moment in a new century. We need to introspect, take stock of our achievements as well as our failures and take concrete steps to revitalise our Movement. India is ready to play its part in this effort.

Thank you.

Mr. Chairman,

I had never intended to mention such matters at this forum, but I am constrained to respond to some allegations against India.

President Musharraf has referred to my country a little while ago. His strange logic masks Pakistan's territorial designs on an integral part of India. He justifies terrorism against India by talking of root causes.

Does he go into the root causes of sectarian terrorism in his country? Or does he take stern action against the perpetrators of that terrorism? He talks of the "oppressed people of Kashmir". These same people very recently cast their ballots in an election universally recognized as free and fair. They defied the bullets of the terrorists, aided and abetted by Pakistan.

Those very terrorists assassinated candidates and political activists in the elections and killed women and children because they refused to provide them food and shelter. These terrorists continue to perpetrate violence against innocent civilians every day. Yet General Musharraf talks of an international humanitarian order.

XIII NAM Summit; KL Declaration

Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Continuing the Revitalisation of the Non-Aligned Movement

Date: 25 February 2003

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, gathered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 24 - 25 February, 2003 for the XIII Summit Conference, reaffirmed our abiding faith in, and strong commitment to, the ideals, principles and purposes of the Movement, as laid out at the Bandung Conference of 1955, and the Charter of the United Nations, in our common and continuing pursuit of establishing a peaceful, prosperous, and a more just and equitable world order.

The Movement had played an active, even central role, over the years, on the issues of concern and vital importance to its members, such as decolonisation, apartheid, the situation in Palestine and the Middle East, disarmament, poverty eradication and socio-economic development, among others. After more than forty years of its founding, and having undergone many challenges and vicissitudes, it is timely and appropriate to comprehensively review the role structure and work methods of our Movement in keeping with the times and the new realities, aimed at the further strengthening of our Movement. With the end of the Cold War, the emergence of unipolarity, the trend towards unilateralism and the rise of new challenges and threats, such as international terrorism, it is imperative for the Movement to promote multilateralism, better defend the interests of developing countries and prevent their marginalisation.

With increased globalisation and the rapid advance of science and technology, the world has changed dramatically. The rich and powerful countries exercise an inordinate influence in determining the nature and direction of international relations, including economic and trade relations, as well as the rules governing these relations, many of which are at the expense of the developing countries. It is imperative, therefore, that the Movement respond in ways that will ensure its continued relevance and usefulness to its members.

Globalization presents many challenges and opportunities to the future and viability of all states. In its present form, it perpetuates or even increases the marginalisation of developing countries. We must ensure that globalisation will be a positive force for change for all peoples and will benefit the largest number of countries and not just a few. Globalization should lead to the prospering and empowering of the developing countries, not their continued

impoverishment and dependence on the wealthy and developed world.

The revolution in the Information and Communications Technology is changing the world at a rapid speed and in a fundamental way, and is already creating a vast and widening digital divide between the developed and developing countries, which must be bridged if the latter are to benefit from the globalisation process. This new technological innovation must be made more easily available to the developing countries in their efforts to modernise and revitalise their economies in pursuit of their developmental goals.

The achievement of these developmental goals requires an enabling international environment and the honouring of commitments and pledges made by states, including our partners in the developed world.

The future presents as many challenges and opportunities as the past and the Movement must continue to remain strong, cohesive and resilient. The continued relevance of the Movement will depend, in large measure, on the unity and solidarity of its members as well as its ability to adapt to these changes. In this regard, the process of the revitalisation of the Movement, begun at its previous Summit Meetings, must be given further impetus.

Consistent with our desire to translate our rhetoric into action, and in rededicating ourselves to the fundamental principles, purposes and goals of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, we resolve to make every effort to:

Enhance our unity, based on our common interests and history of shared struggles, and persevere with our efforts to ensure that these interests are continuously promoted and our concerns are fully addressed.

Uphold and adhere to the fundamental principles of the Movement and the Charter of the United Nations in the preservation and promotion of world peace through dialogue and diplomacy among states and the avoidance of the use of force to resolve conflicts.

Promote and strengthen the multilateral process as an indispensable vehicle in safeguarding the interests of member states of the Movement as well as those of the United Nations.

Promote the democratisation of the system of international governance in order to increase the participation of developing countries in international decision making.

Be pro-active, rather than reactive, to international developments, especially those that impact on the members

of the Movement, so as to ensure that the Movement is not sidelined but be at the forefront of the international decision making processes.

Strengthen our national capacities in order to enhance our individual and collective resilience.

Enhance South-South Cooperation in all areas of our relations, particularly in the political, social, cultural, economic and scientific fields.

Promote a more dynamic and cooperative relationship with the developed and industrialised countries, based on constructive engagement, broad partnership and mutuality of benefits.

Promote closer interaction and cooperation with organisations of our civil society, the private sector and parliamentarians on the recognition that they can play a constructive role towards the attainment of our common goals.

In pursuit of these goals, Member States of the Movement shall strive to implement the following concrete measures:-

- Undertake a sound review and analysis of the positions of the Movement on international issues, with a view to consolidating the common denominators among member states by focusing on issues that unite rather than divide us, thereby strengthening the unity and cohesion of the Movement.
- Review and redefine the role of the Movement and improve its structure and methodology, including the need for a more focused and concise documentation, in order to make it more effective and efficient.
- Enhance our coordination and cooperation through regular meetings of the Coordinating Bureau in New York, as well as in Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi and other centres, if necessary, with a view to responding, on a timely basis, to international developments affecting the Movement and its members.
- Utilise fully and effectively all existing mechanisms and institutions, such as the Troika, the Coordinating Bureau and all existing working groups, committees, the Non-Aligned Caucus of the Security Council, and establish new ones, as appropriate.

Utilise more effectively the regular NAM Foreign Ministers Meetings through more interactive sessions as well as encourage the interaction and involvement of other relevant Ministers towards enhancing the effectiveness and profile of the Movement.

- Strengthen the role of the Chair, as spokesman of the Movement, through the establishment of appropriate mechanisms as part of the necessary backup system.
- Strengthen coordination and cooperation, and formulate common strategies on socio-economic and development-related issues, with the Group of 77 through regular and more frequent meetings of the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC).
- Follow up on decisions made at the United Nations Millennium Assembly and other international fora, such as the Doha Meeting on international trade, the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development and the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development as imperatives in addressing the urgent concerns of developing countries, such as poverty eradication, debt relief, capacity building and HIV/AIDS.
- Expand, deepen and enrich South-South cooperation through enhanced regional and inter-regional cooperation, undertaking concrete projects and programmes, pooling of resources, and tapping the contributions of eminent personalities and institutions of the South.
- Promote and develop mechanisms, including at relevant conferences, for international cooperation and solidarity in efforts to bridge the digital divide based on a partnership involving states, civil society and the private sector.
- Continue to strongly support international programmes for Africa, particularly through NEPAD, as well as the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing Countries.
- Promote constructive dialogue and interaction with our development partners, particularly the G-8, through existing and appropriate new mechanisms, including institutionalised contacts, so as to bring about greater understanding between the North and South and to ensure that the views of the Movement are fully taken into account before important decisions affecting developing countries are made.

In realising our goal of revitalising the Non-Aligned Movement, we must exert every effort towards the promotion of a multipolar world through the strengthening of the United Nations, as an indispensable international organisation for the maintenance of international peace and security, the promotion of human rights social and economic development and respect for international law, as enshrined in its Charter.

XIII NAM Summit; Kuala Lumpur

Statement of the XIII Non-Aligned Movement Summit on Palestine

25 February 2003

The Members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Committee on Palestine met at the Ministerial level to review the situation and to plan future action. They recommended the following statement for the consideration and adoption by the Summit.

1. The Heads of State or Government expressed grave concern at the continued destruction and devastation of Palestinian society and the Palestinian Authority being caused by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000. They strongly condemned the systematic human rights violations and reported war crimes that have been committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people. In this regard, they condemned in particular the wilful killing of Palestinian civilians, including extra judicial executions; the excessive and indiscriminate use of force, resulting in extensive loss of life and injury; the wanton destruction of homes, infrastructure and agricultural lands; the detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians; and the imposition of collective punishments on the entire Palestinian population, including severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, resulting in the socioeconomic, debilitation of the Palestinian people, amounting to a dire humanitarian crisis.

2. The Heads of State or Government also expressed their grave concern at the policies and practices of the Israeli government that have undermined the Oslo agreements and obstructed efforts to end the tragic situation on the ground, including the Mitchell recommendations. They called for the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli occupying forces from Palestinian cities to positions and arrangements prior to September 2000. In this regard, they stressed the importance of the full implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, including 1322 (2000), 1397 (2002), 1403 (2002) and 1435 (2002).

3. The Heads of State or Government emphasized that the main danger to the realization of the national rights of the Palestinian people and the achievement of a peaceful solution is the settler colonialism that has been carried out in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 1967, through land confiscation, settlement building and the transfer of Israeli nationals to the Occupied Territory. They stressed that this policy of settler colonialism, with all the measures that it has entailed must be immediately stopped and reversed.

4. The Heads of State or Government underscored the legal obligations of the States Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention as well as Additional Protocol 1 to ensure respect of the two instruments in all circumstances. They stressed the need for the effective enforcement of the two instruments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In this regard, they called for concrete measures and actions against products from the illegal Israeli settlements and settler violators as well as other actions on national, regional and international levels to ensure enforcement. They affirmed the importance of and called for the application of legal remedies without impunity to war crimes committed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In this regard, they noted the role of the International Criminal Court.

5. The Heads of State or Government reiterated their commitment to the achievement of a peaceful solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. They reaffirmed their support for the rights of the Palestinian people to national independence and the exercise of sovereignty in their State, Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital. They welcomed, in this regard, the universally-supported vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in secure and recognized boundaries.

6. The Heads of State or Government further stressed the importance of the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and, in this regard, welcomed the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Summit of the League of Arab States in Beirut on 28 March 2002. The Heads of State or Government also expressed their support for the efforts of the Quartet and encouraged it to proceed speedily with the implementation of its road map, which has been repeatedly delayed. In this regard, they stressed the need for consultation between the Movement and the Quartet.

7. The Heads of State or Government expressed regret at the absence of President Yasser Arafat due to the continued obstruction of his freedom of movement by Israel, the occupying Power. They condemned Israeli policies and measures in this regard and expressed their solidarity with President Arafat as the elected leader and the symbol of the struggle of the Palestinian people.

8. The Heads of State or Government underlined the necessity for an internationally promoted solution and expressed the determination to exert efforts in that direction. They also expressed support for the necessary international presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory to provide protection for the Palestinian civilian population and to help the parties implement agreements reached. The Heads of State or Government emphasized the unique role of the United Nations Security Council with regard to the above and called upon the Council to fulfil its duties and responsibilities towards the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East.

They reiterated that Israeli representation in the work of the General Assembly and international conferences must be in conformity with international law and called for ensuring that, Israeli credentials do not cover the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem.

9. The Heads of State or Government, stressing the role of the Movement, expressed appreciation to the Committee on Palestine and to members of NAM delegation that visited Palestine last year and encouraged similar visits in the future. They also expressed appreciation to the members of the NAM Caucus in the Security Council for their effort in the Council with regard to the Palestinian question.

10. The Heads of State or Government, under the Chairmanship of the Movement, expressed their determination to follow-up the implementation of this Statement, including within the United Nations system and in this regard, instructed their Permanent Representatives in New York including members of the Committee on Palestine to proceed in that direction.

XIII NAM Summit; Kuala Lumpur

Statement of the XIII Non-Aligned Movement Summit concerning Iraq

25 February 2003

We, the Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, meeting in Kuala Lumpur from 24-25 February 2003, considered with grave concern the precarious and rapidly deteriorating situation arising from the looming threat of war against Iraq.

We are fully cognisant of the concerns expressed by millions in our countries, as well as in other parts of the world, who reject war and believe, like we do, that war against Iraq will be a destabilising factor for the whole region, and that it would have far reaching political, economic and humanitarian consequences for all countries of the world, particularly the States in the region.

We reiterate our commitment to the fundamental principles of the non use of force and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and security of all Member States of the United Nations.

We reaffirm our commitment to exert our efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the current situation. We welcome and support all other efforts exerted to avert war against Iraq and call for the persistent continuation of such efforts based on multilateral as opposed to unilateral actions, and reaffirm the central role of the United Nations and the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security.

We welcome the decision by Iraq to facilitate the unconditional return of, and cooperation with, United Nations inspectors in accordance with Security Council Resolution

1441, which will assure the world in a peaceful way that weapons of mass destruction are eliminated in Iraq.

We call on Iraq to continue to actively comply with Security Council Resolution 1441 and all other relevant Security Council resolutions and to remain engaged in the process. We believe this would be an important step opening the way to a comprehensive and peaceful resolution of all pending issues between Iraq and the United Nations that takes into account the concerns of all affected parties, including Iraq's neighbours.

We stress that the current disarmament efforts in Iraq should not be an end in itself but should also constitute a step towards the lifting of sanctions in accordance with Security Council Resolution 687.

~~We believe that the peaceful~~ resolution of the Iraqi crisis would ensure that the Security Council will also be in a position to ensure Iraq's sovereignty and the inviolability of its territorial integrity, political independence and security, and compliance with Paragraph 14 of its Resolution 687 on the establishment in the Middle East of a weapons of mass destruction free zone, which includes Israel.

MR. SPEAKER: A number of amendments have been moved by Members to the Motion of Thanks. Shall I put all the amendments together to the vote of the House?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put all the amendments together to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the main Motion to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:-

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been released to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 17, 2003."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, 4th March, 2003, at 11.00 a.m.

17.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March 4, 2003/Phalgun 13, 1924 (Saka).

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